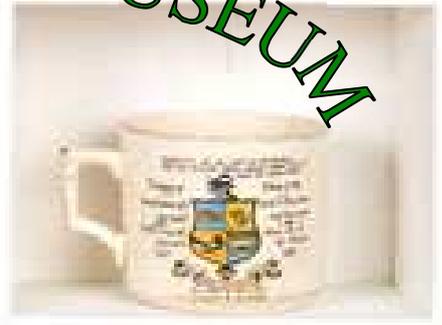


# FRIENDS OF SWALEDALE MUSEUM

Newsletter No. 34  
Winter 2022



## A message from the Curator

Let's start this edition of the Newsletter with some entries from our visitors' book for the last season. It was good to see our regulars, like David and Margaret from Doncaster who found us 'Excellent as usual'. First time visitors the Mitchells from Leyburn felt they had hit the 'Lucky Dip Jackpot Today'. The Scotts from Darlington 'spent a great morning researching Dakin ancestors'. Jo and Mike from Leicester found us 'small but perfectly formed', and Christopher popped in as part of his 28.6 mile bicycle ride from Ripon, and found both it and us 'invigorating'. The Squire family noted 'we love the museum - it's fun and fascinating', and Dinah and Peter from Washington DC, USA thought that the museum 'adds a dimension to the lovely landscape'. These remarks and many more give us a tremendous boost and confirm how important it is to have small local museums.

Our lecture programme was a great success, thanks not only to the exceptional quality and generosity of our speakers, but also to the support of Chris and Kathy Browne at Reeth Memorial Hall. This is a wonderful venue, perfect for talks. We donated our spare digital projector, and the Hall has a state of the art audio system. We began the series with a talk by Richard Lamb on Old Gang and Surrender lead smelting mills, with an introduction to 'slag



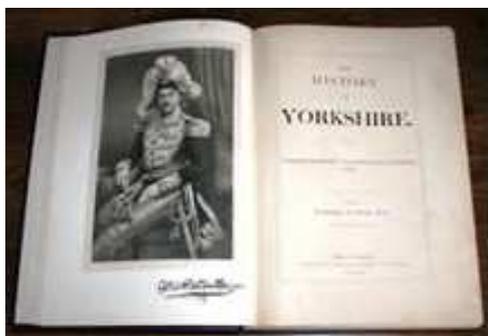
*Some familiar exhibits in their new home at Keld. See page 3 for details.*

mineralogy'. Now the latter seemed to me a bit of an arcane subject, but Richard held us all amazed as he showed us the 'new' micro minerals created in the lead smelting process, a wonderland of beautiful forms and crystals, packed with possibilities for new research. How sad then that these man-made minerals are not recognized by the official Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland. We then explored the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale sources held at North Yorkshire County Record Office. Kimberley Starkie certainly whetted our appetites and offered a very warm welcome to the Record Office. By a wonderful example of serendipity, she showed us the Reeth Market Charter, granted in 1695, linking to the new Gazette feature (see below). Helen Guy unfolded the story of the Kearton brothers of Thwaite, who went on to revolutionise natural history photography. Her lecture brought them alive and packed a powerful punch. The letter sent to her by David Attenborough, revealing how important the brothers' work had been to his own career left us all rather emotional. David Johnson's long-awaited talk on lime kilns, a subject that he has been working on for decades, drew a large and varied audience. We were delighted to have some local farmers in attendance who were able to comment on their own use of lime. David was delighted that all the copies of his book on the subject, which he brought to the talk, were snapped up, proof of the popularity of his presentation. Prof William van Vugt gave us an introduction to his new book *Portrait of an English*

*Pioneering wildlife photographer Cherry Kearton from Thwaite who featured in one of our most popular talks*



*Migration North Yorkshire People in North America*. His description of where the Swaledalers settled, and why, and their experiences, conveyed the extraordinary bonds between the old and new worlds and the families that straddled them. In September Will Swales astonished us all in his bravura revelation of the life of Marshal-General Plantagenet Harrison. Harrison's *History of Yorkshire Part 1: The Wapentake of Gilling West*, is



an extraordinary undertaking, large not only in size, but also in the depth of its genealogical research, of which the author was a pioneer. Yet this book played only a small part in

Harrison's life. Will took us around the world with him, as he tracked Harrison's exploits, particularly in South America. We were delighted that John Sharpe who donated a copy of *History of Yorkshire* to the Museum was able to attend, all the way from Nottingham, and that Mike Wood from Richmond brought some documents, including Harrison's passport, to the talk. Shaun Richardson ended the series with a masterly look at the effects of the 2019 flooding on local archaeology. His detailed analysis of sites, particularly of Grinton smelt mill (*far right*), was accompanied by philosophical thoughts about how we read the damage done, how it might help us think about the impact of previous flooding, and the problems of what we chose to 'restore' and save for the future.

