

RECORDS & RECOLLECTIONS

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The photograph shows a view of one of the impressive Giant Redwoods (Wellingtonias) at Hedgeley Hall.

Hedgeley was one of the first places in England to receive seedlings of these trees after they were discovered and brought back to the United Kingdom in 1852 (see the article on page 13)

SOCIETY NEWS

I must start with some items of personal news. It is with sadness that we have to report the death of Sheila Mavin. George and Sheila were both Alnwick Town Councillors and came regularly to Society meetings. Our sympathies are extended to George.

On 9th May our Secretary, Helen Dinsdale, was involved in a serious road accident which left her with broken arm, ankle, femur and pelvis. By the end of that week she had had surgery on all her injuries in the RVI in Newcastle and the news, as I write these notes on 15th May, is that the operations went well. We wish Helen a good recovery.

The third piece of news is that Walter and Doreen Carruthers are intending to leave Whittingham to move into Alnwick. Walter is a past Chairman of the Society and Doreen has been a member of our Committee for many years until her resignation this spring. Both have been staunch supporters of A&BLHS and we thank them for their work and commitment. We understand that they will continue to be members, although they may well not manage to get to many meetings.

We hope that you will enjoy the varied articles in this new issue of R&R. We made a recent decision that we should try to include brief summaries of our talks so that members who missed meetings would be able to see at least a flavour of what they missed.

Finally, do look at the details of our next talks programme on the final page. We think it's really good and just look at who we've got for November!

Richard Poppleton (Editor)



THE SOCIETY WEBSITE

The Society has had a website for a number of years. If you have ever tried to visit it you will soon have realised that it had become very dated. Certainly if you were not a member of A&BLHS and had found the site while searching for information on the local history of our part of Northumberland, we think you would have been unimpressed by what you found.

One of the reasons for this is that, as is regularly emphasised in the Society News section on the front page of recent R&Rs, we have what is now a tiny committee and we have no-one with website expertise. So we agreed that we needed to do something about this situation. If we are to attract interest and perhaps recruit some new members we must present a more welcoming and useful on-line presence. Accordingly we approached a small firm in Rothbury called The Design Desk and we have agreed to pay what is a really rather small fee, plus an annual 'retainer' to have our website updated and regularly managed for us. Peter Forrester who runs the company will add new material as and when we send it to him and make changes when necessary.

On the next page you will see a screen shot of part of the Home Page of the new site. If you use the internet do please visit the site. We shall try to have a photo gallery page on the site, as well as the rotating photos at the top of the home page. If you have good old-time photos squirrelled away at home that you think could be added to the gallery page and, when relevant used to help illustrate articles in Records & Recollections, please do look them out and send them to me at the address you can find on the back page of this and all issues of R&R. If they are old photos that you will want back then I'll scan them and immediately return the originals to you.

The web address for our site is www.alnandbreamishlhs.org.uk

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News

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GENERAL

CONTACT THE SOCIETY

Contact us through this website for membership enquiries or if you have information to share.

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NEXT TALK

The Society's next meeting is on 17th May 2017. The Military Traditions of North East England - Dr Dan Jackson

[More](#) →

HOME

Welcome to the website of the Aln & Breamish Local History Society [A&BLHS].

Based in the beautiful Whittingham Vale, the Society acts as a focus for those interested in the local history of North Northumberland, and in particular the Aln & Breamish Valleys.

The A&BLHS meets once a month during the autumn and early summer ; 7 lectures in all. Topics range from local speakers giving a fascinating look at the past, and researchers and archaeologists bringing us up to date with the latest projects and discoveries.

Meetings are held at the Whittingham Memorial Hall [NE66 4UP] on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7.30pm. After the talk, members enjoy a cup of tea together and have a chance to meet the speaker. Non-members are most welcome to attend our meetings [£3].

WALLINGTON and the TREVELYANS

On Wednesday 19th April 2017 Geoff Hughes gave us an entertaining talk about Wallington – its history and the current state of the house and grounds. This account gives a brief précis of his talk.

The original estate was merely a hunting lodge surrounded by shooting countryside and owned by the Fenwick family. However Sir John Fenwick chose the wrong side in the Civil Wars and before his inevitable demise sold the estate in 1688 to Sir William Blackett. Blackett's son carried out the first re-building and created four wings around a central open courtyard. The upper floors could only be reached by ladders as there were no staircases. The entertaining was obviously prodigious and six strong men were employed to carry the drunken guests up the ladders to their beds.

Then a generation further on Sir Walter Calverley Blackett transformed the estate, adding staircases and suites of rooms on the upper floor. He was the Blackett who brought the four Griffon heads (Eeny, Meeny, Miny and Moe!) to Wallington.



In 1777, because there was no direct Blackett heir, the estate passed to a nephew, Sir Charles Trevelyan. But he lived in Somerset and had no wish to move to Northumberland so he gave the house to his son, Sir John Trevelyan. At about this time a boy called Lancelot Brown would walk daily from Kirkharle to Cambo to go to school and he observed the vast changes and excavations that were being carried out at Wallington. So it was that later, as Capability Brown, he was involved in some aspects of developments at Wallington and he certainly had a hand in the creation of the “pleasure grounds” at Rothley Lakes.

An interesting Trevelyan in the 1800s was Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan. He was an aggressive teetotaler and when he inherited the estate the first thing he did was to lock the wine cellars and remove all the licences on the estate for the production and sale of liquor.

He was also something of a womaniser, although he was careful to keep his conquests to the 'servant class'. He built a roof over the central courtyard to create a new central hall for entertaining. This hall then had panels all round painted by the Pre-Raphaelite artist William Bell Scott (plus one painted by John Ruskin). When Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan died in 1879 the first action the servants took was to re-open the cellars.

Then in the first half of the 20th Century Sir Charles Philips Trevelyan inherited the estate. He was a Labour politician, MP for Newcastle Central and a member of the Labour Government in 1924. He went on a visit to post-revolutionary Russia. His companion returned completely disillusioned with what he saw in Russia, but Sir Charles was deeply impressed by the early Stalinist state and openly espoused communist values. He and his wife Molly added electricity and modern plumbing to the house and hosted many leading Labour visitors, especially at the time of the annual Durham Miners' Gala. They opened the house to the public and created the very first Northumberland Youth Hostel.



In the 1940s, whether from solely philanthropic and political motives or from financial ones, Sir Charles decided that the private ownership of land was unacceptable. He disinherited his family and donated the whole house and its estate to the National Trust on the proviso that the family should be allowed to stay in residence. His daughter, Patricia Jennings, who died in 2015 at the age of 97, would for many years entertain visitors on the Northumbrian Pipes.

The National Trust has, in recent years, carried out £2 million of renovations. One shock they discovered was that there were no proper foundations to the house. It was resting on a base of large logs of wood. Much money and effort had to be put in to add concrete foundations.

Geoff Hughes then took us on a whistle-stop tour of some of the main rooms in the house. Among the amazing facts was that one intricate plaster ceiling had not been re-painted since its creation, 250 years earlier. In one room is the desk that Thomas Babington Macaulay used when he wrote his History of England at Wallington. There is a major collection of dolls' houses, twelve of which were bequeathed to Wallington by a lady in Corbridge. One room has a vast collection of 3800 model soldiers.

The grounds include plenty of water that was always a major feature of Capability Brown landscapes. There is an impressive walled garden, although recently a sad tale of theft has occurred. The walled garden was always surrounded by classical-style bronze statues, but the tenacity of thieves has meant that those remaining have had to be removed.

Richard Poppleton

The History of Glanton Pyke and its Gardens

A talk by John Swanson to the A&BLHS on 15th March 2017

Glanton Pyke is situated about half a mile west of Glanton village on the north side of Whittingham Vale at a height of around 500 feet above sea level. The north gable of the house bears an Ordnance Survey bench mark at 498 feet.

The history of the estate at Glanton Pyke begins at Edlingham Castle.



There, in the late 1600's the Mills family who farmed at Lemmington were in residence and were keepers for the owners the Swinburns of Prudhoe. Close to the now ruined castle lies the Norman/Saxon church of St John the Baptist at the west end of whose plain but beautiful interior is a rather grand slate memorial plaque which charts and provides a useful who's who to most of the Mills family members.

William Mills lived in the castle and had 3 sons - Joseph, Jacob and John. In 1699 he bought land in Glanton which a year later he deeded to his son Jacob. In 1701 he sold further land and property in Glanton to another of his sons, Joseph who in 1703 purchased The Villa (now Whickam House) from Edward Collingwood. In 1706 Joseph bought out William and Jacob and thus assembled the estate of Glanton Pyke or Glanton Westfield as it was then known.

The motivation for Joseph's purchases is unclear. The land was high, poor by comparison with more fertile pasture at lower levels in the vale and most probably covered by whins. However he was one of 5 individuals who were simultaneously amassing landholdings in and around Glanton. By 1710 Anderson, Hopper, Hatkin, Potts and Mills each held fairly substantial areas and set about clearing and enclosing. These individuals were not the sons of wealthy landowners - they were Yeomen Farmers, for the most part Presbyterian dissenters and clearly entrepreneurs - keen to make money.

The Industrial and Agricultural revolutions were in full swing and perhaps provided the prime incentive for these individuals' land acquisition plans. On the agricultural side, the invention of the seed drill, the introduction of the iron plough and selective livestock breeding were beginning to revolutionise farming practice and accelerate output to feed the growing population. In the North East the industrial revolution was gathering pace with the massive expansion of coal and iron production and everything that brought with it. The Yeomen Farmers exploited the growing demand for agricultural produce and in due time demonstrated their new found wealth in the houses they built.

In 1741 Joseph Mills died and his second son John inherited the estate based at the Villa in Glanton. In 1743 he married Margaret Henderson and in 1753 they are recorded as living at Glanton Westfield (Glanton Pyke). This gives the first clue as to when there was first a house at Glanton Pyke – sometime between 1743 and 53. Let's call it the 1750's house

From today's floor plans, it's difficult to identify any of the original house save that the west elevation bears stone detailing which differs from the others, the cellar position seems quite disconnected from its access and more tellingly, the west range roof timbers are clearly older than its east-most counterparts.

The most compelling evidence of the 1750's house is from an inverted foundation stone inscribed IMM and dated 1770. Its inversion I shall deal with later, but on Armstrong's map of 1769 a house simply marked Pyke is shown which would seem to confirm the existing 1750's house predating the inverted foundation stone.



John and Margaret had 2 sons and 3 daughters. Joseph, Mary, Barbara, Thomas and Margaret. In 1780 Joseph married Mary Collingwood of Lilburn and in 1784 Margaret married Henry Collingwood of Liburn. A Mills brother and sister married a Collingwood brother and sister. John bequeathed Glanton Pyke to Joseph in 1782 and died there in 1786. In 1806 Joseph's son, another John, was in possession.

At the turn of the 19th century the impact of the Napoleonic war brought the national economy to near collapse. Agricultural output fell as did land prices – by almost 50%. The estate became heavily mortgaged and in 1811 was put in hands of trustees. Only Dean House and 70 acres sold. The balance consisting of cottages and workshops in Glanton together with the main estate of 245 acres and the mansion at Glanton Pyke remained unsold.

Joseph Mills died at Lilburn in 1819. A year later his wife Mary died. Margaret Collingwood, Henry's first wife (he had 4), had died, and in 1820 Henry, presumably seeing an opportunity, laid claim to the estate and took possession from the heavily indebted John Mills



for £15,000. By 1826 the Mills family were no longer land owners and had disappeared from the voters roll.

Henry Collingwood commissioned John Dobson who in 1824 remodelled the house interior, moved the entrance from the south to east elevation and extended the east wing northwards. In doing so the masons inverted the 1770 foundation stone to avoid building over it. As part of the overall revamping of the estate it is likely that

Dobson designed the entry gate screen and associated walling, the walled garden and moved the West Turnpike from the south to the north side of the house as evidenced by Fryer's map of 1820 showing the road to the south and Greenwoods later map of 1828 showing it running on the north.

In 1825 Henry, by will, left Glanton Pyke to his second son Frederick J W Collingwood who in 1838 married Mary, daughter of John Collingwood of Chirton (the brother of Admiral Collingwood). Frederick, an enthusiastic collector, arboriculturalist and gardener set about improving the house and grounds. He planted a number of specimen trees and woodland, laid out gardens, added vine houses, a game larder, a dovecote and extended the house still further to accommodate a growing household – in 1888 there were 11 staff.

Frederick died without an heir in 1898 and Glanton Pyke was inherited by Cuthbert Collingwood, the son of Edward Collingwood of Chirton and Lilburn. In 1923 Cuthbert inherited and moved to Lilburn Towers and Glanton Pyke was let.

During the Second World War years the house was requisitioned and used as an officers' mess. Some relics of the occupation still exist – gun mounts and guard house and nissen hut foundations - otherwise the house's interior remained unaltered and, remarkably, undamaged.

After the war the house was re-let and then in 1974 re-occupied by Susan Collingwood-Cameron, who had inherited the estate, and her husband Sam. In 1987 the house and policies of Glanton Pyke were subdivided from the balance of the estate and sold to John and Claire Swanson.

The Swansons set about restoring and repairing the house and grounds. The main house, stables and outbuildings were, for the most part, structurally sound and simply required cosmetic restoration – plumbing, wiring, heating, some window and door repairs and the like. Stable cottage was completely re-modelled internally, a garage added to the stable range, a porch to the west of the house and to mark the Millennium, Frederick Collingwood's charming dovecote was restored.

The policies and gardens presented a major challenge but because most of their structure had been lost, offered a 'blank canvas' opportunity.

