

**WELCOME TO THE E-NEWSLETTER
OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
ISSUE 7 – JANUARY 2017**

Hello everyone,

How the time flies it is the first month of another year and this year sees the centenary of the end of WW1.

The society is still looking for a

TREASURER

EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

BRANCH CO-ORDINATOR

and a

e- NEWSLETTER EDITOR

For details please contact chairman@ndfhs.or.g.uk

KNOW YOUR PARISH

ELSDON



In the Diocesan Year Book of 1968 the size of the "United Parish of the Rede Valley" is given as approximately 79,000 acres, and the population as 1,585 i.e. one person to about 50 acres!

There is no evidence that in the past it was ever more. This part of the Borders, is now, as ever, a wide, wild expanse of open moorland. The Normans subjugated and administered the area as Lords of Redesdale - Robert de Umfraville was the first, and the fine remains of the motte-and-bailey castle built by the Normans are still to be seen.

In medieval times Elsdon was the only organised settlement in this area, which was part of the Middle Marches. Lawlessness and poverty were rife for several reasons. Firstly, the ways in which land was inherited and acquired were many and various. One example was *gavelkind* which meant that a holding had to be divided between all family members, causing parcels of land to shrink every generation; secondly the Crown Writ did not run in the Borders until 1546. To these facts were added poor communications in such a wild and scattered population, and the ever present threat of the Scots. All this meant that the poor inhabitants were seldom able to better themselves and were often driven to theft and violence.

This was the state reported to Sir John Forster, Warden of the Middle Marches in 1575. The Wardens had the unenviable task of maintaining law and order: laws were strict and penalties savage. One such law was that none living on either side of the Border might intermarry without the consent of both English and Scottish wardens - a consent difficult to obtain, and the penalty: death. This was vigorously enforced, so, as late as 1587, Archie Graeme was hanged alongside his wife Mary Fenwick, a mother of just two months.

In 1564 a bye-law had been passed in Newcastle upon Tyne forbidding any Master to receive as an apprentice a youth born in Redesdale or the North Tyne Valley. The inhabitants continued to eke out a "self-subsistence" living by cattle rearing and, apart from an early charter for a weekly market, there is no evidence of any trade activity.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Redesdale was based at St. Cuthbert's, Elsdon. This encompassed the Lordship of Redesdale, Corsenside, Woodburn, Elsdon on the Coquet and north to Rochester and Byrness. In the 18th Century the Rev. Dutens gave £1,200 to endow a chapel in Byrness and provide a curate who was also to teach free of charge, 12 poor local children. Separate registers were kept at Byrness (christenings and burials only) from 1797, and are printed 1797-1812, in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, 3rd Series, Vol. 3, pp 23-29; original registers from 1813 are at Northumberland County Record Office.

In the 19th Century St. John's, Otterburn and Holy Trinity, Horsley were added to the churches in the Valley. The parish has remained virtually unchanged for 700 years.

In 1961 the parishes of Elsdon , Otterburn, Horsley and Byrness were combined to form the United Parish of the Rede Valley centred on Otterburn, and in 1969 Corsenside and Woodburn once more came into ecclesiastical association with them recently joined by Kirkwhelpington.

Elsdon parish registers date from 1672 with a gap 1679-84, and are to be consulted at Northumberland County Record Office. They have been printed 1672-1815 (Society of Antiquaries), copies being available in large libraries and the Society of Genealogists. Marriages 1672- 1812 are in Boyd's Marriage Index, and christenings and marriages 1672-1812 in the Computer File Index of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Twenty-three Monumental Inscriptions have been copied 1721-1836, in the Bell Manuscripts at Northumberland County Record Office.

The Lordship of Redesdale was held by the following families:

Umfraville	1085-1436
Taylboys	1436-1541
Wymbish	1541-1546
In Crown Possession	1546-1604
Earl of Dunbar	1604-1611
Howard, Earl of Suffolk	1613-1750
afterwards of Overacres	
Percy, Dukes of Northumberland	1750 to present.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Northem Historical Booklets 4 - Elsdon by G.N. Taylor pub. Frank Graham Newcastle

FOOTNOTE

Redesdale Rascals

A Survey and View of all Notorious, Lewde, Idle, and Misbehaved Persons in Redesdale, and of Their Fashion of Living, Dated 3rd November, 1618

