

# News from the Society

## Programme

As usual, the Society has arranged a full programme of lectures and excursions for 2012. Please support the events and bring along your friends. Please do not hesitate to ask for lifts; you will be expected to contribute to petrol.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Please make all cheques payable to the East Yorkshire Local History Society. All cheques and booking slips should be sent to the Programme Co-ordinator.

### Programme Co-ordinator:

Pamela J Martin (Tel no 01482 442221; e-mail [pjmartin@pjmartin.karoo.co.uk](mailto:pjmartin@pjmartin.karoo.co.uk))

### Thursday 3rd September 2015

Aldby Park is situated in the village of Buttercrambe near Stamford Bridge.

The present house was built in 1726 and is the family home of the Mr & Mrs George Winn-Darley. The Darley family has occupied this listed Georgian house from the time it was built to date, with the exception of the Second World War years when it was requisitioned by the Army and in the subsequent years when it was being restored (1961).

The former Tudor house was replaced by the current residence and the site has early links with a Saxon Palace and with early Christianity.....

Mr & Mrs Winn-Darley will provide a guided tour of the house followed by tea.

2:00pm

Cost: £7

Max no. 25

(Fully booked this year but possibility of another visit next year)

### Saturday 3rd October 2015

Mark Kirby Hall (adjacent to the St Mary's Parish Churchyard on the south side of the church and accessible via Arlington Avenue, Hallgate or through the churchyard from Hallgate at the west end of the church)

2.15pm

'Mark Kirby and His Legacy: 300 years of the Mark Kirby Trust'

Presentation by Elaine Moll

Cost £5.50 per person (includes tea/coffee)\*\*Own transport

### Saturday 17th October 2015

Peter Harrison Room, Beverley Minster, Minster Yard North, HU17 ODP

Study Day

'Archaeological Studies in and around East Yorkshire'

10am – 4.30pm approx.10.00am –

10.05am Welcome

10.05am – 11.15am

Rodney Mackey

'Archaeological Evidence for the Changing Setting of Beverley Minster'

11.15am – 11.35am

Coffee Break

11.35am – 12.45pm

Dr Peter Halkon

'The Parisi – Britons and Romans in Eastern Yorkshire'

12.45pm – 13.45pm

Lunch Break

13.45pm – 14.55pm

Ed Dennison

'Not all Archaeology is below ground - Recent Building Recording in East Yorkshire'

14.55pm – 15.15pm

Coffee Break

15.15pm – 16.25pm

Dr Dave Evans

'Wealth and Poverty in Hull from c 1300 to c 1700: an archaeological view of lifestyles'

16.25pm – 16.30pm

Closing Remarks Cost £25 per person (includes buffet lunch and morning and afternoon refreshments)

Max. No. 40

### **Participation in events**

As reported in previous years, it has not been possible to arrange group insurance for events. We therefore strongly recommend that members and their friends take out personal accident/loss insurance, or include this in their households policies. We would also stress the need for suitable clothing - in particular, sturdy footwear and waterproofs - for outdoor events.

### **Please note**

There is usually a waiting list for most of the Society's events. If you book an event and then find you cannot attend, please inform the Secretary. Please do not transfer your booking to a relative or friend without first consulting the Secretary, whose telephone number can be found on the inside of this newsletter. Thank you.

### **Subscriptions**

Rates are £15 for individual membership and £20 family / institutions / overseas.

If you pay by standing order and have not yet amended it for the new rates please do so.

### **Review of EYLHS Events**

**Visit to Kirkbymoorside and Ryedale Folk Museum (Hutton-Le-Hole)**

Friday 19th June

My car 'exploded' a few days before this trip so I was glad to take advantage of the 'ask for a lift' scheme the EYLHS has in place. This was a great help as otherwise myself and my guest would have been unable to go on what proved an excellent day out.

Picked up by our cheerful car drivers, we set off from Beverley on a grey and unpromising day. Time soon passed with interesting conversation, and we arrived just in time for the start of the guided walking tour of Kirkbymoorside. In grey but nevertheless (just!) fine weather we spent about two hours walking around this market town, so rich in history. Our guide had lived in Kirkbymoorside since the 1970s and was familiar with all its nooks and crannies. He was so knowledgeable and confident that, when I asked him how often he had led this tour, I was surprised to hear that this was his first time! One would never have guessed that. Quite rightly, given the level of interest shown by the group, he overran the allocated time.

The tour had given us the opportunity to look out for good places for lunch. Six of us turned the corner at the end

of the walk to eat at a small cafe run by mother and daughter who were indefatigable in cooking and service. We all ordered hot food – showing how chilly and inhospitable the weather was; hard to imagine that in a couple of weeks we would be enjoying a heat wave. Comfortable full after (variously) soup, beef sandwich, all-day breakfast and apple and blackberry crumble, we made the short car journey to the Ryedale Folk Museum.

This was a new venue to me. I expected rooms full of objects – such as ploughs and tools used in the rural North Yorkshire landscape. In fact the experience was very different as this is an open air museum in which buildings have been recreated, to recapture the 'feel' of living in an agrarian landscape. Houses (for rich and poor), barns, a blacksmith's forge, a chemist's shop, a general store – even a photographer's studio - could all be found. The improving weather meant we could stroll in a relaxed way between these attractions and even enjoy some sunshine.

So, this was another engrossing EYLHS excursion – with the usual thanks to Pam for her careful planning and to our hosts and guides for their enthusiasm and preparedness to share their knowledge.

Roger Lewis

**Visit to Rufford Abbey and Papplewick Pumping Station, Nottinghamshire;**  
Wednesday 15 July 2015

A charming walk through the 150 acres of grounds, alongside the lake with considerable numbers of waterfowl, takes one to the ruins of a once grand country house. Portions of the abbey acquired by the Earl of Shrewsbury after the 16th century Dissolution of the monasteries were demolished and the remainder turned into a handsome residence. This was further enlarged and developed in the 18th century but after occupation by the armed forces in the war and the family's decision to make their primary base in Yorkshire it was put up for sale by Baron Savile. Bought by Nottinghamshire County Council in 1952 the north and west wings were demolished leaving only the mere shell of the main house, sitting on its mediaeval foundations. There is a vaulted cellarium and the former monastic dormer was turned into the kitchens.

The pumping station an austere handsome brick building was built 1881-1884 by Nottingham Corporation Water Department to drive the flow of drinking water into the expanding city. Decommissioned in 1969 a conservation trust was established five years later which has brought the beam engines into working order and demonstrated in steam several times a year. The frames of the two Watt rotative beam engines, made by James Watt & Co of Soho, Birmingham, are supported by square section columns with a fret work of cast iron decorated with birds and fish. The windows are filled with stained glass depicting a variety of flowering plants, and ones

nostrils are filled with the authentic smell of lubricating oil. The whole building is lovingly cared for by a band of enthusiasts who have also overseen the erection on the site of a colliery winding engine and a triple expansion steam engine.

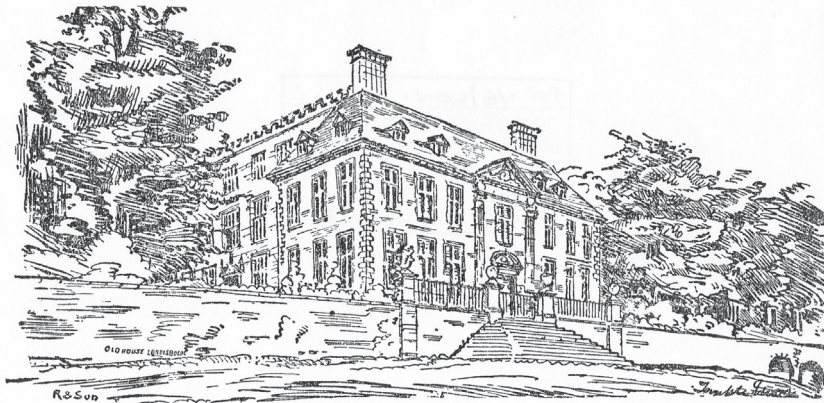
Arthur G Credland

## The Knowltons of Eighteenth Century Londesborough

The Knowlton's of Londesborough are ancient cousins of my mother, Marjorie Knowlton Anderson (1928-2014). They captured my imagination in 1995 when Mom and I visited Londesborough

for the first time. The following is our shared history with these English Knowltons up to the 1630s when the Knowlton family tree extended some of its branches to America.