This year of course has been a landmark one for the Swaledale Museum. Unlike many small museums we have survived COVID and its wider economic and social impact. Our most important job as curators is to preserve the collection for the future, and after nearly twenty years as its caretakers we were beginning to think about a 'succession strategy'. To find that the newly restored schoolroom at Keld was to become a museum, run by the well-established Keld Resource Centre charity seemed an opportunity that could not be missed. Thanks to the support of Barbara Law, daughter of the founders of the Swaledale Museum, and all the lenders who we contacted, we were able to formally hand over the Swaledale Museum Collection to Keld Resource Centre. Over the summer and autumn Helen Guy and her associate

Ian Wharton have been ferrying objects from Reeth to Keld. We look forward to visiting the Keld Schoolroom and wish Helen and her team the warmest good wishes for the future of the collection, as they work, like us, to keep local history alive.

However, this is not the end of the Swaledale Museum! We have many objects on loan from KRC, particularly those relating to Reeth, and all our information panels, as well as our much-loved sound post, harmonium, mystery objects, local posters and many other favourite exhibits. In fact, as we reconfigure the displays, and add to them, the Museum looks even better than it did before. We also continue to acquire objects and archives, some of the most recent feature in this Newsletter. After a meeting of the Friends of Swaledale Museum Committee we were delighted that its members wanted to continue to support our work. We hope that you will want to too!

Now we have more time to spend on projects that we have had to put on the 'back-burner'. One of these is an historical guidebook to Swaledale and Arkengarthdale.

As Jackie Pope, the new editor of the *Reeth and District Gazette* was keen to start a new occasional feature - a 'Focus On' series - we thought we could help and start writing contributions for the guidebook at the same time. We



*The newly revealed floor of Grinton Smelt Mill, cleared ready for a wedding reception, just before the floods*

are beginning with a piece on Reeth Green and Market Charter. As ever, once you get researching you realise how many 'facts' turn out to be questionable, and how others have discovered new sources and come up with new interpretations. So, the articles are a tribute to collaboration, and my thanks go to the generosity of others in sharing their research and findings.

Thank you Tracy, who, amidst major house renovation and a long run of ill health, has put this newsletter together.

We look forward to seeing you when we re-open in the Spring of 2023. Your support is as invaluable as ever.

*Helen Bainbridge, Curator*

**NB Details of the 2023 AGM will be in the Spring Newsletter.**

October 22nd 2022 saw the last, and perhaps most difficult, object selected for transfer from the Swaledale Museum, move up dale to Keld. What we thought could be a rather daunting challenge was actually made remarkably easy with the help of volunteers, teamwork and the marvellous Pete Roe providing his trailer and winch!

With the majority of the collection is now safely in Keld, we aim to spend the quiet winter months slowly curating the display themes ready for next Spring, but the Old School will be open daily from 9am -5pm throughout the winter. We also have the scope to extend and display some of the collection in our visitor centre (next door to the school). We are also working on the organisation of the Archive Office collection of documents and photographs so that these resources can be available for anyone who wishes to book a session for research, ancestry, etc

So very exciting times ahead and a lot of work to do. From a personal perspective I think it is wonderful that the collection is remaining intact and in Swaledale and that it has moved from one old school building to another old school. When Keld Resource Centre first started to consider what we would do with the Old School in Keld, I was determined and committed that it should remain a place of education and now after decades of neglect it is once again. Feedback from visitors to date has been extremely positive and complimentary.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Donald and Erica Law for having the vision and passion to start building the collection, Helen and Alan Bainbridge for developing and safeguarding it over many years, and the Friends of Swaledale Museum for allowing it to move up to

Keld. I promise we will take very good care of it and safeguard its future.

