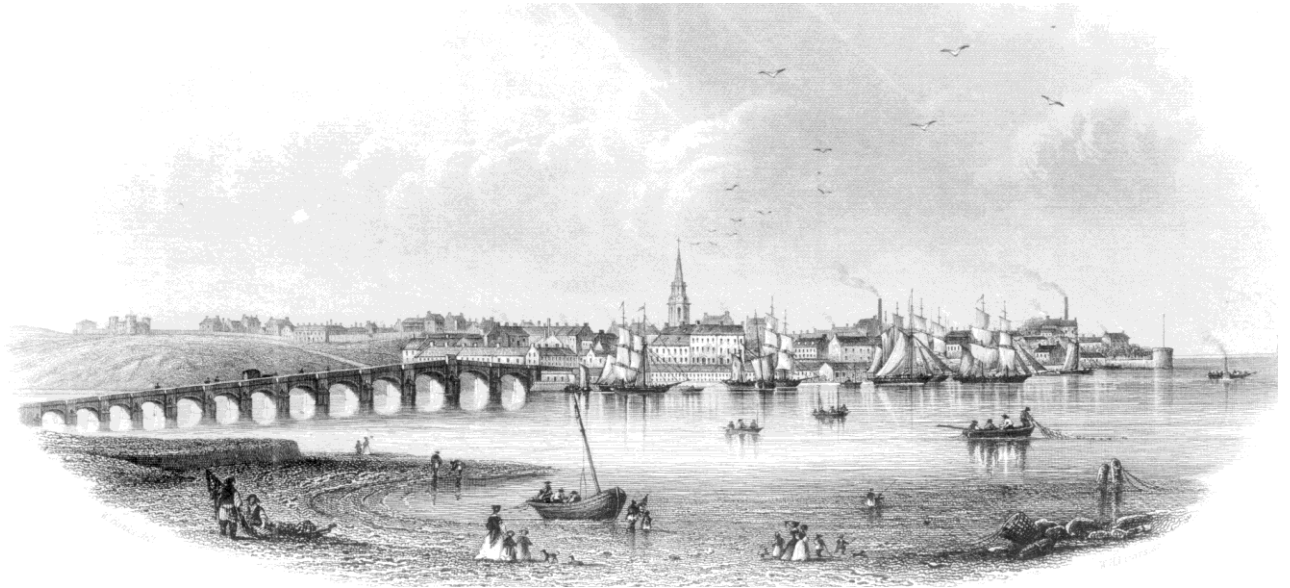


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 104-JUNE 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Due to the present situation and social distancing, the Record Office and the Friends are not organising events until it is safe to do so.

ARCHIVE NEWS

Firstly, I hope you are all ok and coping in these rather strange times. Despite our changed circumstances, the Record Office is still running but not in the way it normally does. However, the show must go on and we have adapted to work in a different way.

Due to COVID- 19 the Record Office closed to the public at the end of Thursday 19 March. At the moment we are not sure when we will restart our public service or what format it will take but we will keep you informed and update you.

From March to June, the Record Office was going to undertake a lot of outreach work to promote the office, our Twixt Thistle and Rose Project and also the 40th anniversary of the Record Office which is at the beginning of July. Understandably, none of the events which included exhibitions and talks have been able to happen. However, one of the main events has been moved back to next year and so Bygone Borderlands will now take place in May 2021. Many of the other events will probably be rearranged too.

Although we have not been open to the public all the Record Office staff have continued to work from home or at the Storage Unit. We have more than enough work to do and it has been an opportunity to catch up with all those jobs that we don't get a chance to do normally. During this time, I have been working on the Twixt Thistle and Rose project (TTAR) checking volunteers work ready for mounting on the electronic catalogue; undertaking document checking for Teresa and helping Martha provide the volunteers with work. Checking the police posters has been fascinating – things really haven't changed. I've also been completing a cataloguing project for the Freeman Trustees on title deeds which will help our project. Google Meets online have now become a big part of my daily work as well – how I hold meetings - totally new to me but I'm learning ! This has included meeting with other members of Learning Arc (NE archive education officers) which has been really useful. John Speirs and I have also been working on additional content created by our volunteers for the Friends website – you will find some more Board of Guardians material and also some additional entries in the Ravensdowne section. As an archive, we will never catch up on all the tasks that we need to do, however, we are using the time to make more material available. Here are also some updates from the other staff members :

MARTHA (looking after the storage unit and Volunteer Co-ordinator for TTAR)

: In some ways life is continuing as normal. I am still spending one day a week in the storage unit, working away on things there, much as usual. Normally a lot of my time is spent with the TTAR volunteers and getting documents ready to be used in the searchroom but with lockdown and social distancing things are quite different. I am now working one day a week based at home. Some of the TTAR group are working on scans of documents I send out to them and then I collate the transcriptions they return. It's nice to keep in touch with them. I think it makes a change from gardening! One volunteer even said that receiving the email was the high point of her week!

During lockdown we have been keeping up with people through Facebook and sharing our posts. We have also launched our Twitter feed @ArchivesBerwick, why not have a look and see what we are Tweeting? You can follow the exploits of John Carr, policeman, on his beat around Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal in the 1860s. Don't forget to find Northumberland Archives on Facebook.

TERESA (Cataloguing Archivist TTAR) - Since lockdown started in March I've been working at home on the catalogue - mainly data inputting and reviewing the structure and content of sections that will be fully checked when I am able to work in Berwick again. There is much less variety in this work and the eyes complain if you don't take regular breaks! I'm missing the social contact that work brings but, on the plus side, Linda and I have had more time to properly scrutinize the arrangement of the records, understand some of the anomalies in the old lists and think about future events and exhibitions. Changes in social contact mean there is now an acceptance that digital presentations are essential and Twixt Thistle and Rose presents a great opportunity to think creatively about how they will be developed and sustained.