The Knowlton name is believed to date from the time of William the Conqueror. A man who lived on a knoll was given his spurs and put in charge of a ton or hundred men who could be called to arms - hence, the name Knowlton. There is a manor village called Knowlton east of Canterbury where the name became known. Thomas Knowlton of Londesborough liked to speak of an ancestor who protected a castle in Kent for an earl of Warwick, likely before or during the Wars of the Roses when castles were still in vogue as defensive establishments. This ancestor wore his rank at all times by



CONJECTURAL SKETCH OF LONDSEBOROUGH HALL, BY MR. TEMPLE MOORE.

*By kind permission of Mrs. Temple Moore.*

[See page 11.

Conjectural sketch of Burlington House at Londesborough by Temple Moore, circa 1900 (East Riding Archives Service, Beverley).

being in court regalia no matter what occupied him. His constant state of preparedness may indicate that one of his duties was to convey messages to the monarch. The name shows up in public records on the path between Canterbury and London during the early sixteenth century.

Around 1634 Captain William Knowlton waved goodbye to his British cousins and sailed to America. He left England without recording a promise of loyalty to Charles I, which means he and his passengers left the country illegally. Part of the “self-conceited brethren” described in the King James Bible, the Captain may have had a dream common to the time to start a spiritually ideal life with his friends and family in the New World, a Puritan belief that an ideal world could be achieved, just not in the Old World. Sadly, the Captain died upon landing in North America and is buried in Nova Scotia. His descendants settled in Canada and New England. It is from the Captain’s family that our American ancestors descend.

**Thomas Knowlton, Botanist & Antiquarian (1691-1781)**

The first Knowlton to arrive at Londesborough was Thomas Knowlton who was born in Chislehurst, Kent. At the age of twelve, he was apprentice to a Master Gardener. He was a highly motivated naturalist. His intellectual curiosity led to expertise in landscape and hot house design for several prominent estates. Although not formally educated as a scientist, he possessed sufficient Latin to design



MR. THOMAS KNOWLTON, F.R.A.,  
Antiquarian and Botanist,  
Londesborough, Eng., 1690-1781.

his own academic development and navigate successfully in a world of emerging scientific specialties. Great arboreta and botanical gardens were being populated with plants obtained by collectors who traveled the world to collect rare species, and to discover new species as yet unnamed and unrecorded. One challenge for early botanists was to achieve the necessary environment for these non-native plants within glass houses. An environment required to nurture the exotic flora- temperature, humidity, light, and nourishment-conditions bespoke for thriving collections of tropical plants and even indoor orchards. The exchange of plants and seeds among gardeners and garden owners was brisk. Networks between enthusiasts formed quickly. Knowlton contributed to several famous horticultural catalogues of the time that sought to document plant species.

His famed pineapples grown at Londesborough were novel, delicious and decorative house gifts. We don't have to look far even today to see the motif of hospitality – the pineapple – give shape to a table leg or finial.

The title of Gardener was recorded in Londesborough household financial records as representing one of three primary employees listed by order of status: the Estate Agent, the Gardener, and the Agent's Assistant. Think of these positions as the corporate executives of today, the estate being the subsidiary or division of a noble's conglomerate. In Knowlton's case, ending up both Agent and Gardener, the Vice President in charge of Londesborough.

Blanche Henrey found that from the age of twenty Knowlton produced nearly seventy years' worth of botanical ephemera consisting of letters, manuscripts and contributions to botanical reference books and catalogs. In 1720 he was Gardener to Sir Henry Penrice of Offly Place, Hertfordshire. That year he married Elizabeth 'Betty' Rice at Aston near Stevenage on June 20. The couple was well matched with his studies in botany, and her interest in ornithology - the study of birds.

At some point he was Gardener to the Dukes of Somerset and Chandos. The Dowager Duchess of Buckingham employed Knowlton in her gardens before the Westminster estate became a royal residence. He was curator of the Sherard Botanical Garden at Eltham in Kent. By 1721 Johann Jacob Dillenius

was writing the Sherard catalog of the gardens, to which Knowlton contributed. Later Dillenius became the first Sherardian Professor of Botany at Oxford. Heady company for a young naturalist making his career.

1726 was a big year in Knowlton's life. In May he visited the island of Guernsey at the behest of James Douglas to discover the origins of the Guernsey Lily, which is not native to the island. He was also commissioned by Middlesex horticulturalist Thomas Fairchild to go to Holland. He visited Boerhaave at Leyden. From the renowned Eltham establishment of the Sherards he was recruited by Richard Boyle (1694-1753), the third Earl of Burlington, to make noble landscape dreams come true at Boyle's family estate of Londesborough on the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Thomas and Betty made their way to East Yorkshire late in 1726. Their son Charles was baptized at Londesborough's All Saints in December 1727. I was invited to be present for a baptism at All Saints in March 2014. Barbara Ashwin of Londesborough Park had made the arrangements on behalf of a long-time friend whose first great grandchild was christened at the thirteenth century baptismal font where countless infants, including a few Knowltons, have been embraced by the All Saints community. The church was bursting with friends and family of the infant. Generations gathered to promise spiritual support to a new life. Mrs. Ashwin was glowing with pleasure as she lit the candle for the newest member of All Saints.

For an idea of what Knowlton saw when he first arrived at Londesborough, look at the birds-eye-view above by Kip and Knyff published around 1700. Knowlton went straight to work on Burlington's plans for the park and gardens. Although he executed many changes to the park and pleasure grounds, he was not approaching a thorny patch. Formal Dutch style gardens and park had been implemented during the 1680s to plans by Robert Hooke (1635-1703), the man who measured London for its rebuilding after the fire of 1666. Hooke was a personal friend of the Burlington family. He had been an assistant to Burlington's uncle, Robert Boyle (1627-1691), who is known as the first modern chemist. Hooke became Curator of Experiments at the Royal Society of which Boyle was a founding member.

Next notice the changes recorded below in the estate plan drawn by Thomas Pattison in 1739 and redrawn by Neave. By then the park and pleasure gardens had grown from 229 acres to nearly 700. The area between the chain of lakes and the smaller cascade of ponds may be where Burlington's walks and water works were located.

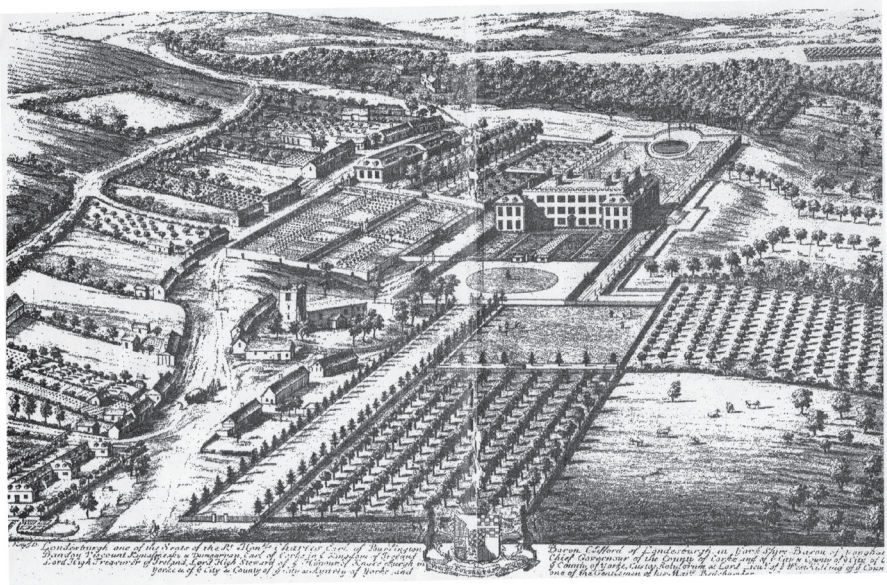
In the 1730s the Hooke plantings were nearly a half century old. There were avenues of trees, but too few. There were fish ponds, but many more were needed. Orchards, yes, but too near the house, and the entire northwest exposure was dominated by the kitchen garden. There were forest wilds, but they were not near enough to the

house. Knowlton had a legitimate complaint when he wrote to remind his lordship that he was a botanist and "not a nursery man". Knowlton, Burlington and designer William Kent (1685-1748) did what it is the duty of every generation to do. They expressed themselves!

