

HEXHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter 50

Spring 2008



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2008. A particularly warm welcome to the new members who have recently joined the Society. We have a new secretary, Michael Saxon, and programme secretary, Liz Sobell, for 2008. The full committee will be confirmed at the AGM in March.

The Society is going from strength to strength and currently has approximately 240 members. 2008 promises to be an exciting year with three excellent trips, organised by Charlotte Coxon, timetabled for the summer and a wide variety of speakers booked for the monthly meetings, thanks to Donald Maxwell.

There is something for everyone: bring your friends and family!

The History Fair at the Wentworth in December was well attended and the Society sold a number of publications at this event and at the Abbey Christmas fair, with thanks to Ted Wall. Rodney Higgins is doing a sterling job of promoting the Society by giving talks to local groups and as a result has recruited a number of new members. The *Hexham Historian* for 2008 is well underway, under the editorship of Mark Benjamin, and promises to be a very interesting read as usual. The website is attracting a steady number of hits and the queries column is proving to be very popular.

The map on the cover of the newsletter is taken from a publication from 1759. It is a road map showing the route from Hexham to Tynemouth and would have formed part of a book for travellers, an early AA route map perhaps? The text down the right hand side reads: "Hexham labelled by Bede Haugustald, and by Mr Somner Hagulstaldefham; is reckoned to be the Alexodunu of the Romans, where the first Cohort of the Spaniard were in Garrison. It was made an escopal see by Etheldreda wife of K. Egfrid a 675, Wilfrid first bishop built in it a most magnificent Cath and Monastery and it was pofsefsed by 12Bps successefsively but being very much infested by Danes, the See was removed to York. The Town is at present well built enjoying a pretty good Mt on Tuesd. For Corn and c. And remarkable for a very bloody Battle fought near it between Yorkists and Lancastrians, wherein the latter were defeated chiefly by extra ordinary conduct and Bravery of In. Nevil Ld Montitcute, who was therefore created E of Northumberland by K. Ed 4th."

It is interesting that the market is still held on Tuesdays! A review of a book dealing with the "very bloody battle" is included in this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this issue. Any comments and contributions are welcome. Contact Helen Rutherford (601990) or h.j.rutherford@fsmail.net



Save trees and stamps: have your newsletter sent directly to your in-box. If you would like to receive future newsletter by e mail please send a message to h.j.rutherford@fsmail.net and you will be added to the electronic list.

Hexham Library

Hexham library will be hosting a display on the **World War II Home Front** with a particular focus on the Bevin Boys, conscripts who served the war effort by ensuring the constant supply of coal rather than by fighting. The display, which is mounted by the Northumberland Collections Service at Woodhorn, will be in the library for 3 weeks from February 26th

The Loraine Family: research project

In Hexham Abbey there is a small brass plate attached to the backs of the north misericords which reads:

Percy Lyham Lorain P.C. G.C.M.G. 12th Baronet of Kirkharle whose banner is laid up in this church. Born 1880. Died 1961. He feared only his God and he was faithful to the king.

The link with Kirkharle may be seen graphically near to Kirkharle church, where there is a standing stone with this information:

This new stone was set up in the place of an old one by Sir William Loraine Bart. In 1728 in memory of Robert Loraine his Ancestor (sic) who was barbarously murdered in this place by the Scots in 1483 for his good service to his country against their thefts and robbery as he was returning home from the church alone where he had been at his private devotions.

It is easily seen by visitors to the craft workshops and cafe there on the way to the church, where there is a plaque erected to the memory of Capability Brown by the Northumberland Association of Local History Societies.

Would anyone like to research the connection in more detail? If you are interested please contact Stan Beckensall. Tel: 604601

Information Wanted

Milestones

Iain Davison of the Milestone Society wants to know whether anything is known about the milestone known as **Donald's Grave**; situated on the road between Kiln Pit Hill and Blanchland, near Espersields and Hairley Side. The County Council have it listed as a milestone but Mr Davison wonders whether it was originally a gravestone. Does anyone

know anything about the milestone (if in dead it is a milestone) and who was Donald? Please contact: Iain Davison, 15 Woodlands, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 9EU Tel: 01661 824859

Temperley Family

Raymond Forward of Penzance is researching the **Temperley** family. The family were grain and feed merchants but also had shipping interests. The leading family member was **William Angus Temperley** (1820-1998). William's son, John Ridley Temperley, is described from the Patents and Agreements records, as being involved with the development of the Brennan Torpedo. Louis Brennan is found in the 1881 Census, living as a boarder together with John Ridley, both named as Civil & Mechanical Engineers. Joseph & John Temperley were owners of the various Temperley Shipping

companies, and owned ships from 1850 until 1934. Other brothers William & Charles were also directors of Temperley Shipping. John Ridley Temperley was the inventor of the Temperley Transporter, a device that revolutionised coaling of ships and was of immense importance to the Admiralty. Further, a book still in use by shipping lawyers, *The Merchant Shipping Acts 1907*, was written by Robert Temperley. The youngest of the brothers, Henry, was a partner in the solicitors firm Botterell, Roche and Temperley, which specialised in maritime law.

