



Northumberland
& Durham
Family History
Society

A Charity Registered in England No. 510588

**MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES MEETING
HELD AT PERCY HOUSE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
ON TUESDAY 9 JULY 2019 AT 2PM (07/2019)**

PRESENT: Joyce Jackman (Chairman), Douglas Burdon, Richard Calasca, Julie Hewitt, John Ward, Ann Franklin, Michael Murphy, Niamh Cunningham

APOLOGIES: John Heckels, Harry Aitchison, Dudley George, Pat Franklin, Joan Smith, Glenice Reed, Rhoda Lee

The Chairman opened the meeting by introducing the new Treasurer, Niamh Cunningham.

7.1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS (11.6.19)

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th June 2019 were accepted as a true record – proposed by Julie Hewitt, seconded by Richard Calasca, and signed by the Chairman Joyce Jackman.

7.2 MATTERS ARISING

None.

7.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly the Chairman thanked the Trustees for their contributions for the A.G.M. The annual Branch Representatives meeting will be held on Friday 27th September 2019, commencing 2.00 pm in Percy House.

To avoid a clash of dates with the York Family History Fair, the date for the 2020 Conference has been changed to the 27th June and which will be held in Brunswick Methodist Church.

The Family History Fair held in York had proved to be a successful day. An e-mail has been received from the Federation of Family History Societies in which they express concern at the falling membership. They are therefore proposing to hold beginners workshops throughout the country and are seeking help/support from the various Societies. During the discussion it was mentioned the NDFHS run their own courses, the next one starting in September.

The re-location committee have discussed a timetable for moving, and details on a random selection of properties currently on the market, mainly in the Gateshead area, has been left in Reception for volunteer comments. The next meeting will be held on 3rd September and by March next year it is anticipated a list of suitable properties will have been assembled, with a final decision being made mid 2020.

7.4 SECRETARY'S REPORT

Attendances at Percy House during June were 186 of which 102 (54.8%) were volunteers. Having had some concerns at what appeared to be falling attendances at PH, the Secretary carried out a comparison against 2018 figures. As at the 30 June 2018 attendances were

1271, of which 658 (51.8%) were volunteers whereas attendances up to 30 June 2019 were 1210, 628 (51.9%) were volunteers.

7.5 TREASURER'S REPORT

The monthly accounts were circulated to the meeting on which the Treasurer commented that income was looking fairly positive in comparison to the same time last year. However, expenditure was slightly up on last year, due in the main to Journal print & distribution costs.

With regard to Sales & Royalty figures, the figures are keeping pace with 2018 income but unfortunately the breakdown of Royalties for March and April was not yet available.

7.6 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

7.7 EDITOR'S REPORT

The Editor commented the next Journal will include the 'subscription wrap-around' which will incorporate the adaption for new members. Material is still required for the Journal which, due to holidays, will be distributed mid rather than early September.

7.8 NDFHS WEBSITE/IT

The Society continues to have discussions with Ancestry to acquire a subscription for 4 seats; the delay in finalising this matter is due to awaiting an invoice from Ancestry.

Following comments raised at the AGM, it was confirmed the Census Indexes have been scanned and these can be found on the web-links page on computers in the Search Room. The Indexes for Cleveland and Cumbria are currently held in the Library and following discussion by the Trustees, it was decided to retain Cleveland records but that Cumbria could be disposed with.

7.9 OFFICER REPORTS

A. LIBRARY

Nothing further to report other than the comments made above.

B. VOLUNTEERS

No report received.

C. PROJECTS

Work is continuing on Heworth MIs. With regard to the Durham Wills Project, all that remains to be done is for Douglas Burdon to compile into indexes which could take some time. It was suggested the volunteers who had been working on this project may now be able to offer assistance in other areas.

D. PUBLICITY

Nothing to report.

E. EVENTS

The forthcoming Roots Tec Conference which is being held in London was discussed but it was felt this does not warrant the expenditure in attending.

7.10 JOB DESCRIPTION – TREASURER

In view of the decision made to reduce the number of Trustee Meetings during the course of the year, the wording of the Job Description needs to be changed to ‘the Treasurer is to submit accounts to the Trustees on a bi-monthly basis’ rather than monthly as currently stated.

7.11 BRANCH REPORTS

It was noted the last report submitted by the Blyth Branch was in March 2019. The Belmont report for June was received after the reports had been circulated to the Trustees. However, this has been included below.

ALNWICK

The Chairman welcomed 23 people to the meeting on the 4th June when Douglas Burdon gave a talk on the Durham Wills Project, with particular reference to Coquetdale. Douglas Burdon has been involved in producing an index to the beneficiaries of hundreds of thousands of pre - 1858 North East wills. These documents are accessible free online via Durham University Library but the university site only lists the person who made the will i.e. the testator, not the beneficiaries, who may be many for any will. This invaluable index can be viewed at Percy House, and it is also available to buy from the society.

BELMONT

On the 19th June 9 people (6 NDFHS) attended a Members Forum – Ancestors of World War 11. Contributions include-Home Guard, civilian working on Churchill Barriers on the Orkneys and soldier captured in Norwegian campaign in 1940 and spending the war in a prisoner of war in Poland before returning home in 1945.

BLYTH

No report received.

LONDON

No Meeting.

NEWCASTLE

For various reasons we had only 11 members attend the June meeting, with 2 apologies. Joyce Jackman gave a short update on Trustee activities followed by a workshop on Estate Records. We all gathered around central tables to view the documents under discussion. Joyce focused on the ordinary estate workers rather than the landed gentry. It was interesting to see the number of different skills and the wages paid in the early 19th Century. A very interesting afternoon.

NORTH TYNESIDE

No report received for the June meeting which was a guided walk around Preston Cemetery, North Shields.

SOUTH TYNESIDE

On the 19th June our group of 7 had a very pleasant walk around Arbeia, the Roman Fort in South Shields. A lot of work has gone on in both excavating and developing this site and our guide was able to point out some of the more interesting ruins and also the very impressive reconstructions of the West Gate, the Soldiers Barracks and the Commandant’s House. It was also interesting to think what lay beneath the homes of our ancestors who lived on ‘The Lawe’

in streets such as Military Road, Trajan Avenue and Julian Avenue!!

TYNEDALE

The meeting on 13 June 2019 was a talk by Christine Seal 'Social Care in Almshouses and Aged Miner homes' and was attended by 9 members and 1 guest. Many almshouses were occupational in origin. The North-east coast has many that were built to provide for mariners, their widows or unmarried daughters. Inland, late in the 19th century, the Miners Unions were instrumental in the development of aged miner homes which were almshouses by another name. Usually people had to 'belong' in some way to a particular community. Christine illustrated her talk with details of many of the almshouses and their inhabitants

WANSBECK

14 members plus one new member attended the meeting on 5th June, which was a Members' Forum - The Corner Shop. This proved to be a very stimulating subject. Members were asked to talk about their childhood memories of a corner shop or a much visited shop. Some members brought pictures and papers about their shop and a lively discussion arose from chance remarks. People could remember details of the shops; the look of the shop from outside and what it looked like inside. There were memories of the shopkeeper, the layout of the interior, the customers and the goods for sale. The latter included, dried goods, loose biscuits, bread and cakes, firewood, paraffin, needles, thread, buttons and a drawer for money under the counter or a till at the end of the counter. Many of these corner shops also had a separate counter behind a grille which served as the Post Office. There are still corner shops but they are not the same as the ones in our childhood. I can recommend this as a good subject for a forum.

7.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

7.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 September 2019 at 2.00pm in Percy House.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.50 pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: