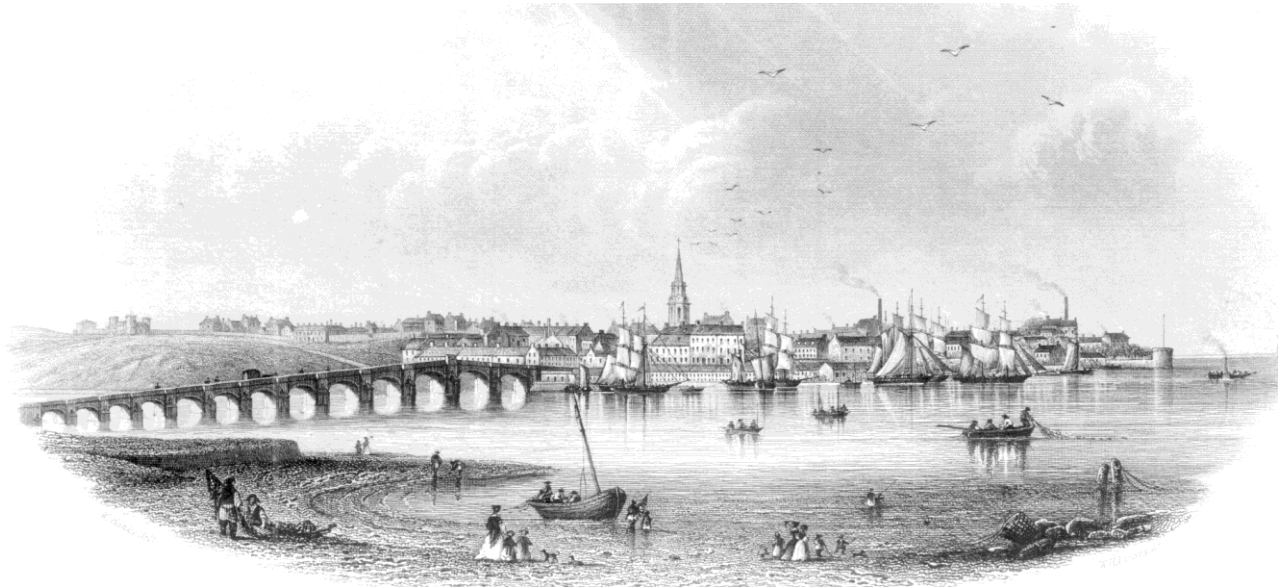


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 103–MARCH 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 27th March 2020

Friends AGM at 7pm followed by a talk
“Archives Revealed – the Berwick Borough
Archives Collection” by Linda Bankier in
Berwick Parish Centre

Saturday 2nd May

Riding of the Bounds – Display in Guildhall,
Berwick 11- 3

Friday 8th May

VE Day – Exhibition on Berwick during the
Second World War. 10 – 4

Saturday 16th May (10-4) and Sunday
17th May (11-4)

Bygone Borderlands weekend in Guildhall,
Berwick. Local History display and talks.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EASTERN BORDERS HISTORY GATHER – 14th March 2020

Venue: Volunteer Hall, Duns

Time: 10 - 4pm

Are you interested in local history and archaeology? Chat informally to volunteer groups and professionals.

TALKS:

10.35 - 11.10	Ancrum Bridge: Geoff Parkhouse
11.15 – 12.00	Twixt Thistle and Rose: Linda Bankier
14.00 – 14.45	Whiteadder Project
14.45 – 15.30	Lowick: Kristian Pedersen

WORKSHOPS: 12.00 – 1pm : Lidar and 1.15 – 1.45 pm : Research Sources

Admission: £5 includes a drink and cake. For more information, telephone: 01361 883434 or email bettysnow@btinternet.com

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 31st March 2020	A.G.M. and talk : Whisky and Gin Smuggling in the Cheviots & the Borders: Graeme Watson
Tuesday 28th April	Visit to John Muir's Birthplace and Museum, Dunbar

BELFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bell View Resource Centre

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 25th March 2020	Railway Matters: Rt Rev. Stephen Platten
Wednesday 22nd April	Northumbrians Behaving Badly: Margaret Fox

Wednesday 27th May

Drove Roads: Shelagh Townsend-Rose

BERWICK CIVIC SOCIETY

Venue: Berwick Parish Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 11th March 2020

An update on the Berwick Barracks Project:
Sir Philip Mawer and Sophie Howard

Wednesday 8th April

A.G.M. and social gathering 7 p.m. start

Wednesday 13th May

Renaissance of the Burrell Collection,
Glasgow: Paul East. Note that this meeting
will be held at the Berwick Museum and Art
Gallery.