*Helen Guy, Director of the Keld Resource Centre*

*The Committee are currently looking forward to a meeting with Helen Guy, and finding out what plans KRC have for the Museum and the development of their Friends group, and what we can do to help .*



*Pete, Tony & Helen say good bye to a lead waggon as it moves up Dale*



Can anyone shed any light on this fascinating collection of footmarks on the roof of St Andrew's, Grinton? Jonathan Dawson kindly sent us some photographs of them, taken by Pete Roe in 2000

The understanding is that in the distant past, choirboys climbed up the church tower and scraped the outline of their wooden clogs, heeled and toed with steel plates, into the thick lead of the roof. When the roof was re-leaded the marks, some of them named and dated, were cut out and set into the new roof.

We think one of them reads 'Jas Galloway ae 16 July 15 1805'. This could well be the son of Thomas Galloway of Healaugh who was baptised at Grinton in early 1790.

Other marks look like I H 1829 with T E on the edge; possibly Wm Kendall 1870 along with Tho Galloway and a smiling figure; W A and H W and others too faint to read. The nearest William Kendall to fit the bill was born in 1851 which would make him quite old for a choir boy so maybe it wasn't just the children. Any information gladly received!

To get a better view see <http://2dales.org/church-roof.html> where you can enlarge the photographs.



Jocelyn Campbell was one of the founder members of the Friends of Swaledale Museum, and we were delighted when she agreed to join the committee. She brought with her an outstanding and needle-sharp memory, a fascination with, and deep knowledge of, local history, and a distinguished pedigree - being the daughter of the historian Edmund Cooper, whose works she illustrated, and made sure were kept in print. Generous with her knowledge, keen to contribute, and always immensely supportive we have lost our 'oracle'. We miss her lively conversations, with delightful digressions, and the simple fact that she is no longer there to answer those questions we regularly posed to her about the past. We can foresee that her articles for the *Reeth and District Gazette* will become collectors' items. We know that her involvement in the dale was but part of a much wider world of interest, but she always communicated the depth of love for it. Jocelyn died at home in Arkengarthdale on 24th July 2022. We will miss her greatly.



## Swaledale manors and the Smith family – correcting the Victoria County History

A frequently repeated and succinct account of the history of the united lordship of the manors of Healaugh and Muker in Swaledale can now be shown to be seriously wrong. It is found in the highly regarded *Victoria History of the County of York North Riding, Volume 1*, Victoria County History Series (VCH), published in 1914. Describing a line of descent, it identifies three lords of the manors who in fact never held that position, and it erases from history four actual lords of the manors.

The VCH correctly reported that after Philip Wharton [Duke of Wharton], squandered his estates, ‘the manors of Healaugh and Muker were in 1733 granted to trustees for payment of his debts and in 1738 sold to Thomas Smith of Easby [near Richmond].’ But then the VCH went on to state incorrectly that: ‘Frances, only daughter and heir of Thomas Smith, married in 1796 Charles Lyell of Kinnordy and had a son, Charles, knighted in 1848, from whom the manor has descended to the present owner, Captain Francis Horner Lyell.’

That second part of the story is wrong in several ways. Frances Smith was not the daughter of Thomas Smith of Easby, she was his granddaughter. She did marry Charles Lyell of Kinnordy, but she did not inherit the manors of Healaugh and Muker. Neither she nor her husband was ever lord of the manors, and nor was their son Sir Charles Lyell. Indeed, at no point in history did the manors descend through the Lyell family. Captain Lyell, a nephew of Sir Charles Lyell, was the first and only member of the Lyell family to hold the lordship.

Today’s vastly improved access to historical records gives the modern researcher a significant advantage over those of more than 100 years ago, although it remains odd that researchers of that period, so much closer in time to the events, could have been quite as wrong as it can now be shown they were in this case. The source of the trouble appears to be Thomas Bulmer’s 1890 *History Topography and Directory of North Yorkshire*, which gave separate accounts of the manors. Referring to Healaugh, Bulmer gave no explanation of the descent of the manor from the Duke of Wharton to Captain Lyell. But in respect of the Manor of Muker, Bulmer stated: ‘Frances, daughter and heir of the late T. Smith, Esq, of Muker hall, conveyed it in marriage to Charles Lyell Esq, from whom it has descended to Capt. F. H. Lyell, the present owner.’

Shortly afterwards, this wrong account was faithfully copied and applied to the Manor of Healaugh by Harry Speight in his book *Romantic Richmondshire*, published in 1897. The VCH, which is widely acknowledged as a very serious and reliable body of academic work, noted correctly that the manors of Healaugh and Muker were united under the same lord, but then, by following Bulmer and Speight unquestioningly, applied to both manors the false story of the descent through the Lyell family. The only alteration by the VCH was to omit the fanciful claim that Thomas Smith had lived at ‘Muker Hall’.