Do you have any information on the Temperley family? Please contact the editor.

Please don't forget that if you can help in relation to any of the queries to let the newsletter know, as well as the enquirer. Members will be very pleased to be able to follow up any successful stories.

Summerrods

Christine Harding has posted the following on the website:

As a child in the early 1960s, I was fortunate to spend 3 glorious years living in the old laundry cottage at **Summerrods** while my mother worked at the "big house" for the then tenants, the **Cochrane** family. As an adult I am now hoping that someone can give me an insight into the past history of this wonderful old house. I know it was occupied in 1795 by a Mr **Ralph Sparke**, and that a dwelling was registered there long before, but I would love more information and if possible some photographs. Please contact: Christine Harding. 01733 575522 crissieharding@hotmail.co.uk

Mr and Mrs Anderson, South Rigg

This is a very intriguing request for help from the **Kelvingrove Art Gallery** in Glasgow:

The gallery are researching the background to donors of artworks to the Gallery over the years. James Hardie, a volunteer on the team, is trying to find out about a **Mr and Mrs W S Anderson** of **South Rigg**, Hexham, who donated two paintings by Alexander McGlashan, in April 1929.

William Smith and Daisy Agnes Anderson have been located at 3 South Rigg between 1910 and 1925 but if you can help further please contact James Hardie HARDIGOLF@aol.com

The Syde

Chris Robley has asked if anyone can direct him to any information about an historical area called **The Syde** which appears on C14-C16 maps, and which seems to lie on the North bank of the South Tyne stretching from Hexham, west to the Fourstones/Haydon Bridge area. Contact: Chris Robley 07815 160 298 therooles@yahoo.com

Waggonway on the Dipton Mill Road?

Lorna Armstrong of **Greenbank Cottage Dipton Mill Road** (tel. 607537) is interested to find out more about a bank, or dyke, that runs through her garden near to the road. It has been suggested that it was a waggonway carrying ochre from higher up to use in the tanning industry. Can anyone help?

Wanted

Dr. Jim Hedley is looking to buy Robert Rawlinson's 1853 *Report to the Board of Health on the sanitary conditions of the inhabitants of Hexham*, Published HMSO and *Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists Club* Vol. 28 Part 1 (1932) and Part 2 (1933). Does anyone have copies of these books or know where they can be found? Please contact Dr Hedley on 01434 605450.

Reiver Families.

Les Graham has been researching all the reiver families including, but not exclusively, the Charltons, the Robsons, the Grahams and many more (a Herculean task) If your family may have had any connection with the reivers and you would like to find out more please contact Les at Balmoral, Elvaston Park Road, Hexham NE46 2HT (608177) or grahamsefbalmoral@googlemail.com.

Brookside Cockshaw

Do any members know anything about this house?

If so please contact the Chairman Fred Donnan (604082)

ANLHS News and Information

The ANLHS are holding a **Mining History day school** on **8th March 2008** at the Mining Institute in Newcastle. Speakers include Tom Peacock on *The coal miner at home and underground* and John Crompton on *Mining of the North Pennines*. Tickets cost £8 and are available from Mr M Thompson 21

Melrose Avenue Seaton Delaval NE25 OJR (enclose a SAE)

The Association of Northumberland Local History Societies Round the County Day 2008 will be held in the Memorial Hall Darras Road Ponteland on **Saturday 7th June**, hosted by Ponteland Local History Society. The programme includes a talk on Ponteland's past and walks around the village. Tickets, priced at £6, and further details are available from Ponteland Local History Society Woodlands Prestwick Village, Ponteland. NE20 9TX (enclose a SAE)

The ANLHS are conducting a project to catalogue the **Names and Signs of Northumberland Pubs and Inns**. If you are interested in taking part in this survey please contact a member of the committee, of our Society, to register your interest.

The following might provide a good starting point, taken from a *Description of Hexham* by E MacKenzie in 1825:

‘There are in Hexham 32 Inns and Public Houses. The Principal are, the Black Bull, which contains the assembly room and the excise-office, and where the True Briton Coach stops; and the White Hart, a convenient inn, where the mail coach halts for refreshing the passengers. The Newcastle stagecoach, runs to Newcastle from the Bush Inn. Messrs. Barker and Dickinson have each a circulating library and a printing office. The shops, in general, are respectable and the operations of trade are facilitated by Mr D. Bell who is agent for the banking house of Messrs. Lambton and Co. Besides the carriers between this town and Newcastle, carriers from the neighbouring places pass and repass twice a week, exclusive of the hundreds of carts that pass from the lead-mines towards Newcastle.’

