



HEXHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Newsletter 67	Editor: Mark Benjamin (01434) 607746	Autumn/Winter 2013
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Hexham Historian wins again!

Ian Hancock's 2012 article *The Irish gent and his strumpet* has been awarded the prestigious prize for Best Long Article by the British Association for Local History. In June, Ian and Mark (as Editor) attended the BALH Conference in London where Ian was presented with his certificate by Dr David Hey, President of the BALH. The citation for Ian's article read, in part, "Historical detective work...presenting it in an account which is entertaining but (which) at the same time has sound scholarly protocols is admirable." Members will remember that this is the second time that the Historian has featured in the BALH awards, Greg Finch winning "Best Overall Article" for his 2009 article on Dotland. A hat-trick would be nice!

Hexham Historian : a correction

Less gratifyingly; a transcription error crept into the article on Edward Rotheram RN in this year's Historian. The restoration of Rotheram's grave in Bildeston by fellow naval officers took place in 1891, not 1981 as indicated in the article.

Forthcoming publication

A Pack of Idle Sparks: letters from Hexham: the church, the people, corruption and scandal, 1699-1740. Many members will be aware of our 5 year project to transcribe the letters of the Reverend George Ritschel jnr and his successor as Lecturer of Hexham, Thomas Andrewes, to the ecclesiastical authorities in York. This reaches its long-awaited conclusion with their publication this December. Ritschel and Andrewes presided over the local church courts, which sought, usually in vain, to control the moral conduct of the town. "Miserable sinners", "a vile crew", "rakes", and "a pack of idle sparks"; just some of the descriptions they used in discussing the misdemeanours of parishioners and clergy, marriages and wills, the constant scramble for money, petty feuds and corruption, the perilous state of the church fabric and many other aspects of church business in 18th century Hexham.

Having lain in the archives at York ever since, this fascinating but little-known collection is now published for the first time, shedding new light on the social history of 18th century Northumberland, thanks to the efforts of our transcription team. Accompanied by other relevant correspondence and extracts from church court records, these candid letters paint vivid pictures of local characters and their lost stories, from the 'smelly nut gatherers' to the case of Mary Nicholson's premature baby, from co-habitation and clandestine marriages to the pursuit of fathers of children born out of wedlock. Edited by our treasurer, Dr Greg Finch, the material is prefaced by a full introduction, including the fruits of new research into the Hexham area in 1700, and biographies of the main correspondents, prominent local people and churchmen. Complete with explanatory footnotes and a full index, the book will appeal to anyone with an interest in the period, the Hexham area and the families who lived here, providing new resources for social, family and local historians

The book goes on sale this December. At £27 for the hardback edition (with dustcover), and £18 for the softcover, this represents exceptional value compared to other similar publications of edited records. When ordering directly from our publications officer Ted Wall, HLHS members can buy the hardcover for just £20 or the softcover for a mere £15. To take advantage of this offer please place your order with Ted by 23rd November by emailing tandtw@hotmail.co.uk or ringing 01434 600422.

New on the Website Members' Library

John Martin (1789-1854): a selective bibliography. Compiled in 1976 for a Post Grad Diploma in Librarianship by Terry Benton, this is a descriptive listing of 122 items relating to the Haydon Bridge-born artist.

Following our appeal in the last issue for information on the whereabouts of the Social Services Club founded in 1933, Colin Dallison has produced a map from the 1960s, showing it to have been roughly where St Andrew's House now stands. The buildings, by then known as Hexham Community Centre, were purchased by Hexham UDC in 1963 for industrial development.

Websites of interest

www.englishimmigrants.com Led by Professor Mark Ormrod and Dr Jonathan Mackman, **England's Immigrants, 1330-1550** is a major research project being undertaken by York University exploring the extensive archival evidence about the names, origins, occupations and households of a significant number of foreigners who chose to make their lives and livelihoods in England in the era of the Hundred Years War, the Black Death and the Wars of the Roses. The project will contribute creatively to the longer-term history of immigration to England, and help to provide a deep historical and cultural context to contemporary debates over ethnicity, multiculturalism and national identity.

