



NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH TYNESIDE BRANCH
NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the November issue of our monthly newsletter. Thank you so much for all the contributions so far, please keep them coming and we'd love to have more of your family stories and pictures, that's what keeps our newsletter interesting. If you have anything for a future issue, an article, a query or maybe a nice photo you'd like to share please email me at the above address.

Susan



The Lime Staith of North Shields was used for the shipment of lime from Whitley quarries and coal from Cullercoats Main Colliery. Burnt (quick) lime was an important product used for improving agricultural land. Here a lime sloop floats high in the water as she waits for her next cargo at the staiths.

Drawn by T.M.Richardson snr. and engraved by T. Sutherland c1820

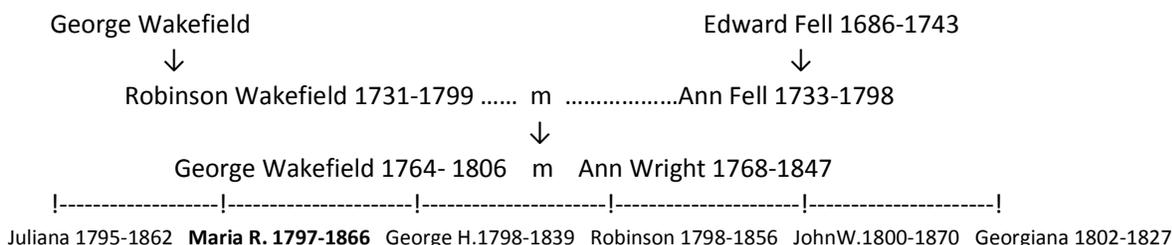
LOST BUILDINGS - WAKEFIELD HOUSE



Northumberland Square (north side), North Shields 2020. Site of Wakefield House far right

The Earl of Carlisle sold land to a John Wright in 1792-6 and Wright planned an ambitious townscape with a processional way, Howard Street, (Howard is the Earl’s family name) leading to an elegant square. The beginning of this scheme pre- dates Grainger’s work in Newcastle and although cannot be compared to Grainger’s scheme in grandeur it is remarkable because the site was never in single ownership and was the product of several different minds and wallets. Grainger by contrast was able to own his site, retain leases and keep control of his whole scheme which was completed to a unified design in 7 years. Nevertheless, Northumberland Square developed into a popular and fashionable place for the well-to-do with residents having their own key to the garden on the centre. The east side is mostly early Victorian while the west side was stables and builder’s yards well into the middle of the 19th. Century. In 1871 Joseph Robinson owner of the Stag Line Shipping Co. lived at No 28 with his wife, three children and two house servants.

The first house to be built on the square was Robinson & George Wakefield’s mansion built in 1792, predating the main purchase of land.



George Wakefield, a shipowner and also a partner in the Northumberland Bank had settled in North Shields from Whitby. He was the son of a draper, Robinson Wakefield, who had married Ann Fell at the Friends Meeting House in Bishop Auckland in 1757. Ann had been born in America, her father Edward Fell was a shipping merchant born in Lancashire who had travelled to America and back during the course of his business. Robinson and George were lively and energetic men, Quakers with ambitious wives,

Living in the old town, where many of the old families still lived, Mrs. Wakefield yearned for a house in the upper town. Carried away by the prosperity brought to shipowners by the French war, Robinson and his son George embarked on building a grand house.



A deed dated July 1792 was entered into between John Wright of North Shields and William Wright of Lincoln's Inn, Middlesex for the conveyance of a field called North Close to George Wakefield and it was agreed to form a 'square' 148 yds x 102 yds. The square was to form part of the grounds of Wakefield House which was built on a centre site (now occupied by No 16 Northumberland Sq.), with outbuildings extending as far back as Albion Road.

George married Ann Wright on 5 February 1795 at the Friends Meeting House in Newcastle She was the daughter of mariner John Wright, noted as living at Turner's Houses near North Shields.

" George, son of Robinson Wakefield, draper and Ann daughter of John Wright, late of North Shields took each other in marriage in a public assembly of the people called Quakers "

Apparently Mr. Wakefield's friends did not share his enthusiasm and warned him of the folly of building so great a mansion. Fellow Quakers, the Richardson's warned that if the enterprise was persisted in, few years would elapse before not one stone would remain upon another. The building however, was completed and the Wakefield's gave a great supper party to celebrate. Two storied and facing south, attached to the ornamental garden of Northumberland Square, it was furnished and lived in by the Wakefield's, but sadly not for long. Robinson Wakefield died in 1799, only a year after his wife Ann Fell, who had died in 1798, both were buried at the Quaker Burial Ground in North Shields, given the date this would have been at Coach Lane.

In February 1806 George Wakefield left the Society of Friends and was baptised with his six children into the Church of England at Christ Church, North Shields. He donated an elegant wooden font to the church, which was removed c1882, then re-discovered beneath the floor in 1951 and restored. His decision to leave the Friends was probably an ambitious move to take a full part in the North Shields business community by becoming members of the established church. Then came the financial crash predicted by many and the death of George Wakefield in July 1806 at the young age of 42 – his mansion did not long survive him.

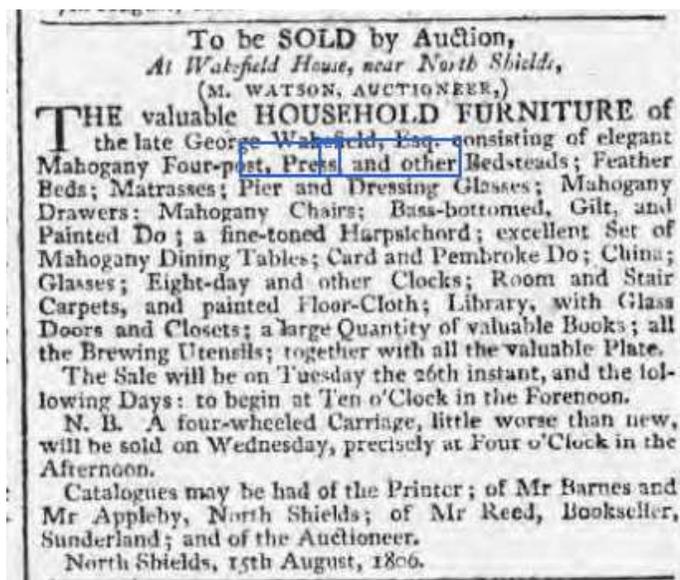
Saturday 19 July 1806 – Newcastle Courant

Died, Saturday last (12 July) George Wakefield Esq. of Wakefield House near North Shields a partner in the Northumberland Bank. On the Wednesday preceding he was confirmed by the Bishop of Newcastle, with his wife and children in St. Nicholas Church having left the society of Quakers and joined the established church.

The books and furniture were sold, including a harpsichord and a four wheeled carriage a little worse than new !
Newcastle Courant 24 August 1806

But no one could be found to buy the great house. It remained unlet and became the resort of tramps and thieves and an eyesore to the town. Eventually, two of Mr. Wakefield's principal creditors came to the conclusion that the house would never be of any use and the best recourse would be to pull it down. By 1809 it was razed to the ground.

Ann moved to a more modest house in



West Percy Street, where she died in 1847.

The stone from the house was used in the re- building of the square and the first house completed in 1810 was No 16 on the site of Wakefield's mansion. Three more houses were built on this site the same year and by 1816 the north side was complete.

They had their own North Shields Club for Gentlemen (Camden Street) which opened 30 March 1878, later taken over by the Board of Guardians. This building formerly used as the Registry Office has now been renovated as housing association flats.

The monument to Queen Victoria on Tynemouth Village Green was unveiled in 1902. It was originally intended for Northumberland Square, North Shields but the residents objected fearing it would attract the wrong kind of people, obstruct traffic and prevent the possible development of a new railway station. Councillor Arthur Jefferson, father of Stan Laurel, supported the idea of siting the monument at Tynemouth. "The Mayor moved that the best thanks of the Committee be accorded to Mr Arthur Jefferson for his magnanimity in providing the entertainment at the Circus in aid of the fund. The amount realised, he said, after paying all expenses, was no less than £58-8s-10d (Applause)"



Shields Daily News 29 January 1902

The fifth Wooden Dolly carved by the firm of Robert Thompson Ltd. was placed in the Square in 1958.

If the residents of the square had known they were to get a fishwife in their garden they might have preferred Queen Victoria.