It may have required a team to dress the Earl in the high fashion of his time, but he liked his parks casually beautiful; "terrain as one great canvas" as Lees-Milne aptly observed. Burlington's ideas would transition the park and pleasure gardens to a new ideal of enhanced nature. The geometric landscape expression of the Restoration Era was quaint and passé for true innovators like Burlington, Kent, and Knowlton. The formality had to be softened, made more subtle. The Park had good bones, but needed an update. Burlington's letters from Londesborough note that some of his chief pursuits while there included working at draining the park, designing water works, planting woods and laying out walks.

Hunting and shooting were always part of the planting consciousness and dictated landscape plans within the ancient park pale. The dog kennels of that time may have been supplanted by the present Victorian mansion which began its evolution in 1839 as a shooting box and refuge for a vicar, a Devonshire relation, who would one day be the eighth Earl of Carlisle in spite of his intellectual limitations. The accommodation of game, birds-of-prey, horses, and hounds were





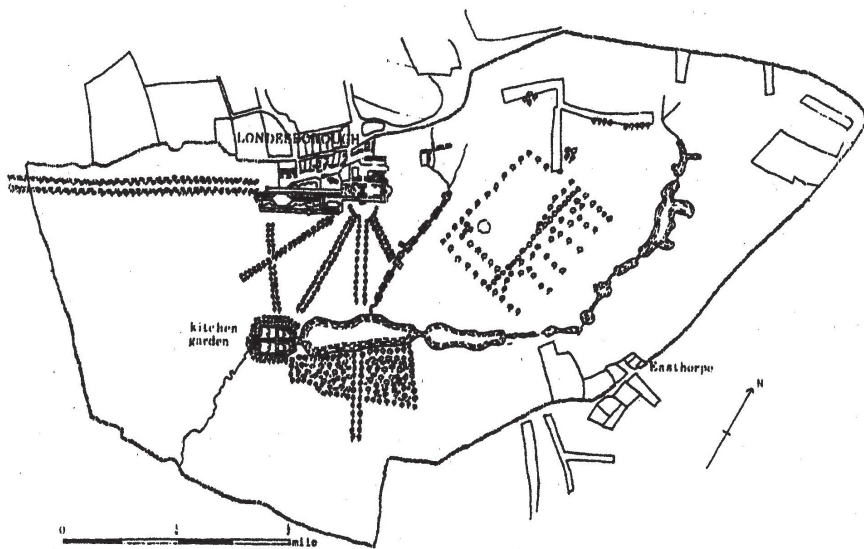
finely honed arts with millennia of expertise gathered within the pale at Londesborough. The grounds have hosted hunters, celebrations and assemblies since its pre-Roman origins. Londesborough park has been a place to gather troops and for military practice. The park in general has long been a symbol of power, authority, splendor and wealth. Londesborough's curb appeal is Prehistoric.

The established west drive lined with yews passed through the Park from the York Road and doubled as a broad walk leading to the mansion. Room was made to create a wilderness on either side. Kip and Knyff's birds-eye-view shows a possible seven buildings clustered around the church. The punishing stocks or pillory used to expose offenders to public scorn when they failed to conform to the rules had certainly fallen out of use. After all, this

was the Age of Enlightenment. These were possibly the oldest structures of the village. They were torn down to be replaced by the wilderness pleasure gardens that flanked the extended west drive.

The regimented rows of orchard trees went down to color, texture and rural suspense; a classical sculpture here, a seat for Alexander Pope there, and plantings to please the neo-classical gods. Imagine passing through the old Burlington gates, strolling along a gravel drive dappled by sunlight, observed only by statuary of Diana, Venus, or an impish faun. The great circular drive emerges to frame a home that began its own evolution on Whitsunday 1589 when Francis and Grisold Clifford created a square mansion to be their family home. It was built of glowing, solid blocks of Yorkshire granite with seven window





*Lonsborough Park, 1739, redrawn from an estate plan by Thomas Pattison, reproduced from Neave (D.), Lonsborough (1977).*

bays across each side, appearing much like the mansion at neighboring Kilnick Percy. A century later the Clifford's granddaughter, Elizabeth Clifford Boyle, added wings of red Yorkshire brick on the north and south sides of the Elizabethan mansion, enhancing its importance as a family seat. It was Elizabeth, first Countess of Burlington, who put Robert Hooke on the job of designing the wings and new foundations, as well as the pleasure gardens and park.

Orchards were moved. Avenues of trees were planted. More changes involved dredging for serpentine lakes, sculpting a path for a cascade of small lakes, and moving the kitchen garden to a position south of the house where its high brick enclosure stands today and surrounds nearly four acres.

Writing to friend and botanical colleague Samuel Brewer in 1728, Knowlton suggested an expedition to Craven in West Riding. He groaned to his friend that he didn't have a hothouse and that he is so far away from civilization, but concluded that he "never lived so happy as now in all the course of my life ... thanks to the best of Lords and friends". Knowlton kept his eye on promised hothouses for growing an exotic collection of botanicals. He had hot house stoves in use by 1729 which met with mixed success. New methods were experimental. The successful green houses were at the northeast end of the kitchen garden where it meets the Great Pond.

All this digging netted the antiquarian finds that opened communications with experts from the Society of

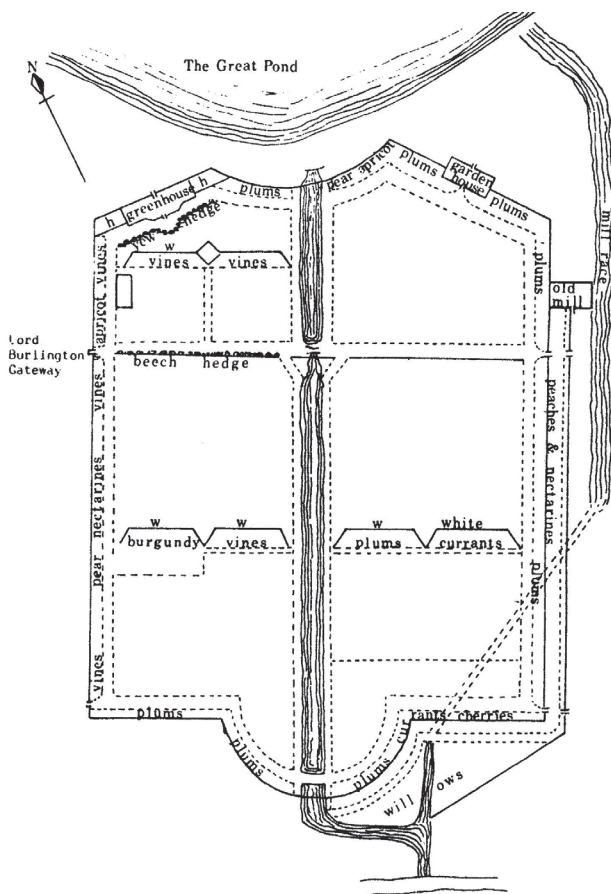
Antiquaries of which Burlington was a fellow. A Roman road and bridge emerged as the digging progressed for the cascade lakes in the park. Roman foundations were uncovered at Millington now believed to have been a temple complex for water deities. Richard Spence found descriptions of Anglian inhumations being uncovered during excavation for the foundations of the late-Elizabethan central block of the mansion. The vast new foundation built in the Restoration era must have netted the same finds. It is likely that more sixth and seventh century burials were found during the eighteenth century digs organized by Knowlton. These findings opened relationships with Hans Sloane and Mark Catesby of the Society of Antiquaries and cemented local relationships with Yorkshire historians Drs Francis Drake and John Burton.

The ritual center that existed at Goodmanham during King Edwin's time in the seventh century was also the central gathering point of the pre-Roman British kingdom of Deira, much of which is now called East Yorkshire. Ritual centers generally shared their locations with partner regal centers. The area would have held a regal villa thought to be around Londesborough and similar to Yeavinger, the capitol of pre-Roman Bernicia in Northumberland. Edwin combined Deira and Bernicia to form Northumbria – the land north of the river Humber. It is possible that Londesborough has been a hunting park and assembly ground for thousands of years.

The Burlington stable block was built over the foundations of the medieval manor house a half century earlier. Knowlton explored the foundations of what we know more about today with modern technology and imaging to connect the dots of cultural history. Only archaeologist Peter Halkon, our modern day Dr Francis Drake, knows what lies beneath the verdant fields of Londesborough at the headwaters of the river Foulness.

