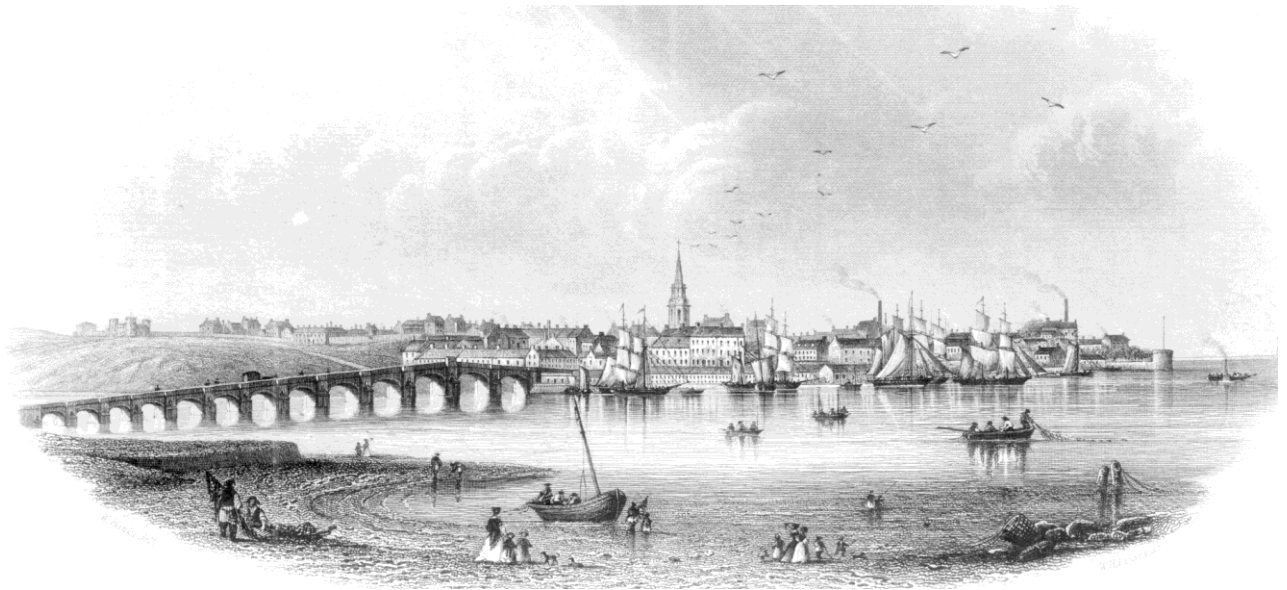


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 102 – DECEMBER 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 20th December 2019

Christmas Coffee and Mince Pies – Berwick
Parish Centre, 2- 4 pm

Friday 27th March 2020

Friends AGM and Archives Revealed Talk

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th
May 2020

Bygone Borderlands weekend in Guildhall,
Berwick. Local History display and talks.
Further details in next newsletter.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES



AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 28th January 2020

Bridgescapes - a journey through history
celebrating Scotland's bridge building
heritage: Bruce Keith

Tuesday 25th February

Calamity & Catastrophe - the Tragedies &
Disasters of Berwickshire: Kenneth McLean

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 22nd January 2020

Deserted Medieval Villages: Allan Colman

Wednesday 26th February

World War One Spy: Ralph Holmes

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 18th December

'Hadrian's Wall - Borderline Funny': Lindsay
Allason-Jones

Wednesday 15th January 2020

'Portrayal of Women in the Berwick
Archives': Linda Bankier

Wednesday 29th February

'W.T. Stead: The Northumbrian who
invented tabloid journalism': Mike Fraser

Wednesday 18th March

'Wm Cowe and Sons and the Berwick
Cockle': Cameron Robertson

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

No lectures in January

Monday 3rd February 2020

The King's High Castle: David Silk

Monday 2nd March

Whitby Abbey: Tony Wilmott

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Peters Church, Parsonage Road, Galashiels

Time: 2.30pm

No lectures in December and January

Sunday 23rd February 2020

Wilson's Tales of the Borders: Andrew Ayre
of the Wilson's Tales

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

No lectures in January

Monday 3rd February 2020

An historical view of Traditional English
Woodcarving: Andrew Beckwith

Monday 2nd March

Prehistoric sites nearby, including Duddo
Stones and Roughtin Lynn cup and ring
marks: Allan Colman

Wednesday 8th January 2020	The Bamburgh Ossuary and the Anglo-Saxon context: Jessica Turner
Wednesday 12th February	The Greys of Howick: Peter Regan
Wednesday 11th March	The Photo Centre Collection: photographs from yesteryear: Cameron Robertson

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall **Time: 7.30 p.m.**

Monday 16th December	The Prehistoric Farm at Hunting Hall: Paul Langdale
Monday 13th January 2020	The Lowick Heritage Trails: John Daniels and Phillip Hanson
Monday 10th February	Twixt Thistle and Rose : Uncovering Berwick Borough Archives: Linda Bankier
Monday 9th March	Whisky and Gin Smuggling in the Cheviots and Borders: Graeme Watson