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 18th March 2020

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

Wednesday 15th April

A.G.M. at 6.45pm followed by a talk 'Our
River Stories of the Tweed': Martha
Andrews

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 6th April

Supernatural Power Dressing, 2,500 –
1,500BC: Alison Sheridan

Monday 4th May

The sound of Early Medieval Music:
Graeme Lawson

Monday 1st June

The Bronze Age in Lowland Scotland:
Trevor Cowie

BORDERS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Corn Exchange, Melrose

Time: 2.30p.m.

Sunday 29th March 2020

The Scottish Soldier in WWI: Sir Hew Strachan

Saturday 18th April

SAFHS Conference & Family History Fair, Brunton Hall, Musselburgh

Sunday 26th April

Poaching and the Game Laws in South-East Scotland : David McLean

Sunday 31st May

A.G.M. followed by a talk Picture Postcards- the social networking tool of the twentieth century: Pat Littlewood

BOWSDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Bowsden Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 6th April

Border Ballads: Thomas the Rhymer. A 13th century seer and adventurer: Poppy Holden

Monday 4th May

The Story of Edinburgh's Waverley Station: Nick Jones

CHIRNSIDE HISTORY GROUP

Venue: Community Centre, Waterloo Arms Dining Room

Time: 7.30pm

Monday 16th March 2020

Rise & Fall of Roxburgh: Christine Henderson

Monday 20th April

Border life in 1850's: M. Jeary

Monday 18th May

Soutra Aisle: Brian Moffat TBC

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Leet Room, Coldstream Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 5th March 2020

A.G.M. at 6.45pm followed by POW camp 105 Wooler: Phil Rowett

Wednesday 22nd April

Howick's Seven Tales of the Unexpected:
Avril Meakin

Wednesday 27th May

Captain Craster's Harbour: Phil Rowett

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND GENEALOGY GROUP

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

Time: 10.00am

Saturday 21st March 2020

Evidence of Women and their Lives in
Berwick Archives: Linda Bankier

Saturday 18th April

Members' Experiences of DNA Tests.

Saturday 16th May

A.G.M

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 4th March 2020

A Policeman's Lot, 1750 to 1950 : Ian
Roberts

Wednesday 1st April

A.G.M. 6.45pm, talk at 7.30pm; Recent
Developments in Iron Age Archaeology in
the North-East and TillVAS's plans for
2020: Richard Carlton

Wednesday 6th May

Doon Hill Revisited: Professor Ian
Ralston

Wednesday 3rd June

The Salcombe Shipwreck: Dr Ben
Roberts

ARCHIVE NEWS

Despite it being 3 months ago, it just seems like yesterday that I was writing my archive news. Life in the Record Office has been as busy as ever. One of the main elements I have been concentrating on during this period has been Archive Accreditation. For this, I have completed an in depth application about all aspects of the Record Office – collection management, accommodation; outreach activity; aspirations. – which was followed up in February by a visit of two panel members. We will shortly hear the results and so we are keeping our fingers crossed we are

successful. That apart, our normal activities continue. The Twixt Thistle and Rose project is in its last cataloguing phase and we would hope to publish the catalogue in June 2020. Teresa has been working very hard on this and Martha has been supporting the volunteers who have been creating in depth catalogue entries which bring the whole collection to life. Did you know that people had to have a licence to keep a cow in the town in the late 19th century and who purchased burial plots in Berwick and Tweedmouth Cemeteries ? We are also about to start some of our outreach activity around the Project – Riding of the Bounds; VE Day and Bygone Borderlands – which will give us an opportunity to highlight the collection beyond the Record Office.

Every year, I undertake a First World War Project with Year 8s of Tweedmouth Middle School. Unusually this is an English project and all the students came to the office to find out about the lives of local people who were involved in the War – both those who were killed and survived. They then go back and write letters home from the front.

Recently, I have also given a number of talks to various organisations – Berwick History Society on the portrayal of women in the archives ; Lowick Heritage Group – Twixt Thistle and Rose Project ; and Tweedmouth House on Berwick's Buildings.