The first project was the planning and restoration of the walled garden, vine-house and greenhouses. An old tennis court provided a useful base for polytunnels in which cuttings and seeds were planted to provide hedging, shrubs and saplings for the woodland which now surrounds the parkland to the south of the house and the newly planted trees within it. The specimen trees which had survived from the Frederick Collingwood 1800's garden were re-enforced by new specimens from northern Scotland,



France and Italy and are now beginning to make their mark on the landscape. In succeeding seasons, new features – the laburnum arch (inspired by Bodnant), the quarry garden, formal ponds, topiary, a maze and a variety of spaces or ‘rooms’ enclosed by decorative hedging and planting were added and are now of a maturity to realise and begin to reflect the original plans.

Glanton Pyke gardens open once a year to support the work of HospiceCare. They open on Sunday 11th June in 2017 [sadly this date precedes publication of this R&R – Ed.]

John Swanson

In January this year our Vice President, Bridget Winstanley, received this email from Richard Peroni. The content is self-explanatory, but do please note the request towards the end of the message about “.... little golden nuggets of information”. If you have any information, do please let the Editor know (contact details on the final page of this Journal)

Dear Bridget,

I am currently researching the life and work of a fascinating Victorian photographer - **Alexander Bassano**.

Along the way, I have been mystified how he and his siblings all managed to achieve celebrity in their chosen fields, displaying such creative abilities that defy their outwardly humble origins.

This research introduced me to **Rev. Alexander Browne**, sometime Lord of the Manor of Branton, and a member of the family who at different times owned Callaly Castle and Doxford Hall.

Your own article: *Five Alexanders and a Castle* from 2005 was extremely helpful in clarifying his connections with Northumberland; I wonder if your readers would be interested in learning how his story seems to dovetail into the life of Alexander Bassano's mother, Elizabeth. She is an enigmatic character; her family origins are less than clear, yet it may be that your readers may possess little golden nuggets of information that can lead us to understand her better.

I am attaching an article: **The Elusive Miss Browne**.

Kind regards, Richard Peroni

The Elusive Miss Browne

It started with an Artist, an Opera Singer and a Music Teacher. A brother and two sisters, surname Bassano. Alexander became one of the most successful High Society Court photographers of the Victorian era. Sister Louisa toured with Franz Liszt while still in her early twenties. And yet another sister, Josephine, styled herself as a Professor of Singing at the tender age of 20.

How, I wondered, could this be? What was the creative spark that lit up the lives of this talented family? Where did this creativity come from? A trawl through the obvious sources revealed nothing, offering no clue of any artistic inclinations. I needed to dig deeper.

There had been, of course, a family of artists named Bassano, who were active in Venice and the Veneto from the early 16th until the early 17th century. They were so-called because they lived and worked in Bassano del Grappa, near Venice. There was also a family of musicians who moved from Venice to England to the household of Henry VIII to serve the court. Over the intervening centuries a small number of merchants named Bassano had settled in England, but none were directly related to Clemente, father of the very talented Alexander, Louisa and Josephine.

Yet Clemente was a fishmonger, later a shopkeeper with an Italian warehouse (nowadays called a *deli*) near Leicester Square in London. He imported cheeses, meats and the finest Lucca cooking oil. He was well-known in the area, “renowned for well-cut features, rich facial colouring, and courteous manner. Even now the look of Signor Bassano, with his spare but curly, dark hair, thin, chiselled nose, olive complexion, and well-bred demeanour, remains impressed on the memory of (one) who address(ed) the Italian in his own language.”⁽¹⁾

Clemente died in 1833. He was 54 years old. He had married relatively late, when he was 37. So his children were still very young when he passed away: Louisa was 15, Alexander 5 and Josephine one. Even if Clemente had instilled in his young family an appetite for music and art, it surely would have fallen on his wife, Elizabeth, to ensure that the children received the very best training and education after his death.

This is where the mystery begins. For Elizabeth was only 16 when she married Clemente in 1816. She was pregnant with their first daughter Ann Elizabeth, and other children followed in quick succession. Could she have been sufficiently worldly-wise to be the one person to encourage the creative development of her children? Or were there others waiting in the wings to help? And if so, why?

In 1909, Ralph Thomas, wrote: “Miss (Louisa) Bassano was a friend of ours... so that I am able to give some particulars about her which will not be found anywhere else. (She) was second daughter of Clemente Bassano of Venezia. His wife, Elizabeth was born 17 March 1800 and died at Tooting 20 May 1893.”⁽²⁾

Why the mystery? Elizabeth’s birth or baptism records have not been found. Other sources, such as Census returns, state that Elizabeth was born in Scotland. Yet she was living in Rochester, in Kent, when she met and married Clemente, who was already established as a shop-keeper in London.

One other curiosity: Josephine Bassano, the youngest of the family, was not christened until 1851. This took place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. So, what scenario could exist that would

link Newcastle with Rochester, and explain how the Bassano children developed as artists in the years following their father's death? And why was Elizabeth's second son called Alexander, a name most unusual in the Kent parish registers at the time – but evident in profusion in the north of England and Scotland?

Step up to the plate: the Reverend Alexander Browne. A member of a family of Reverends, all wealthy, with interests in land and property in Kent and Northumberland. Alexander became Lord of the Manor of Branton on the death of his father; his forebears had previously owned Doxford Hall, near Alnwick.⁽³⁾ This was Landed Gentry, a family well-educated and cultured – just the ideal family support for the young mother Elizabeth, widowed early, with a large family to raise.

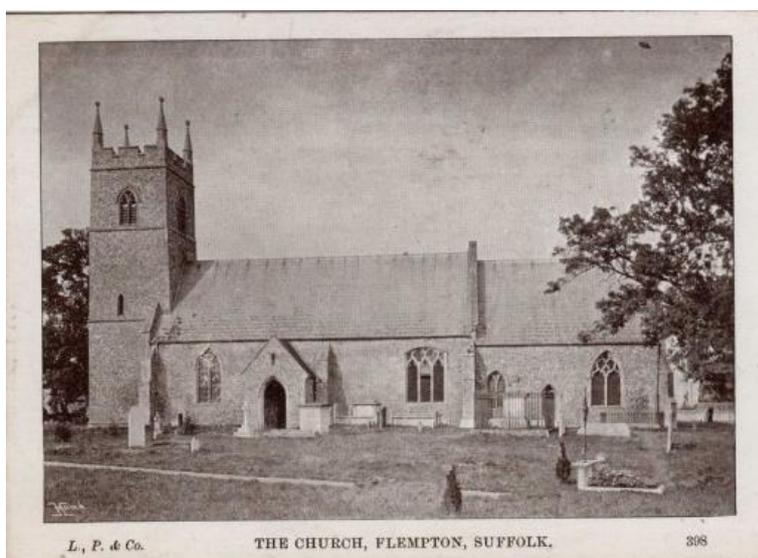
But how could they be related? Could it be that Elizabeth was illegitimate? Could it be that Alexander Browne was her father, or possibly her guardian? Could her place of birth, given as Scotland, be a smokescreen?

