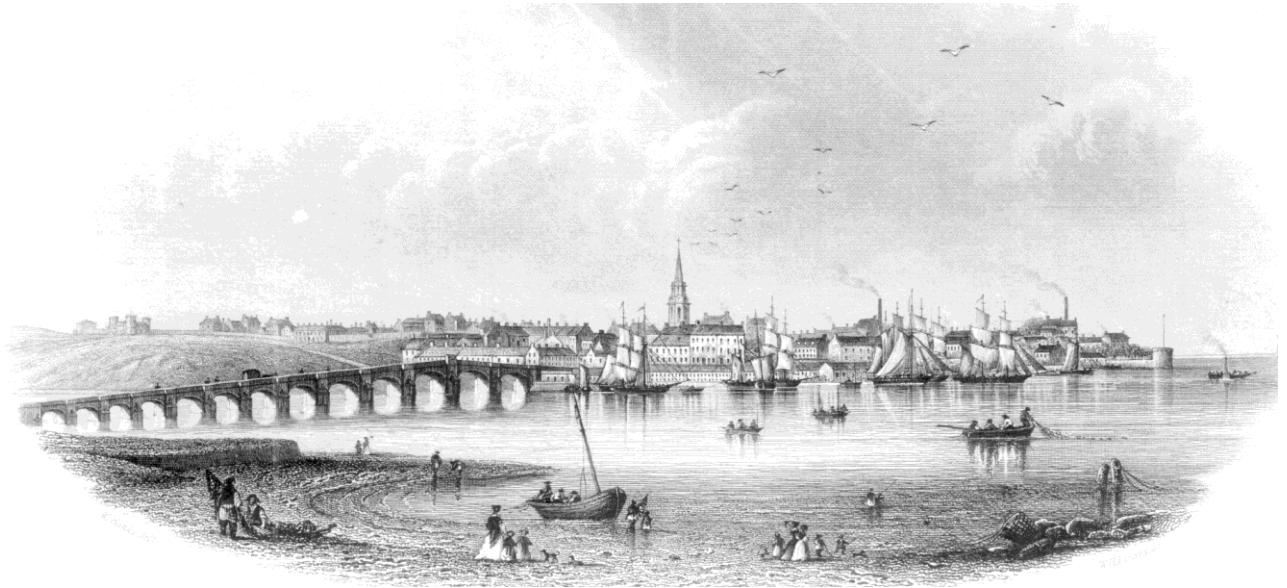


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 105–SEPTEMBER 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11-20th September 2020

Berwick Heritage Open Days, mainly online. See www.berwickhods.org.uk and attached programme

15th September 2020

Online Live Talk – Berwick’s Archives Revealed by Linda Bankier. 7pm. Book at info@berwickhods.org.uk

17th September 2020

Berwick Record Office reopens to the public with revised hours (see article)

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

We are only including those societies who may be running in person talks in the near future but with a contact number. All other societies are not holding in person meetings until January 2021 at the earliest. See next newsletter for further updates.

AYTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Ayton Community Hall

Time:7.30 p.m.

Please contact Bill Black on 01890 781427 or email billblack1804@gmail.com to check if meetings are taking place.

Tuesday 29th September 2020	The Scholar the Wizard and the Seer- 13 th century Borders through the lives of Duns Scotus, Michael Scott and Thomas the Rhymer: Isabel Gordon
Tuesday 27th October	Lindisfarne Castle, it's the fort that counts: Nick Lewis
Tuesday 24th November	Whisky and Gin Smuggling in the Cheviots & the Borders: Graeme Watson

BERWICK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick.

Time:7.30 p.m.

Please contact Linda Bankier on 01289 301865 or e-mail berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk to check if meeting is happening

Wednesday 18th November 2020	Wm Cowe & Sons and the Berwick Cockle : Cameron Robertson
Wednesday 16th December	AGM at 6.45pm followed by Our River Stories of the Tweed : Martha Andrews

COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Leet Room, Coldstream Community Centre.

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Please contact Lynne Burgess on 07766707330 to check if meetings are taking place.

Thursday 1st October 2020

The Eyemouth Fish Tithe Riots: Norrie McLeish

Thursday 5th November

The Why, Where, When and How of the Anglo-Scottish Border: David Welsh

Thursday 3rd December

Heraldry of Scottish Border Towns: John Malden

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15th– 18th October 2020

Berwick Literary Festival online. Go to <https://berwickliteraryfestival.com/> for a copy of the programme. Wide range of talks including historical talks, eg *Dunbar to Durham – Britain's Trail of Tears* by John Sadler and Rosie Serdiville at 6pm on Thursday 15th October. Bookings open online on 14th September. All free

ARCHIVE NEWS

Well despite, all our activities being restricted, work at the Record Office hasn't stopped and we have been really busy with one thing or another. I must admit that the summer has gone by really quickly without even doing many of our normal activities at this time and running a public service. We have continued to work on the Twixt Thistle and Rose project in the background. Teresa has been beavering

away with the cataloguing, Martha has been looking after the volunteers, some of whom have been continuing to do transcribing for us and I have been doing various bits of checking for Teresa and some cataloguing. It has been lovely to get stuck into some archive work again and in the Court sections, I'm coming across work I started over 30 years ago when I first worked at Berwick. Some of the records are no cleaner now than they were then!

The last 6 weeks or so have involved us getting ready for re-opening – sorting out risk assessments, reorganising our space and creating new procedures so that it is safe for you to visit. We are hopefully there and are planning to reopen on **Thursday 17th September**. Our hours will be curtailed but we will be open two days a week – Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 to 12.30 and 2.00 to 4.30. There's a separate article on how it will work.

September is always a very busy month for the Record Office because of the Autumn Festivals. This year we can't run our normal events but with Heritage Open Days we are mainly moving online. This has been challenging and lots of work but we have put together a programme (enclosed) of events which we hope will interest all ages. The advantage of being online is that those who don't live in Berwick can join in and enjoy what we have mounted on our website. So, do have a look !

That's all about our actual activities but see below some information on re-opening.

REOPENING OF BERWICK RECORD OFFICE

We're looking forward to welcoming you back to the Record Office on **Thursday 17th September**. It won't be the same but here's some information that you might find helpful.

- Each day will consist of 2 sessions – morning (10 – 12.30) and afternoon (2.00 – 4.30). We've cut our hours so that we can clean the area in between.
- You need to book a slot on either session via Eventbrite. There is no charge and the address is : <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/berwick-record-office-search-room-visit-tickets-116570604817> . If you do not have access to the internet and our online booking service, phone us on 01289 301865. Bookings can be made up to a week in advance. Our definite cut off date is

9am on Friday morning. Only one booking can be made per week at the moment.

- As we have done before, all documents must be booked in advance. You can request up to 6 documents per session. These will be quarantined for a minimum of 72 hours before you use them and the same will happen after use.
- Because of the government guidelines on social distancing, we are only able to accommodate 6 people per session. You will all be well spaced out.
- You must bring your own pencils, paper and magnifying glass. If you are using your own laptop, please make sure it is fully charged. Our power point sockets no longer align with the desks! If you are using one of our laptops, we will provide an additional keyboard and mouse which will be cleaned after each session and use by an individual.
- As we are sited in a Library building, you will need to wear a face covering.
- There will be no access to our transcripts and microfilms. We are trying to making our transcripts available via our computers and many of the newspapers can be consulted via FindmyPast. If there is a particular year not covered by that, please let us know and we will see what we can do.
- It won't be possible for you to sign our Visitors book but we would ask you to provide us with your name and address so that we can do that for you. The Council participates in the Test and Trace system and so there is the option to provide these details downstairs when you arrive.
- The numbers accessing the first floor are limited. However, we will provide the Library with the names who are booked in for each session and so, you will be expected.

We ask you to bear with us while we all find our feet in this new way of working. As a team we have thought long and hard about how to do this to ensure that you are all safe. We want to see you all using our service again and enjoying the archives. We have missed seeing you and for me, especially, working with the public has been a big part of my job over the past 34 years.

Please do get in touch via e-mail (berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk) or by telephone (01289) 301865 if you have any questions. We will try and answer them as best we can. Looking forward to seeing you all and also welcoming back the Twixt Thistle and Rose volunteers in the not too distant future.

Linda Bankier

BERWICK HERITAGE OPEN DAYS, 11th-20th SEPTEMBER

The Record Office works with a number of local organisations to run Berwick Heritage Open Days which is very much a part of the Autumn Festivals in the town. We run it for both local people and visitors to highlight Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal's wonderful heritage. The full programme is attached but here are a couple of events you might be interested in:

ONLINE LIVE EVENTS:

Sunday 13th and Sunday 20th September @ 4pm – Heritage Question Time . Is there a burning question you have about the history of Berwick, Tweedmouth or Spittal? Now's your chance to join us online and ask a panel (Linda; Jim Herbert and Catherine Kent) who hope they have the answers. Register or send in a question.

Tuesday 15th September @ 7pm - Berwick's Archives Revealed. Find out about Berwick's Borough Archives in this talk given by Linda Bankier.

Wednesday 16th September @ 7pm : The Battle of Halidon Hill. Find out about the Great Siege of Berwick-upon-Tweed and the Battle of Halidon Hill fought to the north of the town on 19th July, 1333 in this talk given by Jim Herbert

Friday 18th September @ 5pm : If The Walls Could Talk: Investigating the 18th Century Smoke Drawings At Berwick Barracks. Join us for a family-friendly YouTube live event which will investigate the smoke drawings created by soldiers living in Berwick Barracks in the 18th century.. Register on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/smoke-drawings-tickets-117625451893>

There are lots of other activities you can enjoy on our website (www.berwickhods.org.uk/programme) . We have filmed some of our guided walks; Secret Berwick quiz ; Berwick Through Time (info on a new property added each day.

There are also some in person events;

Friday 18th – Sunday 20th September 10 – 6 : Secret Spittal ; Take yourself on a walk around Spittal and find out about some of the properties and buildings there both past and present.

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th September 11 – 3 : Sandstell Fishing Shiel. Visit this fishing shiel which is a Grade 2 listed building.

Check out our website and the filmed guided walks go live on 11th September. Please do support us and keep Berwick Heritage Open Days going in 2020. It's all free.

Linda Bankier

FBDMA'S POSTPONED AGM

Because the COVID-19 outbreak obliged us to postpone the 26th Annual General Meeting of the Friends which was scheduled for 27 March 2020, we have so far been unable to complete various items of formal business which are required of us in order to comply with Charity Commission regulations. These include the acceptance of the Annual Report and Treasurer's Report for 2019 and the elections for the Committee. At its last meeting the Committee agreed that the restrictions and risks involved in holding a physical meeting continue to be unfavourable for a normal AGM, and that we should therefore seek to complete the necessary business by a combination of postal and online communications with members of the Friends.

Accompanying this newsletter is a Voting Form in which members are invited to record their wishes concerning the Minutes, Reports, and Elections. Completed forms should be returned by 2 October 2020 **either** on paper delivered to the Record Office, **or** online by email attachment. (The digital voting form is sent as a Word document to enable editing and resaving.)

The papers for the AGM were originally distributed with the March Newsletter. If any Members who normally receive the Newsletter in printed format require another set of the papers now, they should if possible supply an email address to which a digital set of papers can be sent. Otherwise please contact the Record Office to arrange for another printed set to be made available for collection at the Walkergate Building. For the convenience of recipients of the Newsletter online, another set of the Minutes and Reports is being attached with this mailing.

The returned voting forms will be verified and counted by Carole Pringle, and she will submit the results to Lord Joicey, President of the Friends.

We are grateful to Members for their understanding and cooperation with this means of concluding the necessary business from the AGM. Please address any queries

you may have to info@berwickfriends.org.uk, or by post to FBDMA c/o the Record Office.

John Spiers, Secretary, FBDMA

BERWICK LICENSING REGISTERS 1903-1946 PART3

The Registers provide an insight into the economic changes in the town, primarily concerned with transport.

Nonetheless, fishing and sea faring had always been an important part of Berwick and Tweedmouth's history – hence the three pubs in the Greenses, called: the **Pilot**, the **Coble** and the **Fishers' Arms**, all dating back into the 19th century (Agnes Crombie licensee of the Fishers' Arms ran the pub from c 1858 to 1916, a remarkable record).

Similarly, there were two **Salmon Inns** and one **Salmon Hotel** in Marygate. (the latter c. pre 1822 was the scene of the famous May Fair battle in 1969, which spilled out into Marygate). In addition, there was the **Boat Inn**, Tweedmouth, a **Coopers' Arms Inn** in Spittal and two **Ship Inns** in Sandgate and Spittal. The Spittal **Ship Inn** was very old, with clay built walls. It was demolished in 1951. (For a description of its role as an 18th century smuggling inn see Rev. Henderson's [History of Tweedmouth](#)). The Sandgate **Ship Inn** (c pre 1822),was situated in the most congested part of 19th century Berwick for public houses, due to the area's proximity to the docks, livestock market and Corn Exchange, as evidenced by the 1852 Ordnance Survey.

However, the coming of the railways, and later the motor car, made an impact on the pubs in the town. Prior to the railways arrival in the mid 19th century, the three main coaching inns in the town were the **Kings Arms**, Hide Hill, the **Hen and Chickens**, Sandgate and the **Red Lion Hotel** Marygate (demolished in the 1930s to be replaced by Woolworths, later Home Bargains). Sadly, only the Kings Arms now remains open. In addition, 19th century photos show numerous carters lined up along Hide Hill and Marygate waiting for custom outside other pubs along the streets. Their business would soon disappear with the railways and later the motorised lorry. It is interesting to note the number of pubs collected around the top

of Castlegate near the railway station and cattle market at the beginning of the 20th century.

These included the **Castle Hotel**, formerly the Cow and Calf and rebuilt in 1909 (noted for having the painter, L.S. Lowry, as its regular guest), the **Railway Hotel**, formerly the Black Swan (a carving of which can still be seen on the building) and opened in 1894, when it was described as '*one of the most commodious and admirably appointed hotels in the north*', the **White Horse** (once popular with the railway workers, opened in 1853 and still continues), the **Victoria Inn** (closed 1907), the **Sir Francis Burdett Inn** (closed 1927). In their turn, they succumbed to the motor car and lorry. A newspaper report on the closure of the latter pub said '*it was situated within a radius of 200 yards of four fully licensed houses, and there were another eleven houses within a radius of 500 yards ---the Sir Francis Burdett Inn was doing much less trade than the other inns in the vicinity ---the stabling accommodation was seldom ever used, and there was no room for motor cars*'. Similarly, when the Railway Hotel closed in 1917, it was described as '*a big struggling house*' and '*it no longer takes in visitors or tourists*', with motors replacing carriage traffic which '*practically all goes down the town*'. The pub had obviously declined since its opening in 1894, a victim of changing times.

Similarly, in Tweedmouth, its **Railway Hotel** and **Railway Inn** both closed in 1917. Interestingly both Berwick's and Tweedmouth's Railway Inns were established at the time of the coming of the railway to Berwick in the 1850s and both closed at the coming of motorised transport in the 20th century.

Bob Steward

A SOMEWHAT CURIOUS CASE- SAMUEL MATTISON

Some years ago, I was looking through Horncliffe School Log Book, hoping to find mention of my great grandfather when I noted the following entry:
MAY 1864 A young man in a frolic gave an overdose of whisky to scholar James Waite who has died.

This sounded rather alarming. It was not difficult to find James Waite on the census. He was the son of an agricultural labourer living in Main Street, Norham in 1861. He

was not to be found on the 1871 census by which time the family was living in Horncliffe. This sad event glared out at me from the Log Book although it was not referred to again. Interested in knowing more, I checked local newspapers and found the following:

Newcastle Daily Journal 7 June 1864

THE CASE OF POISONING BY WHISKY – VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER

On Friday, an adjourned inquest was held on the body of James Waite, aged seven years – before Mr J J Hardy, coroner – at the Fishers’ Arms Inn, Norham. Samuel Mattison, the young man who it was alleged had given the child the whisky, was present at the inquiry, in charge of the police. Robert Waite, brother of the deceased, was recalled and produced a branch of the bush from which deceased had eaten the berries, and which proved a wild gooseberry bush. Alexander Kirkwood, M.D., of Berwick, on being re-sworn, said the appearances altogether were what he would expect to find in a person who had been poisoned by ardent spirits. Samuel Mattison, having been called into the room and cautioned by the coroner, declined to make any statement. The jury retired, and in a few minutes returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Samuel Mattison, who was then committed on the coroner’s warrant to take his trial at the next assizes.

The incident was reported in newspapers throughout the country. What may have been intended as a harmless prank had tragic consequences. Who was Samuel Mattison?

In 1851 Samuel was to be found living at Thornton Park with his paternal grandparents, Andrew and Elizabeth Matthewson, his mother and sister. His father, a tailor, was not with them. He was born in Leeds about 1847. On the next census in 1861 he was still at Thornton Park and employed as a shepherd. One wonders what the circumstances were that made the family leave Leeds to come to the father’s native area.

Samuel’s trial took place on 14 July 1864 at Newcastle Assizes. His case was described as “A somewhat curious case” by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn in his initial summary to the Grand Jury who hinted that he did not anticipate a conviction for Manslaughter, let alone Murder.

The outcome was that Samuel was found not guilty of Manslaughter and released immediately. One must imagine the relief of himself and his wider family at this

verdict. All the evidence from witnesses indicates that it was not a deliberate act of harm but more a foolish gesture from a teenager who did not realise the possible consequences of his action. One wonders what the attitude of James's family was towards the culprit. Was Samuel known to the Waite family and perhaps even a friend? Was elder brother, Robert, attempting to deflect blame from Samuel by his suggestion that the berries James consumed after the whisky were responsible for the victim's fate?

What became of Samuel afterwards? This proved difficult to ascertain. Samuel's surname is consistently spelt in a number of ways. He was almost certainly the same person as Samuel Matson listed in the 1871 census as living at Prudhoe Castle Boathouse in the south of the county and employed as a coal miner. After this he appeared to disappear from the census and a death for a person of that name and age could not be found. Let us hope that the stupidity of his youth did not prevail in subsequent years.

If anyone knows anything more of this family, in particular, of Samuel, please contact Berwick Record Office.

Valerie Glass

COW KEEPING IN BERWICK

In the late 19th century the Berwick Urban Sanitary Authority decided that the production and sale of milk in and around the town should be regulated according to the provisions of the [Public Health Act of 188-]. This meant that anyone who produced or sold milk in Berwick had to be a registered Cow Keeper, Dairy Man/Maid and/or Purveyor of Milk. To do this they had to fill in an application form and have their premises assessed as suitable. The Record Office contains over 150 of these forms, covering a period of over 30 years, most of them accompanied by a handwritten letter of authorisation from John Cruden, Inspector of Dairies, containing detailed descriptions of the premises and their state of cleanliness and the personal circumstances of the applicant. Ninety of these forms were issued between 1886 and 1891 and 62 between 1903 and 1919 suggesting (if the records represent all licences issued) that the practice was in decline as more modern methods of milk delivery took over. Within these two groups there are multiple licences for some properties as the trade passed within families or to new occupants.

It is hard to imagine just how many cows must once have been kept in the centre of this town – the map plotting the locations of these cowsheds and tiny dairies has to be seen to be believed! (It is too large and detailed to be reproduced here.) From Sandgate, Silver Street and Church Street, via Chapel Street and Hatters Lane to Walkergate, Castle Terrace and the Greenses, there were dozens of byres dotted around the streets, often housing just one cow apiece. There were also dairies which simply sold milk (presumably obtaining it from their cowkeeping neighbours or perhaps from farms outside the town) as one way in which a woman, often a widow, might make a small living for herself. It is intriguing to speculate on how all these animals were fed: maybe fodder was brought to the cows in their byres, or perhaps the cows were led daily across the Parade through the Cow Gate to graze on the common land beyond the walls. As to what happened to the ordure produced by these cows, was it collected as raw material for the fertiliser works on Spittal Point? We hope to display the map showing the locations of these cowsheds and dairies when TTAR mounts an exhibition at some future date, when we will all be able to make our way around the forgotten cowsheds of Berwick. Meanwhile these documents are catalogued as BA/E9/3 and /4.

Alison Gallico

CURIOUS CASE OF THE PAINTING BEQUEATHED TO OUR LADY AND ST CUTHBERT CHURCH

The following story came to light while researching the ownership of a Lowick estate, and shows the serendipity of archive research!

James Greive, Esquire, of Ord House and of Farrance's Hotel, Belgravia, died at the hotel, aged 83, on 14 March 1864, a wealthy man. He had inherited freehold estates at Murton, East and Middle Ord, Tweedmouth, Spittal, Berwick upon Tweed, Easington Demesne and Fowberry Park from his father, William, who died in 1827, and a 600 acre estate in Lowick, from his mother, Hannah, who died in 1842.

Farrance's Hotel was a first class establishment popular with the upper classes whose comings and goings were noted in the newspapers and where a private room could be had for 5s per night, with food and attendance extra.

James dictated his will the day before he died, and unable to sign it, made the mark of a cross, in the presence of Robert Home, solicitor from Berwick and F Geddes, a waiter at the hotel. When probate was granted, 30 March 1864, to his heir and cousin Jane Elliott, his effects were valued at under £40,000. James had stated that he died in the faith of the Catholic Church and *desired to be buried in such of the catholic places of sepulchre as may be chosen by Jane*. His bequests relating to his personal belongings are of particular interest:

the holy relic which will be found in my dressing room at Orde House aforesaid wrapped in a handkerchief I bequeath to my friend Louisa the wife of Admiral Manners and I bequeath to [gap] the breviary or book of devotions belonging to me which is inscribed with the name of Mary Queen of Scots in her own handwriting. The large picture and the altar piece which will be found in my drawing room at Orde House I bequeath to the Priest who for the time being shall be officiating at the Catholic Chapel Ravensdowne, Berwick upon Tweed in order that they may be placed and fixed in such position as may by the said Priest be deemed best for the benefit of the Congregation attending the said Chapel.