It's been interesting that while there are national differences in approach to Covid-19 as far as work is concerned the message is much the same – to stay at home unless the work is essential. I have only been to Berwick twice since lockdown (to collect bits of the computer!) and have really been missing the sea. I'm envious of all of you that have the beach on your doorstep and can't wait to get back to lunchtime circuits of the walls - whatever the weather! Hope you are all keeping well – and look forward to seeing you again before too long.

CAROLE (Senior Archives Assistant) – Since the start of lockdown I have been busy typing up an extensive amount of data entries for the electronic catalogue 'CALM.' In the BRO 620 collection are the film and play scripts, plus publicity material of the late film and stage actor Alexander Knox, who lived latterly with his

actress wife, Doris in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Included in the BRO 608 oral history collection is a summary of local café owner Alfred Forte; which includes descriptions of the family coming from Italy in 1904, the family's business in Hide Hill, and the Venetian Pavilion in Spittal, which they built. Also I've been typing various building plan lists dated 1877-1905 for Teresa who will be uploading them into CALM.

I work on social media for the office. I have been researching and transcribing news stories from the Berwick Advertiser for the fortnightly blog -

<https://www.northumberlandarchives.com/category/berwick-advertiser-100/>

Also I post weekly on Facebook interesting snippets on various subjects relating to Berwick - <https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandarchives> Since launching our Twitter account during lockdown I've been assisting Martha in sourcing the photographs for the various 'tweets' <https://twitter.com/ArchivesBerwick>

Part of my time has also been spent on virtual training on Office 365, to become a Data Champion. After successfully completing the course I am now the Data Champion for Northumberland Archives at Berwick. My role as a Data Champion for the archives will be to act as a point of contact for the Office 365 Project team to help them launch the new way of working with Office 365. My first task was to identify the digital recordings within our BRO folder indicating what their audio types were WAV or MP3, and how many there were, plus the number that were extracts. This work is still in progress!

Linda and the Team

HOLY ISLAND

As part of my catch up work, I have been proof reading the final section of the Holy Island newspaper entries up to 1950 which are to be given to the Holy Island Community Archive. In 1926 and 1950, I found these entries which may be of interest to you about the Island and bringing it into the 20th century.

The Berwick Advertiser 22 July 1926

Telephone Call Office at Holy Island - Opened Today

The public are already aware of the efforts made by Mrs Phillipson M.P., on behalf of the people of Holy Island, to have the telephone installed, and that this has now become an accomplished fact, thanks to an agreement between the Postal

Authorities and the Northumberland Insurance Committee, will be a source of gratification to many.

The need of telephone facilities between the Island and the mainland has been recognised for many years now, and if only as a means of summoning medical aid in case of sudden illness or accident the installation of the phone will be a great boon. So far as the saving of time in getting into touch with doctors is concerned, the phone beats the telegraph easily. We have heard of an instance under the old order where the Island nurse and a mother had to take turns checking bleeding from the arteries of a child's leg for some hours, simply because it took so long for a doctor to be summoned. Thanks to the promptitude with which the doctor answered the call when he did receive it the child's life was saved, but it might easily have happened otherwise.

The cable to the Island was laid in recent weeks and the customary tests have been made, so that to-day (Thursday) Holy Island will have its first experience of calling up the mainland. The charge for connecting with any exchange within a radius of 5 miles will be 2d and the charge for a call to an exchange 5 or 7 ½ miles distant will be 4d. It will be possible to connect within any exchange or call office in the United Kingdom which has full trunk facilities upon payment of the call fee, plus the trunk fee. As an instance we may say a three minute conversation with a subscriber at Beal will cost 2d and with a subscriber in Newcastle 1s 8d between the hours of 9am and 2pm and 1s 2d after 2pm.

The question of establishing a telephone exchange on the Island will depend on the number of people on the Island taken on the phone.

Berwick Advertiser 30 March 1950

For over forty years Jimmy Allison has been Holy Island's only postal link with the outside world. By horse-drawn cart he has carried the letters and parcels from the Island and brought in coming mail over from the mainland without once failing in his duty, no matter how bad the weather.

Now Jimmy has reached the retirement age and at the week-end he did his run for the last time – in an official capacity.

For his leisure years he has stored away a host of memories like the times his cart has been blown over by gales while crossing the sands; the good news letters which made his friends happy; and the other inevitable message of sorrow and loss.

He has often had to walk the one and a half miles to the Island from Beal and collect the mails when the snow was so deep that the horse could not travel.

Thousands of visitors will remember Jimmy's daily presence at Beal station. Yes, he has had many experiences. Most memorable was the day a few years ago when he drove Her Royal Highness the Princess Marie Louise to the Island.

During the 1914-18 war Jimmy served with the Tyneside Scottish and saw a great deal of action in France.

It will be hard to fill his shoes. At the moment a temporary postie, James Walker, has taken over under the Island's postmaster, Mr R. Bell.

And Jimmy? The Island is in his blood. He wouldn't dream of settling anywhere else. From the window of the house in which he has lived for many years he will be able to watch his successor carrying on the good work.

Berwick Advertiser 20 April 1950

Across the three mile stretch of sand which separates Holy Island from the mainland on Friday rattled a small van, taking Errol Flynn to the Islanders. But it was not the heart-throb himself who sat in the back; it was a celluloid version of Flynn in the "Sea Hawk." On Friday the incomparable melodies of George Gershwin will be transported for "Rhapsody in Blue" to be screened.

It was a London film company who provided the Islanders with their first-ever cinema. Previously, Berwick, three-quarters of an hour away, was the nearest entertainment centre. So, private enterprise brought the pictures to the Island. At the first show every one of the Island's 250 inhabitants who could make it, crowded into the tiny village hall.

And when the show was over the only cinema operator who has to time his performance to suit tides packed his gear and returned over the sandy track.

There will be a show once a week from now on.