Knowlton's unplanned personal growth included sharing observations with the Royal Society regarding the Roman remains at Millington, and about the Roman road crossing Londesborough Park. Excerpts from his letter to Catesby opened a dissertation to the Society by Dr John Burton of York who believed that the ruins at Millington were those of the Roman station Delgovicia as seen on Roman itineraries, but the site had not been located. As a result Burlington commissioned maps to be made of the "stupendous remains of Roman antiquity on the Wolds in Yorkshire".

Knowlton wrote to Mark Catesby documenting the preserved skull and antlers of a Great Irish Elk, extinct for 10,000 years and found in peat moss from a late glacial deposit at Cowthorpe. The find is believed to be the first of the species to be found in England. The letter, read before the Royal Society and entered into the Philosophical Transactions of 6 March 1745/46, also included a description of the large prehistoric monolith in



*Kitchen garden at Londesborough, 1792, redrawn from a sketch plan by Thomas Knowlton the younger, reproduced from Neave (D.), Londesborough (1977).*

the churchyard of All Saints at Rudston near Burton Agnes.

When the repositioned kitchen garden was finished in 1733 the hothouses were of the latest design and were a triumph. Inside were the rarified atmospheres that produced the famous Londesborough pineapples, papayas, and other fruits; as well as the requisite shady palm under which to read. A solid wall of brick protected the structure

from cold north winds and held the stoves that controlled the temperature and humidity. The south facing glass walls and ceilings looked in on the kitchen garden lined with orchards of plum, cherry, pear, nectarine, apricot, grape vines and currant bushes. The outflow of the Great Pond irrigated the gardens and still flows through the center of the walled garden today. An ancient lumber or grain mill became a gardeners shed. The old mill race took

overflow from the pond and helped control the volume of water coursing through the garden.

Londesborough attracted a range of personalities outside the scientific community. Roger White describes trendsetters Burlington and Kent as “the formal reserved aristocrat and the ebullient, boozy, irreverent Yorkshire man.” Lees-Milne describes seeing the last of Burlington’s drawings dated in 1735 projecting minor alterations for Londesborough Hall. Others have described four interior murals containing depictions from Ovid’s stories, possibly a rainy day gift from the bumptious Signor Kent, as he was known in the Burlington circle. Londesborough played host to many celebrities of the time including the satirist and master of sarcasm, Jonathan Swift. Alexander Pope had his own seat in the pleasure grounds from which to contemplate the universe.

The famous actor, director and writer David Garrick (1717-1779) required an entire broad walk, called Garrick’s Walk, to contain his energetic vignettes. Garrick spread rumors that the vicar of All Saints was secretly a Methodist. Vicar Allet’s progress through the community in search of the Mrs Scuttlebutt who started such an inflammatory lie was the subject of amusement for letters to Countess Burlington who seldom visited Londesborough. Hunting and shooting were the primary occupations when Burlington and his friends were at Londesborough. David Garrick

opined that the estate existed for the sole purpose of shooting things.

Autumn meant hunting, shooting, birding, riding, and harvest festivals. The spring brought a crowd on the third Thursday in March for the Kiplingcotes Derby. The Derby, with written records going back to 1519, was a favorite event for generations of the Burlington family and an opportunity to trot out those lovelies living in the running horse stables at Londesborough, a talent search for horses and riders, and perhaps a wager or two. The Kiplingcotes Derby has held its race even when the weather would allow no more than a horse to be led over the course, as evidenced by the determination of Fred Stephenson and Londesborough Lad who plowed through snow drifts in March 1947 to keep the annual tradition unbroken. Part of the strength of the tradition of the race, besides the fact that it’s a good party, lies in the fact that if even one annual race is missed, the Kiplingcotes Derby no longer exists.

An important event of 1733 was the opening of another of Burlington’s architectural triumphs -the York Assembly Rooms. A model of Georgian architecture, its walls have heard music from Handel to Latin jazz, and today house the modern restaurant Ask. The gala opening of the Assembly Rooms must have been grand, inclusive and have gone on for days. Perhaps Knowlton and Betty shared a dance with all the other party goers.

We can get a sense of the social hierarchies in play at such an occasion from the famed York leather craftsman and local historian T P Cooper, who illuminated an event of similar status that occurred in 1733. Writing in 1907, Cooper recreates the great pageant for local dignitaries on the mayor's newly christened barge, the 'Royal Carolina', named for the Queen. Precedence was observed as dignitaries arrived in personal conveyances of the time and boarded the barge wearing the official regalia that displayed their stature. All converged at King's Staithe on the river Ouse in York to board the new pleasure barge. Cooper imagined an interaction with Dr Francis Drake (1696-1771), the renowned Yorkshire historian of the eighteenth century and Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries with whom Knowlton regularly interacted. Cooper's narrator converses with Dr Drake throughout the cruise and lets him describe the riverbanks of the Ouse as they were populated in 1733.

Knowlton's brother John had joined him at Londesborough and they raised their families together. Knowlton's son Charles attended a school in the estate village that reported pupil populations to York Minster. He then attended Coxwold School, a Free Grammar School about thirty miles away. These schools prepared him for St Johns College, Cambridge where he took Holy Orders.

Knowlton reported hard news to his friend and botanical colleague Samuel Brewer in September of 1738

explaining the delay in answering correspondence (transcribed here by Henrey); "...being in so very Grat trouble by my dearest betty & wifes Illness & Death ... She was take ... of a violant fever which in a weeks timecarred her off to my gratgrefe & sorrow". Blanche Henrey and Barbara Ashwin searched for the grave of Elizabeth Rice Knowlton but were unable to locate it. Their son Charles was twelve years old when his mother died. You might think that Knowlton's spelling in his letters is phonetically Yorkshirian, but this is a couple of decades before Samuel Johnson's dictionary began a movement to standardize and define the spelling and usage of the English language.

According to the studies of Susan and David Neave, the 700 acre park encompassed the medieval deer park within the ancient pale. It had taken over agricultural land and much of the medieval hamlet of Easthorpe. Thomas had crafted a wilderness walk, additional avenues of trees (some of which still stand today), plantations of orchards, and a serpentine cascade of lakes stocked with varieties of fish. Trees, trees and more trees, aside from the avenues, were artfully arranged to appear as if placed by nature to delight the eye in texture, color, size and position.

The portrait of the Burlington family by Van Loo (see front cover) was probably done just before Dorothy's marriage in 1741. It depicts Burlington looking cerebral with his papers and

architectural plans before him, and gazing proudly on his daughters in their pursuit of the arts. The Countess is engaged in painting. Dorothy may be holding one of the early modern novels to her breast. Ten year old Charlotte is discussing music with both her parents.

The 1740s found Burlington occupied between Chiswick and Londesborough and no longer active in London public life. Tragedy struck the Burlington family in 1742 with the mysterious death of their eldest daughter Dorothy (1724-1742). Her brutish husband, the Earl of Euston, is said to have hastened her death at age seventeen along with their unborn child over his love for his brother's wife and that woman's wish that her own children inherit from Euston's father. His promise to his lover was a criminal one, but he was never prosecuted. Burlington challenged Euston to a duel but was held back by his friends. Had the duel occurred the distraught father would likely have perished along with his beloved daughter and grandchild. An estate village is an intimate place. The people who lived in Londesborough village and those who served in the mansion had a strong sense of feeling and mutual loyalty for each other. They would have grieved together over the Burlington family tragedy. Each side part of a different social order, but in spirit maintaining a strong human bond between servant and nobility.

Knowlton and Mrs Elizabeth Stephenson married in November

1744. The Stephenson family goes back a few centuries in East Yorkshire. Their descendants are present to this day. Knowlton and his new wife had a daughter Elizabeth who was born and christened at Londesborough in 1745.

Charles, the son of Knowlton and his first wife Betty, took Holy Orders in 1753 and Burlington granted him the living as Rector of Keighley Parish in West Riding. At Keighley Charles married Sarah Fowler and together they provided Knowlton with his first grandchildren.

In December 1753 Burlington, the Architect Earl, died after a long illness and is the last of his line to be entombed in All Saints at Londesborough. Knowlton was sixty-two and would continue a life of collaboration with great thinkers, but Burlington was literally and figuratively in a class of his own. Londesborough, Burlington's landscape laboratory, passed through another of the great heiresses who have brought the estate to a noble marriage. Charlotte Boyle, Baroness Clifford of Lanesborough (1731-1754), called the Baby Face by her uncompromising mother-in-law, had married William Cavendish, the Marquess of Hartington in March 1748 when at the age of sixteen. The union was an instant success with a son born in December 1748. Burlington was able to meet most of his grandchildren. Perhaps they toddled ahead of his wheeled chair up and down the streets of the village like thousands of toddlers before and since them.



Charlotte's husband inherited the extensive Burlington estates upon the earl's death. Pearson believes that the combined properties doubled the land holdings of the Dukes of Devonshire. The most notable among the holdings that Charlotte brought with her are Burlington House in Piccadilly, and Chiswick House in Middlesex, both of which are examples of her father's evolving talents as an architect and "arbiter of taste", as Horace Walpole framed him. Bolton Abbey at Skipton in West Yorkshire was the seat of Charlotte's Clifford ancestors. Lismore in Waterford, Ireland was the original Boyle estate purchased from a desperate Walter Raleigh just before his 1603 execution. All these estates remain notable today. I have not heard that there was an inventory of Burlington's library or art collection, both of which were substantial.

Charlotte produced three sons and a daughter before "dying of a strain" one year after her father. She was playing rackets in the Long Gallery at Londesborough when she should have been recovering from an illness. Marchioness of Hartington at her death in December 1754, she was aged twenty-three. William did not remarry. Their children were raised by pre-occupied Cavendish uncles. Her husband became the fourth Duke of Devonshire in 1755 and was an effective Member of Parliament who ran a conservative Whig household.

Homage is paid to Charlotte Boyle and her family at Chatsworth House

in Derbyshire. Visible from the Painted Hall is the portrait by Van Loo shown earlier in this article depicting little Charlotte discussing music with her parents. William Kent figures prominently in one Chatsworth gallery dedicated to Devonshire ancestor Richard Boyle, third Earl of Burlington of the first creation. These displays were a warmup for what I found in London celebrating the tercentennial of the beginning of the Georgian era. The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace opened a window on art and battle maps acquired during the first Georgian monarchies (1714-1760). The Victoria and Albert Museum gathered an exhibit of Kent's work as a prime mover in the neo-Classical or Georgian art and architecture movement. Kent's varied talents embraced several different media from oil painting to river barges; landscape, architecture, beyond-Baroque furniture, and ladies fashions upon special request. Everyone wanted something, anything, designed by Kent. Every detail is an individual work of art. Many of the works on display at the V and A were there courtesy of the Devonshire Collection. Kent and Burlington studied Palladio and Inigo Jones to build a style that reflects the great art of the period and a hallmark of British style. Burlington House on Piccadilly now houses the Royal Academy of the Arts and the Society of Antiquaries, along with other national organizations. Chiswick House and Gardens are treated as national treasures.

Knowlton witnessed the passage of Londesborough's Golden Age. Once the family seat of Cumberland and Burlington earls, the big house went quiet but for occasional guests. The estate was rarely visited by its new owners who remained loyal to their own family seat of Chatsworth, rough competition even then. Londesborough's estate village continued much the same. The farms continued to be worked. Knowlton continued to produce his famous Londesborough pineapples in the hothouses at the end of the kitchen garden. The park remained intact until the early nineteenth century when it was turned to farms and farmsteads, and the ponds were drained to make arable land.

At mid-century, Knowlton's gardening reputation was unparalleled locally. The new quietude gave him more freedom to consult with other botanists and to work for other landowners. He designed a menagerie for William Constable at Burton Constable where he also advised on the building of a hot house. Constable's botanical specimens were recorded in a ten volume herbarium, according to Neave and Turnbull. Knowlton also consulted at Birdsall, Everingham, Kilnick, and other estates in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. He played a major part in designing the grounds for Charles Hotham's estate at South Dalton. Knowlton was not a stranger to the Devonshire family. He consulted for the third, fourth and fifth dukes on the gardens of Chatsworth. Perhaps his expertise was applied

to Chatsworth's early glass houses where the present Duke's collection of specimen camellias thrives.

In 1762 four year old grandson and namesake, young Thomas Knowlton, came from Keighley to live with the Londesborough Knowltons. Two years later Charlotte Boyle's eldest son became Londesborough's next owner. William Cavendish (1748-1811) was fifth Duke of Devonshire at the tender age of fifteen. Knowlton and his grandson greeted the fifth Duke's famous bride, Georgiana, in 1774 during her bridal tour of the Devonshire estates. Young Thomas Knowlton (1758-1836) became his grandfather's eyes on the world as described in the 1838 obituary transcribed for Newsletter 29 of the East Yorkshire Local History Society. They would be fast companions until the elder's death in 1781.

Knowlton's daughter Elizabeth was courted by Robert Wilson who hailed from a family with ancestors at Londesborough since the early seventeenth century according to Wilson's descendant Peter Wilson of present day York. The Wilsons may have been among those who came north with Grisold Hughes Clifford. Elizabeth and Robert married on 19 July 1769 and raised a prosperous family in Pocklington where Robert owned and operated a tannery. Perhaps their children were baptized at All Saints in keeping with the traditions of both families. Thomas the Younger was eleven years old when Aunt Elizabeth's marriage took place. This event surely

brought the entire Yorkshire branch of the Knowlton family together. In the number would be the parents and siblings of young Thomas, who had traveled all the way from Keighley in West Yorkshire. Thomas' young sister, Sarah Knowlton (1767-1845), would become Housekeeper of the noble mansion nostalgically called Burlington House at Londesborough by the Devonshire descendants of Charlotte Boyle.

Knowlton enjoyed a small circle of East Riding fellows who kept each other good company while they documented and collected the remaining unnamed species natural to the county. The shoreline of the Great Pond was Knowlton's chosen environment to nurture these natives. He did his utmost to make it a representative collection as is shown in his letters to local colleagues asking about and offering plants and observations. Some of his later letters introduce his son-in-law Robert Wilson and grandson Thomas who would deliver or pick up plant specimens or information about the arcane hobby of collecting plants indigenous to East Yorkshire. Knowlton's tradition of Londesborough pineapples was continued by the Scott brothers at Chiswick. He authored his last letters in 1779. In old age Knowlton lost his eye sight, but could identify his botanical darlings by touch. He had a good life, a life that was as well-tended as his gardens and park at Londesborough where he lived for fifty-five years.

Knowlton's grandson Thomas took his education and grew to manhood at Londesborough. He attended Pocklington School, overlapping in attendance with future abolitionist William Wilberforce. Thomas took his place next to his grandfather as Agent for Londesborough succeeding him in 1781, but that's another story.

[Dear Reader - At the annual meeting of the EYLHS in March 2014, I learned that there are several of you who are interested in the Londesborough estate, and its role in East Yorkshire history. I can no longer study in splendid isolation and would like to engage with fellow historians about Londesborough's historical legacy. Please feel welcome to contact me at the following email address: candacefish@earthlink.net.]

### **Primary Sources:**

Chatsworth House Archives; the Londesborough and Knowlton files; Aidan Haley, archivist.

Cooper, T. P.; "Down the Ouse in 1733" (Delittle, Fenwick and Company, 1907).  
Crackles, F. E.; "Flora of East Riding" (Hull U. 1990).

Duke and Duchess of Devonshire "Director's Choice: Chatsworth" (Scala Arts and Heritage Publishers, 2013).

Fish, Candace; "Thomas Knowlton of Londesborough"; East Yorkshire Local History Society, Newsletter 21, 2009; <http://www.eylhs.org.uk/newsletter>.

Foreman, Amanda; "Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire" (Modern Library, 2001).

"Gentleman's Magazine", May 1838; Obituary of grandson Thomas Knowlton; transcribed for Newsletter 29 of the East Yorkshire Local History Society.

Henry, Blanche; "No Ordinary Gardener: Thomas Knowlton 1691-1781" (British Museum - Natural History, 1986).

Lees-Milne, James; "Earls of Creation" (John Murray Ltd. 1991).

Neave, David; "Londesborough: History of an East Yorkshire Estate Village" (Londesborough Silver Jubilee Committee, 1977; 2006 edition).

Neave, David & Deborah Turnbull "Landscape Parks and Gardens of East Yorkshire" (Georgian Society of East Yorkshire, 1992).

Neave, David; "Lord Burlington's Park and Gardens at Londesborough", Garden History, Vol. VIII, No. 1, 1980.

Neave, Susan "Medieval Parks of East Yorkshire" (Hutton Press, 1991).

Pearson, John; "The Serpent and the Stag" (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1984).

