

PONT ISLAND NEWS INDEX

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The Evolution of Ponteland Parish Boundary by Liz Richardson

It was thought appropriate for the first issue of Pont Island News to take a look at the ancient origins of the boundary of our Parish. Today we see road signs announcing the boundaries of Northumberland, Newcastle and Ponteland for example, but none to announce that we are entering or leaving the parish of Ponteland. Many other boundaries, either political or related to various services, extend beyond the parish, or incorporate it as a small part of the larger whole. Only our parish church and Parish Council relate to the traditional parish boundary.

A related local custom, last performed in Ponteland in 1990, was the "Riding of the Bounds". The origin of "Beating" or "Riding" boundaries is vague and possibly adapted from a pagan custom. Early records show that the defining of parish boundaries on Ascension Day was ordered during the reign of Elizabeth I, a reinstatement of the Rogation-Tide processions begun during the 10th century and banned during the Reformation.

We can trace the current parish boundary on the Ordnance Survey Pathfinder maps 535 and 548, most of it runs through private land with no public access, some parts follow roads along the old township boundaries. Other than the ancient geographical features mentioned later, there are no distinctive surviving features on the current or earlier boundary. An exception is the old hog-back bridge over the Blyth at Horton Grange, (Bellasis Bridge), possibly a rebuild of an earlier medieval bridge endowed to the monks of Newminster by the Barons of Mitford and Morpeth in the 12th and 13th centuries respectively, to enable the monks easier access from their abbey near Morpeth to their township of Horton Grange.

Ponteland Admirals by Keith Robson

Wandering through the churchyard of St Mary's your eye may be drawn to a rather imposing red granite memorial tombstone standing out from the surrounding ranks of the departed. Chiselled into the masonry is a somewhat terse inscription: "Sir Charles Ogle Bart. Admiral of the Fleet. Born 24th May 1775 Died 16th June 1858. Initial reaction may be one of surprise at the rather brief valediction for a man of such high rank.

Venturing into the church and front of memorial tablets fixed to the wall of the north transept the story unfolds. The lives of not one but three Admirals linked to the parish are recorded in glowing terms. All are members of the celebrated Ogle family of Kirkley. Their naval careers spanned the years 1697 to 1857 and the transition from full-rigged ships to ironclads.

The Early Years of the Ponteland Brickyard by Alastair Johnson

A little way along the road to Dissington from the A696, beside Collingwood Cottages, the label on the letter-box, "Ponteland Brickyard", is a reminder of a brick and tile business that operated near there for about a hundred years. The story of the Ponteland Brick and Tile Establishment, from its beginning in 1847 until it passed on to new owners in 1871, is revealed in an old account book that is now in the Northumberland Record Office at Melton Park (NRO ZBL 281/1).

Ponteland Cottage Homes by Peter Kenyon

The site at Ponteland was developed by the Board of Guardians of the Newcastle upon Tyne Poor Law Union. The Union Workhouse was on the site of the present General Hospital on the West Road, Newcastle, where the accommodation for children was inadequate by the 1890s.

Increased social awareness led Boards of Guardians nationally to consider the importance of removing children from the Workhouse. Accordingly, a separate Schools Sub-Committee of the Guardians was formed in 1897 in Newcastle. Visits were made to other areas of the country where separate provision had been made for pauper children and the Committee decided to adopt the "Cottage Homes" system described in idealistic terms by Dr. Barnardo: instead of a big house with sixty girls clad in a dull uniform I would arrange for a number of little ivy clad cottages to arise, each presided over by a kindly Christian woman who would be the mother."

