

RECORDS & RECOLLECTIONS

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This meticulous little drawing of Whittingham Pele Tower, enhanced by watercolour, comes from the school project that Alan Brown produced in 1964 in his final year at Glendale School in Wooler.

Glendale may not have been the Grammar School in Alnwick, but this work and the research effort that lies behind it show a real talent and reveal Alan's fascination for the history of his local area. You will find the full piece starting on Page 17.

SOCIETY NEWS

The Society's new season of talks is now well under way. September saw us host Jessica Turner who talked about the Bamburgh Ossuary. Then in October David Jones gave us insights into the history of the Salter's Road and Clennell Street. Summary accounts of both those talks can be found in this issue of our journal.

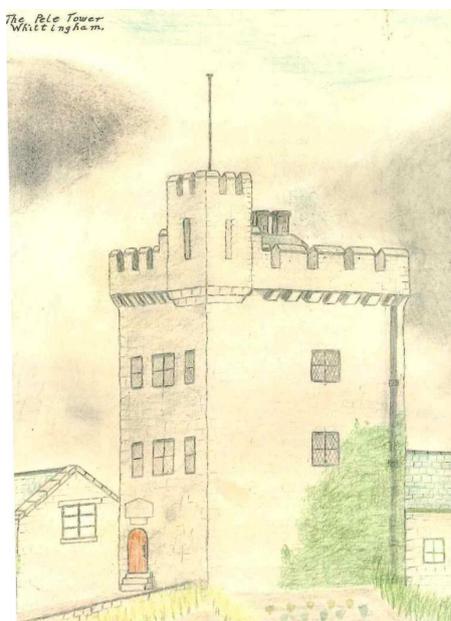
Our major concern for November is whether we shall have enough seats in the hall because John Grundy has agreed to come to talk about the buildings of the Aln and Breamish area.

After some trials and tribulations, Walter and Doreen Carruthers have completed their long-planned move to Alnwick, which leaves our Committee now at just four people – which is not enough! You may find yourself buttonholed as a potential committee recruit and we hope that if this happens you will be willing to agree to get involved.

Fortunately Helen Dinsdale's recovery has been remarkable. It may be some time before she will be able to enter for the Great North Run, but her mobility continues to improve week by week.

Most members will be aware that our Vice-President, Bridget Winstanley, has published an anthology of articles from 40 years of Records and Recollections. If you haven't got your copy, plus others as Christmas presents, do look at our advertisement on page 6 of this issue. Note that there are only 40 left. All profits from sales are going to Society funds.

Richard Poppleton (Editor)



John Swanson's article in the June 2017 Records and Recollections gave us fascinating insights into the recent history of Glanton Pyke. It therefore seemed fitting that, with Susan Collingwood-Cameron still owning and living at Glanton Farm, we should take a look at the Collingwood family and the part it has played in the history of our area. The author is most grateful to Susan for having allowed him to delve, however shallowly, into her family history. Also to Willis Dixon whose book "Glanton Village – A Study in Village Settlement" provided so much useful background when Susan was prepared to lend her copy.

THE COLLINGWOODS

In Stella Gibbons' darkly humorous book *Cold Comfort Farm* one of the best known lines is "There have always been Starkadders at Cold Comfort Farm". Without implying that in any way the Collingwood family resembles the strange Starkadder characters in that book, we might well say "There have always been Collingwoods at Glanton."



Vice Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood RN is a well-known historical figure from the North East. Born in 1748 he went to sea at the age of twelve. By the time he was 27 he was a commissioned officer in the Royal Navy and the summit of his career, with the rank of Vice Admiral, was his involvement in 1805 in the great British sea victory over the combined fleets of France and Spain at Trafalgar, off Cadiz. Nelson led one of the two British lines of fighting ships and Collingwood led the other in *The Royal Sovereign* – the first ship to engage the enemy.

Collingwood spent the vast majority of his life at sea. When he was not at sea he lived at Collingwood House in Morpeth. In 1806 he inherited Chirton Hall by the Tyne from a cousin, Edward Collingwood of Dissington, but he never lived there. Following Trafalgar he was appointed

C-in-C Mediterranean Fleet and he died of cancer on board a ship which was trying to bring him home to England in 1810. He is buried beside Nelson in the crypt at St Paul's Cathedral in London and his is the imposing statue overlooking the estuary of the river at Tynemouth.

So what, you might wonder, is the relevance of Lord Collingwood to our Records and Recollections journal? The answer lies in the very close connection of various branches of the Collingwood family, including the Collingwoods of Chirton, with our area – particularly with Whittingham and Glanton, but also with Lilburn.

In the late 1500s Cuthbert Collingwood owned and lived at Eslington, but the family had undoubtedly been a significant force in the area for some time before that. In the thirteenth century a number of families with their bands of retainers had developed important standings on the English side of the Border. The Collingwoods, along with families with names like Grey, Lilburn, Selby and Heron and, in the early 1300s, Percy, came to have fearsome reputations. No doubt if they had been on the Scottish side of the border they would have been referred to as Clans. They fought the Scots families, but also they fought each other and when they fought they would steal livestock and often pillage their rivals' settlements.

For defensive purposes, and to stress their power, they erected pele towers on their territory and locally these could be found at Whittingham, Eslington, Callaly, Bolton, Shawdon, Crawley, Ingram and Brandon. There seems to be some minor disagreement about the spelling – pele, peel or even pile – but all are the same, although less influential families might build smaller peles of wood rather than the stone structures built by the bigger landowners. Perhaps strangely, Glanton itself did not have a pele tower. A photograph of the Pele Tower at Whittingham can be seen in Alan Brown's article elsewhere in this Journal.

Some of the raiding was not confined to small reiving bands, but might involve many hundreds of men. In 1587 for example, Cuthbert Collingwood took nearly 900 men on a raid into Teviotdale and in reprisal Lord Cessford from the Scots side brought two or three thousand men, some mounted and some on foot, to raid the Eslington land.

Essentially the reiving period ended with the Act of Union in 1603, after which much more control was exercised in the Border areas. At this time Glanton was roughly divided in half between the Collingwoods of Eslington and the Proctors of Shawdon. The Collingwoods also held part of Whittingham which they had bought from the Herons earlier in the century. This does show the extent to which reiving was mostly about theft of livestock and property and perhaps capture of men for ransom, while actual land ownership usually changed hands by purchase or by gift – such as at the time of a marriage or as a bequest on death.



Eslington Hall

By the time of the English Civil Wars in the mid-1600s the question of religion and loyalty to the Crown or to Parliament became very important. The Collingwoods of Eslington and the Claverings of Callaly were Roman Catholic and royalist. Sir John Clavering died in prison in London and in 1644 Eslington was forfeited to Parliamentary ownership. But much of this was not really about loyalty as much as about money and in 1656 the Collingwoods were able to buy back their estate. In the meantime Sir Arthur Hazelrigg had wangled legal possession of Eslington and was less than happy and demanded rent from Collingwood –

which was not forthcoming. It took seven years of legal process and the restoration of the monarchy for the dispute to be settled in favour of the Collingwoods.

Somehow one might have thought that the experience of losing one's whole estate in 1644 might have been a salutary experience for the Collingwood family and a lesson in avoiding too much overt support for the 'wrong' side in national politics. Sadly not! In 1717 the family showed open support for the Stuarts during this period of the Jacobite rebellions and once again had their Eslington estate taken from them. This time there was no recovery and Sir Henry Liddell of Ravensworth Castle paid the Crown the large sum of £18,100 for it. Among other things he then demolished the Collingwood house and built the new mansion that we see today.

So 1717 marks the end of the direct Eslington Collingwood involvement with Glanton. But let us jump forward nearly seventy years. The large house at Glanton Pyke (or Pike as it is sometimes spelled) was in the ownership of the Mills family. They had the farm and its surrounding land, known as Glanton West Field (or Westfield), plus some other smaller land

holdings at the lower end of the Playwell Road around Dean House – now beside the A697 – and a field adjoining the Shawdon land at the east end of the village.

The 1780s were eventful years for the Mills'. The father, John, died in 1786, but six years earlier, in 1780, his son Joseph had married Mary, daughter of John Collingwood of Lilburn. It should be noted here that the Collingwoods of Lilburn were not the same family as had owned Eslington, although if one goes far enough back in time no doubt it might be possible to show earlier family relationships.



Lilburn

Then in 1784 another Collingwood, Henry of Lilburn, son of John, married Joseph Mills's sister Margaret. So we now have a brother and sister Mills marrying a sister and brother Collingwood within a few years of each other. It is no wonder that unravelling some family trees can be such a tangled business and we are still not yet at the point where we have found any direct link with Admiral Lord Collingwood.

The Lilburn Estate had been acquired by the Collingwoods from the Clennell family in 1793 when Thomas Clennell bequeathed it to his nephew, Henry Collingwood. Eventually Henry's son, inevitably another Henry, began the construction of the current house, Lilburn Tower, which was eventually finished in 1842. But this Henry Collingwood died shortly before the house was completed and the house and estate were bought in 1848 by a member of yet another line of the Collingwood family – Edward from Chirton – and Edward was the nephew of the Admiral. At last, the link!

Readers will remember that in the June 2017 issue of Records and Recollections John Swanson gave an excellent account of the history of Glanton Pyke in which the link between Lilburn and Glanton Pyke was made clear. The Henry Collingwood who was soon to begin building Lilburn Tower bought the Glanton estate from the Mills family who by now were badly in debt and used the services of the architect John Dobson to create the current house.

All of this brings us to the current owner of Glanton Farm. Susan Collingwood-Cameron is a direct descendent of Edward Collingwood who had, in 1848, acquired Lilburn and its soon-to-be-completed mansion. The main house at Glanton Pyke was her family's home. Susan is the great great granddaughter of the Admiral's younger brother. Her grandfather, Cuthbert George Collingwood, was a serving soldier who believed that whilst still in service it was not right for soldiers to be married. So it was not until he left the army with the rank of Colonel at the age of 49 that he married, and to a bride who was just 19.

Cuthbert and his wife lived at Glanton Pyke and used to visit their relations at Lilburn using the train. A carriage would take them to Shawdon station and they would get off the train at Ilderton station to be met by another carriage to take them to the house. As with most rural families of means at the time, they were heavily involved with horses. Susan recalls hearing



Susan Collingwood-Cameron in 2017

about the time when her grandmother had bought a pony from the local blacksmith in Glanton. She took the pony and trap to go to a tea invitation with the Vicar at Whittingham, but when they reached the Queens Head in Glanton the pony stopped and nothing could be done to get it to move on until she got out of the trap, waited a short while and then got back in. The same thing happened at the second pub in Glanton and then again at the pub in Whittingham. Apparently the process happened all over again on the return journey. The pony was clearly well-trained by its previous owner.

Cuthbert was the youngest of three brothers. The oldest brother owned Lilburn, but had no children. The middle brother was a sickly young man and died young and when the eldest died, also quite young, Cuthbert inherited Lilburn and he and his family moved there in 1928. Glanton Pyke was let and the farmhouse was lived in by a farm manager.

Wartime requisition and then further letting ended when Susan and her husband Sam moved back into the house in 1974. Her uncle who owned Lilburn had died in 1970 and the Lilburn and Glanton estates had passed to Susan's father, who passed on Glanton Pyke to her. After 14 years she and Sam sold the house to the Swansons and they moved into the farmhouse on the retirement of Alistair Tait who had been the tenant farmer.

Sam died in 1999 and Susan continued to run the farm for some time with the particular assistance of Joe Easton. He had been the handyman/gardener at Glanton Pyke, but earlier he had been a farmworker at Little Ryle and was glad to be able to return to farm work and shepherding at Glanton farm. Eventually Susan decided to let the farm land on farm business tenancy agreements and the land is currently farmed by Roly Telford, John Guiry and Artie Hunter.

Susan and Sam had two children. Angus and his wife Georgie still live in the village with their three children. Angus's house is the building which served as the local recruiting centre at the start of the First World War when Susan's Grandfather, Colonel C G Collingwood was the recruitment officer.

Angus, in addition to the day job with Swintons, has been heavily involved with the Chillingham Wild Cattle Association and with the West Percy Hunt of which he is currently Secretary. Katherine Anne is married (and has the surname Finn) and lives near Kendal and has three children, so that Susan is a six-times grandmother. Katherine is a high-quality triathlete.

Angus's involvement with the West Percy is a family tradition. Susan had a pony from the age of seven and she hunted with the Milvain (long defunct) and the College Valley packs. When they moved back to Glanton Pyke in 1974 she became Joint-Master of the West

Percy and did two long stints in this role, totalling 19 years. Meanwhile Sam's involvement with horse racing, both in point-to pointing and under rules resulted in a handicap race being named in his honour at Hamilton Races.

Altogether it seems entirely fitting that the Collingwoods, having had such a heavy involvement with our local area over at least 700 years, should still be here and in residence. Despite Lilburn having been sold, at least in part because of the crippling effects of death duties, and Glanton Pyke also having passed into new ownership, Susan and Angus remain as the modern representatives of a proud line of Collingwoods. Perhaps one day Angus will lead mounted riders, not with a pack of hounds but suitably armed and armoured, to make a skirmish into Teviotdale as his ancestors did before him to show the modern Scots the mettle of the Northumbrian English.



Records and Recollections of the Aln and Breamish Valleys

This 350 page book contains articles from Records & Recollections over a period of 40 years.

The chapters cover schools and schooldays; churches and other religious institutions; trades and occupations; farming; leisure; people; law and order; travel and transport; wartime; as well as more general articles on Glanton, Whittingham, and other places in the Aln and Breamish area.

The almost 100 articles were published between about 1970 and 2010. The memories recorded here go back to the early years of the twentieth century and there is research from Roman times onwards. In addition to these valuable and interesting texts, there are more than fifty historic photographs illustrating the book.

It is available at £7.50 plus £4.00 for postage and packaging, if ordered directly from Bridget, with all profits going to the Aln and Breamish Local History Society. Copies are also available from the Post Offices in Glanton, Alnwick and Morpeth as well as the Northumberland National Park Information Office in Rothbury.

Records And Recollections of the Aln and Breamish Valleys edited by Bridget Winstanley

For details please contact Bridget Winstanley on 01669 621241 or bridgetwinstanley@gmail.com.

The Bamburgh Ossuary

The A&BLHS began the 2017/18 season with an interesting and lively talk by Jessica Turner. Jessica had been involved with the recent excavations at a burial ground discovered in the dunes at Bamburgh and the subsequent re-interment of 120 Anglo-Saxon skeletons in the crypt of the church in Bamburgh.



Rumours of a burial ground at Bamburgh had been circulating for a very long time. A 19th century OS map showed a Viking burial site at the edge of the dunes, and it was here that the excavations began in 1999. Almost immediately human remains were found, and it quickly became clear that this was no Viking burial ground. All the graves showed an east/west alignment; a sign of Christian burial.

Scientific analysis showed that the burials were from around 650AD, and were those of artisan and craftsmen and women probably associated with the royal court of King Oswald who resided at Bamburgh at the time. This was the start of the “Golden Age of Northumbria”. King Oswald had been brought up as a Christian. As a boy, his family had spent time in exile on the west coast of

Scotland. Once king of Northumbria, and installed at Bamburgh Castle, Oswald sent for a monk from Iona. In 635 St Aidan arrived and built the first church in Bamburgh. As the burials date from 650, these men and women would have heard St Aidan preach.

Further research revealed that the people buried here were well nourished and robust. They had lived relatively comfortable lives, and in many cases had originated from parts of Europe and Scandinavia. It was possible to detect from isotopes in the teeth that one man had travelled from the Mediterranean, while several males came from Scandinavia and were probably seamen. One man had lived in Ireland and would have been a contemporary of St Aidan. Study of a child’s burial revealed that this 10 year old girl had been born in Italy and lived in France before coming to Northumbria. Travel was a major undertaking at the time, which makes the history of these individuals more remarkable.

Many more burials remain undisturbed at the site, but the 120 bodies from graves that were excavated had to be re-interred at the end of the project. As the site is an AONB, they could not be reburied on site. A decision was made to create an ossuary for them in the crypt of St Aidan’s Church.

It was only in the 17th century that grave markers became common. Prior to that, bones were interred in an ossuary or charnel house. There are still two medieval charnel houses existing in the UK, though neither is in use. Sourcing ossuary containers for a modern day interment was a challenge, but they are still in use in parts of Europe, and were duly purchased. On the day of the re-interment, the ossuary boxes were brought into St Aidan’s church. A service was held using prayers spoken in the Anglo-Saxon which would have been familiar to the deceased. The ossuary boxes were laid to rest in a small chamber adjoining the main crypt which was then sealed with a gate made by local blacksmith Stephen Lunn. The ossuary can be seen through the gate, but the remains will be undisturbed.



Bringing the remains from the Castle to St Aidan's Church

There are plans to create a viewing gallery from the main crypt once access has been improved.

Salter's Road and Clennell Street

In October our meeting attracted a good audience for David Jones's talk about two of our major local Northumberland trackways. David leads the Coquetdale Community Archaeology Group (CCAG). They have been involved in many projects in our part of North Northumberland and we reported in our Summer 2015 issue of Records & Recollections on their dig at Holystone to reveal some of the history of Holystone Priory.

