



Northumberland
& Durham
Family History
Society

A Charity Registered in England No. 510538

MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES MEETING
HELD AT PERCY HOUSE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
ON TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 2PM (09/2019)

PRESENT: Joyce Jackman (Chairman), Douglas Burdon, Richard Calasca, Pat Franklin, Niamh Cunningham, Julie Hewitt, John Ward, John Heckels, Harry Aitchison, Ann Franklin, Dudley George, Joan Smith, Glenice Reed, Rhoda Lee, Michael Murphy

APOLOGIES: Carol Black

9.1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS (9.7.19)

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 9th July 2019 were accepted as a true record – proposed by Richard Calasca, seconded by Niamh Cunningham and signed by the Chairman Joyce Jackman.

9.2 MATTERS ARISING

None.

9.3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Sadly the Trustees had been notified of the sudden death of Ian Hickey who was a Trustee and Chairman of the Blyth Branch. Also the Society had recently learnt that John Ashburner passed away in July. Over the years both of these gentlemen had been greatly involved with the NDFHS and they will be sadly missed by the Society.

Regrettably Carol Black is, due to personal circumstances, standing down as a Trustee. Council is indebted to Carol for the work she undertook in the role of Treasurer and the Chairman has given assurances that 'the door will always be open' should she wish to return as a Trustee in the future.

9.4 SECRETARY'S REPORT

Attendances at Percy House during July were 194 of which 112 (57.7%) were volunteers, and in August 164 of which 94 (57.3% volunteers. Excluding December figures, where the Centre is closed over the Christmas & New Year holidays, the August attendances are possibly the lowest ever.

9.5 TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for July and August were circulated to the meeting on which the Treasurer commented that on the positive side, income was some £1500 more than as at the same period last year. Donations and Royalties also doing quite well compared to 2018 although we are awaiting some Royalty figures.

However, the Society is still looking at a loss at the end of the year, and it may be necessary

to 'dip in' to the reserve account to cover rent and service charges. There has also been an impact on the restricted funds as money has been used from the Joyce Wakenshaw bequest to fund the changes on the website etc.

9.6 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership continues to be down on last year, which is estimated to be costing the Society some £2800. With regard to the question of 'rolling membership', it was felt that whilst new members subscriptions would fall due on the date they joined the NDFHS, older members subscriptions will continue to be due for payment on or before 1st January. A 'wrap around' is being included in the next Journal.

Current Membership is: 1476 UK members, 161 overseas, 6 life members, 1 life member overseas, 10 complimentary and 5 exchange giving a total of 1659 members who receive a copy of the Journal. In addition there are 142 UK joint memberships, and 5 joint overseas members. The number of members opting to receive E-Journals has increased to 244.

9.7 EDITOR'S REPORT

The next Journal, including 'the subscription wrap around' is in the process of being distributed. Material is needed for the winter Journal, the deadline for which is 1st November. The Editor suggested he would particularly welcome articles relating to WW2. The Chairman thanked the Editor for breaking his holiday in order to ensure the Journal went to the Printers on time.

9.8 NDFHS WEBSITE/IT

Nothing to report other than intermittent problems are still being encountered with accessing FMP in the Search Room.

9.9 OFFICER REPORTS

A. LIBRARY

Several new books, which have been sent in to the Editor for review, have been added to the Library. It was noted a copy of Family Tree magazine is received on a monthly basis. Also the Red Cross shop in Nun Street, Newcastle will accept material which has become superfluous to the NDFHS.

B. VOLUNTEERS

No report received.

C. PROJECTS

Work is currently being carried out on the Durham section of the Wills Project and work continues with the MIs.

D. PUBLICITY

Nothing to report.

E. EVENTS

No new events to report other than those which have been mentioned in previous Minutes.

**9.10 JOB DESCRIPTION – a) CHAIRMAN
b) VICE CHAIRMAN
c) SALES OFFICER**

No changes to the Job Descriptions for the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Acting Sales Officer reports there is one change needed to cover the retirement of Moira Furness.