Linda Bankier

ART CHALLENGE

Are you looking for something to do and are feeling artistic ? We've launched an art challenge using our Police posters. These were sent to the Berwick Police Force from all over the country and they kept them from the 1880s to 1900s - about 2000 of them. They contain wonderful descriptions of the criminals and missing people of the day. We're going to mount some of them on social media and the Northumberland Archives website. So, have a go at drawing the criminals or send me a story about them via our berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk website. We'll use them in a forthcoming exhibition.

Linda Bankier

MUSEUM NEWS

Berwick Museum & Art Gallery, in common with every other museum in the country, was unable to open for the new season in April as we had expected.

The front of house team at all the Museums Northumberland sites have been furloughed. Needless to say, for the rest of us, the closure has impacted on our ability to carry out our normal duties. We are all doing our best working from home within these limitations. This has taken some getting used to, but the situation is likely to continue in some form even after lockdown finishes, due to the necessity (for reasons of physical distancing) of having minimum numbers of people only within each office environment.

We are looking into the possibilities of enabling remote access to our desktops and especially to the museum catalogue, so that the Collections Team can work on updating this from home. That, of course, is no substitute for handling the real thing, but is something at least!

The Senior Management Team is meeting twice a week via video link, and has most recently been working on an application to Arts Council England for emergency funding to help underwrite salary, running costs, and additional costs associated with PPE/social distancing measures/ IT equipment, so enabling us to continue until September in the first instance.

Though the museum is closed to the public, it is being well looked after by Jenny Vevers, our Duty Manager. Jenny has been on site regularly and has been doing a great job working behind the scenes. Now that travel restrictions have been lifted, I have been able to start coming up to continue work on the collections and to double check conditions within the museum. It was brilliant to be able to handle museum objects again, and last week found me in the Art Store photographing the decorative arts collections, a wonderful job to be getting on with.

It was nice to see also that the little penguin opposite our back gate now has some company from a couple of puffins and a heron who have flown in at some point over the past ten weeks!

The audit of our collections, courtesy of funding from the John Ellerman Foundation, has come to a temporary halt. However, we have been able to rejig the budget slightly (with Ellerman approval) and will be able to continue the project for an extra two months, with a revised completion date of mid-November 2020. This funding was also helping to fund conservation supplies, outreach work, staff and volunteer training.

Charlie, the Ellerman Project Curator, has been writing up some of the research into the more interesting objects she has rediscovered in the course of the project, using this for short articles in the "Object in Focus" pages on the MN website - (www.museumsnorthumberland.org.uk). Interesting, unusual and diverse items from Berwick written up recently include 18th century Dutch household items, a piglet feeder and an Inuit carving. We have more lined up, including an 18th century medicinal recipe book with some very novel cures, a marionette puppet and an American Kyser & Rex money box.

We were looking forward to welcoming the new Union Chain Bridge Education team – Rebecca Cooper and Carol Whinnom - to Berwick; they were due to begin work just as lockdown started. The last job we had done at the museum before lockdown was to clear some space in the office for them to work from - it was going to be a bit of a squeeze! As it turned out, they have been forced to get to know each other and their new colleagues elsewhere in the Trust via video link and begin their project without actually meeting each other in the flesh. At the moment, they are working hard to come up with a novel way to celebrate the Bridge's 200th anniversary in July. The site-specific exhibition by the artist Jonny Hannah - "Northumberland Folk" - which was due to open this Sunday and be on show all summer, has had to be postponed until next year, although Jonny continues to post updates on his

Instagram site. He continues to look for interesting Berwick stories to illustrate, and is currently looking for tales to tell about Covid 19.

We are hoping that we will be able to open this season, but in these uncertain times we are unsure whether this will be possible. We are currently working out ways of being able to do so while making sure that our staff and visitors are safe; for example shielding the welcome desk with perspex screening, organising one way circulation routes, and having separate entrances and exits to the building. Much will rest on outside factors, but we ask for your forbearance in the meantime, and will look forward to seeing you all again as soon as possible.

Anne Moore

THE STORY OF JOHN PURVES (1785-1827)

(Author's note: for many years I have been volunteering in the archives at Paxton House, and whilst going through letters from David Milne (Jr) to his father, Sir Admiral David Milne, I came across a rather laconic statement in a letter dated 19 & 20 December 1827 that he had received intelligence of John Purves's death. This piqued my interest and I looked this up on the internet, finding that John Purves Home died in Pensacola, Florida, where he was British Consul, and that there was a wealth of information about him and his wife in a book about Lady Blessington, who was the sister of John Purves Home's wife)

John Purves Home (1785-1827) was the youngest son of Sir Alexander Purves Home of Purves Hall (located about 8 miles from Coldstream), and his wife Mary Baird, who died the same year John was born. Sir Alexander had four wives and at least 17 children in all. Mary Baird was his second wife and bore nine children, among them Grace, who married Captain (later Admiral) David Milne, and the John who is subject of this article. Letters to and from Grace and Admiral Milne as well as letters to them from others are preserved at Paxton House in the Milne Graden Papers, and they give us some information about John. Through her mother Grace was closely related to the inhabitants of Paxton House and Captain Milne was a close friend of George Home, who inherited the house after his brother Ninian died, in 1795, in a slave uprising in Grenada. In fact, it was George Home who had

facilitated the marriage between Grace and Captain Milne when her father disapproved.

We know very little about John's early life and upbringing or who raised him after his mother died. However, we do know from letters that he was a huge worry for his relatives. As early as 1809, Agnes Stephenson, who lived with George Home and Jean Home at Paxton and Wedderburn, writes to Captain Milne that she is "glad to hear John is purchasing an Ensigncy, he is easily led astray." (12 February 1809)

Sometime later she writes to Grace that lands inherited by John at Coldingham sold for £27,000 and calls John a "vagabond" (1 July 1811), and in a subsequent letter says she has heard that no one will bid for Coldingham as John has made some bargains (presumably in the meaning of borrowings or stipulations) on it.