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James Snowdon, Vicar of Ponteland 1762-78 Barbara Harbottle

Dr James Snowdon was instituted to the parish of Ponteland on 22 January 1762. Baptised at St Nicholas Newcastle on 13 December 1718, he was son of Ralph, a member of the Newcastle Hostmen's Company, and his wife Grace nee Milburn, whose immediate forebears lived at Westoe in County Durham. At the age of 17 Snowdon matriculated at Lincoln College, Oxford, and he completed his education at Merton College where he became a fellow, and in 1756 Doctor of Divinity. As Merton was, and indeed still is, the rector of Ponteland, it was not unusual for the College to promote from their own ranks to one of their livings, and so it was that Snowdon, a middle-aged, single man came back to the land of his birth.

Continues.....

The Rectors and Vicars of Saint Mary the Virgin, Stamfordham Raymond Bellwood

Fixed to the south wall of the chancel, near the sanctuary, is a fine marble tablet; beautifully inscribed on it are the names of the incumbents from the earliest time to the present. It shows that from 1150 to 1988, when the present Vicar, the Reverend Dr. Raymond Cavagan (the 49th holder of the office), was appointed, there had been 48 incumbents, the average period of each incumbency being over 17 years, and the longest that of John Lang, who held the appointment for the remarkable length of 59 years, from 1416 to 1475. Something very odd happened, however, in 1304, when no fewer than three individuals held the office, one of whom is described as an 'intruder appointed by the Pope'. Continues.....

Street House Connections

Cristina Bain

When giving directions to someone coming from Newcastle to Darras Hall, via the Link Road, you would probably tell them to turn left at the roundabout at "Dobbie's Garden Centre." You might even add "Just past The Badger." Whether either of these names will find their way into a future history of Ponteland remains to be seen. Both of these new landmarks have as their address "Street House Farm, Street Houses," as it was known to generations of families who from the early 1800s lived in the farm and the cottages bordering the Ponteland turnpike road. In Parson & White's Northumberland Directory for 1828, Street Houses was: "a hamlet in Prestwick township on the Ponteland road, NW by N of Newcastle."

Continues.....

Mining in Prestwick Township: A brief history

J. Michael Taylor

In 1239 Roger De Merlay of Morpeth gave the monks of Newminster Abbey a bridge over the River Blyth, situated at Bellasis, so that produce of Horton Grange could be conveyed to the Abbey at Morpeth. In 1240 a licence was granted by Nicholaus de Aketon to the monks to enable them to get coal from his wood near Midelwood between Blyth and Morpeth Whilst monks are recorded as the first to open out collieries it is not recorded that the coal being shipped to London in 1253 from Plessey was mined by the Cistercian monks of Newminster As Prestwick lies on the outcrop of the Brockwell coal seam it is likely that the Newmister monks conveyed coal as well as fresh produce from their farming outpost to Morpeth. The local legend that the 'Street House Chapel' was used by the monks for prayer after winning coal is worthy of further investigation. It is very likely, however, that the local population will have won the coal as a cheap and readily available source of fuel.

Mining in the area has continued since those early times until the present day with the recent opening, in June 1999, of the Prestwick Opencast Coal Site by Ward Brothers Ltd. Twenty seven shafts of depths ranging from 15m to 66m are recorded within the township. The old method of extracting the coal through 'bell pit' excavations means that there are undoubtedly many unrecorded activities. Continues.....

The Newcastle Weekly Chronicle Reports Ponteland Labour Unrest in 1872

Alastair Johnson

In the Spring of 1872 farm labourers of the Ponteland area met to demand improvements in their wages and working conditions. As reported in the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle: "A crowded and enthusiastic meeting of farm labourers was held at the house of Mrs Mary Davidson, Blackbird Inn, Ponteland, on Saturday night last [24 February 1872], to consider the present position of that class of labourers with regard to the number of hours worked by them and the rate of wages received, and to take steps to secure an improvement in both respects in future." Continues.....

Looking Forward to Looking Back: the PLHS Archives

Liz Richardson

Following the founding of the Society in 1968, projects, competitions and exhibitions contributed to the initial archive of local history material in the early 1970s, with major donations from generous individuals greatly enlarging the collection during the 1980s.

Leslie Almond, a founder member and the immediate past Chairman, was recorded in the Minute Book of the Society (1968-1996) as being Curator of the Society's archives from 1979/80, the collections being housed in his home. It is mainly due to his dedicated efforts, his contact with local people, giving talks and slide shows to various organisations and through his own research, that further material was collected and donated, gradually increasing the archives to cover a variety of material and subject matter. Continues.....

Ponteland Revisited

John Turner

Bob and Leslie Beach

Leslie and his brother Bob are exiled from the North East; Leslie currently living in Croxley Green in Hertfordshire and Bob in Solihull in the West Midlands. Having read the Review of my book "Ponteland" in the Northumbrian Magazine earlier this year Leslie established contact via the Publishers. Since that first contact we have corresponded and exchanged telephone calls as Leslie is very interested in passing on his early memories of his life in Ponteland.

Leslie and Bob, 10 and 6 years old respectively, came to live in Ponteland with their parents in 1929 and lived in "Beechcroft" which I believe is now No.26, The Beeches. They attended the school in Ponteland for their primary education but in 1931 Leslie went to the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle and ultimately Bob went to Dame Allen's. The family moved into Newcastle in 1932 to ease the burden of travel and during the 2nd, World War both Leslie and Bob served in the Army. After the war they both taught at the RGS before finally moving on to new appointments in Hertfordshire and Solihull. Continues.....

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Two Bridges of Northumberland County, by Dr. R. Rennison

Bywell Bridge

Research into the history of West Avenue Methodist Church, in Gosforth, has recently led to information being brought to light concerning the bridge over the river Tyne at Bywell (NZ 053 619). The writer has for some time been puzzled by the fact that this bridge was included as an illustration in a book on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway, in spite of the fact that it did not form a part of it. The link proved to lie with the architect of the church, Septimus Oswald, who had worked for a time in the practice of Henry Welch, Northumberland Bridge Surveyor from 1831 until 1858, and who had been involved with Bywell bridge.¹

The Bridge at Weldon Mill

Recent research into the early bridge surveyors of Northumberland has revealed some hitherto unrecorded details of the bridge carrying the road from Morpeth to Wooler over the river Coquet (NU 138 985). The bridge is substantial and comprises two segmental river spans, each of 51 ft 6 ins with an 8 ft diameter circular pierced spandrel at the river pier. To the north, a 10 ft wide flood arch provides access along an island formed by a mill race. A further segmental arch of 23 ft 6 in span crosses the mill race itself and there is a final land arch of 8 ft on the north bank of the river. All arches have stepped keystones and the solid masonry parapets are carried on dentilated cornices. The bridge has a width of 18 ft between parapets and is without refuges.

Capability Brown: Master Gardener, by Dr. Jeffrey Smith

Subjected as we are to regular programmes of gardening lore, we have become blasé about the beauties of the English garden style. Others have been less reticent about the virtues of the English garden. The Russian Empress Catherine the Great wrote to Voltaire in 1772:

"I passionately love gardens in the English style, the curved lines, the gentle slopes, the ponds pretending to be lakes, the archipelagos on solid ground, and I deeply disdain straight lines...I should say my anglomania gets the better of planimetry."

Queen Catherine wrote at a time when the English garden design had broken free from the rigid geometric lines of Italy and France into a more natural style. In the forefront of those who masterminded this transformation was our own Lancelot Brown, better known as "Capability" Brown. Peter Willis writes "he owes his success to the simplicity and appeal of his artistic formula, the extent of his commissions, and his memorable nickname...Brown is still occasionally represented as the sole creator of the English landscape garden."² His nickname derives from his habit of surveying a new commission for its "capabilities".