It can now be shown that after Thomas Smith of Easby, there were three more generations of men in the Smith family who were successive lords of the manors, all of them called Thomas Smith. The last of them died in 1862 and bequeathed the manors to his sister Mrs Eleanor Sillery, who bequeathed the manors, on her death in 1880, to the second son of her late cousin, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lyell, a brother of Sir Charles Lyell. The beneficiary was 28-year-old Francis Horner Lyell. His qualification for the inheritance was sound, in that he was a grandson of Frances Lyell (née Smith), and therefore a direct descendant of two men called Thomas Smith who were successive lords of the manors of Healaugh and Muker.

The question arises – how could researchers, who were working on the story when Captain Lyell was in the prime of his life and actively engaged in the supervision of the manors, have got the line of descent so completely wrong? All they had to do was to ask Captain Lyell, who inherited the manors only 10 years before Thomas Bulmer’s *History Topography and Directory of North Yorkshire* was published. Maybe it was a hopeless misunderstanding, or an incompetent assumption, or could it have been that researchers were deliberately misinformed?

It’s notable that the root of the fiction was to omit from the line of descent the father of Frances Smith, who was the second lord of the manor called Thomas Smith. He is significant because he was an illegitimate son, born Thomas King, who didn’t change his name to Smith until he inherited his father’s estates. Is it possible that Victorian sensitivities about illegitimacy caused someone, perhaps Captain Lyell himself, to attempt to erase this uncomfortable truth from history, by pretending a line of descent through the Lyell family? We can only speculate.

The correct and verifiable line of descent of the manors is borne out in part in the manor court books held at the North Yorkshire County Record Office in Northallerton. They can also be seen in transcriptions currently being undertaken, although not yet completed, and posted online by members of the history group of the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG). However, the manor court books do not clearly indicate the passing of the manors from one Thomas Smith to the next. That aspect is most easily followed through reading the wills of each successive lord, which are now readily available, the earliest at The National Archives and later ones through the government’s probate registry.

From researching these sources, the verifiable story of the descent of the manors of Healaugh and Muker, starting from Thomas Smith of Easby in 1738, can now be seen, with references to sources, here: [Swaledale manors and the Smith family – correcting the Victoria County History | Swaledale history \(wordpress.com\)](#)

*Will Swales*

## If Trees Could Talk ....

Trees are silent partners in the long history of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. They played a major role in creating the soils on which our farming communities were built, fuelled our earliest smelting mills and provided construction timber for the industrial scale lead mining that followed. The location of most of our villages can be traced back to clearings in the Forests of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale and until cheap coal became available, wood from local coppices and hedgerows warmed the homes within them. The current enthusiasm for tree planting for environmental reasons could potentially lead to a further change in our relationship with trees and raises legitimate questions about the impact of increased woodland cover on the traditional and much revered landscape of the dales: what might be lost if we can't see the good for the trees?

We're very lucky to have access to some fine collections of early photographs of our Dales. There are thousands in the Swaledale Museum Image Archive and many more are shared online via the incomparable 'Old Photos of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale' Facebook group set up by Richard Kimmage. Most people quite reasonably consult these resources to find out about the people and buildings of the Dales but photos can also contain vital clues about the woodland history of our landscape.

The picture below left is a fairly typical early landscape photograph: it shows mid-Swaledale looking up dale from above Lawn House. I wandered up there earlier this summer to compare this photo to the contemporary scene (*below right*) and it became immediately obvious that today's outlook is considerably more wooded.

A quick trawl of early landscape photos will soon create the general impression that a hundred years ago, Swaledale looked appreciably more bare than it does today. Far from being set in aspic, our landscape has changed considerably within the living memory of our oldest residents.

Fascinating though old photos are, they can only take you so far. To go back further we have to rely on other sources: pollen analysis, archaeology, documentary research, place names and field work all play their part in allowing a relatively seamless story to emerge.



Before reading on (you'll see why later), pause a moment, take a long, deep breath (aaahh...), followed by a shorter, shallower one..., and prepare for a journey through time. Winding back twenty thousand years takes us to the end of the last Ice Age. There were no trees – or indeed much else at all except a thick carpet of ice carving out the dales and carrying away remnants of soil from the previous interglacial period. The ice eventually disappeared, and tundra eventually established, building up the thinnest of soils which slowly became thick enough to support pioneer tree species - birch, juniper, aspen and pine – spreading slowly north from the continent to which our Isles were still joined.

