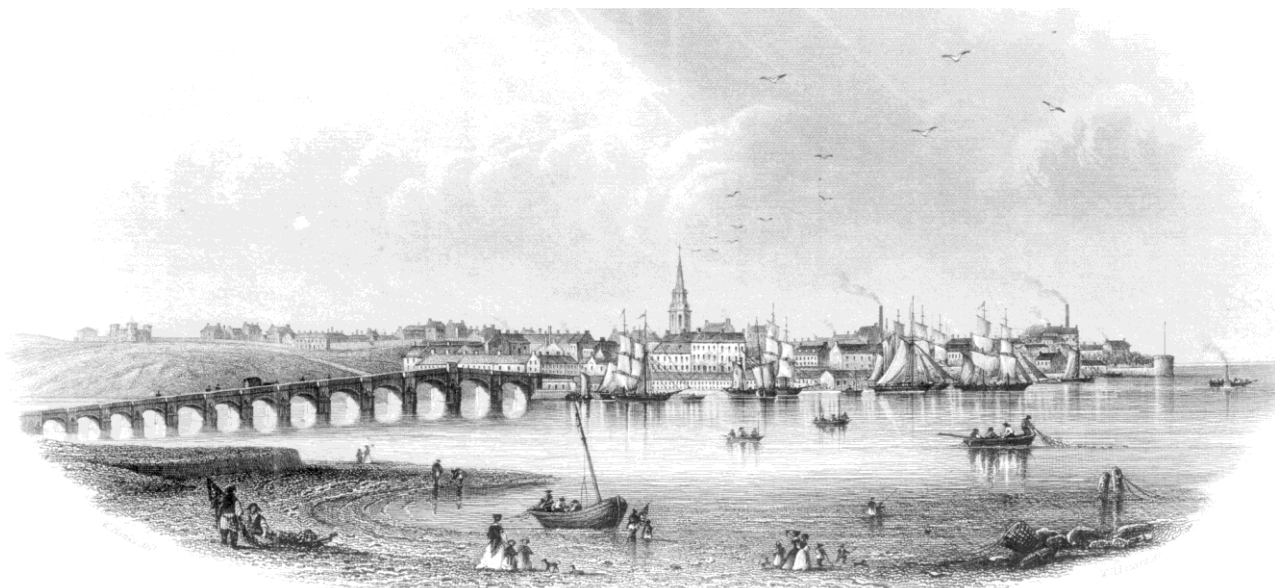


Friends of Berwick & District Museum and Archives Newsletter



NUMBER 120 – JUNE 2024

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 8th June 2024

Digital Resources for Family & Local History –
talk by Linda Bankier about online resources.
This is a free event with no booking required.
Beadnell W.I Hall - 10am – 12pm

Saturday 29th June 2024

Friends 30th anniversary lunch at Etal Village
Hall. 1pm - see article and enclosures.

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES !

Saturday 15th June 2024	Introduction to Manors and Manorial Documents – free workshop at Cheviot Centre, Wooler, 10 – 12.30pm
Saturday 22nd June	Manorial Documents and How to Read them – free workshop at Cheviot Centre, Wooler, 10 – 12.30pm
Friday 28th June	Manorial Conference at County Hall followed by workshops – see article
Saturday 3th and Sunday 4 th August	Bridge 400 Weekend at Quayside and Tweedmouth
Friday 6th – Sunday 15th September 2024	Berwick Heritage Open Days - We're still working on the programme but look on the National Heritage Open Days website (www.heritageopendays.org.uk) or our own – www.berwickhods.org.uk - nearer the time for updates. Further information in the next newsletter.

OTHER SOCIETIES' LECTURES

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

Ayton Local History Society- summer trip will be a visit to the Riverside Museum in Glasgow on 30th June. If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Bill Black on billblack1804@gmail.com

Borders Family History Society-Annual General Meeting - The Society's AGM will be held in early June. Members/non-members are invited to attend. Please watch local press for exact date and venue.

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Parish Centre, Berwick

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 3rd June 2024

“Rock Art – making connections”: Aron
Mazel

NO MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST

Monday 2nd September

“Recent excavations on a monumental
bath-house at Carlisle Cricket Club”: Frank
Giecco

LOWICK HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: Lowick Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 9th September 2024

Manorial Systems: Dr Beth Elliott

NORHAM AND LADYKIRK HISTORY SOCIETY

Venue: Norham Village Hall

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Monday 10th June 2024

Norham: the most dangerous place in
England: Martha Andrews

Monday 8th July

Summer Walk TBC

Monday 9th September

Commonwealth War Graves: Donna Marie
Kirk Sargeant.