Linda Bankier

EVENTS IN MAY 2020

In May, the Record Office is involved in a number of events which will take place in the Guildhall. This year, Riding of the Bounds takes place on Saturday **2nd May** and we will produce a display on this historical event which can be viewed that day whilst the horses and riders are out. The following Friday **8th May** is VE Day and the Record Office and other organisations are mounting an exhibition on the area in the Second World War that day. Further details will be available nearer the time. Finally on **16th and 17th May**, we will be running another Bygone Borderlands event, the first of a series of events to celebrate the Office's 40th anniversary. It will consist of displays from various North Northumberland and Berwickshire local history groups and a series of talks. If you want to find out more, look on the Friends website nearer the time or contact me. All these events can't run without stewards who are willing to meet and greet people and generally be there to make sure everything runs smoothly. If you would like to help with any of there, please contact me on

lbankier@northumberland.gov.uk . Otherwise, please do come along and support them.

Linda Bankier

BORDER MARRIAGES

I recently gave a talk on Border Marriages and as part of that I did some research on Henry Collins, one of the well known priests associated with these marriages in our area.

Border marriages were a common feature of life in this area in the late 18th and 19th centuries but one which cause family historians great consternation. They arose because of different marriage laws in England and Scotland. Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753 which came into force on 25 March 1754 in England decreed that marriages could only be carried out by Church of England clergy after the calling of banns or obtaining a licence from the Diocese. Parental consent had to be obtained if either party was under 21 and the only religions exempt from these regulations were Jews or Quakers. This didn't suit a lot of people in North Northumberland who were non conformist or those wanting to marry quickly or without parental consent. Therefore, marrying in Scotland became an attractive option as the laws were different. There was no need for a church ceremony or residency qualification and marriage could constitute a declaration before witnesses. This was known as an Irregular marriage in Scotland but it was legal and also legally recognised in England. Living in the border area, it was easy to go across to Scotland and get married there by a so called priest, of whom there were many.

One of the well known priests was Henry Collins who operated along the Eastern Border from Lamberton across to Coldstream. I was interested in finding out a bit more about him as his original marriage register for 1833 to 1849 survives and has been transcribed. Many of the original records created by these "priest" no longer exist as record keeping was not their strength !

Who was Henry Collins ? My starting point was this entry in the Elgin Courier, dated 12 January 1849 :

DEATH OF A BORDER BLACKSMITH – *Henry Collins, officiating at Lamberton Toll, has suddenly departed this life after 20 years service, during which he united on an average 300 couples per annum. He last year joined together 330.*

Was this information correct or was it fake news as we know it today ? The burial registers for Berwick, Holy Trinity Church confirmed that a Henry Collins, aged 60 of Weatherley Square, Berwick was buried on 7 January 1849 but no occupation was given. Was he a blacksmith ? Further research in the parish baptism registers established that he was actually a bookseller in Weatherley Square who had married Ann Garrett in March 1828. They had at least 7 children – Mary (1829); Elizabeth (1831) ; Robert (1832); Ann (1834); Jane Glover (1836, died Nov. 1839) ; Sarah (1838, died May 1839) and Jane (1840). All entries are consistent in describing Henry as a bookseller. Perhaps the blacksmith had crept in from a comparison with Gretna Green ? Henry Collins was not from Berwick originally but appears to have been born in Scotland or Ireland. I intend to do some more research on him as I'm intrigued to find out why he started his irregular border marriage business and what type of bookseller he was – his registers prove that he is literate but his spelling of surnames and places is challenging !

In the meantime, I have found this entry which gives an insight into his marriages and charges which appeared in the Arbroath Guide, dated 27 January 1849 :

BORDER MARRIAGES – We announced a few days ago that Henry Collins, the celebrator of Border marriages at Lamberton Toll, had died suddenly, after having officiated for upwards of twenty years in that capacity. The Kelso Chronicle, in noticing the same fact, says that, taking as an average 300 marriages per annum, he had united the goodly number of 6000 couple. It then adds – “If the following question could be answered, what a curious piece of statistical information would they furnish!. How many of these 6000 were married without parents’ consent? How many of these never saw each other previous to the day of the marriage? How many of these lived happy afterwards? To these many might be added. For instance, how often was “the priest” drunk at the performance of the ceremonies? And many others, if properly answered, which would equally interest and startle. The fees paid for his services are generally left to the happy couples’ own discretion. For a navvie the general charge is 7s 6d while some runaway heiresses give £5 ; but taking as an average 10s per couple (below the average) the fees realised would amount to £150 [worth £12,027.92 in 2017] per annum. During the year 1848, the marriages celebrated were 330. Such a lucrative “berth” could not fail in finding a successor. In the person of Mr William Glover, Walkergate Lane, one has been found. In a handbill which he has just issued, he says that “he has great pleasure in intimating that he has succeeded to the duties of deceased. The Legislature of the country has acknowledged its legality by their inability to alter the present mode of celebrating marriages on the Border. Many of those occupying high places in the

country will no doubt feel a reluctance to interfere with the system which enabled them to become at once the husband of a fair maiden and a rich inheritance”

As one of Henry’s children had the middle name of “Glover” , was William Glover, his successor, related to him ? Border Marriages are a fascinating subject but alas one which requires a lot of digging and research to find answers !