East Coldcoats: The history of a farming community, by Liz Bell

In the Spring of 1984 my husband and I were driving from Kirkley to Ponteland and came across a "For Sale" board at the road end of a farm track identifying a house and a cottage for sale. We drove along the track and were surprised to find that the houses and surrounding gardens were very overgrown. We were fascinated by East Coldcoats and our first port of call on Monday morning was the local estate agent. Some months later we purchased "The Farmhouse" and, once we had worked our way through the maze of survey reports, listed building consents, planning applications, supply of services etc., our interest in the history of East Coldcoats developed

Memories of East Coldcoats, by Beryl Taylor

I moved to the farm cottage at East Coldcoats in 1958 along with my mother, Sarah, my father, Henry, known as Harvey, and my four sisters, Ann, Patricia, Moira and Diane. Sarah, her fifth sister, was born a year later in 1959. The farmhouse, next to the cottage, was occupied by Roy and Lilly Dixon who managed the farm on behalf of the tenants, known as M. and N. Dixon. (M. was May Dixon, who had by then died, but the trading name was left unaltered. N. was Nora, May's daughter.) Roy Dixon also rented a hill sheep farm at Carlcroft in the Coquet Valley. (This enterprise was his own and not connected with M. & N. Dixon.) At the time the Dixon family were an important Northumberland farming family with various farms at Corbridge and elsewhere

The Hidden Treasure of Stamfordham Church, by the late Raymond L. Bellwood

One of the treasures in Stamfordham Church is all but obscured by the organ. It thus passes unnoticed by most visitors, but by squeezing round the east side of the organ case, there is to be seen, let into the east wall of the south aisle, a sculpture in deep relief, which was identified by Mr. Hamilton Thompson F. S. A., in a paper he presented early in the twentieth century to the Antiquarian Society of Newcastle, as a portion of a reredos he estimated to have been executed around 1330.

Ponteland Smithy: The Moorhead connection, by Winifred Hellens

For many people, even after the spread of new housing, Ponteland retains its image of a village chiefly because of the clustering of the church, river, public house and blacksmith's shop. As can be seen by the date of 1822 over the stone doorway, the smithy situated close to the River Pont and the Diamond Inn was ideally placed for watering horses and also for the "watering" of their many customers while horses were shod. In the 152 years from 1822 until the smithy's closure in 1974 the Moorhead family were the blacksmiths for approximately one hundred and thirty of those years

Prestwick Wesleyan Methodist Church, by Michael Taylor

John Wesley's first visit to Newcastle was in May 1742 and in December of the same year the first stone of the Wesley Orphan House was laid in Northumberland Street.¹ The growth and revival of Methodism in the 19th Century was partially due to the perceived failure of the Anglican church to address the extreme poverty which existed for much of the working population, particularly in mining communities. It was perhaps inevitable therefore that Methodism would come to the mining township of Prestwick.

Meetings started in rooms in Prestwick early in 1876 and by September the chairman of the Blenheim Street Methodist Station, the Rev. R. Eardley, BA, recorded in his regular report that Prestwick had eleven members and that they hoped to build a chapel "by and by".²

Progress through Ponteland; the construction of the Ponteland Turnpike Road Cristina Bain

The first Act of Parliament for: "More effectually repairing, amending and improving the Road from the West Cowgate, near Newcastle upon Tyne to the North Side of the River Wansbeck, in the County of Northumberland; and for making and maintaining other Roads communicating therewith," came into operation on 25th March 1749. This eighteenth century

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Prestwick Hall

Mike Wilson

When David Foster, who in the summer of 1979 would soon become senior partner in Watson Burton, solicitors, telephoned to say that our offer for Prestwick Hall had been accepted our emotions were, to say the least, mixed. On the one hand we had achieved our objective..... the property was ours..... delighted..... but immediately there followed a feeling of near panic at the thought of the enormous responsibility we were taking on and the work which lay ahead. Twenty three years later the restoration continues, but the thrill of living in this lovely Dobson house has never diminished. Continues.....