TILL VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Venue: Crookham Village Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th June 2024

Barmoor Castle Test Pits: John Nolan

ARCHIVE NEWS

Life has been busy in the Record Office with various projects and challenges over the past couple of months. All members of staff are kept on their toes and we all wonder where a week goes to. A flavour of what we have been doing follows :

VOLUNTEER REPACKAGING PROJECT AND THE LIVING BARRACKS - The Repackaging Project ran until the beginning of April and was very successful. The 10 volunteers repackaged, renumbered and checked the condition of about 1000 catalogue entries, consisting of 87 boxes of material from the Borough Archives collection relating to Property and the Freeman. This was a huge achievement as it was a labour-intensive project which required a lot of concentration and skills – they are all now experts at archival tying of bundles! The official project has now finished but some of the volunteers are still coming in on our open days to continue this valuable work. Thanks to Martha, Mandy, Beth and Gillian who supported them. This project has shown us that there is a huge amount of work to do to prepare the archive for its eventual move to the Barracks in relation to audit and repackaging. We will keep chipping away at it. As well as this project, I have also been involved in other elements of the Living Barracks Projects – contributing to Volunteer, Collection and Access Plans as well tours of the site. At the end of April, the Place of Deposit Manager and the Head of Regional Networks from the National Archives spent a day in Berwick finding out about what we do now and our future plans at the Barracks.

EVERYDAY LIFE IN A NORTHUMBRIAN MANOR – this project will continue until November and so, there is lots going on at the moment including work on the website, workshops and an exhibition and conference at County Hall. See Beth's article.

BERWICK PHOTO CENTRE AND RECORD OFFICE PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS - Cameron has now created over 14,000 catalogue entries for the Photo Centre collection which are available on the Northumberland Archives electronic catalogue. You can now also find some images attached to the entries as well. He has also been looking at other photographic collections we hold, including postcards which he has been cataloguing too. Cameron is always finding something new. Do look at the Facebook and Instagram pages for the Photo Centre collection which give a flavour of what he has discovered - #photocentreberwick .

LOWRY AND THE SEA – The new Lowry exhibition has just opened at the Granary Gallery and I have been and will be working with the Maltings on various parts of the Project. This has included providing training for the volunteer guides who will deliver tours. Lowry's connection with Berwick over such a long period was fascinating to research. Berwick actually embodied his love of the industrial and the sea if you look at pictures of Spittal when he was visiting – a beautiful beach with a very industrial Spittal Point! The exhibition is well worth visiting and I will be helping to deliver a school programme in September/October. Follow this link to find out more - <https://www.maltingsberwick.co.uk/whats-on/lowry-and-the-sea-exhibition-entry-day-ticket-2/> .

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION - We continue to give a lot of talks and support local community events in the area. Since the last newsletter, we have given talks on the Manorial Project; Irregular Border Marriages; the History of Berwick's Old Bridge ; Ford Estate at the time of the Waterfords ; Mrs Betty Adams; the Bridges of the Lower Tweed; the History of Berwick through its Archives and the "Friends" 30 years on. In addition, I have delivered Oral History training for a Project to celebrate the Centenary of the Library Service and Beth and I delivered a lecture at Newcastle University to Year 2 Public History students.

BRIDGE 400 – This year we celebrate the 400th anniversary of the opening of Berwick's Old Bridge to traffic – it took another 10 years to completely finish it ! . There are a number of community events going on in Berwick until October to commemorate this which involve the Record Office and the Museum. We are both involved in the organisation of the Bridge 400 weekend on 3 and 4 August. Look out for further details nearer the time.

This is only a small selection of the projects we are involved in at the moment, there are others – Maternity Project; Eglington Churchyard Project; Kyloe Parish Oral

History Project – as well as Berwick Heritage Open Days. I'll report on them next time !

Linda Bankier

D DAY – 80TH ANNIVERSARY

6th June 2024 is the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings. What was reported in the local newspaper about this turning point in World War Two? Here's some entries I found in the Berwick Advertiser:

15 JUNE 1944

ALAN MELVILLE IN NORMANDY

On Friday Berwick listeners to the War despatches following the 9pm BBC News Bulletin were specially interested to hear Alan Melville speaking from Normandy, having gone into France with the Allied Forces on "D" Day. Melville is a native of Berwick and he joined the RAF in 1942, now holding the rank of Flight Lieutenant. For two years following the outbreak of war, Melville was working on propaganda broadcasts to America. He is a well known author and producer, and several of his Revues have been produced in London and the provinces. In the Saturday bulletin Melville's voice was again heard describing how the invasion was going in part of Normandy.