Most recently CCAG's efforts have centred around the network of tracks through the Cheviot Hills and their research has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and The National Park. David's talk concentrated on the two trackways closest to our own Aln and Breamish area, Salter's Road and Clennell Street.

The Salter's Road appears to have been named from its use to transport salt to Scotland from the industrial-sized salt pans by the Tyne. At the same time a tax concession had been made by the British Government to salt producers in Ireland which made Irish salt significantly cheaper than the English product. As a result of this Irish salt was regularly smuggled into England and the Salter's Road saw salt being moved in both directions.

From Tyneside as far as Alnham the route would have been on a variety of roads which have long since become public highways, but beyond Alnham, where the modern Ordnance Survey first identifies the Salter's Road by name, the route ploughs resolutely across country.

David gave an account of the history of Alnham which, in its heyday, had as many as thirty dwellings as well as the church and the Vicar's pele tower dwelling. The whole place was part of the Percy family estates and a land map from 1619 held in the Duke of Northumberland's archives shows the village and its field systems. By the present day only

the church and the pele house remain along with several farms, but David showed a LiDAR map of the same area. LiDAR is an acronym for Light Detection and Ranging and involves slow passes at low altitude by a plane with a laser scanning device. It was possible to superimpose the 1619 map with the LiDAR map and show that although the houses are gone the slightly higher and drier ground where they had been is quite clear, as are some of the field boundaries that one would be hard to identify by eye on the ground.

A family called Guevara owned lands in and around 'Alnum'. They had come from northern Spain in the mid 1550s and John Guevara had been appointed Deputy Warden of the East Marches. His brother Henry acquired lands around Alnham by marriage to a Collingwood, but he and his family were regularly set upon by locals, with considerable violence, although the documents fail to explain why they were so hated.

By the 1770s land enclosures had taken place and the village had deteriorated. Salter's Road, which starts at the north west corner of the village, was being mostly used for droving at this time as well as for the transport of salt. As it rises from the village it forms a set of hollow-ways. The practice was that when the driving of carts and the movement of cattle in the wet land began to cause a boggy and difficult route, those using the track would just select another route to the side of the original. This resulted in a series of more or less parallel sunken tracks up the hill

A mile to the west of Alnham is Castle Hill. This was an Iron Age hill-top fort, although the defences at the NE and SW which are the weakest points were not particularly strong. The fort is close to the Salter's Road as it runs NW towards Ewartly Shank. Northfieldhead Farm just across the road from Castle Hill is now just a series of ruins, but to its west is a round-house village whose arable fields were protected from livestock incursion by the still well defined Head Dyke.



Iron Age Hill Fort on Castle Hill

Many upland farms were abandoned in the 1700s as the effects of enclosure took their toll. For example Unthank Shield was a summer grazing area for stock from Unthank Farm, but there is also rig and furrow here so there will have been some crops grown.

Just north of the remains of Northfieldhead Farm a track diverges from the modern Salter's Road and continues due north towards the Breamish Valley. To the east of this is the best preserved set of rig and furrow cultivations in the Cheviots, covering 120 acres, which were associated with the medieval village of Leaffield Edge. In this case the whole village was abandoned and there are no records of it since 1760.

As the Salter's Road continues to Ewartly Shank it passes the hill called High Knowes. The hill is surrounded by an encircling dyke and the south eastern flank shows evidence of two palisaded settlements from the Late Bronze or Early Iron Age.

Once past Ewartly Shank the Salter's Road passes Cushat Law. It was unfortunate that a map-maker in 1750 misheard the name. Cushat means Pigeon, but this chap heard it as Cowshit Law and names it as such on his map.

Further north west towards the border the Road passes the two Bleakhope (pronounced Blakehope) Farms at the head of the Breamish Valley and then turns west to join Clennell Street. Just before it reaches Clennell Street it crosses the upper reaches of the Usway Burn (which runs south to join the Coquet at Shillmoor). Here there is a small but beautiful waterfall called Davidson's Linn. And a bit further south on the Burn is an old whisky still known as Rory's Still, although probably Rory was a mythical character. But the still is well hidden and the excise men would not have found it easily.



Davidson's Linn

Because the Salter's Road is far more immediately relevant to our Aln and Breamish area, David spent less time dealing with Clennell Street which runs NNW from Alwinton to Yetholm in the Scottish Borders. There are many hollow-ways on this route showing it was subject to heavy use. It crosses the Border Ridge to the NE of Windy Gyle shortly after its junction with Salter's Road.

David had brought with him a number of copies of CCAG's recent publication:

The Old Trackways through the Cheviots
Discovering the Archaeology of the Border Roads

To obtain a copy the best option is to go to the companion website www.border-roads.org Clicking the News and Book link takes you to the Amazon site where you can get a copy for £14.99.

Maureen Ponting (nee Scott), who now lives in Wiltshire, was born and lived throughout her childhood at Caistron Farm between Thropton and Hepple. She has been putting together a family memoir and she has most kindly supplied us with some extracts from that project.

MEMORIES of CAISTRON

Introduction to Caistron

Dippie Dixon describes Caistron as a pleasant village. Its school was discontinued in 1873 when Sir Walter Ridell who owned the village of Hepple built its new school in its present location. The Caistron Schoolhouse, renamed the White Cottage, became one of the cottages for farm workers.

During our time Hepple was a one-room school for children from 5 – 14. On leaving they got jobs, the boys usually as farm workers and the girls often in domestic service. 14 was the national school leaving age until the Butler Education Act of 1944 which started universal free school education.

In 1924 my grandfather William Scott bought Caistron, a beautiful 400 acre farm, for his son Donald – my father. It was situated three miles from Thropton and a mile from Hepple above the River Coquet and its land included parts of both banks of the river. The farm faced south to the dark heathery hills of Simonside and Tosson. My sister Mirabel and I were both born at Caistron in the 1930s

“Warton is a bonny place, so is Flotterton Ha’, but Caistron is the bonniest of them a” (local saying)

The Steading (farm buildings)

These consisted of stables and lofts; two small byres and a large hemmel (barn) for overwintering cattle; cart sheds with steps leading up to a granary. There was a shed for hanging rabbits and a large barn with pens, a bull shed and a yard for poultry.



Caistron House in 1930

The House was built of the local Millstone Grit and its four farm cottages were built of the same stone. The Castron farmhouse, originally small, was extended by half and a large garden added, with rose beds, a lily pond, a herbaceous border and a large vegetable garden, together with two large coke-heated greenhouses and a potting shed. There was no heating in farmhouse or cottages except for coal ranges and there was no electricity. Consequently they were all damp. Tuberculosis was common, although almost wiped out today, and those who could afford it went to sanatoriums. In the country treatment was dire. I remember visiting a patient in Hepple living in a hut in the garden with only one blanket.

At much the same time William Scott bought Wreigh Hill, another 400 acre farm for his son on a limestone ridge just above Castron with large fields and good grazing. The pyke here rises to 718 feet at its summit. It has a marvellous view all round and can be reached by a footpath from Hepple. However the village of Wreigh Hill had a sad history. In 1665 it was wiped out by the Plague, fell into ruin and was never rebuilt.

It was usual in the 1930s for the poultry, house cows and pigs to be the responsibility of women, often the wives of farm workers. In the byre were three house cows, mostly Shorthorns and Jerseys (a succession of *Buttercups*, *Daisies* and *Bluebells*). The byre had hay on one side and stalls for the cows on the other. Farm cats would arrive at morning milking time for their expected saucers of milk. Many years later a newly arrived farm manager from the south considered the cats and the few hens pecking at the straw to be 'unhygienic' and chased them out. Soon after this the cows went too and milk was bought at the 'Milk Bar' in Rothbury.

Until then milk was separated into cream to be made into butter in the dairy with 'Scotch Hands' (wooden paddles to shape the butter). The skimmed milk was fed to the calves. There was no electricity or refrigeration on the farm but the dairy on the north side of the house was cool.

In the Spring when the hens became broody they were given a sitting of eggs (13) to hatch. Or sometimes they were given 8 duck eggs – ducks were considered too unreliable to hatch their own. There was also a flock of white turkeys, bred for the Christmas market and a bronze turkey (always called The Bubbly Jock) who strutted along the farm road. Most people were frightened of him and had difficulty getting past, with the evacuees often calling for help. Hen houses had wheels so they could be drawn onto the stubble; and somehow the hens managed to avoid being eaten by foxes.

