



Newsletter of the South Shields Local History Group



Issue 169

February 2022

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Introduction

In this month's edition of the newsletter, we've some fascinating articles on Richard Scott of South Shields, 'Photographs of the Past Decade' and Michael Foot's visit to Jarrow in 1981. David Whale has all the news from the Wednesday Heritage Club and John Stobbs has provided us with the speaker details for the South Tyneside Branch of the Northumberland & Durham Family History Society. Adam Bell continues his appeal for shipyard memories and memorabilia; while Fay Cunningham and Ann Clouston have details about a new group the 'Friends of Westoe Cemetery'. And finally, we've news of a number of local history books for sale at group meetings, the Word and the museum.



Chairman's Notice

I'd like to inform everyone that our monthly speaker meeting will take place on Monday 21st March at Cleadon Park Library for a 5.30pm start. Please arrive between 5.15 and 5.25pm.

Your safety and well being are of the utmost importance and the guidelines for group meetings are as follows:-

- (1) Please do not attend meetings if you have a bad cough / heavy cold or any possible Covid-19 symptoms.
- (2) On entering the building can you please wear a face mask (unless exempt) and sanitise your hands.
- (3) On entering our room please give your name to our Secretary, as she'll be keeping a register of those attending the meeting.
- (4) Once seated you can remove your mask. (Please Note: The chairs will be spaced out for social distancing purposes).
- (5) A door to our room will be left, partially open for circulation.
- (6) Any surfaces e.g. tables will be wiped down with sanitiser.
- (7) There will be no refreshments (tea, coffee, biscuits etc.) at meetings until further notice.

Overall, it's important to respect everyone's space, so please resist the temptation to embrace friends or shake hands with members you haven't seen in a long time.

The good news is - we can now resume our informal meetings on the 1st Monday of the month. So, I'd like to invite everyone to come along on Monday 7th March (5.15-6.45pm).

Submitted by Alan Newham
(alannewham47@gmail.com)



Richard Scott (1740-1804) of South Shields and Harton Farm – Master Mariner, Ship Owner & Entrepreneur

Part 1a

INTRODUCTION

On my website, I have started writing-up my research, relating to the lives of my direct ancestors, James Evans (1715 - 1800) and James Evans (1750 - 1839), completing to date, two of the parts. It concludes with a reference to James Evans the Elder's sponsorship of his son James Evans' indenture with Richard Scott; his association with the Evans father and son is of some significance to their lives. However, Richard Scott, was a fascinating local figure with a life story worthy of a separate post.

JAMES EVANS JNR.'S APPRENTICESHIP

He was apprenticed in early 1771 to Richard Scott of South Shields but by the end of the year there was a concern about the validity of James Evans junior's actual indenture.

27 December 1771

...Ordered that notice be sent to James Evans of South Shields apprentice to Richard Scott that the Company intend to oppose his freedom and that the money be paid for inrolling his indenture will be returned. And the reason for such opposition is because Richard Scott does not reside in Newcastle and has not licence to settle in South Shields. (1)

Presumably the matter must have been resolved as the apprenticeship was completed and a sum of £3 2s 2½d (approx £560 at today's value) was paid for his release. The Shipwrights may well have had cause for concern as Richard Scott was not a Shipwright; he was a Master Mariner, Shipowner, Ship Trader, and entrepreneur. He also most likely worked in a supervisory capacity in James Evans the Elder's Market Place Dock where his father John Scott as a shipwright may also have been employed.

The fact that James Evans Jnr was indentured to him concealed the more likely fact, that James Evans the Elder, wanted to self-indenture his son which he did under the cover of Richard Scott who was not an owner of a shipyard.



It was to Richard Scott that his brother Thomas Scott (1752-1831) was also indentured on the 29th September 1766. John Scott (1715-1790), their father a mariner stood in surety with the sum of £2 16s 2d paid for his release on the 27th December 1773. (2)

RICHARD SCOTT: MASTER MARINER

Richard was a Master Mariner on at least one of James Evans the Elder's ships, "Kitty" which in 1775 in Lloyd's register is shown as having James Evans as owner with the location of the ship in North England. Records of ships prior to 1788 are difficult to find.


"The Kitty" of this port, Richard Scott, master arrived yesterday from Greenland with four sizeable fish (whale): but the crew left her to avoid being pressed. (3)

It is fascinating to recall the terror sailors had in being impressed to join Royal Navy ships and a credit to Richard Scott that he prevented his seaman from being targeted. Not so, in the case of another ship arriving in Newcastle on the same day.