Scots, naturally, form the largest ethnic minority in Northumberland during this period, as evidenced in the project's study on the county. This is an ongoing project and should prove a fascinating resource for historians of the period.

www.localpopulationstudies.org.uk The website of the **Local Population Studies Society** promoting the history of population in local and regional contexts. Recent publications include: *Women's work in industrial England: regional and local perspectives* and *Rural community history from trade directories*.

www.breakingofbritain.ac.uk A collaboration between several universities to better study the period between 1216 and 1314 in which England and Scotland became more formally divided. The offshoot of this project was a database, containing information that was extracted from Pipe and Bench rolls. These are documents recording the Kings financial and legal activities and cover Northumberland, Westmoreland and Cumberland.

FACHRS

Members may also be interested in an organisation going by the snappy name of the Family & Community Historical Research Society. This is for "individuals who are interested in taking their family research beyond the individual family and look to place people within a community and seek to understand what was happening in that community at a specific point in the past". For further information about the Society, write to FACHRS, Fir Trees, 12 Fryer Close, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1RD or visit their website www.fachrs.com

Special Offer!

Your Family History magazine has had a relaunch, under the new title Discover your history. The new magazine, "will introduce the past through the eyes and voices of those who were there, in an accessible and engaging manner. It will also allow readers to interact, relate and share their own experiences and give feedback through social media, the magazine and website." As a special offer to our members, the publishers have put the entire first issue online free at <http://issuu.com/discoveryourhistory/docs/issue1>

Hexham Remembered

Members who are on Facebook may be interested to look at the HexhamRemembered page. Not to be confused with the book of the same name by Hilary Kristensen and Colin Dallison, this is a site to which people can upload photos and memories of life in Hexham's recent past. In a way, it is covering similar ground to which our projected Photo Archive is intended to cover, albeit in a less structured format!



An interesting aerial view of the west end of the town, dating from before 1936 and showing open land where the West End Methodist Church and police station now stand.

**Lord Allendale
and the mines**
Liz Sobell

It's not often that thoughts of lords of the manor and their rights impinge upon householders today, but many residents in the Hexham area recently received notices that Lord Allendale was registering his manorial rights. Some years ago, there was an alarming account in the news of a family who found that along with the ownership of their house came financial responsibility to repair the chancel of the local church.

The Land Registration Act of 2002 aimed to get rid of the possibility of such unwelcome surprises, by creating a new land register which would account for all ownership and interests over a piece of land, and this included manorial rights, the most important of which are the lord's rights to mines and minerals.

The lord of a manor historically owned the freehold of the land within the manor boundary: this land (especially in the north) usually divided into the lord's demesne lands which he kept for his own use, the lands occupied by his villeins, who received their land in exchange for working on the lord's demesnes, and the waste or common lands – land which wasn't under cultivation but which provided grazing and communal resources for those who held their land from the lord. As time went on, villein or 'unfree' tenure changed to a system of 'copyhold', where a person held land by virtue of a record of his tenancy entered in the manor court rolls of which he had a copy – hence 'copyhold'.

For this the tenant paid a small annual rent, but still owed a duty of service to the lord, for example attending the manor court, helping at harvest, shearing sheep, mending the mill, or ploughing the lord's land – all of which duties were itemised in the custom of the manor. The full description of copyhold tenure was 'tenancy by copy of the court roll, according to the custom of the manor, at the will of the lord'. These duties also were gradually replaced by money payments in lieu.