Confirmation that the 'picture' was indeed given to the Ravensdowne Chapel in 1864, can be found in *The Tablet* which announced that at the re-opening of St Cuthberts on 11 September 1864, after a period of renovation, *The celebrated painting of "The Agony of our Lord in the Garden," which was presented by Charles X, King of France and Navarre, to the late James Grieve, Esq., Orde House, and bequeathed by that gentleman to St Cuthberts, was inaugurated on the occasion.* The accompanying plaque goes further in giving the date of the presentation by Charles X, as 18 September 1852. Unfortunately, Charles X died in 1836 and was unable therefore, to have presented the painting in 1852. The incorrect date may have been a simple copying or dictation error. More later.

John Convey, a Record Office Volunteer, has confirmed that the painting is still in the church, on the ceiling, perhaps not the position envisaged by James! It is believed that in 1864, it was sited at the back of the sanctuary and may have remained there. However, it was placed in its present position in 1905, after an extensive programme of works, during which the interior was gutted and fully restored. A report in the Berwick Advertiser, in February 1905, noted that the ceiling was raised and covered in a wood lining. *It is in this portion of the building, too, that the ancient and historical picture which has so long been an object of interest in the church, now finds a resting place. The oil-painting, depicting the agony of our Lord in the gardens, which once adorned the walls of Holyrood Palace, was presented by*

Charles X, King of France and Navarre, to James Grieve, Esq. of Ord House, Berwick and later was bequeathed by that gentleman to the Roman Catholic Church of the town. ... The painting has been mounted in panels, forms the central object of the roof, and produces a very striking affect.

How and where did Charles X and James Greive meet? James's desire to travel on the continent is made clear in the codicils attached to his father's will, dated 20 May 1826. William named his wife and James as executors. [The oldest son, George, suffered from a *malady* and was under the care of a Doctor Willis.] In a codicil dated 10 March 1827, William noted that James had seldom resided at Ord House for a number of years and had long proposed to take a tour on the Continent but had postponed it at his father's request. William thought the burden of the executorship would fall mostly on his wife, who was in delicate health, so he nominated a friend, William Willoby, a Solicitor of Berwick, as an additional executor. In a second codicil dated 4 April 1827, William stated that it was probable that James would be frequently absent from this Country and revoked his appointment.

James had good French connections. His friend, Louisa Manners, was the daughter of Comte Louis Pantaléon Jude Amédée. de Noé, who was made a Peer of France c.1816 and who died in 1858. Louisa's brother, Amédée de Noé was a famous cartoonist. They may have made the introduction, although it is not known when the friendship with Louisa commenced.

A strong possibility is that Charles and James met at Holyrood. Charles succeeded his brother Louis XVIII to the throne in 1824 but was compelled to abdicate in August 1830. He took up residence at Holyrood in the October. As Comte d' Artois, he had spent two earlier periods of exile there, 1796 to 1799 and 1801 to 1803. The royal party remained in Edinburgh for two years, long enough for the painting to hang on the wall, as mentioned in the 1905 newspaper account. The party left for Hamburg on 18 September 1832. Early on the morning of departure, a deputation of the most respectable citizens of Edinburgh, consisting of the Lord Provost and nine others, was introduced to the King, in the drawing room, where an address was read expressing the regret of the inhabitants, that the King was leaving Edinburgh. Charles X was very moved and shook hands with the gentlemen, one of whom was James Greive of Ord. Should the date on the plaque in St Cuthberts read 18 September 1832 rather than 1852? A very full account of the day is provided in the Caledonian Mercury and no mention is made of gifts given by the King but if James Greive was already a friend or acquaintance, it would not have been impossible for them to meet privately. Their shared faith may have brought them together.

A further note on Jane Elliott (1804 – 1884), daughter of Dr Alexander Kellock of Berwick upon Tweed. After James's death, she and her first husband Major William Elliott took up residence at Ord House. In February 1865, they gave £1,000 to Tweedmouth Church to pay for a chancel and a stained- glass memorial window to the Greive family, spelt Grieve in the Newcastle Courant. By the time of her husband's death in 1870, they had taken Greive as their surname. In 1872, Jane married General John Tatton Brown, Esq. They received royal licence to take the surname Greive. The General died in 1880, aged 85, leaving two sons and a daughter from his first marriage. His personal estate was valued at under £2,000, while Jane, who died in 1884, left an estate valued at £110,406 19s 4d. This was left in trust, to William Samuel Brown of Southsea, Rear Admiral, the General's eldest son, but to inherit he had to take the name of Greive and his issue likewise. Royal licence was granted to enable them to do so. Amongst Jane's heirlooms, was a gold snuff box presented by Charles X to James Greive.