Thousands more years passed until we reached a point, seven thousand years ago, by which time all the tree species that purists consider 'native' had arrived and tree cover was at its maximum. This was the wildwood, and the entire landscape was covered with a bountiful mix of trees, with oak the dominant species in the dales, and hazel on the high ground between. Clearings in the tree cover were common, and here herbivores grazed and by doing so, kept the clearings open.

The next five thousand years saw a gradual transition (albeit with fits, starts and occasional setbacks) from an arboreal landscape to a human one. Only a trickle of people appeared at first, possibly hunters camped at (a then much larger) Semer Water, who were attracted to the game in the clearings which they enlarged to expand the catch. The process of clearance accelerated, and as the numbers of people increased, their living changed from hunter to herder to farmer, and their tools from stone to bronze to iron, so the landscape opened up. First the higher ground was cleared of trees, where the soil, far richer than today's, provided good pasture enriched by thousands of years of leaf litter. Over time people moved down into the dales, settled permanently, and created vast field systems reaching from the floodplains high up the dale sides. The arrival of Roman invaders increased the demand on an already intensively worked landscape and pushed trees to the margins. Pollen analysis suggests that by the end of the Roman occupation, tree cover in Swaledale would have been similar to that of our early twentieth-century photos.

The story so far is the 'deep breath' you took earlier: inhaling from the Ice Age to the wildwood maximum charged with oxygen, and then exhaling as the tree cover almost disappears. The shorter, shallower breath you took next mirrors the post-Roman period to the present day.

Pressure on the land eased after the Roman withdrawal as a smaller number of people lived simpler lives and drifted to lower, milder climes. In their wake, trees returned to the dale sides although the high ground remained mostly open. We can imagine that when Gunnar arrived with the Norwegian Vikings and settled at Bents, one hundred metres above the Swale, that this could have been the tree line at the time.

Some time after the Norman conquest, inhalation turns to exhalation again as the tree cover in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale once again declined. The complex and fascinating detail of this process is for another day, but the general reduction in tree cover until recent times was accompanied by an increasing intensity of woodland management. Practice based around wood pasture supporting pollarded trees in grazed commons (they call it agroforestry today!) gradually gave way to coppicing, and then plantation, remembering of course that the transitions were never as neat as a summary such as this might imply.

They say that if you don't like the weather there's no need to worry as it will soon be different. Our breathless charge through the long history of woodland in our Dales has revealed a similarly ever-changing outlook.

*Rob Macdonald*

**Look out for Rob's seven part series on this subject to be published in the *Reeth Gazette* in 2023**

## Marrick, Memory and Connecting

We are delighted to have received two donations from Kate Trusson early last year.

One is a large and handsome cast iron embossing press (*right*). The body is decorated with japanned gold foliage on a black background. While these presses are quite common, what is special about this one is the circular stamp that remains *in situ* on the base. We put a piece of paper between the stamp and the lever, pressed hard and found that it left an imposing impression bearing the title UNITED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARRICK 1876 with a crown (*below left*).

Thanks to consulting *MARRICK: Geographical and Historical information from the year 1890* we know that 'The School Board for the United District of Marrick was formed about 13 years ago [ie 1876], and two commodious schools have been erected at Marrick and Hurst. The former was built in 1878, at a cost of £700, and will accommodate 40 children; the latter, about two years later, at a cost of £1,150, contains accommodation for 78.

The district under the jurisdiction of the Board includes the township of New Forest, in the adjoining parish of Ravensworth'. The Marrick School Board Minute Books from 1876 to 1902 are held at North Yorkshire County Record Office ref: BS/MAR [MIC 3667, 3935] along with the correspondent's letter book 1903-1906; correspondence & papers 1876-1906; vouchers 1878-1879 and copy birth certificates 1878-1880. We would welcome any information, photographs or ephemera to help us 'flesh-

out' the story of the school. As a postscript, those who have a good memory will recall a circular metal disk we featured in the Autumn 2020 No.30 Newsletter, bearing the name Swaledale Mines. Well, it would have been used in a similar embossing stamp to this. As E.M. Forster was to write 'Only Connect'!