"The Noble Ann, of this port, Erasmus Roberts master also arrived from Greenland, a successful ship; but the impress boats attempting to board her, they ran her out to sea and the two tenders and a cutter are gone in pursuit of her."(4)

RICHARD SCOTT: SHIPPING TRADER

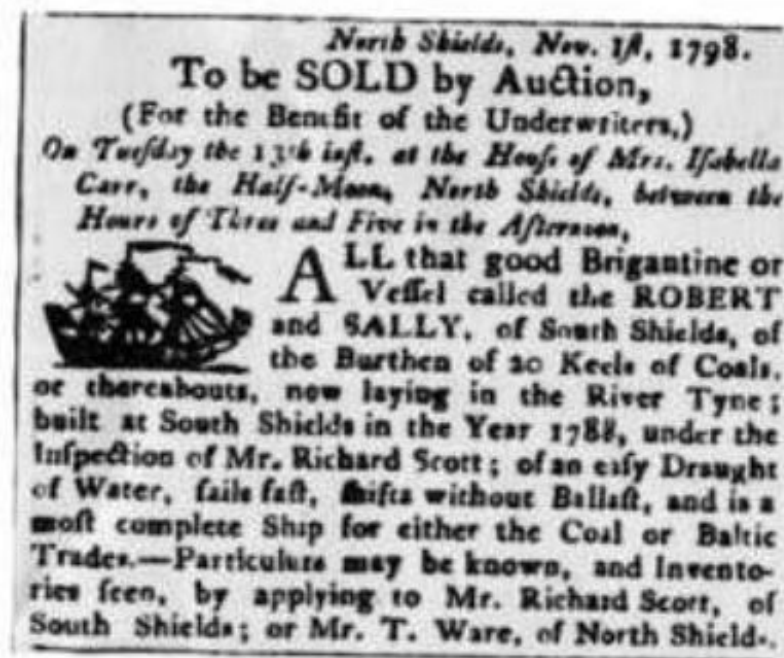
This was to some extent feasible as Richard Scott did have an interest in the construction of ships as borne out by the following advertisements:

To be SOLD by AUCTION,
(If not previously disposed of by private Contract, of
which due Notice will be given,)
On Tuesday the 9th Day of May next, at 10 o'Clock in the
Forenoon, on the Low-lights Quay, near North Shields,
 ALL the STORES of the Ship
LEANDER, except the lower
Masts and three Bower Anchors.—
The above Ship is only Two Years
old, about 35 Keels Burthen, and lately disposed of
to Government.—Any Person wishing to treat by
private Contract, may apply to Mr Thomas Ware,
North Shields, or Mr. Richard Scott, South Shields.

(5)

The 'Leander' was built by Thomas Hearn in North Shields and launched at his yard in 1795 and as said above purchased by The Royal Navy in 1797. Richard Scott had presumably negotiated a contract whereby he sold the stores and parts of the vessel not required by the Royal Navy.

She was subsequently converted into a bomb-vessel and renamed as 'HMS Strombolo' participating in the capture of Malta in 1800. Surplus to requirements by 1802, she was laid-up in 1802 and broken up in 1809.

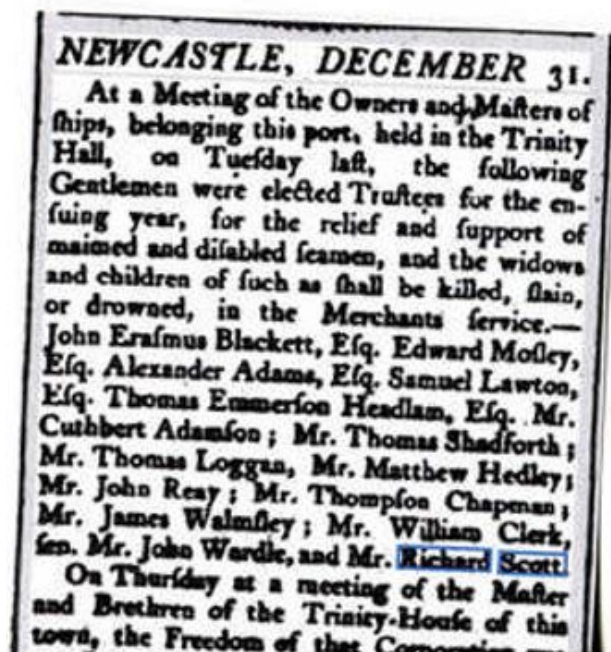


(6)

The 'Robert & Sally' was built in South Shields by William Gilley, one of eight ships built at his yard between 1787 and 1791. Bankrupt in 1791, his yard was advertised :- To Let. Commodious Yard and Landing at South Shields lately in the occupation of William Gilley, Shipbuilder, together with a Dwelling-house, Blacksmith's Shop, and a Warehouse. (7). To date, I have been unable to find any further records.

TRINITY HOUSE

By 1798, Richard Scott was a leading Master Mariner and Shipowner and member of a significant group of shipowners and masters including John Wardle also of South Shields.



(8)

REFERENCES

1. The Records of the Company of Shipwrights of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1622-1967, volume 184, edited by David Rowe & published by The Surtees Society in 1970 (p.64).
2. ditto (p.265)
3. (Newcastle Courant-Saturday 31 July 1779)
4. (Newcastle Courant-Saturday 31 July 1779)
5. (Newcastle Courant - Saturday 06 May 1797)
6. (Newcastle Courant - Saturday 10 November 1798)
7. Notes on The History of Shipbuilding in South Shields 1746-1946 by Amy C Flagg -1979
Tyne Built Ships: A History of Tyne Shipbuilders and the Ships that they Built Shipping and Shipbuilding Research Trust (SSRT)
8. Newcastle Courant - Saturday 31 December

Submitted by Heather Thomas (<https://heathershistoricalsociety.neocities.org/>)

NDFHS News

The South Tyneside Branch of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society holds its meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm at St. Hilda's Church Visitor Centre, across the road from The Word. On the 16th February Anthea Lang gave a fascinating talk entitled 'Oh I do like to be Beside the Seaside'. Next up, on 16th March - David Hastings presents 'Wooden Boats and Iron Men (RNLI)', while Margaret Hedley's talk 'Women of the Durham Coalfields' is on 20th April. For more details, please visit:

<https://www.ndfhs.org.uk/branches/south-tyneside/>

Submitted by John Stobbs



Framing History: Photo's Capture a Decade of Changes

I have been invited to add my photographic collection to the South Tyneside History website managed by the library. The site celebrates the heritage of the borough by preserving photographic and printed history. For over 25 year I've taken photographs around South Tyneside and this first collection that is being added to the site holds over 2,000 images from 2008 onwards - a unique documentary record of a decade of changes to South Shields.

Photographs were taken all year round to capture demolition of buildings and new construction work at different stages. There was also a lot of early morning and evening visits to locations to avoid people and cars for a clear shot of my subject matter.

Over the years 'finding the right angle' or 'getting close to the subject' has meant climbing a fence or two, or even 'plodging' into the sea to get close to the *Constance Ellen* shipwreck which ran aground on Herd Sands near the South pier over 100 year ago.



On a cold wintry morning you need to get out of your nice warm bed - like the time I turned up at the seafront on a bitter December day. Over the past year I had taken hundreds of images showing the new seawall and promenade being constructed on South Shields seafront.

There was a large crane taking the 'Littlehaven Eye' off the back of a lorry and putting it in place. Also adding to the landscape, framed by the North and South piers, was a sunken trawler in the sea, plus ten minutes later a large car carrying ship entered the river Tyne. If I hadn't turned up that morning I would have missed an important part of the development.

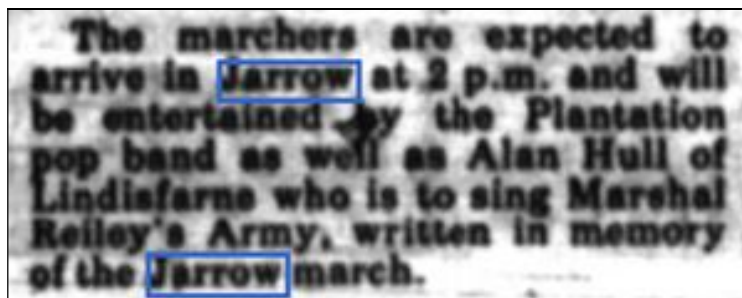


Thanks go to Catrin Galt, Community Librarian based at The Word, South Shields, and her team of volunteers who work on the project to keep history alive. Please check out the libraries website at <https://southtynesidehistory.co.uk/>

Submitted by Gary Wilkinson (<https://garyalikivi.com/about/>)

Michael Foot and Alan Hull in Jarrow

Your editor has received a request for photographs and memories of Michael Foot's visit to Jarrow in 1981, as part of a rally against unemployment. Two hundred people from Consett marched to Jarrow to demonstrate about unemployment, to coincide with the 45th anniversary of the Jarrow March.