What do we know about this Alexander? Born in 1780, he was one of five children of the Rev. Nicholas Browne, of Rochester, and his wife Mary. He went to Eton, then to Christ's College, Cambridge in 1797, but 'migrated' to St. John's College in 1800, where he gained a BA.⁽⁴⁾ It was March 1800 when young Elizabeth was born. Could it be that Alexander had a liaison with a Cambridge girl?

Since he was studying for the Priesthood, this would have posed a few problems for him. We may assume that he would wish any child of his to be baptised, but no record has as yet been found. Nevertheless, he was ordained Deacon in September 1803 and Priest a year later. In 1806 Alexander was appointed Chaplain of Chatham Dockyard, taking over that responsibility from his father Nicholas. He was 26.

1807 saw his marriage to Susannah, the eldest daughter of wealthy Kent landowner Rev. William Fairman.⁽⁵⁾ They went on to have six children; the eldest son, Alexander, settled in Northumberland following army service, and in 1873 re-acquired Doxford Hall for the family.

Meanwhile, our Reverend Alexander continued as Chaplain of the Dockyard (officially until 1832), and was based at St. Margaret's Church in Rochester. His place in the town's



community is testified to by his involvement as trustee or executor of the wills of several local dignitaries; he was appointed J.P. In 1815, he was installed as Vicar of Rodmersham, in Kent, in theory until 1846, although the records show that he was installed Vicar of Flempton & Hengrave in Suffolk from 1845. How this all squares with the note on a lease dated 1819 which reads: *Lessee: Rev. Alexander Browne, late of Rochester but now of Ilfracombe, Devon, clerk,*⁽⁶⁾ we may never know. Bridget Winstanley in her article *Five*

Alexanders and a Castle, published in *Records and Recollections* in 2005 states that “he owned Branton but lived in Budleigh Salterton in Devon”. Most confusing!

Whatever the reality of her origins, our Elizabeth Browne was just 16 when she married Clemente Bassano in the Parish Church of All Saints, Frindsbury (pictured) on 18 November, 1816. He was 37. Frindsbury is just outside Rochester, across the river Medway, so it is beguiling to wonder why they chose to marry there, instead of St. Margaret's in Rochester, where the Reverend Alexander was based, and where their children were subsequently baptised. A further clue is provided by a memorial tablet



on the wall of All Saints, Frindsbury, which reads:

In memory of the Revd. Nicholas Browne D.D. of St. Margaret's next Rochester, who died February 11th, 1810, aged 73.

Elizabeth was widowed aged 33. For the next sixty years, she was head of a family which could boast of such creativity that most of her children achieved celebrity in their chosen fields. It is unlikely that she did this alone. It is most likely that she had the ongoing support of someone who had good reason to play a part in her children's creative development. What better reason than parenthood? It is beguiling to suppose that Elizabeth received this lasting support from the Reverend Alexander Browne. It is not yet proven; many of the clues are evident, others are tantalisingly close. The mystery will be solved.

- 1) *Recollections of Writers*. Charles & Mary Cowden Clarke, 1878
- 2) *Notes About the Rowland, Mallet, and Netherclift Families, and some relations and friends*. Ralph Thomas, printed for private circulation by Spottiswoode and Company, 1909.
- 3) *A History of Northumberland*. Northumberland County History Committee 1893 – 1940. Vol. 2
- 4) *Clergy of the Church of England Database*.
- 5) *The Athenaeum*. Vol. 2. P85, 1807
- 6) *Medway Ancestors*. In: cityark.medway.gov.uk

Richard Peroni © January 2017

THE TREES AT HEDGELEY HALL

David Douglas was born in 1799 at Scone in Perthshire. Having completed his apprenticeship as a gardener in the grounds of Scone Palace he then undertook further horticultural studies and he came to the attention of William Hooker, one of Britain's foremost botanists and Professor at Glasgow University. This led to the Royal Horticultural Society commissioning the 25 year old Douglas to undertake plant hunting expeditions in the west of North America. His second expedition in 1827 was the most successful. Among the many species he brought back, either as seed or as young plants, was the eponymous Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). In its native habitat this tree is known to grow to over 100m and has probably become the most important forestry tree in the world.



David Douglas 1799 to 1834



An old Douglas Fir trunk at Hedgeley

Douglas's early death at the age of 35 is an unsolved mystery. His body was found in a Pit Trap dug to catch wild bullocks in Hawaii. A bullock was also in the pit and it was easy to assume he had fallen in and been gored and trampled to death by the animal that had fallen in earlier. But there are also grounds to think he may have been murdered for the money he was carrying and his body dumped in the pit. Quite a life!

David Douglas's successes led to further expeditions by other plant hunters. In 1852 William Lobb, working for an English plant nursery, heard about and found the "Big Trees" in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains in California. They were magnificent. The best of these trees have been shown to have lived for around 3500 years. They are not as

tall as the biggest Douglas Firs or Coast Redwoods, however they can reach about 90m high and 11m in diameter and, by volume, are the largest trees known and are probably the largest individual living organisms on earth.

The Big Trees were originally given the name *Wellingtonia gigantea* in honour of the Duke of Wellington, much to the fury of the Americans who wanted to call it *Washingtonia* but were beaten to it by the British. In any case the scientific name later changed to the almost unpronounceable *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, but they are still most commonly known as Giant Redwood or Wellingtonia.

The reason for this botanical history lesson is that there are many places in our area where you can find Douglas Fir – there are several along the farm road at Titlington Mount – and there are some very good specimen trees at Hedgeley Hall which were planted in the mid-1800s. John Carr-Ellison's grounds at Hedgeley also have a number of Wellingtonias and

these are believed to be among the earliest specimens brought back to England by William Lobb in 1853.