Grace, in a letter to her husband dated 3 December 1811, informs him that John is ruined after he spent £5,000 (a colossal sum as it would be ca £95,000 today). A few days later she writes that she expects to hear John has sold his commission (12 December 1811), and on 28 December 1811 she writes that she has not heard from John and thinks he may be in jail soon, and that the family have ruined him. In turn, Captain Milne, in letters to his wife, states that "nothing too bad can happen to John, his behaviour is disgusting" and predicts he will end up in jail (7 December 1811), and regards him a rascal. Later in the letter he comments that he thinks it is unfortunate that his older brother Frank visited him (20 December 1811). A month or so later he comments that at some point John wanted to put Frank in a madhouse (31 January 1812). Incidentally, Francis (or Frank), was also a great worry to the family, although the Milnes seemed to think John was the worst.

In a letter to her husband dated 18 January 1812, Grace reveals that she received a letter from John announcing that his marriage had taken place two years ago and that he has a daughter. He had not informed the family because he did not think they would approve. Grace further comments that he is now in Edinburgh, and Sir Alexander's 4th wife Lady Purves's "rage is great". Later she writes to him that Jean Home of Wedderburn (sister to Patrick, who built Paxton House) told her that "John's wife is not a good subject as otherwise he wouldn't have kept secret", and we learn the additional information, that she is from Clonmel, Ireland (27 January 1812)

More intelligence is given when Agnes Stephenson writes Grace on 20 February 1812. She has heard from Mary (Grace's sister) that John and his wife were married

in London, however Margaret (another sister) maintains it was Dublin, and that the new wife is the daughter of a Mr Power, a banker, but that she has no patrimony. Various family members write that they do not approve of John's wife, and that Grace is right in refusing to see her, although Grace's maternal aunt does write to her in 1813 that "Brother John's wife is much improved in her behaviour" (6 April 1813). The same year Mary Cochran writes to Grace in that John has had a son Alexander (7 December 1813).

There seems to be little evidence in the letters held at Paxton House that the family of Admiral David Milne had much contact with John Purves Home or his family, although Admiral Milne does mention in a letter to his son that he has seen "Uncle John" in London (25 April 1820), and in 1828 mentions that John's widow Mary [sic] was going to London to remarry and adds that he does not approve (18 November 1828). This is puzzling, as we now know that John's wife was named Ellen and she married her second husband, Charles Manners-Sutton, 1st Viscount Canterbury, in December, 1828.

In "Family Line of Alexander Purves Home, Bart of Purves Hall, Berwickshire" from 1894, we find that one of the sons of Sir Alexander and Mary Baird was John, Captain in the Scots Greys, born in 1785 and died in 1827. He married a Miss Power (no first name given), who was later known as Lady Canterbury, and that they had three children, the eldest being John, (1811-1857), Colonel in the Guards and Equerry to the Duchess of Cambridge, and married Caroline Maria Parker, daughter of Hyde Parker. They had two daughters and a son, Charles Home, who married Frances Mabel, daughter of Clement Archer (no dates are given). And finally, it was Charles's son John, who became the 8th Baron of Purves Hall, when Hugh Purves-Hume-Campbell, 7th Baron (son of Grace and John Purves Home's elder half-brother, Sir William Purves-Hume Campbell, 6th Baron), died in 1894 without a son who could inherit the estate (the Baronetcy became extinct in 1960 with the death of John, who had no male heirs). Apparently, John, who would be a second cousin once removed to Hugh was the nearest male relative they could find. There is no mention in this document of a son named Alexander, mentioned by Mary Cochran to Grace Milne in a letter from 1813, but it could be that such a son died at birth or very young. Another source, however, which we shall now examine, mentions that John Purves Home and his wife had five children.

When "Lady Canterbury" was put into a search engine, up came a book, published in 1855 by Richard Robert Madden on Marguerite Gardiner, Countess of Blessington, an Irish novelist, journalist and literary hostess (1789-1849), who

became acquainted with the likes of such notables as Byron and Dickens (she had even written a book on Byron). Marguerite's maiden name was Power, and her sister was Ellen Power, who married John Purves Home. Madden describes John as "a Scotch gentleman of good family, and at one period an expectant of the baronetcy, at the death of his father, during the absence of an elder brother, who had been long absent from his native land." (Madden, p 478) Madden goes on to say that although some referred to John as a Major in the Scots Greys, he does not believe this to be correct (ibid. p 478), and in a footnote on the following page notes that "A Lieutenant John Purves (Adjutant), of the Royal Wagon Train, appears in the Army Lists from 1804 to 1809, when he appears to have been promoted, and continued in the rank of captain in that corps till 1812." (ibid. p 479) Madden believes that John and Ellen met in England not before 1813, however, from the letters held at Paxton we surmise that they met and married prior to this (more likely 1809 or 1810).

Of John and Ellen's married life between their marriage and 1823 we know little, but the following is quite tantalising: "Circumstances led to Mr. Purves separating himself from his family in the year 1823. He obtained the office of British Consul at Pensacola, and there he died, from the effects of the climate, in 1827." (ibid.) He goes on to say that his widow, who had remained in England, was left with five (not three) children. Obviously, the children were still quite young – the oldest having been born in 1810 or 1811 would have been 12 or 13.

Madden quotes John's obituary in "Gentleman's Magazine" for that year, part ii., p. 573: "At Pensacola, on the 20th of September, 1827, aged forty-two, John Home Purves, Esq., for the last four years British Consul at that place. He was eldest son of Sir Alexander Purves, the fifth and late baronet of Purves Hall, in Berwickshire, by his second wife, Mary, daughter of Sir James Home, of Blackadder, and was consequently half-brother to Sir William, the present baronet of the Purves family, who assumed the names of Hume Campbell on the death of the late Earl of Marchmont." (ibid.)

This leaves us with so many questions: what were the circumstances under which John went to Pensacola? Had he gone bankrupt or squandered away the family fortunes? Was going to Florida to become a British Consul a method of getting him rid of him?

Pensacola, located at the north-western tip of the present state of Florida close to its border with Alabama, was the capital of the British colony of West Florida. The

British ceded it to the Spanish in 1781, but in 1819, the area became part of the United States. It was a garrison town and several battles had been fought there. The population was a mixture of French and Spanish creole, and a Spanish census of 1820 says that a third were of mixed-blood – including “Negro” (both freed and escaped slaves and slaves), mestizo and various Indian tribes. The Pensacola that John travelled to was most likely a rough frontier town and not all that comfortable a place. Hurricanes were frequent as well as outbreaks of yellow fever. Perhaps this was the “effects of the climate” that killed him.

Who was this woman, Ellen Power, who John married? There is extensive genealogical information in Madden’s biography of her sister, Marguerite, later Lady Blessington. Ellen was born in Knockbrit, near Clonmel, Tipperary, ca 1791, according to Madden. Their father, Edmund Power, was at that time a country gentleman and descended from an ancient family. He had been left a small property by his father. Ellen’s mother, Ellen Sheehy also came from a very old and respected Catholic family and her maternal grandfather had been executed for treason. However, after their marriage, fortunes went down for the family. Edmund had a violent temper, and this was not helped by a series of disastrous investments. By 1798 he had become a terror to his wife and children as well as the neighbourhood and was involved in violence and even murder. In 1806, after a libel suit which her father lost, the family was utterly ruined. Meanwhile, Marguerite and her sister Ellen were inseparable and were introduced to society around 1804. (Madden, pp 2-30 passim).

The ever tactful Madden describes Ellen thus: “She was one year, at least, younger than her sister Marguerite, and in early life surpassed the latter in beauty and gracefulness, though not in intellectual powers. Miss Ellen Power grew up to womanhood, surrounded by the same unhappy influences and unfavorable circumstances in her father’s house as her sister had to contend with, and often spoke of in after-life in terms of regret, and even of reprobation.” (ibid, p 476)

About their early life, Madden continues: “Mr. Power’s house became, in fact, the resort of the young squirearchy of the vicinity, the professional people of Clonmel, who were the adherents of the Hutchinson family and that of Lord Llandaff, and of the military officers stationed in the town. Miss Ellen Power’s personal attractions had rendered her at a very early age an object of general admiration. She was in the habit of accompanying her sister to balls and parties in the town of Clonmel and its vicinity, and to a sort of subscription soirees, which were given at particular seasons

in the town of Tipperary, and were called 'Coteries'." (ibid, p 477) Madden continues the paragraph extolling the beauty and charms of Miss Ellen.

This all would seem to confirm that Marguerite and Ellen became what we might call today "party girls". Madden continues: "All persons who remember the daughters of Edmund Power from 1804 to 1807 concur in the observation that it was surprising to see girls so little indebted to the advantages of education, rank, and fashion in society, in their manners, carriage, and attire appear on a par with ladies of the highest rank — 'there was a natural gentility and refinement about them, which had no air of affectation whatsoever in it.'" (ibid, p 478) In 1804, at the age of 15, Marguerite was forced to marry an Englishman, Captain Maurice Ledger Farmer (who was a drunk and served time in prison for debt, and who died in 1817 by falling out of a window). It was a very unhappy marriage and Marguerite left him after three months. Ellen, Madden tells us, had many admirers and many offers of marriage, but for various reasons, none of them had worked out until she met John Purves Home whilst on a visit to her sister Marguerite (now separated and living in Hampshire).

In 1818, a year after the death of her husband, Marguerite married Charles John Gardiner, 1st Earl of Blessington. He died in 1829. After John Purves died in 1827, Ellen married Charles Manners Sutton (Jr), son of Charles Manners Sutton, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. Her husband was a Tory politician and became speaker of the House of Commons in 1830. They had two more children. (ibid. pp 475 f) Charles also had children from a previous marriage, so there must have been quite a large and extended household. Both Ellen and her husband died in 1845.

Three different sources give information about the children of John Purves Home and Ellen Power and they all widely diverge. Madden lists five children, however, the Peerage lists six, and on the MacPherson chart there are only three. Birth and death dates as well as names vary. None of them mention a son named Alexander, as referred to in the Paxton letters. There seems to be agreement that one daughter married a direct descendant of Richard Arkwright (1732-1792), eminent inventor and entrepreneur of the early Industrial Revolution, and that there was one son, John, whose grandson eventually became the 8th Baron of Purves Hall.

One cannot help but wonder whether there was ever any contact between Admiral Milne's son David Milne, who eventually married the heiress to Paxton House, and the family of his maternal uncle, John Purves Home. Did he even know he had a number of cousins on that side, many of whom were obviously well connected to various layers of society through their mother and maternal aunt's subsequent

marriages? As there are still many letters in the Paxton Archives to go through, transcribe and catalogue there may be more interesting stories on the subject to find.

SOURCES:

MacPherson, Anne Catherine, "Family Line of Alexander Purves, Bart., of Purves Hall, Berwickshire", chart in the Archives of Paxton House, compiled in 1894

Madden, Richard Robert, ed, Memoirs of the Literary Life and Correspondence of Countess Blessington, 1855.

Milne Graden Papers held at Paxton House: MGP 1: Miscellaneous correspondence to Grace Milne, 1804-1808; MGP 2: Letters from Agnes Stephenson to Grace Milne and David Milne, 1804-1814; MGP 3: Letters from Jean Home and George Home to Grace Milne and David Milne, 1804-1816; MGP 4: Letters from Grace Milne to David Milne, 1805-1814; MGP 5: Letters from David Milne to Grace Milne, 1810-1812; MGP 6: Letters from David Milne to Grace Milne, 1813-1814; MGP 8: Letters from Adm. David Milne to David Milne, Jr, 1820-1830; MGP 12: Letters from David Milne, Jr, to Adm. David Milne, 1820-1828.

