



NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTH TYNESIDE BRANCH  
NEWSLETTER

Editor – Susan Lynn – email: [susandavid80@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susandavid80@yahoo.co.uk)

No.17      January 2022

Happy New Year, welcome to the January issue of our monthly newsletter and I hope you find something to interest you. Contributions for future issues are most welcome, there is no pressure to contribute, but if you do have an item for a future issue, a story, a query or maybe a nice picture you'd like to share,  
please email me at the address above.

*Susan*



The Entrance to the Tyne by South Shields artist John Scott (1802-1885)

© South Shields Museum and Art Gallery

## JOHN SCOTT (1802 - 1885) – Marine Artist

John Scott is most noted for his marine and landscape paintings. Born in Morpeth the son of Luke Scott (1773-1831) and Ann Grant (1779-1851) who were bakery owners, John spent his early life at sea, up to about 1834 when he came ashore. Keen to be a painter he became a pupil of John Wilson Carmichael, whilst also working as a grocer to support his growing family until he could afford to paint full time. Similar to his master, Scott painted marine subjects, but unlike Carmichael, remained in Tyneside his entire life.

As a resident of Tyneside, being a superb painter/recorder of her ships and ports, he was well known and greatly appreciated by the community. Scott worked diligently and successfully, depicting Tyneside's colliers, keel boats, tugs, and wrecks and his work sold well. On occasion he recorded major public events that involved shipping; a fine example of



this is his work titled *Opening of Tyne Dock, 1859*.

Scott was described by art historian C.H. Ward Jackson, in his book *Ship Portrait Painters*, published 1978, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England, as: “an excellent and productive specialist in portraits of merchantmen

off points of land as far apart as Dover and Cape Town”. Scott was completely involved with maritime life, he was also skilled at creating models of ships, yachts and other marine vessels. In 1851, he participated in the Great Exhibition in London; a competition organized by the Duke of Northumberland, and was awarded a medal for one of his models. His work is represented locally at the South Shields, Shipley and Laing Art Galleries as well as The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

On 8 December 1825 he married Eleanor Hunter at St. Hilda's Church, South Shields and they went on to have eleven children, eight boys and three girls – boy no. 7 was named Septimus and boy no.8, Octavius. Eleanor died in 1874 at the age of 66, while John died at his daughter's house, 3 Park Terrace, on 12 October 1885 at the age of 83, leaving an estate valued at £104-9s-8d.

John and Eleanor are buried at Westoe Cemetery, South Shields with other members of their family

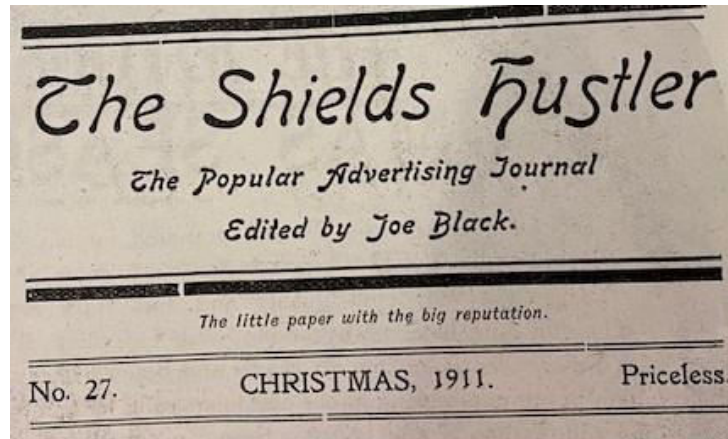


Picture – The Opening of Tyne Dock 1859  
© South Shields Museum and Art Gallery  
Resources- South Shields Museum & Art Gallery

## THE SHIELDS HUSTLER



The Shields Hustler was an advertising magazine that appeared four times a year between 1905 and 1939. In among all the advertisements they included many articles of local interest and funny tales. The little paper with the big reputation - it wasn't just free it was 'priceless' according to the publisher. There's no index and it's not digitised so it's just a case of browse through and see what catches your eye, So, that's what I'll do, republish the odd article that catches my eye and I hope you'll find then enjoyable too.



“Hustle and the world hustles with you,  
Crawl and you get housemaid's knee”

-----0000000-----

### BATHS and WASH HOUSES

During the early and mid-nineteenth century, many in the medical profession believed that disease was caused by miasma, or bad air. A prime cause of this was filth and therefore, anything which encouraged cleanliness, was considered to be an important part of disease prevention. There were three major cholera outbreaks in the first half of the nineteenth century and provision of public baths and washhouses was an important aspect of the improvement of public health. In 1846 The Baths & Wash Houses Act was passed to encourage local authorities to build public baths and washhouses, it also gave local authorities powers to establish these facilities and enabled them to take out loans to build them.



Public baths and washhouses were desirable because they encouraged cleanliness and made it much easier for people living in cramped and often dirty houses to wash themselves and their clothes. Offering facilities for drying laundry was also important, as the practise of drying laundry in the home contributed to unhealthy levels of moisture in the air.

The public baths on the corner of Church Way and Saville Street, North Shields were built in 1854 and continued in use until 30 June 1936 when they closed.

The article below from the Shields Hustler presents an interesting view of these wash houses.

## A USEFUL INSTITUTION

Some interesting facts about a little known Public Property by J.W.

I wonder how many of my fellow ratepayers are aware of the fact that they are part owners of a well-equipped Baths and Wash House in Saville St., North Shields. I only made the discovery myself at a comparatively recent date and quite by accident.

There was much smoke in the town that morning, I enquired the cause thereof and was informed that the big chimney of the wash houses was 'busy'. As a matter of fact I had not noticed that there was a big chimney in Church Way not having reason to use that thoroughfare at all.

Thus did I discover that the building with the stone frontage on Saville Street, which I had always looked upon as being a chapel turned out to be our Public Baths! This would seem to give added force to the old adage that Cleanliness comes next to Godliness.

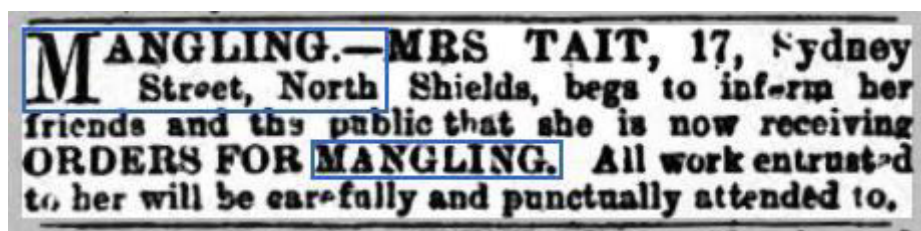
Seriously though, these baths and wash houses are quite a useful institution. In the first place, there is an abundant supply of salt water, which may be news to many, as it was to me. A salt water bath is most invigorating and here one may splash about at will and be provided with a towel and special salt water soap for sevenpence.

I understand that the Newcastle United football team are frequent visitors to the baths and indulge freely in salt water bathing. There is no question as to the beneficial effects upon athletes produced by a plentiful supply of salt water. It creates a healthy action of the skin and tone's up one's general condition wonderfully. Martyrs to rheumatism may also find much relief by a constant indulgence in salt water baths. There are fresh water baths too, first and second class. The former are sixpence and the latter three pence a dip. In both cases towels and soap are supplied without any extra charge. School children are specially catered for on Saturdays, from 8 am until 12 noon, when they may have private baths at a charge of 1d per head (body of course included ! ) They have to bring their own towel and soap, however.

Then there are the wash houses. Here those who are handicapped at home for want of accommodation, may have the use of boiling and washing troughs, poss-tub and stick wringing and drying horses, mangles and mangling shelf, ironing stove, irons etc. and all for the modest sum of three half pence per hour! Just Fancy ! A four hours washday with every convenience for sixpence ! Seems to me that hundreds of my readers will thank me for drawing their attention to this matter.

The place is under the efficient management of Mr. G.B.Wilson who is responsible for many improvements effected during the last few months. Under his personal supervision the baths and wash houses give promise of being a valuable asset to the Corporation.

*Ref: Shields Hustler p20. Issue 28. Easter 1912*



**MANGLING.—MRS TAIT, 17, Sydney Street, North Shields, begs to inform her friends and the public that she is now receiving ORDERS FOR MANGLING. All work entrusted to her will be carefully and punctually attended to.**

MANGLING – MRS. TAIT, 17 Sydney Street, North Shields, begs to inform her friends and the public that she is now receiving ORDERS FOR MANGLING. All work entrusted to her will be carefully and punctually attended to.

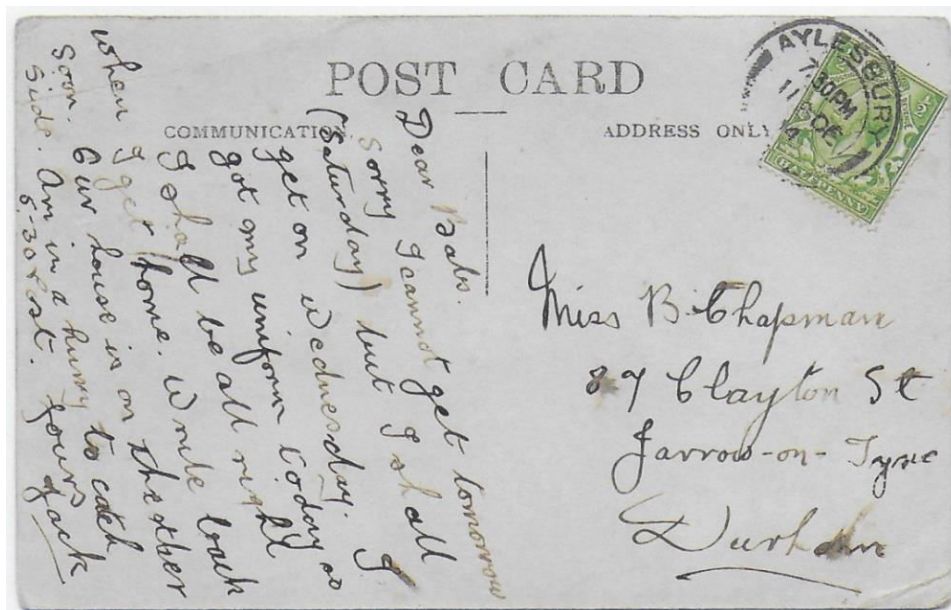
Shields Daily News 24 October 1879

## When the Post Office was the Social Media of the day

At first sight the "Christmas view" of Aylesbury on this Post Card may not seem to be inspiring, even with the addition of an "X"!



The reasons for its place in my Family History can be found on the reverse...



My father sent the card to my mother in December 1914, when they were "walking out". The message "Won't be there tomorrow (Saturday)", coupled with "Am in a hurry to catch 5:30 Post" speaks volumes for the efficiency of the Postal service! How long would it take in 2021?

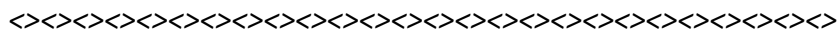
Possibly of greater interest to my father was the fact that he got his uniform that day, so he would "be all right when I get home." (She lived in Jarrow on Tyne).

Did this mean that he would be in danger of receiving a White Feather if he was not in Uniform? Also, why did he have to go to Aylesbury for his uniform when he enlisted in Wallsend?

The position of the stamp is significant too. In The Language of Stamps this means "A kiss!" Her home address also appears in their history as they were married from there in 1915.

His address on their Marriage Certificate was Witley Camp, Milford, Surrey and profession "On active Military Service". My mother was still living in Clayton Street, Jarrow in 1918 when the Absent Voters List was compiled, shown as Spouse of J. Taylor. So, one little Post Card tells me a lot about my own family history, as well as providing insights to various social aspects of life in Britain during WWI.

## *Peter Taylor*



### LONGEVITY

4 December 1783	Died at Tynemouth John Sylvester aged 107 years
24 April 1786	Died at Jarrow Quay Mrs. Eleanor Railston aged 103 years. She could walk about and read without spectacles to the day of her death.
11 November 1780	Died at North Shields, Mrs. Ravens aged 100 years who, for upwards of 60 years followed the business of midwife in that place
27 October 1792	Died at South Shields, Ann Mackie, age 100 years
21 June 1810	died at Jarrow Mary Wolfe age 105 years
June 1814	Died at North Shields, Mr. William Robson aged 101 years
18 July 1819	Died at North Shields, Mrs Mary Ferguson, widow, aged 105 Years
March 1829	Died in Howard Street, South Shields Alice Gibson widow of William Gibson, Town Crier, age 101 years

### 1921 UK CENSUS

Finally, it's here at last, the eagerly awaited 1921 Census  
The detailed snapshot of 38 million lives and 18,235,242 images will be unveiled on 6 January 2022. It is the most revealing census we will have seen, the first to recognise divorce and capture employment details. For many of us it's the first chance to see our parents named on a census.

The census has been digitised and transcribed by Find My Past, so, to access the census you will need to take a FMP PRO Subscription and in addition each record transcript will cost £2.50 and each original record image £3.50. For all 12 month PRO subscribers there will be a 10% discount on any 1921 census purchases.

## A SEAFARING APPRENTICESHIP



The whaling ship 'Lady Jane' was the last of the great Tyne whalers, she journeyed to the Davis Straits every year from 1804 until she was finally lost to the ice in 1849.

William Dale (1822-1882) the son of Master Mariner William Dale snr. (1783-1852) & Elizabeth Skelton (1785-1827) was born 18 April 1822 and baptised on 19 May 1822 at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Howard Street, North Shields.