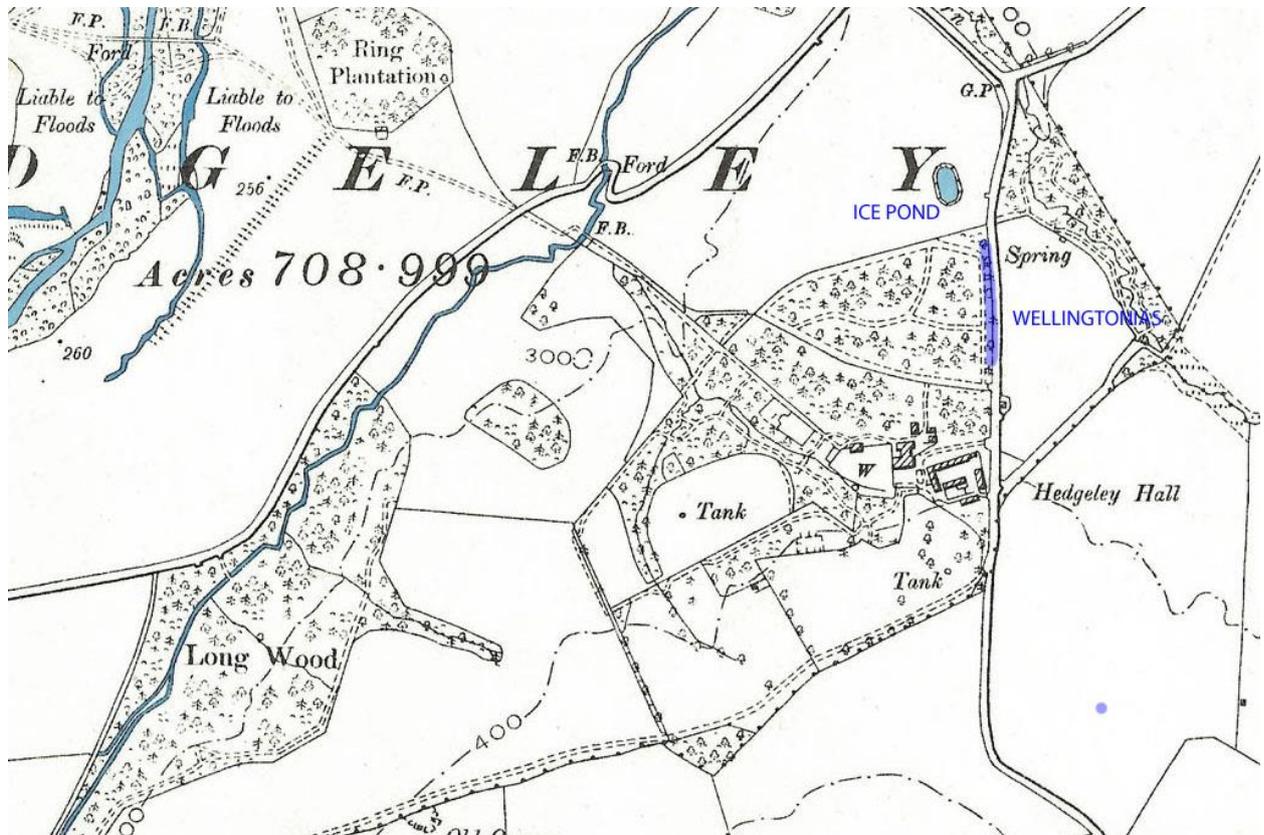
Many large estates in the nineteenth century became very keen to develop their grounds, especially in the areas close to the main house, in a way that enhanced the appearance of the area and added to the amenity value of the estate for the family and their guests.

The Victorian age was a time of adventurous plant hunters. Wealthy explorers organised expeditions to many parts of the globe, particularly to those parts that on maps of the time were coloured pink, and returned with a whole range of species that were not known in Britain. It is easy, with our 21st century views on conservation and biodiversity, to wonder how much damage some of these plant hunters may have done in their search for the rare and unusual. Just as we are amazed and more than a little disgusted at the idea that to further your interest in ornithology your method would often be to go out and shoot specimens so you could bring them home dead to study. And how about a day out in a tourist boat to Bass Rock armed not with binoculars but with a shotgun to have 'sport' shooting Gannets off their nests?

In the case of the Hedgeley Estate, as well as buying and planting specimens of unusual coniferous trees they also planted what are now splendid Beech trees in honour of the Battle of Trafalgar. The planting of trees to celebrate British military victories was not uncommon. In Swarland, on the open ground to the east of the houses, there were plantings deliberately arranged to represent the positions of the fleets at the Battle of The Nile in 1805. The positions of some of these groups of trees are still visible, at least from the air.

The other advantage enjoyed by the Hedgeley Estate was that a number of the male members of the family were in the Army, posted overseas, and sometimes they collected specimens of interesting trees and sent or brought them home. In the mid 1800s Cuthbert Ellison Carr, the brother of John Ralph Carr-Ellison (1852–1907) was in Victoria on the west coast of Canada. There, wherever there is waste ground in damp areas, a species of Alder tree colonises the ground like a weed. Red Alder (*Alnus rubra*) is closely related to our native Alder, but is an unusual tree in Britain, found only where it has been deliberately introduced from North America. In the field below Hedgeley Hall is a more or less permanent pond known as the Ice Pond. Growing at the edge of this pond is at least one mature tree that is probably a Red Alder (investigations are currently in hand). It is far too young to be one of the original trees, but as there are no other Red Alders in the vicinity it may well be a direct descendant of the originals. The young spring leaves are pictured.





The map shows Hedgeley Hall and its associated grounds in 1899. The position of the main planting of the Wellingtonias is marked, as is the Ice Pond where the Red Alders were planted.

Of course the introduction of more or less exotic trees to an estate like Hedgeley is hardly the first time that trees have been an important part of the landscape here. The scale of some of the plantings of commercial and landscape trees 220 years ago can be seen from the document below. Many of the Carr-Ellison archive papers are now housed at the Woodhorn County Archive and some, like this and the subsequent documents, have been transcribed from their original handwritten form into typed versions.

During the transcriptions various efforts have been made to clarify some of the abbreviations in the originals, using square brackets, while trying to remain true to the original spellings. Whether all the misspellings were as written in the original or whether some are typographic errors is not clear. The spelling of Ellms, Oaks, Beach and Sprues were undoubtedly as written by John Chisholm, but the word Alers, which must mean Alders, might be a modern typographic error. And what Lants and Carigs were is not explained.

Records & Recollections

(Itemised account from John Chisholm, nurseryman, to John Carr)

| | | |
|------|---|-----------------|
| 1796 | John Carr Esqui[re] to J. Chisholm Dr. | |
| | To 2000 Ash Ellm Oack & Beach at 4/6 Per l[oa]d | £4 - 10 |
| | To 800 Lants at 5/- | 2 - - |
| | To 400 Sprues(sic) | - 4 - |
| | To 7000 Seeds, Scotch firs at 2/6 | - 17 6 |
| | To 10,000 Transplanted at 8/- | 4 - - |
| | To Carigs of D[itt]o | 2 - - |
| 1797 | To Piling & Planting D[itt]o | 3 4 - |
| | To 2,200 Lants at 5/- | 5 10 - |
| | To 4000 Ash Ellm &c | 9 - - |
| | To 200 Alers & Willows &c | - 8 - |
| | To 20 th[ousan]d Transplanted firs | 8 - - |
| | To 8000 Seed D[itt]o | 1 - - |
| | To 600 Spruce | 1 4 - |
| | To Petting & Planting D[itt]o | 5 17 6 |
| | To Carriage | <u>3 - -</u> |
| | | <u>£50 15 -</u> |

(The following has been added in the handwriting of John Carr)

NewCastle Oct[obe]r 29th 1798 Rec[eive]d of John Carr &c forty five Pounds on acct. of this Bill – the rest liable to be deducted according to the number of the Trees planted in a close Row by the Walls.

(There follows the signature of John Chisholm)

John Chisholm was not the only nurseryman that the Estate dealt with. The following letter is from Andrew Wilkie, nurserymen at Wooler, in 1798. He is clearly trying to elicit payment of a sum of money that he claims to be owed, whilst also using the letter as a marketing tool to emphasise the great value of the trees he supplies and to advise John Carr of possible further planting work that would enhance the estate and lead to future profits.

Despite some of the somewhat strange spelling and the almost total lack of punctuation it is not too hard to read Andrew Wilkie's letter and only one term "Trinched Up" is problematic. From its context it is likely that it simply means 'felled'.

Records & Recollections

(Letter from Andrew Wilkie, nurseryman, to John Carr)

Wooler 27 November 1798

Mr Carr
Sir/

there is a Small Ball[ance]s in my Last Acct: you will have my Bill By you[.] It is o[r]der of £17 I Rec[eive]d of it £15. If I Knowed When To Find you at Hedgeley I Should Take the Pleasure of Waiting on you there. Am Sorry Mr Carr Have not Done any thing In my Way Last year; I Take this oportunity(sic) To Solicit your obliging Orders this year[.] I Have the Pleasure To add Every thing I have had the Favour To Plant for Mr Carr Both at Prindick And Here appears to Give the apearance of Pleasure and Profitt. I cannot Help observing In this Place the Loss of these old Scotch fir Plantations I mean them Long Stripes Down from the Street for In Fact if they were To Stand An hundred years they will Be Little more Vallue To you then this Day where as if they were Trinched Up a Part of them Every year And Planted a fresh In the Manner that I Planted that South End of one of them with Valluable Trees What an Emprovement it would make. Besides they themselves would Pay all Expences if they were Sold this Last Hint I Leave To your own Observation And I wish To In form you I have a Compleat Colection of usefull Trees on Hand this Season[.]

Mr Carr once observed To me of Planting these Slipping Bankes that Lies Towards Powburn[.] its(sic) a Pity To Loss Time as the Land is Good you might in a few years See the Trees Make Great Progress on that Situation your further Orders will much Oblige

Sir

Your most Humble s[er]vant

And[re]w Wilkie

PS: youre Notice, Ill Take the Pleasure of Waiting on Mr Carr Any Day Conventant

The final two documents relate to Sam Bell who was employed by the Estate as a forester/nurseryman in 1801.

In 1805 John Carr had a son, Ralph, and the relationship between the forester and the family is seen from this letter he wrote to his employer. The general meaning of the text is not too hard to follow, although there are a number of words that one needs to guess at and some that appear to refer to specific parts of Prendwick farm land and which make no sense unless you knew the area well.

(Letter from Samuel Bell, nurseryman to John Carr, on the birth of Ralph Carr.)

The following note has been added by Ralph Henry Carr-Ellison at the top RH corner of the letter: "Sam Bell planted most of the woods at Hedgeley & Prendwick"

Hedgeley Dec[embe]r 6th 1805

Sir

I rec[eive]d your letter - we air all happy to hear my mistress & your sone is dowing well – in please God to spair him with health I hope to have the pleasure of seeing him at Hedgeley in the spring[.] I went to prendick yesterday & met with Mr Tate their he and the milright, was

going to set out the water level this day for the Mahseen - rogers has got verry well forward with the planting – he has planted 12000 trees – they seem verry well done & good trees[.] Mr Tate & I thinks it wood be advisable not to plant aney more till the spring as the ground now a pears verry wet. I believe it wood bean better if it had bean all refard till the spring the Turnip land appears verry wet at present. Every thing is going on verry well, I think - Mr Tate will write you more particulars as soon as he gets home - Mr Reed sais he will send down 10 ? on sonday - I have got all our fencing in the north field finished I expect that Stake Fence will turn the hairs. I have got all our kitchen garden cleard of trees & most part of them transplanted - all the Quickney part whair the larches and beaches was well brinched. I intend to keep close to the nursery till I get all our vacint ground fild up[.] I have planted part of the wood hid(sic), but its not finished yet[.] I take it as the weathor suits we can plant their when we cannot in the nursery - I mean to put a few oks into the sliding bank trees - bob will finished plowing the wheat stuble to morrow. I will get forward with Every thing as fast as time & weather will admit - the Emerey(sic) Tho[ma]s Tunny brot is the same as you sent - I expect she will be soon to her former polise - the wild ducks is verry scarce this fine weather - I don't think theirs be a cock in our wood this season - little bettey returns you thank(sic) for your kind offer but she thinks hir self a great deal stronger then when you was at Hedgeley

Sam[ue]l Bell

I forgot to give you Mr fallas acct. before you left Hedgeley he shood know we wont want the mountain ash that was be spoke.

Then, 32 years later, we have a further note based on Sam Bell's involvement with the Estate. The note was made in 1837 by that same Ralph Carr whose birth Sam had written to John Carr about in 1805. By the time of this note Sam had worked for the Hedgeley Estate for 36 years,.

(in the handwriting of Ralph Carr 1805-1884)

Memoranda concerning plantations at Hedgeley – from Sam Bell's words

On Sept[embe]r 21 1837, I went over the plant[at]ions at Hedgeley with old Sam, he riding the black mare. After Mr Widdrington's death in 1797 or 98 Sam was one year at Leamington in the service of Mr Fenwick, and two years at Alwick as a market gardener or nurseryman. In 1801 Sam entered my Father's service, having been under promise from the first to come as soon as he could be employed.

My Father was then at Sunderland (South) with the North[umberla]nd Militia. Sam had just advertised for a situation. Mr Blackett of Wylam and Mr Charles Clavering both answered the advertisement, but Mr Russell (?) of Brancepeth agreed to his terms. On reference being made to my Father, as Mr Widdrington's Executor, for a character, he at once engaged Sam himself "and he wrote for me to meet him at Park House where he was to come for he was then courting Miss Ellison".

Sam being engaged came at once to Hedgeley and went to the moors with my Father, for it was in August: his family came from Alwick at Martinmass.

It was while Sam lived at Leamington that the stables at Hedgeley were burnt down, when a cow perished, but most regretted was the loss of Cato a wonderfully fine setter. Sam who

has shot with scores of dogs, never saw such an one as Cato – “he was as wise as a person”.

Sam while he lived at Alwick used to meet my Father here occasionally to thin the few existing spots of plantation for rails &c.

They also cut some older Scotch firs to roof the stables and cartshed. (N.B. In the cartshed which is open to the air beneath, they have lasted very well.)

The plantation behind the stables and about the back door of the house was first formed; and in 1801 these trees came from Mr Rogers of Chatton. Next were planted the rabbit-banks. The large “wood” was also formed with trees from Chatton, “but often bete up with our own seedlings”. The scotch firs in the wood were planted in holes like the Laidwood , and failed, but Sam asked leave to “slit in[“] some overgrown plants of scotch fir, from the nursery, along the top of the wood, which completely succeeded.

To be continued when I can see old Sam again.

A great deal of Beech mast, maple seed, and a quantity of acorns were gathered at Eslington and sown in the nursery at Hedgeley. “We also employed people to gather ash seed in the country for us”. Quere(sic) whence did it chiefly come? Most of the hazels were raised from nuts from Dunston Hill.

(This note has been added later) *Written by my Father Ralph Carr. J.R. Carr-Ellison*

It may help readers of this article to have a quick view of the Carr-Ellison family succession. One thing to note is that the family surname was Carr until John Carr (1764 to 1817) married Miss Ellison when the name was changed to Carr-Ellison.

- a. Ralph Carr (1711-1806) of Dunston Hill. Bought Hedgeley and Prendwick
- b. John Carr (1764-1817). Married Miss Ellison
- c. Ralph Carr then Carr-Ellison (1805-1884). He was the naturalist and planter at Hedgeley in the 1840s to 1870s
- d. John Ralph Carr-Ellison (1832-1907). His brother was Cuthbert Ellison Carr
- e. Ralph Harry Carr-Ellison (1863-1923).
- f. John Campbell Carr-Ellison (1897-1956)
- g. Ralph Harry Carr-Ellison (1925- 2014)
- h. Major John McMorrough Carr-Ellison – the current occupant of Hedgeley Hall

By Richard Poppleton (with the agreement and assistance of Major John Carr-Ellison)

FORMER ALNWICK TO CORNHILL RAILWAY BRANCH

In the previous three issues of Records & Recollections we published Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the full text of Mary Brown's article about the history of the Alnwick to Cornhill railway. We are indebted to Mary's nephew Alan Brown who lives in the USA for providing this material for publication.

We left the story at the outbreak of the Second World War, with the railway already in a state of decline. The passenger service had ceased and the volume of goods being transported by rail had been seriously reduced with competition from road transport. This final part of the story takes us to the demise of the Alnwick to Wooler part of the line in 1953 and the absolute death knell in 1965.

PART 4

By 1939 the traffic figures had deteriorated so seriously that it seemed nothing could save the branch from complete extinction. However, WWII did just that, and extended the life of the line for a further 14 years.

Immediately prior to the War, one goods train and a parcels train ran over the branch once a day. Station Master Watson recalls that the main traffic then from Whittingham was cattle, and that only he and the Porter-Signalman, William Henderson, were on the staff. By September 1939, traffic previously taken by road was diverted to the railways, and the "west line" leapt once again to life.

Quite suddenly the whole countryside was rudely awakened by all manner of activities. Up and down the branch, large houses and estates were turned over for the military, food storage depots and the storage of munitions. T.N.T. and cordite were stored at Lorbottle Hall; Callaly Castle was a hospital; Eslington Hall was a boys' school evacuated from Newcastle; Broomepark Hall (now demolished), Bolton Hall, Glanton Pyke, Titlington Hall, the external buildings at Callaly Castle and Whittingham Memorial Institute were among places used by the military. There was a huge petrol depot near Callaly. Timber was in great demand and was an important item of freight.

At some of these small stations one could see tanks, trees, cattle, flour, slag, lime, grain all being on rail or off-loaded. Civilians and military milling around – truly an amazing scene when one considers the facilities and staff available. The Station Masters were unable to deal with the mass of clerical work thrust upon them, so once again the small branch stations were given extra staff for this purpose.

{M.H.B.'s comment: a motor lorry was stationed at Whittingham for the area including Glanton and Hedgeley, but it was on numerous occasions helped out by lorries from Alnwick and Wooler. During the whole of the War there was gravel from Hedgeley as well as Station Master's coal and coke to traffic}.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

No sooner had the War ended than everyone's thoughts turned again to the roads, and within a year or two, the traffic on the branch dropped once more. Even the cattle and sheep sent by train before the War were now taken in large stock wagons by road.

Records & Recollections

Hedgeley was losing its gravel also to road transportation, and the long goods trains of the 1940's, too heavy to take over the summit with one engine, and split at Whittingham Station for the engine to make a second journey, were seen no more. Staff cuts were inevitable, the clerks disappeared, and the Whittingham lorry was dispatched back to Alnwick.

The great snow storm of 1947 helped for a few months as the railway was able to operate while road transportation was at a standstill.

August 1948 is a month which must figure prominently in the history of the branch. It was then that the great rains came. The Northumberland Gazette reported that Northumberland recorded only 3.5 hours of sunshine. Some road bridges were destroyed by flooding: these were at Kimmerston, Holborn, Doddington, Chatton Park, Black Bridge (south east of Wooler) and Eastfield at Warkworth.

The most important bridge, so far as this story is concerned, was the rail bridge at Kilham, which Station Master Wood, then at Whittingham, recalls was damaged and the line broken on 12th August, 1948.

The Newcastle Journal of August 1969 looked back to those storms and stated that north of Wooler, fields which before the storm had borne good-standing crops, were marked out by only partly visible hedge-tops. It went on to report that because of the dangerous state of the main Edinburgh line north of Berwick, British Railways decided, around 13th August, to divert their Kings Cross to Edinburgh express via Carlisle (on the west coast). On 17th August, Berwick Station headquarters were temporarily transferred across the river to Tweedmouth because of fears about the Royal Border Bridge.

In these circumstances, it would appear that our branch line was fortunate in that only one of its bridges was damaged, but one bridge proved to be more than enough. Station Master Wood said that from then on the Wooler goods traffic, which had previously been sent north through Cornhill, had to be brought out to Alnwick by Alnmouth staff and engines.

Traffic figures for the entire branch were researched in the following months, and possibly while these were still being studied, in November 1949 (S.M. Wood's memory to the rescue again), the Ilderton Bridge was destroyed. British Railways decided to repair the Kilham bridge so that the Wooler traffic could once more be handled by Tweedmouth engines through Cornhill.

{M.H.B. note: quite recently I found the following note in my 1949 diary – 26th October "Part of Ilderton Bridge washed away – only train was a special". When I wrote that, I would never dream that it would become part of the story of the branch 20 years later.}

The traffic from the Alnwick end of the line terminated at Ilderton – goods and parcels – and a motor connection was laid on between Ilderton and Wooler.

In 1952 S.M. Wood left Whittingham to move to Christon Bank, where there was for the time being more security, and Station Master Jefferson, at Hedgeley Station, took over, supervising Edlingham, Whittingham, Glanton and Hedgeley Stations for a short time.

Arrangements were made for the delivery of traffic by motor lorry from Alnwick, and the Alnwick-Wooler section of the branch, which had been sinking for a few years, died peacefully on the 2nd March, 1953, although the section from Wooler to Cornhill continued until April, 1965.

With what seems indecent haste, the lines were torn up and many buildings dismantled. I understand that previous landowners were given first option to buy back the land. Some of the Station Masters' houses and offices along the line – even the Crossing Box at Wooperton – became retreats for town's people!



Whittingham Station in 1953 after the closure of the line

So there it was: in 1887 the trains took over the public transport from stage coaches and horse-drawn vehicles, and in 1953, the motor car, bus, livestock wagon and lorry all proved too much for the railway.

Now only the remaining elegant station buildings are left to stir the memory of the elderly in the area. Will they remember the sweat and toil of the navvies, the arrival of the carriages and pairs with their important passengers, the cattle and sheep coming down from the hills to be put on trains to marts, the long school or commuter days, or perhaps just the magnificent views from the little passenger trains which puffed their way through North Northumberland?

Whatever the memories, I think we can say that this railway of ours gave a splendid service to the community in its 65 years, and many must have mourned its passing.