Web sources: The Peerage; various Wikipedia entries; Ancestry; Geni; Pensacola (encyclopaedia of Pensacola Florida)

Jane Pigney

EMPLOYEES AT DEVEY'S CYCLE WORKS, BERWICK – PART 2

[Part 1 may be found in Newsletter No. 102 - December 2019]

The history of Joseph Devey's short-lived cycle manufacturing works in Brucegate can be found on the Friends of Berwick 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, detailed in the December 2019 Newsletter, 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. 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.

New Recruits

Robert Barr (1867-??)

Recently arrived from Scotland in 1891, the Barr family lived at 19 Railway Street. Robert worked as a cycle fitter.

John Bell (1873-??)

Berwick-born Bell was the son of sailor. In 1891 he was a bicycle fitter. In 1901 he was a fireman with the North Eastern Railway at Tweedmouth and in 1911 he was lodging in Rennington and working as an engine driver in the local whinstone quarry.

Peter Cowe (1858-1932)

Born at Eyemouth, Cowe, previously in the Royal Scots regiment, worked as a cycle fitter in 1891, living at 76 Church Street. By 1901, now in Low Greens, he was a sewing machine manager.

Joseph Ewart (1874-??) and **Ralph Ewart (1876-1933)** were the sons of William Ewart, described as an unemployed quay labourer in 1881 and a general labourer in 1891. Both were apprentices at Devey's cycle works in 1891, living at 10 Featherbed Lane. By 1901, Joseph was working as a commercial clerk in Berwick. In 1911 he was a wine merchant's clerk. Ralph moved to Elswick on Tyneside where he was an engineering works accountant in 1901 and 1911.

Richard Gardiner (1873-1892)

Born at Berwick, the son of a general labourer. In 1891 the family were at 13 Hatters Lane and Richard worked as a labourer at Devey's cycle works. He died aged only 19.

John Jobson Hastie (1869-1917)

Born at Berwick, the son of a seaman. In 1891 he was a bicycle maker living at 55 Walkergate Lane. He later described himself as a machine fitter, and lived at Scarborough in 1901 and Barnsley in 1911.

Johnston Henderby (1873-1933)

Fisherman's son Henderby spent his entire life in Berwick. In 1891-1911 he was variously described as a bicycle maker, cycle fitter and cycle maker, always living in Low Greens. It is unclear whether he worked single-handed after the departure of Joseph Devey, or as part of a larger organisation. He never married.

Thomas Heslop (1874-1947)

Lived at 50 Tweed Street in 1891, working as a (cycle) turner. By 1911 he was an engine fitter in Tweedmouth. In 1939, Thomas was an unemployed engine fitter, still in Tweedmouth, where he died in 1947. He never married.

Mark Mathewson How (1871-1896)

Born Jarrow, he was the son of a chair-maker. The family were in Berwick by 1881. In 1891 Mark was working as a bicycle maker living at 32 Woolmarket. He died at Newcastle.

Ralph Knox (1868-??)

Born Sunderland, the son of a chimney sweep. By 1881 the family were at Berwick where 13-year old Ralph was also a sweep. In 1891 he was a bicycle maker's fitter living at 29 Walkergate Lane. He and his family were at nos.13/15 by 1901 when he was a GPO mail driver.

Willie Macfarlane (1873-1905)

Born Berwick. In 1891 lived with his stepfather, an iron moulder. A bicycle maker in 1891, Macfarlane was a general labourer in 1901.

Robert Calder McLean (1870-1942)

Born Langton, Berwickshire; father worked as a slater. Family lived at 29 Castlegate in 1891. Robert was a cycle wheel maker in 1891. In 1901, he was a coal hewer, living in Amble.

Robert Manners (1842-?1925)

Berwick-born Manners had a varied working history. In 1881 he was a 'medical assistant' living in Well Close Square. In 1891 he was a cycle-maker. In 1901 he was a pauper in Sunderland Workhouse, and in 1911 back in Berwick as a hawker.

John Renwick (1885-1942)

Born Berwick; father a licensed victualler and china dealer. John was a bicycle maker's apprentice in 1891, when the family lived at 5/7 Walkergate Lane. In 1901 he was an engine fitter in Elswick, but by 1911 had returned to Berwick as a house joiner, living at 73 Castlegate.

William Shiell (1868-1902) and David Shiell (1871-1950) were born at Chirnside, the sons of coal merchant David Shiell. In 1891 the family lived at 129 Castlegate, with William working as a cycle-maker and David as a salesman. By 1901, David Shiell senior was a confectioner and pastrycook and William a baker. William died at Morpeth the following year. David junior was a cycle depot manager in Newcastle in

1901 and a motor garage manager in Jesmond in 1911 and 1939. [See longer article on the Friends website.]

Also Associated with the Cycle Trade

George R Cochrane (1854-1916)

Not an employee of Joseph Devey. In 1891 he appears as a grocer's manager and cycle agent, living at 47 Church Street. Born at Sedgefield, the son of a grocer. By 1911 he had moved to Elswick as a grocer and general dealer.

Keith Bailey

GERMAN PORK BUTCHERS

Two Footnotes to the original article which appeared in the Newsletter no.103, March 2020, pp.10-12]

(1) Johann Georg Sahm's shop at 68 High Street in Berwick was taken over around 1897 by Henry Taylor, and from that time on it became known as Taylor's pork butcher. Taylor himself was born in Germany as Heinrich Schneider, in 1872 at Künzelsau in Baden-Württemberg. He had come to Britain around 1888 and initially worked as a butcher in Durham and Scotland. He married Rosa Sahm in 1896, and when he took over his brother-in-law's butcher shop in the following year, he had adopted the English name of Henry Taylor. He became a naturalised British citizen in 1903, and he and his wife had four sons and a daughter. The business continued as Taylor's pork butcher for many decades, until the property was demolished for redevelopment in the 1970s. In later life Henry Taylor bought Cumberland Bower farm outside Berwick, and he died in 1935. [With thanks to Erica Bamford and Kevin Graham.]