Robinson, Rev. Hillary; "Some Notes on Things of Interest at Londesborough" (1934), (East Riding Archives Service, Beverley).

Editor, Shawe-Taylor, Desmond; "The First Georgians: Art and Monarchy 1714-1760" (Royal Collection Trust, 2014).

Spence, Richard; "Londesborough House and its Community 1590-1643" (East Yorkshire Local History Society, 2005).

Stocking, Rev. Charles; "The History and Genealogy of the Knowltons of

England and America" (Knickerbocker Press, 1897).

Editor, Weber, Susan; "William Kent: Designing Georgian Britain" (Yale University Press, 2013), catalogue for the exhibition tour.

White, Roger; "Chiswick House and Gardens" (English Heritage, 2010).

Candace Anderson Fish  
Montana, USA

candacefish@earthlink.net

## Book Reviews

**Nicholas Redman *Whales' Bones of France, Southern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa* Redman Publishing, Teddington, 2014, 254 pp. Illustrated throughout, mostly in colour. £25, available from the author [nick.redman@hotmail.com](mailto:nick.redman@hotmail.com).**

**ISBN 978-095458006-3 and 978-83-4313-56-1.**

This is the penultimate volume in the author's survey of whale bone remains across the globe. Though the initial inspiration of the project was the whale-bone arch and related monumental and decorative uses of whales' bones, he also records important cetacean skeletal material in all the major, and many minor collections. Some whale fossil fragments are recorded and reference is made to the discoveries at Wadi al-Hitan where five species of whale have been uncovered over the years, including *Basilosaurus isis* in 1905. More recently in 2005 an 18m. specimen has been found, which will

be returned to Egypt after conservation in the USA.

Archaeology has confirmed the report in AD 409, by Augustine of Hippo, of the bones of a great sea monster exhibited at Carthage. In the excavations on the site which began in 1884 a series of whale bones were uncovered, now in the museum at Delattre. They were believed to be from the creature which swallowed Jonah, the Old Testament prophet, as is the vertebra in the Musée de la Kasbah in Tanger (Morocco). This creature is also said to have provided bones used in the construction of the mosque at Messa, also in Morocco.

Joppa (Jaffa) in Israel, is linked to the legend of Andromeda and Perseus and in 58 BC the skeleton (some 40 ft long) of the monster slain by Perseus was taken to be displayed in Rome. Bones were however still to be seen in Joppa in the first century AD and were inevitably linked to Jonah who had departed from this port on his fateful voyage. The 'bone' at Jonah's reputed burial place in Mosul (ancient Nineveh) was actually a swordfish sword, but the Nebi Yunis mosque which housed it was recently destroyed by Islamist terrorists. In the Gulf state of Bahrain a complete articulated Brydes whale is a striking feature in front of the Science Centre, and the species is not infrequently stranded in local waters.

In many churches across Italy a single rib or jawbone can be found suspended by a chain, invariably associated with a legend of a monster or giant. Sperm

whales and fin whales seem to be the major species found across the Mediterranean area, as revealed by fragmentary relics or the complete skeletons in museums collections. The skeleton of the only Right Whale from the Mediterranean, is from a whale captured at Taranto (Puglia) in 1877 and now in the Museo Zoologico of Naples university.

The coast of the Basque country is not now particularly rich in whale remains and physical evidence for the mediaeval shore whaling has largely been lost. Ambroise Paré the notable French surgeon of the 17th century, however refers to bones used as fences around gardens in the Biarritz area, and vertebrae as stairs and seats within houses. In the early 20th century there was still a house with rafters of whalebone.

The 20m skeleton of a fin whale stranded at Port-la-Nouvelle (Aude) in 1989 was installed in the wine store of Jean-Louis Fabre and features on the label of bottles of his 'La Baleine de Vignerons'. Such is the fraternity of wine growers that when a fin whale skeleton was installed at the Turkish Science Centre, Istanbul, in 2001 one thousand bottles of a red wine named 'Balinanin Anisina' were produced, the label design based on that of the French vintage.

Included are records from Madeira, the Canaries, and the Azores where old style whaling from open boats continued after the 1960s. Slovenia, Croatia and

Bosnia-Herzegovina provide yet more remains, recovered from the Adriatic coast; St Mary' church, Crngrob, has a rib said to have been there since 1453, taken after the death of a giantess who had helped the villagers build their place of worship.

As its predecessors the volume is arranged gazetteer style, and is well illustrated, fully annotated, with location maps, as well as indexes of categories, museums and institutions, people, places, books and periodicals. It is recommended to zoologists, ethnographers, folk-lorists, and social historians. The preservation of whales' bones is a world-wide phenomenon and people of all kinds and conditions have been thrilled by the sight of the great whales and their massive bony remains, in past times believing the latter to be from dragons, 'great worms', or members of a giant race.

Arthur G Credland

**Marsali Baxter *The nightmare voyage of the Diana; from the journal of the ship's surgeon Charles Edward Smith* The Shetland Times, 2014, 183pp, with 14 colour plates. ISBN 978-1-904746-86-7; £15.99.**

This is a welcome new edition of the journal of Surgeon Smith aboard the Diana from the voyage in 1866-7 when this Hull whale ship was marooned in the Arctic and forced to overwinter. First published in 1922 by A and C Black (Edinburgh), edited by his son C E S Harris, a facsimile appeared in 1977 but

without any additional introduction or explanatory matter.

This was not the first time a vessel engaged in the pursuit of the Greenland whale had been stuck fast in the ice but it is the most detailed account we have of the circumstances of the voyage and the privations endured. Surgeon Smith was a committed Quaker, whose life was dedicated to service. After recovering from his ordeal, he made a voyage to Spitsbergen with James Lamont, as surgeon and naturalist, then was for a time surgeon to a gang of navvies in Cumberland. This was followed by a spell as a GP in a Durham mining town, and finally at Otepepo, in New Zealand, as a country doctor, often riding up to 40-50 miles a day to see his patients. Not surprisingly his health broke down and he died at the early age of 41 and was buried in the Quaker plot in his home town of Coggeshall, Essex, under a simple tablet bearing his name and dates.

Of a complement of 50, more than a quarter died before Diana eventually made safe landfall at Ronas Voe in Shetland. After fifty years in the whale fishery Captain John Gravill, died in his cabin aged 64, on Boxing Day, 26 December 1866. In addition the extreme cold and scurvy took the lives of three of the Hull crew and nine Shetland men. The loss of such a high proportion of islanders was probably the result of lives with an uncertain income and a generally poor diet, but Smith also thought that a resigned fatalism was a contributing factor.



All the victims, except for Capt Gravill who was taken home to Hull, were buried in Shetland and the story of the Diana is very much alive among the descendants, whether in the north or in England. The cover of the book is a reproduction of the painting by a Hull artist of the crew on the ice, having temporarily abandoned ship when she was likely to be crushed. A series of colour photographs, including portraits, documents, and relics of the voyage further enhance this handsome publication and should make it attractive to a wide audience.

The original journal written in a series of exercise books, along with a pocket book of surgeon's notes, are preserved in the Hull Maritime Museum. All of them are perfectly legible, and a facsimile edition, fully annotated and illustrated, would be a major contribution to the history of the Arctic and the northern whale fishery.

Arthur G Credland

***Kirk Martin Ferries across the Humber- the story of the Humber Ferries and the last coal-burning paddle steamers in regular service in Britain Pen and Sword, Barnsley, 2014, 166pp. Illustrated throughout in colour and black and white. ISBN987-1-78383-102-9; £25.***

This is an excellent summary history of the ferries which operated across the Humber from the Middle Ages to modern times. The arrival of the paddle steamer in the early nineteenth

century is plotted in some detail, and the takeover of the Hull - New Holland service in 1845 by the Great Grimsby and Junction Railway Co Railway ownership continued right through to the closure of the ferries.

The fate of the famous triumvirate, the Lincoln, Wingfield and Tattershall Castle, made redundant by the construction of the Humber Bridge, is also recounted. The Tattershall Castle is now of course a floating pub on the Thames, moored opposite the London Eye, having briefly been a floating art gallery. The Lincoln Castle after many vicissitudes has been broken up. Many efforts to preserve the last of the coal-burning paddle-steamers came to nought but the restored Wingfield Castle lies in permanent dry dock in Hartlepool as a visitor attraction and conference centre.

The book is enhanced by the reminiscences of former captains and crew members and passengers, as well as by the inside knowledge of the author. Coming to Hull as a student he fell in love with these craft and spent his summer vacations as a fireman stoking the boilers of the Lincoln and Wingfield Castle. The book, illustrated comprehensively in black and white and colour ends with a comprehensive listing of all the steamers which plied the Humber from 1814-1981.

This is an important contribution to local maritime history and of the paddle steamers which were a practical

and picturesque way of crossing the Humber.

Arthur G Credland

**Chris McKay *Longitude's Legacy, James Harrison of Hull 1789-1875: turret clockmaker - the last of the Harrison clockmakers* 2015. Privately published; with a foreword by Andrew King, illustrated throughout, 289pp. ISBN 13: 978 1511810333; ISBN 10: 1511810335. Available through Amazon and Jeff Formby Books; £25.**

Chris McKay is an acknowledged world expert on turret clocks who here records all the examples known to have been made by James Harrison 4, with detailed descriptions and illustrations of all that survive, some 30 clocks, many of them in Lincolnshire. He was based in Hull but sadly the clocks he installed at Holy Trinity, St James, St Peters (Drypool), and Christchurch were all either replaced by later mechanisms or were lost or discarded from bomb damaged churches in the 1939-45 War. The clock movement removed from the Old Dock Offices, High street, and now in store at Hull Museums, does however have additional work by Harrison. The earliest example of his work is at Alkborough church, a clock built by him and his father James 3. The latter, a bell hanger, bell founder and clockmaker is also treated at length, including his lengthy correspondence in the Mechanics Magazine, not only on the minutiae of clock work but on aeronautics too. James 3 was awarded two medals by the Society of Arts, the Large Silver Medal and £10, for his

detached escapement, and the Silver Isis Medal and £5, for the expanding fly. The latter is a type of governor in which as the speed tends to increase two blades expand outwards and thus slow the fly down in order to provide an even speed of striking. Both of these medals were displayed as part of the numismatic collection in the Albion street museum, Hull, but were casualties of an air raid, 24 June 1943.

The volume begins with chapters on longitude and the development of the chronometer by John Harrison and some account of James Harrison I, John's brother as well as Henry Harrison of Barrow-upon-Humber, so that the reader can appreciate how the family expertise was transmitted through the generations. James 4 was the great grandson of James I and hence the great grand nephew of 'Longitude Harrison'. The piece which first drew the author's attention to James Harrison 4 is the clock in the stable block at Sewerby Park (E Yorks) which he noted has a detached escapement resembling the grasshopper escapement invented by the latter.

James used the medals awarded to his father as a means of advertising the quality of his work, giving the impression that it was he who had received them. On the setting dial at Sewerby is inscribed, with similar wording on other clocks too: The Society for the Promotion of Arts awarded to the maker of this clock their large silver medal and ten pounds for this detached escapement. Made

for Yarburgh Graeme Esq. by James Harrison of Hull 1847.

His clocks were remarkable timekeepers, demonstrated by J D Sollitt, headmaster of the Hull Grammar School. Using a regulator and a transit instrument he showed that the mechanism installed in Christchurch, Sculcoates, 1827, lost a second or less per day with a maximum deviation from the average rate of around 3 seconds a day.

The author has also demonstrated that the roots of the design of Big Ben in Westminster, by E B Beckett of Doncaster, lay in the inventions of James Harrison 3 and 4. See Chris Mc Kay *The great clock and bells at the palace of Westminster* (OUP 2010), a complete history of the best known clock in the world.

James Harrison was baptised in Barton-on-Humber, 1792, and married Elizabeth Scruton of Cottingham in 1821. He worked most of his life in Hull dying 9 June 1875, in his 84th year, and was buried in the Hull General cemetery, the last of the Harrison line involved in clock-making. Miniature portraits of James and his wife painted on vellum are preserved in the Hull Museums.

This book is the fruit of many years of research and is an invaluable study in horology which also contains much of interest to local historians in both Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

Arthur G Credland

**Edward Yardley Frank Henry Mason-marine painter and poster artist Colley Books 2015; 96pp, illustrated throughout, mostly in colour, with board covers, also illustrated in colour. Price £24.95p. ISBN 978-0-9931892-2-7. Available From Colley Books Ltd, Stanton House, Stanton-in-Peak, Derbyshire, DE4 2LR.**

This volume is an excellent summary of his life with many illustrations of his work in all media, and it is recommended to all lovers of marine art and poster design. It includes a catalogue of his railway posters, of the carriage print designs, and the cover images for the Blue Peter magazine, each reproduced in colour, which provide a handy guide for collectors and gallery curators. These listings are followed by a bibliography, publications written or illustrated by Mason, and his work in public collections, as well as works exhibited during his lifetime.

Frank Henry Algernon Mason was born in Co Durham at Seaton Carew, W Hartlepool, where much of his early years were spent with his grandparents. His grandfather was in the lighthouse service and it was this youthful exposure to the sea which made Mason determined to spend his life afloat. As an 11 year old he sailed as a cabin boy on a coal brig jointly owned by his grandfather, and hoping he would be deterred from his maritime ambitions his father placed him as a cadet in HMS Conway, the naval training ship on Merseyside. After this he worked as an engineering

apprentice in Leeds when his father was with the Bradford Observer. The young man worked on jobs for Parsons the turbine makers at Scarborough where his father became manager of the local newspaper, and his uncle Henry was already established as a photographer with the world famous Saroni & Co. It was here, in this busy fishing town and seaside resort that his future career was determined as a marine artist. He had no formal artistic training but was influenced by the local watercolourist Thomas Bush Hardy whose attention to detail impressed him. He would have encountered a host of artists, commonly seen on the piers painting harbour scenes including Ernest Dade and Fred Dade the sons of F W Dade whose daughter had married Henry Mason.

In 1899 Frank Mason married Edith Annie Townley-Fullam at Elswick, Newcastle. She was the daughter of George Townley Fullam who, educated at the Hull Trinity House, had been the boarding master of the Confederate raider Alabama, during the America Civil War.

Mason established a commercial relationship with Haydon Hare, the Scarborough art photographer, publisher, print seller, purveyor of art materials and works of art. His paintings were sold from this studio and along with many other artists his local views were photographed to satisfy the insatiable demand for picture postcards.

Mason began to spend his winters on the Tyne at Newcastle and soon attracted an influential clientele. Travelling abroad he encountered the artists' colony at Volendam, including members of the Staithes group. He discovered a particular love of Holland and it was here he spent his honeymoon. Mason subsequently visited Venice, Portugal and Spain, and in later life Australia, the Canaries, and Scandinavia.

In September 1899 he became a member of the London Sketch Club, encouraged by Phil May, artist and cartoonist whom he had met at Volendam. Other members of the club included James Pryde and John Hassall who were clearly influential in the development of his skills as a poster designer. Hassall was responsible for the 'Jolly Fisherman' ('Its so bracing') in a series of posters and publicity material advertising the delights of Skegness. Mason was also elected to the Staithes Art Club led by Lara and Harold Knight and was exposed a bolder plein-air approach to painting. Though regularly working with the group he exhibited with them only once but he was an active participant in their entertainments involving fancy dress, music and song. He was given to renditions of music hall favourites of the more risqué kind.

Aged 24 he exhibited in 1900 at the Royal Academy for the first time, showing his large watercolour 'The power and wealth of the Tyne', of the Armstrong works at Elswick. It made a

great impression and was purchased by a Newcastle shipping magnate. He exhibited at the RA till 1911 and at the Suffolk street gallery of the RSBA until 1913.

Before the Great War he had established a reputation for his dry point etchings on copper plates, as well as producing the normal prints for the collector he very unusually applied these etching skills to designs of coastal views for railway carriage prints, and views of docks for a series of posters illustrating the work of British ports, for the North Eastern Railway.

Always an enthusiastic small boat sailor he joined the Scarborough boat club in 1895, its foundation year along with fellow artists Albert Strange and Ernest Dade. In 1905 he was appointed club captain when they were using an old Filey yawl the William Clowes as a clubhouse, which Ernest Dade captures among his delightful sketches in *Sail and Oar* (1933). Dade was a Staithes group member who painted some of the finest images of the Yorkshire fishing coble, a craft which features prominently in his work.

