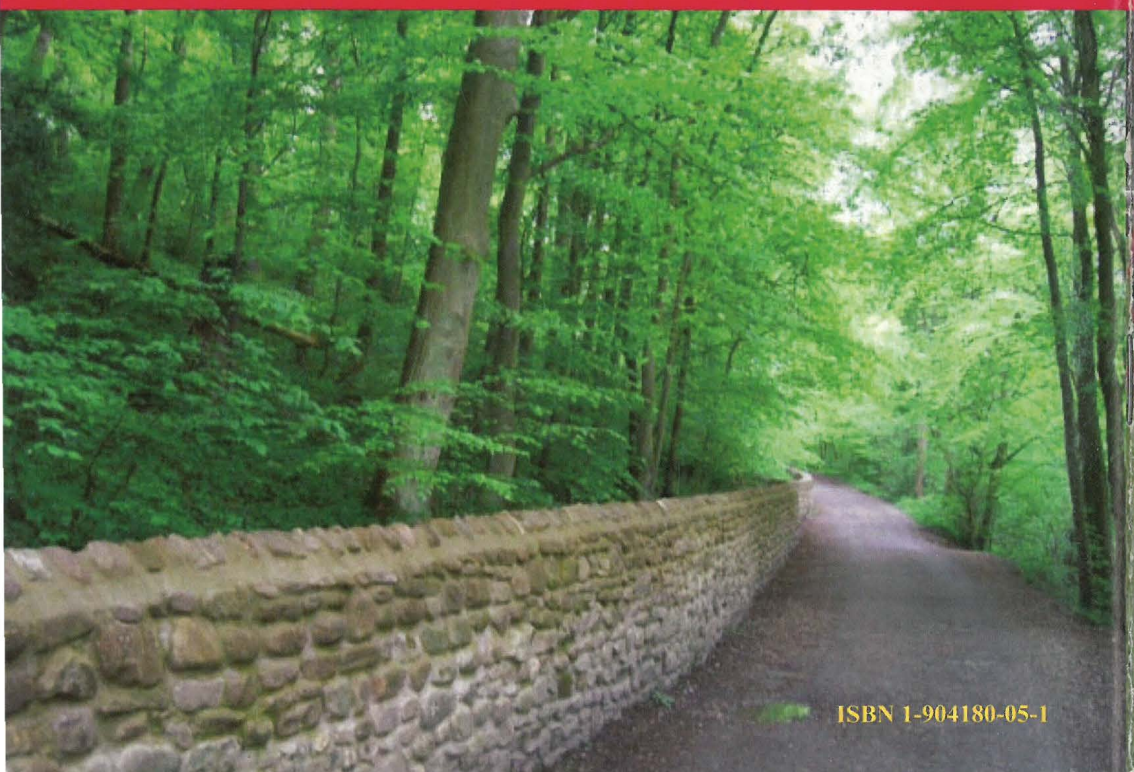


St. Francis Xavier School under construction in June 2006. *Mark Whyman*

The new stone wall at Love Lane, Easby, replacing the ugly metal fence of some years ago.
Tom Walter



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The Richmond Review

being the Annual Report of the

Richmond and District Civic Society 2006



Richmond and District Civic Society

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Cover: The Military Police were given the Freedom of Richmond on 2 June 2006
Mark Whyman

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Back Numbers

This series of annual journals began in 1978. Back numbers except those for 1978, 1985 and 1986 are available, price £2 each. An index covering the years 1978-1989 (the issues edited by Mr. L. P. Wenham) is available, price 70p. Please add 70p to cover the postage and packing for a single volume, or £1 for two.

The Richmond Review for 2001 covers only the list of the officers, the chairman's report, the membership for 2001 and the programme for 2002. It is available for 50p. The main publication for 2001, *Richmond: A Review of the Millennium*, is no longer available.

Please telephone, or write to, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. J. Walter, at 19 Hermitage Court, Reeth Road, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4GE, if you wish to buy any publication.

Chairman's Report

Fred Wood

Again I am writing this report in mid-August so that by the time you read this in the Review some matters may have been resolved we hope to the satisfaction of the Society's members.

I must begin on a very happy note. David Morris was ninety in early July and at our July meeting your committee agreed to send him congratulations and good wishes on your behalf. To mark the occasion we offered David and Grizel Honorary Life Membership of the Society, to which they responded that they felt honoured and were pleased to accept. We are all aware of the contribution that this remarkable man has made to the Society, to Richmond and indeed to the Dales over so very many years.

I will not attempt to chronicle the convoluted journey that has beset Richmondshire District Council over the past year. We have stood steadfast



A view from the Culloden Tower of the car park at Yorke Place, the sight of the proposed development.
Mark Whyman

in our opposition to the proposed development at Yorke Square Car Park. To this end we have supported the Save Our Shire group chaired by John McDonald, one of our members, with expertise and financial help. A Judicial Review has been lodged in the High Court, but of course the progress of this action is entirely in the hands of the Court. Meanwhile members of the Society will continue to form a significant proportion of the public attending the relevant District Council meetings. One positive result of the recent problems in this area is that the Green has now the added protection that official Village Green status confers.

The committees of Richmond Station Regeneration and ROSA (Richmond Open Spaces Appeal) have continued to hold a range of events to push towards their respective financial goals. This has undoubtedly involved them in a tremendous effort to come up with varied activities over a long time. Likewise the financial burden on the people of Richmond has been substantial. On the other hand, there has been the impetus for a whole new range of events, and one would hope some will become regular features of life in Richmond.

The committee of RSVCI (Richmond Swale Valley Community Initiative) with Colin Grant, the town manager, are soon to produce visible evidence of their work. For instance, special seats and plaques will be sited round Trinity Church and heritage boards will appear at various places in and around the town to form a heritage trail. Significant funding is provided by Yorkshire Forward particularly under the Renaissance Market Town programme. I have no doubt that the ambience and appearance of the town have been significantly improved by the refurbishment of our main public structures over the recent past and one hopes that the work undertaken by the RSVCI will build on this.

A major development within Richmond itself has been announced. The Lower School in Station Road will close following building on the Darlington Road site to accommodate all the pupils of Richmond School. What happens to this site is yet another major concern to all of us. An even larger problem is looming with the dramatic expansion of Catterick Garrison over the next few years. Meetings we have attended appear to show that little thought has so far been given to the impact this will have on the infrastructure of the area as a whole. It is vital that we keep abreast of the situation and react to the changes that are proposed.

Once again David Morris and his committee have put together another series of excellent and varied lectures which we are pleased to note have been well attended. Costs are rising but we hope to maintain our present high standard of lectures. We have attempted to interest Upper School pupils with free tickets. However other activities on Friday nights appear to be

paramount. We are proposing to redefine family membership to include children aged twelve and over. In late June we had a very enjoyable visit to Castle Howard with ideal weather for such an outing. At the end of July Tony Dykes and Peter Cardwell led a trip to the area of Ribblehead/Batty Green to study the remains of the shanty town and the local industrial archaeology. Again this outing was thoroughly enjoyed by all who made the journey.

In April we added another plaque to our list. Mike Wood and Ralph Waggett had confirmed the site of Christopher Clarkson's home as the premises owned by John Blenkiron and currently the shop trading as Country Kitchens & Bathrooms Ltd. in Frenchgate. We thank John for his financial contribution to this plaque to the town's famous historian and for mounting the plaque on the building. About this time last year we drew the attention of the Town Council to the fact that this year is the quatercentenary of the well-known events at Willance's Leap. The celebration of this anniversary is on 16 September. Our contribution is to supply a plaque to mark his grave, where the inscription on the flat stone is almost illegible. Again we are indebted to John Blenkiron for his kind offer to have the plaque mounted on a stone base and placed in position. The main event is a ceremony to mark the refurbishment of the two existing monuments and the siting of a new third stone replacing the one lost some time ago.

I make no apology for once drawing your attention to the very real and on-going contribution to maintaining high standards in conservation areas throughout Richmondshire made by John Clarke and the Planning Sub-committee. They carry out this work with great dedication. This year we welcomed Christopher Patrick as our treasurer/membership secretary and Mrs. Jean Wrangham to our committee. We have benefited greatly from their contributions to our activities. I am pleased to report that our membership is up by nearly thirty. Any increase in membership allows us more scope with our finances, and we must try to expand still further. After the success of last year's improvements in the Review we are looking forward to another high standard publication. On your behalf, I thank all contributors and of course Mrs. Linda Drury for all her hard work as editor unstintingly supported by the technical expertise of Graham Merlane and Mark Whyman.

It is with regret that I have to report the death earlier this year of Roger Sheraton. He was Secretary of the Society for several years in the late 1980s.

On behalf of the committee I thank all members of the Society for their support over the past year, and I personally acknowledge the help and support I have had from all members of the committee which has such a diverse wealth of professional skills and experience to call on.

Richmond Cavalcade – talking points in Richmond over the past year

J. Linda Drury

As ever there have been plenty of controversial talking points in Richmond this year. SOS, Save Our Shire, the association to protect Richmondshire's unique heritage, is collecting money for a Judicial Review, challenging the legality of the proposed developments on Yorke Square and the office move to Colburn. Could the Council not use as offices, the newer, western buildings of Richmond Lower School (the old Grammar School), which lie conveniently near the present offices in Swale House and are due to be vacant in about two years' time when the pupils are to be moved to a new building in Darlington Road?

ROSA, Richmond Open Spaces Appeal, has a regular stall in the Market Place in aid of safeguarding the future of the Westfields, South Bank and Jack King's Wood. The station project goes on apace. A recent event was a delightful Kite Festival on Richmond's old race course, when the sun shone and the winds blew just as they should. Work will begin on the station building this autumn.

Another festival, Richmond Live music, brought many happy participants to the town, but the vast volume caused annoyance and distress to townsfolk and their dogs! It is feared that plans to have music in the Friary Gardens may cause suffering to patients in the Friary Hospital right by the gardens.

At Easby the restored riverside footpath was opened by our MP Mr. William Hague (after whom Richmond's new delicatessen has been named). Downstream, along Love Lane near the old railway bridge, a handsome new stone wall has been built with a date-stone of 2004, replacing the hideous metal fence of a few years ago.

How we have longed for pavement cafes in the Market Place this hot summer! Improvements there to Trinity Tower and the Obelisk look good, but the proprietor of 'Barries Ices' has a new, longer trailer and needs a new location, where it would dominate the Obelisk less. The front of the Kings Head is bright with window boxes, but, round the corner in King Street, its gutters, drain pipes and decoration need attention. We wonder when the next door wine shop will be re-used and the Booze shop use less garish advertising. In smarter contrast is the new name and sign on 'The Local' the wine etc. shop by the back entrance to Finkle Street's 'Black Lion'.

Although the Yorkshire Trading Company's shop looks smarter now, the long-empty, Market Place shops of Swintons and the Mill Shop, give an

air of dereliction. The continued lack of public lavatories in the Market Place has caused problems in Edinburgh Woollens, as the desperate invade the shop's facilities! The indoor Market Hall, with its date of 1854 over the door, is being refurbished. The ramps for the disabled in the Market Place have met with a mixed reception. They look intrusive, but are a God-send to those who need them. What a clutter of signs there is on the roundabout at the end of King Street. They would do as well instead on the wide Rodbers pavement thereby improving the views towards both Trinity Tower and the Friary Tower. That tree on the roundabout has seen better days!

Decrepit properties in Millgate, Maison Dieu and Cornforth Hill dismay us all and specially sad is Craddock or Cradock Hall, (next to The Grove in Frenchgate), the historic residence of Thomas Craddock, Commissary of the Archdeaconry of Richmond who died in 1689 and probably also of his father Sir Joseph, Commissary before him from the 1640s. (See this Review 2000). Such a historic property would, if restored, make a fine addition to the Richmondshire Museum. Twenty-five years ago Ralph Waggett was the leading light in the refounding of the Company of Fellmongers of Richmond, an anniversary celebrated in June by a service in St Mary's and a special dinner at Richmond Old Grammar School in the building known as 'Big School' built in 1865. Over the river, near the station buildings, is St. Martin's Priory, once a daughter house of St. Mary's York. Its neglect



Richmond Market Hall under repair in May 2006. *Mark Whyman*

and inaccessibility is a continued disappointment.

