

## **Henderson's History of Tweedmouth**

[Tapes compiled in 1979; eight double-sided tapes, c. 30 minutes each side]

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### **Outline of the contents**

#### **Tape 1 A**

Lindisfarne 638. St Boisil. St Cuthbert's Well. St Boisil's Feast. A place of pilgrimage.

Antony Bek, bishop of Durham 1292. Tweedmouth Church built 1144. Strip farming.

The Scottish king William the Lion, the English king John, the Norham conference 1209.

Bridges and ferry boats 1479. Edward I - "Parliament" in Tweedmouth 1278 and 1294. Loss of hunting privileges. Bridges and ferry 1294. Bishop Antony Bek died 1310.

Bishop Richard Kellawe and the Leper Hospital at Spittal 1313. The origin of Spittal.

#### **Tape 1 B**

Bishop Kellawe. A toft in Tweedmouth, tithes to Robert de Sokpeth. Held by Adam, son of Hugh, our native, 1315. Crossbow men guarded the ferry, and received an allowance of one half quarter of pease. Living conditions of serfs.

Edwardian walls of Berwick built. Robert the Bruce 1320.

1328 Treaty of Northampton. Edward III, army in Tweedmouth 1333. Single combat between Turnbull and Sir Robert Benhale. Seton's son hanged, as hostage. Battle of Halidon Hill. Start of raids by the reivers.

1344 Proctor of Norham built a tithe barn near Tweedmouth Church. Bathes Tower built by the keeper of the Spittal Hospital as protection against raiders. Smuggling of wool. Salmon fishing industry begins.

1449 Gypsies arrived in Scotland.

## **Tape 2 A**

15th century. Sir William Tyler leased the manor of Tweedmouth 1491 from the Bishop of Durham - fishing, a colliery, and moorland. Tyler was Crown governor of Berwick in charge of building new defences and a bridge which, although temporary, lasted for 130 years.

George Matthewson rewarded by Bishop Fox in 1501, appointed Bailiff of Tweedmouth for his defence of Norham Castle against king James IV of Scotland.

July 29th 1503 Margaret, daughter of Henry VII, goes in a great procession through Tweedmouth to be Queen of Scotland, as part of the peace treaty. She rests in Tyler's house in the West End.

Pastoral economy of the Merse. Strict family discipline. Warden of the Marches appointed. Scottish pirates 1508. Sixty Tweedmouth men in the Bishop's contingent at Battle of Flodden, 1513.

## **Tape 2 B**

1509 Thomas Ruthall becomes Bishop of Durham. Disastrous mix-up of the account books. Leased Murton coal mine to Thomas Strangwick and William Gardyner. Allowed one sermon a year to be preached at Tweedmouth Church 1515.

Reivers again. The bridge broke beneath the English army as they went through Tweedmouth; Norfolk's men were hurt or drowned.

Holy Island Castle built in 1544 (and lasted until 1820). 1558 Cornhill and Ord left in flames.

Cuthbert Tunstall appointed as Bishop of Durham 1530, imprisoned in the Tower of London 1551, restored to his seat under Queen Mary, finally deprived of his bishopric 1559 - but the cathedral regained the whole of its possessions. Dissolution of the monasteries and chantries 1536-1545. One hospital monastery, one convent, one chantry in Tweedmouth (Ladywell).

Enclosure movement; unemployment.

Bad weather 1565, 1570-1571. Many bridge repairs 1590. Bishop Pilkington. The Rising of the North. Population increasing. 1597 Plague at the Tweedmouth Feast. Insanitary conditions.

### **Tape 3 A**

Henderson's sources for this history .

Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots, border intrigues, Jesuit activity at the Virgin Inn, Tweedmouth owned by the Duke of Norfolk who was executed 1572. Agent carrying letters apprehended in Tweedmouth.

Spanish galleons. New walls in Berwick begun in 1564, with Irish immigrants as workmen. Then a pier built using Tweedmouth Quarry stone.

New employment options in Tweedmouth.

John Knox refuses the See of Newcastle. Dunkirk pirates. The ford from Tweed Church to the Water Gate, and its defence by tenants-at-will.

### **Tape 3 B**

Growing importance of Tweedmouth Feast. Complaints of lawlessness. Warring Lords of the Marches.

James VI welcomed as James I of England. He promises help to build a new bridge 1603. Work began 1611 and finished 1621. The old bridge finally collapses and damages the New Bridge. Workmen's wages paid at Thatch House Tavern in West End.

James I's Progressions with 200 carts. Many new taverns. Brick works, coal mines, stone quarries and rich enclosed fields between Tweedmouth and Ord House. Incoming labourers. The enclosure movement.

## **Tape 4 A**

Wide divide between north & south Britain. Petty crimes recorded in Court Rolls. Drunken young men. Taverns owned by soldiers from Berwick in lieu of wages. "Dragon's Milk" very potent.