Our main trouble as children was having to go out late in the evening across the stubble to shut in the hens who were unwilling to retire while daylight lasted, sometimes till well after 10 in the Northumbrian summer. The hens were mostly Rhode Island Red, Barred Rock and some rather flighty White Leghorns. During the war farms were restricted to killing two pigs a year. From these, white and black puddings, sausages and brawn were made and shared amongst everyone on the farm. Hams were cured in brine and hung from the kitchen ceiling. There are memories of heads bumping on the hanging hams, causing a few maggots to fall out. However, when the hams were de-fatted, skinned and boiled they were tasty, if a bit salty.



For a very long time the shepherd at Caistron was Jim Dunwoodie who was extremely knowledgeable about every aspect of sheep farming. He always had a succession of Border Collies: Hemp, Flee, Fly and Fleet were all traditional names.

In the photo **Donald Scott** is on the left while **Jim Dunwoodie** is accompanied by his son, also Jim, and one of his collies

The sheep were mostly Border Leicester x Cheviot. A large part of the flock grazed on the Caistron Haugh which stretched from Flotterton to the Bickerton – Hepple Whitefield boundary fences. The haugh was dotted with sykes (shallow ponds) under belts of Alders which were inhabited by Mallard, Snipe, rare Teal and even rarer Golden Plover. Oystercatchers waded among the river gravels and Goosanders flew along the river. Dippers could be heard singing, perched on stones in the river, particularly in mid-winter.

Rosebay Willowherb brightened the river gravels in July. Lapwings nested in many of the fields and it was usual to come across a nest of their young chicks. Farmworkers traditionally paused to move the nests gently aside. Curlews seemed to cry throughout the year.

There was a ford over the Coquet opposite the White Cottage and a footbridge high over the river on two cables. Walking across it could be exciting in a high wind. It joined the footpath leading from Bickerton and Hepple Whitefield to Caistron. The bridge was above a deep pool thought to be a former millpond and a splendid place for swimming.

Upstream, large stones were also thought to be part of the old Caistron Mill. During floods, like many other local rivers, the Coquet often changed its course.

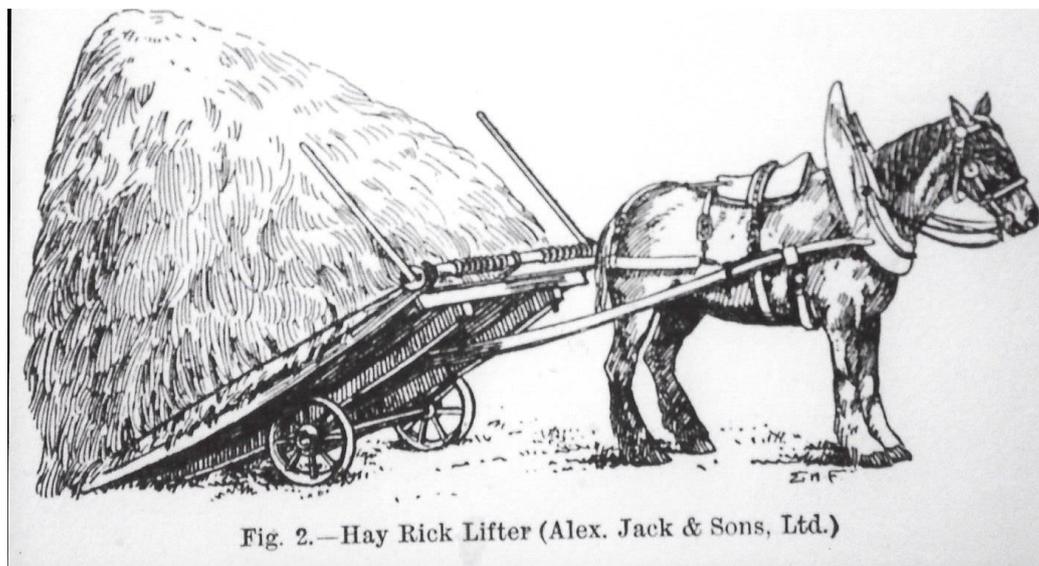
The Working Farm



Wreigh Hill was used mostly for grazing sheep and for a herd of handsome Welsh Black Cattle, crossed with a Hereford bull (both breeds shown above in modern photographs). Lambing also took place at Wreigh Hill behind a shelter belt of conifers. The lambing hut was wheeled up behind the trees and the shepherd spent the nights there throughout lambing.

Barley and oats were spring-sown so stubble remained till the spring ploughing. There were two carthorses, Jess and Major, which were the sole power source at the farm until the Ferguson tractor arrived after the war, complete with farm implements.

Hay was also an important crop. It was cut and turned and then made into pykes, each consisting of 10 to 15 hundredweight of hay. When the hay was dry Jess and Major were harnessed to carts called bogeys (the official name was 'hay rick lifter'). The cart could be tilted so the horses could pull the hay onto the bogey with a chain. The whole cart could be pulled to the hayshed where the hay was forked in.



Turnips were another essential winter feed for sheep and cattle, enabling more stock to be kept throughout the winter. They were introduced by Lord Charles ('Turnip') Townsend of Norfolk in 1730. He was the first landowner to grow turnips extensively as part of a four-crop rotation. The seed was drilled into ridges and in June the plants were singled (separated) to

about the width of a hoe. Singling was a tedious job as I can remember and I can also remember when I was in Rothbury Hospital having my first baby born in June that I looked across at a turnip field being singled below Tosson and felt I had the more interesting job now.

Wartime

From the start of the war it was obvious that British farms had to produce more food; up to then much had been imported from all corners of the British Empire. Farms were still very un-mechanised and needed more physical help. Caistron was no exception; it didn't have a tractor or even electricity until after the war when we finally got a generator. The new Women's Land Army recruited thousands of women, many with country experience, to become Land Girls and help on the farms. One of our Land Girls was Annie Hall, a real Northumbrian who had a cottage near Midgy and was already experienced. She didn't wear the Land Girls' new uniform of breeches and green sweater, but sported a black beret instead. Eventually they did all sorts of farm work.

Soon afterwards Italian prisoners of war started arriving and we were allocated some. They were such a happy bunch of young men and I remember them singing all the time, sometimes sitting on the granary steps. They were very friendly with us and we weren't afraid of them; Italy had come out of the war and the prisoners had no guards. Later on we had German PoWs who did have an armed guard but who worked much harder. They were brought every day from a nearby prisoner of war camp, mostly to do hedging and ditching. One day when it snowed Mirabel and I were tobogganing on Wreighill. The Germans joined in, borrowing our toboggan. Their guard looked on jealously, wanting a go too. Eventually he handed his gun to one of the prisoners and had his turn.

Later on we had a group of displaced persons, much sadder men, probably from eastern Europe. They were brought in for potato picking, but sadly because of the language difficulties we were unable to talk to them.

From whatever source, all these young men seemed content to be out of the war – and alive. A large proportion seemed to be from farm or country backgrounds. The Italians particularly were quite at home, catching and cooking our Caistron rabbits. They took part with enthusiasm in the necessary activity of 'cutting out' during the harvest. The binder cut the ever-decreasing circle of grain in which the rabbits were trapped. Suddenly they would make a run for it and the farm workers got them with sticks. It sounds brutal, but the rabbits were a plague that had to be dealt with.

By present day standards we had a large number of our own farm workers. But with so little farm equipment everything was horse-powered. In addition to the two-wheeled bogeys we had farm carts for distributing manure and a horse-drawn binder for cutting grain and binding it into sheaves. The sheaves were later stoked and stacked before threshing which was done by a contractor who did have a steam-powered thresher. Also horse-pulled were our two-furrow plough, equipment for disking and harrowing and drills for sowing (although I remember hand-sowing the tiny turnip seed with an old-fashioned hand fiddle). Lighting came from Aladdin lamps and water came from a spring, so you can see why we needed so much help on the farm.

Of our long-term farm workers the ones I remember best were **Jim Dunwoodie** who I've already mentioned and who had been at Caistron when my father first arrived. He was both

the shepherd and the foreman – in charge when my father wasn't there. His wife milked the cows and worked with the milk separator. **Emma** came for a time to help in the dairy and make the butter. She had a massive goitre – a red swelling – on her neck, and protruding eyes. Her distressing complaint was caused by a lack of iodine in the diet and is unknown now because our salt is compulsorily iodised.

Then there were **Jack (and Mrs) Mackenzie**. He looked after the cart horses, Jess and Major. We relied totally on their strength before the arrival of the much-loved 'Fergie' tractor. **Willie Howey** 'came with the farm'. A bachelor, he did everything and was a staunch support for all the family and is well remembered by us and our children.



The old Castron Schoolhouse - now the White Cottage

In 1975 my father died and the farm was put up for sale. Castron House was bought by our farm neighbours at Hepple Whitefield.