Linda Bankier

DISASTER PLANNING

At the last committee meeting of the Friends, it was suggested that a list be drawn up of those members of the Friends who would be interested in being included as volunteers helpers in the **Disaster Plan** for Berwick Museum and Archives. This would involve being called out to help rescue material if there was an emergency in case of fire or flood (as happened a few years ago with the Museum) , or helping with cleaning and salvaging objects and documents. In the former case, an element of fitness would be required, but for the latter, this could involve sitting at a table. Training would be provided by the Museum and Archive staff in rescue and conservation techniques. The job could be cold and dirty, so old clothes would be needed. Your contact details would be kept on file, in case of such an emergency, which, hopefully, would never occur.

If interested, initially, with no obligation, please contact Linda or Carole in the Record Office on 01289 301865 or e-mail: lbankier@northumberland.gov.uk ,or Anne Moore, e-mail: amoore@museumsnorthumberland.org.uk or Jenny Vevers at Berwick Museum on 01289 309538

Bob Steward

GERMAN PORK BUTCHERS

A recent enquiry to the Friends drew attention to the immigration of many pork butchers from Germany in the 19th century to set up businesses in Britain. Some of them came to Berwick.

Economic and employment pressures in Germany, particularly after the devastating potato famine of 1846-1847, gave a motive for many to move, and Britain was a nearby country with rapidly expanding populations in its newly industrialised cities. The demand for inexpensive food in convenient form was one which German

butchers could readily meet from their traditional skills in preparing pig meat and preserving it by salting, smoking, and pickling. Once the early arrivals had established themselves in Britain, word of mouth encouraged other family and friends to follow their example. It is striking that a lot of the pork butchers who arrived in the second half of the 19th century came from the relatively small area of Hohenlohe in south-west Germany. In 1897 a writer in the *Newcastle Daily Journal* (22 July) commented: "Our English pork butchers are all Germans. The Germans created this business among us.... In every town there are many of them, and there is now hardly a village of any consequence throughout the North of England that has not one or more.... Englishmen have all along been to blame for neglecting the pig as a subject of human food.... But the German is the porkman *par excellence*."

WILHELM WILLE (c.1832-1894) was an early, perhaps the earliest, German arrival in the pork trade in Berwick. He was born in Hamburg and came to this country in his early 30s. Around 1869 he moved to Berwick and set up as a pork butcher at 56 Marygate, where he remained in business for the next 16 years. As an 1879 directory for Berwick shows, there was no shortage of other butchers in the town, but Wille was the only one who then specifically identified himself as a pork butcher. His name became anglicised variously as William Willy or Willie, and, possibly mistranscribed, as William Wild on the electoral register. In 1885 Wille sold his business in Marygate to a younger German, John Strecker, but he continued in the pork trade as a pig dealer and skin manufacturer (also "gut cleaner") at 66 Marygate and other premises until his death in 1894.

JOHANN STRECKER (1863-1897) was born in Hessenau in Baden-Württemberg, and he came to England at the age of 16, initially spending time in Yorkshire. He was followed by his brother Georg, who became a butcher in Goole, and his sisters Barbara and Margaretha who both married butchers elsewhere in Britain. In 1885 Johann, now John Strecker, took over the shop of Wilhelm Wille at 56 Marygate and remained in business there for about 10 years, during which time he and his German wife had two sons. He was assisted by his cousin Karl Hofmann, who went on to establish his own pork butcher's shop in Wakefield (where the family business still flourishes today and is known particularly for its pork pies). Around 1895 John Strecker left Berwick and moved to Bootle in Liverpool but he died there in 1897.

JOHN FREDERICK HICK (1859-1947) came from Künzelsau in Baden-Württemberg, and by 1891 he was in Yorkshire. There he married Rosine Karle, the sister of John Strecker's wife, and they took over Strecker's shop when he left Berwick in 1895. As Frederick Hick, he continued the pork butcher's business for 20 years, bringing up four sons and three daughters there. Two of the sons later moved

to Dublin to join the butcher's business of another family member there, and the Hick family still run a shop in Dun Laoghaire with many pork specialities.