Newcastle Evening Chronicle 31 October 1981

The song Marshal Reiley's Army appeared on the 1979 Lindisfarne album Back and Forth and referred to councillor David Reiley, who was a Marshal on the Jarrow March in 1936. You can hear the track on youtube, along with a video featuring images of the March.



End of the line: Councillor David Reilly with Jarrow MP Ellen Wilkinson at Hyde Park



The 1981 rally took place at the King George V Playing Fields, near the A19 and was attended by 5,000 people including veterans of the 1936 March, who were loudly cheered by the crowd. Afterwards, Michael Foot unveiled a commemorative sculpture of the Marcher's at the Bede Art Gallery, which was later moved to Jarrow Metro Station.



Labour Party Leader, Michael Foot MP, with veterans of the Jarrow March.

(Images courtesy of <https://southtynesidehistory.co.uk/>)

A number of newspapers reported the events of the day and published a very small, black and white photograph of Michael Foot at the rally, but it's a close-up and of very poor quality. However, it may be the case that fans of Lindisfarne, who were among the spectators, took photographs of Alan Hull on stage with Michael Foot and the veterans of the 1936 March. If you can help, please email jim.mulholland@blueyonder.co.uk

Wednesday Heritage Club @ The Word

As we move from January to February, first of all – I hope that everyone is keeping well and staying warm and safe, especially in these storms.

January was of course Carol Cooke, and as I said in introducing her, “someone who has entertained us on quite a few occasions.” She tells me she has a new talk based on her research into ‘gardening’. Carol did remind - those of us old enough to remember – about the washing hanging in the back lane and plugging the iron into the light socket.



Newsletter of the South Shields Local History Group



So, next week – Wednesday February 23rd - will be Jean Stokes, with just some of the stories from her book 'Harton Township 1921' - Jean will be concentrating particularly on the coastal areas from the Velvet Beds to Marsden. I am sure it will be both informative and entertaining, with Jean it will certainly be lively.

Having just braved storm 'Eunice' to check at The Word - virtually all the tickets for Jean's talk have now gone, so if you have not yet got a ticket – sorry! However, if you're really keen, you could turn up on the day and if they are any returns or people who simply do not come - then you could be in luck.

Now a few notes about forthcoming events:-

March – will be Ed Waugh, our own local playwright - remember 'Dirty Dusting' and more recently –'Hadaway Harry' and ' Carrying David'. Tickets to hear about Ed's latest play 'Wor Bella' will be available from next Wednesday @ The Word - and Ed will be giving his talk on March 16th.

During May and June we will be very pleased to welcome Sheila Graber (June) and in May someone new to the WHC – Terry Ford, with just a small selection from his research into the 'Pubs of Shields' - more details to follow.

Later in the year there will be a maritime theme for a talk by Ken Smith and there could also be the latest local news about 'Blue Plaques and women'. The details of our April talk are not finalised yet, but I will be in touch to provide the full details as soon as possible

I have no updates yet on restrictions regarding numbers – but we are trying to book The Round well in advance to be sure of being able to accommodate as many as possible

Finally, to keep up-to-date with everything that's happening at The Word, please visit the website <https://theworduk.org/>

Submitted by David Whale.



Friends of Westoe Cemetery

Our brand new community group, set up by Ann Clouston and Fay Cunningham, was recently registered and approved by the Council.

Westoe is a very historic, Victorian Cemetery, which is the resting place of many of South Shields 'city fathers'. Often locally called 'the children's cemetery' because of the high numbers of children and infants also interred there.

The cemetery is desperately in need of environmental restoration and some 'TLC' and we also think it is important to tell the stories of those men buried there, who, in Victorian / Edwardian times, shaped South Shields both politically and philanthropically. For example, Dr. Thomas Winterbottom, Robert Ingham and John Readhead to name but a few.

We know there are 20 WW1 military graves and we have managed to find 17 so far. There are 100+ merchant Seafarers and Tyne pilots buried in the cemetery and on the 10th November we held our very first event - a Memorial Service and wreath laying, in honour of these long forgotten heroes, attended by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, children from Marine Park Primary School and representatives from the Navy, Army and Air Force (we have found only one Airman's grave, as the Service was so very new in WW1).