Members of our Society will recall that Alan Brown, who now lives in the USA, provided us with all the material for the four successive parts of the account by his Aunt, Mary Brown, of the Alnwick to Cornhill Railway. But Alan was himself a local lad and he has now let us have a remarkable document from his own childhood. He attended Glendale County Secondary School in Wooler and in his final year he researched and wrote a detailed project about Whittingham Pele Tower.

Alan would have been fifteen years of age when he wrote this and the quality of the work shines through despite the fact that Glendale was what we would have called a Secondary Modern school rather than the Grammar School in Alnwick. We now have to make an apology to Alan. His original document was 19 pages long. In order for it to make a realistic article for Records & Recollections we have edited out some of the lists and quotations from some of the original sources he used. All the rest of the text, including the meticulous maps and drawings, are his own.

The final section headed "Personal Recollections" is Alan's present day memory of the Pele Tower.

Whittingham Pele Tower and its Relationship to Border Defence

Alan J Brown, August 1964.
History Project, Glendale County Secondary School

The Cheviot Hill, which is about 12 miles north-west of Whittingham Pele Tower, is the point at which the Scottish border is closest to the tower. The tower itself is 12 miles south of south east of Wooler, 9 miles west of Alnwick, and 9 miles north of Rothbury.

As soon as Northumberland became the property of William the Conqueror's Norman Barons, their Squires and sub-feudatories strongholds such as the feudal castles of Newcastle, Warkworth, Alnwick, Bamburgh and Harbottle began to be erected for the protection of the manor or barony as well as for the subjugation of the Saxon population. As well as these larger strongholds, there sprung up another class of buildings during the fourteenth and following centuries. Known on the borders as Pele Towers, they were erected by Northumbrian landowners as a defense against the plundering raids of the Scots. The Vale of Aln being in rather a dangerous proximity to the Borders and much exposed to the continuous inroads of their neighbors from the other side of the Cheviots, its inhabitants were glad to seek the protection of their Pele's and Bastel houses. In the year of 1415 there were Pele Towers at:

Alnham, Eslington, Callaly, Whittingham, Shawdon, Crawley, Edlingham New Town,
Edlingham

In 1541 the number had increased to thirteen, the additional towers were at:

Ingram, Great Ryle, Prendwick, Screnwood

There were also second towers built at Alnham and Whittingham for the use of the Parsons.

The number of Bastel houses was constantly increasing; a good example of a Bastel house can be seen at Little Ryle where the arched roof and mullioned windows can still be seen.

Records & Recollections

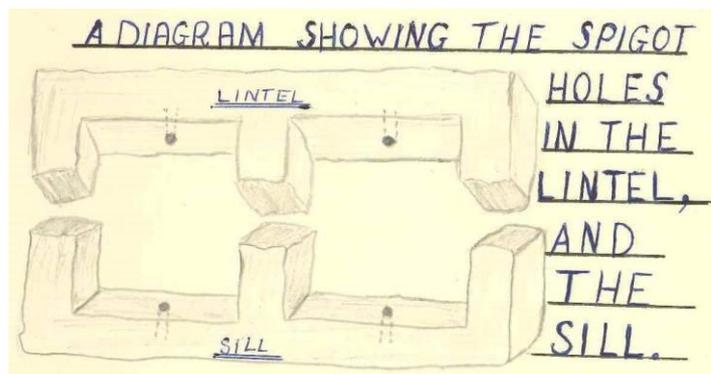
NOTE: (Bastel, bastle, or bastille houses are a type of construction found along the Anglo-Scottish border, in the areas formerly plagued by border Reivers. They are fortified farmhouses, characterized by security measures against raids. Their name is said to derive from the French word "bastille")

On the 30th January, 1967, while Mr David Pattinson, grandson of Mr George Pattinson the 85 year old licensee of The Nags Head Hotel in Fenkle Street, Alnwick, was stripping wallpaper from one of the first floor rooms of The Nags Head he removed some paneling from the wall that was covering an alcove. He intended to paper the alcove after uncovering it. Removing the paneling revealed a mullioned window, which could date back to before medieval times. The Nags Head stands on the site of an even earlier Inn, The Griffin, of Fenkle Street. The mullioned window is the first piece of evidence to substantiate whether The Nags Head did date back to medieval times. The mullioned window might also enable The Nags Head to qualify for long overdue recognition as an ancient monument.

The mullioned window of The Nags Head is in the west wall 40" above the floor and surrounded by stone. It measures 36" by 35" in height and width respectively. There is a center pillar or mullion (hence the name mullioned window) which divides the window into two parts approximately 33" by 13". The mullion is 5" by 11" and is octagonal in shape. The wall is 30" thick with the window set 18" into the wall. The lintel, or headstone of the window, as well as the sill of the window both bear two holes approximately 1" in diameter and 3" deep in the center of each of the lights of the window. These holes were probably used to swivel a thick board in the window lights for the protection of the inmates of the Bastel or fortified house.



On 30th January, 1967 came the first real evidence to substantiate the medieval theory with the discovery of a mullioned window in The Nags Head Hotel in Alnwick.

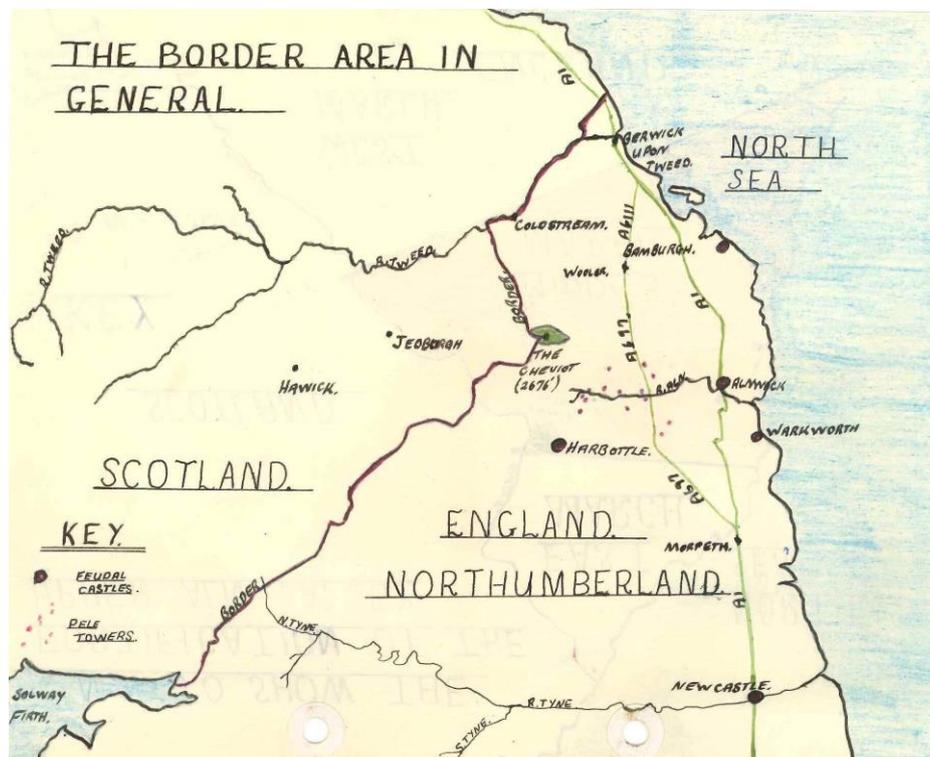
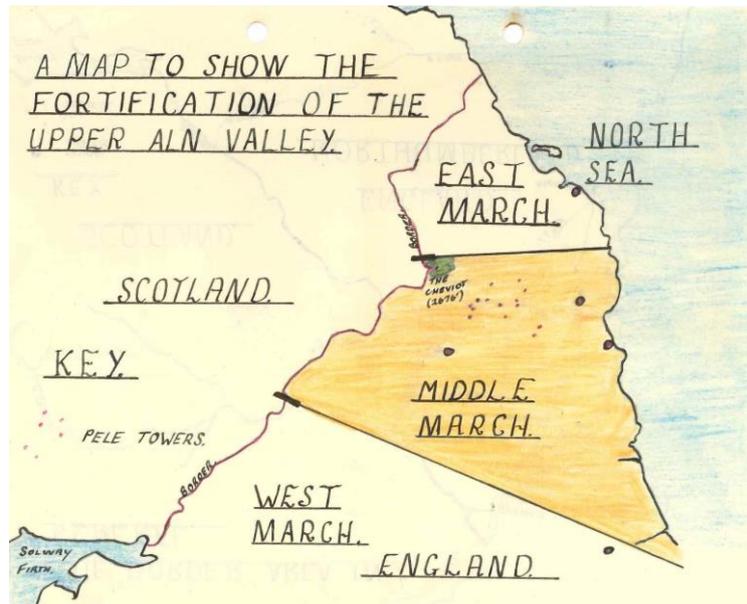


During the reign of Henry VIII the English Borderland for the sake of better defense against the Scots divided was into three districts; the East, West and Middle Marches. The Marches were under the command of a Lord Warden, General of the Marches. From Berwick bounds to the Hanging Stone on the east end of Cheviot formed the East March. From the Hanging Stone to Bryssoppe Brig formed the Middle March, and from Bryssoppe Brig to the Solway Firth formed the West March.