In Dundas Street the disused Congregational Church has become an airy, bright Community Office where the public may inquire about many matters of local government from planning applications to bus passes. The new St. Francis Xavier School in Darlington Road, though most welcome to its users with its sports hall, cricket nets, special English, mathematics and music rooms, has dismayed local residents by its looming height and sheer bulk. Work has begun, also in Darlington Road, to narrow this the main road into both Richmond and into Swaledale, to make a parking lane for the parental cars of scholars, many of whom could walk or take one of the school buses.

The Normandy Band, based on the expanding Catterick Garrison has been disbanded and its last concert in St. Mary's was touched by nostalgia. The Military Police received the Freedom of Richmond in a colourful ceremony.

Plans to collect re-cyclable and other waste on alternate weeks, are much debated. It could be smelly work in hot weather! Some of the events of the Swaledale Festival of music and the arts in May were held in Richmond and in September and October we had the Richmond Walking Festival and the Real Ale Festival.

On the 16 August this year, a good number of Freemen of the Company of Fellmongers and Old Boys of Richmond School, Yorkshire made a pilgrimage to St Paul's Cathedral in London to the memory of, and in tribute to, James Tate, the remarkable Master of Richmond School from 1796 to 1833. He was known as the Scholar of the North and was vividly described by a contemporary as "a man dripping Greek". He became a Canon Residentiary of the Cathedral and is buried in the Crypt. The party first looked at the house in Amen Corner where James Tate resided whilst a Canon. There then followed a private viewing of his tomb, the inscription of which refers to the Letter to the Romans Ch. 11 v.4, with the Acting Dean, the Reverend Canon Philip Buckler, who said prayers at the grave. The Dean gave an informative talk on how the Cathedral would have been in James Tate's day and how it compared today and on the present working day of the Cathedral, especially its educational aspects which would have appealed to Tate. The day proved highly satisfying.

A group from Richmond also travelled to the town's Norwegian twin, Nord-Fron Kommune and had a delightful time. From Brittany came another group from our twin town there, St. Aubin du Cormier. As well as the usual Saturday and monthly Farmers' Markets, several popular French Markets have been held in Richmond Market Place. On one occasion all the local cash points ran out of money!

Temple Grounds, Mr Yorke's Garden, Richmond

Valerie Hepworth

'I am never absent from this place three or four months but it appears the most charming of any I see at my return. I now, when alone, live in my Gardens where the works now going on afford me greater pleasure than ever they did...'
Anne Yorke, Richmond, 12th June 1753

This extract from one of Anne Yorke's letters (Durham University Clavering Mss) written to her husband's nephew George Clavering of Greencroft, County Durham captures the essence of the affection and care with which the Yorke family laid out their gardens and grounds at Richmond.

The Yorkes were a prominent local Whig family who held extensive estates in Nidderdale, including the manor of Bewerley near Pateley Bridge, acquiring their small Richmond estate by marriage in 1651 and owning it until 1824. It is during this period that the landscape of what is now called Temple Grounds was laid out, an area now of 14.5 ha. (*c.*36 acres). It is of outstanding scenic, historic and scientific interest, probably designed as a ferme ornée (ornamental as well as productive farmland), later becoming a Picturesque landscape and is included on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England (Grade II). The unimproved hay meadows, Kays Field and Mill Field, are important ecologically and are unique as the only Pennine Dales hay meadows to be found within a town!

The main building on the estate, the mansion Yorke House (also known as The Green), stood on the banks of the river Swale at the south-east corner of the site overlooking the Green. This part of Richmond with buildings surrounding a grass area is called the Green. Yorke House and the estate at the western end of the Green were also sometimes called The Green and The Green Estate particularly by the Yorkes. Yorke House was demolished between 1824 and 1827. The two remaining buildings are the Culloden Tower (Listed Grade II*) built in 1746 and the menagerie, Temple Lodge (Listed Grade II) built in 1769. The Culloden Tower has in the past been called the Cumberland Temple or simply The Temple – hence the name Temple Grounds which appears to have originated in the nineteenth century. From the fourteenth century Temple Grounds was a strategic and defensive position for a peel-tower known as the Hudswell Tower and a riverside site for a fulling and later two corn mills called the Green Mill. Possibly even earlier the land may have been used for cultivated ridge and furrow on the higher ground – part of the Westfield, one of Richmond's three 'open' fields – and pasture near the river. Ridge and furrow is still evident in Kays Field,

The Green, Richmond,

Mansion, Lands, beautiful and picturesque Scenery.

To be Sold by Auction

(If not previously disposed of by Private Contract, of which due Notice will be given,)

AT THE HOUSE OF MR. MICHAEL YARKER, THE

KING'S HEAD INN, IN RICHMOND,

On the 26th. of August, 1824.

BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 4 and 6 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON,

Subject to such Conditions as will be then Produced,

ALL THAT

Desirable Freehold

ESTATE

CALLED THE GREEN.

Consisting of a Capital Mansion, extensive Pleasure Grounds, Lawn, Gardens, Hot-houses, Coach-houses, Stables, and suitable Outbuildings, with 38 Acres or thereabouts of rich Meadow and Wood Land, in a ring Fence. Also, all those *Messuages, Cottages or Dwelling Houses, and Premises*, in the occupation of John Idle, Joseph Alderson, Mrs. Morphet and others.

The Mansion is replete with every convenience, suitable for a large Family, and was long the admired residence of the late John Yorke, Esq and afterwards of Lady Gerard, deceased. The Grounds are laid out with great taste, Walks delightfully diversified, full of Rich, Grand, and romantic Scenery, forming a most eligible residence, and particularly for a Sporting Gentleman, Grouse Shooting within a few Miles, in the centre of the Ruby Hunt, and two Packs of excellent Harriers kept in the Neighbourhood. There are ten Burgage Rights attached to the Property, each entitled to a Vote for Members to serve in Parliament for the Borough; together with Strays in the Pastures called the Race Ground and Training Ground.

IF NOT SOLD IN ONE LOT, THE SAME WILL BE SOLD IN THE FOLLOWING OR SUCH OTHER LOTS AS MAY SUIT PURCHASERS.

Lot 1. The Capital Mansion, Outbuildings, Lawn, & Ground in front, the Meadow Field called Mill Field, and Wood Land, with the Timber and other Trees thereon, as now staked out, containing in the whole by admeasurement 41a. 2r. 20p. be the same more or less.
There are four Burgage Rights attached to this Lot.

Lot 2. All that Meadow field called Tenter Banks, adjoining to Lot 1, as now staked out, with a road thereto from the Green, containing by admeasurement 4a. 1r. 18p. be the same more or less.

Lot 3. All those modern & substantial Buildings called the Stables, and the Ground as staked out in front, containing in the whole 3a. 1r. 0p. or thereabouts. This Lot, or any part of it may be easily converted into Dwellings; a Burgage Right is attached.

Lot 4. All that Productive Garden, well stocked with valuable Fruit Trees, together with the Hot-houses filled with choice Vines, containing 1a. 1r. be the same more or less. The Walls to the South containing 92 yards; East 100, West 120, or thereabouts, now in the occupation of John Idle.

Lot 5. All that Messuage or Dwelling-house, together with the outbuildings thereto adjoining, 2 Cottages fronting the Head of Newbeggin, and Yard behind the same; also that excellent Meadow Field in front of the said Messuage, including that noble and ornamental Building called the Temple, the wood Land adjoining and the Walks to the end of the Premises, on or towards the West, as now staked out, containing by admeasurement 7a. 0a. 35p. or thereabouts, and the Timber and other Trees thereon, in the occupation of John Idle and others. This Lot has a Burgage Right attached.

Lot 6. All that Cottage House, Carpenter's Shop, and Ground behind the same as now staked out, containing 24p. or thereabouts, now in the occupation of Joseph Alderson. This Lot has a Burgage Right attached.

Lot 7. All that Piece or parcel of Ground adjoining to Lot 6, on the West, as marked and staked out with the Outbuildings thereon, containing 11p. or thereabouts, now in the occupation of J. Alderson.

Lot 8. All that Piece or parcel of Meadow Land, part of Whitcliffe Mill Close and the Bell Bank with a Cow Byer thereon, as now staked out, containing by admeasurement 4a. 0r. 16p. be the same more or less, now in the occupation of John Wilson.

Lot 9. Also a piece or parcel of Meadow Land adjoining to Lot 8, with a Cow Byer thereon, as now staked out containing by admeasurement 4a. be the same more or less.

Lot. 10. Also a piece or parcel of Meadow Land adjoining to Lot 9, with a Cow Byer thereon as now staked out, containing by admeasurement 3a. 0r. 35p. be the same more or less.

Lot 11. Also a piece or parcel of Meadow Land and Garden Ground part of Whitcliffe Mill Close, as now staked out, containing by admeasurement 2a. 1r. 20p. be the same more or less, now in the occupation of John Idle, and John Wilson.

Lot 12. Also a piece or parcel of Meadow Land, as now staked out, adjoining to Lot 11, containing by admeasurement 2a. be the same more or less.

Lot 13. Also a piece or parcel of Meadow Land as now staked out, adjoining to Lot 12, with a Cow Byer thereon, containing by admeasurement 3a. be the same more or less.

Lot 14. All that Front Stead, Cottage House, Garden, Yard and premises behind the same, situate on the Green, now in the occupation of Mrs Morphet.

Plans of the Estate may be seen and other information had of the Rev. T. Peacock, *Denton near Darlington*; Mr. Cumber, Auctioneer, *Malton*; Mr. Bradley, Land Surveyor, Mr. Bell, Bookseller, and of Mr W. Gill, and Mr. Allison, *Richmond*; who will direct Persons to shew the Estate.

RICHMOND, July 24th. 1824.

M. BELL, PRINTER AND BOOK-BINDER, FINKLE-STREET, RICHMOND.

Advertisement for the sale of The Green estate in Richmond, alias Yorke House and Temple Grounds, in 1824. *Valerie Hepworth*

the hay meadow south of Temple Lodge, indicating that it has not been under the plough for a very long time. It is probable that from the sixteenth century the area became a small estate, with the mansion near the river, fulling and corn mills at the eastern edge of Mill Field, a tenter field on the hillside to the north-north-west of the mansion and the land either pasture or meadow nearer the river and under cultivation on the higher ground. In the medieval and Elizabethan period the Green was an 'industrial' suburb of Richmond known for cloth manufacture, hence the fulling mill and Tenter Bank where the fulled or dyed cloth was hung on tenter frames to dry. Christopher Clarkson in *The History of Richmond in the County of York,* published in 1821, writes that on 18th August 1608 'the mansion then newly rebuilt' was sold to Sir William Gascoigne of Sedbury, who used it as his town residence. Eventually the mansion and gardens were sold to Mauger (or Maulger) Norton of St Nicholas, Richmond in 1631 who added more land by means of a purchase from Sir Timothy Hutton in 1632. When Mary, Mauger Norton's daughter, married John Yorke of Goulthwaite (1633-63) the property came into the possession of the Yorke family. John was knighted at the Restoration court by Charles II in 1660 and sat as Member of Parliament for Richmond in 1661. Unfortunately his time in the House of Commons was to be short-lived. Just before the Easter recess in 1663 he was taken ill and died on April 3rd leaving Dame Mary, a young widow, to manage the Richmond and Nidderdale estates – which she did with considerable skill – and his son Thomas (1658-1716), then five years old, to inherit in due course.

The first known illustration of the mansion and gardens dates from Samuel Buck's visit to Richmond *c.*1718 when he sketched a Jacobean style house with formal gardens apparently on rising ground. The Harman Plan of 1724 (North Yorkshire County Record Office) fleshes out the Buck sketch and shows an orchard along the riverbank in addition to the formal gardens both near the mansion and across the lane, which connected the mills with the Green. The remainder of the estate is divided into closes, with woodland on Mill Bank and trees planted on either side of Green Walk.

John Yorke's marriage to Anne, daughter of James Darcy MP of Hill House, Richmond (cousin of Sir Conyers d'Arcy of Aske), in 1732, linked the Yorkes to another of the old Yorkshire families. John was MP for Richmond in five parliaments between 1710 and 1754. It is clear however that despite his duties he and Anne were devoted to their Richmond estate. Their many letters written in the 1730s to their steward Francis Lodge speak of chickens, horses, cows spreading dung and lime a walk in the low close, turning oats apples, asparagus, seeds, their greenhouse, quick (hawthorn) and yew hedges and Telfords receipts – probably Telfords of York, the most

distinguished nursery in the north. The letters also tell us that the gardener was Tom Leaming – perhaps immortalised as the little figure pushing the garden roller in the Buck South West Prospect of 1749.

Helperby, 13th February 1734, from Anne Yorke :

I would have you tell Tom Leaming not to neglect fireing air into my greenhouse in the middle of the days. I want to know how all our quick [live] goods does of every species, and if either of my cows are calved yet.....I am glad the Rabble are so civil in our absence not to spoil our gardens, but as the fine weather approaches should be glad to hear the wall was up to prevent mischief in time.

London, 25th February 1737, from John Yorke :

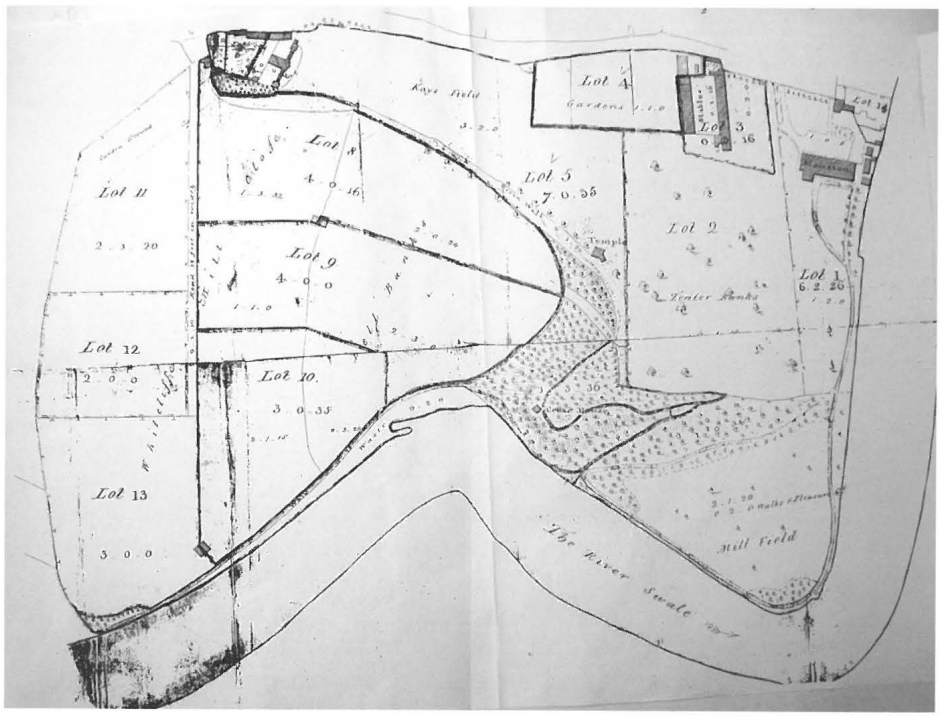
I hope the weather continued and favoured manuring the low close without any damage to the walk. When the season offers you must take care to have my ground well dressed and scal'd (lime) att a reasonable charge...

At this time the Yorkes' estate was essentially a *ferme ornée*, a theme first described by Stephen Switzer in his influential book, *The Nobleman, Gentleman, and Gardener's Recreation,* (1715). In this he writes of '..mixing the useful and profitable Parts of Gard'ning with the Pleasurable ... My Designs are thereby vastly enlarg'd and both Profit and Pleasure may be agreeably mixed together.' Lady Oxford wrote in 1745 '...Mr Yorke, then representative, has a good house there with hanging gardens on the side of the hill.' The Culloden Tower, described by Nicholas Pevsner as 'a very early essay in Gothic', was built by John (and probably also paid for by his brother Thomas) in 1746 to commemorate the Hanoverian victory at the Battle of Culloden which secured the parliamentary seats and property of Whig families like the Yorkes. The design of the tower has been attributed on stylistic grounds to Daniel Garrett (Leach), who worked at country seats near Richmond including Forcett Park *c.*1740 and the Gothick Temple at Aske Hall in the 1740s. Leach has suggested that Garrett acted as clerk of the works for William Kent's design for the Gothick Temple and then perhaps used his expertise to design the Culloden Tower. Could it be that Sir Conyers D'Arcy who was also a Whig MP for Richmond recommended Garrett to John Yorke, his relative by marriage? Certainly the tower is a marvellous monument commanding the landscape and would have made an outstanding contribution to the gardens as well as a very visible statement of the Yorke's taste and influence. Pevsner writes: 'Inside, the first floor room has a glorious chimney-piece, Gothic with Classical Kentian enrichments. Such enrichments also around the doorway and windows. Plaster vault with Gothic ribbing. The second floor room, however, is entirely classical. Flat ceiling with ribbon-work stucco. Excellent chimney piece.'

Samuel and Nathaniel Buck's South West Prospect of Richmond

published in 1749 indicates that by the middle of the century John Yorke had extended and elaborated his walled gardens, making paths and planting trees and developing the rocky escarpment of Grotto Walk. The letters written by John and Anne Yorke between 1748 and 1754 describe work continuing in the gardens, (probably building the riverside wall and canalising the mill leat) the request for 'a brace of wild ducks' for the canals and the key stone with John Yorke's initials and '1748', part of a stone-arched entrance found below soil level at the western end of the mill leat in Mill Field in 1983, could all point possibly to the embellishment of the leat and the Grottoes as part of the pleasure garden circuit. Perhaps the building of the tower, whilst being the peak of the formalised geometric layout, also set in motion the later large-scale alterations which led to a more naturalised design, taking advantage of the inherent picturesque qualities of the site.

Clarkson records that John Yorke was found dead in his garden on the 14th July 1757. Without children John was succeeded by his brother Thomas, (1688-1768/70), and it is probably to Thomas or his son another John (1733-1813), that we owe the building of the Gothic menagerie (Temple Lodge) in 1769. From the 1750s the Yorkes had begun to consolidate their estate by



The plan which accompanied the advertisement for the sale of Temple Grounds in 1824.
Valerie Hepworth

buying up small parcels of land. The purchased land at the end of Newbiggin enabled them to build the menagerie. No doubt demolition of the Green Mill in 1765, removing the inconvenience of public access dividing their land near the house, (several letters emphasise concerns with the 'rabble'!), and the building of the Richmond to Lancaster Turnpike along the eastern boundary, would have given the Yorke's enough security, to embellish their estate with new buildings and advance its wonderful picturesque qualities – the developing fashion of the time.

Research has not elucidated the precise date for the demolition of the formal gardens at Temple Grounds but they probably occurred during the middle of the eighteenth century and must have been quite a major undertaking involving the remodelling of the slopes and the movement of tons of soil. New stables, probably designed by John Carr of York, were built *c.*1772 to the north of the house, on the side of the hill, along with a new walled garden. The Jackson Plan of Richmond, 1773 (NYCRO) shows the dramatic changes that had taken place and in 1770 Arthur Young advises that: *'Mr. Yorke's gardens are well worth seeing, as the beauty of the situation is not only naturally great, but much improved by art. Upon a rising ground near the house is erected a tower, not a bad object in itself, and commands a good view: To the right is seen a fine sheet of river, under a hanging wood, which bearing round towards the left, forms an amphitheatre, terminated to the left by the town, and the old castle on a rising part of it. Beyond it, a distant prospect: The whole fine.'*

By the time of Viscount Torrington's visit in 1792, John Yorke had laid out his estate incorporating all the Picturesque elements which were either part of his grounds or readily available in the outstanding scenery beyond. The rocky cliffs, the woods and hills, the ruined castle, the grottoes, the foaming river, the bridge, and the Gothic tower and menagerie; all could be viewed. It is not surprising that Viscount Torrington's mind turned to Hackfall when he saw Temple Grounds. The estate was included in a number of paintings including those of George Cuit (a friend of John Yorke) and J.W.M. Turner who visited Richmond in 1797. A close-up view of the west front of Yorke House with its flowers and walks painted in 1799 by Cuit, shows how the fashions in landscape and gardening were as influential here as they were on the greater estates. The 1824 sale description of 'Grounds laid out with great taste, Walks delightfully diversified, full of Rich, Grand, and romantic Scenery' and Clarkson's description: 'The property .....laid out in an open spacious demesne.....various summerhouses were built, caves cut through the rocks, fences pulled down and walks made in several directions, ornamented with clumps of trees and beautiful plantations... Great alterations have been made here at different times, either by erecting new buildings or

pulling down old ones, and where nature has been only assisted, not tortured nor thrown into absurd and monstrous shapes.' indicates how beautifully the Yorke's had managed their small Richmond estate.

After the death of John Yorke II in 1813, the estate was tenanted before being sold in 1824. Soon afterwards Yorke House was demolished. This marks the beginning of a gradual decline certainly at the southern end of the site when the walled garden and stable block became separated. The purchase of the rest of the estate by the Smurthwaite family (ancestors of Dr Lawson), in 1844 ensured that for the remainder of the century little was changed apart from the planting of evergreens, and trees along the boundary and the conversion of the menagerie into the domestic dwelling, Temple Lodge, with its own garden. The landscape remained important and was opened to the public regularly for fêtes and other gatherings.

As for so many other places, the Second World War was something of a watershed for Temple Grounds. Temple Lodge was used as a hotel for part of the duration and then in 1949 the estate was sold. Dr Lawson's father had just settled in general practice in Surrey with a young family when he inherited Temple Grounds from his uncle and was unable to move north. With the sale, Temple Grounds passed out of the family. The purchasers were Mrs Murray and her three spinster daughters from the well-known Richmond clock-making family and they lived together at Temple Lodge, delighting in their historic home and landscape. As the years passed Temple Grounds gradually became more eroded; the stable block was demolished in 1958 and the area became the Yorke Square car park. Substantial numbers of trees were lost and not replaced and the buildings, walls, walks, grottoes and gates all deteriorated. In 1981 The Landmark Trust rescued the Culloden Tower and ten years later the last of the Murray sisters died. Mary Murray was a hundred years old and did a remarkable thing; she bequeathed Temple Grounds back to the Lawson family. What an inheritance and what a responsibility with little or no funds! Since then Dr and Mrs Lawson have been working hard to repair and conserve the remainder of this beautiful landscape assisted by the Countryside Agency, the Countryside Stewardship scheme and advice and guidance from many people. They hope to ensure that in the twenty first-century Temple Grounds will be as fine as they were in the eighteenth century, when Anne Yorke wrote that she was 'better entertained with seeing the work [in her little gardens] than to hear the finest opera.'

Many people have assisted me in my research, and I am particularly grateful to Anne Ashley Cooper who shared her family history, Richard and Morven Lawson, the North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO), Durham University Library, and Jane Hatcher. I can supply further references for those interested.

Eighty Years of Westfield Tennis Club

Iris Vollborth

At a meeting of Westfields Residents on the 28 July 1926 the formation of a Tennis Club was formalised, which, together with Her Majesty the Queen, reaches the grand old age of 80 this year. Rules of conduct and financial matters were discussed and it was resolved that present householders be asked to subscribe £7 10s per house. The original intention was to construct one grass-court and bowling green first followed by a second tennis court. Albert Oates, a builder and contractor, who lived at Rydal Mount, 71 Hurgill Road, just behind the land which was leased from Lord Zetland for 21 years at a nominal rent of one shilling per year, agreed to supervise the work and was authorized to engage men at one shilling per hour.

In April 1928 it was reported that 23 householders on the estates had paid subscriptions and an inclusive fee of 12s 6d be charged for subscribers and £1 10s for non-residents. Westfields was looked upon as a very desirable place to live, as it still is today, and it appears that the Tennis Club added to that desirability. On 16 May 1928 the courts and bowling green were officially opened by Lady Zetland who handed over the lease and also donated £5 towards the cost of the second tennis court.



Play in progress at the Westfield Tennis Club. *Mark Whyman*

In July 1928 a committee was appointed to manage the bowls section, but it appears that bowls were not as successful as tennis because in 1931 it

was decided to make the bowling green into a tennis court and that year £10 was spent on the erection of a pavilion. The club must have been doing fairly well as in 1929 it was agreed to cease the collection of £7 10s from house-owners and repay sums already subscribed when a credit balance of £50 was attained. Fund-raising events were arranged and socials and dances were held in the Town Hall, one such event bearing the wonderful title of a "Flannel Dance" – long gone are the days of white flannel trousers on tennis courts! The courts were still laid to grass in 1936, but were later changed to a hard surface.

At the Annual General Meeting in May 1942 it was suggested that the crockery belonging to the club should be removed from the club pavilion to a safer place for the duration of the war and since there is no more record of club activities until May 1947, presumably there was very little going on. It appears that there was only one court in use at this time until 1958 when an American tournament was the proposed, the Assumption Convent kindly loaned their courts to the Club. There were many fund-raising functions such as dances and socials and grant applications were made to bodies such as the Playing Fields Association and Round Table towards the cost of surfacing a second court and resurfacing the existing one. It is interesting to note that the resurfacing would cost £60 and, as it was decided to keep this separate from funding for the new court, twelve members were invited to loan £5 each, repayment being decided by a draw at every Annual General Meeting! Unfortunately this didn't work as the "Twelfth Man" did not come forward!

In 1972 a newly built Club House was opened by Lord Zetland who had agreed to be President of the Club. Ten years later, in 1982, he very kindly sold the land to the Tennis Club for the nominal sum of £500 so tenure was secured. Lord Zetland was a charming, courtly elderly gentleman who endeared himself to members when he came to play his annual game of tennis at a Tea and Tennis Afternoon. There was a great deal of co-operation between members in those far-off days with evidence of communal working parties to tidy the grounds and pavilion, something which just doesn't happen today due to pressure of work and all the many other activities on offer. Nevertheless, tennis is still going strong at Westfields, thanks to a hard working committee and keen players and long may it continue! There is no place I would rather be on a lovely summer's evening than playing the game I love with the beautiful view over Richmond Castle and Swaledale, although it might be better if I ignored the view and watched the ball more closely.

Iris Vollborth is a former Chairman and Secretary of Westfields Tennis Club of which she has been a member for 21 years.

Dedications to the Sicilian Saint Agatha at Easby and Gilling West in Richmondshire

Gordon Alexander

Agatha, virgin martyr and Christian saint, is the patron saint of Catania in Sicily where she was born and buried. Agatha, a patrician and therefore a prominent example, was martyred in the mid-third century AD, possibly during the persecutions of the Emperor Decius. In England early dedications to this Sicilian saint are rare and include two churches of early origin, one at Gilling West and the other at Easby, both close to Richmond in North Yorkshire, and one abbey, the now ruined abbey of St. Agatha, built later than and next to the small church of St. Agatha at Easby. A medieval dedication to Agatha exists at Brightwellcum-Sotwell in Berkshire and another, possibly earlier one, at Llanymynech on the Welsh border. The reasons for the dedication of these sites to a saint of Sicily are lost to certainty, but a cogent explanation can be attempted for those near Richmond. The Old Testament records dedication of places set aside for special and sacred purposes, a practice that was continued by the Christians, the dedication of Tyre Cathedral, which took place in AD 314, being the first recorded instance. The early Christians focused on martyrdom, therefore dedications were made to particular martyrs, often significant due to a link between the place dedicated and the martyr, the presence of a relic or the memory of a past event, but at other times simply as a consequence of the wish to venerate.

The histories of the places of worship at Gilling West and Easby suggest that their locations were significant to the early Christians of the Celtic/ Anglo-Saxon period. Gilling is thought to have been the site of a monastery, its exact position now lost, founded by Oswy, the King of Northumbrians, in recompense for his involvement in the crime of killing Oswin, King of Deira, in AD 651. Easby may have been the site a major event, possibly baptism in the Swale. The Anglo-Saxon cross from Easby is an 'Apostle pillar' associated with the rite of baptism, and dating from at least the late eighth century AD, together with the building of the existing church in the late eleventh or early twelfth century and then the slightly later siting of the Premonstratensian Abbey, supports such a hypothesis. An early dedication of the monastery at Gilling appears likely, possibly less so at Easby, but was the stone-built church built by the Swale raised, raised as is known in other places, on the site of a much earlier wooden structure? During Augustine's ministry many wooden churches were built, the early English workers having little practice of building in anything other than wood, and after Edwin the Northumbrian King's conversion, he was baptized on Easter Eve AD 627 in a wooden church especially erected for the occasion at York. The Easby cross of stone could have replaced an earlier wooden cross which may have deteriorated after a hundred or so years. But why was Agatha, a saint of Catania in far distant Sicily, chosen for these dedications?

Many years before he became Pope, Gregory the Great, who was of Roman Christian aristocratic stock, founded seven monasteries. Six of these were on his family estates in Sicily and the seventh was at Gregory's paternal home on the slope of the Caelian hill in Rome. The church of S. Gregorio Magno now traditionally marks the site of this monastery, which was dedicated to St. Andrew. Gregory, who entered his own monastery as a monk, had, when Pope, a policy of elevating monks in preference to the clerical establishment. Often referring to the St. Andrew monastery as 'my monastery' Gregory always maintained a proprietorial attitude to it, using its monks to carry out important tasks including accompanying him when Pope Pelagius I sent him as papal ambassador to Constantinople in AD 579. Some five years after his elevation to the Roman See in AD 590, information reached Gregory suggesting that many of the pagan inhabitants in Britain would embrace Christianity if preachers could be found to encourage and instruct them. For missionaries to carry out this task of conversion Gregory again turned to the monks in the monastery on the Cælian Hill from whom he selected a group of about forty, designating Augustine, the Prior of St. Andrew, to lead them. In AD 601 another Roman monk from the monastery of St. Andrew, Paulinus, who was born in AD 563, was sent by Pope Gregory I to assist Augustine in Britain.



The present, much later, façade of the Church of St. Agatha of the Goths, Via Mazzarino, Rome.
Gordon Alexander

For Gregory and his contemporaries in the Roman

Church the term 'paganism' covered a spectrum of beliefs one of which was Arianism, the heresy which denied the Divinity of Jesus Christ. The Lombards and the Goths were Arians and the Ostrogothic Empire, founded by Theodoric in AD 493, included much of Italy and Sicily as well as Dalmatia, Upper Rhaetia (roughly Bavaria) and Provence. After many years of struggle the Byzantine Emperor defeated the Ostrogoths and their last stronghold was taken in AD 555 after which the Ostrogoths rapidly declined. The city of Rome had been sacked by Arian Ostrogoths under king Totila in AD 546 and then besieged by Arian Lombards in AD 579, but Theodoric and his people, though Arians, were tolerant of the Catholic Church centred in Rome, and the Arian Church maintained a presence in the city until the time of Gregory's elevation as Pope. Gregory had lived through a period of threat from these Arian peoples and his elevation coincided with the conversion of the Visigoth kingdom in Spain from Arianism to Catholicism. In Rome there were at least two major Arian churches, one on the Via Merulana, later San Severino, and another, which was the centre of the Arian cult in Rome, located in the Suburra district. This church was founded between AD 459 and AD 472 and was significant enough to later be decorated by Ricimer, a prominent Arian Suede who was *magistri militum,* a Patrician of Rome and military regent of the Western Roman Empire. This church is now Santa Agata dei Goti, Saint Agatha of the Goths, and when Arianism was suppressed it was taken over by the Catholic Church. This once-Arian church was reconsecrated by Pope Gregory in AD 593. It is possible that this church was dedicated to St. Agatha prior to Gregory's reconsecration, but, whilst Theodoric's empire included Sicily, any specific importance St. Agatha held for the Arian Goths cannot be found. However, Gregory's *'Liber Sacramentorum'* requires that the actual relics of a martyr must be used for a valid consecration and consecration was also the act of dedication. It becomes significant that one of the monasteries founded by Gregory on his family estates in Sicily was at Catania where Agatha was honoured as patron saint. Pope Gregory could have obtained a relic of this saint from Sicily for use in this act of rededication. Such an act at the very heart of the 'pagan' Arian heresy in Rome would have been a profound event, promoting the veneration of Agatha, not least to the monks of the monastery of St. Andrew, and would have helped underscore the dominance and endurance of Roman Catholic Christianity.

Gregory also had Agatha's name added to the Canon of the Mass, thereby introducing her cult to areas of Europe where before she would not have been known.

In AD 601, eight years after the reconsecration of St. Agatha in Rome, Paulinus was one of a group sent to Britain to support Augustine. In AD

624 he was consecrated a Bishop and became chaplain to Ethelberger, a daughter of King Ethelbert and sister to Eaddald the King of Kent. Ethelberger was to travel north to marry Edwin the pagan King of the Northumbrian people and Paulinus was to go with her and preserve her from pagan influence such as had threatened St. Agatha. Once in the north Paulinus worked to bring the Northumbrians to the Christian faith and finally in AD 627 the king and his people converted to Christianity. Paulinus baptized the Deiran people in rivers, including the River Swale because, as Bede points out, in northern parts it was not yet possible to build baptisteries.

Only six years later in AD 633 the now-Christian King Edwin fell in battle. The British King Cadwalla along with Penda, a warrior of the Mercian royal house, had rebelled against him and Edwin was destroyed with his army near Doncaster. Whilst Cadwalla professed Christianity, Penda was pagan and following their victory terrible slaughter took place among the Northumbrian people and the Christian Church practically disappeared in the north. Paulinus took Edwin's widow, Queen Ethelberga, back to the Christian south, leaving only his Deacon James to minister to what remained from the Roman mission to Northumbria. Bede records that for a full year Cadwalla ruled Northumbria as a savage tyrant and paganism returned. In 634 Cadwalla was overthrown at Heavenfield by Oswald who became king of Bernicia and Deira. As a consequence of that victory, Oswald turned not to the Roman mission in the south, but to the Irish monastery at Iona to restore Christianity in Northumbria. However, Clair Stancliffe, a recentbiographer of Oswald, believes that, whilst for a time Holy Island in Bernicia became more influential than York, in Deira the situation was not straightforward and some Roman influence remained. Certainly James the Deacon, a member of the Roman mission, lived on near Catterick and would have followed Roman practices until his death sometime during the lifetime of Bede, (Bede was born about AD 673). James was present at the Synod of Whitby in AD 663 to support the successful Roman case. The early Christianity of Northumbria had been suppressed by paganism, but after AD 634 Christianity began to return and it is postulated that during this period of recovery the early English dedications to St. Agatha of Catania took place.

It could be possible that the stone built church at Easby was dedicated when it was built sometime between the years AD 1086 and AD 1155. An idea current is that returning crusaders brought back devotion to the saint after either having visited Sicily en route or through contact with the Normans from Sicily. However, assuming that the dedication took place no later than AD 1155, such cause and effect, either by a group of people who could bring influence to bear, or by prominenté, seems tenuous. During the first

crusade the Normans in England were pre-occupied with consolidation and during the second crusade the small contingents which did set sail from these shores ended up fighting the Moors in Iberia. It was not until the siege of Acre in AD 1189, some thirty years later than the building of the church, that significant numbers from England reached the Holy Land. It appears more likely that a dedication was made between 634 and the end of the seventh century AD, or a least to the close of the lifespan of James the Deacon who died sometime after the birth of Bede in AD 673. The dedication could have been of Oswy's Monastery at what is now Gilling West, in which case it would have been after the year of Oswin's murder in AD 651. It is also possible that a wooden church, or a cross, was dedicated at Easby and as James Lang, in his work on Anglo-Saxon stone sculpture points out, stone crosses and wooden churches did co-exist, so the existence of the Easby cross does not preclude the possibility of an earlier church. Whichever was the later dedication would have been 'transferred' in the same way as the much later dedication of Easby's Church's Chapel-of-ease at Skeeby in the 1840s. During this early period James the Deacon would have held the memory of Gregory's reconsecration of Santa Agata dei Goti in Rome. Italian by origin, James would have been very young at the time of this act in AD 593, so he may not have had first hand experience of it. He was originally with the Roman mission to the south and was trusted by Paulinus, who was himself most probably a monk of St. Andrew in Rome at the very time of the reconsecration of Santa Agata. If it was not already known to James, Paulinus may have told him of how the principle church of the pagan Ostrogoths in Rome was brought into the Christian fold by Gregory. The parallel of the dedication of a once-pagan site, both in Rome and in Northumbria, especially if at Easby the site had been held sacred by Christians before the death of Edwin in AD 633, is important. Significantly however, an act of dedication to Agatha at Gilling or Easby would have venerated Pope Gregory through imitation.



Two dedications to St. Agatha: the Parish Church at Easby and the quite separate Premonstratensian Monastery beside it. *Mark Whyman*

Gregory was held in high esteem in England at this time long before his canonization. After his death, which occurred in AD 604, he was at first generally ignored in other countries including Italy. However, in England Gregory, rather than Augustine, was regarded as the apostle of the island and the earliest biography of Gregory was written by an anonymous monk of Whitby in the early years of the eighth century AD. It can only be speculated as to how Gregory's *'Liber Sacramentorurn'* was followed during the act of consecration, but the 'on lez Ribb' covered in one and a half ounces of silver, and listed in the inventory of goods and chattels compiled at the dissolution of St. Agatha's Abbey in AD 1536, could presumably have been the relic used. The one certainty, however, is that a thread of possibility hangs through Gregory the Great, the monastery he founded in Catania, his monastery of St. Andrews in Rome, Santa Agata del Goti in Rome, his men Paulinus and James the Deacon and the dedications to St. Agatha at Easby, Gilling West and ultimately the nineteenth century Chapel-of-ease built at Skeeby.

The author would be pleased to provide citations if required.

The 1944 Explosion at Catterick Bridge

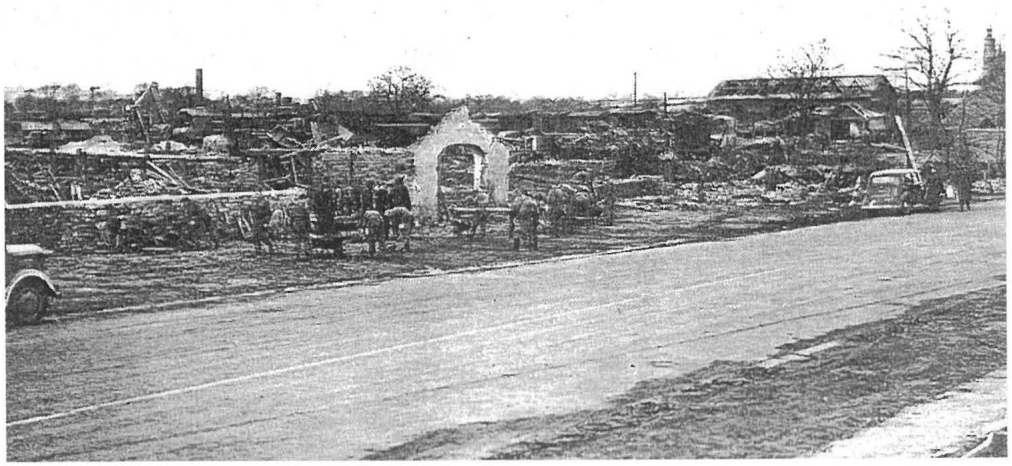
Audrey Carr

Afternoon school was over. Apart from the hockey practice about to start on the Darlington Road field and a few of us having extra history coaching with Miss Batson in Room 1, Richmond High School was deserted. It was obvious that our teacher was as tired as we were as she intoned the Acts of Parliament passed during some unspeakable era. We slumped over our desks and tried to stay alert.

However.... the shock we were to receive that afternoon soon brought us to full consciousness as we heard the sound of a massive explosion. Miss Batson ignored it and went on intoning like someone used to hearing violent booms in the distance. The rest of us turned our eyes towards the large windows which seemed to be bending inwards. We remained silent. The brown sticky strips of strong paper proved their worth and prevented the glass from breaking. It returned to its position. Words burst from our lips. Miss Batson displayed a touch of annoyance. The lesson continued but didn't last long. We were dismissed and chattering excitedly went to put our coats on and set off for home knowing full well that something terrible to do with the war had happened. For the rest of the day the great

bang was the main topic of conversation. It was assumed to be from the Catterick direction, but no-one knew quite where. Some boys who had been wandering round town said that they had seen debris flying high in the air. Girls on the hockey field also claimed to have seen wreckage in the sky. Some said they had seen smoke and flames probably at Catterick Village. It had been an explosion, certainly.

It was wartime and news, unlike that of today, did not spread like wildfire. People were reluctant to say what they knew "Careless talk costs lives" read the government warning. However, in the fullness of time, the dreadful details were to be known. An ammunition train had exploded while army and RAF ammunition trucks were being loaded at a siding. At least three trucks were destroyed and incendiary bombs in the adjoining trucks were hurled in various directions causing massive destruction of property and starting fires over a wide area. Catterick Bridge Station was just about flattened. The Grammar School boys waiting for the school bus in the Market Place had not just imagined seeing the fires raging at Catterick Bridge. It took some time to work out how many people had suffered serious injuries but the toll came to about a hundred and two. Twelve people were killed. The twelve included six servicemen, the stationmaster and two girl goods clerks. This was a horrifying number, but considering the force of the explosion it could have been much greater.



Flattened: the explosion destroyed buildings over a wide area. *Mark Whyman*

Mr John Weller of Downholme near Richmond eventually told how, on the day it happened - just another work day - he was leading ammunition to the station. He drew his lorry up by the side of the railway track and went over to the traffic hut while the unloading began. He was in the hut when

the violent explosion occurred. Mr Weller with others was blown away along with the hut. He did not know then that the Railway Hotel had also gone and that a cafe, a garage and many farm buildings had all been badly damaged, or that the goods yard office had been destroyed and the signal box shattered. He had no idea of the extent of the disaster.

Immediately after the explosion there were many courageous acts when men and women ignored their own injuries and did whatever they could to help. John Weller was one of these. He was wounded in his head and legs. Picking himself up he went to where he thought he had left the lorry, only to find it had disappeared along with the unloaders. He was now told that incendiary bombs were burning near the remains of the traffic hut in which there were nine injured men. He went at once to assist and with Lance-Corporal Briggs dragged and carried the injured to safety. Hearing then of women trapped in what was left of a station building, while other rescuers eased up fallen timbers, he crawled into the debris and brought out the two women clerks. Alongside others he pushed a railway truck full of ammunition up a siding away from where the explosion had occurred.

Signalman F. Robinson, who later received a bravery award, although injured, remained at his post in the shattered signal box. He could see his wrecked cottage across the road and knew that his family were probably inside but duty demanded that he should stay by the signal levers. He shouted to a colleague to open the gates and let a train through, it having been held up at distant signals because the explosion had cut the telephone line. When it was away he finally consented to be taken from the box. His wife was uninjured but his daughter had been wounded. Signalman Robinson was at last taken to hospital. Mrs. Gibson, the stationmaster's wife, in spite of knowing that her home was destroyed and her husband badly hurt (he died two days later) did all she could to warn other householders. A local taxi-driver, whose name is not known, found that he was unhurt after the roof and windows of his taxi had been blown away. He then helped by running down the line waving a flag to warn an approaching train. Twenty-five people on the north platform had been knocked off their feet by the blast. They all picked themselves up and then got on this train. The only casualty there was a vacuum flask.

A full double-decker bus had stopped in front of the Railway Hotel. The bus was damaged but protected from the full effects of the explosion by the hotel building. A great many people were attempting to get off and on the bus at the same time and consequently held it up. If it had been further down the road with no buffer between it and the exploding wagons, casualty numbers would have been considerably higher.

Mr Len Cockerill, Chief Clerk at the station, was saved because at

4 o'clock he had slipped home to the hotel to have a quick word with his wife concerning an older member of staff who had had an accident. After the brief visit Mabel, the licensee, accompanied her husband to the back door where she stood and called "goodbye" to him as he opened the garden gate. She then went back in. At that moment a great flame 'went up' and Len was blown way down to the crossroads. Amazingly he survived. The hotel was completely destroyed. Having been half-buried and hurt inside the ravaged building, Mrs. Cockerill managed to free herself and get herself and the elderly employee out. She not only had a serious head injury but also spears of window glass were embedded in her back. The room where she had been standing not that long before, was demolished as wagon wheels had come hurtling through the roof. Mrs Cockerill was lifted into an army truck and ferried with injured soldiers to hospital which was an ordeal in itself. Two girl clerks in Len's office were killed outright. One of these was a bright young lady who had left Richmond High School a few weeks before and had been delighted to get a good job. She is never forgotten and her memorial is a tree in a tiny plot outside the Upper School entrance hall window - Miss Nancy Richardson.

Len Cockerill that evening went back to the Railway Hotel. It had been their home but would never be a home again. Anything left standing had been burnt. The floors were deep in shards of glass. There was rubble to clamber over. In a back room he heard whimpering and scratching. It was pitch black, but his torch light finally pierced the darkness to reveal someone he never thought he'd see again. Raq, the family's little border terrier, was sitting in his dust-covered, rubble-strewn basket shivering and crying, still in shock. Dog and man were reunited. Len finished his ghastly inspection astounded and heartened by his discovery of Raq. He made his way to the remains of the bar which had been hurled into the garden and tried to



Catterick Bridge Railway Hotel after the blast

Mark Whyman

magic himself a mouthful of ale, but he was unlucky of course - nothing doing. His eyes lit on a sign on a section of battered wall. It read *"Don't worry it may never happen"*. It was forty years before the drinks licence was removed from the empty space that had been The Railway Hotel. It is still an empty space today.

Speculation about what caused the disaster has been endless. It is thought that the ammunition was destined for the Normandy landings. No wonder the explosion was so fierce. Six six-ton wagons loaded with anti-tank grenades and incendiary bombs were involved. The loads included a 20,000lb blockbuster bomb which mercifully did not go off.

The police, N.F.S. military personnel and civilian workers laboured tirelessly for hours to control fires and search for injured people in the devastated area. Ambulances were sent from three towns and first aid and resuscitation parties tended to the injured on the spot. After the fires had been put out squads of rescue workers continued to work all night by the light from flares. All families living in the vicinity had to be evacuated. Electricity services and gas mains were affected and telephone lines were down. The blast had been felt three miles away and heard ten miles away.

John Weller continued to toil at the scene until he could do no more. At midnight he gave up and hitch-hiked back to Downholme. In June 1944, aged thirty-one, John was awarded the Edward Medal for gallantry "in saving life after the explosion at a North Riding Station on the 4th February 1944". In 1973 John Weller Brown gave his medal to the people of Richmond. Only four Edward Medals were awarded during the Second World War. The Edward Medal was one of the highest honours that could be bestowed on a civilian. It was superseded by the George Cross in 1971.

Because of wartime reporting restrictions, the station where the explosion had taken place could not be named, even though the incident received considerable publicity. In the daily papers it was referred to as having happened at a North Country Station so as not to alert the enemy to possible future targets. Newspaper pictures show grim scenes of squalid destruction. Roof timbers and carriage structures are strewn over a huge area. The pleasant little country station had become a foul wasteland. There were repercussions which went on for a long time. One unpleasant after-happening was the prosecution of some who were accused of taking property belonging to the victims. As the blast was not caused by enemy action but by accident, the thefts were not classed as looting for which the penalty was death or penal servitude. Three were given prison sentences and four others fined. Three months hard labour for taking a pair of men's gloves was savage but salutary.

I am indebted to Mrs. K. Allan, née Dorothy Cockerill, for the loan of her related materials.

Richmond's French twin

John Culpan

It is gratifying to record that Richmond now has a second twin town, alongside Norway's Nord-Fron. As reported in a previous Review, St. Aubin du Cormier is an attractive market town perched on a rocky crest in the Breton Marches. It lies to the west of Fougères and 17 miles to the north-east of Rennes. The "Cormier" in the town's name means the "Service Tree" referring to the "sorbus domesticus", of the same genus as apple trees and mountain ash. It grows to a height of 15 metres and has pretty white flowers in the spring, pear shaped green fruits in the summer and a richly coloured foliage in the autumn. The fruits are sometimes used to brew a type of beer. As with Richmonds across the globe, there are some 57 varieties of St. Aubin in France.

Like the Norwegian link, but unlike the majority of twinning associations in the United Kingdom, there is a positive connection between the two towns, in the form of Pierre de Dreux, who was the eighth Earl of Richmond. He founded St. Aubin in 1223 and built a castle there, inspired by his castle here in Richmond. The French overran the castle during the War of Breton Independence (1487 - 1489). They left only one side of the keep standing as a reminder as to which country had won the battle of St. Aubin du Cormier in 1488. The ruins are however quite atmospheric to this day.



The two mayors converse on the occasion of the visit from our French Twin in May *Mark Whyman*

Very cordial exchanges have taken place between the two towns over the last four years or so. A group from a secondary school in St. Aubin paid a day's visit to Richmond School and the town. Schools, particularly Richmond Methodist Primary School, have developed e-mail links with their counterparts. Richmond Mavericks football team visited Brittany last August and a number of individuals have called in on their way through France. These exchanges culminated in the formalisation of the twinning agreement at a civic reception kindly given by the Mayor and Council during a memorable weekend in May this year when an eleven strong party from St. Aubin, including the Mayor, Madame Marie-Thérèse Auneau, visited Richmond.

While formal visits will continue periodically, emphasis will now be placed on exchanges between various organisations and associations in the towns and indeed between families. It is hoped that the connection between a number of schools will be extended and for instance a football team from St. Aubin is expected to pay a return visit. Plans are afoot for an exchange of young people for work experience. It could be said that this twinning adds another facet to the diamond which is Richmond.

John Culpan has recently retired from the position of Honorary Secretary of the St. Aubin du Cormier Twinning Committee, a place he has held during the formative first four years of the association.



The French Market in Richmond Market Place in April *Mark Whyman*

The Richmond Corporation School, the later years, 1850 - 1895

Colin F. Stegeman

The earlier history of the school was covered in the 2005 edition of The Richmond Review and ended with death in 1850 of Mr. Wade, the first master who had occupied the position for thirty-eight years.

Christopher Croft, the Secretary of the Corporation School Committee, wrote to Whitehall for assistance in the procurement of a new master. The copy of the letter of March 1850 provides a background of Richmond's Royal Charters, Richmond School, and the formation, almost forty years previously, of the Corporation School for boys not requiring a classical education. The salary mentioned was fifty pounds a year together with a small house and 'some other advantages'. The subjects taught are specified as 'an English Education, writing, accounts with the addition of Mathematics for forty boys between eight and fourteen'. The religious freedom under which the School operates is stressed and the requirement either to attend the established Church with the master or to go to Catholic, Wesleyan or Independent Chapels, should their parents desire it, with ministers providing the master with certificates to confirm regular Sunday attendance. The possibility of placing the school under government inspection with an appropriately certified master of the school is requested, with information on any grants available should the Council make modifications to the school. The letter closes with the statement that the Council's chief object, other than complete religious freedom, is to 'secure a Master of higher qualifications than a salary of fifty or sixty pounds a year can be expected to give'.

To appreciate the Richmond's place in national education system, information from the 1851 Census for England and Wales shows that 610 schools were supported by general or local taxation. These are categorized as Military, Naval, Woods/Forest, Workhouse, Prison and Corporation. There are only three Corporation Schools mentioned, so Richmond can be said to have been a rather unusual town in operating a school directly from local taxation.

At a meeting on Monday the 18th March 1850 it was agreed that School Committee advertise for the 'Mastership' in the next issues of a number of Yorkshire newspapers, the Newcastle Chronicle and the Ecclesiastical Gazette. There is also a report indicating extensive repairs and modifications, such as the floor of the schoolroom to be boarded with 1¼ inch boards to be made from wood cut during the previous year on the Council plantation at

Aislebeck. Other modifications included the building of a new back entrance into the yard with a 'pinch'. Perhaps the 'pinch' was a restriction so that boys would 'file in and out in an orderly manner'. Such words have probably been spoken by teachers since schools began! The walls were to be re-plastered and 'air angle boards' to be fixed to the openings of the windows for better ventilation. Land at the north end of the Corporation School was to be lowered to render it free from damp and a door to be made into the yard of the borough-controlled Pinkney's Hospital to enable coals to be brought in. Presumably coal was easier to deliver and more secure in the Pinkney grounds.

There appears to be no evidence that a new building was provided at the time of the founding of the school in 1812 and Wise, in 1830, refers to the school being in Mr. Wade's house. Probably one can conclude that the building was originally a private house built prior to 1812 but after 1773 when George Jackson's map of that date shows a building in a different location on a Dundas plot. Certainly there are anomalies as far as the records are concerned as the School Committee Book refers to 'alterations and modifications, whilst the later 1857 Post Office Directory entry states 'The Corporation School, situated in Tower Street, is a neat stone building, erected in 1851 at a cost of £400'. Perhaps one may assume that the modifications and repairs were of such quality that the reporter for the Post Office Directory assumed the building to be new.

In March 1850 a letter from The Secretary for the Committee for Education, Downing Street, London, required to know if the School was 'wholly or principally attended by children of parents who support themselves by manual labour'. Christopher Croft replied that of the last eighty admissions there had only been two or three exceptions to the *'parents supporting themselves by manual labour and these are small tradesmen who's circumstances justify their application for benefit of the School'*. He stated that the Borough had advertised the vacancy for mastership with a salary paid directly from Borough funds. The letter mentions that fifteen boys paid a 'quarterage' to increase the income of the master and refers to all boys providing a small sum for 'fires', which could be increased to one shilling a quarter to pay also for slates and account, copy and reading books. The letter confirms that the School was open to every religious denomination, the New Testament being taught and some books as used in Irish Schools being allowed. The letter closes by stating that the Council did not wish the School to be attached exclusively to the Church of England or any sect or party as this would in their opinion 'impair its usefulness'. It is very probable that reference is made to books used in Irish schools because Cooke's Paper Mill, on the town outskirts, employed some Irish women as rag pickers.

In 1849/59 Roman Catholic sisters set up an orphanage for poor children and a night school for the Irish women in Richmond. A report about some of Cooke's employees in the 1830s states 'from their habits, associates and surroundings they were more disposed to evil than to good' although the Cookes had a reputation for improving this.

A further letter to Downing Street of 13th May 1850 asks if the Council for Education could recommend someone who may well meet the criteria for selection from a short list of seven candidates. The following reply was received from the Reverend Watkins, Inspector of Schools, Privy Council Office, Whitehall, London.

'Sir

In reply to your communication dated the 13th Inst. the only candidate for your school which I can recommend strongly is No. 7 Adam Holiday of Guiseley, of nos.2,4,5, & 6 I know nothing and of 1 & 3 not enough to justify me in recommending them to so important a situation.

I have the honour to be Sir Your obedient servant Frederick Watkins.'

There follows a minute from the School Committee 'fully considering all testimonials and fully considering all circumstances, request the secretary to write to Mr. Holiday'.The Committee decided that they would arrange for the Head-master of Richmond School, James Tate II (1791-1863) and for his senior English master, Mr. Tickner to examine Mr. Holiday together with the Mayor and Mr. C. Croft. Mr. Holiday should arrive on Friday of that week by the two o'clock train. Richmond had been connected to the main railway system in 1846. One wonders if in this year of 2006 we could trust the postal and transport services to such a degree.



The School stands at the top of the steps in the centre of the photograph. The town coat of arms over the plaque above the school door is now in the Richmondshire Museum. The utility trench in Millgate carried gas up from the riverside gas works. Photograph c. 1890. *Mike Wood*

A note was provided for Mr. Tate as guidance to ensure that the candidate would be well able to meet the standards required by government inspectors who had a reputation for setting questions which 'few of the persons coming before them will be able to answer'. The subjects provide an interesting view of what was considered to be the requirement for a 'non classical' education of boys from 8 to 14 years old in 1850. They are:-

English Grammar, English Literature, English History,

Ancient and Modern History, Scripture History,

Arithmetic, Mensuration, Land Surveying, Algebra

Geometry and Trigonometry, Popular Astronomy and Geography

These thirteen subjects are quite a change from the three, reading, writing and arithmetic taught thirty-eight years earlier.

The School Committee with Messrs Tate and Tickner met in the Town Hall at midnight on Saturday 25th May obviously with the intention to arrive quickly at a decision. The report of Tate and Tickner shows that Mr. Holiday was examined from Friday afternoon until ten o'clock on that Saturday evening and had answered many of the papers 'extremely well'. They considered him 'quite competent to undertake the duties of a school like the one belonging to the Corporation and had appeared to have prepared himself more for a higher school rather than a secondary school'. The School Committee Book entry of 13th August 1850 records that Mr. Holiday attended a meeting with a list of books for immediate acquisition for use in the school. Obviously a considerable sum of money was spent to meet the requirements of the government inspectors in regard to the building and educational materials, however a minute shows that a quantity of school copy books were to be bought 'at the cheapest rate'. One can almost hear some hard-headed Borough Councillor making such a comment.

Reports relating to the school are mostly limited to a record of boys entering and leaving the school, however there are exceptions and by far the most interesting are the government inspector's reports. These show that Holiday had reformed the teaching to the 'simultaneous method' which placed emphasis on inter-group learning, stimulation by questions about pictures to obtain conceptual responses and imaginative teaching. The first report from Her Majesty's Inspector, the Reverend Watkins, dated 1852, indicates that equipment and discipline in the school was good and the boys were generally intelligent with knowledge of particular subjects. The Richmond Weekly News, during 1855, reported that the Corporation School was amongst the top 26 schools out of 231 inspected. The inspector commented that '*this school if far above average for town schools.... The*

Master works with great industry and the managers take much interest in his success. It seems likely to repay well the liberality of the Corporation in building and supporting it by raising the standard in Richmond'. Letters to the paper followed indicating that boys were leaving the National School to go to the Corporation School, a process which continued over the decades.

In 1859, the inspector reported that the Corporation School was the best of the 231 schools in his area. Thirty years later the log book of the National School records that one of the best boys in his standard (or class) left to go to the Corporation School and by 1887 such moves were causing even greater problems for the National School. Rarely did boys leave the Corporation School for another, but it did happen as a minute book entry dated February 6th 1865 cites John O'Sullivan as 'gone to Catholic School'. From reports in the Corporation School Minute Book one can appreciate the achievements of Adam Holiday and the support given to him by the Committee and particularly by Christopher Croft. Interestingly there are no further entries in the School Minute Book after Adam Holiday retired in 1887. For the remainder of the life of the School the major information source is the Richmond Borough Coucher Book. The Coucher Book report of the 1886 visit of Her Majesty's Inspector states *'Generally satisfactory but weakest area spelling, grammar taught with intelligence, geography creditable, map drawing deserves praise for boys at the school'*. It appears that Adam Holiday retained his touch as a teacher until his retirement. However, Holiday's retirement caused the Council to consider closing the school at a meeting of 14th July 1887 but a decision was not taken.

Adam Holiday resigned on the 3rd August 1887 but was persuaded to carry on until the end of that year. There appeared to be a problem with his teacher's pension and he became an actuary at Swaledale Bank in Richmond and was provided with new accommodation. A tombstone near the main gate into St Mary's churchyard is inscribed *'Adam Holiday 79 who died in 1899 was 36 years Headmaster of Richmond Corporation School. This memorial was erected by old Corporation School Boys'*. Surely this was great praise for a fine teacher of his era, who, sadly, lived to see his life's work, the school, decline and close.

J. H. Corbett of Leeds was selected as the new master in August 1887 but information in the Coucher book is brief regarding School business although on the 9th November 1887 a suggestion was made to upgrade to a 'Higher Grade School'. There is also a note regarding alterations which reads:-

'Resolved, The Corporation School be distempered and painted at a cost of £2-0-0. And raise by 6ft. the ceiling to make the classroom suitable for children.'

In January 1888 the possibility of closing the school was again reviewed, there was an equal split within the Council. The decision was made by the Mayor to keep it open, new desks were purchased and the ceiling raised by 7ft. The Coucher Book report of January 1888 contains remarks that *'the boys passed on the whole a fair examination; handwriting should improve and arithmetic of Upper Standards is decidedly below the mark....'*. Comments under the heading relating to the School through 1889 to February 1991 show 'No Report', although in February 1891 the Chairman mentioned that the school had an 'exceedingly good report'. Was this correct or was the Chairman putting a gloss on the performance of the new master, or did he have another reason for keeping the school going? No further reports are recorded, but in February 1894 the Council agreed to accept lower standards in age and ability of boys and to recommend replacement of the pupil teacher by an assistant mistress at a salary £40.0.0 p.a. A grant to do this would provide a net gain of £14.0.0 p.a. There are no further entries in the Coucher Book relating to the operation of the Corporation School although there are sundry loose documents.

There had been a change in the political leanings from Liberal to Conservative in the Borough Council, coinciding with what appears to be increasing control from government, via the HMI, with more onerous regulations and the provision of grants relating to a wider range of subjects such as shorthand and the introduction of a higher grade, i.e. Standard VII. The remaining documents to 1895 provide little information which leads one to wonder what support the School Committee provided, as so often there is a note of 'No report' in the Borough Council Coucher book with little money being spent on the school after 1890. The recruitment of an assistant mistress appears to have failed to halt the fall in the school role. By August 1895, there were only thirty-six pupils and the school was closed.

Probably over 4000 pupils attended the school over its existence of eighty seven years and according to the Rev. Watkins, most contributed well to the community. Two ex-pupils certainly had outstanding lives. One, John James Fenwick (1846-1905), joined the School in 1855 and left at the age of 15 having been awarded his Scholar's Certificate. The certificate is headed with the motto 'Well begun is half done'. John James founded, in 1882, the firm which became Fenwick's Department Store group. Another outstanding pupil was Anthony Buckle, born in 1838 at Barden. He was the son of Richard, a sawyer and Hannah Buckle who later resided on the Green, Richmond. Buckle was trained as a schoolmaster at the 'Training College', York and in 1858 he took his BA at London. By 1859 he was superintendent of the Yorkshire School for the Blind. His hobbies were etching and poetry-writing and in 1883 he had published 'Yorkshire Etchings and Sonnets'.

This work includes a poem entitled 'Sister Dora'. Sister Dora, otherwise Dorothy Pattison (1832-1878) also born near Barden, gained national acclaim for assisting, as a nurse, at the Pelsall colliery disaster in 1872 and for her work amongst smallpox victims in Walsall.

In 1880 A.J. Mundella, a member of the new Liberal Government, introduced an education 'Code'. An educationalist of the time stated that 'The Code itself was often completely incomprehensible to both managers and teachers, and attempts to alter it were treated with sceptical cynicism'. Perhaps the conditions of the Code caused the Borough to decide that they were better out of education and possibly *sub rosa* discussions may account for the lack of minuted information. The school role was falling as was the population of Richmond and other schools in Richmond, supported by their national bodies, would be better equipped to introduce the larger range of subjects which the new Code required.

The details relating to the actual closure remain an enigma for further research. A loose register sheet, dated August to October 1895, remains as the last information relating to the School in the Coucher Book. The 1895 edition of Spencer's Almanac & Directory of Richmond, Swaledale &c. records the Corporation School but no mention is made in the 1896 edition. In 1902 the building was leased to the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment and became known as 'The Drill Hall' and, as Mark Wyman's photograph in the 2005 Review shows, it was used as a base for a visiting German dance troop in 1934. In the late 1950s the building was pulled down and the stone re-used to build the council-owned cottages now on the site.

The history of Swaledale Outdoor Club

John R. Deighton

For forty years the Swaledale Outdoor Club (SOC) has fulfilled a need in the Richmond area for anyone with a yearning for "non-ball game" sports. Although outdoor activity clubs existed they were often a long way from our area and membership was difficult because of transportation problems. SOC sprang into life after a meeting in the Oak Tree Inn, Richmond (now no longer with us) on 12 November 1966. A group of outdoor enthusiasts, active in skiing, fellwalking, and climbing decided to establish a club covering those sports. This would encourage and provide facilities for outdoor activities in the area and work from a base known as "Swaledale Outdoor Centre". A pool of equipment would be provided for hire to members for a nominal fee so that a new sport could easily be tried at minimal expense. A ski-tow would be developed to promote increased skiing in the area. A simple committee was formed to develop the club along the

guidelines set out above and after two years this was reorganised to include a Section Organiser for each activity covered (a canoeing section had now developed) He/she would, develop three-monthly meets programme, ensure meets were held under good leadership, report in a monthly newsletter, determine equipment needs and keep all in good repair. Early in the life of SOC a competition was held to design a club motif. Our famous "Swaledale Tup" was born and badges and car stickers made which could be identified wherever SOC activities took place. To minimise equipment cost an annual sale of "used gear" was held – all advertised in the newsletter. Although the club has increased in size and scope the newsletter remains the centrepiece of communication.

The headquarters of SOC were initially at the George and Dragon Inn, Hudswell. Every organisation needs a base for efficient operation and our own clubhouse was always envisaged for meetings, social activity and equipment storage. A variety of old buildings around Swaledale were considered and briefly, the deserted farm "Nova Scotia" above Healaugh was rented as a "bothy". Eventually however we located a building for sale in New Road, Richmond which had been used as a joiner's shop and garages. Its proximity to the Market Place (parking) and the river made it ideal and it was bought with what money SOC could afford, plus members' loans and grants from various bodies. Two years hard labour followed – mainly from members! The Clubhouse was opened by Lord Peel, our then President, on 2 July 1977 and the ceremony was attended by local dignitaries. It is used for SOC meetings and social events and by the affiliated Swaledale Roadrunners and is a great asset to the club! In 1977 it became clear that SOC was an outdoor club and not an outdoor centre and the name was changed.

The sections of the SOC:-

Skiing One of the principal reasons for SOC being formed was to make it financially possible to build a ski-tow which would make the sport more enjoyable and popular. Snow fences would enable snow collection and retention thus extending the season. Three tows were developed, a portable tow mainly used behind the George and Dragon Inn at Hudswell for floodlit evening skiing, a fixed tow above Gunnerside and a tractor-powered tow in Arkengarthdale (used when conditions were right). After several seasons of struggling with uncertain snow conditions and poor access to the main tow, we pooled resources with Glaxo Ski Club of Barnard Castle. They ran a small tow at the head of Teesdale on Harwood Common which was higher and with better access. The new Harwood Ski Federation worked to develop more reliable and powerful tow systems in a gully which held snow better

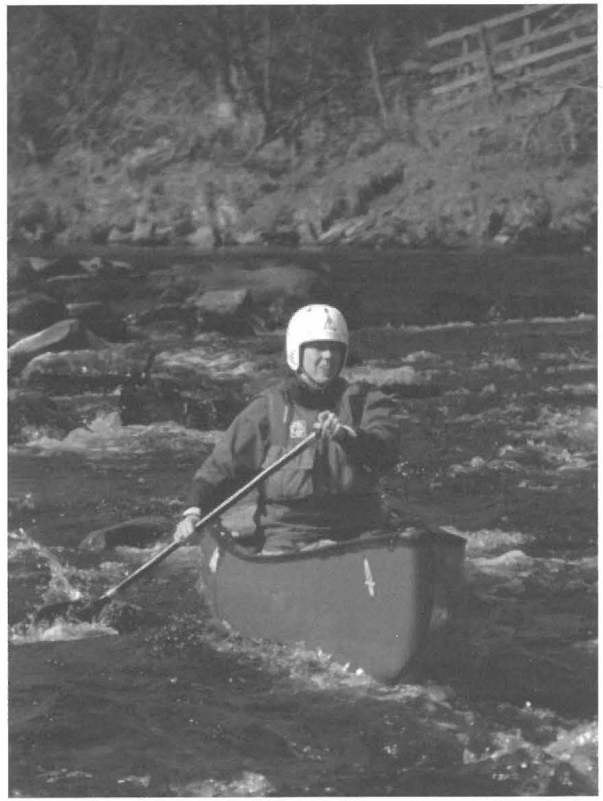
than most in the Pennines. Three months good skiing was normally enjoyed and periodic ski races and 'après ski' events organised. A ground rent was paid to Raby Estates who owned the land. In the 70's and 80's ski touring also became popular and regular SOC meets were held. Typically an ascent of Great Shunner Fell, Buckden Pike would be made in the morning, lunch taken on top and enjoyable descent made as the shadows were lengthening. Increasingly mild winters in the 90's have caused a drop in downhill activity at Harwood and SOC skiers are having to travel abroad for their sport.

Fellwalking When the club was formed this was the main activity and meets were scheduled weekly in Swaledale/Wensleydale. Some weekend camps were also held in the Lake District and further afield. Few outdoor equipment shops existed, clothing and camping gear was crude by todays standards, one inch OS maps were available, but few walking guides as we know them now and footpath erosion was unknown - but how things were to change! In the 70's long-distance walks became popular eg Lyke Wake, Three Peaks etc. and SOC established the Swale Watershed Walk, an unsupported 60 mile winter walk (extreme undertaking). In the 80's ultra-long-distance two-day events developed, for example the Karrimor mountain marathon. Long distance trails for example the Pennine Way, Coast to Coast, etc. now exist all over Britain, Europe and the world enabling one, two or more weeks "on the trail". Walking companies, for example, Exodus, Ramblers holidays, etc. now take walkers (including SOC members) all over the world. The Swaledale Marathon was set up in 1979 and has become a popular and most successful event, enjoyed by walkers and runners alike and all 550 places are filled within ten days of entries being made available. Every June participants come from all over Britain to walk or run the course set amongst some of the best scenery in the Dales. Competition amongst runners is fierce over the 24 mile course with over 3000 ft. of ascent, starting and finishing at Reeth. The SOC team of 70 organisers/helpers ensure that the event is well run and maintains its good reputation. However let us not forget the love of walking is often developed at an early age. SOC family walks have been enjoyed for many years for parents and children alike.

Climbing When SOC came into being some founder members had been rock-climbing for several years, mainly on local limestone and gritstone crags which abound in the Pennines and North York Moors. Many Lakeland classics had also been climbed. Equipment was improving with vibram-soled mountain boots (nails boots no longer used), specialised rock boots and nylon (hawser lay) ropes/slings being available. Karabiners were still of steel and heavy and other climbing equipment non-existent. It was still a time of tying on at the waist and abseiling with a sling or using the classic method. Quickly an enthusiastic group of SOC climbers emerged who were

dedicated to rock climbing. Standards quickly improved and with the advent of individual transport, SOC was seen all over the North of England from Derbyshire to Northumberland with forays into Scotland and North Wales too. Artificial climbing (pegging) also appeared in the programme, as did Winter mountaineering weekends in the Lakes and in Scotland. Improved equipment, that is ropes, karabiners, jamming devices, harnesses and boots plus improved rock climbing techniques and fitness levels (thanks to the opening of indoor climbing walls) have transformed rock climbing standards. Likewise winter mountaineering equipment, clothing and techniques, eg front pointing with two axes, have also raised standards dramatically cutting ascent times on winter routes. In the late 1990's/early 2000's winter mountaineering in SOC "came of age" and saw activists putting up new routes in Scotland – good training for members completing major winter routes in the Alps, Alaska, Greenland and the Himalaya with several new routes being recorded.

