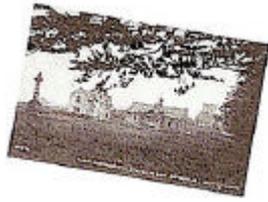




Nunthorpe History Group



Preserving and recording the heritage of Nunthorpe

Nunthorpe History Group Newsletter No. 1

December 2011

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Nunthorpe History Group.

The Group had an excellent start with the first Public Talk on 26 September, 2011. 28 residents attended the talk and all signed up to join the group. To date we now have 35 members.

Some of the members have already kindly loaned archival material, copies of which are to be retained for group use. This material includes old photos, ledgers, newspaper cuttings, maps and memorabilia and is to be made available to group members for research purposes or just general interest. A list of items is available from Bob Mullen.

We would certainly appreciate adding to this archive if you have any material that may be of historical interest. Depending on the amount of material involved the loan period for scanning, photographing etc. would be from 2 to 4 weeks.

The next NHG event

Due to unforeseen circumstances the next public speaking event, due in December, has been postponed until a later date in January 2012. Members will be informed of the event nearer the date.

Local history resources at our disposal. (with source date)

Nunthorpe 1851 census
St Mary's Monumental inscriptions up until 1988
Nunthorpe WW1 war memorial, 1976
Funding Appeal on proposed WW1 Memorial, 1920
Minutes of 1st meeting WW1 War Memorial, 1920
List of names of fallen soldiers, 1976
Nunthorpe soldiers died in WW1, 1976
WW1 Unveiling Ceremony, 1921
The Romans to Victorians, 1976
Story of Nunthorpe Church and Village, 1976
Methodist Church Anniversary Review, 1986

Opening of Poole Sanatorium, 1932
Grey Towers Farm fields archaeology, 2010
The County Borough of Teesside, 1968
The Heart of Capt. Cook Country, 1993
Cleveland History, Winter, 2009 (Vol 97)
Highlights in History of Cleveland, 1995
Cleveland History, 2011 (Vol 99)
A Brief History, the Parish of Nunthorpe, 2009
Marton & Nunthorpe, 2003
C&TLHSoc Newsletter No 97, 2011
C&TLHSoc Newsletter No 98, 2011
Bulmer History of North Yorkshire (Nunthorpe), 1890
Air Raid Warden's records for Nunthorpe, 1942
Dorman Estate Auction Catalogue, 1931
Dorman Estate Farms Dorman lands, Tithe maps, 1931
Dorman lands, Tithe maps, 1931
Early photographs of Nunthorpe Beagle Hunt, 1946
Ordnance Survey maps of Nunthorpe, 1895, 1920, 1938, 1950, 1970, 1980, 1990
Lists of customers, suppliers and staff of G W Johnson, Builder and Joiner, in
Nunthorpe Village from original ledgers, 1886-1907
Recollections of Nunthorpe Station in the 1890s
The Ratepayers of Nunthorpe Minute book 1888 – 1933

Newly received additional items will be listed in forthcoming newsletters.

NUNTHORPE HISTORY GROUP ACTIONS AND PROJECTS

To delve into the past requires an inquisitive mind and is both interesting and rewarding.

Our ever growing list of Nunthorpe archive includes excellent written accounts plus recently obtained original records and indicates there could be so much more Nunthorpe history to be unearthed and recorded.

It is the aim of the NHG to publish, at some future date, a book recording the history of Nunthorpe. The book would build on earlier accounts plus recently discovered original sources and record our Nunthorpe history up to the present day. A number of local history societies have been successful in doing similar research and we believe that grants are available to assist with such a venture.

It is hoped that some members may wish to contribute by becoming involved in researching and recording an area of Nunthorpe's history that is of particular interest to themselves. Alternatively, the group would appreciate the loan of any early photographs or documents from residents to add to the archives.

Some of our new archive material would be a good starting point for delving into a number of project areas. The following headings are a suggested guide to areas that could, "grab", the interest of individuals or perhaps a small group of NHG members who would like to work together.

Ideas on furthering the research side of the Nunthorpe History Group would be very welcome; some possible subject areas are as follows:

The Social History of Nunthorpe

The two Institutes
Wartime memories and accounts
Nunthorpe sports and activities
The Polo Field
Public interest societies in Nunthorpe
The Tree
Recollections of residents

Nunthorpe Politics

Political boundaries
Local politics in Nunthorpe
Early maps

Religion in Nunthorpe

Nunthorpe Hall and Chapel
St Marys Church and Vicarage
Nunthorpe Methodist Church
Church Halls
Gravestones and memorial records
Other religious venues

Education in Nunthorpe

Nunthorpe's First School
Primary and Secondary schools

Transport

Railway Records
Early roads, footpaths and bridleways

Nunthorpe Retailers and Tradespeople

First Post Office
First shops

Nunthorpe People

Census records
Employers and employment
The Iron Masters
Nunthorpe Hall
Grey Towers
Nunthorpe benefactors
Notable families
Leading community figures
Early photos and documents

Nunthorpe's Topography and Development

Local archaeology
Early Nunthorpe settlement
Nunthorpe Village
Nunthorpe Station
The Nunthorpe Fire Station
Significant houses.
The Nunthorpe Golf Course (on High Farm)
Farms and Farming

Wartime Nunthorpe

Family associations with wartime personnel, WW1 and WW2
Locations of existing or demolished WW2 buildings and facilities
Resident's memories of wartime

Early Measurements

1. The **rod** is a historical unit of length equal to 5.5 yards. It may have originated from the typical length of a mediaeval ox-wagon.
2. The **furlong** (meaning furrow length) was the distance a team of oxen could plough without resting. This was standardized to be exactly 40 rods.

length) was the distance a team of oxen could plough without resting. This was standardized to be exactly 40 rods.

3. An **acre** was the amount of land tillable by one man behind one ox in one day.

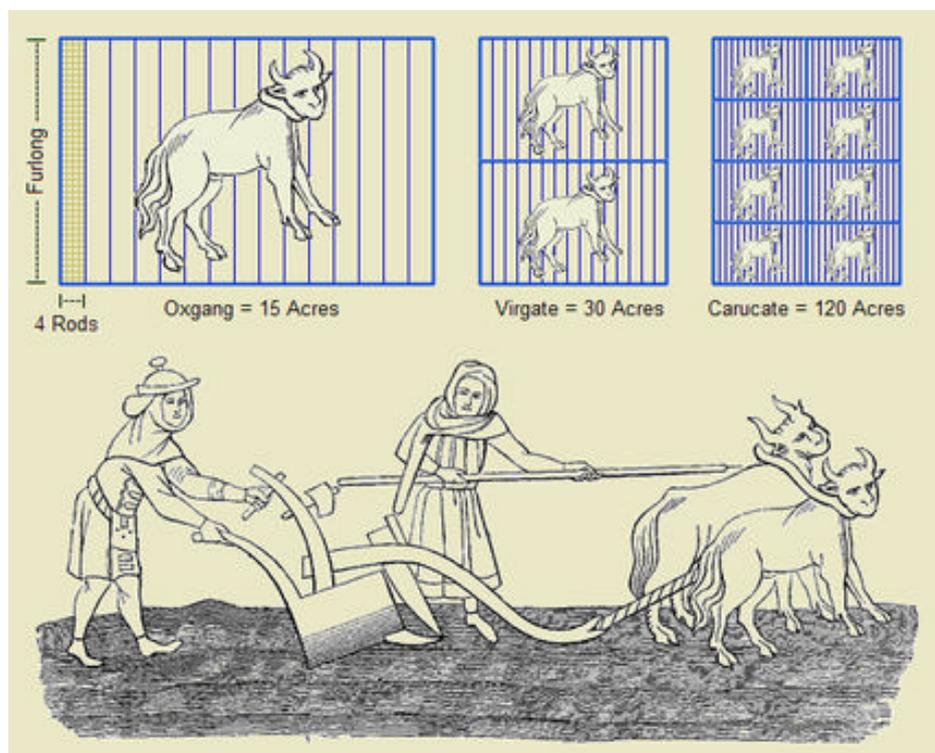
Traditional acres were long and narrow due to the difficulty in turning the plough.

4. An **oxgang** was the amount of land tillable by one ox in a ploughing season.

This could vary from village to village, but was typically around 15 acres.

5. A **virgate** was the amount of land tillable by two oxen in a ploughing season.

6. A **carucate** was the amount of land tillable by a team of eight oxen in a ploughing season. This was equal to 8 **oxgangs** or 4 **virgates**.



Tithe maps, schedules and apportionments

Introduction

Tithing was the name given to the custom of taking one tenth of all agricultural produce of a parish, including grain, crops, newborn animals, honey, wool etc., to pay for the upkeep of the church and clergy. In England the collection of tithes began in the 9th century, and was to continue until the payments were abolished in 1936. From the outset practices began to differ; some parishes continued to pay their tithes in kind,

some adopted the payment of a cash equivalent, and yet others rendered their tithes through a combination of both.

To standardise these payments, the Tithe Commutation Act was passed in 1836, ordering that all tithes were to be paid in money, not in kind. The amount to be paid was based on the national seven-year average price of corn: local variations in prices were not taken into consideration.

Three Commissioners were appointed to oversee the process of commutation, with their first task being to enquire into the extent and nature of tithes payment in every parish. Hopefully, an agreement was made between the landowners and the tithe-owners as to how much, and on what land, tithes were charged, but, failing such an agreement, the Commissioners were empowered to impose an Award on the parties.

Tithe Maps

It was necessary to draw up accurate maps from which acreages could be calculated and payments deduced. Initially, it was envisaged that these maps would all be of the highest possible quality, but this proved to be too expensive – especially as the cost was borne by the landowners – and examples of lesser quality were accepted. What astounds most people is the scale at which these maps were drawn. Over two-thirds of them were produced at the scale recommended by the Commissioners: 3 or 4 chains to the inch (one chain being 66 feet). Such a scale enables a lot of detail to be shown. They depict individual fields and plots of land, woodland, ponds, stream and rivers, roads, houses, cottages and farm buildings, each one numbered to correspond to the reference in the Apportionment. The process of producing the maps and apportionments was carried out with great efficiency, being largely completed by 1851.

Tithe Apportionments

A tithe apportionment or book of reference was produced to accompany each map. They begin with a pre-amble, which usually gives details of the terms of the agreement or award made for the location, which is followed by the apportionment itself. This is arranged in columns, reading from left to right:

- name of the landowner(s)
name of the occupier(s)
- number of the plot of land or building (corresponding to the number on the map)
- name or description of the piece of land or building
- state of cultivation, e.g. whether arable, meadow, plantation, furze, waste etc.
- area given in acres, rods, and perches (40 perches = 1 rod, 4 rods = 1 acre)
- amount of tithe rent-charge to be paid

At the end of the apportionment is a summary, giving total acreages of the premises of the different owners and occupiers.

Usage of the Tithe Maps and Apportionments

Apart from parish registers, tithe maps and apportionments are often the most heavily used class of documents in any Record Office. Their appeal is that they give detailed

information of local topography, and land usage, as well as field-names and the names of the owners and occupiers of properties. With the maps, their greatest asset - the amount of detail shown - leads to their greatest drawback, as they are extremely large and not easy to handle. The apportionments are also often quite bulky and cumbersome to use.

Nunthorpe Village as I Remember it During the Early Part of the 20th Century

by George Gent

(Some of you may have read the following fascinating story on the NHG website but not all members are on the Internet)

The village consisted of fourteen houses, the Hall and Hall Farm. One of the houses was a Post Office and Store combined; selling certain things like note-paper, stamps, yeast, sweet biscuits and flour. (Now No. 10 Westside).

