

**WELCOME TO THE E – NEWSLETTER  
OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND &  
DURHAM  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
ISSUE 6 – NOVEMBER 2017**

Hello everyone,

Please remember to renew your membership January 1 – 31 December 2018. Thank you to those members who have already renewed their membership.

There has been no interest shown in taking up the role of Treasurer for the society, this post is the most important position in the society. Our present Treasurer, Carol Black, will be leaving the role on the 31 of December 2017. Carol has carried out her duty as the treasurer with accuracy and finesse. The trustees are sorry to see her leave the role and thank her very much for all that she has done for the society.

## **SPECIAL OFFERS**

### **Directories**

The Society has on microfiche a great selection of Directories of the area in Microfiche format. We are running a project to convert the microfiche images into .pdf format for production as CDs and data files readable on tablets etc.

If there is any Directory that you would like us to convert please let us know. We shall be starting with the earliest - Whiteheads 1778 and slowly working up to the 1850s.

## MI's

East Herrington MI's are now available for sale.

### VOLUNTEERS

The society is looking for volunteers to help with scanning micro-fiche etc.

All the work will be carried out in Percy House, full instructions will be given.

Contact: Gerry Langley [sales@ndfhs.org.uk](mailto:sales@ndfhs.org.uk) or leave your e-mail details at reception.

**EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR** - this role is still vacant, anyone wishing to come forward please contact

[chairman@ndfhs.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ndfhs.org.uk)

### WILLS PROJECT

Chester Ward East – Gateshead to South Shields available to purchase

Please visit the website for others CD's that are available

**Will of Thomas Wilson, occupation: Corver**, Pelaw Hill, Chester-le-Street, dated 1776

John Dakers- son in law, Granddaughter – Mary Daker, Grandson- Thomas Wilson, Daughter Catherine Dolbey, must not be used to pay off the debts of her husband William Dolbey. Granddaughters – Dorothy Harrison and Elizabeth Harrison, Granddaughter – Dorothy Dolbey . Grandsons – James & William Dolbey, Daughter – Mary.

### BRANCH MEETINGS

#### ALNWICK

7 November : Snooping on Family Snaps, Speaker: Julian Harrop

#### Belmont

15 November: Raby Castle through the Ages, Speaker Robert Hillary

#### Blyth

21 November: Tynemouth and Cullercoats Through Time, Speaker: Ken Hutchinson

12 December: Poetry for Christmas, Speaker: Alison Thoburn

#### Newcastle

1 November: Thomas Bewick, Northumberland's Greatest Artist and Naturalist, Speaker: Anthony Atkinson

#### **NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND**

18 November: John Black's Diary 1863 ( the Black family from 1787 to 1929), Speaker: David Lockey

**December – no meeting**

**NORTH TYNESIDE-** Speakers to be announced later - 1<sup>ST</sup> Tuesday in the month.

#### **SOUTH TYNESIDE**

15 November: Durham Wills, Speaker: Douglas Burdon

#### **TYNEDALE**

9 November: Members Forum, Entertainment before the era of television.

14 December: Life in Corbridge in the 50s & 60s, Speaker: Douglas Knott

#### **WANSBECK**

1 November: The Farne Islands, Speaker: Dr Ann Wilson

6 December: Murder in Bohemia & Christmas Quiz, Speaker, Wendy Stafford

#### **KNOW YOUR PARISH**

A S Angus    Volume 5 Number 2    January 1980



**HEDDON - ST ANDREW**

Heddon-on-the-Wall lies seven miles west of Newcastle and, as its name indicates, is on the line of the Roman Wall, a length of which may still be seen to the east of the village. In the centre of the village the ancient parish church of St. Andrew stands upon a rocky eminence near the junction where the 'Military Road', built after the 1745 Rebellion

upon the foundations of the Wall, diverges from the old road from Newcastle to Carlisle. A modern dual carriageway now by-passes the village to the north. Further north the clump of trees on the summit of the 500-foot Heddon Law forms a distinctive landmark, while to the south the ground falls away quite steeply to the River Tyne.

The old parish consisted of the six townships of Heddon-on-the-Wall, East Heddon, West Heddon, Houghton and Close House, Whitchester and Eachwick. After the Norman Conquest they formed part of the Barony of Styford, bestowed by Henry I on Hugh de Bolbec, whose grandson Walter de Bolbec in 1165 A.D. granted all rights and patronage in the church at Heddon to the monks of Blanchland. Following this the Saxon church was rebuilt, so that few traces of the original building remain, but the present church still contains some fine examples of Norman architecture.

The history of the church and parish are the subject of a paper presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1885 by Cadwallader Bates, and published in *Archaeologia Aeliana* 3, vol. XI. Anyone interested in the parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall is recommended to consult this work, and also *Northumberland County History*, Vol. XIII. The paper by Cadwallader Bates includes a map showing the boundaries of the townships which made up the parish, and also the boundary which separated Castle Ward from Tynedale Ward and which split the parish into two - a point to be remembered when searching the Census returns. It is recorded in the parish register by Vicar Armstrong that in 1792 the boundaries of the parish were perambulated by the Vicar, Churchwardens, and some of the principal inhabitants. The churchwardens at the time were Anthony Laws and Andrew Grey, and other names in the party included Peascod, Gilhespy, Robson, Mason, Wilson, Shotton and Blakey. The parish is described as 'bounded on the south by the River Tyne, or the Parish of Ryton, on the west partly by Ovingham Parish, & partly by Stamfordham Parish, on the north partly by Stamfordham Parish and partly by Newburn Parish - and on the east totally by Newburn Parish.' There is no mention of Ponteland Parish, which also bounds the northern side. In 1892 the parish boundaries were extended to include the township of Rudchester, formerly in Ovingham Parish.

Pedigrees of some families associated with Heddon-on-the-Wall are given in the NCH and by Cadwallader Bates. They include Read of Close House and West Heddon, Bewicke of Close House, Fenwick of East Heddon, Turpin of Whitchester, Fenwick and Scurfield of Eachwick, Bell and Spearman of Eachwick, and Fenwick of Heddon-on-the-Wall. One family connected with Eachwick was that of the poet, Mark Akenside. Other leading families mentioned by Bates are those of Creswell and Barkas.

The parish registers, which commence in 1656, have been deposited in the Northumberland County Record Office, along with the churchwardens' accounts and other records. Some extracts from the registers were published in the parish magazine in 1906 and copies of these are in the library of the Society of Genealogists. It is worth noting that some register entries have been transcribed from one book to another, and have not always been copied correctly; some appear three times. The Bishop's Transcripts for the

years April 1727 - March 1728 and 1762-1848 are held in Durham University Department of Palaeography.

In 1751 Vicar Armstrong estimated the population at 650, made up of 130 families of which 12 were dissenting (Presbyterians) Three years later these figures were 754, 175 and 13 respectively. The population in 1801 was 603, increasing to 813 in 1851 and 1145 in 1891.

The Churchwardens' Accounts, which start in 1671, include lists of those attending the meetings of the 'Four and Twenty' the surnames of those at a meeting in April 1745 were Armstrong (Vicar), Fenwick and Pattison (Churchwardens), Barkas, Softley, Laws, Thomson, Burrell, Clennell, Fairlas and Hunter. It is worth comparing these surnames with those of the householders of Heddon-on-the-Wall included in the Hearth Tax Returns for 1664 (Northumberland County Record Office): Fenwick, Hill, Winship, Oxley, Barkas, Creswell, Softley, Cooleing, Ladler, Hopper, Colson and Bewick.

Valuable information regarding East Heddon Township is contained in the Ridley papers in NRO. East Heddon came into the possession of Alderman Matthew White of Blagdon before 1716, and through him it passed to the Riddles. From the estate documents it is possible to trace the tenancies of the various farms over the next two centuries. The tenants in 1756, for example, were named Laws, Davison, Gilhespy and Lee.

The Tithe maps and apportionments (1839-1851) are also in NRO. The names of the landlords and tenants appear on the apportionments and have recently been indexed. Hodgson's Pedigrees (NCL) also contain a great deal of information about local families. Unfortunately the parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall is not included in Boyd's Marriage Index.

My own interest in Heddon is in the Laws family who farmed at Heddon Laws, Breckney Hill and East Heddon from about 1670 to 1850. The fact that some of their names are included in a list of pupils kept by William Robson, who was schoolmaster at Cambo from 1784 to 1807, leads me to believe that he must have taught in the vicinity of Heddon-on-the-Wall before going to Cambo. It might be worthwhile consulting his notebook (NRO) because he placed various signs against the names of his pupils to indicate, for example, when marriages took place between them.

The parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall has always been predominantly agricultural, but some coal mining has been carried out in the area, and a waggonway connected Heddon with the Wylam waggonway before 1787. The Bates family also owned a cement works. More recently the village has tended to become a dormitory for Newcastle, but in spite of its proximity to the city it retains much of its rural character.

The Society holds (as well as other material):

Heddon St Andrew

Parish Records      B 1747-1798, 1813-1839 M 1724-1753, 1798-1839,  
Bu 1724-1839      MIs

## **NEWS AND OTHER INFORMATION**

A new Branch of the society has been formed **North Tyneside Branch**, meets 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the month, 1.30 pm, at the Customer Service Centre/library at Northumberland Square, North Shields.

Helpful website

British & Irish Furniture Makers <https://bifmo.data.history.ac.uk>

This edition of the e-newsletter is a little shorter than is usual, but I do hope that you have enjoyed reading it. The next e-newsletter will have more content.

Joyce Jackman, e-Newsletters Editor/

Feedback is welcomed and do not be shy, if you wish to contribute please get in touch.

A Reminder

The deadline for submission of items for inclusion in the newsletter will be the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2018.

Items must be in the form of WORD, RTF or ODT file, to be attached to an e-mail and sent to:

[ndfhsnews@ndfhs.org.uk](mailto:ndfhsnews@ndfhs.org.uk) Photographs and other images should be attached separately as JPG files.