Continuing the theme of Marrick, memory and connecting, some of you might remember the piece in the Autumn 2019 No.28 Newsletter which featured a flag sent from the children of Marrickville, a suburb of Sydney in Australia, to the school at Marrick in 1907. The connection between the two being that the owner of the land where Marrickville was built in 1855, was Thomas Chalder, born at Marrick in 1813. In response to an appeal from the Marrickville Heritage Society as to the whereabouts of the flag, Kate Trusson responded with a picture of part of the flag that survives (the one sent from Marrick to Marrickville does not alas survive at all). She has now generously donated the embroidered strip embroidered with the words 'FROM THE CHILDREN OF MARRICKVILLE NEW SOUTH WALES TO THOSE OF MARRICK YORKSHIRE ENGLAND 1907'. Furthermore, a book titled, *Marrickville Rural Outpost to Inner City A social history of Marrickville* by Richard Cashman and Chrys Meader caught my eye in a second hand book shop in York. It is now in the Museum Library.



*The remains of the Marrickville flag*

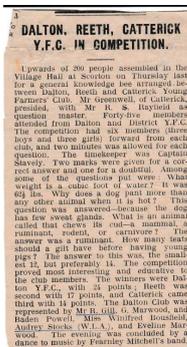
and Chrys Meader caught my eye in a second hand book shop in York. It is now in the Museum Library.

*Helen Bainbridge*

We had some interesting feedback on two previous articles from long-time Friend of the Museum, Marion Moverley. Following on from the Spring 2022 Newsletter and Will Swales' fascinating article about Northern Dairy Shorthorns and the popularity of the separate Beef Shorthorn breed for export to Argentina, she told us about a family member who had died in Buenos Aires having gone to South America in connection with cattle breeding according to his obituary in the *Teesdale Mercury*. The shorthorn connection might possibly explain what he was doing there.

Marion also came up trumps with a previous request for any information about the local Young Farmers Clubs. Her parents, Dick Gill and Audrey Stocks (*pictured right on their engagement*), were members of the Dalton branch of the YFC in the 1940s when Audrey was working as a Land Girl. Her diary records: "1944 Thursday 2nd November Snagging with George. Leading paraffin to his tractor. Went to Scorton with Y.F. beat the other clubs." A cutting from the *Teesdale Mercury* gives details of the team, including some of the questions and the fact that the evening concluded with dancing to Fearnley Mitchell's band.

Dick Gill also remembered that the early YFCs were called Calf Clubs where there was competition for young people to rear the healthiest calf, to encourage good husbandry and a bit of healthy competitive spirit.



**W**ay back in early 2021, in a break between lockdowns, Jacqueline Tunbridge joined the *Old Pictures of Swaledale & Arkengarthdale* Facebook page (well worth a look if you're not already a member) to ask about a sampler she'd found in an antiques shop in Telford, Shropshire. It had been worked in 1843 by Isabella Cherry, aged 11, at Mrs Cope's school in Angram – but how did it end up in Shropshire?



*Isabella's sampler*

Various people got to work investigating and Jacqueline was able to piece together Isabella's short, rather sad, life. Born in 1832 in Angram, Isabella was the daughter of James Cherry and Nanny Alderson, and was baptised at the Congregational Chapel in Keld.

Early in 1855 she married Joseph Tyrrell from Dent, a shoemaker and their first son, John, was born later the same year. Two years later, shortly after the birth of their second child, James, Isabella herself died and was buried in the chapel graveyard at Keld aged only 25.

In spite of being left widowed with a small child, Joseph didn't remarry immediately, waiting until 1866 before tying the knot with Mary Ann Eliza Scott with whom he had four daughters. The couple eventually moved to Brierfield in Lancashire where Joseph died in 1904. Further research led to the discovery that one of Joseph's daughters, Eliza Ann Tyrrell, had lived for a time in Shropshire after her marriage and that her descendants were still living in the Telford area very recently.



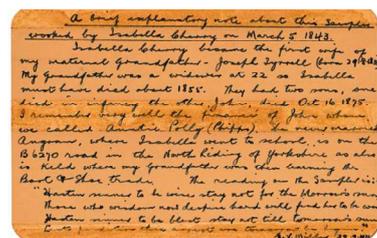
*Joseph Tyrrell*

The natural assumption was that the sampler had remained in the same family all the time, making its way slowly from the dales, via Lancashire, to Shropshire where it eventually ended up in an antique shop. This was backed up by Jacqueline's recent discovery of a faded postcard (*below right*) tucked into the backing paper on which Ernest Valentine Miller, grandson of Joseph Tyrrell, had written the whole story...