Charles I 1625. Bishop of Durham loyal to Charles. First and Second Bishops' War. Scots on the warpath.

"The Solemn League and Covenant". Scots march south on 17 January 1644 in 18" deep snow. Battle of Marston Moor.

1646 King Charles surrendered at Newark. Civil war again, and all occupying forces cause devastation to local communities.

## **Tape 4 B**

1649 King Charles executed. Cromwell & 30,000 men moving north through Tweedmouth and Berwick. "Black earth policy", but supply ships sent to Berwick. Scottish Presbyterianism strongly established in the Borders. Long-serving Anglican vicars of Tweedmouth: John Jackson 33 years; William Aterlus 28 years; George Auchterlonie. A Puritan element in Tweedmouth – William Mein ("the interloper") installed for 15 years; 1662 Auchterlonie restored, but died within 3 years. Patrick Smith was vicar for 24 years until 1689.

Highwaymen. Stage coaches from 1640.

Growing prosperity. Berwick paid £570 for Manorial Rights of Tweedmouth but failed to purchase Norham & Islandshire. Objection to the Feast traders. 17<sup>th</sup> century Feast – pedlars, amusements, 'country' dances. Justices of the Peace instead of 'piepowder courts'.

1689 New vicar William Methven, from Hutton, installed and served 45 years (a record) according to his tomb in the church.

## **Tape 5 A**

Dutch William, Queen Anne. "Union of Parliaments"? 1705 "Somers Act" against free trade with Scotland.

1715 Jacobite rebellion. The Riot Act. 1719 Cardinal Alberoni and Spanish invasion attempt – ships destroyed by storm.

Young Pretender 1745. Cope flees to Berwick after defeat at Prestonpans. Rebellion ended 1746 at Culloden Moor. Dutch mercenaries brought gaol fever.

James Stewart. Stories of "Jimmy Strength".

War of American independence. Slave traders – buried in Tweedmouth churchyard.

New industrial machines. Big country house estates continue and employ much labour. 1735 Calendar reformed, New Year to start in January.

Hardwicke Marriage Act 1753 (clandestine marriages). Handfast marriages at Tweedmouth from centre of river (1818).

## **Tape 5 B**

18<sup>th</sup> century population figures show growth. Replacement of the monastic culture by the "country house scene". Domestic employment the largest industry. New machinery. Domestic weaving industry – still using packhorses in Tweedmouth. Tenters Street (now Church Road) 18C weavers' cottages stretched down to the Cock Fighting Inn (27 Church Road). Robert Morrow, weaver, died 1704.

By enclosure and exchange, modern farming methods were taking over. 1736 The In-Fields and 1768 the Waste Land. 20 acres of market gardening between Church Road and Brewery Bank. Life on the farm for labourers.

The Salmon Company – wealthy Berwick coopers. Independent fishing. Ice Houses 1788. Salmon for the London trade.

Long list of occupations: Forster's tile works at Cock Law Farm. Selby Morton tile and brick works, and starch factory. Tait's horn spoons. Dryden's ropery. Ship yards. 3 dye works. White skinnery. Tanyards. 2 clog factories. Leather. Sheepskin. Clay pipe works. The population was not poor.

## **Tape 6 A**

18<sup>th</sup> century communications. Isolation of Berwick & Tweedmouth. The Barracks 1719. Four Meeting Houses in Berwick. Sources of information. The Swallow, built 1750, in Kiln Hill and The Lamb, built 1740, in Main Street, were coach stops. Coffee house at the Red Lion for newspapers. Itinerant pedlars. Traffic over the bridge. Highwaymen gathered information at The Traveller's Rest in Etal Road. Various coaching inns described. Taverns: The Ship Inn. Toll Gates & Turnpike Act.

Smuggling – underground wealth. Excise officers. Account of local counterfeiting – a tale of Spittal – Mendham and his gang executed 1786. Smuggling at the “Union Inn” in Union Brae. The ingenuity of the smugglers. Cargo taken to Ord Hill for distribution.

The Virgin Inn given a new front by 1780. Miss Ramsey's new mansion – Tower House. “Adam” built Middle Ord, fire places at Ord House and Murton White House, etc. Mortuary built in churchyard. Unknown sailors washed ashore 1739, 1767. Pilot boat overturned 1797 & 1800, pilot drowned on the Bar.

## **Tape 6 B**

Donations to the poor in Feast Week. “Duddery” heavy clothing sold at the Feast. “Pedlars & Muggers”. Wrestling and foot running, bear baiting, bull baiting, cock fighting. Famous inn at 27 Church Road. Camels and monkeys introduced for entertainment. Fire-eaters and dancers. “Salmon kettles” continue.

Tweedmouth Register from 1711. 50/50 division of Church of England/Presbyterians. Methodism established in the parish 1741 (3 years after Wesley began preaching).