The mail cart (a horse and trap) came from Stokesley collecting mail at Great Ayton, Nunthorpe and Marton and taking it to the General Post Office in Middlesbrough. It also brought any mail for Nunthorpe Village and this was delivered by bicycle from Nunthorpe Station Post Office and taken as far as Newby and surrounding farms. At this time there were very few houses at Nunthorpe Station and no shops, so people there also used the shop in the village.

Another house in the village was Waller's Temperance Hotel (now No. 6 Westside). People passing through on cycles bought mineral waters there. They also sold paraffin for the lamps as of course there was no electricity. Any other shopping which couldn't be got there we got from Great Ayton.

Three Waller brothers, Tot, Alf and Bob (who lived at the Temperance Hotel) were blacksmiths in the village and we used to spend hours watching them repairing farm implements, shoeing horses and making hoops for cart-wheels. The latter was a big job

needing all three men, one holding, one hammering and one pouring water on the cart-wheel to prevent the wood from being burnt. If in a good mood, Mr Waller would make "bowlers" or hoops for the children to play with. We took them to school or bowled them to Great Ayton by the roadside. The girls mostly had skipping ropes.

A joiner, Mr Johnson, lived in another house. (Now No. 4/2 Westside). He made wheelbarrows, carts, farm implements etc. He was also the Undertaker and had a small-holding. He kept 2 or 3 cows to serve the village and used to supply a few houses at Nunthorpe Station, delivering the milk on a bicycle. The farm only supplied the Hall.

There was also a saw-mill, worked by traction engine, dealing with trees on the estate. Mr Ballingall (a Scot) was in charge. He was later helped by his daughter, Mary, who continued after her father's retirement. (The Ballingalls lived at No. 8 Westside).

During the First World War soldiers were billeted in Stewarts Park and used to have a route march through Nunthorpe Village where they stopped and bought mineral waters and biscuits at the Temperance Hotel shop. They bought small packets of Hendersons biscuits and I got my first watch by sending away the wrappers collected from the biscuits.

Our butcher, Mr Thomlinson, used to come from Great Broughton on a Saturday night in his pony and trap.

The Evening Gazettes were delivered to Nunthorpe Station by train and I used to cycle down to collect and deliver the bundle for the village. I think they were one penny each in those days.

My mother used to go by train to Hinton in Middlesbrough every Sunday for her main groceries. They told her that if she could get a certain number of customers for them they would send out a traveller to collect orders and then deliver them a day or so later by horse or wagon. This she did and from then on Mr Mood, the traveller, used to call every week and had his dinner at our house.

When anyone died in the village there was always a collection for a village wreath.

The Doctor used to come from Great Ayton in a pony and gig. The driver had to wait many a cold hour or two outside peoples houses.

There was a little church in the village and the clergy came from Great Ayton at 3pm on Sundays. There was a little bell behind the door which was rung about 10 minutes before the service. A coke stove, also behind the door, supplied the heating. There was a curtain round the stove and the clergy used to robe and disrobe there. One Sunday afternoon I remember Mr Illingworth (the clergy) got too near the stove and set fire to his surplice. Burials were at the cemetery at Great Ayton following a service at Nunthorpe.

Sunday School was run by the Wesleyans from Nunthorpe Station. They were Mr Huby, the Station Master, and his daughter. It was held in a little school room which has since been demolished by a tree. For the annual outing we walked to Quarry Hill farm (owned by the Robsons) about half a mile away and we had tea in the granary and games in the fields. We had stamp books at Sunday School and were presented at Christmas with books for good attendance. The Sunday School room was also used as an Institute for cards, billiards, darts and dominoes etc. Anyone in the village could take part, paying a small subscription.