- 1618 POTT, Michael, of the Cragge, a fugitive and outlawed
HALL, Martin, of Elsdon now a fugitive for sheep stealing
HALL, George, of Monkridge, a fugitive for stealing of a mare
HALL, John, of Elsdon (als. Long Parcies John) returned out of Ireland by what passe we know not, a riotous liver, ill reputed and much suspected having nothing to maintain himself with but by keeping an alehouse

NEW IN THE SHOP

Whiteheads Directory of Newcastle and Gateshead 1787. CD £7.25 inc UK Postage

Easington St Mary Monumental Inscriptions including photograph references.
Photographed and transcribed by John WARD. (Photographs are available through Percy House and our online Sales Section) Booklet £3.75 inc Postage

Ingram St. Michael and All Angels Monumental Inscriptions (Incorporating known previous versions) Photographed, transcribed & inputted by Alan Tully (Ed. John Ward) (Photographs are available through Percy House and our online Sales Section) Booklet £3.75 Inc Post.

These booklets are new transcriptions which include revisions from previous earlier versions.

Please remember, the booklets do **NOT** contain the photographs.

It is important that a visual record is recorded of Monumental Inscriptions and the society is active in ensuring that this happens, even if it means photographing in the right light conditions on a cold day in January

PHOTOGRAPHS OF MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

The Monumental Inscriptions for these locations have been revised and photographs taken of the existing gravestones which can be identified. A list of photographed MIs is to be found on the Society's website. Search ndfhs publications, click SHOP, MI Project images, download pdf for the name index and image reference (some MIs have several images – there is no extra cost). Use the order form on the previous website page. Alternatively order by post to SALES NDFHS Percy House Percy Street NEWCASTLE NE1 4PW. Enquiries can be made to sales@ndfhs.org.uk

BELTINGHAM St Cuthbert
BLYTH St Cuthbert
BIRTLEY St John
BIRTLEY St Joseph RC
BOLDON St Nicholas
CRAMLINGTON St Nicholas
DURHAM St Mary le Bow
DURHAM St Mary the Less
DURHAM St Oswald (churchyard)
EASINGTON St Mary
EAST RAINTON St Cuthbert
EIGHTON BANKS St Thomas
GATESHEAD St Mary
GATESHEAD FELL St John
GOSFORTH St Nicholas
GREAT LUMLEY Christchurch
HENSHAW All Hallows
HEXHAM St Andrew Cemetery (part)
HUNSTANWORTH St James
LONGHIRST
MONKWEARMOUTH St Peter
NEWCASTLE St Ann
NEWCASTLE St John
NEWCASTLE St Paul PENSHAW All Saints
RYHOPE St Paul
SEAHAM St Mary
SOUTH SHIELDS St Hilda
SOUTH SHIELDS St Simon
STANLEY St Andrew
TANFIELD St Margaret
WALLSEND St Peter
WARDEN St Michael
WASHINGTON Holy Trinity
WHITBURN St Mary
WHITLEY BAY St Paul
WOODHORN St Mary

In preparation or revision

BISHOPWEARMOUTH
BOTHAL
BRANCEPETH
BYRNES
DURHAM St Margaret
DURHAM St Nicholas
GATESHEAD St Cuthbert
HAYDON
HAYDON BRIDGE St Cuthbert
HEBRON
HEXHAM St Andrew's Cemetery (part)
HORSLEY
INGRAM - ready
NEWBIGGIN
NEWCASTLE All Saints
NEWCASTLE St Andrew
OVINGHAM
STELLA RC
WITTON GILBERT



Several more are in preparation. Please contact editor@ndfhs.org.uk if you are interested in a particular parish not yet on this list.

The Society has a large collection of inscriptions. Enquiries to sales@ndfhs.org.uk



THE BOOKWORM



In this issue the focus is on Felling Industrial Society Limited, Jubilee History, 1861-1911. 1912, Percy House reference: LH DUR 397.

At the time that the Society was formed, the chief features of the area were the two or three miniature denes. They reached from the higher hills of Windy Nook and Cleasby's on through the old turnpike to the newer road of that time called Sunderland Road. The publication goes on to describe the opportunities for education, local government and its inclusion in the constituency of North Durham. The spiritual needs of the district are recorded and the importance of the Chemical Industry for employment, names such as, Lee's, Allhusens, Frazer's, Emery's and Bramwells. In addition Gallon's Paper Mill is mentioned, that there were several quarries of good stone. Of course the Felling Colliery is included.