Copyhold tenure did not end until the Law of Property Act 1922, when all copyholds became freeholds by a process called 'enfranchisement'. However, the Act provided for the retention of rights to minerals and sporting if the lord of the manor had been entitled to them (by the custom of the manor) before the passing of the Act. Under the 2002 Land Registration Act, these 'manorial incidents' must

be clearly registered so that everyone can see that they exist. It does not mean that the lord of the manor is about to dig up anyone's garden, or that wide scale mining will return to the Tyne Valley – in fact nothing has changed except more open access to information.

**Kept Men in
Hexham
Bob Manning**

Some years ago, “back in the day” as they sometimes say, I rowed with some other likely lads at Hexham Boat Club, as it was then. Post rowing we retired to what was then called the Railway Hotel to do some essential indoor training; training in those days knew little of lactates, training pyramids and core stability.

So it was that we discussed the progress of our crew that Sunday morning. Then, as blokes gathered together supping ale are wont to do, our conversation turned to other rowing matters and the name of Jack Hopper cropped up. Jack rowed as a professional in the '20s and '30s and gained a reputation both locally and nationally as something of a “coming man” in rowing circles.

Overhearing this conversation were the kind of flat-capped, roll your own, stringy old chaps of indeterminate age who have claiming rights on particular corners in pubs. They nodded at they openly listened to our ramblings, then one said, “Aye, he was a grand sculler was Jack”. We looked in some confusion. “And mind, there was one thing about the lad, no matter how fast he sculled...you only knew he was on the watter ‘cos ye could see ‘im. Quietest rowing man I ever saw was Jack.” A long pause took place here as reflective sips of beer were taken, and there was much nodding of heads punctuated by affirmative “Ayes” and “Ah-huhs”. It was at this point we realised these men were of an age with Jack, who had passed away a few years previously. Talk went on to consider other aspects of professional rowing and the old chaps demonstrated a shrewd grasp of many of the finer points of professional sculling. Then came a further comment, “Mind, he was a kept man was Jack.”

“Aye, so he was”

“True enough, aye; now, who was that with?”

“Newcastle bookie as I remember”

“Aal mind the Aad Grey Bull had a kept man as weel.”

“True enough; wasn’t he a runner?”

Gradually, the significance of all this became clear. Back in the day, that phrase again, although most sport was essentially recreationally competitive, each had its ‘professional’ aspect which involved some quite significant amounts of money. Not only this, the real money was in gambling. The ‘bookies’ were not only those who made it their main source of income, but the pub landlords who ‘kept’ one or more useful sportsmen under their wing as it were and ran a book on them when they competed. Food, spending money and perhaps a job as a barman were part of the package although the main activity for these men was training, often with the landlord as coach.

Jack Hopper was provided for by a Newcastle bookie and trained by a coach at one of the many professional rowing clubs on the Tyne at Newcastle. He was often entered under a pseudonym to help with the final odds. In Hexham, the Grey Bull on Battle Hill had a runner who competed at various events in the North; the Skinners’ Arms on Gilesgate had a fighter as did a pub at Mickley. Undoubtedly, there were other pubs with their kept men. Elsewhere there were Cumberland Wrestlers, long distance walkers, ‘spring heel Jacks’ and so on.

It was only when reflected upon later that this sporting connection suggested some other enticing pieces of speculation. In my home city of Norwich, there were a couple of gyms located in the upstairs of pubs; I believe the same was true in London and perhaps elsewhere. Could it be that this, too, was a legacy of the era of ‘kept men’?

“So, did any of you row?” “Oh aye, most lads did in those days, rugby players, footballers and cricketers; out of season y’knaa, just to keep their fitness up...especially if there was a bit sweetener for some private races, like. Mind, only the real likely lads like Jack got taken on and kept.”

It was the man himself, Jack Hopper, who hinted at the reasons for the demise of professional rowing and perhaps the ‘professional’ side of other sports; although it lingered in some forms till relatively recently. In an interview for the Hexham Courant in 1978, Jack acknowledged that the professional sport of rowing had become so corrupt by the 1930s that the public became disillusioned and turned to other attractions; Association Football being the most obvious candidate.