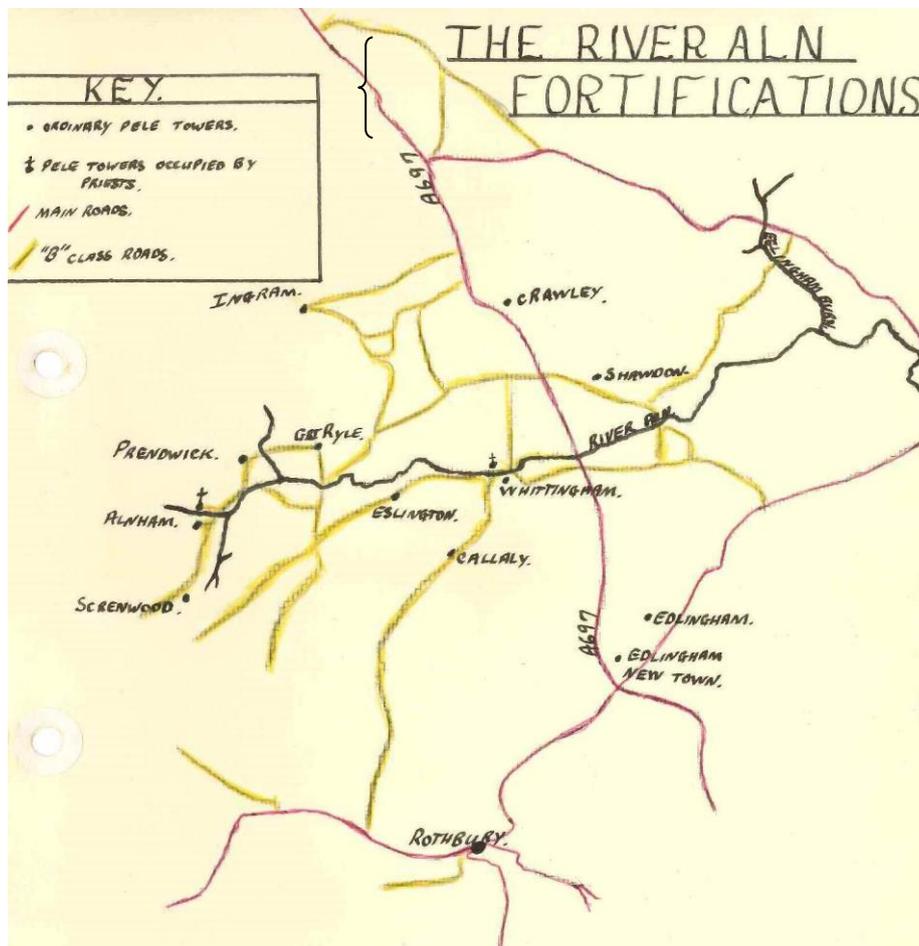
Records & Recollections

Whittingham Pele Tower and the Upper-Aln fortifications were included in the Middle March. Over each of these Marches was placed men of rank as Wardens and Deputy Wardens. Harbottle Castle was generally the residence of the Warden of the Middle March; under him were several Deputy Wardens each in command of a band of men belonging to the various townships who wore on their sleeves the badge of the Warden.

In 1509 an official return was drawn up of the fortresses in North Northumberland, their distance from Scotland and the number of horsemen their owners could bring into the field. The computed miles are however very different from the measurements of the present day.



For the defense of the Upper Valley of the Aln there were garrisons at places where there were Pele Towers:



In 1523 the Scottish border raids were increased so much that the border strongholds in the northern valleys of the Coquet, the Aln, the Breamish and the Tweed were considerably increased in the strength of their garrisons.

During the next 25 years this attitude of watchfulness and distrust to the Scots across the border didn't relax amongst the inhabitants of Northumberland for:

**“ON STEEP AND ON CRAG, STREAMED BANNER AND FLAG,
AND THE PENNONS AND PLUMAGE OF WAR”**

In 1549 a range of beacons was established throughout the country to run in conjunction with the Pele Towers to warn the whole country of the invasion of the Scots into England. Beacons were situated at the following places in Northumberland:

Rosse Castle, Tytes howghe, Rymes syde, Redde syde, Symon syde, Hedwen syde,
Harley crag, Hemsholte, Snogon, Muet Lawe

*Extract from the Historical M.S.S. Commission, 1888. Rutland Papers, Volume 1,
pages 37-39.*

Records & Recollections

In October 1549 detachments of foreign troops were sent into Northumberland to assist in defending the border against an expected invasion from the Scots. The following list is of those stationed in the Vale of Whittingham:

Strangers and Armed Horsemen:

Capt. Andrea at Whittingham and Glanton. Charles de Guavar at Mikle Ryle, Little Ryle and Yettlington. Capt. Lanciano at Estlington and Scranwood. Capt. Hungarian at Bolton and Lemmington.

English Light Horsemen:

Francis Wolstrop at Biddleston. John Dudley at Whittingham. Sir Oswald Wolstrop at Cartington.

Extract from the Historical M.S.S. Commission, 1888. Rutland Papers, Volume 1, page 46.

The fact that strangers and foreigners had been sent into Northumberland to assist in its defense did not mean that our ancestors had lost any of their characteristic spirit or bravery; it was owing to the extremely hostile feelings at that time existing between the English and Scots that these mercenaries were engaged.

The following extract giving a list of the names of the men from Whittingham who were on the Muster Roll of 1538 will show that the local spirit of braveness hadn't dispersed from the Northumbrians defending the border:

WYTINGHAME

Thomas Collingwood	Willme Browne	Thomas Pegden	John Buteman
Edward Brystoo	Henry Mewry	John Nycollson	Thomas Buteman
John Swayn	Bog Brown	John Jackson	Thomas Wod
Gelbt Buteman	Henry Brown	Rog Pegden	Willme Dowglas
George Jackson	Thonas Yong	Rynyon Wyllsen	Gelbt Newton
Ryc Pegden	Cuthbt Dychborn	Thomas Dobson	Wyllme Newry
Henry Clay	Ryc Davyson	Henry Taller	James Pegden
Thomas Whyt			

Arch AE lisna, Volume IV, page 157 (old series).

A complete system of watch and ward was kept up night and day along the frontier of the three Marches. Life and property on the borders in those days were both held under very uncertain terms. A thriving homestead well stocked with cattle and sheep might in a few hours become a smoking ruin and the owner, if alive, herd-less. It is true what an old writer says:

“In what a wretched condition our English Borders were before the Union of Crowns (nor were the Scots in any better) appears from that amazing list that we have of the many hundreds that were continually employ'd in night watches; the rest of the neighborhood being oblig'd (at all hours) to rise and follow the fray”

(Leges Marchiarum) Border Laws, Preface, Page IV.

Lord Wharton, Lord Deputy General of the Marches issued an order in 1552 that the lands around all the villages within the three Marches should be enclosed with:

“Hedges and Ditches, whereby may ensue much Wealth and Advantage to the People, both by Tillage and Pasture; and by straitening the Passes, much greater security, the Watches for the future being more easy to be kept to the greater Safety, Comfort and Profit of the People... all such portions thereof as be convenient for Tillage, Meadows, or Grazing to be enclosed with Ditches five Quarters in Breadth and six Quarters in depth, and to be double set with quick wood and hedge above three Quarters high.”

WHITTINGHAM PELE TOWER

In the old moss-trooping days there were two Pele Towers at Whittingham for the protection of the villagers against the marauding attacks of the Scots. One of these towers still exists, an interesting relic of domestic architecture, a memento of:

**“THOSE DAYS OF YORE, BEFORE THE BIRTH OF ORDER,
WHEN RAPINE WAS THE WARDEN OF THE BORDER;
WHEN WILL WAS LAW, CRAFT WISDOM, AND STRENGTH RIGHT,
AND THE BEST PLEA FOR DOING WRONG WAS MIGHT.”**

The first record of the remaining Pele Tower is in 1317 when three criminals were captured and held there, later to be sentenced to be hung and drawn. The existing Pele Tower stands on the bank of the River Aln, the other one stood where the present vicarage stands. In 1415 in the list of Fortlets on the Borders, Whittingham Pele Tower was described as: “TURRIS de WHITTINGHAM – WILLIMI de HERON” and became in those times as “Herron’s Tower.” The tower has modern battlements of MERLON and CRENELLE style, with an enlarged bartizan at the north-east corner which contains a lofty flagstaff.