In the near future we hope to erect 'story boards' and organise history walks around the cemetery. To this end, we have started to do some research, but would welcome any information South Shields Local History Group members may already have about the cemetery or those interred there and any copies of old photographs would also be welcome.

We will be happy to continue to let SSLHG know how we are getting on with our research and any events we are holding in the future.

Anyone who wishes to join our group will be very welcome. Please contact the secretary:- faycunningham1@icloud.com



Shipyard Memories and Memorabilia

Did you work in ship repair or shipbuilding in South Tyneside, or do you know someone who did? Staff at South Shields Museum & Art Gallery are busy working on a special exhibition for summer 2022, and they need your help!

Museum staff would like to record oral histories to capture people's memories of working in the yards and the docks, memories that will be preserved in the museum as a lasting archive for future generations.

The museum's also on the hunt for items to display in the exhibition, such as photos, certificates and paperwork, tools, workwear, models, commemorative items and any associated memorabilia. If you worked in any of South Tyneside's yards, or have something you could lend for display, the Museum would really love to hear from you. Please contact exhibition curator Adam Bell by e-mail on adam.bell@twmuseums.org.uk or phone (0191) 2115599 during museum opening hours.

Local History Books

A variety of books penned by members of South Shields History Group (incl. Peter Chapman, Dorothy Fleet, Jean Stokes and David Kidd) are now on sale at group Meetings, The Word and South Shields Museum.

Peter Chapman's lavishly illustrated book *A Tyneside Heritage* is also available to order for £15.00 (incl. Post & Packaging). Please Note: There is now a special offer for group members of 2 copies for £20 (incl. P&P). To order please:

- Email: peterschapman@chapmanlondon.com; or
- Write to him at 53 Highlever Road, London W10 6PR.
- Provide your name and postal address. An invoice will be included with the book(s).

In 2017 Jean Stokes wrote a fascinating book *Harton Village 1900*. Her latest book *Harton Township 1921* commemorates the existence of Harton Township, which stretched in the east along the coast from Trow Point to the Velvet Beds at Marsden and westwards in an increasingly narrow manner to Jarrow Slake. This beautifully illustrated book celebrates the rich history of Harton Township in five chapters - Harton Township, Harton Farms, Residential Harton, Haron Coastline and Harton Moor.



Newsletter of the South Shields Local History Group



The book *The People's Roman Remains Park* (by David Kidd & Jean Stokes) is based on a scrapbook kept by Robert Blair, who led a successful campaign to dig up Roman remains and then preserve them as the first publicly owned archaeology park in Britain. It also tells the story of the people behind the news and gives a portrait of the Victorian boom town of South Shields. It can be obtained via Jean - jastokes@virginmedia.com at a cost of £12.00 with free delivery in the South Shields and Sunderland area.

Submitted by James Mulholland

Notice Board

The group's Informal Meeting will take place on 7th March where our Chairman will put forward a new project for members to 'get involved with'. Full details will follow by email later in the month. Just to let you know, the informal meeting also gives members the opportunity to share their local history interests with others, ask for advice and tips on research and make contributions to the newsletter. We hope you can make it!

And finally, on behalf of the members, I'd like to thank Jean Stokes for her highly entertaining and informative talk at last month's Speaker Meeting and congratulate her on her excellent new book 'Harton Township 1921'.

Contacts / Membership Details

If you have an article, a request for information or anything to do with South Shields' History that could be included in the newsletter, please leave details with our Editor James Mulholland at any of our group meetings or email jim.mulholland@blueyonder.co.uk Membership of the group is only £5 per year and this entitles you to free entry to the group's monthly speaker meeting and a copy of our monthly newsletter. We hold all of our meetings at Cleadon Park Library, The Primary Healthcare Centre, The Nook. An 'informal meeting' of the group takes place on the 1st Monday of the month, while our monthly Speaker Meeting is on 3rd Monday - both take place between 5.15–6.45pm. Please Note: It remains the case that the payment of subs is suspended until further notice, so please don't contact the library regarding this matter. For details of our past activities, please visit our website www.southshieldslhq.org.uk

Chairman: Alan Newham Library Liaison Officer: Catrin Galt Museum Liaison Officer: Adam Bell Patron: Janis Blower