

WELCOME TO THE e-NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
ISSUE: 20 MAY 2021 EDITOR: JOYCE JACKMAN

Hello everyone,

It seems as if our world is starting to slowly open up again, fingers crossed that the lockdown we have been through in the last few months is the last one.

It is with pleasure that the Society announces that it will open the doors of the Library & Research Centre, 3rd Floor, Mea House on Monday 17 May, Mon-Thurs – 10-3pm. Our Volunteers are only too pleased to be returning to assist those who would like support with their research.

An Appeal

Due to some Volunteers 'retiring', there is a shortfall of Volunteers for the morning shift and also the afternoon shift on Tuesday .Times - 10-12.30 pm and 12.30 – 3pm, respectively. Please get in touch with the Chairman if you are interested.

Visitors must phone ahead because of the reduced size of the premises and also to comply with distancing measures. Coffee and tea can be bought from the nearby Cabin. The cafe on the ground floor of Mea House will be opening in August.

Sales are going ahead as usual. Research Requests can now be resumed.

BRANCHES

Belmond/Durham Branch - Zoom Meetings – Wednesday 1 pm.

durham-belmontbranch@ndfhs.org.uk

Wed 19 May "Death, Dirt & Disease in Durham City" - Presenter – David Butler

Wed 16 June "John George Lambton & Penshaw Monument" – Presenter – Bernard Hope.

Alnwick Branch - Zoom Meeting - Tuesday 7.30pm alnwickbranch@ndfhs.org.uk

Tuesday 1 June - Postcards, the original social medium. – Presenter - Pat Littlewood

Tuesday 6 July - The eccentric Brontes – Presenter - Stephanie Yearnshire

Our other Branches will probably be resuming face to face meetings in September if regulations at the time permit.

Shilbottle - J. K Brown

The parish of Shilbottle, separated from Alnwick in the north by Cawledge Burn, has Lesbury parish on the north-east, Warkworth to the east, and Felton and Guyzance to the south. The parish stands generally on high and exposed ground sloping from west to east towards the sea beyond Warkworth.

The name Shilbottle is derived from the Saxon Scyld who was settled here in the 4th Century. Scyld had his own "botle" meaning abode or dwelling place – "Scyld's botle". In other parts of the county Saxon owners have impressed the memory of their occupation at Harbottle, Lorbottle and Bothal, there are variations to the name: a Thomas Schiplingbotil was awarded lands in 1235: the Subsidy Roll of 1296 names it as Schiplingbotil and that of 1336 at Shilbotil. The parish comprises the townships of Shilbottle, Hartlaw, Whittle and Newton on the Moor.

Gilbert Tison, a standard bearer to the Conqueror, was awarded lands wrested from Saxon owners, and he gave his son Richard the lordship of Shilbottell. In about 1215 the manor, part of the barony of Alnwick, came through marriage into the possession of William, Baron Hilton of the Bishopric of Durham (Hylton near Sunderland). The Subsidy Roll of 1296 names Robert Hilton as the principal holder, in 1336 it is Alex, and then his son Robert in 1372. Robert exchanged it for lands in Yorkshire held by Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland.

In 1405, as a result of Henry Percy being in revolt against Henry 1V, the king for whom he had been mainly responsible in gaining the crown, Henry Percy forfeited his castle, the barony of Alnwick and Shilbottle. Shilbottle remained with the crown until granted to Northumbrian Robert, Lord Ogle, who by some agreement returned lands to the Percys -then Henry, the 4th Earl. The turbulent Percys were to lose and regain their northern estates more than once, and today the principal landowner of the parish is Henry, the 11th Duke.

The village of Shilbottle consists almost entirely of two long straggling rows of nondescript cottages, sloping towards the east and to the tower and church, the only imposing building of the village. There was probably a pre-Conquest church, but no remains of it have been found. The Norman church was demolished in 1884 when it was declared unfit for the requirements of the parishioners, and a new and larger building was erected on the same site. The memorial tablets which were in the old churchyard were removed and replaced in the new building, and many of the headstones in churchyard are older than the church.

From entries in the parish registers, which date from 1684, and from monumental inscriptions and lists of Freeholders, the most prominent families in the parish were the Cooks of Newton Hall. Samuel Cook died commanding the 8th Hussars at the Cape of Good Hope in 1816: his nephew, by Royal licence, assumed the name Widderington. Then there were the Hoggs and Laings of Hazon and the Actons. Eleanor, an Acton heiress, married Sir Ralph Percy, son of Henry, the 2nd Earl. Actons were also related to Sir William Hilton, descendant of the Hiltons who had held Shilbottle in the 14th Century. There were Lises, Strother of Newton, Widderington, Dand, Johnson, Buston, Selby, Stamp and Bacon Forster of Hartlaw, descendant of Bacon of Staward Pele and Forster of Adderstone.

In 1790, in order to raise funds for the maintenance of the church, a levy was imposed on all of the 58 farms. Freeholders were the Duke with 26 farms, William Bacon Forster with 12, Sam Cook with 6 and Clutterbuck with 5; these together with Strother, were the main subscribers.

In August 1665, in three collections, the parishioners raised 4/9d for the relief of sufferers from the great plague of London, and on 10 October 1665 9/5 ½ was collected at Shilbottle for sufferers in the great fire of London.

Richard, chaplain of Siplibottle, is named as the first vicar circa 1228. John Falder, the vicar in 1636, seems to have been quite a character, as in 1648 “ he has turned out and very ill-used after his sequestration being robbed abroad and plundered at home. He was forbid to keep school or use the common Prayer in a private congregation in his own house”. After the Commonwealth John was reinstated, and in 1669 Archdeacon Basire wrote “he has no gown but a cloke; he reads whining (wining); church and chancel, full of heaps of rubbish, and keeps his library under the communion table”

Whittle, south-west of Shilbottle Village, contained valuable seams of coal, and it is only within the last few years that the colliery has closed down. Whittle was part of the lordship of Shilbottle, and in the 13th and 14th Centuries was held by a family deriving its name from the place. Walter de Wytehull is mentioned in a court action in 1256, and later, in 1280, Gilbert de Whithill is mentioned. In 1296 Walter de Whithille was the only person assessed, but this was the last mention of Whittles. In 1488 William Swynhow (Swinhoe) paid rent for his lands at Whyhyll, and Swinhoes were there until 1693 when Whittle was leased to the Lawsons and then to the Clutterbucks of Warkworth.

Hazon was one of the manors held with the lordship of Shilbottle, and from the name of the place the family living there took their name. In 1202 Hugh of Heisende and German Tison reached an agreement concerning the woodlands at Heisende. The 1296 Subsidy Roll lists Hogains de Haysan. The last male of the family was at the end of the 14th Century when a Richard Hayzaund became a hermit at Warenford. In 1380 Hazon was purchased by Lawrence Acton of Newcastle, but by the mid 16th Century it was owned by the Lisles, who held it until 1760. It was then split up and sold to J.W Bacon and others.

When we starting looking more deeply into records that may give some clue to an ancestor, there are bound to legal documents involved. Here are a few legal terms to be found in documents.

NAMES IN DURHAM WILLS

Thomas Emmerson of Hill Topp in the Parish of Stanhope, Yeoman. Probate 3 May 1736

Nephew John Coulthard of Windyside Five shillings, Elizabeth Morey wife of John Morey Five shillings, Elizabeth Fleether wife of Thos. Fleether Five Shillings, loving grand daughter Elizabeth Emerson alias Harrison, all goods and chattels, if Elizabeth Emerson should die without heirs. One hundred pounds to be paid to John Coulthard, Elizabeth Morey and Isabell Fleether, divided between them. Well beloved friend Nicholas Shield of Harthome, Thomas Emerson of Low Rigg Executors in Trust for the said Elizabeth Emerson. Order the sum of Five pounds to be equally divided between Nicholas Shield and Thomas Emerson.

CODICIL

Jane Emerson my God daughter Tenn shillings, Margaret Dawson Daughter of Wm. Dawson Tenn shillings and to Joseph son of Joseph Lawson Tenn shillings. Cuthbert Emerson son of Cuthbert Emerson Tenn shillings. John Loafdale son of Johathon Loafdale Ten Shillings.

LEGAL TERMS IN DOCUMENTS

appurtenances: that which belongs to something else, an adjunct, accessory, an appendage

behoofe: for the benefit of

bond: agreement to pay a financial penalty if specified conditions are not met

burgage: A tenure by which lands or tenements in towns and cities were held for a small yearly rent.

copyhold: property held by copy of court roll

curtilage: a yard or court associated with a dwelling house

essoin: an excuse for not appearing in a court of law.

feoff: to grant possession of

feoffment: a simple grant of property

freehold: a person holding land in his own right, without limitation to any particular class of heirs.

fee-tail: an estate entailed to the possessor's heirs

messuage: a dwelling house with the adjacent buildings

quitclaim: deed renouncing any possible right to the property.

tenement: a formal description of any type of property, but particularly property including a building.

vassal: one holding and under a superior lord by feudal tenure; a feudatory; a slave

Websites

Scotland Archive Service - launch of online catalogue from Archives and Library holdings in Inverness, Portree, Fort William and Wick.

<http://familytr.ee/cata>

National Records of Scotland are available for the first time 1559-1900, includes, amongst others, images of Kirk Sessions, Court Records of the Church of Scotland. Accessed via www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk When you have accessed scotlandspeople, click on virtual volumes.

The images of the records can be viewed but there is a charge for downloading.

Indexes to railway employees accidents can be found by accessing the following, once you have accessed the website scroll down to the lower end of the first page and click to button to commence search www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk

People of 1381 <https://www.1381.online/>

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this letter.

Joyce Jackman, e-Newsletter Editor.

Feedback is welcomed.

A reminder:

The deadline for submission of items for inclusion in the newsletter will be the 1st day of January, April, July and October.

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