A mariner during his working life William began his five year apprenticeship on 19 March 1835 age 13 years on the 336T vessel William Harrington, captained by his father, and owned by Anthony Nicol. On his merchant navy apprenticeship ticket (78.892) William was noted as being able to write, height 5'5", brown hair, grey eyes and fair

complexion. His Mate's Certificate gives a date of birth as 3 April 1821 although his baptism record gives us his true date of birth, I have noticed that boys beginning a career at sea usually did lie about their age and generally with their parent's full knowledge.

We have a record that confirms he was already serving at sea before his official apprenticeship. In 1834 he is recorded as being a patient at the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital suffering from a fever, admitted 6 October he was discharged on 11 October 1834. He is recorded as born Tynemouth, Port of Shields, apprentice age 13 (he's actually 12 years of age) height 4'9" (note he had grown to 5'5" by the time of his official apprenticeship) and has been at sea for 18 months lately serving on the ship 'Thames'. His father William Dale snr. was master of this ship at the time, so William snr. has had his young son serving on board with him since the lad was 10 or 11 years old. The record also states that he was victualled for 6 days and discharged RHSC which means Request His Ship - Cured or Convalescence – either way well enough to return to his ship. He seems to be the only sailor from his ship in the hospital at this time and the ailments of the other sailors make for interesting reading.

On 8 March 1843, when he was 22 years of age, William joined the whaling ship Lady Jane as a line coiler; this despite him already having his 'second mate' certificate; business must have been slack for him to accept this job. Fortunately for him this must have been a relatively uneventful voyage and the ship returned to Shields on 28 October. The fine weather attracted a large crowd of people to the Sand End who hailed with delight the safe return of Lady Jane after her long voyage with the produce of nine whales. As soon as she neared the harbour, her crew manned the yards and gave three hearty cheers which were loudly answered by the people on shore. After many more seafaring adventures William died at 26 Upper Reed Street, North Shields on 2 November 1882 age 60 years.

A contemporary of William's was James Thompson (1823-1914).

James Thompson was the last survivor from the Lady Jane, he had been on that final voyage in 1849 and died in Shields on 18 December 1915 at the grand age of 91. He was baptised at Christ Church, North Shields on 15 February 1824, the son of keelman Joseph Thompson and his wife Barbara. On 13 April 1834 at the age of 14 he was indentured for five years as an apprentice to Wallsend shipowner John Jameson.

The terms of his apprenticeship were as follows:

He must not frequent taverns or ale houses.

He shall not play dice, cards, tables, bowls or any other unlawful games.

In return he will be taught the art, trade or business of a mariner or seaman.

He will be provided with sufficient meat, drink and 12/- yearly in lieu of washing.

He will be paid £7.00 for his 1<sup>st</sup> year rising to £11.00 for his 5<sup>th</sup> year and he will also be given £5.00 if he serves his time out to the owner's satisfaction.

He will also be paid 7/- weekly in lieu of board and lodging during such time as the ship is laid up.

In 1844 a Mate's wages were £33-10s and an Able Seaman was paid £15-15s

James served on Lady Jane from 1845 and was a crew member when the vessel was lost in Melville Bay in 1849. His wife pre-deceased him and James died at 44 Church Way, NS age 91 on 18 December 1914 leaving £159.6s.7d.

*APPRENTICES WANTED – Newcastle Courant 22 February 1806*

Wanted several Apprentices to go to Sea in the Coal and Baltic Trades.  
Apply to Mr. Q. Blackett, North Shields who will give liberal wages.  
Wanted also several SEAMEN for the Ship Lady Jane. William Holmes, Master,  
bound to Davis Straits; apply as above, or to the Master on board

*RUNAWAY APPRENTICES – REWARD OFFERED - Newcastle Courant 4 October 1806*

RUN AWAY, from the ship CONTENT, Greenlandman, Robt. Potts. Master –  
ROBERT PYBUS a bound apprentice to Mr. W. Redhead of Newcastle. The  
Apprentice is about 19 years of age 5 feet 7 inches high, pale face, short brown hair  
lowers much when he walks, worked formerly for Messrs. Hawkes, Blacksmith. Has  
been seen lately upon Newcastle Quay with a leather apron and is supposed to be  
working with some person as a blacksmith. Whoever harbours or employs him after  
this notice; will be prosecuted; and a Reward of ONE GUINEA will be given to any  
person securing the said Apprentice and giving Notice as above.

*Susan Lynn* - William Dale was my 2 x great grandfather. James Thompson isn't a relative of mine and the details of his apprenticeship were printed in the Shields Daily News in 1915.