Tweedmouth parish church smaller than today. Repairs and alterations to the church – the Church Rate. 2 joint stools dated 1738 “for setting the corpse upon”. Vicars and their repairs, and the levies. New Tower, stone double deck pulpit – pews east-west. Bell repairs and a new rope 1792.

1783 First Scottish church outside Scotland built at Blakewell Corner. A pluralist absentee vicar, William Bowlit, who changed his name on marrying, and a series of curates. Problems of the poor. Vagrants. Overseers' duties – Poor Relief. The Poor House in Blakewell Green built in 1767.

A boy apprenticed to a clockmaker named Nicholson – now famous as a Regency grandfather clockmaker.

## **Tape 7 A**

19th century. Uncomfortable and expensive travel options. Better-sprung coaches and better roads. Telford and McAdam. New timetables. Bow Street Runners.

1830s. Extreme snowy weather for several years. Cod and haddock thrown up on shore at Spittal. Floods, 1839, and very hot summer, 1840 (107 degrees F in June).

Edinburgh to Berwick railway 1846. Newcastle to Tweedmouth railway 1847. Royal Border Bridge 1850, opened by Queen Victoria.

Tweedmouth ship-builders and details of ships. Steamboats, clippers.

Tweedmouth Iron Foundry - Robertson. Metal lamp-posts for India, the colonies, Hong Kong. Tweedmouth Dock built 1876. Emigration to Australia 1835.

New railway-based industries. Allan Bros 1853. The Mill built 1879.

## **Tape 7 B**

Plenty of employment – herring houses, ship and boat building, tanyard, brewery, raftyard, cartwrights' works. Nine public houses in 1800. Carriers' carts – 14 regulars. Further list of occupations – professor of English and shorthand writing. Peculiar combinations of employment.

Stone for the new pier – some quarries were worked out. Wooden rail lines along Spittal Main Street from Huds Head to barges. Many wharves along Tweedmouth riverside. The Pinfold and Low Gate across the road. Dock built 1786.

24 farmers in Tweedmouth. List of important ones in 1820. Reform Bill 1832. 121 in Tweedmouth on County voting list. 188 rateable inhabitants (55 Spittal, 10 East Ord).

Before 1835 Berwick and Tweedmouth had separate coroners. Taxes on many things including windows (above 8). Several French emigrés in Tweedmouth (names given).

19th century expansion and industrialisation of Tweedmouth. Road and horse transport replaced by new alternatives. Steam boats became important. New railway bridge built by "navvies". Tweedmouth railway station built. 1899 a convict ship in the Dock.

## **Tape 8 A**

19<sup>th</sup> century Overseer's duties – responsibility of Churchwardens and Vestry. Out-relief. The Poor House. Feast money – tobacco, liquor and second-hand clothing provided. Transport of vagrants.

1801 Two new buildings in Kiln Hill acquired for new Poor House opposite the Swallow Inn, in "The Square". Statistics for out relief from Vestry Book 1800-1827.

James Bonner, teacher in the Poor House, became an inmate - when dying in 1815 he disclosed that he was heir to the Bonner estate. Manufacture of fleeces in the Poor House for Thomas Murray, a yarnman (1802). Good and bad overseers. (Quotes) Story of Arthur O'Hara 1799.

1850 Board of Health report – Tweedmouth had considerable trade. Spittal, a summer bathing resort. Cholera 1832, 1850. Gas lighting in the streets 1846 in Tweedmouth. Bad conditions in Spittal 1832 – fish refuse and pigs. Spittal miners and tile makers, wages good, but low whisky shops available.

David Lamb's private water-works at Tweedmouth. Well water in Vicarage until past First World War. Population numbers. Dr Fuller and the cholera 1832. Soup kitchen. Deaths included the vicar's two children. In 1832-1833 there were 386 deaths. In 1846-1847 there were 441 deaths. (Compare flu epidemic 1918-1919 – 173 deaths.)

## **Tape 8 B**

19<sup>th</sup> century: Discontent of Free Church people over Church Rate. Churchwardens' duties (inspect pubs, etc.) Registry Offices started 1837. Marriages in Scotland not valid in England. 1837 Tithes committed for money for Vicar's stipend (details). (Tithes abolished 1937.)

Churchyard enlarged 1841. North aisle and vestry built. After the 1847 cholera outbreak, more burial ground was needed and 3 acres at the Old Quarry were bought for a cemetery (opened 1868).

New vicar, Thomas Proctor, 1864. The school in Mount Road and former vicarage. Rearranged seating in Church, added heating, chancel added. Built church at Spittal 1869-1870. Pupil teachers at the school – Jane Crisp 1854-1938. Rev. Blagden and the new vicarage. Rev. Westcott beautified the Church.

Changes at the Tweedmouth Feast. The opening of the railways meant that the Feast no longer acted as an annual trading centre. The era of the cheap jacks took over and lasted until the end of the First World War. Thatch House Tavern burned 1886. New Border Bridge 1928. Antiquity of the Feast – proofs. St Boisil – St Cuthbert – St Bartholomew's.