The History of Kirkheaton

Rho Barks

Translation of:

Kirkheaton	Kirk – Church	Heton –The farm on the hill	(The Church on the hill?)
Caldstrother	Cal(d) – Cold	Struther – Bog	Cold Bog

The Parochial Parish of Kirkheaton is oblong in shape, being 3¼ miles long by a little over 1 mile wide. It comprises 2,060 acres of mostly pasture land, which is bounded on the north by the River Blyth, rising just beyond the western boundary. The eastern portion of the parish is traversed obliquely by the site of the Roman road called the Devil's Causeway. The hamlet itself consists of the village green, with houses and cottages round it. The Church stands a little off at the highest point. There are three farms based round the green and four more to the east, Toft Hall, Boghall, Brandy Hall and Mount Huly. At one time there were two more, Fairshaw to the east and Blackhill to the west and for a long time there was a coal mine on Brandy Hall. The current population is 48, whilst in 1881 it was 133. Continues.....

Ponteland at war in the Middle Ages

Charlie Wesencraft

Ponteland's first rude awakening to the tramp of armed men came in 1245, when Alexander ii, King of the Scots, descended upon the village at the head of an invading army. The English King, Henry iii, hurried north and occupied Newcastle. The scene was set for a major battle. Continues

Flood Report: November 2000

Yvonne Gibson

Submitted as part of a Higher Education Foundation Course, Newcastle College.

I have recently moved to East Coldcoats, an old farm steading situated approximately two miles north of Ponteland Village. Following some interesting talks with local residents, and some research of my own, I have found that Ponteland and its surrounding area are rich in history. Continues.....

Place-Names of the Parish of Ponteland

Liz Richardson

This article is a follow-up to 'The Evolution of Ponteland Parish Boundary' (Pont Island News, 1999) but in the form of a synopsis of a more detailed version which will be offered for publication in the next issue of Tyne & Tweed. It will subsequently be deposited in the PLHS archives.

The translation and interpretation of place-names is complex. For this study I have consulted in particular the work of Mawer, 1920, Ekwall, 1960 and Gelling, 1993. (Details of their publications are included in the list of sources). All three authors are respected experts in their field, but not necessarily are all in agreement! Continues.....

Milbourne and its Methodism: the story of a village cause

J. Rea Jackson

From the Methodist Recorder 23 March 1905

This article is displayed in the Milbourne Chapel and a copy was donated to PHLS by Mrs B. Davison of Milbourne who is related to the Mr Balmain mentioned in the article.

J.Rea Jackson was a local councillor living in Milbourne. Jackson Avenue in Ponteland is named after him. He had nine children, all of whom emigrated to Canada.

Milbourne is the most remote corner of what is now the Elswick Circuit, Newcastle-on-Tyne. It is really more a district than a village, consisting chiefly of two estates, Milbourne and Milbourne Grange. On the south side of the valley is the Milbourne estate, which has for generations been the seat of the Elliott-Bates family. The village is much smaller than it was a generation ago, consisting of only a few houses, with a pretty little Established Church, built by Mrs Elliott-Bates, and the Hall standing among the trees in the background. On the north side of the valley is the Milbourne Grange estate, the ancient seat of the Horsley family, ancestors of the present Lord Decies. Here we are on historic ground, so far as the early struggle of Nonconformity is concerned. Continues.....

Postscript: Ponteland as a health resort

J. F.

Victorian Britain witnessed a dramatic escalation in public and governmental concern about standards of public health in the industrialised and crowded cities. Although there were significant advances with the establishment of local boards of health, the provision of new housing in both the towns and countryside and improvements in sanitation and medical care, the only remedy for recovery of the sick was often convalescence.

Continues.....

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Capheaton.

John Browne-Swinburne

Biographical notes on Robert Trollope.

Cristina Bain

Two Banners and a Desk.

Capt. Allan J. Dyne

The Diaries of William Brewis, 1833-1850, Throphill, near Mitford.

Joan Foster

East Coldcoats: Memories from the 1940s.

Liz Bell

High Callerton.

Joan Spearman

Ponteland Flood, 6 November 2000, an eye witness account.