The restoration of the Ladye Chapel

Cornelius van Twuyver, of West Palm Beach, Florida(!) sent this picture of a 33mm diameter token asking if we could tell him anything about it. Colin Dallison duly dug into his files and discovered that it is most likely to have been produced to acknowledge donations to the fund for the restoration of the Ladye Chapel in 1841, following the demolition of some houses abutting the east end of the abbey earlier that year. The architect commissioned for the restoration work was R W Billings; sadly, his work fell victim to the later "restoration" of the east end by Dobson but can be seen on p285 of Volume 5 of Richardson's *Local Historian's Tablebook* (1866).



Events for your diary

Wednesday 30th October, 2pm

Joseph Cowen MO, the Irish and the Newcastle Chronicle, 1850-1866

Talk by Joan Allen on the life and radical politics of Joseph Cowen. The talk takes place within the Archives education room, Discovery Museum. Free to attend, please email destination.tyneside@twmuseums.org.uk for more

information and to book.

Thursday 31st October, 7.30pm

The industrial archaeology of Northern England. Talk by Robert Forsythe. The Hearth, Horsley. Bookings and further info (0661) 853563 or www.thehearth.co.uk

Tuesday 12 November, 9.30am-2.30pm

Gathering Oral History activity day at The Heritage Centre, Bellingham

This free informal session is for anyone who wants to learn more about oral history interviewing. Liz O'Donnell, who is coordinating the oral history strand of the project, will be sharing some of the recordings already preserved for posterity (from Northumberland Archive's fabulous collection), along with the best techniques for successful interviewing. There will also be a chance for everyone to have a go with the equipment. Sessions on creating archives and planning for interpretation will follow later this year. For further information or to book a place, email liz.odonnell2@btinternet.com or ringing 01670 772486.

Thursday 21st November, 10am-12noon

The Breaking of Britain An introductory session to the project's websites (see above under Websites of Interest) Hexham Library

Tuesday 19th November, 7.30pm

The Trafalgar storm. An illustrated talk by Dr Dennis Wheeler, assisted by Dr Tony Barrow – see the weather map and hear the BBC shipping forecast for 21st October 1805. Understand how those on board the ships of both fleets interpreted the signs of impending bad weather as the battle progressed and learn of the impact on men and ships in its aftermath. Decide for yourself if the right decisions were taken. Trinity House, Newcastle upon Tyne. £2 entrance.

Thursday 28th November, 7.30pm

The development of railway signalling. A talk by Professor Ian Moffatt. Bookings and further info (0661) 853563 or www.thehearth.co.uk

Answers please!

1) Norma McCullum would like to learn more about her great grandfather **John French**. She has no dates for him but he was living in Hexham in 1880 when her grandfather Matthew was born. He was married to Mary Isabella Swinburn: her name may have been given as Mary Isabella Chicken at her marriage - her mother was Ann Swinburn, widow of Matthew Chicken who

had two children after his death. Ann is listed as a beerhousekeeper. Norma's email is norlin@paradise.net.nz

2) Robin Down is wanting to know more about the **GHQ Line and the headquarters at Beaufront Castle**. "As a resident of Beaufront Woodhead I am intrigued by this story but cannot understand the logic of placing the HQ north of the defensive line if the intention was to defend a Nazi attack from the north and destroy the Tyne bridges. I would appreciate any references which give a more detailed explanation particularly with regard to the precise nature/route of the GHQ Line." Contact Robin through Mark at (01434) 607746

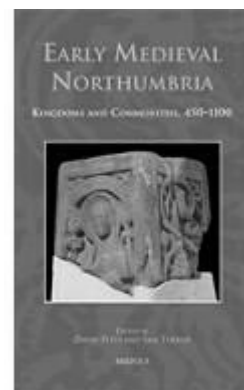
3) From an anonymous enquirer: "Does anyone know anything about the **underground rifle range and club**, in the ground of Dene House, it used to be called Dene Villa, when it was owned by Thompson Davison, I think it was built in the 1930's I have some information, but would like some more, if anyone can help, I would be extremely grateful. I have heard it was used by the Home Guard during WW2 for target practice." Any replies to Mark, please.

4) Susanne Ellingham asks: "I had a query from someone last week who is interested in bastles, fortified farms etc. He wondered whether there was any evidence for any medieval fortification of the farms at Coastley, Bagraw, Snape, Langhope and West Nubbock. Four of these were apparently linked in some 15th or 16th century survey suggesting they belonged to the same estate. I couldn't find any evidence on the www.gatehouse-gazetteer.info/Indexes/EngCounty/Northumberland.html site - but I did note there was a large empty area around there on the map linked to that website. I will pass on any comments." Reply to Susanne at susanneellingham@hotmail.com or to Mark on (01434) 607746

5) From an anonymous enquirer: "I am doing extensive research on **Hexham Manor Office**. I am interested in the history of the Manor Office in Hexham from 1824 to 1867 and the renovations made to the building at this time; Messrs Bell and Head - solicitors - 1830s; Lambtons Bank - run by the Gibson family 1860s; Cumberland Union Bank 1879-1881; The billiard club operating in the Manor Office - 1882; Hexham Rifle volunteers - 1882; Lockhart Brothers in Manor Office 1903-1927; H.K Lockhart, their nephew who was killed in 1915 in the first world war; What was happening in the Manor Offices between the wars; Firewatching in the building in WW2; What was happening in the building from 1945 to 1980" Replies via Mark, please

Book Review Greg Finch

Petts, David and Turner, Sam (eds.) **Early Medieval Northumbria: kingdoms and communities, AD 450-1100** (Brepols Publishers, Belgium. Studies in the Early Middle Ages 24, 2012) ISBN 978 2 503 52822 9. €115



This is a collection of academic papers arising from a conference in 2006 bringing together a wide range of specialist historians and archaeologists exploring the origins and development of the kingdom of Northumbria. The establishment and expansion of Northumbria across northern England and southern Scotland has direct relevance to the origins of Hexham, so while there is little specific coverage of the Hexham area within this volume, its subject matter provides relevant background to those with an interest in our area during this period. The editors' concise introduction admirably draws together findings from the work presented here and from other recent scholarship. The fourteen individual papers that follow, divided into two sections - 'Regions and Places' and 'Identities and Material Culture' - range from York to Scotland, and from the north-east coast to Galloway, and treat topics as diverse as the isotopic analysis of bone chemistry from early medieval burials at Bamburgh, place name studies, illuminated manuscripts, to regional variation in hair comb manufacturing techniques, accompanied by numerous maps and illustrations. Highlights for this reviewer include Dr Rob Collins' study of post-Roman occupation of sites in the military zone, which potentially established the basis for political fiefdoms before the arrival of the Angles. Dr Mark Wood's paper examines place-name evidence on either side of the present border in relation to archaeological material and identifies the limited concentrations of Anglian names. Felicity Clark offers some fascinating insights on Northumbrian frontiers, and the life of St. Wilfrid through careful use of three documentary and archaeological case studies. Prof Julian Richards and Dr John Naylor survey what concentrations of finds of artefacts can

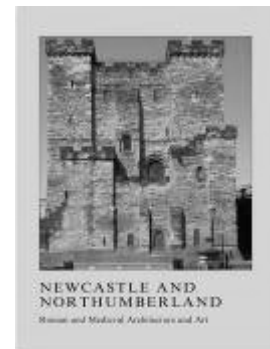
tell us about settlement and economy, concluding that the York and Whitby appeared to mark northern limits of early medieval European economic networks. If so, it cannot have been because travel further north was difficult. Professor Martin Carver and Dr Christopher Ferguson both highlight in their papers the importance and relative ease of coastal travel along the 'east coast highway', linking early monastic communities close to natural harbours from the Forth to the Humber – and penetrating further inland than we would consider possible today. The 'coastal' highway up the Tyne came as far as Prudhoe. But for the first few miles, Wilfrid could have travelled from Hexham to Ripon by boat. It has been increasingly clear that labelling this period as 'the Dark Ages' has long underplayed the diversity and sophistication of its life and culture. The range and detail of specialist research presented here makes its own contribution to dismantling the notion that these ages were dark because we know so little about them. However, the prohibitive expense of the book will probably put it beyond the reach of all but the most specialist libraries. (*It should be available from the British Library, however, through the Interlibrary Loan system – Ed*)

Book Review
Greg Finch

Ashbee, Jeremy and Luxford, Julian (eds)
Newcastle and Northumberland, Roman and Medieval architecture and art (British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions Vol XXXVI, 2013) ISBN 978 1 907975

93 6 Paperback £36

The publisher of this book has offered a 15% discount to any of our members ordering a copy of this book before 31 December 2013. If you wish to take advantage of this, please order from the [Oxbow books](#) website, and enter the code BAA15 at the checkout



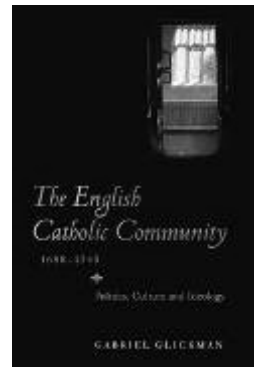
As the annual conferences of the British Archaeological Association move around the country, the organisation's 'Transactions' series publishes new research on the local medieval art and architecture. The papers in this volume therefore make important new contributions to knowledge of the local past following its Newcastle conference in 2010. Of particular interest to us are three papers dealing with aspects of the history of the Hexham Priory church. Firstly, Dr Jennifer Alexander of Warwick University provides a detailed examination of the surviving medieval fabric of the church, and visible masons' marks to determine the construction approach and sequence of building in the late 12th and early 13th century. This is thought to have been the first major rebuilding of the existing Anglo-Saxon structure following its refounding as an Augustinian priory much earlier in the 12th century. This is followed by Dr John Crook's study of the medieval saints' cults at Hexham. He argues that the design of the 7th century crypt was strongly influenced by the Roman catacombs visited by Wilfrid, and built to venerate relics he brought back from the city. Contemporary accounts of the moving and ceremonial enshrinement of relics highlight how Wilfrid's successors at Hexham also became the subject of veneration several centuries later. There was renewed interest in saints' cults around the country in the mid-12th century, and there was a large ceremony to enshrine the Hexham saints in 1155. The ceremony must have helped associate the recent foundation with ancient local roots. By the time of the Reformation, the cult of Hexham's saints is said to have passed into oblivion. The third article on Hexham, however, calls this into question. Dealing with the carved wooden screen at the west end of the choir, strictly a *pulpitum*, a raised pulpit required as part of the monastic ritual, Dr Charles Tracy comments that the fine images on its panels have a much more local flavour than was common in other large churches. Erected by Prior Smithson c.1500, just a few decades before the Reformation, it too celebrates Hexham's local saints and other Anglo-Saxon bishops. Tracy also draws our attention to the high quality carving, and finds echoes in the style employed in the only similar surviving pulpitum in Britain, in Carlisle, which is of similar vintage. He argues that both owe more to continental cultural influence via France and Flanders than to metropolitan England, as was also the case in Scotland. Amongst the twelve other papers are studies of Roman and early Northumbrian sculpture, Tynemouth Priory, Alnwick Castle, late medieval pilgrimage to the Farne Islands, and how the design of Warkworth Castle appears to have incorporated the need to protect women –or incarcerate them. Steven Brindle's article on the building of Newcastle's castle keep in Henry II's reign is prefaced by an excellent account of the politics of the troubled and insecure border in the first century after the Norman Conquest. Along with Professor Philip Dixon's fascinating study of how tower, pele and bastle building in the Borders responded to the varying geography of raids and hostilities, it offers an illuminating perspective of Tynedale's place in the development of the region.

The volume is highly illustrated, its many colour plates including much glorious detail from the Lindisfarne Gospels to complement an article on their use of colour.

Book Review
Greg Finch

Glickman, Gabriel **The English Catholic community 1688-1745: politics, culture and ideology** (Boydell Press, 2009) ISBN 978 1 84383 821 0, £25 paperback

Tynedale looms large in accounts of the Jacobite Rising of 1715. The Erringtons of Beaufront, the Swinburnes of Capheaton and, most of all, the Radcliffes of Dilston, were leading Catholic families in the area, and Hexham was viewed with some suspicion from afar before, during and after the failed rebellion. While this abortive attempt to overturn the succession of George I cannot be seen simply in religious terms, as shown by Leo Gooch in his engaging account of the North-eastern Jacobites, *The Desperate Faction*, (2001), Catholics were heavily involved in this and other plots to subvert the Protestant settlement of 1688. Any study of English Catholic society and thinking during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries is therefore of potential value to those with a deep interest in this aspect of our local past. Gabriel Glickman's scholarly study of Catholic politics, culture and ideology is clearly based on a great deal of primary research – including use of the Swinburne and Radcliffe papers in the Northumberland Archives. There is much here on the Catholic aristocrats and gentry around the exiled Stuart court in Europe, and discussion of theological developments and political views during the century after 1660. Glickman's 'Catholic Community' is that of the grandees and gentry, abroad and in England. They are the people who left the documentation. He has little or nothing to say about the lower echelons of society, and in fairness, he makes no claim to. Whether the families of Catholic tradesmen and labourers felt some religious allegiance and identity that transcended the ties of work and community, or whether the intrigues of an exiled lordly court were invisible and irrelevant compared to the priorities of getting by and getting on are questions outside the scope of his academic study.



And finally:
Scottish
connections

Duncan McIntosh writes: "I came across your Hexham Local History Society while browsing items about the area. I thought I would mention that I was born there on January 1st 1941, after my mother was sent there to avoid air raids in Newcastle. My parents often spoke of the severe snow at the time and my father driving from Newcastle in his van which was used as an ambulance for the duration. In fact, the story goes that he rushed into my mother's room and measured his length on the floor, slipping on the ice attached to his boots! I have fond memories of Northumberland, Newcastle and the surrounding area in which I grew up. I now live in Scotland, north of Inverness."

From the Dundee Courier and Daily Argus (Dundee, Scotland) Tuesday May 21 1861

A SINGULAR MARRIAGE – At Hexham, on Thursday, a marriage took place between Miss Pannel Harriet Waddilove, daughter of the late Rev. W. J. D. Waddilove, Beacon Grange, Hexham, and Percival Fenwick Clennell, Esq., Harbottle Castle, in this country. Mr Clennell is deaf and dumb. The officiating clergyman cut short the opening portion of the service, concluding thus: - "The causes for which matrimony was established are too obvious to need enumeration." In the portions addressed to the bridegroom, the clergyman pointed to the passages he was reading, the bridegroom followed him, and bowing his assent at the conclusion. The three portions commencing respectively, "Wilt thou have this woman," &c. - "I, M, take, N," &c. - "With this ring I thee wed," &c. were written by the bridegroom on three different slips of paper, and numbered 1, 2, 3, respectively, and delivered to the clergyman seriatim, duly signed "Percival Fenwick Clennell." After reading No. 1, as described above, the rev. gentleman said, "I declare to this congregation that he (the bridegroom) has notified to my comprehension that 'he will;' having followed me in the reading, and having written, signed, and delivered the same with his own hand. The same form of announcement (with the necessary variation) was made after the reading of Nos. 2 and 3. – Newcastle Daily Chronicle