(2) Article in Berwick Advertiser, 22 October 1880 : . In October 1880 the German pork butcher Wilhelm Wille (then running his shop at 56 Marygate) was involved in a high-profile court case. At a Parliamentary by-election for the Berwick constituency in July 1880, David Milne Home was declared the winner, by two votes. His opponent John McLaren (subsequently Lord Advocate for Scotland) petitioned to have the result overturned, claiming that certain ballot papers had been incorrectly counted. One of these was that of Wilhelm Wille who was said to be ineligible to vote because he was not a naturalised British subject.

Two High Court judges were brought from London to hear the case in the Town Hall (with much ceremony, including a trumpet fanfare to greet their arrival). When Wille was called to give evidence, the petitioner's counsel subjected him to a series of derisive questions about his place of birth and his parentage, which reduced Wille to silence amid repeated laughter in the court. Wille was then asked whether he understood English, to which he replied, "Yes, a little". It was pointed out that Wille was nevertheless on the electoral register and he had also served previously on juries in the town. This led McLaren's counsel to comment to the court, "This is the sort of man who administers justice or injustice!".

In the event, Wille's eligibility to vote remained in doubt, but the petitioner's complaint against him was withdrawn when other electoral irregularities were exposed, including charges of the purchase of votes for McLaren. Judgment was given against the petitioner, and David Milne Home's election was confirmed, this time by three votes instead of two.

John Speirs

1792 TOLL RIOTS IN THE DUNSE AND CHIRNSIDE AREA

An Amendment to, and the sources for, the article on the *1792 Toll Riots in the Dunse and Chirnside Area*, included in Newsletter Number 103, March 2020.

The letter from Ninian Hume was possibly written to his Uncle Patrick Hume of Wedderburn, and not to Colonel David Milne Hume as originally mentioned, the Hume's did not become Milne Hume until later. This letter came from the following source "Report on the Manuscripts of Colonel David Milne Home of Wedderburn Castle N.B." page 143f, letter no 296, Original Book in Cornell University Library. The reference to William Jeffrey was taken from NRO 6994-7-26; and the Berwick Journal 13th January 1888 p3, 'The Jeffreys of Berwickshire' The article was taken from *The Road to Riot* By Anne Gordon, Scottish Borders Archive at the HUB Hawick.

Linda Gray, Chirnside History Group

KOSB MUSIC CARDS

[The first article was in Newsletter June 2019, No 100]

'Delhi Durbar 1911'

Many of the KOSB music cards are annotated with musical directions or marching directions 'right turn', 'left wheel' for example and some are annotated with names but occasionally I come across little gems of information. These give an insight as to when, where and why the music was played. It also suggests other regiments that were involved in an event.

One of the little gems I found was on item BRO 1959/RQ 28/3, in box 28 of the Regimental Quick Marches. Two pieces of information were recorded on the top of the card, the first stated that John DAVIDSON was a store man in 1904 and the second said 'Delhi Durbar 1911' suggesting that the pieces of music had been played at this event. The card had music for two regimental quick marches – **The Gloucester Regiment** (Kinnegad Slashers) and The **Worcester Regiment** ('Royal Windsor' arranged by HRH Princess Augusta).

The **Gloucestershire Regiment**, commonly referred to as the Glosters, was a line infantry regiment of the British Army from 1881 until 1994. The name 'Kinnegad Slashers' arose from an incident in 1764, when members of the regiment allegedly slashed off part of the ear of a Montreal magistrate who had been harassing soldiers stationed in the city after the Seven Years' War.

The **Worcestershire Regiment** was a line infantry regiment in the British Army, formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 29th (Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot and the 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment of Foot. The regiment fought in many conflicts, including both the First and Second World Wars. In 1970, it was amalgamated with the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment to form the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (29th/44th Foot). In September 2007, the regiment amalgamated with the Cheshire Regiment and the Staffordshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's) to form the Mercian Regiment. The Royal Windsor march was presented to the 29th Worcester Regiment in 1791 by H.R.H. Princess Augusta, daughter of King George III. The Regiment was then doing Guard duty at Windsor Castle. The march is understood to have been composed by the Princess (although a Russian origin has also been suggested). The march has been played ever since by the 1st Battalion, and since 1881 has been played by all Battalions of the Worcester Regiment.

The reverse of the previous music card, item BRO 1959/RQ 28/3a, was also annotated with the words 'Coronation Durbar Delhi'. This item includes music for the **East Lancashire Regiment** (Lancashire Lads), **The East Surrey Regiment** (A Southerly Wind and a Cloudy Sky) and **The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry** (One and All).

The **East Lancashire Regiment** otherwise known as the 'The Accrington Pals' is probably the best remembered of the battalions raised in the early months of the First World War in response to Kitchener's call for a volunteer army so this battalion is unlikely to have been present at the Delhi Durbar.

The East Surrey Regiment was a line infantry regiment of the British Army in existence from 1881 until 1959. The regiment was formed in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment of Foot the 70th (Surry) Regiment of Foot, the 1st Royal Surrey Militia and the 3rd Royal Surrey Militia.

The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (DCLI) was a light infantry regiment of the British Army in existence from 1881 to 1959. The regiment was created on 1 July 1881 by the merger of the 32nd (Cornwall Light Infantry) Regiment of Foot and the 46th (South Devonshire) Regiment of Foot; it also incorporated the militia and rifle volunteers of Cornwall.

It is possible then that all but the **East Lancashire Regiment** were on parade at the Delhi Durbar of 1911.