9.11 BRANCH REPORTS (JULY 2019)

ALNWICK

The cholera outbreak of 1849 left Alnwick devastated at the loss of 136 citizens. One such citizen was William Dick, a builder from Green Batt. William's widow then died in 1856, leaving 8 children to fend for themselves. Almost all left Alnwick and mainly ended up in London. Most descendents did well, but one sadly ended up in Holborn workhouse. The Forsters lost two children to cholera. James, the father then descended into crime and was caught stealing lead from Alnwick Castle roof and served 6 months hard labour.

The most detailed case traced so far is of Isabella Ferguson, who having lost her husband Henry and two children within a year, took the 8 remaining children to Australia under the assisted passage scheme. Isabella ended up with 63 grandchildren, and a dynasty including several successful farmers which went on to populate much of Australia's east coast.

BELMONT

No report received – Branch visit.

BLYTH

No report received.

LONDON

There were 9 of us to hear David Butlers talk ' Turnpike Trustees Tantrums'. As usual with turnpike records there was very little in the way of surviving records, but with the use of mainly disputes printed in the newspapers, David was able to give us a good account of what was going on. Good detective work, just like family history. This also showed how heated these meetings could be, with one trustee getting violent towards another, to get his point across. This talk was about the Darlington going into West Auckland Turnpike, and not about South Durham Turnpikes leading into Yorkshire as advertised in the journal.

NEWCASTLE

We had 18 present at our July meeting, being a presentation by Judith Green of the St James' Heritage & Environment Group, which focuses on the history of the Westend of Newcastle. She gave a short talk to introduce a 30-minute video entitled "Riverside Voices".

Riverside Voices was commissioned by the St James Heritage and Environment Group and funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund to commemorate war and peace on the River Tyne. Shot from the waters of the Tyne, Riverside Voices flows through the lives of those who once worked in the industries that lined and dominated the West End of the river. The river banks now mostly given over to business parks and scrubland were once the heart of Newcastle. The video was followed by members contributing their own memories of the area, a very interesting afternoon.

NORTH TYNESIDE

No meeting July and August.

SOUTH TYNESIDE

No meeting July and August.

TYNEDALE

The meeting on the 11 July 2019 was a Members' Forum entitled Medals, Prizes and Presentations and was attended by 10 members. The topic covered the gamut of achievements being recognised from school attendance to OBE, all of such importance to their recipients that they kept the awards and certificates and passed them down to their younger relations.

Some examples were a certificate for regular attendance at the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School in 1908, a member's grandfather wounded in the bombardment of Hartlepool at the start of WW1, and coming last in a Leek Show was the spur for one man to improve his plants until, a decade later, he won first prize. Several people still had family books with dedications for school attendances and commemorations, especially the Coronation. Most members had medals from various wars which included the Arctic Star not awarded until 2013 – 68 years after the end of WW2. Lastly an Aero Club of America medal was brought in, with a citation to the British ex-RAF officer who, in the 1920s, helped set up commercial Pan Am flights to Mexico from Chicago.

WANSBECK

21 members were present on 3rd July to hear Barry Mead's talk, Rescued From The Sea. Barry discussed the archaeological evidence for early civilisations in the Druridge Bay area. Bones, fossils, preserved tree trunks and ancient stones were among the artefacts found in the bay. Some of the most exciting finds were the footprints of animals and early man found in the compressed peat layer only revealed at low tide. All the evidence shows that there has been settlement on the N E Coast for centuries and gives us insight into the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Barry is very enthusiastic about links with the community and anyone who would like to join him on a dig is welcome to go along, even if it is just to wash pot shards.

9.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The recently opened 'Newbiggin by the Sea Family History Centre', which has been visited by two of the Trustees, was the subject of some discussion.

9.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 2.00pm in Percy House.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.55 pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: