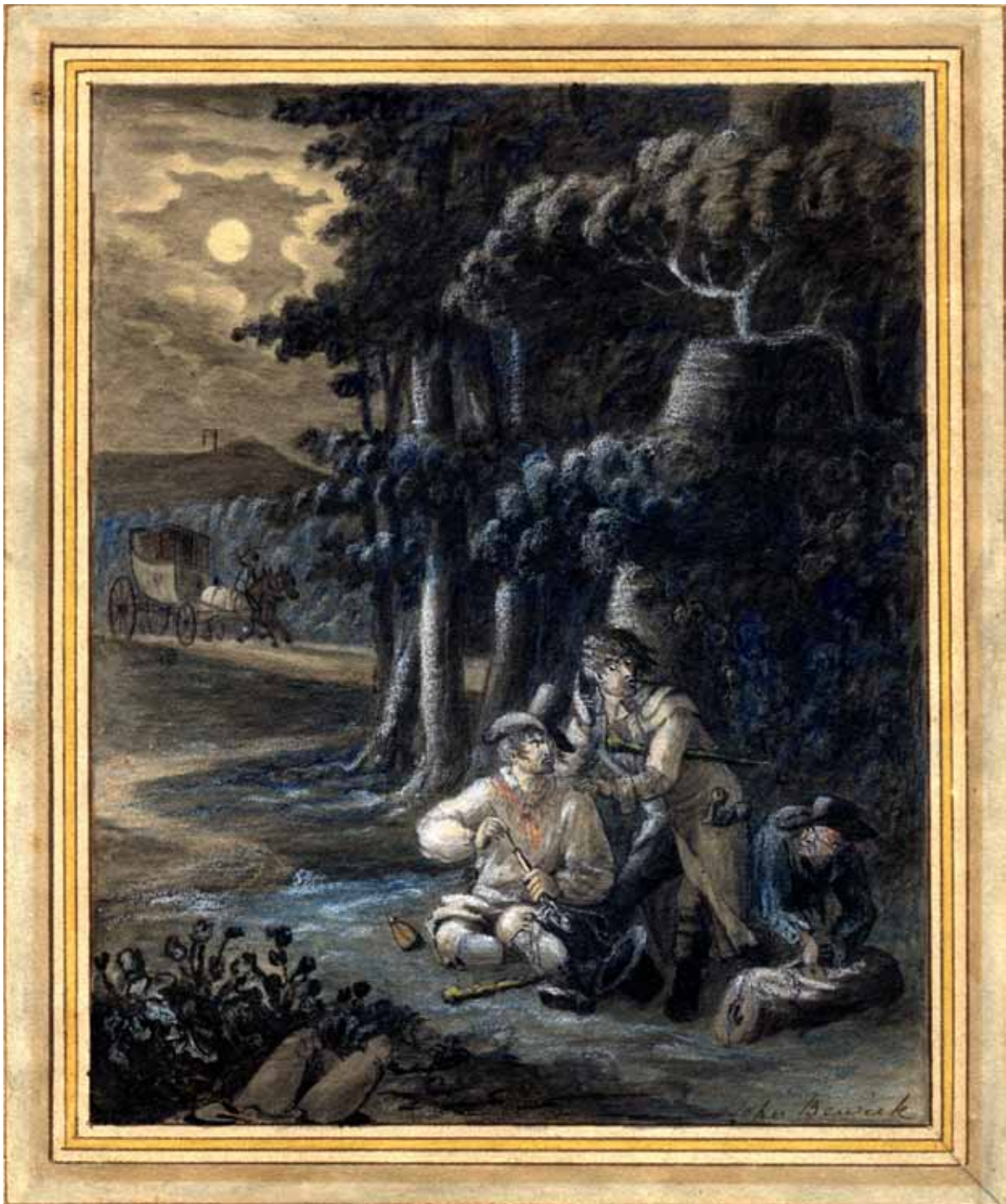




CHERRYBURN TIMES

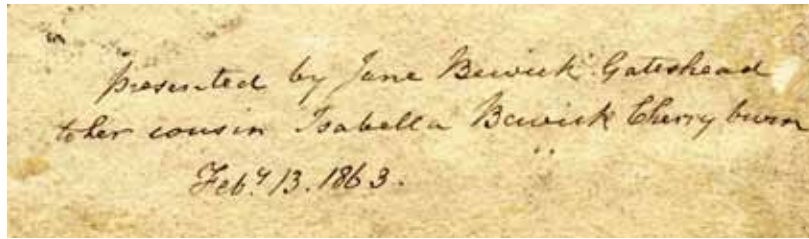
The Journal of The Bewick Society

‘ILL MET BY MOONLIGHT’— BY JOHN BEWICK



Reproduced the same size as the original: width 158 mm x 190 mm.

A recently discovered watercolour painting by John Bewick



In the late autumn of 2010 a person from Ponteland brought a framed watercolour painting (reproduced on p.1) to the Keelrow Bookshop in North Shields and asked if it could be verified as a work by John Bewick. He had bought it at auction in Morpeth about 30 years ago. It bears the signature of John Bewick in the bottom right corner. On taking the picture out of its frame we discovered a handwritten note in black ink on the back saying **“Presented by Jane Bewick Gateshead to her cousin Isabella Bewick Cherryburn Feb 13. 1863.”** Jane Bewick was John Bewick’s niece; her handwriting is well known to all Bewick specialists, and this seems to be conclusive proof of the authenticity of the signature shown on the front. Jane had become an important aide to her father in managing the paper work of the workshop business and she became even more important to the business when Thomas died in 1828. After the death of her brother Robert Elliot Bewick in 1849 and the closure of the workshop, she became the main guardian of the Bewick legacy. She was certainly in a position in 1863 where she might well have made such a gift. There is a slight problem in that we have not been able yet to ascertain who the Isabella Bewick might be. We have looked at Nora Hancock’s Bewick family tree as published in *Cherryburn Times* Easter, 2007, but the dates shown there for the several Isabellas in the extended family don’t fit in with 1863. The only possibility is that there was an Isabella Bewick by marriage unknown to Nora Hancock. However that may be, on seeing the painting and the inscription, the editor decided immediately that they should be published in the *Cherryburn Times* as soon as possible. The subject of the painting seemed to beg for a title, and we thought that until a better be found we could call it ‘Ill-met by Moonlight.’

The painting depicts a moonlit scene on the edge of a dense wood. In the foreground are three villainous-looking men in the act of preparing an attack on a coach approaching in the left middle distance. In the far background near the top of a hill is a gibbet with a just-discernable body hanging from it. In the close foreground, bottom left, is part of a bush in which the lower half of a body, mainly the thighs and bent knees, of a man are seen, half concealed, presumably dead. The coach on the left is a two-horse brougham with a postillion on the right-hand horse, with arm raised, whipping the horse up to speed.

The three main figures are unambiguously villainous. The one on the left is seated on the ground, loading his pistol, ramming a wad down the barrel; on his right on the ground is a gunpowder pouch and on the ground by his knees is a cudgel. His top hat is at a rakish angle on top of unkempt hair. The man standing next to him on his left is holding his right hand to his ear with his left hand on the shoulder of the first figure in a warning gesture, as if he has heard the coach

approaching. His head is turned to his left, listening, but his eyes are looking meaningfully down right. Under his left arm is a cudgel and in his left coat pocket the handles of two pistols are seen; his hat is lying on the ground in front of him. The third figure is a one-eyed man with a broad-brimmed hat stooped, perhaps on his knees, rummaging through a long bag, his head turned to his right. The men are footpads rather than highwaymen (who would normally be mounted). The trees in the centre and right are depicted with thick, bunched foliage somewhat like broccoli. The whole scene is suffused with threat and criminal intent – the expressions on the faces of the three main figures are nasty and brutish. These are vile, repellent creatures and this leads urgently to the question what was such a picture for? The gibbet in the distance is a motif often used by Thomas Bewick to signify his condemnation of the main theme or narrative of an engraving. But John Bewick was known mainly for his illustrations of children’s books reflecting the sentimental view of childhood that prevailed at the end of the eighteenth century. The title of one of his famous works that went through eight editions in twenty years was *The Blossoms of Morality, intended for the amusement and instruction of Young Ladies and Gentlemen*. No gibbets there. Most of his work is completely different in atmosphere from this picture of footpads. It may be conceived that such an image might have been part of some narrative sequence, where this scene would represent an ‘evil’ that other parts of the narrative would contrast with ‘good’.

The two leading scholars on the Bewicks, Iain Bain and Nigel Tattersfield, have seen digital scans of both sides of the watercolour and say they have not seen it before and know nothing of it. We infer from this that they don’t know of any engraved version of it either. Many of the engravings of both Thomas and John Bewick started out as watercolours, and the picture may well have been intended for conversion to a printed illustration to some book published in London in the last decade of John Bewick’s life – he died in December, 1795, at the age of thirty-five, of tuberculosis. As his condition worsened in 1795, in July he returned to Northumberland and moved in with brother William at Cherryburn. He brought with him all his drawings for illustration projects. *Blossoms* was one of those, as also were designs for Somerville’s *The Chase*; he was unable to complete the commission from William Bulmer, the publisher, and most of the engravings for this and other works were made by Thomas, based on his brother’s drawings.

We do not know of any piece of literature for which this picture could possibly be an illustration and we would be grateful if any reader of this notice could suggest such a possible source. Equally, of course, if any reader knows something about the picture not referred to here, we would be anxious to hear from them.

The Editor

THOMAS BEWICK'S ANCESTRY

by David Gardner-Medwin

PART 1. HIS FATHER, JOHN BEWICK, AND THE ARTHURS OF KIRKHEATON

In his *Memoir* Bewick vividly describes the rich influences that his parents and his childhood at Cherryburn had upon him. But of his earlier ancestry he tells us little. For a long time I have wondered whether more could be discovered about this potentially revealing dimension of his background. In this and two future companion papers I try to analyse what evidence there is, adding a little hypothesis and speculation to provoke discussion and further enquiry.

The few genealogical paragraphs in the *Memoir* provide the starting points for the search, although they are not always accurate as we shall see.

My Grandfather, Thomas Bewick, farmed the Lands of Painshaw field and Burches Neuk, near Bywell, and also the Colliery on Mickley Bank or Mickley Common – how long since I know not, but it might probably be about the year 1700 – He had the Character of being one of the most intelligent, active & best Farmers on Tyneside, and it was said, that by his good management & great industry, he got to be very rich – and excepting his being an expert or great Angler, I know little more about him (*Memoir*, p. 1; Bain, 1975).

My Grandmother's maiden name was Agnes Arthur, the Daughter of a Laird of that name at Kirkheaton, where my Father was born in the year 1715, while his Mother was there (I believe) on a visit to her friends (*Memoir*, p. 1).

In August 1753 I was born and was mostly entrusted to the care of my Aunt Hannah (my Mother's sister) & my Grandmother Agnes Bewick ... the latter indulged me ... made me a great Pet ... (*Memoir*, p. 2).

[In 1767] ... & my Grandmother's having left me £20 for an apprentice fee ... I soon afterwards went to R: Beilby upon trial ... (*Memoir*, p. 36).

An impressive pedigree of the family of Thomas Bewick (hereafter TB) was presented by Nora Hancock to Cherryburn in 1992 and published in *Cherryburn Times* in 2007. It shows the many descendants of the engraver's paternal grandparents and has sparked much interest and evoked suggestions for additions and changes by visiting members of the family. But, with one crucial exception relating to his grandfather, it adds nothing to TB's account of his grandparents, and is silent about the earlier generations. The search for new facts has been frustratingly difficult: few Northumberland parish registers survive from before the 1680s; the local Bewick family forenames are confusingly few and repetitive; not one of the relevant estate or manorial records has been deposited in the Northumberland Record Office (NRO); and few of the family made wills. Information about TB's grandfather, Thomas Bewick, is particularly sparse and problematic, and will be discussed in Part 2 of this paper.

The generation of TB's father, John Bewick (1715-1785)

TB's many stories of his father are affectionate and informative, but he seems to have been mistaken in thinking that John had been born by chance at Kirkheaton while his mother was visiting friends. The local parish records show that he and all his sibs were baptized there, the sons and daughters 'of Thomas Bewick of the Town and Parish of Kirkheaton'. There were eight children, three more than are shown on the pedigree: John (baptized 22 July 1708); Mary

(22 June 1710); Sarah (25 Dec 1712); John (27 Dec 1715); Anne (21 Nov 1717); Mabel (11 Feb 1719/20); Jane (22 March 1721/22); and Margaret (25 Oct 1724).

All of these children were mentioned later in Thomas's will of 1742/3,¹ except Mabel, Jane and the firstborn John, baptized in 1708, who seem to have died young. The burials of John and Mabel have not been identified; their records may well have been lost in the defective Kirkheaton register described below. We shall come to the death of Jane later.

The baptismal entry for Margaret adds an interesting detail, recording her father as 'Thomas Bewick of Kirkheaton Cross Stone House'. The only other mention of this house in the register was on 24 October 1723 when John, a son of Thomas Masterman of Kirkheaton Cross Stone House was baptized. A rather consistent custom of naming the homes of the parishioners in the register began at about this time, so there is no reason to suspect that the Bewicks had moved, but it does seem that more than one family lived in their house, a common enough arrangement at the time. Enquiry in the village for any local knowledge of Cross Stone House and a search in the published histories and at the NRO were unsuccessful but virtually all the farms in the township were mentioned in the registers in the 1720s and '30s and it is possible to exclude nearly everywhere but the core village as the site of Cross Stone House.²

Today Kirkheaton retains much of its ancient isolation and medieval structure. At the end of a long minor road the village is a *cul de sac* where barely a dozen houses encircle a large green, and at the far end, to the west, are the chapel and the once fortified manor house. The road and village are entirely surrounded by fields, originally held in common and farmed from the village, but by the 17th century divided amongst the tenants who moved out to new houses in their fields, as it became safe to do so. Gaps appeared between the village houses, and Cross Stone House may have been one that has been lost, along with any trace of the stone which gave it its name.

Small coal pits are shown just to the south of the village on several local plans (NRO) and sporadic mining took place from the medieval period until a last unsuccessful attempt in 1925 (*Kirkheaton*, c1970). By 1727-8, soon after the births of the Bewick children, Kirkheaton Colliery was providing a small income to the proprietors, the Blackett family of Wallington.³ While Thomas Bewick lived in the village he would have been able to gain the experience of combining farming with small-scale mining that enabled him and his son to continue to work in this way at Mickley.

The chapel at Kirkheaton was in poor repair from about 1715 until it was rebuilt in the 1750s (Hodgson, 1897; Grundy *et al.*, 1992) and many ceremonies were held instead in Kirkharle, nearly four miles away. Indeed in 1650 a Cromwellian *Survey of Church Livings* had proposed that Kirkheaton together with Thockrington and Whelpington

might 'fitly be united and annexed' to Kirkharle (Hodgson, 1840, p. lxxx). Perhaps as a result, the original records of the parish of Kirkharle and the extraparochial chapel of Kirkheaton are today combined, muddled, and incomplete. But in the case of the Bewick family the baptisms were recorded unequivocally as taking place at Kirkheaton; perhaps they were performed at home. It is clear that the family lived there, at least from 1708 to 1724, and probably the children were not only baptized but all born there, as TB wrote that his father was.

There is no record of when they moved to the Tyne Valley. Intriguingly, however, a Jane Bewick 'daughter of Thomas Bewick of Prudhoe' was buried on 27 June 1725 at Ovingham. There is no record of her baptism there. This was soon after the earliest time the family could have moved from Kirkheaton, and if, as I suspect, this Jane was John Bewick's sister, who would then have been three years old, there seems to be a fairly tight 'window' of time for the move, between Margaret's baptism in October 1724 and Jane's burial in the following June.⁴ If so, it is interesting that Prudhoe, very near Mickley, seems to be where they first settled.

This apparently straightforward chronology is put in doubt by a lease dated 11 November 1715 of the mining rights at 'Mickley West Bank, Acomb Moore and Eltringham [*ie* Eltringham] Common in the manor of Bywell' granted by William Fenwick of Bywell to 'John Atkinson and Thomas Buick of Kirkheaton ... yeomans', for 11 years at £14 a year (Doncaster Archives DD/BW/N/IV/11). Can this Thomas really have been TB's grandfather? If so, how can he have managed a farm and family at Kirkheaton and three collieries (one north and two south of the Tyne), well over ten miles away by road?

How this enigma might be resolved will be discussed in Part 2 of this paper. What is clear is that Cherryburn was not the Tyneside home of the Bewick family from this early date, as has been suggested. As early as 1702 a John Johnson leased Cherryburn from William Fenwick of Bywell, and in 1730 Thomas Johnson of Cherryburn renewed his lease there from the new owner, William Wrightson, for a period of 11 years.⁵ The Johnsons, not the Bewicks, were clearly the tenants at Cherryburn before and long after Thomas brought his family to Tynedale.

During his father's lifetime John Bewick seems to have lived with him at Birches Nook. He was identified as 'of Birksnooke', 'gentleman', at the grant of probate of Thomas Bewick's will on 18 June 1743 (*DUL DPRI/3/1743/T10/1-2*). Eighteen months earlier, in December 1741, John had taken over from Thomas the responsibility of paying the rent for Mickley colliery (Doncaster Archives DD/BW/E15/27 & /28).

In the year after his father's death, on 28 June 1744, John Bewick ('aged 27, yeoman') was married to Ann Toppin ('aged 24') at Bywell St Peter. (John and Ann must both in fact have been at least 28 at their marriage but curiously gave false ages on the marriage bond they took out two days earlier. *Par. Reg.*) Ann had been baptized on 10 October 1715, the daughter of Robert Toppin, gent., and Elizabeth Simpson, both of Bywell St Peter, who had been married there on 28 July 1712. The Toppins had seven children baptized in 1713-28. Ann's father had died in 1743, in the same year as John's father; perhaps their combined legacies

had enabled them to marry the following year. It is interesting that, two years before John and Ann were married, Ann's sister, Mary Toppin of Bywell, had married an Allen Brown of Whelpington and in 1735 a John Brown of Whelpington had married John's sister, Mary Bewick (all from *St Peters Par. Reg.*) hinting at a group of family friends spanning the two areas where Thomas Bewick's family had lived.

Ann was buried at Bywell St Peter on 23 June 1751, the 'wife of John Bewick of Eltringham'. They seem to have had no children. 'A child of John Bewicks' buried at Ovingham on 10 April 1747 was probably the newborn infant, of Mary the wife of another John Bewick, of Broomhouses, who was buried soon after, on 14 June. During most of the seven years of their marriage John and Ann probably remained at Birches Nook in the parish of Bywell St Peter, perhaps moving to Eltringham or even Cherryburn itself just towards the end. Her burial at Bywell rather than Ovingham is suggestive.

Not long after Ann's death John took his first nine-year lease of Cherryburn (and Eltringham Common colliery), on 29 October 1751 (Doncaster Archives DD/BW/N/IV/48); nevertheless the lease names him 'J^{no} Bewick of Chirrey-burn', so he may well have lived there for a short time before the lease was drawn up, and even perhaps since before Anne died. Nine months later, on 11 July 1752, he was married again, to Jane Wilson at Ovingham (*Par. Reg.*). Jane became the mother of his children, and their happy life together is recounted in TB's *Memoir*. Her ancestry is discussed in a later paper

Incidentally, the mother of TB's talented apprentice Robert Johnson 'had long been a Servant in fathers House, where she became a great favourite and like one of our own family.—When she married, this boy Robert was her first born ...' (*Memoir*, page 196). She seems to have been Mary Maughan ('Maffern or Maghn' in the *Par. Reg.*; the 'gh' perhaps pronounced locally, as in Ulgham village, as 'ff'), who married Thomas Johnson at Ovingham on 4 July 1770. Robert was baptized there on 9 September 1771 (on which occasion, as he later admitted in his *Memoir*, young TB failed to appear and his parents had to stand as godparents in his stead). It is tempting to imagine that this Johnson family might have been related to the tenants of Cherryburn in the 1700s-40s mentioned earlier, but the parish register (and IGI) provide no support for this. Johnsons abound in the district.

TB's grandmother, Agnes Arthur (c1680s-1756)

According to TB's *Memoir*, Agnes Arthur was 'the daughter of a laird ... at Kirkheaton'. 'Laird' implies if not the lord of the manor, at least a landowner. The detailed manorial records of Kirkheaton are not available in the standard histories or archives. But the much illustrated old manor house at Kirkheaton, close to the entrance to the churchyard, survives.

It is likely that the Arthur family were tenants in the manor house but not in fact the lairds. The manor and six-sevenths of the land of Kirkheaton, anciently owned by the Heron family, from about 1663 were held by the (non-resident) Stote family and remained so till the mid 18th century, passing eventually in the female line to Mrs Windsor who rebuilt the derelict chapel in 1753-55. When she died and after a law suit, most of Kirkheaton, including the manor house, became the property of the Crasters and the (unrelated) Bewicks of



From Lt. A. Armstrong's map of Northumberland (1769). Original scale one inch to the mile, reduced to about half an inch to the mile. West Harle and Kirkharle lie near the top border with Kirkheaton two miles further south. 'Prudoe', Mickley, Eltringham, and 'Panshaw' (i.e. Painshaw) can be seen south of the Tyne. Birches Nook is not shown but lies just north of Painshaw.

Close House. The other one seventh of the land, probably the part to the north-west of the village, belonged to the Atkinson family. At no point are the Arthur family recorded as freeholders at Kirkheaton.⁶ It may be assumed therefore that the Stotes held the lordship of the manor at the time of Agnes's birth, and that they and the Atkinsons were the only landowners or 'lairds'.⁷

However, in 1664, hearth tax was paid on three hearths by William Arthur at Kirkheaton. No other Kirkheaton household paid on more than one, and it is fairly certain that at that time the manor house would have been the only dwelling in the township with so many hearths. This was very probably the William Arthur who married Mabel, daughter of John Atkinson of Kirkheaton (Hodgson, 1897, page 381), at an unknown date but



Kirkheaton Manor House (from Hodgson, 1897, reduced).

evidently in the mid or late 17th century. John Atkinson's will was proved (at York) on 30 June 1681 but no dates are known for Mabel or William; presumably they were in a missing part of the Kirkheaton register. But on 20 September 1721, Joseph 'the son of John Arthur of Kirkheaton Hall' was baptized at Kirkheaton and buried there three days later. It seems very probable, therefore, that the family of Agnes Arthur lived in the manor house at Kirkheaton for at least a couple of decades before her birth, and that the William Arthur who paid the hearth tax in 1664 may have been her father, Mabel née Atkinson her mother, and John Arthur perhaps her brother or cousin. The fact that Agnes later had a daughter with the locally unusual name of Mabel is suggestive. Hodgson speculates that the Atkinsons may have lived in the village since 1479 when a Richard Atkynson held one husbandland there,⁸ so perhaps the 'laird' of the family lore was Mabel's father, Agnes's *grandfather*, John Atkinson.

As we have seen, Thomas Bewick's partner in the 1715 lease of the Tyne Valley collieries was another John Atkinson. John senior, the father of Mabel, had died in 1681. She was born of his first marriage but by a second marriage he had had a son Joseph and a grandson, 'John Atkinson of Kirkheaton', who held lands there, which he sold when he moved to Hexham in 1732; he died in 1736 (Hodgson, 1897). This younger John was thus a first cousin of Agnes Bewick making her husband Thomas a very plausible candidate for his partner in 1715. If so, as a landowner Atkinson was probably wealthier than Bewick and it seems likely that he would have provided the finance for the collieries rather than the management, leaving unsolved the problem of how the collieries could be managed. But while this business connection throws light on the relations between the Kirkheaton families, we need to be cautious. In Part 2 we shall discuss whether Thomas the colliery partner might have been not the husband of Agnes but a more distant Bewick relative.

The year of Agnes Arthur's birth is given in the Cherryburn pedigree as 'c.1683'. No record of the baptism of an Agnes Arthur of about that date is to be found in the IGI anywhere in England. Equally, no reliable record of the marriage of Agnes Arthur and Thomas Bewick has been found. Both events may be among the many missing from the

Kirkheaton and Kirkharle registers, which in any case begin only in the mid 1690s, too late for the baptism of Agnes. An unsubstantiated submission to the IGI suggests the year 1709 for the marriage, at Kirkharle; this appears to be guesswork. The date is unlikely since the couple had by then had a child, John the first, baptized in 1708.

On 25 December 1712, (Kirkheaton *Par. Reg.*) another William

Arthur married Sarah

Fenwick, joint heiress and owner of West Harle in the parish of Kirkwhelpington, a few miles north of Kirkheaton, though both were 'of Kirkheaton' at the time. West Harle had been the property of the Fenwicks for at least four generations, and Sarah and her sister Ann were the only surviving children of the last male owner, John Fenwick, who died in 1702/3. Ann married Robert Shaftoe of Barrasford; and in 1722 William Arthur, Robert Shaftoe and two other freeholders of West Harle agreed to partition their estates (all from Hodgson, 1827). William is recorded (misprinted as William Archer) as a freeholder of West Harle in the 1721 *Freeholders Book* and as William Arthur in the 1734 and 1747/8 *Poll Books*.

An inscription on a gravestone, now standing against the south wall of the chapel at Kirkheaton, records the burials of William Arthur of West Harle who died on 25 August 1761 aged 74, and Sarah his wife who died on 16th April 17[70?] (date and her age not fully legible). Sarah Arthur was actually buried nearby at Thockrington on 19th April 1770 (*Par. Reg.*). The placement of the stone in Kirkheaton and his residence there at the time of their marriage seem clearly to connect this William Arthur of West Harle with the Arthurs of Kirkheaton. His burial does not appear in the fragmentary Kirkheaton register.

An indenture at the Northumberland Archives (NRO 660/4/5) provides firm evidence of a connection between the Arthurs of West Harle and TB's grandfather. It gives details of an agreement between Thomas Bewick of 'Breachesnuck' (*i.e.* Birches Nook) and William and Sarah Arthur of West Harle on 1st June 1734 whereby Thomas provided to William and Sarah a mortgage of £120 on their property of two messuages, a cottage and 150 acres of land at West Harle. Although formally drafted, it seems very probable that the mortgage was a private arrangement within the family of Agnes née Arthur, between her financially successful husband and her relative, probably her brother, William Arthur. And

on 21 February 1742/3 a William Arthur, almost certainly the same, witnessed the signing of Thomas Bewick's will (*see Note 1*) of which he was also a trustee. On a document of 16 June 1743, granting probate of the will to John instead of Agnes Bewick (who renounced her appointment as executrix), William Arthur, again a witness, was 'of the Parish of Kirkwhelpington, farmer' (West Harle is in that parish).⁹ Since the will does not mention the mortgage or the property at West Harle, the £120 had probably been repaid.

The will of Sarah Arthur¹⁰ provides no helpful family information on the Arthur side of the family. She seems to have had no children and her legacies were left to her relatives on the Fenwick side, the children of her sister Anne Shaftoe. Hodgson (1827, page 200) records that Sarah had earlier (in 1768) sold property, 'a mansion or ancient House' butting on Great Bavington, at Ladywell near West Harle; and that she was commonly known as 'Lady Arthur' on account of her freehold possessions at West Harle.

Conclusions must be provisional. Agnes Arthur was born in about the 1680s, a member of the Arthur family, tenants of the manor house at Kirkheaton, and was closely related to William Arthur (*fl.* 1664), to William Arthur (who married Sarah Fenwick of West Harle in 1715) and to John Arthur (whose son Joseph was baptized and died in 1721). Probably William senior was her father and John and William of West Harle her brothers. Her mother seems likely to have been Mabel, a descendant of the Atkinsons, anciently minority landowners at Kirkheaton. Agnes married Thomas Bewick, probably at Kirkheaton or Kirkharle and probably in about 1707, and subsequently lived at Cross Stone House, Kirkheaton, where their children were born, before moving to Birches Nook. After the death of Thomas in 1743 she probably lived with her son John Bewick, staying on at Birches Nook during his first marriage, to Ann, and then, after his second marriage, moving to Cherryburn. Agnes Bewick was buried at Ovingham St Mary on 14 February 1756 (*Par. Reg.*) when her grandson TB was aged about two and a half years. She left no registered will, but her bequest to him of £20 for his apprentice fee launched his career.

The later parts of this paper will describe TB's Bewick ancestors and his mother's family.

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DUL. Durham University Library probate records.

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NBI. *National Burial Index* (2010). 3rd Edition. Federation of Family History Societies.

NCH. *Northumberland County History* (15 volumes) including Hodgson (1897) and the Bywell and Ovingham volumes (Vols. IV, VI and XII).

NRO. Northumberland Record Office.

Poll Book(s). *Northumberland Poll Books* (various dates) from the collection of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Notes

¹ Durham University Library DPRI/1/1743/B8/1-2.

² The places mentioned were Bogghall, Brandyshall or Brandywell, Fairshaw, Kirkheaton Coal Houses or Pitt Houses, Pilfield Hall, Redwell Hall, and Toft Hall. The term 'the *Town* and Parish of Kirkheaton' seems to imply residence in the core village.

³ Blackett accounts ledger, NRO 672/E/1/B/1. No colliery accounts are available in the papers (at the NRO) of the Swinburnes of Capheaton who held the mining rights before 1727.

⁴ Another Jane Bewick, buried on 30 August 1726 at Kirkharle, was the daughter of a George Bewick. Almost simultaneously, two children of a Thomas Bewick of Newton Hall in the parish of Bywell St Peter were buried in 1725/6 - John on 24 February and Ann on 20 March. But their baptisms at Bywell are registered; the Newton Hall Bewicks were a different family.

⁵ Cousins 1995; Doncaster Archives DD/BW/N/IV/22 & /23. William Fenwick of Bywell Hall died in 1719. The ownership of part of his estate, including Mickley and Birches Nook, was transferred to William Wrightson in January 1723/4, the very year that Thomas Bewick's family probably arrived from Kirkheaton. Wrightson had married Isabella Fenwick, William's elder daughter and joint heir-ess, in 1723 (*NCH*, Vol. 12).

⁶ Hodgson, 1897; *Northumberland Poll Books* for 1710, 1721 and 1734.

⁷ Jacob and William Atkinson, sons of John, were freeholders in 1710, and Jacob (then a resident of West Belso, *ie* Belsay) also in 1721 (*Poll Books*).

⁸ Hodgson, 1897, quoting the Black Book of Hexham (*Surtees Society*, vol. 46).

⁹ *DUL* DPRI/3/1743/T10/1-2. A witness to the associated renunciation document was Robert Simon, vicar of Bywell St Peter and husband of TB's godmother (it was she who recommended TB to the Beilby brothers in 1767).

¹⁰ *DUL* DPRI/1/1770/A10/1.

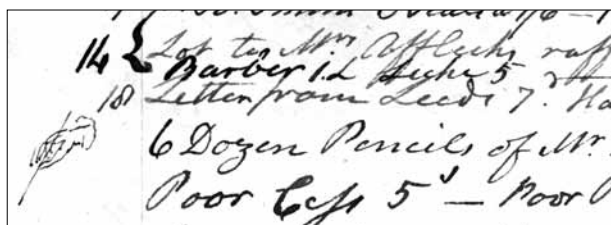


ADDENDA & CORRIGENDA

Readers will remember the unfortunate omission of the last line of our obituary notice for Bob Browell in the last edition caused by a last minute correction to an earlier text, which shunted the whole text forward until the line at the end was pushed under the wood-engraving of Cherryburn. Your unwary editor should have noticed this before sending it to print. The final sentence should have read ‘It was unfortunate, to say the least, that just before he went to the Palace Garden Party, he arranged to do some more recordings for the web site when he came back; these would be based on further readings from the Memoir. Cherryburn and the Bewick Society will miss him. HD.’

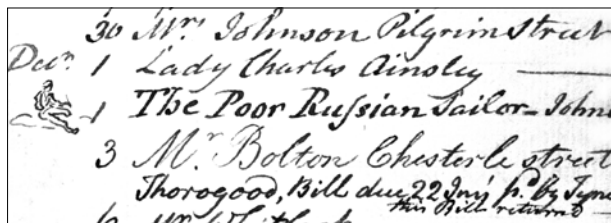
A further error in that edition escaped notice until it was too late to repair: on the first page, second paragraph, at the end, it referred to Robert Bewick’s death in 1848. Of course, this should have been 1849.

Readers have added some information supplementing the comments on Bewick’s Account Book Marginalia. First, the item on the purchase of ‘pencils’. Iain Bain has told us, much



to our surprise, that the word ‘pencil’ at that time was used for what we would call a brush. We checked the OED to find that the first meaning of the word (I.1) was ‘An artist’s paint-brush of camel’s hair, fitch, sable, or other fine hair, gathered into a quill; especially one of small and fine make, suitable for delicate work.’ An example is given dated, 1859 from Gullick and Timbs’ book *Painting*: ‘The smaller kinds of brushes are still sometimes called ‘pencils’; but this use of the word... [is] peculiar to watercolour painting.’ Dr Bain also pointed out that Bewick’s pen-drawn image does indeed look much more like a brush than a pencil as we conceive it.

More information about the ‘Poor Russian Sailor’ has come to hand via Nigel Tattersfield.



‘...the poor Russian sailor mentioned on page 5 was Gottfried Thomas Leschinsky, born in Riga in 1782, died Newcastle 1810. He was known in Newcastle as John Thompson and though he had lost a leg whilst serving in the Royal Navy, continued as a merchant sailor on ships owned or part-owned by the Hewitson family. No disability allowance in those days...’ There were many foreigners serving in the Royal Navy, even Frenchmen; some famous ships had 15% of their crew from non-British sources (Brian Lavery, 1989, *Nelson’s Navy*, pp.126-8). Riga, the capital of Latvia, and a major port

on the Baltic, had been in the Russian Empire since 1721, so it was technically correct to call Leschinsky a Russian. We can imagine that his real name would have seemed outlandish to his mates in a British fo’c’sle, and ‘John Thompson’ would have been a convenient alias. He was apparently a familiar figure about the Quayside, and Bewick seems to have had a soft spot for him. He was only 28 when he died.

A NEW PRESIDENT



Pictured above is Dr Iain Bain holding two of Thomas Bewick’s walking sticks from his own collection of Bewickiana. The photograph was taken at the party held at Cherryburn to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Bewick’s birth. Dr Bain has been elected and has accepted the post of **Honorary President of the Bewick Society** to replace Dr Frank Atkinson, who has stepped down after 23 years in post. Dr Bain has been the doyen of Bewick Studies for about forty years, an eminence which has been recognised ever since he edited a completely new edition of Bewick’s *Memoir* in 1975. He also curated a major Bewick exhibition in 1978 in Newcastle; also shown at Yale University. For many years Dr Bain was head of publications at the Tate Gallery and he has held several presidential positions, especially of the Printing Historical Society, and has also been a Fellow of the Typographical Society. He is still practising typography, most notably in the production of Nigel Tattersfield’s forthcoming magnum opus on Bewick.

Cherryburn Times is normally published twice a year. Contributions are invited particularly (but not only) from members of the Bewick Society. The preferred digital format is ‘Rich Text Format’ (.rtf) or better, Microsoft Word (.doc), and images in jpeg or tiff; print resolution 300 d.p.i. (8 cm wide or larger). **Editor:** David W. S. Gray, to whom contributions may be sent, *either* by post to 11, Harley Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1UL, United Kingdom *or* by e-mail to dws.gray@blueyonder.co.uk **Digital photography and picture management:** Angus McKie. **Typesetting:** D.W.S. Gray. **Graphic Design:** John L. Wolfe. Produced by D. W. S. Gray and Angus McKie. Printed at Northumbria University.

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