Maria Robinson Smales nee' Wakefield (1797-1866), daughter of George Wakefield and Ann Wright. →

She lived at Wakefield House when she was a child.

Resources:

Chapter of Local History by J.W. Mundy

pub Shields Daily News 6/2/1922

Old Land Marks by H. A. Adamson 1893

Ancestry.co.uk

British Newspaper Archive

North Shields Library

Susan Lynn



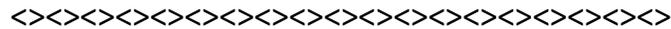


The Swedish ship 'Sjovik' was an iron steam cargo vessel built at Sunderland in 1884 by Joseph L. Thompson & Sons. She was first registered at Whitby by her new owners Robinson & Rowland, then through later changes of ownership she was renamed 'Sven' in 1908 and finally 'Sjovik' in 1915. On 19 October 1916 on a voyage from Ornskoldvik to London with a cargo of wood she was lost when she ran aground on the

Long Sands. The wreck and her cargo were salvaged by the locals who were said to have hurried away with the timber to warm their homes through the winter. The wreck was broken up on the beach and most of the salvage was taken away. The boiler however, had filled with sand and proved impossible to lift. More than 100 years later the remains can still be seen during very low tides.



Resources: Tynemouth in Old Picture Postcards by Eric Hollerton
Sunderlandships.com Wrecksite.eu



SILVER COINS

22 May 1778

This month as the 'John & Mary', Captain Cummins, in the coal trade from Newcastle to London, was casting her ballast on Mr. Cookson's quay at South Shields when a discovery was accidentally made of some silver coins being in it. So, a number of people were set to work with riddles and a great number of pieces of gold and silver coins were found. The latter were shillings and sixpences of the reign of Queen Elizabeth and the former value about 17/- each, of the Henries . The ballast was taken up in the River Thames.



SYKES LOCAL RECORDS

NAN WALLACE (1884-1954) – a Life dedicated to Public Service



Annie May Jackson known as Nan was the younger daughter of Robert. H. Jackson (1858-1933) and Bethia Catherina Blakeney (1861-1935), born in in Cumberland, by 1891 the family were living in Wallsend where Robert worked as a shipyard timekeeper, he was also a member of the first Wallsend Borough Council and food controller during WWI.

By 1901 Nan was already working as a pupil teacher for the school board and in 1906 she married John F. Wallace (1877-1942), a shipyard joiner who died in 1942 leaving her with a daughter and two sons, tragically another son had died in 1911 when only a few months old.

In local government now, thanks to years of dedicated campaigning, at least half of all councillors are female. In the 20th. century very few women were able to represent their local communities and fought hard for their place on the council. Those women who became local councillors were pioneers of local democracy and often the only female on the council. Nan began her public service as a member of the Tynemouth Board of Guardians administrating the poor law locally. When the county took over in 1930 she became a member of the local Public Assistance Committee and was appointed Vice-Chair in 1946. Elected as a Wallsend Councillor in 1930, becoming Alderman four years later she was Mayor of Wallsend in 1945 and 1949 and became an honorary Freeman of the Borough in 1952. From 1934 she represented Holy Cross ward on Northumberland County Council. During her years of service as a Councillor she was Chair of Wallsend Education Committee from 1947, Vice Chair of the County Welfare Committee, sat on the Education Committee, the County Welfare and Children's Committee, Wallsend Health Sub Committee and South East Northumberland Hospital Committee.

It was during her second term as Mayor in 1949 that she married widower Aled. Frederick C. Hyde (1882-1960), a former Mayor of Blyth and Vice Chair of Northumberland County Council.

Nan's main interests centred on health, education and the welfare of the sick, aged, blind and disabled. Following her death at the age of 69 the opposition group said she was a worthy opponent always able to see the other point of view and that her passing was a great loss. The Chair of Wallsend Council said that a lot of her work was unseen but its results would remain and she would be greatly missed.



Ed Young

Evening News 31 March 1954

NDFHS Records

The Society has a project to reduce all our paper transcriptions to databases using Microsoft Excel, a windows Picture Viewer (Included in Win 10) and Adobe reader. (Done at home.) I will send out a pre-formatted Excel worksheet and a transcription file. You type the one into the other and return the Excel file to me. The rules are simple. It's just time taking.