There are no engravings to show the towers appearance before its restoration in 1845, but those who can remember the old tower describe it as a large square block, having a double roof running from east to west, covered with red pantiles, with a projecting spout to carry off the water from the gutter between the two roofs. The basement of the tower, where the walls are 8½ feet thick, still has some of its original features. The stone vaulted roof and the sturdy arched doorway in the south wall are only two of the original features which can be seen today.

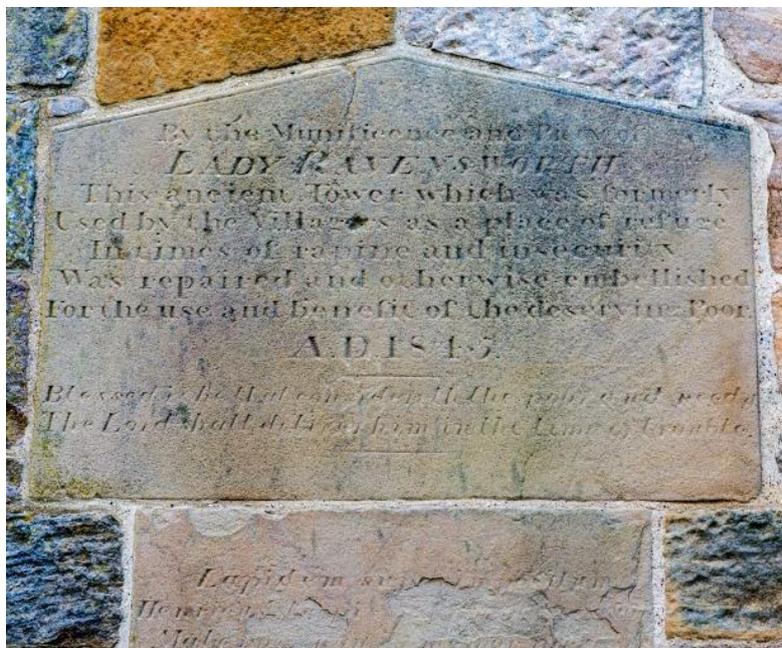
There are no loopholes or slits in the walls and there is no sign of a spiral staircase; however, there is a flight of stairs build into the east wall, access to which can be gained from an inner door leading off to the right from the passage on entering the original south doorway. Another doorway leading straight forward gave ingress to the basement. A new doorway was cut in the east wall after the restoration in 1845; access to the stairs can also be gained from this new entrance door. There has never been a manhole in the roof of the basement for communication with the upper story as the inmates could go in or out without let or hindrance by the inner doorway.

The other tower which was occupied by the Vicar stood at the west end of the village near the church and does not appear to have been built until sometime after Heron’s Tower. There is no record of its existence until the Survey of Border Towers in 1541, which says:

“At Whyttyngame bene two towers, whereof the one ys the mansion of the vycarege and thother the inheritance of Rb’t Collyngewood, esquier & bothe be in measurable good repac’ons.”

Therefore the tower standing at the present day is undoubtedly the old tower of the Heron's and Collingwood's. The parson's tower probably became incorporated into the vicarage when the present vicarage was built. In 1845 Whittingham Pele Tower was restored, the interior modernized and converted into an almshouse for four elderly couples, man and wife or brother and sister, who were connected with the estate. Each of whom received a pension of £10 per annum and a supply of coal. A tablet above the new doorway in the east wall contains this inscription:

“By the munificence and piety of Lady Ravensworth this ancient tower, which was formerly used by the villagers as a place of refuge in times of rapine and insecurity, was repaired and otherwise embellished for the use and benefit of the deserving poor. A.D. 1845” *“Blessed is he that considerath the poor and needy. The Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble.”*



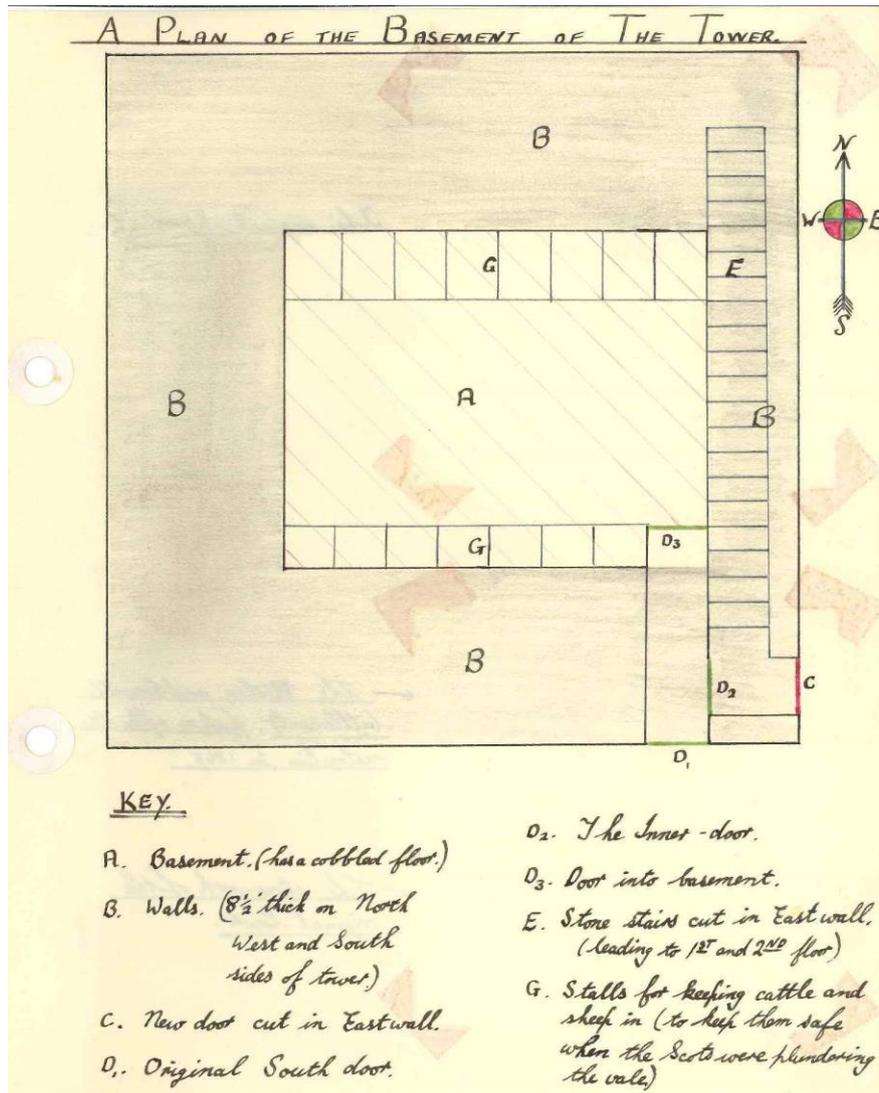
Probably the most recent link the Whittingham Pele Tower had with its centuries old history was a spinster, Miss Mary Heron. Miss Heron, who reached the ripe old age of 94 lived as a tenant in the Pele Tower for over 20 years and died during WWII. She claimed to be a direct descendant of Willimi de Heron, owner of the tower nearly 500 years earlier. The old lady attributed her great age to a diet of plain food, the main item of which was cheese.

Although I do not know the original dimensions of the tower, its present measurements are as follows:

It is rectangular in shape, exterior from east to west, 42 feet; from north to south, 36 feet. Interior measurements: length of vault from east to west, 25 feet; width from north to south, 19 feet.

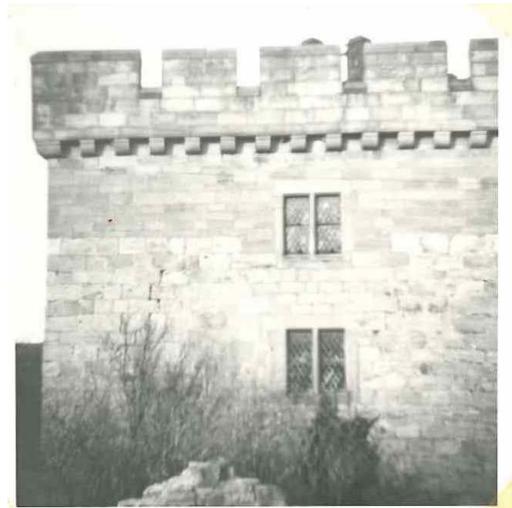
Width of the original doorway in the south wall is 3 feet 10 inches. Height of the tower, 40 feet.

There are several Mason's marks on the stones of the original building.



Around the tower there would have probably been a high wall, within this enclosure called a Barmkin, the cattle would have been secured at night.