Albert Strange, principal of the local art college, probably offered advice on technique and handling in these early days and he nominated Mason for membership of the Humber Yawl Club. Mason painted on the Humber, often in company with another member George Holmes who was an enthusiastic amateur etcher. Mason was also a member of the Royal

Yorkshire Yacht Club and in 1906 painted a large oil painting of the *L'Esperance* (originally built for the King of Prussia), belonging to the Vice Commodore, Ernest W Ingleby. An album of watercolour studies with pen and ink notes which records Mason's voyage aboard this yacht has been passed down in the Ingleby family.

Mason volunteered immediately after the outbreak of war and as a junior officer in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve was appointed to the RN Motor Boat Reserve undertaking harbour and coastal patrols from Harwich. Sketches he made of his first vessel *Hikybido* were published in the *Illustrated London News*. Posted to Egypt he eventually returned to his native Teeside before joining the dazzle painting section of the Admiralty under the direction of the notable marine artist Norman Wilkinson. After demob in 1919 he used his naval experiences to paint a number of oils for the Imperial War Museum.

In 1921 he rented Eberston Hall a charming, but decaying 18th century pavilion, and established a studio where he could paint without disturbance or interruption, commuting from his home in Scarborough.

In 1927 Mason took the decision to leave Scarborough and establish his studio in London and in 1929 began to exhibit with the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours.

His first poster design 'Yorkshire Coast-Twixt Moor and Sea' dates from 1910 and contracted to the LNER he received an annual retainer of £350, later increased to £450. One of the top rated poster makers he was in the company of such luminaries as Tom Purvis, Frank Newbould, Austin Cooper and Fred Taylor, and in 1930 he produced no less than 19 designs. There were also magazine and book illustrations including Walter Woods North Sea fishers and fighters, and pencil drawings for Frank Carr's Vanishing craft: coastal types in the last days of sail (1931).

At the start of the 1939-45 war Mason was aged 63 and reluctantly had to admit he was too old for active service but made designs for recruitment posters before being attached to the Directorate of Camouflage (Naval Division). Post war he was busy with a wide range of commercial orders, for shipping companies and a variety of companies with nautical connections. After the war ended enjoyed travelling and rather belatedly, in 1961 was elected a member of the Royal Society of Marine Artists. Founded by Charles Pears, he had attended the first meeting in 1939. After a heart attack he was admitted to hospital and died in 1965 aged 89.

Arthur G Credland

**Mike Ulyatt** *There is a war on you know: life through the eyes of children living in the Sculcoates area of Hull during WWII* Mike Ulyatt Enterprises, 2015, £5 including p&p.

**Available from Mike Ulyatt 28 Blackthorn Lane Willerby HU10 6RD or the People's Memorial Shop, Whitefriargate.**

A revised edition, first published 2011 and reviewed in EYLHS newsletter, with an extra eight pages and 25 photographs

Mr Ulyatt has compiled an extremely useful book comprising recollections of 20 people who experienced WWII as children. Many of the contributors, like Mike himself, lived in Exchange Street. The area, between Spepney and Sculcoates Lanes was heavily industrialised, hence subject to repeated bombing.

To compliment the children's recollections there is Gladys Warriner's, born 1917, account of her wartime job as a platelayer with LNER

Robert Barnard

## **New Publications**

Margaret Kirby *A Walk Round Leven: Looking Ar Past times And Those Who Lost Their Lives in the Two Wars* £5, available from Leven Post Office

Geoff Thompson *Hull Trinity House Navigation School Roll of Honour*, £11, email geoffeya@fastmail.fm

Margaret Summner and Patricia Deans *Beverley History Tour*, Amberley Books, £6.99



Ian Rotherham *Yorkshire's Viking Coast*  
Amberley Press £14.99

Ian Rotherham *Yorkshire's Dinosaur Coast*  
Amberley Press £14.99

## Local History Meetings & Events

8 August - 10 October *Three Men and their Boats - Artists and Designers of the Humber Yawl Club*, Treasure House, Beverley

5 September 2015 *BALH* guided visit to Salisbury Cathedral and Salisbury Museum

8 September 2015 *Hull History Centre Lunchtime Club*, Jill Crowther, Beyond South Riding: The Woman behind the novel, 12:30pm

8 September 2015 *What the Butler Saw!*, Robert Chester, 6:30pm, Education Room, Treasure House, Beverley., £5. Book at [eastriding.gov.uk/events](http://eastriding.gov.uk/events) or call 01482 392699 or visit the Archives.

8 September 2015 *Scarborough Civic Society*, 'Reminiscences' a talk by John Fawcett, who ran the Scarborough Mayor's Office for 25 years., 2.30 p.m. in the Library on Vernon Road, £2.

10-13 September 2015 *Heritage Open Days*

15 September 2015 *Wetwang History Group*, "The History of Wetwang School" - a talk by Pat Fletcher, Wetwang School,

7:30pm. The WHG requests a donation of £3 to cover costs and refreshments.

17 September 2015 *Pocklington History Group*, "The Roman Roads of Yorkshire; Pocklington's Place in the Network" by Mike Haken. The Old Court House, George Street at 7.30pm. Admission fee is £2.

17 September - 19 November 2015, *Family History in the Archives*, Education Room, Treasure House, Beverley, £60 for 10 week course. Book at Archives research room or call 01482 392790.

27 September 2015 *Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group*, Conference Day Review, An opportunity for all to hear about the buildings recorded during the Beverley conference held in May. To be held at the Beverley Arms Hotel, Beverley. Details to follow.

13 October 2015 *Hull History Centre Lunchtime Club*, Black History Month, speaker to be confirmed, 12:30pm

13 October 2015, *Scarborough Civic Society*, Keith Goodchild, from Malton, will speak about his military experiences in 'Life in the Life Guards', 2.30 p.m. in the Library on Vernon Road, £2.

17 October - 5 December 2015 *'Everybody's Darling' - The First World War Nurse*, Treasure House, Beverley

22 October 2015, *Pocklington History Group*, "30 years a Pock Post photographer" by Roger Pattison. The

Old Court House, George Street at 7.30pm. Admission fee is £2.

27 October 2015 *Defining the First World War Nurse: Professionals, VAD's and Motorcyclists*, Dr Rosemary Wall, 6:30pm, Education Room, Treasure House, Beverley., £5. Book at [eastriding.gov.uk/events](http://eastriding.gov.uk/events) or call 01482 392699 or visit the Archives.

1 November 2015 *Local History Book Fair* Mercure Royal Hotel, Ferensway, Hull, 10:00am-4:00pm. Organised by EYLHS

10 November 2015 *Hull History Centre Lunchtime Club* Arthur Credland, Zeppelin Raids on Hull 1915-1918, 12:30pm

10 November 2015 *Drama, Documents and Detective Work: Adventures in Medieval Archives*, Dr Diana Wyatt, 6:30pm, Education Room, Treasure House, Beverley., £5. Book at [eastriding.gov.uk/events](http://eastriding.gov.uk/events) or call 01482 392699 or visit the Archives.

10 November 2015 *Scarborough Civic Society*, Jan Cleary and Pam Walgrave of The Friends of Dean and Manor Road Cemeteries will tell the stories of the 'Victims of the Bombardment', 2.30 p.m. in the Library on Vernon Road, £2.

19 November 2015 *Pocklington History Group*, "Recordings of the Pocklington WW1 veterans from the archives of the York Oral History Society. "The Old Court House, George Street at 7.30pm. Admission fee is £2.

8 December 2015 *Hull History Centre Lunchtime Club*, History Centre Staff, A Cast of Thousands - staff talk about their favourite documents from amongst the collections, 12:30pm

11 December 2015 *Hull Geological Society* Dr Martyn Pedley on "The William Smith County Map Series: a testimony to the considerable abilities and collaborations of Smith and Phillips" 7:30pm Department of Department of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Cohen Building, University of Hull

21 January 2016 *Pocklington History Group*, "Short talks on various historical local topics". The Old Court House, George Street at 7.30pm. Admission fee is £2.

18 February 2016 *Pocklington History Group*, "The Very Odd Invasion of Scarborough 1557" by David Rumbelow. The Old Court House, George Street at 7.30pm. Admission fee is £2.

17 March 2016 *Pocklington History Group*, "The origins and history of Yorkshire dialects" by Dr Barrie Rhodes. The Old Court House, George Street at 7.30pm. Admission fee is £2.

21 April 2016 *Pocklington History Group*, AGM & Old Photographs & a Review of the year. The Old Court House, George Street at 7.30pm. Admission fee is free.