We still have gaps in our holdings so need local members to visit Local (NBL & DUR) record offices to transcribe the missing bits. We also have a project for the summer months of photographing and transcribing Tombstones. It's cheaper to buy a £3.00 photo than fly from Australia!

If you fancy joining that would be great. There really is plenty to do. I've been working on this since 1997 and doubt if we're half way through. When I took it on I was told what was already in the system. It's the old Panto cry - "oh no it isn't".

We've identified the gaps. Now we just need to fill them.

I do hope that you feel you can join us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Gerry

If you can assist with transcribing or anything else, even a small amount would be really helpful, and it would be something to do during those long winter days when there's nothing on TV !

Please email Gerry at : sales@ndfhs.org.uk

Free Newspaper Records – California Digital Newspaper Collection

For anyone tracing Californian ancestors there is a great free site covering numerous Californian newspapers. Supported by the University of California, Riverside it covers over 650,00 issues and over 43 million articles from various late 19th and early 20th century titles. You have to register but it's free & well worth a look. Go to: cdnc.ucr.edu

IMPROVEMENTS IN NORTH SHIELDS

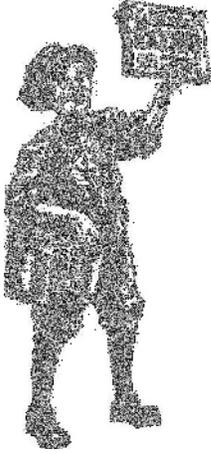
The Commissioners under the Improvement Act have ordered all the banks and stairs leading from the high town to the low to be lighted and cleaned. The preparations for lighting are nearly completed and lamps are now placed in the thoroughfares which is a great convenience to the inhabitants and will be a preventative of many accidents, which, under the late circumstances were of frequent occurrence. The next step will no doubt be the removal of the causes of those exhalations which seriously affect the olfactory nerves and which are the chief source of annoyance and complaint.

NEWCASTLE JOURNAL 11 January 1845

2 POUNDS richest flavoured TEA for 7s 10d. J. SMITH, 20, Front Street, Tynemouth.

Shields Daily Gazette 22 September 1856

IN THE NEWS – NOVEMBER 1819



Messrs. WAWN & DOWNING'S, SURGEON DENTISTS
Respectfully inform their friends and the Public that Mr. Wawn
intends being at Durham from the 8th. To the 11th inclusive at
Mr. Wallace's, Claypath.

Mr. W. further intends being at North Shields at Mr.
Matterson's, Tyne Street from 15th to the 17th inclusive.

Newcastle Courant 6 Nov. 1819

DARING ROBBERY – Whereas on the night of Tuesday last the
26th inst, the Northumberland Arms, North Shields was
feloniously broken into and the following items of silver stolen
– 1 coffee pot, 1 tea pot, 1 water, 6 table tongs, 1 wine strainer, 1 lemon
strainer, 2 tea shovels, 2 old table spoons, 12 teaspoons, 2 pairs of sugar tongs
, 4 salts, 1 pepper box, 4 castor tops, 1 claret top, 1 mustard spoon, several table
cloths and 1 extra large green cloth. Silversmiths and Pawnbrokers are
requested to detain any person offering them. The public is cautioned against
purchasing or receiving any of the above articles in Pledge. Mrs. Carr of the
Northumberland Arms advises, any person giving information leading to
capture of the robbers, will be handsomely rewarded.

Newcastle Courant 6 November 1819

Mr. Bank's Ball at the Theatre, South Shields on Thursday evening the 28th
October was one of the most complete entertainments of the kind ever
witnessed there. The Ball commenced about half past six o'clock, which
engaged the attention of his pupils until eleven, in which the young ladies and
gentlemen acquitted themselves through a variety of new and fashionable
dances, without the least assistance of their master, with ease, grace and
elegance, which reflected the greatest credit on themselves as well as their
teacher and met the highest applause of a numerous and respectable
assemblage of spectators.

North Shields and Tynemouth Fair was holden on Friday last at which sales
were tolerably brisk, except for swine, which fell in price. The hiring for
servants was well attended and wages much as before.

Newcastle Courant 13 Nov 1819