The publication has some very good photographs of employees over during the time the co-op had been open. The society continued to flourish and the first purpose built stores was in Gosforth Street, the building contractor for this was Wm. Alexander.

There are quite a number of good photographs of the officials and employees in the different departmentsd.

Branches

ALNWICK

No meetings in January & February.

6 March. Alnmouth and my Family, Speaker: John Yearnshire

BELMONT

21 February. Past Photos of the North East, Speaker: Julian Harrop

21 March. Mining Disasters in the North East, Speaker: Winfred Stokes

BLYTH

20 February. Bamburgh Early Medieval Burial Ground, Speaker: Graeme Young.

20 March. Secret Places of WW.2, Speaker: Dr Ian Roberts

LONDON - to be announced.

NEWCASTLE

7 February. Wellesley Training Ship, Speaker: Andrew Clark.

7 March. Marie Antoinette, Speaker: Prof. John Derry.

NORTH TYNESIDE

Details of meetings to be announced.

NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND

17 February. The Archives of the Duke of Northumberland, Speaker: Chris Hunwick.

17 March. Members' Stories: Finding our ancestors- practical tips.

SOUTH TYNESIDE

21 February. "Dunstan" Staiths, Steamers and Teemers. Speaker: Tony Stephenson

21 March. T.B.A

TYNEDALE

8 February. Remaking Beamish, Speaker: Geraldine Straker

WANSBECK

7 February. What's that Object? & Discussion about Conference

7 March. Monkey Business in a Medieval Abbey, Speaker: Barry Mead

WILLS PROJECT

The society is pleased to announce that the latest index in the Wills Project is now ready for sale.

COQUETDALE, covering the parishes of Alnham, Alwinton, Edlingham, Elsdon, Felton,

Holystone, Howick, Ilderton, Ingram, Lesbury, Longframlington, Longhoughton,

Rothbury, Shilbottle., Warkworth and Whittingham.

The CD is available from sales@ndfhs.org.uk £10.00 plus P & P

The index has been loaded onto the PC's in Percy House.

A reminder that the following Wills Indexes are available for sale: CHESTER WEST WARD, CHESTER MIDDLE WARD, CHESTER EAST WARD, CASTLE WARD EAST AND CASTLE WARD WEST

Will of James Johnson of Witton Hall, Rothbury, dated 23 November 1741, proved 11 December 1741

To Thomason Johnson, mother in lawy, five pounds

Sister, Margaret wifeof Joseph Atkinson, five pounds

Sister, Mary Waddle of Heddon in (sic) Wall, Widdow, five pounds

Sister, Hannah wife of John Drydon of Heddon of the Wall, five pounds

Nephew, George Taylor, son of my sister Elizabeth Taylor of Witton Hall, fifteen pounds to be paid when he reaches 21 years.

Niece, Margaret daughter of my sister Elizabeth Taylor, five pounds, to be paid when she reaches 21 years.

All my Real & Personal Estate, Household Furniture etc. Having my wearing apparel Great hcest and all m y Books. I give to my nephew George Taylor aforementioned after my just Debts and Funeral expenses. I give and betqueath the same unto my sister Elizabeth Taylor. The last mentioned is appointed as the Sole Executor.

News about websites

The Genealogist, has released the first part of the Lloyd George 'Domesday Survey' dated 1910, lists owners and occupiers, together with a map, locating an ancestor's house. At the time of writing this the first release has been City of London and Paddington. Over the next few months the rest of England will be placed on the site.

Ancestry.co.uk

The Dreadnought Seaman's Hospital- 100 years of Admissions Registers, covering 220,000 digital records featuring information on seafarers from across the world, including a large number of Indian and Asian seafarers.

FMP – Jersey Baps 1540- 1915, Marr. 1542-1940, Bur. 1541-1910.

Greater Manchester Baps. 1571-1910

Ancestors from Scotland.

Scottish/Irish clan families, tartans etc.

<http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/>

<http://www.electricscotland.com/espeople/index.htm>

The index to the whole of electricscotland can be found at the above website.

The National Archives have announced that it is seeking a supplier to digitise the England & Wales 1921 census records.

Joyce Jackman, e-Newsletter 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 1st 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 Photographs and other images should be attached separately as JPG files.