NORTH SUNDERLAND & SEAHOUSES LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, North Sunderland **Time: 7.00 p.m.**

Wednesday 22nd January 2020	History of the North Sunderland Harbour: George Scott
Wednesday 26th February	There's More to a Needle Than Meets the Eye: Barry Mead

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GENEALOGY GROUP

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

Saturday 18th January 2020 Members' Stories: Our experiences with
DNA Tests

Saturday 15th February Berwick Photo Centre Revealed!:
Cameron Robertson

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 8th January 2020 William Cowe & Son, the home of the
Berwick Cockle: Cameron Robertson

Wednesday 5th February Old Melrose: Margaret Collin

Wednesday 4th March A Policeman's Lot, 1750 to 1950: Ian
Roberts

ARCHIVE NEWS



This year has just flown by which is obviously a sign that I am getting older ! The past few months have been extremely busy in the Record Office for all of us, with plenty to keep us challenged.

In September we held a very successful Heritage Open Days weekend here in Berwick. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying our local heritage and the variety of activities on offer. We had lots of visitors to our exhibitions in the Guildhall and a full turn out for the walks we organised. The number of visitors overall, both local and from further afield was over 1000 up on 2018 which is very encouraging. We hope to expand the event further in 2020. Watch this space next year !

Work on the Twixt Thistle and Rose project is forging ahead. There is still a lot to do and so we have decided to extend the project and Teresa's work on the cataloguing

for an additional 6 months thanks to support from the Guild of Freemen. Over the past couple of months, Teresa has been beavering away on recataloguing the collection and we hope to make some of this work available on the electronic catalogue in the next couple of months. In addition to this, the volunteers have been working away on the item listing and indexing of various records. They range from Medical Officer of Health's quarterly reports and Tweedmouth Removal orders to Evacuees and Air Raid Precautions in the Second World War. This work is invaluable and will really open up the collection when it goes online. Related to the project, we have also been doing some work with young people. Helen Craggs, one of our volunteers and I went into Year 3 of Berwick Holy Trinity to show them some of the original Wanted posters sent to Berwick Police Force and to start them on an Art Project as part of their Victorian topic. The posters contain wonderful descriptions of people but no images and so we have asked them to create a Rogue's Gallery. We're looking forward to seeing the results.

We have also had the chance to use some of the Borough Archives in another project, this time with English Heritage. Within the Barracks, there are a series of smoke drawings on the ceiling in one of the blocks. These were created by soldiers in the 18th century. As part of their widening participation with young people, they are undertaking a project with the Flodden Young Archaeologists Group to learn more about the drawings and to create their own. At the end of November, they spent an afternoon in the archives finding out about how to read old handwriting and the life of a soldier in Berwick in the 1700s. It was a great afternoon but exhausting for us all as we had to concentrate so hard !

Work on the Peregrini Project and the Community Archive on Holy Island is ongoing. Carole and I went across to do a training session on digitising records and I have been across a couple of times to support them. The Community Archive group are starting to work with the records and people can visit by appointment.

The Barracks Project is still ongoing and at the moment, we are involved in a Collections Review which is trying to get an overview of what we all hold, how we store what we have and how it could be used to tell the story of the area. It has been a fascinating exercise and I have learnt a lot about the collections held by the Museum; KOSB and English Heritage. We are all now aware that there is so much cross over in what we hold and that our holdings complement each other to provide a more interesting and human story of the area's past. This element should be finished in the New Year.

Over the past couple of months, I have also given some talks to promote the Record Office and what we hold. I spoke at the Berwick Literary Festival about Crime and Punishment and members of the Creative Writers who meet in the archives read some of their short stories, inspired by our collections. You can read them on the Friends website : <http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/record-office/projects/stories-of-crime-and-punishment/> . The Literary Festival and HODS were both helped by a Durham PhD student called Thea who worked with the Berwick Autumn Festivals on a placement. She was a great help to us both leading up to and during our events. Both Thea and I spoke at the Northern Bridge conference for new doctorate students about placements – the students gain valuable work experience and they really help us.. Locally I have also given talks to Wooler U3A on the Peregrini Project and to Lowick Heritage Group on the First World War and those who returned.

Finally, all the staff at the archives would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It would be lovely if you could come along and join us at our Coffee afternoon just before Christmas – our way of saying thank you to you all for the help you give us.

Linda Bankier

CHRISTMAS IN 1939



We commemorated the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World in September 1939. How did this area celebrate Christmas that year and what was happening ? The following are some extracts from the Berwick Advertiser

21 Dec 1939

TWEEDMOUTH NOTES

HOUSES DEMOLISHED – Work has been progressing for some time in the demolition of old houses in the West End of Tweedmouth. Very little of the old West End is now left , as year by year property is being pulled down

OLD PEOPLE'S SUPPER – Tweedmouth old people will be entertained to supper tonight (Thursday). As usual, the function is being arranged by Mr David Watson, West End, who has had the assistance of numerous helpers. An entertaining programme, the "Advertiser" learns has been prepared.

SPITTAL NEWS

STILL NO ATTEMPT – Still no attempt is being made to repair the Promenade which was recently damaged by the rough seas.

PUPILS VISIT CHEMICAL WORKS – Pupils of Bell Tower Senior School visited Spittal Chemical Works on Tuesday under Mr Gill, Science Master. The pupils were shown around by Mr Hunt, manager of the works.

NATIVITY PLAY – A nativity play, which was produced by teachers and children of North Heaton School evacuated to Spittal was given in St John's Church, Spittal, on Sunday, while the Tweedmouth group of children formed the choir. Every child took part in the play and a large number of children as well as adults were present. At the close a collection was taken in aid of the Soldiers Recreation Rooms, which have been started recently. The sum of £2 2s was handed over.

DANCE IN KIT-KAT HALL – The weekly dance organised by Mr Syd Abbott was held as usual in the Kit Kat Hall, Spittal on Saturday. A large number of dancers were present – a great many of them soldiers, Music was provided by the Kit Kat dance band - *WHERE WAS THIS HALL?*

WORK STILL PROGRESSING -Work is still progressing on the new lifeboat station which is being erected at the Carr Rock, Spittal. It is expected to be ready for use in a few months.

BEAL SCHOOL CHILDREN ENTERTAIN TROOPS-The ballroom at Haggerston Castle was a scene of gaiety and brightness on Thursday evening, 14th December, when the children of Beal Council School gave a concert to the troops stationed in that area. The programme presented was one of wide variety consisting of carols, recitations, plays, dances and action songs.

The age of the performers ranged from five to fourteen years and the wonderful reception their items received from the company present testified to the excellence of the entertainment. Parents and friends of the children were also present and a silver collection was taken at the end of the concert when the sum on £4 19s was realised. The money is being used for parcels and comforts for soldiers and sailors.

28 December 1939

Hitler a Back Number During Berwick's Christmas. Weekend of Reunion for Many District Families

With parties and other jovialities, Hitler was forgotten about – at least for a short spell – at the weekend. It was Christmas time and, judging by accounts received by the Advertiser from Berwick and the surrounding district, all enjoyed themselves.

For many it was a weekend of reunion. From "Somewhere in England" came numerous uniformed men to spend a few days leave at home. As usual, Christmas was favoured by a number of couples for weddings. In all churches special services were held on Sunday when special addresses were given and carols sung.

While black-out restrictions and the predominance of khaki clad figures mingling with busy shoppers brought forcibly home the fact that the era of "Peace and Goodwill" has not yet descended upon a troubled world, Berwick and district successfully contrived to make the first war time Christmas as traditional as possible.

The peak of the shopping rush in Berwick was naturally reached on Saturday evening when country visitors, brought by road and rail, vied with the throng of local shoppers in their last minute purchases. Thousands flocked to the town during the day and shopkeeper in many instances reported record business.

In addition to many men from the Forces home on leave, former Berwickers were back in the town for the festive season. Weather conditions, although hardly seasonable were good. Sunshine during the day took the nip out of the air. With the restriction of cheap travel facilities compared to peacetime, more people than ever preferred to stay at home, with the result that the accommodation of local cinemas – the only centres for public entertainment – were taxed to capacity on Monday and Boxing Day. For many men spending their first Christmas in the Colours the occasion passed off uneventfully enough but the serving up of traditional fare and appropriate decorations in their quarters and at the recreational centres must have made "Tommy Atkins" feel more at home.

At Cinema Show

Between 400 and 500 men of the Lancashire Fusiliers attended a special performance of "The Drum" at the Theatre, Berwick on Boxing Day. The cinema entertainment was provided by the officers who accompanied the troops.

BRANXTON

On Christmas Day another fine party of children together with 27 evacuees were entertained by Mr and Mrs John Fairington by tea and a Christmas Tree. The children enjoyed a very fine repast. Games were also greatly enjoyed, but when Santa Claus came on the scene there was much excitement and after making a neat speech he presented each child with a useful gift. Fruit was also served and a very happy time was the result. Much appreciation was shown to the host and hostess.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS



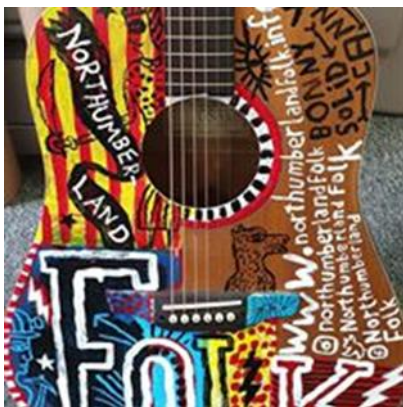
Berwick Museum is now closed for the winter. After a very successful season we had some of our busiest days just before we did close. Two of the most popular events at the Barracks happened within a week of each other, and this year we took a small part in the Berwick Film Festival too. Always our busiest time of the season, we saw more than 1000 visitors over the course of the Berwick Food Festival and Heritage Open Days weekend in September, when we offered special tours of the Burrell collection, and a talk about the engineer George Elliott by Dr Bill Lancaster in collaboration with the Common Room of the North (the Mining Institute).

Our first cross site exhibition staged as part of Museums Northumberland's National Portfolio funding was site-specific installation by the artist Matt Stokes (Matt is a recent recipient of a substantial award from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation (see <https://www.phf.org.uk/artist/matt-stokes/>). On show between July and September, Matt took inspiration from the natural history collections, specifically the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club library, at the museum. "Beyond the Field" was an immersive installation summoning up sounds from the Berwickshire countryside of the late 18th century. The twist was that these very realistic sounds - of bees, kittiwakes and corncrakes to name a few examples - were produced on the kind of musical instruments in use in that period – Northumbrian pipes, recorders, hurdy gurdies etc. Matt gave a special artist's talk on the weekend of the Berwick Film Festival, joined by Lesley Gray from the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, who gave an entertaining insight into the history of the Club. The main exhibition was complemented by participatory arts activities designed by Bethan Maddox "They no

Longer Fly” which gave visitors the opportunity to create their own artistic response to the themes.

The theme for the second cross site exhibition in summer 2020 is “Northumberland Folk”, which is in the research phase at the moment. The commissioned artist is Jonny Hannah. Jonny is interested in what he calls “folk’s rich future history” – ie how folk music and traditions are continually evolving, rather than something that happened a long time ago. Past work has included designing the logo for Simon Costin’s “Museum of British Folklore”, a set of screen prints for Cecil Sharp House, and a series of stamps for Royal Mail - “Curious Customs”. He is looking into the possibilities of a cabaret session inviting contributions from local musicians and amateur performers.

Meanwhile, Jonny is looking for Northumberland stories, and in pursuit of this is busking in Berwick town centre so do look out for him, or contact him online with your stories (<https://www.northumberlandfolk.info/>).



Following on from this excellent season, we decided to open at weekends and half term in October. This turned out to be well worth the extra effort involved, as we greeted an extra 700 visitors throughout that time. We staged a new temporary exhibition of James Wallace pictures, always a popular subject with local visitors and tourists alike.

The Keeper met with Curators from Glasgow Burrell Renaissance Project in September, with a view to better communications between the two institutions as well as looking into the possibilities of loans between the two collections once the Burrell Glasgow reopens following its £65M refurbishment. In October, the Senior Curator Vivien Hamilton visited to give the Friends’ Autumn Lecture – an appropriate choice of speaker, as Vivien gave the initial address at the first such event, held at the Town Hall 25 years ago! This time we were given a fascinating insight into her researches into the French paintings in the Burrell collection.

Over the winter we are continuing with our audit of the social history collections, a project funded by the John Ellerman Foundation. We have been rediscovering some very interesting and unusual items, some of which we are posting on our website as Object in Focus - (<https://museumsnorthumberland.org.uk/our-collections/object-in-focus-home/>).

The Berwick Museum & Art Gallery gift shop launched over the summer, offering a new bespoke range of the paintings in the collection. The range is available at our Museums Northumberland online gift shop <https://museumsnorthumberland.org.uk/berwick-museum-art-gallery/gift-shop/>, so if you are still looking for Christmas presents for your artistic friends and family, look no further!

It only remains for us to wish all Friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – we hope to see as many of you as possible at the Museum & Art Gallery in 2020!

Anne Moore, Museum Officer North, Berwick Museum & Art Gallery

AUTUMN LECTURE 2019



Vivien Hamilton of the Burrell Collection in Glasgow was featured speaker at the Autumn Lecture of the Friends of Berwick and District Museum and Archives. Her lecture was titled “French Paintings and Pastels in the Collection of William Burrell: the Joys and Challenges of Researching Provenance”. Interestingly, Vivien Hamilton was also the featured speaker at FBDMA’s very first meeting twenty-five years ago, in March, 1994, where she spoke on “A Man and his Collection: William Burrell and the Arts”.

As many will know, the Burrell Collection in Glasgow closed in 2016 for a badly needed refurbishment and will not reopen until 2021. This has given many scholars a breathing space to find out more about various items in the museum, and Vivien Hamilton, who started there in 1978 but really became involved with the collection from 1987, was delighted to take on the task of researching various French paintings in the collection and tracing their provenance. The museum debated whether they should acquire new objects or find out more about the objects they already had, and the latter aim was adopted. First they acquired funds to research

the tapestries they held, and later funding came through to catalogue Burrell's French paintings, and Vivien was able to devote herself entirely to research. For her it was truly a labour of love and this enthusiasm showed throughout her talk.