I don't remember a great deal about the Hall but it was empty during the First World War. Before this some people called Edwards lived there. Mr Edwards was connected with Smiths Dock. One of his daughters helped with the Sunday School and often in the summer invited us into the grounds for rides in a punt on the lake. They had a farm bailiff for the Hall Farm and kept lots of pedigree pigs and cows. I remember the pig

sties were tiled. The Hall Farm had their own electricity generator whereas everyone else had paraffin lamps.

At the Harvest Festival the farmers gave so much produce that after decorating the church the overflow filled the Sunday School room. Later it was distributed round the Middlesbrough hospitals and was greatly appreciated in those days.

All the people in the village were employed by Mr Dorman (later to become Sir Arthur Dorman) who lived at Grey Towers, now Poole Hospital. As lads we used to go bush-beating for the Dormans on a Saturday. The area covered about a three mile radius of the village. Pheasants, partridge, rabbits and hares were shot. After the shoot some of us went with the game carts (pulled by horses) to collect all the game. We took them to Grey Towers where they had a special shed filled with blocks of ice as there were no fridges.

I remember going with my father to Middlesbrough in the horse and cart to collect the ice. We had to pay a toll to go through the Toll Gates. Near Marton Moor, hidden by trees, there was a building called the Powder House where explosives for the Cleveland mines were kept away from all the buildings.

When the Meet met at Grey Towers we were allowed out of school to see it but had to go back to school in the afternoon. Many of the boys used to forget this! I remember going off on my own and getting lost somewhere near Newby. I met up with some Miners from Guisborough who were poaching rabbits. They said they would see me home and left me at Marton Moor, by which time it was getting dark. I didn't get a very good welcome back home.

Just before the First World War I remember a four day Bazaar being held in the field in front of Grey Towers to raise money for building St Mary's Church. A big funfair (Murphys or Crows) was there with roundabouts etc.

In our leisure time we used to dam the beck at Tree Bridge and swim there. We also helped the blacksmith and joiner with their hay-time. The men sometimes played quoits. They had a pitch in the farm stack yard.

We used to cycle to Great Ayton to the pictures on Saturday nights. They were held in the Friends School Hall. The films were silent ones with a piano playing of course. They often used to break down and we never saw the end. They used to rent a serial and we couldn't wait until the following week to see the next part.

When we came out we used to have fish and chips. We used to have carbide lamps for our bicycles. We paid a copper to park our bicycles inside Thomas's Cycles shop while we went to the pictures and bought our carbide there at the same time.

Life and pastimes in Nunthorpe are very different today and I'm sure that all my generation would agree that we had many happy times in the old days.

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A Scholboys Map of Nunthorpe, 1916