**“A brief explanatory note about this sampler worked by Isabella Cherry on March 5, 1843**

Isabella Cherry became the first wife of my maternal grandfather - Joseph Tyrrell (born 29.8.1833). My grandfather was a widower at 22 so Isabella must have died about 1855. They had two sons, one died in infancy the other, John, died Oct 16, 1875. I remember very well the fiancée of John whom we called Auntie Polly (Phipps). She never married. Angram, where Isabella went to school, is on the B6270 road in the North Riding of Yorkshire as also is Keld where my grandfather was then learning the Boot & Shoe trade. The reading on the sampler is:-

“Hasten sinner to be wise stay not for the morrow's sun  
Those who wisdom now despise hard will find her to be won  
Hasten sinner to be blest stay not till tomorrow's sun  
Lest perdition thee arrest ere tomorrow be begun”  
E.V.Miller 20.9.1971”



When the Museum held an exhibition of local samplers in 2014, six of the display items related to Mrs Cope's Charity School; however, all the others are privately owned. According to Ella Pontefract and Marie Hartley's, *Swaledale* (1934): “John Fawcett started to build ‘Up t' steps’ (the tall house at the top of the hill in Angram)...in 1830 ... for an inn, but his money gave out before it was completed, and another man finished it for a house ... A few years after it was finished a charity school for girls was held in one of its rooms, started by a lady named Mrs Cope who used to stay at the shooting-lodge at Keld. The girls were taught reading and writing and how to work samplers...”

The Leeds Mercury reported at some length in 1839 that Mrs Cope, while visiting the dale with her son for grouse shooting, had set up two charity schools for girls, paying the salaries of three teachers, providing all the materials for reading, writing and working samplers, as well as new clothes for the students on more than one occasion. Notably, in August 1839 “...she gave to each girl in both the schools (now exactly 100) a handsome new frock, with neat tippet; and to each a new straw bonnet, trimmed with neat green riband; and to many new shoes. These girls attended Muker Church... on Sunday, August 18th, in their new bonnets and new dresses, all of which are exactly alike.” It's very likely that a little Isabella Cherry would have been among them.

Jacqueline has generously donated the sampler to the Keld Resource Centre where it will hang in the schoolroom next to the chapel where Isabella was christened and buried.

*Tracy Little*

**W**e have been planning an historical guidebook to Swaledale for many years, and this year we hope to make some actual progress. Sometimes one needs a bit of pressure to make things happen. For this project it came from Jackie Pope, the new editor of the *Reeth and District Gazette*, who asked me if I could help with a new feature that she is planning for the *Gazette* - an irregular series of articles that focus on some aspect of Swaledale life.

We both thought of the green in Reeth, so central, but its history and development probably unknown to many. So I offered to gather information and write a piece on its history, with Jackie doing the contemporary viewpoint, to help kick the series off. Watch out for this in the January *Gazette*. Meanwhile we are planning the chapters for the guidebook, which will centre on the most frequent questions we have been asked by visitors to the Museum. Let us know what your questions about the history of the Dale are!

*Helen Bainbridge*

## Objects with biographies

The nutcrackers featured in the Spring Newsletter (see the Mystery Object below) are just one of several objects donated by Evie Moralee. What makes her gift special is that she has been able to give us some wonderful background to their previous life. The plain knitting stick (*top right*) belonged to her maternal grandmother Sarah Ann Bousfield (d. 1935) who married Adam Edward Hammond (1869-1946). It was kept at Castle Farm, along with the proddy and hooky tools. Evie thinks that it had been passed down through the family over several generations, although it is difficult to give it a precise date.



It is quite large, at 12½ inches, and might have been made for a man, rather than a woman. We know of course that men, women and children knitted, selling what they made to raise extra income. They were part of a vibrant home industry that only began to fail once mechanisation took hold. Evie remembers that when she was a little girl, in the late 1940s-early 1950s, before Albert Hammond and his wife Madge, (née Peacock) left Castle to move to Reeth, she, along with her mother and brother, used to spend a week's holiday each year at the farm and on many evenings the women of the family would sit round the big table in the middle of the living room, making clippy mats in the lamp light.

The more decorative knitting stick in the picture has a chip-carved handle, with a bone end to support the needle, and protect the wood from wear. On the body is carved 'L.F. Baldwin' along with a flower-branch and what looks like a leafless bush in a pot, a little reminiscent of what you might see on a sampler. It belonged to Evie's paternal grandmother Laura Francis Baldwin (1872-1918). Laura was born in Cow Green, Middleton in Teesdale. The family moved into Arkengarthdale where she met and married Joseph Edward Hammond Moralee (1876-1934). They left the dale and went to live in Blyth in Northumberland where Jo found work on the railway. They had four children, including William, Evie's father. In 1910 the family went to Canada, where they lived in a tent on the prairie, and Jo worked as a railway policeman. Sadly Laura died in the 'flu epidemic which swept through the area in 1918. As Evie's father was just a little boy throughout this time, he did not remember much about it all – or maybe he simply didn't want to talk about it! The family returned to England in 1919, bringing with them their very few belongings, including Laura's knitting stick. Who would know how well travelled that knitting stick is!



The next gift is a Christening Mug (*left*) which belonged to Evie's cousin, Charles Derek Hutchinson (1932-2019). He was the son of Sarah Mary Hammond, Evie's aunt, and Charles Hutchinson. Derek was born at

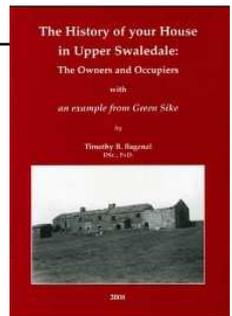
Castle Farm and never lost his love for the place. The family home was in Seaham Harbour where Derek attended school before doing his National Service as RAF ground crew. After his mother's death, Derek and his father bought a static caravan in Reeth, where they spent as much time as possible. In later years Derek lived in the caravan alone for as much of the year as he could, spending his time taking photographs of the dales and walking, especially along the path to Castle Farm

Helen Bainbridge

**A programme of activities**, 'Raise the Roof! Discovering house history at the Record Office' is currently running at the North Yorkshire County Records Office in Northallerton until 31 January 2023, Tuesday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm. Admission is free and there's no need to book.

To accompany the exhibition, there is an online guide to researching house history at the Record Office, which features many of the items that are on display. This can be accessed via: <https://nycroblog.com/house-history/>. There are 14 separate web pages providing an overview of a range of the resources in the archives, the information they contain and how to use them. This includes sources for the buildings, owners/occupiers, as well as buildings with former uses, the various kinds of historic maps and historic property deeds that they hold and guides to using the North Riding Registry of Deeds and undertaking a map regression exercise.

If you are interested in researching the history of your home, you might like to take a look at 'The History of your House in Upper Swaledale: The Owners and Occupiers with an example from Green Sike' by Timothy B. Bagenal, 2008 (£4.50 plus p&p from the Museum website). The book uses a case study, and covers a range of sources, including The Registry of Deeds, 1910 Valuation Act, Copyhold Tenure, The Upper Swaledale Manors, the Tithe Apportionment, Land Tax Assessments, as well as other supporting evidence including the Valuation of Lands and Tenements in the Township of Melbecks 1832, Parish and Nonconformist Registers, Censuses, Dr Kernott's Case Books and Wills. 36 pages, with bibliography.



## Mystery Objects

The object in the Spring Newsletter (*left*) is a beautiful boxwood nutcracker. This was given to the Museum by Evie Moralee in 2021 and once belonged to Edward Hammond and Mary Margaret Woodward of Arkle House. Further research on this object indicates related examples from Scandinavia, Yugoslavia and Spain. It is certainly an example of European 'folk art', reflecting a tradition of carving that dates back to the Middle Ages. We would love to know more about it, and wonder how it came to be in Swaledale. Perhaps a gift, or a souvenir?



We do know what our new mystery object (*above right*) is– it's a big lump of stone near the gate at the top of the track above the White House on Fremington Edge. Marion Moverley has kindly sent us a photo and it seems to be covered in very old initials now partly covered in lichen. Does anyone know anything about what it marked? Or maybe it's not as old as it seems and you can remember carving your own initials on it?

And finally... Do have a look at the new Explore and Research feature on our website, where we're uploading archival information, starting with some items recently donated to the Museum by Andrea Aven. You can find it at <http://www.swaledalemuseum.org/explore.html> Please do let us know if you have any suitable documents which could possibly be added to the digital archive this way.