Paintings comprise about 600 objects in the Glasgow collection, and of these, about 200 are French works from the 19th century. In contrast, Berwick's Burrell collection of paintings is much smaller – 46 paintings, of which about a dozen or so are French. However, Vivien pointed out that she preferred some of the paintings in Berwick to the ones in Glasgow – namely *Cap Gris Nez* by Charles Francois Daubigny and *Le Moulin* by Georges Michel, as well as the *Landscape – River Touques* by Eugene-Louis Boudin.

To illustrate what she has been doing, she showed a preliminary sketch of a sheep by the painter of animals Charles Jacques (who happens not to have any paintings in the Berwick collection). There have been no books written about this particular artist. Through painstaking research, going through document boxes and looking at bits of paper from catalogues, etc, she found that it was a study for his large-scale painting *A Flock of Sheep*, 1861, now on display at the Musée d'Orsay. Why Burrell bought this study we do not know, but we do know he particularly liked it.

We also know that Burrell and his brother bought many paintings from the well-known Glasgow art dealer, Alexander Reid, who was closely acquainted with artists of the day such as Vincent van Gogh (he even shared a flat in Paris with Vincent's brother Theo). They started buying in the 1890s and continued all the way up to the 1930s. There are 14 works by the artist Francois Bonvin in Glasgow and one in Berwick; 11 by Boudin in Glasgow with two in Berwick (Boudin was more popular in Scotland than in France); and four by Daubigny in Glasgow with two in Berwick. All these artists are considered to be precursors of Monet, where painting en plein air became important.

We now turn to Berwick's famous pastel of Russian dancers in the Berwick Burrell collection. The museum in Glasgow has over 20 pastels and paintings by this artist, one of the finest collections of his work. Vivien went through numerous Christies' catalogues interleaved with various accounts and found 8 Degas works sold to Burrell in the 1920s. What was interesting was that the catalogues listed who had owned the paintings previously and she was able to trace some back to the artist himself.

Vivien's specialised work on tracing provenance is one of the key tools for establishing the authenticity of some paintings. Berwick has one painting by the

romantic painter Théodore Géricault depicting a wounded cavalry officer, whereas Glasgow has nine, but it is not certain whether all of them are by him. One, of a white horse, once belonged to the Rothschilds and purchased by Burrell for £850. Berwick and Glasgow have one painting each by Michel, it seems Burrell bought the Glasgow one at a Red Cross sale during the war. Adolphe Monticelli, an artist who greatly influenced the impressionists, has one painting in Berwick and 14 in Glasgow, however they are quite dark and murky and so far have proven impossible to clean because of the way he mixed his oils. Finally, Vivien referred to Germain Theodule Ribot, of which one, a still life, is in Berwick. Burrell's last purchase, in June, 1956, was of a girl reading by Ribot. In conclusion, it can be said that Burrell's taste never changed all that much, but he has left a remarkable collection of French paintings from the 19th century, and besides what Burrell left to Glasgow, we can be proud of having such a significant collection here in Berwick.

Jane Pigney

DEATH OF A BORDER CRACK SHOT



We regret to record the death of Ex-Serjeant, Alex. Dalgetty, formerly of Ayton. Serjeant Dalgetty was a Volunteer of Thirty Years' Service. He was a Berwickshire man, and originally lived in Ayton. He began Volunteering with the "Berwickshires", and was a leading shot in the Ayton Company. For many years he was closely identified with Volunteering in Berwick, and was a prominent marksman in "The Rifles".

When the great meeting of the year - "The National Rifle Association Gathering" - was held at Wimbledon, Berwick used to send thither of its crack shots, but since the days of Colour Serjeant James Marshall, who twice got into the "Queens Hundred", The Rifles were not represented at the "N.R.A." However, in 1897, it was notified that the Corps would be once again in touch with the Association, and that someone or other would be chosen to go to Bisley. On his Merits, Serjeant Dalgetty won the nomination, and went to the Great Camp of Riflemen for the first time. Nor did he come back empty-handed. Indeed he made a capital first appearance, and lifted a prize there and then for beginners in "The Queen's".

In 1898, Serjeant Dalgetty was again selected for Bisley, and once more he figured in the prize lists. In 1899, on form, he, for the third successive time, merited his place, and he justified the confidence reposed in him. In addition to securing one of the plums of the meeting, he was thrown out of "The Queen's Hundred". His total was 203 and 205 would have put him in the final stage. Berwick had every reason to be proud of what its representative did, and what he had done was all the more wonderful, when we consider that there was no Rifle Range in Berwick, and that Serjeant Dalgetty had actually to go to Chirnside and Duns to get what little practice he had, before setting out for the Mecca of Marksman - Bisley Camp.

In 1899 he carried off the "Graphic Cup", a solid silver trophy which costs £52.10.0, together with three valuable sketches also presented by the Proprietors of "The Graphic", and £5 in money added by the National Rifle Association. As Serjeant Dalgetty had entered for the "Graphic Cup" - 7 shots at 500 yards, with 5 additional shots in case of ties - competition for which there were aspirants from as far away as the Colonies, Serjeant Dalgetty put on the possible -53- as also did Serjeant G.J.C. Burnett, 2nd V.B. Norfolk Regiment, and Serjeant W. Smith, 1st V.B. Royal Scots. This necessitated tie shots: and Serjeant Dalgetty sent in 3 bulls, so that he had a grand total of 50 out of a possible 50, and made himself thoroughly safe for the championship in this, one of the most important contests at the Bisley Meeting. Serjeant Dalgetty had a distinguished honour conferred upon him at Bisley, by being selected as one of the Scottish Twenty to shoot for Scotland in the International: and he had the further honour of being on the Winning side, for Scotland won the contest. In 1899, Serjeant Dalgetty shot at home as a member of the Scottish Twenty Club, it being more convenient for a Berwick man to belong to the Scottish than to the English Club: and he has won his coveted place. He made the useful total of 96 in the match - 31 at 200, 32 at 500, 27 at 600 - and was by no means last. On his return to Berwick from Bisley, he was welcomed by the Mayor and Sheriff,

Officers and N.C.O.s of Berwick Rifles, and Officers of Northumberland Artillery. Since 1876 with Rifles of all kinds, Serjeant Dalgetty won no less than 530 prizes. In one year he carried off 8 challenge Cups.

The funeral of Mr. A. Dalgetty took place to Ayton Churchyard on Thursday, the remains being conveyed thither by rail from Edinburgh. The widow and 2 sons accompanied the cortege. A large attendance of old friends and companions assembled to pay their last respects to this well-known Aytonian. The Rev. J.J.M.L. Aiken conducted a short service at the Graveside and the local arrangements were in the hands of Mr. John Heron. The pall bearers were, Messrs William and George Dalgetty (sons): John and Robert Dalgetty (Brothers): Jas. A. Frank, William and Alex. G. Dalgetty (Nephews). His brother James was unfortunately prevented by illness from attending, but we are glad to report that he is making good progress towards recovery.

The deceased had attained the age of 61 years, and had been in a serious state of health since June last. He leaves a widow, 2 sons and 2 daughters, for whom much sympathy is felt in their sad bereavement.

Source unknown but it was passed to Bill Black by Gillian McIntyre, great granddaughter of Alexander Dalgetty. Alexander died in December 1920

Bill Black

EMPLOYEES AT DEVEY'S CYCLE WORKS, BERWICK- PART 1



The history of Joseph Devey's short-lived cycle manufacturing works in Brucegate can be found on the Friends of Berwick & District Museum & Archives website. <http://www.berwickfriends.org.uk/history/devey-bicycles-and-cycling-in-berwick/> This note provides brief biographical sketches of the employees in the 1891 Census for Berwick, together with others associated with the cycle industry. The workers fall into two distinct groups. The first, included in this edition, originated in the West Midlands, and accompanied Devey when he moved from Wolverhampton to Berwick. The remainder were drawn mainly from native Berwickers, but also included recent migrants from Scotland and the North-East. This group will feature

in the March 2020 edition, of the Newsletter. The workers made a wide range of employment choices after the closure of the works. A number moved to Elswick on the Tyne, the location inter alia of the great Armstrong Works.

Previous Employees

Ernest Augustus Bartlett (1855-1919)

Born at Liverpool, Bartlett had worked for Joseph Devey at Wolverhampton before coming to Berwick, where the 1891 Census describes him as a 'cycle hub maker, brass & steel'. The family lived at 7 Parade. Like others of Devey's workforce, Bartlett moved to Elswick, where he was an engine fitter in 1901 and a millwright in 1911.

Philip Crumpton [Devey] (1871-??)

Despite appearing clearly under this name in the 1891 Census, working as a cycle-maker and living at 7 Railway Street, Philip's life is difficult to track. He was born at Wolverhampton 1871, the son of a bricklayer, who died the same year. Philip seems to have been taken into the Devey family and moved with them to Berwick, where he was described as a cycle-maker in 1891. He married Eleanor Rollo in Berwick in 1890; their son Philip was born in 1894. By 1901, Philip was back in Wolverhampton as a cycle works manager, using the surname Devey. Eleanor Devey and two children sailed from Liverpool to St. John New Brunswick in late-1903, by implication joining Philip there. In 1906, the family were living in Winnipeg.

John Devey (1862-1935)

Son of Joseph, he lived at 4 Railway Street in 1891, working as a cycle wheel maker. He returned to Wolverhampton and continued to work as a cycle-maker.

Joseph Devey (1834-1911)

A detailed account of his life can be found on the Friends' website. Although he only lived in Berwick for a few years, Devey made a considerable impact with his cycle works and his political activities. Temperance Terrace remains as a permanent legacy.

Robert Gray (1875-??)

Born Wolverhampton, worked alongside his father as a turner at Devey's works in 1891.

William Gray (1847-1911)

Born at Birmingham, he came to Berwick with Joseph Devey. In 1881 he was a bicycle maker in Wolverhampton. In 1891 he lived at 7 Foul Ford, working as a

turner at the cycle works. He remained in the area, in business as a cycle agent and repairer in Main Street Tweedmouth in 1901/11

George Hemming (1867-1949)

Born at Codsall, Staffordshire, the son of a grocer, Hemming was another of Joseph Devey's employees who made the long trip to Berwick. In 1891 he was a cycle fitter, living at 22 Castlegate. He returned to Wolverhampton where he was an iron warehouseman in 1901 and an armature core builder in 1911, and a retired cycle worker in 1939.

William H. Rowlands (1868-??)

Another of Joseph Devey's workers from the West Midlands, Rowlands was born at Biddulph, Staffs., the son of a blast furnace keeper. In 1891 he was a bicycle fitter lodging at 34 Golden Square. Rowlands then became a clergyman, graduating from Durham in 1897. After serving as a curate at Leyton, he moved in 1900 to St George Camden Hill Kensington. Rowlands became vicar of New Brentford in 1907.

Keith Bailey

BERWICK'S 20TH CENTURY PUBS



In researching an aspect of local history, I had the fortune of coming across Berwick's Register of Licenses 1903 – 1946 in two volumes (Ref : PS 4/111 – 112). An examination of the books, backed up with pages from the Berwick Advertiser, and the Borough's building plans has provided a picture of the changing social scene in the town over the past century and a half.

It is fortuitous that the Register starts in 1904, since, as quoted in the Advertiser of January 1904, *'there was a sensation at the Brewster Sessions, when magistrates were asked to refuse the renewal of licenses to 27 public houses in Berwick - - Berwick (Borough) had 84 public houses and 96 licensed premises. That would work out at the rate of one licensed house to every 156 inhabitants in the Borough- - Police had their hands full and there was a feeling that fewer inns would be a benefit to the Borough'*. By 1917 the number of licensed houses had been reduced to one for every 242 persons in the Borough.

In 1915, two years earlier, the Advertiser reported that the decline in public houses was a result of ' *the decline of Berwick as a shipping centre, the disuse of large granaries, the disappearance of stage-coaches*'. Berwick's inns (eg the Kings Arms) had been important staging posts on the Great North Road. However, by 1915, the town had become an equally important railway terminus, which encouraged the growth of pubs in Castlegate and Tweedmouth, while the quaysides in Berwick and Tweedmouth continued to attract pub life. In addition, the town had special licensing hours for market days, both for the cattle market and the street market.

The article omitted to mention the importance of pubs, such as the Old Angel Inn, Marygate, used by soldiers based in the barracks, and later in the Army Camp site, (the King's Head, Church Street was used by the N.C.Os and became known as the Corporals Mess). The closure of the Fishers' Arms in Low Greens in 1960 was said to be due to the decline of the nearby Army Camp.

Using maps and building plans in the Berwick Archives, physical changes in the pubs can be noted. Pre, and post, World War 1, major alterations and re-building occurred in a number of Berwick pubs eg the Castle Hotel, the Rose and Thistle (now the Cobble Yard) the Brewers Arms and the Salmon, High Street. These restructured pubs were mainly the work of Gray & Paterson, architects. The plans also show a sudden surge in the provision of ladies toilets in the early 1950s, such as the Brown Bear, the Harrow and Old Angel Inn.

Since 1921 up to 1960, nearly 5,600 people had been moved from the middle of the town to its outskirts, where new council houses had been built. This resulted in less demand for pubs in the middle of Berwick and more demand for new pubs and clubs in these outlying areas eg the Bonarsteads, the Elizabethan (Road House) and the Jubilee, plus refurbishment and extension of old pubs such as the Meadow House .

The 1960s and 1970s saw the biggest change in licensing (and entertainment) in Berwick. At the beginning of the 1960s, functions were largely limited to the Corn Exchange, the Drill Hall (plus Gymnasium) , the Rum Puncheon and the Kings Arms Assembly Rooms. By the end of the decade, a variety of fully licensed nightclubs were in operation eg Caesar's Palace , the Beachcomber, Matterhorn Ballroom and Apollo Nightclub (all on the Magdalene Fields Holiday Campsite); in addition a number of pubs had juke boxes (the Old Angel Inn, Marygate is said to be the first Berwick pub to install a juke box – in 1960,) and live groups played in pubs eg the Brewers Arms). Other licensed premises expanded in providing licensed restaurants eg the Tweed View, Turret Villa, the Ravensholme and

Meadow House, and community clubs were established post war, such as the Catholic Club in Walkergate, the Prior Club, the Legion and Labour Clubs. Such pubs, clubs and hotels catered for the emerging youth culture and prosperity of the 1960s.

Future issues of the Newsletter will list and describe many of these licensed premises in more detail.

Robert Steward

A VISIT TO BERWICK



A visit by the senior editor of the Rockland County Messenger, Canada, in 1884, to his home town of Berwick.

The editor, giving his initials as *RS* stayed with his sister, in her *pleasant little home*, at 2 Scott's Place. In the account of his visit, produced in the newspaper, 11 September 1884, he enthuses over the liveliness of Berwick, the buildings, and the curious road and Inn names. He recorded that *Berwick is a lively place from eight in the morning untill past ten at night*. He admits that *if it was not for the fishing business Berwick would be a dull place indeed, although it can boast of a town-hall, several fine churches, good hotels, numerous shops, immense barracks, plenty of soldiers and the Salvation Army*. He enjoyed crossing from Berwick to Spittal on the steam ferry boat, Susan, for the fare of a penny: *The engineer, who sits on the boiler is a boy of 15, while the fireman and general deck-hand is about the same age. If the fireman is too long down the hold firing up, the captain, evidently his father, hauls him up by his ear.*

The full account can be read online, for free, by following the link below:

<http://news.hrvh.org/veridian/cgi-bin/senylrc?a=d&d=rocklandmessenger18840911.2.24>

Julie Gibbs

YOUR LOCAL LOCK-UP PROJECT



Since creating the 19th Century Prisons database at www.prisonhistory.org, in 2018, Dr Rosalind Crone of The Open University, has developed **Your Local Lock-Up**; a public engagement project that aims to compile data on any place or structure used for temporary imprisonment between the 16th and early 20th centuries. These structures could include purpose-built lock-ups, police stations, cells in town halls, courthouses, workhouses, stocks and even rooms in pubs where prisoners were guarded overnight. The accused might have been held there until they appeared before a magistrate, or the structures could even have been used by the community to punish anyone misbehaving in the parish.

Your Local Lock-Up is interested in extending the coverage of lock-ups in Scotland and Northumberland. Historic and present-day descriptions of structures or their uses with or without written evidence, and anecdotes about incidents involving the lock-up, the prisoners held there and the location of any that are now lost, are all very welcome.

New entries can be added directly into the database through an online form at www.prisonhistory.org/locallock-up/submit-lock-up, while details and photographs relating to existing entries, can be added by using the 'Anything to Add' button on each lock-up entry. Longer features providing the history of the lock-up (or its prisoners), how it has been restored or of local events held there can be added at www.prisonhistory.org/category/stories/

If you prefer, information can be forwarded to Dr Rosalind Crone at Rosalind.Crone@open.ac.uk or Dr Elaine Saunders at earlypolicing@gmail.com, who will also answer any queries.

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS



Berwick Advertiser, 22 March 1872

WILFUL DAMAGE- CAUTION TO BOYS

A boy named John Lauder, 12 years of age, was charged with pulling up and destroying a hedgerow tree at Alderbush garden, tenanted by Mr S. Sanderson. Mr Rowland attended to prosecute in the interest of the Burgh Improvement Committee. Mr S. Sanderson said that the boy was in the service of Mr Ralph Holmes, fishmonger, and when up at his (Mr Sanderson's) house with some fish, he had pulled up a freshly planted tree. About fifty young trees had been destroyed at the same place, and he wished that the magistrates would reprimand the lad, as a warning to other boys. The boy, in reply to the Mayor, said he did not know that he did any ill when he cut the tree. The magistrates sentenced the youthful defendant to pay a fine of 1s, exclusive of 3s 6d of mitigated expenses. Mr Rowland stated that persons committing similar damage subjected themselves to two month's hard labour in the House of Correction, and the Mayor said that if this kind of damage was repeated the offenders would be severely dealt with. The lad was allowed a fortnight to pay the fine.

Berwick Advertiser, 22 March 1872

LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH - Princes' Street, Spittal

Mr Boston, in terms of a notice, moved that the Board put Princes' Street, formerly known as the Billendean Road into repair. This street leads to and from Tweedmouth station, and was at present in a very bad state of repair. Spittal was famed as a watering place, with its fine beach and its Spa Well, and was much frequented by visitors in the summer season. It was the duty of the Board to keep clean and good streets on both sides of the Tweed, and he thought something might be done to Spittal since nearly all the money earned in Spittal was spent in Berwick. Princes' Street had little or no carb stone, and there was no sewer.

MR YOUNG thought there was great need for sanitary reform in this particular street. Fish and other refuse were thrown on to the street, and allowed to lie there.

Alderman THOMPSON happened to be driving along this street the other day, and saw housewives heave their slops into the street, which was in a very unclean state. The MAYOR said the new Inspector of Nuisances would in all likelihood remedy this.

Mr FLEMING said the Board had spent very little money on Berwick streets yet, which were in need of repair as much as any streets on the other side of the water, and here they were going to spend upwards of £40 on one paltry place in Spittal. He thought it more advisable that at the beginning of the year a certain sum should be allowed for the repair of the streets in the three places during the year, instead of spending £20, £30, and £40 at different times.

On the suggestion of Alderman MORTON the matter was referred to the Works Committee with powers.

Carole Pringle

***MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL THE FRIENDS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!***