Hexham LHS is an affiliated member of the Association of Northumberland Local History Societies and receives their annual journal *Tyne and Tweed*. The most recent publication includes articles on Harbottle Castle, Cullercoats, Plashetts, Trade Tokens and an evaluation of Northumberland County maps. The journal costs £4.50 and may be obtained, if he has any copies left, from Ted Wall, or from ANLHS at the Black Gate Castle Garth Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 2RQ.

News

Projector update and request for a home for the equipment.

You may recall that the Society's projector has disappeared...

A member of the Society has kindly donated a slide projector and stand so that speakers do not have to bring their own. Now all we need is a home for it. Can you provide board and lodging? Please speak to a committee member if you can help. We have also been offered the loan of A Power Point projector. These donations are much appreciated!

The latest issue of **North East History** was published in September 2007. The journal includes articles on woman workers in Sunderland Shipyards in the Second World War and the life of Labour pioneer Lisbeth Sim. Further information can be found at www.nelh.net.

The History of High Shield

John Chapman is well known by members of the Local History Society for his talks and his book *the House Dater's Toolkit*. His book on dating domestic architectural elements and other features was initiated by the research carried out on his own house at High Shield which dates back to the 17th Century. This resulted in a comprehensive history of High Shield, owned at one time by the Bell family who played an important role in the wool and leather industries of Hexham. This makes fascinating reading for anyone interested in being a house detective. The paper is in manuscript form and John has donated a copy to Hexham library for anyone who might be interested in the subject.

**Book Review:
*The Battle of
Hexham in its
Place***

**John Sadler and
Alex Spiers**

J.B. Jonas

It must be said that in this book the Battle of Hexham occupies about 12 pages out of the 168, a small place indeed. That is not to say though that this is not an entertaining and informative read, but it is primarily about the wars of the Roses and the Percy/Neville feuding that was one of their main ingredients. The authors have traced a painstaking course through the complicated family relationships and not infrequent changes of allegiance which characterise the lives of the Royal houses of

York and Lancaster. The introductory chapter on the Art of War in the fifteenth century is very useful for the layman, and this is a book which will certainly appeal to the non- specialist reader. It is well and relevantly illustrated and a full bibliography provides plenty of avenues for more in depth study of the period. I have two (minor) criticisms. The family trees of the Houses of York and Lancaster would have benefited from the inclusion of the Beauforts and some of the wives, especially in the case of John of Gaunt. He was married three times and it would have been helpful to see which characters in the story were the product of which marriage. Mention of 'characters' brings me to the second point. The thumbnail sketches of the dramatic personae at the start of the book are a lot to take in. It might have been better to have used each sketch, perhaps as a footnote or in the text, to introduce each character when they appear in the narrative. That said, I thoroughly enjoyed this book and found it helpful for the non-historian seeking to unravel and clarify a complex period of history.

The book is priced at £8.99 and is available from Cogito books in St Mary's Chare, Hexham.

Book Review:

The Hextol Collection,
Brian Tilley

Rodney Higgins

Reader of the *Hexham Courant* will be familiar with the weekly Hextol column. Hextol first made its appearance in November 1933 and has been written by six editors since then. For the last decade or so it has been written by Brian Tilley the deputy editor. For the last two years he has been named the North East's top columnist in the Tom Cordner North East Press awards. The judges thought that the Hextol column was one of the most enjoyable reads in

the entire awards list.

This book is a compilation of some 75 of the Hextol articles. They are a delight to read, drawing wit and wisdom out of everyday situations, from childhood memories to personal reflections on day-to-day living. It is a book you can dip into when you have a spare moment and it makes a most enjoyable read.

The book is priced at £9.99 and is available from the Hexham Courant office on Beaumont Street.

Monthly meeting of the HLHS are held at the Trinity Methodist Church Beaumont Street, Hexham. Starting at 7.30 pm. Free to members. £2 for non-members. All welcome.

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
Tuesday March 11,	Adrian Storrey	Old days and old ways in Bardon Mill.
AGM		
Tuesday April 08	Dr Leo Gooch	Northern Catholic gentry in the 18th Century
Tuesday May 13	Dr Paul Bidwell, Senior Archaeologist Tyne & Wear Museums	Roman stones and Anglo-Saxon architecture: the crypt at Hexham Abbey
The Hexham/Tom Corfe Memorial Lecture	Historic Corfe	

AND FINALLY:

To make sure you continue to receive the newsletter and the *Hexham Historian*, don't forget to renew your membership subscription. If you have not yet paid, and mislaid your renewal form, or if you require a form so that a friend or relation can join, please contact the membership secretary Mollie Telford, Dilstone, Burswell Villas, Hexham NE46 3LD.