Michael Brown

'Westward-Ho!'

Condensed and adapted from an account of the experiences in Camp 69, Ponteland of Julius A. Herrstein, RMN., SRN., RNT.

John Turner

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Ponteland Vicar's Pele Tower

Pele Tower Working Group

Pele Towers

Rev. Oliver Heslop in Northumberland Words – A Glossary of words used in The County of Northumberland and on The Tyneside, 1892, p.529, defines a Pele or Peel as:

....“a four-square tower used formerly for defence. The forms Peel Tower, Peel Castle, and Peel House are also used when speaking generally. The strongholds, nowadays called Peles are scattered over Northumberland, and present a similarity of type in construction and arrangement. The ground floor consists of an apartment, which is vaulted in full semicircular form. The entrance to this is strongly guarded by an oaken door, protected by a grill of flat iron bars fastened to its outer side, and moving with the door. A newel stair, or in some cases a straight stone stair in the thickness of the wall, leads to the upper storey; here is the chief apartment, and above it is a second room. Each of these occupy the entire area within the walls. This area is often not more than 19.5 by 13.5 feet. The tower has battlements, and the angles are sometimes finished with turrets, which are machicolated. For the origin of the term see the treatise, Peel: Its meaning and derivation, by George Neilson, Glasgow, 1893.”

Continues.....’

A History of Ponteland War Memorial

R. L. Davison

A public meeting was held on the 19th July 1918 in the Council School when it was unanimously decided to institute a fund for the purpose of erecting a memorial to men from Ponteland District who had fallen and given their all for their country's cause. It was thereupon agreed that a committee (Editors note: 13 Trustees were appointed on 15th January 1919) to be elected to carry out the scheme, which should consist of an Obelisk, Public Hall, Bowling Green and Tennis Courts. The estimated cost was £4,000.

Within three months the sum of £604. 15s. 0d. had been collected or promised. Plans were obtained but it was found that the estimated cost of the Hall alone would be £3,000, and the matter was deferred until a later date. On the 9th January 1919, the Committee obtained a site of 2.5 acres (plot no. 56) for £550, half the cost being defrayed by a member of the Committee, Mr. W. Stephenson and the remainder from the Memorial Fund. Steps were immediately taken to raise additional funds, and as a result the sum of £221. 15s. 6d. was realized, and the Trustees were appointed. Continues.....

POW Camp 69, Darras Hall.

John Turner

In the early stages of the Second World War there were very few prisoners of war held in Britain because of the constant threat of invasion and the fear of their subsequent release or escape. The small number of captured Germans was almost entirely Luftwaffe crew or Submariners and the majority of these were, after initial debriefing and screening, deported to Canada or the United States.

The first Italian prisoners arrived in small numbers in the summer of 1941 but at the beginning of 1942 an earlier decision was implemented to bring in an additional 28,000 to help with the acute labour shortage in British industry. Later that year however, as the North African Campaign gathered momentum, there was a sharp increase in the number of detainees and by June 1944 there was to be well over 100,000 Italian POW's held in work camps throughout Britain.
Camp 69

In March 1942 the Ministry of Works & Buildings submitted outline proposals to Castle Ward Rural District Council, (the predecessor to Castle Morpeth Borough Council), for the construction of an Italian Prisoner of War Camp on Lots 152, 153, 154, and 155 off Middle Drive, Darras Hall. This site, to be known as Camp 69 and covering almost 17 acres, was located on the sloping ground to the south of Middle Drive and west of The Rise. The Council approved the development in principle at their meeting on 9th April but the Darras Hall Estate Committee were opposed to the proposal, which clearly breached every provision of the Byelaws and the Trust Deed. They had earlier unsuccessfully opposed the construction of an Agricultural Workers Hostel and Food Storage Unit on Lot 126 off Middle Drive, midway

between Whinfell Road and Woodside (now the entrance to Woodvale), but clearly the “exigencies of war” ruled supreme. These developments together with the ongoing “occupation” of the Memorial Hall car park for “N.A.A.F.I”. purposes featured as regular grievances in committee discussions for a number of years. Continues.....

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Reverend Dr. Thomas Sainsbery (1735/6 -1787)

Malcolm Pinhorn

The Revd Dr Thomas Sainsbery, the fifth son of the Revd John Sainsbery, rector of Litton Cheney in Dorset, was born on 22nd February 1735/6 and baptised on 8 March 1735/6 at Litton Cheney Parish Church. Continues.....

Scouting in Ponteland

J Michael Taylor

The founder of the Scout movement and hero of the battle of Mafeking, Lord Baden-Powell has a number of local connections. Baden-Powell's first two names were Robert Stephenson, after the locally born great engineer, who was his godfather. Baden-Powell visited the Armstrong works at Elswick twice in the 1880s to inspect machine-guns. The first Boy Scout camp in England was held in 1908 at Humshaugh, the much-publicised 1907 camp on Brownsea Island was a trial camp. Baden-Powell had many discussions with Viscount Haldane about the territorial system and in 1908, Haldane asked him to take over the Northumberland Territorials. It was in this year that Baden-Powell published his famous book Scouting for Boys in which he uses the murder of Margaret Crozier at Elsdon, and the resourcefulness of a Northumbrian shepherd-boy as an instructive tale for Scouts. It is set near Winter's Gibbet (Winter was the murderer) standing at Steng Cross above Elsdon. Continues.....

Bee's Wing – Whats in a Name?

Margaret Bryson

In the 1930s the children attending the school in the village of Beeswing, which lies between Dumfries and Dalbeattie in the region now called DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY, sang a song - to the tune of "Clementine" which ran "Oh! Beeswing Oh! Beeswing Oh! Beeswing, yellow and black We shall ever stick together With our colours, yellow and black". It may have been coincidence but yellow and black were the racing colours of a certain Mr. Riddell who owned the well known racehorse "Dr. Syntax" later to become the sire of "Bee's Wing". Mr. Riddell later changed his colours to blue and white (quartered) and later still "Bee's Wing" was to race under blue and white colours too. Continues.....

Throckley Colliery in the Eighteenth Century

John Smith

Throckley in the twenty first century is the most westerly of the suburbs of the city of Newcastle; in the eighteenth century it was a largely rural township in the parish of Newburn, but one with an active coal mining industry. Throckley had the unusual distinction of being a colliery whose coal was owned by a government department, at least two hundred years before the nationalisation of the mines! In 1749 Throckley, along with the other confiscated estates of the Radcliffe earls of Derwentwater, was given to commissioners for the upkeep of the naval hospital at Greenwich Continues.....

Herbert William TUSTIN (1869/70 - 1920)

From PLHS Archives

This small piece of research was carried out in response to a request by a Ms Elaine L Sinclair of Ontario, Canada, grand-daughter of the Herbert William Tustin. The research was necessarily limited to the contents of the Society's archives of the time. Information relating to Mr. Tustin was found in Coates School material, an unpublished document on the history of Bell Villas, a graveyard inscription survey, some photos in the collection, and an original set of Christmas cards - pen and ink drawings of St Mary's church by Mr Tustin (1902 to 1914, excluding 1903 and 1906). It is believed that Ms Sinclair already has originals or copies of these drawings. Continues.....

Arthur Edward George of George and Jobling

Dennis Hill

What is preserved of the old Stephenson Works today is basically what was occupied by George & Jobling, a firm of motor engineers. Arthur George first went into business as an engineer in Newcastle at the junction of Forth Street and South Street. With the formation of the partnership with Robert Lee Jobling, these premises closed and South Street was taken over about 1902. From A E George - 1909 (age 34) around 1905 they were best known for the sale of Argyll, Hillman and Ford vehicles. It is rumoured they invented the breakdown lorry around this time and patented it.

Continues.....