NOTE: (*Barmkin*, also spelled *barmekin* or *barnekin*, is a Scots word which refers to a form of medieval and later defensive enclosure, typically found around smaller castles, tower houses, pele towers and bastle houses in Scotland, and the north of England)



The Merlon and Crenelle battlements added in the 1845 restoration.

The stonework of the original Pele Tower

The original South door

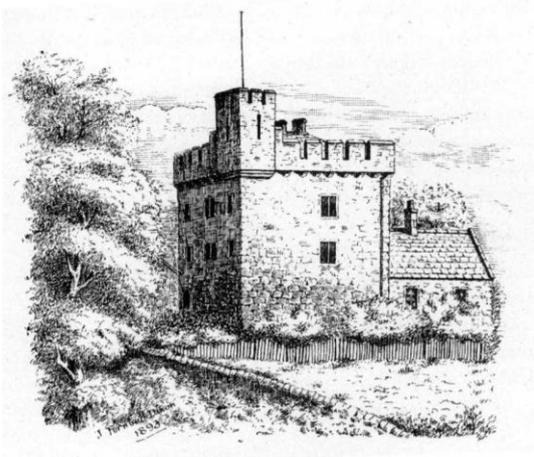
The walls of the original tower may have had loopholes in them before the restoration in 1845, however none are visible today. The inmates would have discharged arrows, hurled stones and other missiles through these slits and loopholes in order to defend their stronghold against the attacking Scots.

It was common practice for the besiegers to pile green brushwood and wet straw against the outer door, which when set on fire sent forth dense volumes of smoke; and unless prevented by a second inner door would have permeated the whole building, suffocating the unfortunate inmates.

The roof of the Pele Tower during the last 120 years has been of large stone slabs, about 3 feet 8 inches long, 2 feet wide, and 1 to 2 inches thick. They were made from Yorkshire stone and were held in place by pieces of sheep's leg-bones about four and a half inches long. In the autumn of 1963 the roof started to leak in several places and the stone slabs were replaced with modern slates.

Whittingham Pele Tower was classified as a historic building in 1955. Since then a running cold water supply and electricity were installed. In recent years huge cracks have appeared in the outer walls and interior ceilings have collapsed. As a result of this damage the tower was condemned as a dwelling place and the last tenants left the tower in October, 1966. They were relocated to modern bungalows in Towerside.

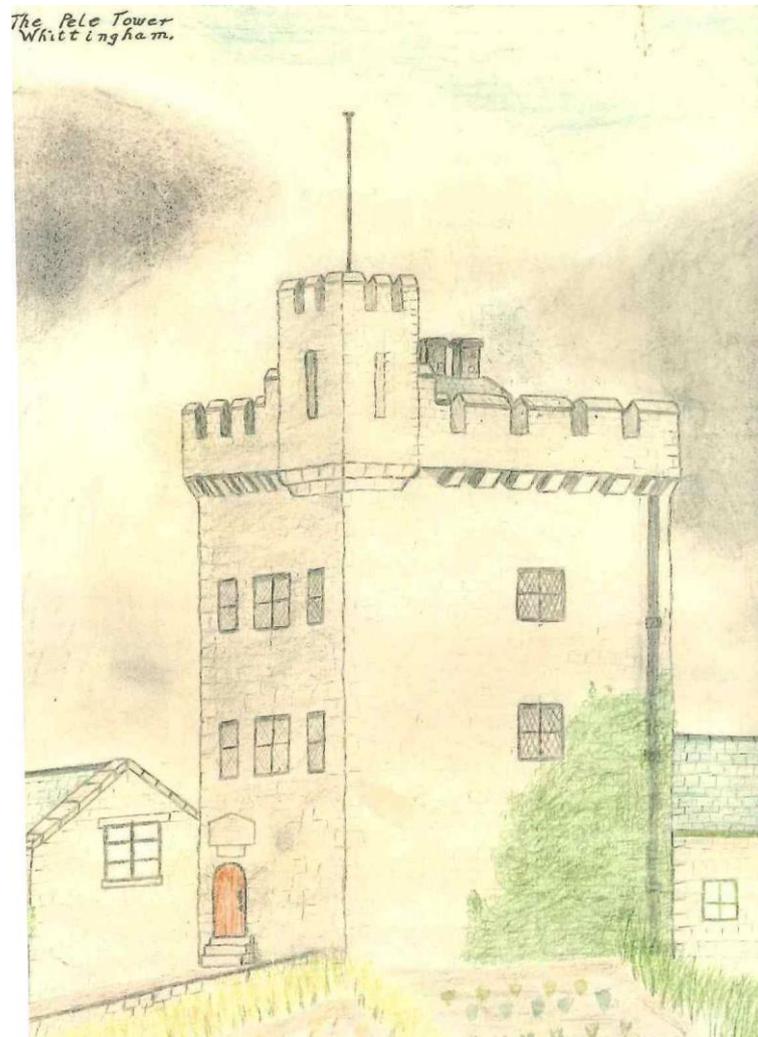
Our beloved Borderland continued in this unsettled condition until the happy union of the Thistle and Rose, when that extreme animosity which for centuries had existed between the two kingdoms gradually began to subside. Some of the border strongholds were dismantled and the inhabitants settled down to agricultural pursuits. The success of which we need only look on the well cultivated fields and fertile valleys to be seen on both sides of the old East, West and Middle Marches.



J Turnbull Dixon, 1893



Photograph from 2010



Picture by Alan Brown, 1964

Personal Recollections of the Pele Tower

As a child growing up at 2 The Croft in Whittingham the view from the front garden was of the Pele Tower, a building that has always fascinated me.

Back in those days most people took delivery of a daily newspaper, and I developed a good newspaper delivery round. Early morning would see me cycling around the village, delivering newspapers to most of the villages' older inhabitants. This included two ladies who lived in the Pele Tower, every morning during the week I would climb the stone staircase inside the east wall to deliver the newspapers.

The roof repair in late 1963 was a major construction project. At that time the Pele Tower was owned by the Ravensworth Estate of Eslington. The dimensions of the Yorkshire stone slabs in the article are accurate as I measured them myself. I kept one of the sheep's leg bones for many years as a memento of the Tower's earlier construction methods. Sadly this artifact was lost when my late mother moved from Whittingham to Glanton, the village where she grew up, and I was born.

The picture shows the type of bones that were used to hold the large Yorkshire stone slabs in place on the roof of the Pele Tower. They were not full length bones as in the picture, only partial bones that could be forced through the two holes drilled in the top corners of the stone slabs, long enough to retain the stone slabs on the wooden rafters below. The bones were around 4½" in length. The pitch on the roof at that time was not very steep so the bone anchors would have been very effective in retaining the large Yorkshire stone slabs for close to 120 years.



The Pele Tower roof at that time looked similar to the roof in the picture below which is of a Basel House roof in Northumberland.



In 1967 when the mullioned window was uncovered in The Nags Head Hotel in Alnwick I visited the Nags Head and made the physical measurements of the window stated in the article. The day I visited, Mr. George Pattinson, age 85, was smoking in his bed upstairs where the mullioned window was located. Mr. Pattinson's son's wife took me upstairs to view the window, where we discovered that Mr. Pattinson had actually just set his bed on fire from a dropped cigarette! The fire was doused, and I was given all the time I needed to view and measure the mullioned window.

The Pele Tower has undergone yet another restoration, after many years of neglect. When the building was condemned in 1966 it was locked and left as derelict. It was sold by the Ravensworth estate to a developer for £80,000 in 2009 at which time the Grade II listed building was so run down it was placed on the English Heritage's at risk register.

The Pele Tower has since re-sold and been modernized. Now it functions as a refuge for holiday makers, very different to its original intent. The beautiful barrel-vaulted basement is also occupied, now by a full size snooker table.



Historic Pele tower on road to Scotland - 3 bedrooms, snooker, modern kitchen.

Your own castle... with log burning stove, snooker room, fully modern kitchen and bathrooms. Originally a fortified village refuge, built in around AD1250, this beautiful Grade 2* historically listed tower has been recently brought up to full modern comfort, but still with a barrel-vaulted basement (with full sized snooker table), large carved stone fireplace and modern kitchen.

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 – Spring 2018

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

Office Holders and Committee 2017/18

Tony Henfrey	(President)
Bridget Winstanley	(Vice President)
Jim Dinsdale	(Chairman and Membership Secretary)
Helen Dinsdale	(Hon. Secretary)
Richard Poppleton	(Hon. Treasurer)

Contact details:

The Secretary, A&BLHS, Sunnyside Cottage, The Lane, Whittingham, Alnwick NE66 4RJ
Tel: 01665 574319 jim.dinsdale@btinternet.com

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.