On Wednesday Melville gave a graphic description of the heavy fighting in the Caen area, and also told how the forces were settling into their new surroundings living in fox pits but managing to get a bath, even though they did not have as much as our "5 inches" of water here at home. He also described how letters were coming through from home.

WOUNDED IN FRANCE

Official intimation was received by Mrs Elliott, 49 Main Street, Spittal, on Tuesday from the War Office to the effect that her son. Sapper G Elliott, RE, had been wounded in the fighting in France. Previous to enlisting four years ago, Sapper Elliott was employed at Black's Spade Works, Spittal. A native of Spittal, he was educated at Spittal Council School. Keen on football, he played a number of times for his school team.

BERWICK ADVERTISER 22 JUNE 1944

INVASION IMPRESSIONS

"Any moment now I may burst into French – French of a sort, as was evident last night when I spent about half an hour explaining to a farmer's wife that I wanted

some milk, before she admitted that she spoke perfect English". So writes one of Berwick's soldiers who took part in the invasion and who adds : " I was in France quite early, and definitely before the full story was conveyed to the public. At the present moment I am parked in a field enjoying a few hours' relaxation, precious moments to while away writing correspondence. We have our first mail yesterday (13th June). There was a general rush towards the postman for the bumper harvest of letters". He describes the preparations for "D" Day, the queuing up for compositions, vomit bags, and Mae Wests and then the journey to the point of embarkation. He admits that at time the food was the most detested thing imaginable. "And then, there was that moment when I stood on the top of the cab of a lorry parked in the hold of the barge and had my first glimpse of the French coastline. I expect it will be something which I will always remember – a mile or so of sea meeting the beach with vehicles and tanks rumbling from the crafts to their assembly areas ashore. And from the beach, a watcher seaward must have felt impressed with the might of the invasion force. As far as the eye could see there were ships; and further still more ships. The sea held more traffic than the Newmarket Road on Race Day. It was an orderly gathering. The majority of crafts lay peacefully at anchor. Enemy interference was conspicuous only by its absence. And except for the occasional boom of guns, the only indication that the Bochs lay ahead was the prisoners grouped in a boat heading seawards – and England, I expect.

As we paused at one village – my first – two French girls tossed roses into the driving cabs. The inhabitants are without doubt overjoyed with the landings. "

Linda Bankier

THE EVERYDAY LIFE IN A NORTHUMBRIAN MANOR PROJECT

The Everyday Life in a Northumbrian Manor Project has now been running for just over two years. In that time, our brilliant team of volunteers have transcribed over 730 pages of manorial documents, for the manors of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Norham Town, Norham Castle, Lowick, Barmoor, Wooler, Holy Island, Morpeth and Hexham, amongst others. These transcripts are now being added to our website, with many already available to view at the following hyperlink: <https://northumberlandarchives.com/manorial-project/> . There is a real wealth of

information in these documents, whether you have a general interest in the history of your local area, or you want to see if you can find out any more about your ancestors, they are worth a look! We have some manorial events coming up which you may also be interested to hear about. Firstly, we have two manorial workshop in Wooler, on Saturday 15th and 22nd June. These free workshops are designed to help you use and read manorial documents. We also have a Manorial Event Day on Friday 28th June at County Hall, Morpeth from 10.30 to 1.15. This is also a free event and includes talks and presentations about the findings of the Everyday Life in a Northumbrian Manor Project. Lunch is included and there are some limited spaces available on a minibus going to the event from Berwick. These are offered on a first come, first serve basis. For more information or to book a place on any of those events, please email berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk.

Beth Elliott

FBDMA 30TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

On Saturday 29th June (as notified in the last Newsletter) we are holding a celebratory lunch in Etal Village Hall for the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Friends. If you haven't already signed up for the event and would like to come, tickets for the two-course buffet lunch are still available and cost £10.00 per person. Fill out the Acceptance form accompanying this Newsletter and return it to the Record Office.

Some members who would like to attend the lunch do not have their own transport for getting to Etal. If you are able to offer a lift to someone else, please indicate on the form or else let us know via e-mail - berwickarchives@northumberland.gov.uk . We will do our best to facilitate a mutually convenient arrangement.

In addition to all of the established attractions on and around the Ford & Etal estate, a new one which opens at the end of May is the Ford Forge Museum which is curated by members of TillVAS. It is not normally open on Saturdays but by the kind arrangement of TillVAS it will be open for us on the 29th June from 3.00 to 4.00pm. The museum is situated at Heatherslaw beside the Light Railway ticket office, and we hope that it may be of interest to members for a post-lunch visit. (NB. Access is via an external staircase which may present a difficulty for those with mobility restrictions. Cars should be parked in the Heatherslaw car parks.)