If anyone can identify the artist or add to the story, do please contact the Archives.

The Agony of our Lord in the Garden



(Courtesy of the Parish of Our Lady & St Cuthbert; ©John Convey.)

Sources:

NA PROB 11/1732/399: Will and Grant of Probate for William Greive (1827);
 "England, Durham, Diocese of Durham Original Wills, 1650-1857," images,
 FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DBRQ-FBB?cc=2358715&wc=9PQ2-8T3%3A1078414267>) Ref : DPRI/1/1843/G15 Hannah Greive nee Staward
 Principal Probate Registry, London, Wills and Grants of Probate for James Greive (1864); General J T Brown Greive (1880); Jane Brown Greive (1884); <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>
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 Caledonian Mercury 20 Sept 1832; The Tablet, 1 October 1864; Newcastle Courant 24 February 1865; Berwick Advertiser, 24 February 1905; <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

Julie Gibbs with help from John Convey

A TROUBLESOME FAMILY

Much is made of the difficulties facing school teachers today - but it was not all sweetness and light in earlier times. The Belford Presbyterian School log book for July 23, 1909, contains this account of the difficulties faced by the Master, Isaac Tooke.

A Troublesome Family

James H. did not come in to afternoon school. On giving out the Registers for marking Miss Young called my attention to the fact. I sent his sister to see if she could find him anywhere. She brought him in. On enquiring of him why he did not come in, I got no answer, but on third time of asking he attempted to kick; I took hold of his arms & he started to bite, attempting first one hand & then the other. On loosing him for a moment he attempted to run. I brought him back and threatened to flog him, as he was still trying both to kick and bite. On taking him across the school to his class, still struggling to get away, he said I will kick your "ars" I then gave him three strokes on the bottom with the cane. As his trousers were very loose, I am sure the cane did not hurt him, I shall be satisfied if it frightens him from further attempt.

His sister got up from her place saying something or other, when told to sit down and be quiet she replied "I will not".

Sometime ago I had a lot of bother with the brother Edmund, when on two occasions the elder brother came in causing a serious disturbance in the school. Someone had told him his brother had been thrashed. When questioned by him as to why I had thrashed him, I replied by telling him, we would let the boy himself answer.

I called the boy from where he was standing saying Now tell your brother why I thrashed you. He could not. His elder brother asked him again & again and could get no answer.

“Now” I said to the elder brother, you had better ask him another question, seeing you cannot get to know why he was thrashed” “Ask him if he had been thrashed at all. (The boy had not - had simply been called out on to the line,). After that he cooled down somewhat.

The difficulty of keeping order is much increased since parents are allowed to take their children away for the most trifling circumstances and some give no reason at all.

Jane Bowen

AYTON COW CLUB

For many years the various owners of Laurel Bank in Ayton received a yearly statement about interest being paid into an account at the local bank from a bond held by Ayton and District Society for Insuring Cows (more commonly known as The Cow Club). It is believed that this was the last address of the secretary or treasurer of the society.

In 2015 the present owner of Laurel Bank, Neil Simpson, called an informal meeting of locals to see if there was interest in learning more about the cow club and if any historic funds could be used for the benefit of the village. A copy of the last known rule book was found and at a subsequent public meeting it was decided to reinstate the club.

The original constitution of the society was used to open a new bank account. The reformed Cow Club created a new constitution which was adopted at the 2017 AGM. The aims are now to use the funds to improve the environment, well-being and opportunities available to the residents of Ayton.

An account of the origins of the club was found in the Berwickshire News 25 October 1949 .

CENTENARY OF AYTON COW CLUB

Ayton and District Cow Insurance Society celebrates its centenary this year, having been founded in 1849. It was formed for the purpose of insuring the few cows kept by small farmers, individual land-holders, farm workers and others, who produced the milk chiefly for their own use or to sell to neighbours.

At that time, many persons had small plots of land attached to their houses, from which they produced fodder for their cow or cows. Some villages possessed common grazings, on which village cow keepers had the right to graze their animals during the grazing season. Of course, there were then few of the sanitary regulations affecting byres or dairies that pertain today. On farms, 20 or 30 years ago many more workers possessed cows than is the case today. It was to assist these small cow keepers that the Society was originally founded, each member paying an annual subscription for each cow in his possession. In the event of the cow dying, or being slaughtered by order of a veterinary surgeon, a compensation payment was made to the owner, this payment being a valuable contribution towards the purchase of a new cow.

Unfortunately, the early records of the Society have been lost and it is therefore impossible to trace the original number of members or the amount of the members' subscriptions. But in the early 1900's the annual income from subscriptions totalled over £100, which amount, at 10s per subscription, per cow, would represent more than 200 cows insured. It is known that since the Society was founded death payments have been made on 400 animals, this being a mere fraction of the number of cows insured during the 100 years.

About 60 years ago members took an active interest in the Society's affairs and attended its meetings in strength. These meetings were held in Ayton and, most of the members having to rely on horse transport, it is said the gigs and farm carts occupied almost the whole length of one side of the village street. At the meetings, in addition to paying their subscriptions, members voiced their opinions in no uncertain manner and also saw to it that the best representatives were elected to the executive committee. For a long number of years the Society was a very flourishing organisation and a members' dinner was held to mark its jubilee year, several prominent people being invited as guests.

Declined

During the past 50 years, the Society's membership has declined from its former high peak, because of the vast changes which have taken place in rural conditions. In the villages there are few, if any, residents who possess cows. The small plots of land formerly attached to village dwellings have been absorbed in adjacent farms, while the rights of common grazing have disappeared. New sanitary laws prevent the keeping of cows, or the sale of milk except in or from licensed premises.

On the farms, too, the whole wages structure has changed and few workers except shepherds and grieves possess cows. Under such changed circumstances it is greatly to its credit that it is still virile and able to fulfil a very useful purpose. Present membership is mainly composed of small farmers, smallholders, shepherds and grieves whose representatives serve on the committee.

At the Society's annual general meeting held in July last, the chairman, Mr William Bell, whose father was identified with the Society over a long period, stated this was the Society's centenary year and suggested some fitting celebration might be arranged to commemorate the occasion.

A sub-committee was formed to arrange the celebrations and at its meeting last Saturday it was unanimously agreed that such a momentous occasion in the annals of the Society must be celebrated in some fitting manner. Members are to be circularised regarding the form the celebrations should take and when the replies have been considered it is hoped to have these in November. In the meantime this newspaper takes the opportunity of congratulating the Society on its centenary and trusts the celebrations will be worthy of such a great occasion in the Society's history.

Bill Black

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS

Berwick Advertiser, 7 June 1872

POACHING AT MURTON

Wm. Simmington, carter, Spittal, was charged with trespass in pursuit of game on the 24th May last in a field on the farm of Murton in the possession of Mr Mather of Longridge. R W. Weatherhead prosecuted. The defendant did not attend to answer the charge. After stating his case, Mr Weatherhead called witnesses to prove the

charge. Alex. Buchanan, under gamekeeper to Mr Mather, deposed that about nine o'clock on the evening of the 24th ult., he was passing along the road at Murton farm when he saw at about a hundred yards distance, a man and a boy with two dogs a greyhound and a terrier, in a field. He saw the greyhound kill a hare. The man lifted the hare up; but on seeing witness he dropped it and ran away. The greyhound remained by the side of the hare, and witness took possession of both the hare and the greyhound. Witness handed the greyhound over to P.C. Armstrong at Scremerston, who found out the owner of the dog. P.C. Armstrong stated that he took the greyhound to Spittal, and found out that it belonged to Simmington, who admitted that it was his dog but denied that he had been in pursuit of game with it on the farm of Murton. He said that the door of the house had been broken up and the dog taken away by poachers. The magistrates found the charge proven, and imposed a penalty of 10s and £1 9s costs; in default of payment one months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Berwick Advertiser, 7 June 1872

BERWICK FAIR

This annual Feast or Fair is becoming year by year less popular, and if its declension proceeds in future years as rapidly as it has done in recent, it will soon be numbered amongst the things that were. We live in days of radical change, when the honoured customs of our sires are budged aside to give place to others, considered of a more suitable character for the exigencies of the present times. Railways have given rise to quite a new series of customs and we have now at stated periods during the year holidays set apart; and as regards cattle markets, one of the chief objects of fairs, they are being systematically supplanted by auction marts established in all towns of note. But as regards Berwick fair it may be some considerable time before it will be allowed to drop quietly into its grave. Our civic rulers are seemingly very prone to keep up the old fashions instituted by their predecessors, and for the sake of immemorial usage they find it necessary on the recurrence of every Fair to perambulate the High Street and Castlegate in a body to let the public know of their existence. This year this ancient custom was performed as usual, and performed in a most dignified style. The Mayor, Alderman, and Councillors, attended by the sergeants-at-mace, and petty and special constables, mustered at noon in the Townhall.

Carole Pringle