JOHANN GEORG SAHM (1867-1944) was another native of Baden-Württemberg who by 1891 was in North Shields, and by 1894 he was running another pork butcher's in Berwick at 68 Marygate. By 1897 he had moved back to Byker in Newcastle and his Marygate shop was taken over by Henry Taylor who married Sahn's sister in 1896.

Many of the German pork butchers settled permanently in Britain and some, like Sahn and Hick, became naturalised citizens. When the First World War broke out however, their harmonious integration was abruptly challenged. In August 1914 the Aliens Restriction Order required non-naturalised Germans to be registered with the police, along with other obligations, and soon afterwards attacks on German-owned property were being reported in many towns including Keighley and Sunderland. After the sinking of the *Lusitania* in May 1915, anti-German feeling was intensified. At Smithfield market in London, the German butchers were boycotted. Serious riots took place around the country, including ones in Liverpool and South Shields.

In Berwick on 15 May 1915 a soldier kicked in the side door of Frederick Hick's shop in Marygate and a large crowd assembled around it. On the following evening there was a further incident in front of the shop, and despite police efforts to disperse people, there was soon a crowd of 600 people jeering and shouting anti-German slogans. An attempt to rush the shop was made before police managed to calm the situation. One man was arrested and charged with inciting a crowd to riot. Two weeks later the *Advertiser* carried a notice from Frederick Hick thanking his customers for their many years of support, and announcing that he had sold his shop to Robert Dodds. This brought to an end the visible presence of German pork butchers on Berwick's High Street after more than four decades of continuous business.

Sources:

Gibbons, Sue. *German Pork Butchers in Britain*. (Maidenhead: Anglo-German Family History Society, 2001).

Wüstner, Karl-Heinz. *New Light on the German Pork Butchers in Britain, 1850-1950*. (2009). URL: <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/cronem/files/conf2009papers/Wuestner.pdf>

German Pork Butchers, in *Rootschat Reference Library* [database]. URL: <http://surname.rootschat.com/lexicon/dbsig/>

Berwick Advertiser

John Spiers

RAVENSDOWNE THEATRES- how many were there, and where were they?

When the theatre in the yard behind the King's Arms on Hide Hill was destroyed in a fire in January 1845 it left Berwick without a dedicated theatre, even though theatre performances were most probably taking place in various other establishments such as public houses and assembly rooms.

The theatre in Hide Hill had existed for about 50 years and it apparently took several years before anything was done to remedy the dearth of theatres in Berwick. This led to the following comments in *The Glasgow Satirist and Dramatic Critic* in the issue published on 4 November 1848: 'Since the destruction of the theatre, the less intellectual of the inhabitants of Berwick-upon-Tweed have devoted themselves exclusively to the favourite amusement of the place – viz. eating, drinking and card playing. The spinsters, as is usual in country towns, excel in looking after their neighbours affairs, and cry down their neighbours sins, the more effectually to conceal their own.'

The article goes on to mention that a small private theatre had been erected and was opened to a select audience the Friday before the publication of the article. The play performed was *Raising the Wind* and seems to have been well received. The cast appears to consist mainly of military people from the 33rd Regiment, a Yorkshire regiment which was stationed in Berwick on 1 September 1849 and presumably somewhat before that as we also know that the Berwick regiment, 25th Regiment of Foot was stationed in Madras, India on the same date. The acting was praised and the scenery was good, and special mention was made of the drop-scene, which was a joint production of two of the captains of the regiment and had been given as a present to the owner.

However, there are two things missing from the article – the name of the owner and the location of the theatre. Was this theatre the same as was mentioned in *Berwick Advertiser* on 13 January 1849, and described as being situated in Upper Ravensdowne. 'The building is an open court, nearly at the end of the street, and its character is indicated by a projecting gas lamp having engraven on its glasses the word "theatre"'. The location near the end of the street might suggest a connection to the military as it would be in close proximity to the Barracks.

The following issue of *The Glasgow Satirist and Dramatic Critic* draws our attention to the fact that although dramatic entertainments are at a premium in Berwick

people only have to cross the bridge to Tweedmouth 'to gratify their theatrical propensities to their fullest extent'. The play performed there was called 'Rummio and Judy' and was 'a piece replete with the most exquisite wit and so popular that the elite of Berwick crowd in shoals to witness the performance'. It has not been possible to establish where these performances took place, as there is no mention of a theatre in Tweedmouth in available sources, so one must assume that it was not a purpose-built building.

The success across the river, however, rubbed off on Berwick, as on 30 December in *The Glasgow Satirist and Dramatic Critic* we learn that 'a gentleman of some literary celebrity on the Borders has opened a rival establishment in Berwick-on-Tweed, where he indulges the worthy inhabitants with the legitimate as well as with the illegitimate drama'. What constitutes the difference between a legitimate and illegitimate drama is not clear, but we are told that the play being performed at the moment belongs to the latter category, and is said to have been written by 'an eminent legal practitioner, whose dramatic talents are only surpassed by his musical science.' (ibid) Again we are left in the dark as to the name.

Now the question is this – was a small private theatre opened in October 1848 in an unknown location by a gentleman whose name we do not know, and was the other one opened in Ravensdowne in January 1849 the same? . In *The Theatrical Times*, vol.3,p.16, Saturday, January 20, 1849 a new theatre is described in Ravensdowne, and it states that this theatre was opened for the first time on 15 January 1849, and adds 'The recent erection, which has been got up by a gentleman of the town, and under rather disadvantageous circumstances, is only able of holding 300 persons, and though small, is rather neat and tasteful, and it may be considered as a preparatory step towards the building of a large theatre , by public subscription.' They also bemoan the fact that Berwick was formerly a great theatrical place, but since the fire at the King's Arms 'had been deprived of all sort of entertainment, further than a wooden booth or temporary erection in the ball-room of an inn.' (ibid) Maybe the performance described in November was, as mentioned in the article, a case of 'a private gentleman having erected in his own house a private theatre for his own amusement and that of his friends.' And maybe remained as such, which might explain the mention later on in *Berwick Advertiser* on 19 October 1850 of an amateur theatricals 'in the theatre' performed by members of the Regiment and the regimental band.

To complicate things further two articles appeared – one in *The Glasgow Satirist and Critic* and one in *The Era* – dated 27 January and 17 June 1849 respectively. Both articles mention the opening of a new theatre in Ravensdowne and that the

first performance was the comedy *Speed the Plough* which was preceded by a prologue spoken by Mr Sommerville. Both articles mention that in order to understand the prologue it is necessary to state that the old theatre was destroyed in a fire and that the new theatre was erected on a site formerly used as a sort of shambles, or maybe it was more of a tannery as it says in the prologue 'Here, where the skinner tanned the rough ox-hide, Now Shakespeare's Ariel on the wind shall ride'. However, it has not been possible to verify any presence of either a tannery or a shambles anywhere in Ravensdowne at that time or any other time, and neither do any of the contemporary maps.

I realise that this article poses more questions than answers, but maybe one day the missing pieces in this jigsaw puzzle will emerge and the picture will be complete.

Lars Rose

1792 TOLL RIOTS IN THE DUNSE AND CHIRNSIDE AREA

In 1792 the Turnpike Act was established which meant that several toll bars were due to come into use on the roads around Dunse, Chirnside and elsewhere. A charge would be levied on everything that passed along the road.

On the 3rd July 1792, the night before the seven toll bars were due to come into operation in the Dunse and Chirnside area, many people attacked and destroyed them. There were a number of arrests. One of the ringleaders, William Jeffrey, a miller from Chirnside, escaped from the militia. He lay for a considerable time in the Whitehall Plantation, concealed by the dense foliage and was supplied by food under the cover of night. How long he was in hiding is not known but eventually he made his way to America where, as a miller, he was very successful. Ninian Home of Paxton House sent a graphic account of the events in a letter to his Uncle Colonel David Milne Home of Wedderburn Castle who was away at the time.

Paxton House 13th July 1792

"We have had more disturbance and riot in the country about establishing the toll gates than could have believed possible and I fear they are far from being at an end. Seven gates that were erected have been pulled down and burned or thrown in the Tweed. There has been no open violence since the 5th but you see insolence and ill-humour in the faces of almost everyone you meet on the road; and they threaten, if

the toll gate are put up again that they will burn and destroy the houses and property of every gentleman in this part of the country who has been concerned in putting up the gates; and if we are not protected by a sufficient military force, I dare say it will be the case, Three troops of dragoons have been in Dunse since last Saturday which has kept everything quiet....The whole of the farmers to a man almost are at the bottom of the business or they could easily have restrained their servants; but they do not act themselves, and it will be difficult, I am afraid, to fix it on any of them. The whole town of Chirside, man, woman and child I believe, were concerned in the riots. The Sheriff went from Dunse last Sunday night with a party of Dragoons, but they had scouts out everywhere to give them intelligence, and not one was taken, three of them however, were taken the night before last. They will be examined on Saturday (tomorrow) when the Sheriff, is expected to be in Dunse again. We shall not have peace or quietness until some examples are made.”

A few of the demonstrators received punishments varying from four months in the tollbooth and banishment from Scotland for seven years, to the case of a man found guilty of fire-raising who was imprisoned for four months and then banished from Scotland for life. As fire-raising could at that time carry the death penalty, this was in fact a light sentence.

Linda Gray

CONFESSIONS TAKEN FROM THE BAILIFF'S COURT BOOK, 1581

The Confession of Thomas Pigg for his speeches against Mr John Selby gentleman porter Before the Righte worshipfull Sir henry woodrington knichte, marshall of Barwick & the Rest of the Councill the xxiiijth of January 1581

He confesseth That at a Certen tyme he hapined to come into William Rowkes house where was in Company James Duckitt, and then & there he sayde that he and his father had ben at master Threasorers attending to enforme his worshipp of a Strange matter which was that they were to informe master Threasorer that master porter had conspired the death of his father and that for the execution thereof master Porter had written to Certen Scottesmen in Tividall and willed them by Letter to looke aboute, for that Thomas Pigg was abroad and that his father had Likewise made Capten Reade pryvie with the same and that George Orde had gotten Intelligence thereof and had informed his father of the same And that at my lordes

Coming downe there wolde be suche matter laide against him as he wolde hardly answer.

The Councells Order vpon the same Confession

It is ordered by the aforesaid governor & councell That the saide Thomas Pigg shall during twoe market dayes viz Satterday nexte and that day eighte dayes from Tenne of the Clock on the aforenoone vntill the markt be done Stande vpon the Pillory & a paper vpon his heade written with greate Letters and also his Confession and the confession of the witnesses to be publiquely Redd to that intent that his fault & offence may be openly knowen and that executed then to be banished the Towne.

Wendy Urwin

BERWICK 20TH CENTURY PUBS Part 2

The following are observations taken from the 1903 – 1946 Berwick Registers of Licenses (held in the Berwick Record Office), which record licensed premises in Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal.

Of the 85 pubs listed in the Registers, the majority (68) are listed in Pigot's 1822 Directory or Whellans 1855 Directory., though now, of these, there are only 22 left in the town (3 of these went in the last year.)

Most of the pubs in the Registers have kept their names, though a few had earlier names eg the **Albion**, Tweedmouth was called the Mariners' Home and the **Red Lion**, Castlegate, Berwick, was once called Anglers' Cottage or Inn. A few gained nick names eg the Ponderosa for **Meadow House**, because of its connection with Robert Redford, the Hollywood actor, but mostly names became associated with their licensees eg Mable's for the **White Horse Inn**, Castlegate, Berwick, after Mable Hogg who'd been landlady there for 40 years in 1961 (and she had succeeded her father there) and Johnny Malone's for the **Kings Head** in Church Street. Interestingly, the licensees for the **Salmon Hotel**, Marygate , were the Hogg family from c 1855 - 1920, in order : Thomas, John, then Robert Thompson Hogg.

The Registers record family ownership or tenancy that date back many years. The most notable is the Heslop family of **The Thatch** or Thatched House Inn in Tweedmouth. When the last Heslop (ie Mary Heslop, – her predecessor Rachel , was owner from 1903 – 1939) retired from the Thatch in 1940, it was reported that it was the end of over 100years of Heslops in the Thatch. The pub at the time, was supposed to be over 300 years old. After the fire in 1886 which destroyed its thatched roof (hence its name), it was described in the local newspaper ' the

Thatch, with its kitchen fireplace similar to those of baronial strongholds and with its low ceilings and beams running the length of the room was a wreck.' It was rebuilt without its thatch. Interestingly, in 1980, C.A.M.R.A. reported : 'This pub can only be described as rough and ready, women being none too welcome at the bar'. This latter comment was strongly denied by the then landlord.

The **Pilot** in the Greenses, Berwick seems to have had only two sets of licensees from its beginnings c 1840 to 1922. An Isabella Ramsay was the first licensee, to be followed by a succession of Murphys concluding with an Ann Isabella Murphy c 1894 – 1922. Women owners and licensees seem to have been very common in Berwick.

The Malone family were licensees of the **Kings Head** from 1943, and the pub known as Johnny Malone's after its landlord , John Malone, who retired in 1985 after some 40 years at the pub. On his retirement he said the boom years for the pub were in the 1950s as 'since the Barracks closed, trade has dropped off - - - Unofficially this used to be the Corporals' Mess . Most of the N.C.O.s used to meet here, so all the other soldiers used to stay clear'.

By coincidence, or not, from 1945, the licensees of the **Old Angel Inn** in Marygate, (dating back to at least to the 1810s and demolished in 1983), were, for the next 15 years the father and brother of John Malone of the **Kings Head**. This pub also was a popular place for the Army, when the Barracks were still in use; indeed in 1962 the town's magistrates were warning about 'drunken sprees from the Old Angel', by the soldiers. It's situation, opposite the **Brewers'Arms** (again dating from at least the 1810s) would not have helped – as this for many years, was, and is, known as the Heavy Battery due to its military connections.

Continuing the army pub theme, the **Fishers' Arms** in Low Greens, Berwick (dating pre 1850) closed in 1960 when it was reported that since Second World War it had been 'dying slowly', as a result of the closure of the big army camp at Magdalene Fields. At its closure there were 11 pubs within a quarter of a mile of it and 18 within half a mile. The pub had started off as two fishermen's cottages and was rebuilt in 1907.(The plans pre and post 1907 are in the Berwick Record Office.)

Returning to Old Angel and the Brewers Arms, both pubs have a role in Berwick's recent social history. The **Old Angel** was the first pub to have a juke box in Berwick, in 1960, despite the police objection to 'noisy juke boxes, record players and skiffle groups' and possibly 'dancing girls' next ! Indeed the Brewers' Arms opposite had a skiffle group performing on Saturdays and Sundays. This was followed by 29 licensed premises in Berwick being granted music licenses for pianos, record

players, wirelesses, radiograms and gramophones including five pubs granted licenses for accordions. It was reported later, in 1963 that accordions were popular in Berwick pubs. It emerged 'that no music licenses had been applied for in Berwick for 69 years', despite the 1890 Public Health Acts requiring this. Until 1960, therefore, Berwick pubs, in ignorance, had been happily ignoring the law

As for pubs being the venue for popular music, the **Red Lion Inn**, Spittal deserves a mention. From c 1903 – 1940, John Hall, senior and junior were licensees, the elder Hall was a well known fiddle maker and player. His collected local folk tunes are held in Berwick Museum. Later in 1966, the pub was transformed from an ordinary 'local' into a 'smart ultra modern discotheque', known as The Disc, with a black décor, a large juke box and dance floor, and a ceiling decorated with stars .It catered 'mainly for the young people of Berwick' and was an experimental venture by the owners, Vaux brewery.

It is significant that a case against Richard Short of the **Brewers Arms** for allowing cash betting being carried out in his pub, in 1959, had his solicitor arguing the case for legalising cash betting and setting up of betting shops. This was followed by the Betting and Gaming Act of 1960 which, indeed, allowed such shops to open in the following year..

Bob Steward

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS

Berwick Advertiser, 12 April 1872

BERWICK QUARTER SESSIONS

The Easter Quarter Sessions for this borough were held on Friday last in the Townhall, before the Recorder, W.T. Greenhow, Esq. After the usual proclamation had been read, The Recorder addressed the Grand Jury. He said he was happy to state that there was no business to lay before them, and this was the third time in succession that he had attended a maiden sessions here, that showing the remarkable absence of crime in the town of Berwick was most creditable to the town. He would not repeat what he had said on two former occasions as to what he thought the absence of crime here was due; but he had been told that the society which he had referred to before, the society of Good Templars, had got a very strong hold of the poor here, and exercised a great influence in the case of temperance and repressing crime. He discharged the Grand Jury with the thanks of the court, and of the country for their attendance.

The SHERIFF (Dr Fluker) then said that he again had the honour of presenting the Recorder with a pair of white gloves as an emblem of a maiden sessions.

Berwick Advertiser, 12 April 1872

BERWICK PETTY SESSIONS

RESISTING THE POLICE- John Brooks, or Macfarlane, labourer, was charged by the police with being drunk and using profane language in the streets. P.C. Davidson said that about eight o'clock on Saturday night there was a tremendous crowd of persons at the top of Hide Hill, and the street was entirely blocked by them. The defendant was present and addressing the crowd. He was drunk, swearing, and using very bad language. There was a person in the street playing a dulcimer, and Davidson went to clear away the crowd. The defendant turned round, told Davidson to go to h-, and added that he would do as he liked. Davidson took hold of him, but the defendant threw the policeman down. Davidson afterwards got the defendant down, when he pleaded that if let up he would go home. On getting up he again threw Davidson down, and Davidson was hustled very violently by the crowd. There was no other policeman near, and Davidson called on several people to assist him, but they refused. The defendant was at last got to the lock-up. He was ordered to be fined 10s or be imprisoned for seven days.

Carole Pringle