There are also some new features to be found at Lady Waterford Hall in Ford village. A new collection of Lady Waterford's art works can now be seen in a back room at the hall. Also, the monument in the village in memory of her husband has recently been refurbished. The hall is open from 11.00am until 5.00pm.

John Spiers

BERWICK'S HISTORIC CATTLE MARKETS



Visitors to Berwick's central car park off Castlegate may notice the Urban Sanitary Authority's colourful moulded plaque sited with some pride on the north face of the ramparts, featuring coats of arms, two chained Berwick bears and four wych-elm trees. However, it is unlikely that visitors, or even residents, will be aware of the extent of town council discussions, arguments and decisions as well as newspaper correspondence and editorial comments that took place before it was possible to celebrate the successful opening of a cattle market in 1886.

Before this, another cattle market site was the focus of attention. An advertisement in the *Newcastle Journal* on 22 January 1848 announced that, from 6 March, a 'New Cattle Market' would be held fortnightly in Castlegate for the sale and purchase of cattle and sheep starting at ten o'clock, at which time a bell would be rung. This market was positioned at the top of Castlegate on the site of the present War Memorial, shown below. In an advertisement in the *Illustrated Berwick Journal*, 20 March 1858, the Town Council offered sheep pens for let for one year in what was still known as the 'New Cattle Market'.



Extract from the 1858 OS map, 25ins. to 1 mile

In the same year, 1858, St. Mary's Church (now the Northstar Centre) was built at the top of Castlegate, fronting the cattle market, with the benefit of a donation of £2,000 from Capt. Gordon of Fyvie Castle. The area was surveyed in 1857 but the new church does not appear on the published map of 1858. An angry columnist in the *Berwick Advertiser* of 13 February, complained that 'a certain "clique" of our townsmen', 'nameless clients', had demanded that the cattle market be removed in favour of a flower garden to 'form an offset to the new Episcopal Church'. He stated that the market had been held here since 'time immemorial' although as the legal definition of 'time immemorial' is the start of the reign of Richard I in 1189, he may have been over-stretching his claim. Nevertheless, this intervention suggested that cattle and sheep might well have been bought and sold at the top of Castlegate, in a more informal setting, long before the establishment of the 'new market. However, the main complaint was that the 'clique' through their solicitor had 'demanded' the removal of the market rather than attempting its removal by persuasion.

The correspondence and comment continued beyond February with *The Berwick Journal and General Advertiser* on 1 May 1858 urging the members of the Local Board of Health, the responsible body at the time, to 'lay aside all prejudice' and 'not permit themselves to be made the "tools and toadys" of any party'. They should not look at the change of the cattle market site in terms of how its removal might improve the new church but rather how far it might affect the farmers who frequented the market. The paper did recognise that if it was decided to select an alternative site, removing it to the suggested 'Playground' next to the Scots Gate (The 'Playground' was the area occupied today by the short-term public car park off Castlegate.) would be the height of sanitary folly as there was a need to 'keep filth and unwholesomeness as far from our doors as possible'. It was said that, instead of 'a fountain being placed in the centre of the garden or shrubbery [in front of St.

Mary's Church], there should be a Russian gun, which the town may have by applying to the Secretary-at-war'. The sheep pens were still being let by the Town Council with tolls and dues of £20 for 12 months from 26 June 1858 but, by the end of the 19th century, the cattle market had gone from the top of Castlegate, not to be replaced by a Russian gun (although one of these did find its way to the Ramparts where it remains to this day), but by an open space and, in the 20th century, by the town's war memorial and a community garden.

However, this is only part of the story because there was another long-standing cattle market in Hide Hill. Matters had come to a head by 1875, triggered by complaints from the inhabitants of houses and shops in Hide Hill and also from members of the public because the market had outgrown its space and had become a nuisance. It was said that the inhabitants and shopkeepers, who paid large rents and taxes, had 'their houses and shops shut up... for the sake of those who perhaps did not pay a farthing of rent, or spend a sixpence in the town'. Because the market was held in the street and overflowed onto the pavements, it impeded passage by horse-drawn vehicles and pedestrians.

Although the Town Council had already decided that the market should henceforth be held in the 'Playground' instead of at Hide Hill, the Watch and Farm Committee, on 13 October 1875, received a report that, on 2 and 9 of October, dealers were still exposing cattle for sale and were paying dues in Hide Hill. The Town Council considered the matter throughout October and November. There was newspaper editorial comment, correspondence from readers and a Memorial in favour of Hide Hill lodged by farmers at the Corn Exchange 'for signature by all interested in the question'. The Memorial cited the advantage of being close to the newly-built Corn Exchange and highlighted the unsuitability of the 'Playground' due to its being unsurfaced, soft, muddy, dirty, confined by light-reducing high walls, as well as having a narrow entrance.

Meanwhile, the Town Council noted that some dealers had taken the law into their own hands by returning their cattle to Hide Hill 'for the last three Saturdays...in defiance of the regulations'. A handbill had been issued warning transgressors of the consequences of reoffending and policemen were stationed at places to direct people's attention to it. Despite this, the street was as obstructed as ever with as much nuisance as before and, moreover, even those beasts that had earlier been taken to the 'Playground', were afterwards returned to Hide Hill. Several accidents

occurred and one animal was run over and injured to such an extent that it had to be humanely killed.

In November 1875, the Mayor (this would have been Alderman Andrew Thompson), in his remarks to the Council, said that 'it was evident...that the cattle market would have to be held at its original site until some fit spot was got. His proposal did not bind the Council to anything. If Hide Hill was not suitable, the Farm Committee would 'try all in their power to procure another place...' The Mayor's motion was carried by 14 votes to 5.

In April 1885, the Urban Sanitary Authority sought a lease of the 'Playground' from the Town Council for use as a cattle market at a nominal rent for a term of 31 years from May 1885, with the lessees entitled to collect the 'tolls and dues'. The Authority agreed to the conversion of the 'Playground' but decided not to go ahead with the division of space into pens. The lease was sealed following a decision of the Council in October 1885.

The market was therefore still being held in Hide Hill in November 1885, when an Inquiry was held at the Town Hall presided over by Mr Thos. Codrington, a member of the Institute of Engineers and one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board to whom the Urban Sanitary Authority had applied for a loan of £700 repayable by instalments over 20 years for the purpose of constructing the cattle market. The average income was stated to be £60 p. annum.

The Inquiry was attended by members of the Urban Sanitary Authority, residents of Hide Hill and Mr R. Dodds, Castlegate and Mr A. J Dodds, Castle Terrace. A large portion of the Inquiry's time was taken up by matters concerning Mr R. Dodds who, whilst not objecting to the market being held in the Playground, was more concerned with the annoying uses to which it had been put during the last thirty years and about trees which he had planted, the removal of which would adversely affect his property. It was 'not so much because ragged children came to it' but because the Urban Sanitary Authority 'were so short sighted as to let the place out for a low wooden theatre'. The Authority 'thought it kept people out of the public houses' but he was certain that the theatre 'would corrupt the morals of the young people of the town'. Notwithstanding the lengthy exchanges regarding trees and the low theatre, the Borough Surveyor, Mr McGregor said that the market was to be made without pens, to be drained and paved with cement concrete. After all this, Mr Dodds 'expressed his willingness to leave the matter in the hands of the Town Council and Urban Sanitary Authority'.

Despite the Borough Surveyor's statement, 28 pens had been erected when the market opened on 23 October 1886, providing accommodation for 800 cattle and, in the open space 'at the top and bottom', space for 400 or 500 more cattle. The market covered nearly an acre of ground, 'laid with concrete' and 'double drained' and is shown below. There was 'one line of water pipes and two drinking troughs' and an office was placed on the west side. The *Berwick Advertiser* reported that 'The cost of the cattle market, which is the finest in the North of England, and highly creditable to the Surveyor, by whom it was planned, and the contractor, is about £900'. In 1890, a proposed extension of the market still attracted controversy when a correspondent on 7 November described it as being unnecessary and a waste of money which would be better spent on improved paving 'as in its present state it is both dangerous and disgusting, being without proper drainage and extremely dangerous to the cattle'.

The cattle market remained in place until after the Second World War. On 8 December 1948, the *Berwick Advertiser* published an announcement by the Town Clerk, Mr R. B. Davison, that the Town Council proposed to establish a parking place for private cars and motor cycles on 'a portion of land until recently used as part of the cattle market, with access to the same by way of Castlegate and egress from the same by way of Scott's Place' This resulted in the development of the town's existing Castlegate car park.



Extract from the 1924 OS map, 25 ins. to 1 mile

Whereas it took until 1886 and not a little argument before obtaining a permanent penned site for a cattle market, there was far less fuss and bother involved in approving and constructing a purpose-built auction mart which was opened in March

1870 at Castle Bridge. The cattle market and the auction mart had different functions. At the cattle market, the sale of cattle took place directly between the seller and the buyer, while at the auction mart, sales were presided over by an auctioneer. However, the development of the auction mart is another story.

Sources: Various articles and announcements in the *Newcastle Journal*, *Illustrated Berwick Journal*, *Berwick Advertiser*, *The Berwick Journal and General Advertiser*, 1848, 1858, 1875, 1876, 1885, 1886, 1890, 1949, 1950. With thanks to *The British Newspaper Archive* (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

Antony Chessell

FIRST USE OF CHLOROFORM

Berwick Advertiser January 1st 1849

LOCAL NEWS -APPLICATION OF CHLOROFORM.-

On Wednesday last the efficiency of this new agent was put to the test in the dispensary of this town, and was decidedly successful. The patient subjected to its influence was a married female, who for about eight months had been under treatment for a disease in the ankle-joint. It was decided upon by the medical officers of that institution that amputation should take place on Wednesday, and Mr Manners was deputed to operate in the presence of the other surgeons. The operation was rather an intricate and prolonged one, and consisted of removing the foot, exclusive of the heel, from the ankle-joint, and without the use of chloroform must have been attended with considerable pain. The chloroform was applied to the patient while in bed; in about five minutes she was completely under its power. When in this state she was placed in a chair and carried to an adjoining room. Here she was laid on the dissecting table. The operation occupied about ten minutes, and it was esteemed by all present to be a most satisfactory one. The dressings were completed, and then the patient was returned to her bed in the same manner as she had been removed from it. The chloroform was removed, and in about seven minutes its effects went off, and the patient calmly awoke, perfectly unconscious of what had taken place. She had been under its influence for half an hour. Her own remark was that it appeared to her she had been dead for a period. During the operation not a muscle quivered, nor was the least indication given of the patient suffering pain. She is now considered in a fair way of recovery, and after a painless operation she is likely soon to be restored to her family from an ailment which would have yielded to no other treatment than that of the operator.

Susan Charlton

DID SHE EVER REACH NEWCASTLE ?

A letter, dated 5 February 1842, was sent from William and Edward Willoby, Clerks to the Berwick Poor Law Union, in reply to a letter, dated 15 January 1842, from Edwin Chadwick, Esq, Secretary to the Poor Law Commission. Enclosed was a copy of a letter from George Scott, Relieving Officer of Belford, complaining of the irregular removal of a vagrant by the Overseers of Kyloe. The Poor Law Commission had requested a statement from the relieving officer involved in the case, this had been duly done by the Guardians and was enclosed with the letter.

The officer involved in the case was John Anderson, Relieving Officer of the Islandshire District in the Berwick Union.

In his statement he explains that on 27 December 1841, at about 8 o'clock in the evening, he had been contacted by Rev Smith, the Catholic priest at Haggerston, who told him that a woman was sitting by the side of the road near Scremerston Colliery and he asked Anderson to look after her. He went to the woman still sitting by the side of the road, and asked why she was there, to which she answered that he had nothing to do with her. Faced with the problem of what to do, he could not just let her sit there, as it was late, and there were no lodging houses nearby. The nearest one was in Tweedmouth, and did not seem to be a viable option considering the late hour. As she was near the colliery he arranged with the engine men that she could spend the night there and with the help of two men, due to a combination of her lameness and general unwillingness to be removed, she was taken to the colliery. She was given some supper and Mr Anderson said that he would return in the morning.

The next morning after breakfast he learned that she was from Glasgow on her way to her sister and brother in Newcastle. She had been laid up for two months in Dunbar with a sore foot and had spent the previous night in a lodging house in Berwick. Mr Anderson commented that, considering the poor state she was in, it would be a struggle for her to get to Newcastle. Her reaction to this was that if he would only give her a lift a few miles south she would endeavour to walk the rest of the way. He agreed to get a cart but said that he would send her to a lodging house in Tweedmouth and pay for her lodging and maintenance. She turned down the offer and again pleaded with him to transport her south. Eventually he gave in and sent for William Hogg, until recently a police officer under the Berwick Justices, and told him to take the woman as far as Haggerston, and she seemed quite satisfied with this solution.

However, when they got to Haggerston he was advised by someone (we do not know whom) to proceed to the parish of Kyloe, about a further two miles down the road. When he got to there, he contacted the Overseers, who right away persuaded

him to take her all the way to Belford. However, for some unknown reason he only went as far as just outside the village of Fenwick where he left her at the side of the road and returned home to Tweedmouth.

She was found there by some people returning from work, and they informed the Parish Clerk, who had her removed to a lodging house in the village where she spent the night. The next morning the Overseers of Kyloe arranged for a cart to take her to Belford, where the Relieving Officer, George Scott, promptly refused to receive her. It was then decided (again we do not know by whom) that she was to be taken back to Tweedmouth, where she arrived at John Anderson's house. Mr Anderson's wife gave her some tea and arranged for her to go to a lodging house, where she remained until the next meeting of the Guardians, who then decided that she should go into the Workhouse.

On the 19 March 1842, Sir John Walsham sent a letter to the Poor Law Commissioners in which he stated that he had recently attended a meeting of the Berwick Board of Guardians where his attention had been drawn to a letter from the Poor Law Commissioners regarding removal of a woman to the Belford Union. We can assume that the letter referred to, contained some sort of admonishment or accusations about Mr Anderson's handling of the case as well as possible sanctions, as Sir Walsham writes that both the Berwick Union and Mr Anderson felt somewhat hurt at the implication of neglect and ignorance. Sir Walsham described Mr Anderson as a respectable and zealous officer and he urged the Poor Law Commissioners to send a few lines to the Guardians saying that the circumstances in this case were unusual in that Mr Anderson's attempts to help within the framework that was at his disposal were turned down by the woman, and he was left with the choice of either leaving her by the side of the road, which if anything had happened to her would be considered as neglect on his part, or taking actions which were not within his power.

In a letter dated 26 March 1842 from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Berwick Union referring to Sir Walsham's letter of 19 March 1842, they acknowledged the difficulty that Mr Anderson was placed in, but also state that the removal of a pauper without the sanction of the Justices was not allowed. However, they seem to refrain from any further action in the case.

Another letter was sent from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Berwick Union acknowledging receipt of the 5 February 1842 letter in reply to the Commissioners' letter of 15 January 1842, regarding the irregular removal of a woman from the Berwick Union to the Belford Union. They point out that Mr Anderson acted illegally in causing the woman to be removed in the manner stated in his statement. The correct procedure would have been, if the woman was destitute, to supply her with articles of necessity and find her lodging until her case could be brought before the Guardians. Helping her on her journey meant not only that the poor rate was illegally applied but also that the burden was illegally imposed on other parishes.

In what seems to be the final and decisive conclusion is a letter dated 26 March 1842 from the Poor Law Commissioners to Sir John Walsham in reply to his letter of 19 March 1842. They admit the dilemma Mr Anderson was placed in, and say that the Commissioners do not in the least doubt Mr Anderson's efficiency in carrying out his duties as Relieving Officer.

There is a note at the end of Mr John Anderson's statement which says 'Point out to the Guardians that the relieving officer was wrong in giving the pauper money to proceed on her journey and paying her carriage. Answer to the same effect as in the Thirsk case 279B and in the more recent case of Lambeth'. This clearly indicates that what happened in the case of John Anderson happened in other parts of the country as well.

So the poor woman ended up in the Workhouse in Berwick. We are never told her name, which makes it impossible to pursue what happened to her next and also which makes it impossible to answer the question whether she ever reached Newcastle.

Sources: GBR 38, Minute Book of the Guardians of the Berwick Union; National Archive: MH 12/8977/117, 118, 129, 130, 131.

Lars Rose

THE UNCOLLECTED BOX OF DYNAMITE

On 2 February 1885 the Wooler carrier left a box containing 50 lbs of blasting gelatine and dynamite at the Black Bull Inn, Silver Street, Berwick, for conveyance to Eyemouth. It was properly addressed but no one from Eyemouth enquired about it. The box was twice taken from the Black Bull Inn to the Salmon Inn in the High Street, the Inn where the Eyemouth carrier put up, but the proprietor having no order respecting it, declined to take it in. The landlady of the Black Bull Inn therefore, informed Mr Garden, Superintendent of Police, who had the box removed to the Barracks for safekeeping.

The box and contents were eventually destroyed by James Leddy, a labourer, who received 10s for his assistance, while the carrier was fined £2 including costs.

The above appeared in the Watch Committee's minutes and seemed to be the end of the story but the *Newcastle Courant* on 13 February printed a longer version somewhat embellished.

Discovery of Dynamite – On Monday a parcel was sent from Wooler to Berwick. On arriving at the latter town the carrier placed it, with his other parcels at a public house, where it remained until Saturday, when, as no one called for it, suspicion

was aroused, and the parcel was opened. The parcel contained about 75lbs, of dynamite, and is now, in the possession of the police until its ownership is satisfactorily established. The dynamite appears to have come from a firm in Newcastle. It was sent to Alnwick, where a new railway line is being made, and was from there forwarded to Berwick via Wooler. The authorities do not impute any evil intention to those parties concerned in the transmission of the dynamite, as it is supposed that the parcel, of which the address had been rubbed off by friction in the course of its removal, is intended for blasting purposes at Eyemouth, where improvements at the harbour are being made; but there appears to be carelessness in regard to the explosives, because, although the parcel arrived on Monday last at the public-house, no-one had arrived to claim it up to till Friday night, which is somewhat singular, to say the least. Evidently the person to whom the dynamite was consigned at Eyemouth had not been informed of the arrival at Berwick.- The carrier from Wooler, who brought the dynamite into town, was at Berwick on Tuesday, and he states that twelve months ago he brought another parcel of the same stuff for the same destination. If the man is correct as to date this seems curious, because the contract for Eyemouth Harbour works was not let until the 3rd or 4th of June last year to a contractor at Glasgow, and the improvements there did not begin until a month or two after that. On the occasion a man called early the next morning, after the arrival of the dynamite, and took it away.

On the 9th February the *London Daily Chronicle* saw fit to include a summary of the story at the bottom of a long column headed *Dynamite outrages*, detailing the threats to public buildings in various parts of the country made by *Dynamitards* or Fenians. While noting that it may have been intended for blasting purposes at Eyemouth it finished with *The police have thought it advisable to make further inquiries.*

It just shows how an error made by one or two parties locally appeared very differently when seen from a national viewpoint!

Sources: BRO: BA/D4/8 Watch Committee Minutes 9 & 19 February 1885; Newcastle Courant 13 February 1885; London Daily Chronicle 9 February 1885

Julie Gibbs

WHAT WERE THEY DOING IN MAURITIUS?

Found among a bundle of miscellaneous documents were the following marriage and baptism certificates:

Port Louis, Mauritius

Marriage solemnized with the Protestant Church of Port Louis in the Island of

Mauritius Peter Tait, *batchelor*, shipwright and Jessy Anderson, spinster, married 5th October 1829 by A Denny, Civil Chaplain in presence of Wiliam Clarke, George Mitchell, Sarah Henlowe

21st December 1831

Certifies Margarate Petragcia, Daughter of Peter Tate, shipcarpenter and Jesse, his wife was born 30th September 1830

Witness A Denny Civil Chaplain

What were Peter Tait and Jesse Armstrong doing in Mauritius and how were they connected to Berwick? If anyone has further information, please contact the Record Office.

Source: Berwick Archives B10/37/30/1,2

Irene Budworth

BERWICK ADVERTISER SNIPPETS

Berwick Advertiser, 28th March 1873

FORTHCOMING ENTERTAINMENTS

Still, they come! No fewer than five entertainments are announced to take place in Berwick within the next few days. This evening Tannaker's Troupe of Real Japanese performers will pay a visit which is to extend over three days. They are spoken of as being very clever, and well worth seeing. On Tuesday evening Mr John A. Keenan, described as "the Great American Literary exponent," is to give readings from the American poets in the King's Arms Assembly Room. Mr Keenan brings with him high recommendations as a reader, and we trust he will receive large patronage. On Thursday Harry Liston, a celebrated comique, is to give his entertainment, - "Merry Moments"- fun without vulgarity. Having earned for himself a reputation as a comic vocalist of the first magnitude, it is to be hoped he will not be disappointed with his visit to Berwick. These comprise the entertainments "going the round the world," but there are two local concerts intimated to come off – the Choral Union concert on Tuesday the 8th, and the Tonic Solfia Association concert on Tuesday the 15th April. These entertainments have in past years been well patronised, and we have no doubt that they will again receive this year large support.

Berwick Advertiser, 28th March 1873

SERIOUS ATTACK ON A JUVENILE LAMP LIGHTER

On Monday afternoon a ruffianly attack was made upon a lad who is employed lighting the lamps in the lower part of the town. When in the Palace he was set upon by three lads, who seized his ladder and prevented him doing his work. He chastised one of them, when the biggest of the party threw a large stone which struck the juvenile lamplighter on the knee, and brought him to the ground, where he lay for some time from the effects of the blow.

Berwick Advertiser, 28th March 1873

FOREIGN POTATOES

Owing to scarcity of good English potatoes specimens of that valuable esculent have been supplied from various foreign ports, and this week a supply from the island of Malta has been received in Berwick, and they are being sold at 2d per lb.

Berwick Advertiser, 28th March 1873

ADVANCE OF RAILWAY FARES

On account of the high wages and the advance price of coal the North Eastern Railway Company will raise their passenger fares on Tuesday next, on the lines on the banks of the Tyne, about thirty-five per cent.

Berwick Advertiser, 28th March 1873

BODY FOUND

On Wednesday, the fishermen engaged at the Scotch New Water Fishery, near the Union Chain Bridge, found in the water the body of a man in an advanced stage of decomposition. It is supposed that the body is that of a man who fell into the river at Norham bridge at the New Year, while intoxicated.

Carole Pringle