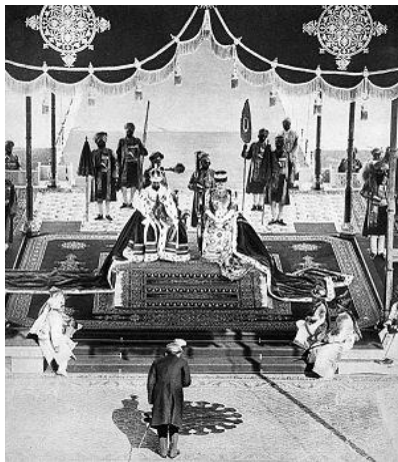
The Delhi Durbar 1911

On 22 March 1911, a royal proclamation announced that a Durbar would be held in December of that year to commemorate the coronation in Britain a few months earlier of George V and Mary of Teck and allow their proclamation as Emperor and Empress of India. Practically every ruling prince and nobleman in India, plus thousands of landed gentry and other persons of note, attended to bow down before their sovereigns.

The official ceremonies lasted from the 7th to 16th of December 1911, with the Durbar itself occurring on Tuesday, 12th December 1911. The royal couple arrived at Coronation Park in their Coronation robes, the King-Emperor wearing the Imperial Crown of India which sparkled with Diamonds, sapphires, emeralds and rubies, all together weighing 965 grams. They received homage from the native princes – including one woman, the Begum of Bhopal – at the ceremonial tent; controversy ensued when the Gaekwar of Baroda, Maharajah Sayajirao III, approached the royal couple without his jewelry on, and after a simple bow turned his back to them when leaving. His action was interpreted at the time as a sign of dissent to British rule.

Afterwards, the royal couple ascended to the domed royal pavilion, where the King-Emperor announced the move of India's capital from Calcutta to Delhi. The annulment of the Partition of Bengal was also announced during the ceremony.

The day after, on 13th December 1911, the royal couple made an appearance at the balcony window of the Red Fort, to receive half a million or more of the common people who had come to greet them, a custom which was started by Shah Jahan. Then on 14th December 1911 the King-Emperor presided over a military parade of 50,000 troops. It is likely that the regiments mentioned previously were included in this parade.



The Nizam of Hyderabad pays homage to the Emperor and Empress at the Delhi Durbar.

Twenty-six thousand eight hundred (26,800) Delhi Durbar Medals in silver were awarded to the men and officers of the British and Indian Armies, who participated in the 1911 event. A further two hundred were struck in gold, a hundred of which were awarded to Indian princely rulers and the highest ranking government officers. Generally the Durbar achieved its purpose of cementing support for British rule among the native princes, as was demonstrated by the support given during the First World War.



Durbar of 1911 in the Amphitheatre created for the event

Additional Sources

KOSB website; Photos from Wikipedia; and Dumfries and Galloway Council, Wigtown West Area committee report 19th April 2006.

Julie Gregory

HOW DID PEOPLE DEAL WITH THE PLAGUE IN THE PAST?

Whilst transcribing the 16th century Bailiffs' Court Book we came across this very topical entry which demonstrates that lockdown was something which was even contemplated as early as 1590 in Berwick :

The xvth of Aprill / 1590

ffor asmoche as it hathe pleased god to visite the townes of Morpethe & Alnwicke withe the Sicknes of the plague [plague] w[hi]che is daungerouse for infection especially this tyme of year Considered, It is therefore thoughte mete and Convenyent by the Righte Worshipfull the Governor maior and Counsell of this towne of barwick for the more safetye of the same frome the aforesaide daungerouse infection. That duringe the contynuacion of the same sicknes At Morpethe and Anwicke there shalbe arestrainte and forebearinge for cominge goinge or resortinge one to another either of anye of the inhabitantes of Morpethe or Anwicke to this towne or anye of this towne to either of these twoe townes. And that all people aswell Straungers as others Caryers Occupyers and suche like People whosoever havinge Occasyon to travell to or frome this towne shall in there Jorney forbear to Lodge or come nere either of the aforesaid townes duringe the tymes of the visytacion. And further these ar especiallye to Chardge & comaunde all the inhabytantes of this towne twedemothe That they neyther Lodge nor receave anye people of Morpethe or Anwicke nor receave anye Straungers or Occupyers whosoever Oneles they can firste Sufficientlye prove that they haue not come frome the saide townes as they will Answere to the Contrarye at the vttermoste perell

God Saue the Quene

Wendy & Alan Urwin

NEWSPAPER SNIPPETS

Berwick Journal, 24 May 1872

CHANGE OF WHARF AT LONDON

The Berwick and London Steam Ship Company hereby give notice to Shippers and Receivers of Goods by their Steamers, that on and after 1st April they will remove their London premises from Custom House Quay to the LONDON AND CONTINENTAL STEAM WHARF LOWER EAST SMITHFIELD, E., where they will receive and deliver Goods.

Shipments intended for this Line should be addressed per "GALA," from London and Continently Wharf."

Every Information as to Rates, Dates of Sailing, &c., can be had on application to the Agents in London, Messrs NEWCOMB & THOMSON, 6 Water Lane, Tower Street, E.C.; to the Wharfinger, at London and Continental Steam Wharf, 93 Lower East Smithfield; or at Berwick-on-Tweed to Mr KENNEDY, Manager for the Company.

N.B. This is the cheapest and most direct route for goods from London for, Coldstream, Kelso, Jedburgh, Melrose, Hawick, Galashiels, Dunse, Dunbar, Eyemouth, Wooler, Alnwick, North Sunderland, Belford, and adjacent places.

The Newsletter, Sydney, 7 November, 1903

BLACK BILL

"Black Bill" (Mr William Berwick), a South State American negro, who more than 50 years ago came to Fiji, died last week at the age of 86. He took his name from Berwick-upon-Tweed, which was the first port he reached when he became a free man.

Carole Pringle