ALNWICK - 27.2.53. NO.1 PLATFORM - ENGINE 64868
DRIVER - G. BESSFORD, GUARD - T. P. SHEEL, CLERK - J. MALLON.



Alnwick Station in April 1957

RECOLLECTIONS

Station Master Wood (Whittingham, then living at Rothbury)

Large consignments of rabbits were sent by the Parcels Train from Akeld to Wooler, and this only ended with the outbreak of myxamatoxis.

Kilham Sidings were maintained for Sir Alfred Goodson's pedigree cattle.

When a "drover" travelled by rail with his livestock, a special "drover's ticket" was issued, and the man could travel in the guard's van on the goods train.

The gibes about trains stopping between stations for staff to gather holly, mushrooms, etc. were absolutely true. Birsley Wood was a favorite stop for holly in December!

On one occasion a goods train stopped at Whittingham, the driver already having told the guard that he would take on water. The train stopped, the guard, a man called Hopper, jumped off his van at the other end of the long train and ran back to the banks of the Aln where he had seen some rabbits trapped by flood water. Unknown to Mr. Hopper, the driver decided that he did not need to take on water, and set off for Alnwick minus the guard! The poor chap ran all the way back to Alnwick, along the line, and I have been told by the Alnwick signalman on duty that day, that he arrived only 20 minutes after the train.

Mary H. Brown

A box of groceries was sent every six weeks from Dixon's shop in Whittingham, by Parcels Train to a Mr. Little of Cocklawfoot – MINDRUM Station. The receiving station had to be advised a day or two in advance so that the road transport could be laid on for the 14 mile journey into the Cheviots. The Little's family had been customers of Dixon's for many, many years, and they just did not want to deal with anyone else.

During the 1947 snow storm, I had occasion to help out at Hedgeley. I could only get there by rail, and I had the privilege on a few occasions of travelling on the foot plate. The snow scenery between Whittingham and Hedgeley was fantastic. I admit I was a little dirty when I got to my destination.

On more than one occasion, when I was working in Alnwick before the 1939 war, I could not get to Alnwick by road because of the snow storms. The passenger trains had stopped, but it was possible (and a few of us did) to get a ticket at Whittingham Station to go to Alnwick with the Parcels Train. One travelled at one's own risk, and the railway refused to bring the passengers back again. In one of the storms of 1941, I went to Alnwick on the 5 o'clock Parcels Train in the evening and did not get home until 10 days later, when the Alnwick Moor Road was opened (by men with shovels – no snow ploughs in the late 30's) and the buses and other road transport could again operate.

Cattle were brought down with a "drover" walking the stock from Harbottle Peels to send to Mart. If cattle were bought at the Mart, the "drover" would come to Whittingham Station to collect them, many hours for each journey.

Signalman John Anderson (Lesbury)

On one occasion, the goods train guard, Jack Hopper, ran back for rabbits caught in the flood at Mindrum Station. He jumped over the burn, the bank gave way, and the poor Mr. Hopper found himself nearly up to his neck in freezing cold water. He arrived back at Alnwick, with the train, wearing only his overcoat and boots!

In one snowstorm, probably 1947, when the branch line had been blocked, the Alnwick Station Master Reid ordered an engine out late in the evening, to go along the branch and see what the conditions were like. After about a couple of miles, the engine stuck. S.M. Reid, a tall man, got off the engine to have a look at the snow drift, and immediately, but for his head, disappeared into the piles of snow. The staff had a very difficult job to get him back on to the engine.

Mrs M.F. Taylor Glanton Station in the Early Days

Mrs. Taylor was daughter of the Glanton Station Master, Surtees and lived at Glanton 1898 to 1916.

At the beginning of the 20th Century Glanton Station was a very busy station. It supplied transport for all the large houses, farms and village people in the district.

It was a familiar sight to see a carriage and pair, or horses and traps, awaiting passengers. The village people walked or cycled to the station which was one mile from the village.



Last train from Glanton to Ilderton in 1953

Special coaches on the trains brought visitors to Shawdon Hall. On one occasions a number of titled people came by special coach to Shawdon Hall. There was what looked to her, then a very small girl, mountains of luggage, accompanied by half a dozen footmen and valets.

There was also the day that *Pistol II*, one of the greyhounds from Shawdon Hall, returned after winning the Waterloo Cup. Its arrival was greeted at Glanton Station by crowds of people amid great excitement.

During the summer, there were always excursions, usually to Newcastle or Edinburgh. These were very cheap, and a day out on one of these could be the only holiday many people had in the year.

The staff in her father's early days was: Station Master, a signalman, a porter, two platelayers and an apprentice clerk. Most station masters had the right to sell coal.

Mrs Rutherford

(Whittingham - aged 89 in 1971)

She travelled on the Branch quite a number of times. On one occasion a small party of them walked from the Ryle Hills to Whittingham Station to join a train to Alnwick to see King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Aln and Breamish Local History Society offers members a programme of historical lectures and publications. A minimum of seven lectures a year are arranged, four in the spring and three in the autumn. The May meeting also incorporates a very short AGM.

All talks take place in the Whittingham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm (unless otherwise indicated in our programme details) and are followed by coffee, tea and biscuits.

Occasionally walks may be arranged in the spring and summer months to look at local places of historical interest.

TALKS PROGRAMME 2017/18

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 20 September 2017 | <i>The Bamburgh Ossuary</i> | Jessica Turner |
| 18 October 2017 | <i>Salter's Road and Clennel Street</i> | David Jones |
| 15 November 2017 | <i>Buildings of the Aln & Breamish area</i> | John Grundy |
| 21 March 2018 | <i>The River Aln</i> | Atholl Swanston |
| 18 April 2018 | <i>Lindisfarne Castle – Repairs & Restoration '16 -'18</i> | Nick Lewis |
| 16 May 2018 | Short AGM, followed by: <i>The History of St Mary's RC Church, Whittingham</i> | John Rutherford |
| 20 June 2018 | <i>Historic Gravestones, St Bartholomew's, Whittingham</i> | Cath Coultas & Helen Dinsdale |

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are £10 for a single member and £15 for two people at the same address – due on 1st September each year.

You can pay at meetings of the Society by cash or cheque or by sending your cheque, made to Aln & Breamish Local History Society to:
The Treasurer, A&BLHS, Greystone Cottage, Titlington Mount, Alnwick NE66 2EA

If you wish to pay by Standing Order with your bank please contact the Treasurer (see above) or 01665 578346 or rich.titlington@btinternet.com

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

How can you help to ensure that A&BLHS remains a vibrant and interesting organisation that people enjoy being involved with?

- Encourage friends and neighbours to join
- **Come to meetings whenever you can!**
- Seek out potential speakers
- Think about writing short (or long!) items for Records and Recollections

RECORDS & RECOLLECTIONS

Records & Recollections is published in June and November and is free to A&BLHS members.

We need your memoirs of life in your village and in earlier times, old photographs (to be copied and returned) and anything else which recalls life in past times.