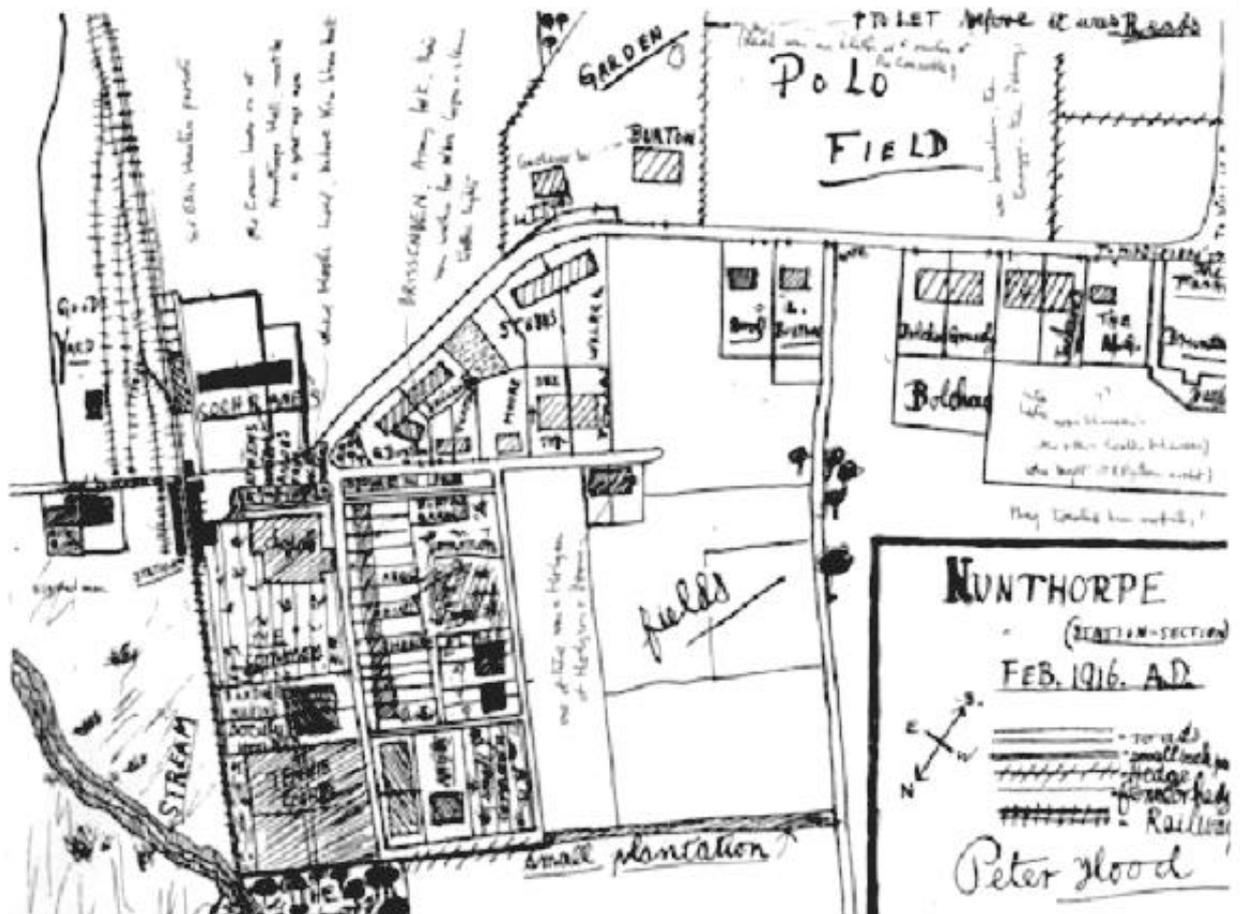
Local resident Lesley Tomlinson was leading the local history element of the recently produced Nunthorpe Design Statement, and during her research unearthed a map of Nunthorpe sketched by a local schoolboy named Peter Hood, dated 1916.

Lesley said: “The 1911 census records show that Peter lived in a house called Kin Shan on Guisborough Road.

“He was ten years old when he sketched the map for what was probably a school project. “What is interesting is how he notes the significant features of the area – the fields, plantations and stream, and how the buildings are developing around the railway line.”

Among the local landmarks featured on the map was The Tree (also locally known as The Triangle and The Firs). A well known focal point, the Tree dates from around 1855 and was used as a centre for gatherings such as the hunt, village parades, seasonal celebrations and a place where friends congregated and village gossip was exchanged.

It was the location of the first street lamp in Nunthorpe and the place where users of the railway collected their horses and carriages to drive home. It was also where local notices were pinned to the trunk of The Tree.



Tail piece



**Nunthorpe Beagle Hunt outside Grey Towers Farm, 1946.
- courtesy of Miss Margaret Potts.**



Because of an unexpected and increased art commission work load Ingrid Sylvestre has had to cancel the proposed guided walk round Grey Towers until spring next year. We look forward to seeing the estate complete with spring flowers.

If you have any interesting items of history to add to the next NHG newsletter or have any photos or documents you would be willing to have copied or scanned into the NHG Archives please contact Bob Mullen at nunthorpehistory2@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01642 324939

A last question. Does anyone know of any WW2 installations in the Nunthorpe area such as concrete pillboxes, bunkers, shelters, bomb damage sites or any other remaining WW2 buildings?