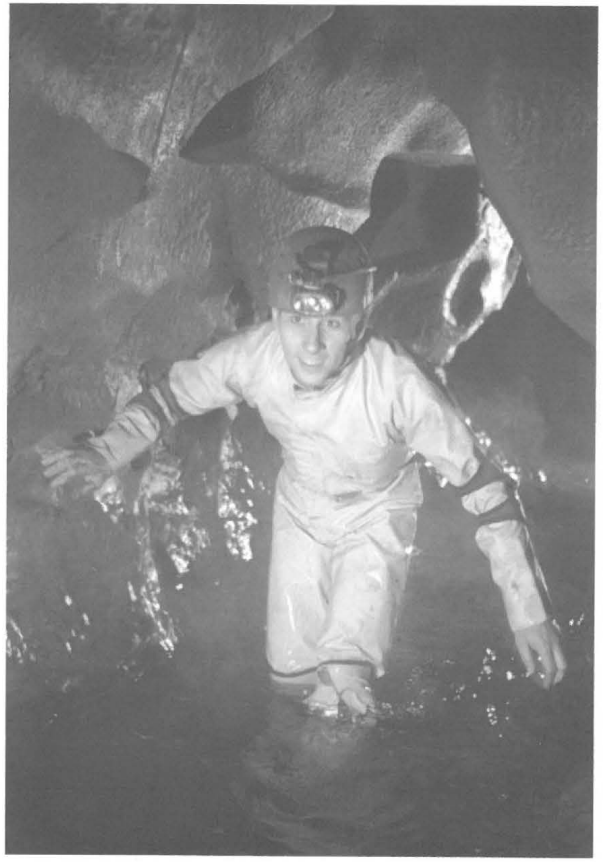
Canoeing Again great changes have been seen, from the home-made canvas kayaks, suitable for flat, slow water and later the home-made fibreglass craft, better for rough water and more easily repairable, we now see professionally made kayaks made of thermoplastics and composite materials - much more "rockproof" than their pre-decessors. Starting with river cruising we held training for novices on the Swale and many young people (and parents) responded and joined SOC. Some highly competitive members reached very high rankings in canoe



Canoeing Marrick rapids during a Charity Paddle.
Andrew Waddington

slalom and river racing. SOC and Richmond School organised slaloms on the Swale which drew competitors from a wide area. Sea canoeing also developed, SOC parties being frequently seen around the coastline of northern Britain and beyond. Disputes with Anglers in the 80's made river canoeing uncomfortable and possibly induced many to try the sea. The Swale Charity paddle was started in 1985 and provided an opportunity for canoeists nationally to sample the delights of the Swale - out of trout fishing season! With some fresh water the river is superb and the event has been very popular over the years.

Cycling Starting in 1976, the section developed as a touring club which made use of the myriad of minor roads in the area and weekly meets have continued for 30 years. Youth-hostelling weekends and holidays in the UK feature in the programme with longer tours in Continental Europe from Spain to Poland having been enjoyed by SOC cyclists. The section, although fairly small, remains healthy with a dedicated group of road cycling enthusiasts.



Caving down Cherry Tree Hole. *Roger C. K. Stevens*

Caving This started in 1977 with a dedicated SOC group making it their prime sport and exploring most caves/potholes in the Yorkshire Dales, the premier caving area of Britain. At that time it was difficult to carry bulky and heavy equipment to the entrance and in the cave itself. With the development of single rope techniques, ladders have been largely dispensed with and abseiling down and jumaring up means less equipment to move and greater speed and efficiency. SOC includes cave diving in its exploration activities. Although numbers attending caving meets are not great there is little doubt that the sport will continue in SOC.

Mountain Biking All-terrain bikes were developed in the late 1980's and opened up lots of possibilities - especially to adventurous people. After some years of mountain bike meets being included in the programme on a low frequency basis the current section was officially started in 2001. We now have a very strong and enthusiastic group of mountain bikers who meet every week winter and summer and include rides of varying grades all over the north of England with some weekends in Scotland and Wales. Twenty-four-hour "enduro" events often have SOC teams entered and members have cycled across the European Alps and deserts of North America. Equipment development continues and the bikes of today bear little resemblance to those of 20 years ago.

Social activities are important in order to get the sections together and to form a bond between members who otherwise would never get to know each other. In SOC these have included music nights, lectures, dances/ ceilidhs, barbecues and most importantly the annual dinner dance. This latter event provides an occasion when all members can share an enjoyable social evening and trophies are awarded for excellent performance during the year. SOC people are generally adventurous in their achievements and have been involved with many expeditions around the world. These include backpacking up Kilimanjaro, travelling up the Arctic coast of Norway by kayak and to the Spitzbergan Icecap (ski and pulk), also a backpacking tour of Mont Blanc, the first ascent of Mount Hunter-East face, Alaska and a trip from Lhasa to Kathmandu by Mountain bike. Members have also climbed in Wadi Rum in Jordan, paddled by kayak round the Lofoten Islands in Arctic Norway, made the first ascent of the Lemon Mountains in Greenland, made the Patagonia Traverse by kayak in Argentina, run in the Everest Marathon – and many more exploits. If you feel you need some spice in your life, join SOC !

The SOC website is *www.swaledaleoutdoorclub.org.uk*

John Deighton is the President and a Founder Member of the Swaledale Outdoor Club.

Christopher Clarkson F.S.A. 1759 to 1833

Some notes on the life and character of the historian of Richmond

Ralph Waggett

It is inevitable that any consideration of the life of Christopher Clarkson, successively soldier and historian, can never stray for long from the work by which he is known and remembered, his History of Richmond, published in 1821. Indeed, it was said by a contemporary, James Arrowsmith, that "had it not been for the History of Richmond few people out of his neighbourhood might have known he existed". Yet his work endures. And yet his work will endure. Whenever a copy of that history appears for sale, it is eagerly sought after. There is, nevertheless, a general lack of knowledge about the life of the author. Nothing much has come down from his contemporaries. Even his memorial is perfunctory in the extreme as if those concerned were not much interested in or enamoured of him. There is an absence of the usual lapidary tributes to the virtues of the dead in his memorial inscription

> "Within this humble tomb lieth the body of Christopher Clarkson F.S.A. author of the History of Richmond. He died February 18th 1833 aged 74. He was a gentleman respected not more for his antiquarian researches than his private worth"

Chiefly, we are indebted to James Arrowsmith, a Richmond upholsterer, for most of what we know about Clarkson's character and habits. In a copy of the history in the possession of the York Minster library is Arrowsmith's version of the events surrounding the publication of the book, his complaint about the way his hopes of earning commission on sales were dashed and a description of Clarkson himself, his personality and manners and family with references to his early life in the army along with other matters including his part in a duel. There is also much which amounts to little more than gossip or tittle tattle. Where Arrowsmith speaks from his own knowledge he appears utterly reliable. For example, he describes Clarkson thus:

> "In person Mr. Clarkson is tall, gaunt and high shoulders, a gloomy visage with eyes sunken beyond mediocrity with a complection [sic] inclined to sallow. These features, with forbidding manners, render him unprepossessing. Nevertheless I never understood him to be an ill-tempered man and to his family he is considered kind and affectionate"

However, it would be unfortunate and, no doubt, unfair both to Clarkson

and to Arrowsmith if our estimation of the historian rested forever on nothing more than Arrowsmith's notes.

Christopher Clarkson was baptised in Richmond on the 10th January 1759. His father and grandfather and one of his brothers were butchers in the town. Clarkson, senior (another Christopher) was, again according to Arrowsmith, a genial and popular figure, apparently quite unlike his son. He had five children, all boys, of whom three lived to maturity. The eldest, Anthony, took holy orders and from 1774-93 was headmaster of Derby School. The second son, John, followed his father's trade and became a butcher. The youngest child, Christopher, seems to have caused his father some concern as a boy. In the writer's possession is a letter written by Clarkson, senior, to an unknown recipient. It is dated 30th September 1774 when young Christopher would be 15 years old. The father is worried about his son's future. It is an interesting letter and is quoted below in full. With the original spelling.

> "Sir,
>
> After my wife's return from Barton she inform'd me that my son was learning navigation. The news struck me, thoughtless child; he knows not what he is going to do; two agreeable journeys to the sea upon pleaseure has been the occasion of these unthinking thoughts. He little knows in what capacity he must go forth, that only of an apprentice for a term of years; this he has never consider'd, & after that I know not what; likewise this news would have brought me to Barton this week to have stifled these thoughts, had not a bad state of health & wheather prevented it. But God willing I intend to be at Barton next week. Pray do you in the meantime reason with him upon and advise him from such an inconsiderate action. His welfare is my daily thought, I have talk'd, & advis'd with sensible men about him but nothing has yet offer'd, that I have thought proper for him. I have often thought from these disappointments, God has something in store for him. But when I come, you shall know more. I need not put you in mind of taking care of his morals. I would have him to learn compleat book keeping, mensuration of lands et ce[tera]. At present I conclude yow friend & most humble servant.
>
> Christ[ophe]r Clarkson
>
> P.S. Happy for you that you have no child, you are a stranger to a parent's care."

Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigiensis* shows that he was a sizar of Trinity College in 1776 and his school is shown as Derby, so possibly he was taught by his elder brother. The fact that he did receive a sound education is shown

by his later career and the literary and scholarly work of his History. Moreover, he was proud to be a Fellow of a learned society, the London Society of Antiquaries. It does appear from the letter I have quoted that Christopher Clarkson had an adventurous nature. We do not know what was involved in the "two journeys to the sea upon pleasure" but he would not be the first boy who wanted to run away to sea. We really know nothing more until we read the will of Clarkson, senior, made in 1782. By that time Christopher was a young man of 23. The will is a delightful document showing that the father was determined to do his best for his family. There is a homely touch where he asks that his body be borne to the churchyard "by butchers my fellow labourers in trade". There is also a curious (and apt) reference to America. He says "It is my Will that what moneys are sent over in future from America and which fall to my share jointly with my two sisters, namely, Mrs. Jane Clarkson of Richmond and Mrs. Lames of London shall be equally divided between my three sons".

What the joint venture in America was is not revealed, but the reference is apt because the will shows that Christopher was a Lieutenant in Lord Fauconberg's Regiment of North Riding Volunteers who served in America. Evidently Christopher's thirst for adventure had been satisfied by foreign military service. The American War of Independence had just concluded the previous year and Arrowsmith's speculation that Clarkson had served in that campaign seems justified. He continued to serve in the North York Militia on his return to England and it was while he was stationed at Tynemouth in Northumberland that he married Miss Margaret Faith Dixon of Richmond on the 25th July 1795. Miss Dixon was a great niece of William Dixon, a former Town Clerk of Richmond. It may well be that this family connection enabled Clarkson to have access to the records and minute books of the Corporation and stimulated his interest in such matters, thereby planting the idea in his mind that he would write the history of the town.

There is nothing quite like a breath of scandal for enlivening a dull biographical account. We will remember Clarkson's involvement in a duel, where he acted as a second to one of the protagonists, long after we have forgotten his interest in the Sunday Schools. He continued to serve through the closing years of the eighteenth century as a Lieutenant Quartermaster and as such he was responsible, of course, for the provision of all items of uniform, clothing and so on required by the men of the Regiment. In 1797 he fell under grave suspicion of wrong-doing. Charges were prepared alleging that he had submitted false accounts for military equipment supplied for the years 1793, 1794, 1795 and 1796 and more seriously, of defrauding the officers of the Regiment of considerable sums of money during three of those years. It was said he had behaved in a scandalous manner unbecoming the character of an officer and gentleman. All through that year correspondence passed between Lord Thomas Dundas, the Colonel of the Regiment and Lord Fauconberg his predecessor and their legal advisers. A General Court Martial before Sir William Howe at Colchester was proposed. Counsel was instructed and drew the indictments.

Clarkson's career seemed to hang in the balance. There appears however, to have been a reluctance to put matters to the test. Clarkson himself suggested that the accounts be submitted to arbitration, a course of action which it was alleged he had previously refused to countenance. Then he offered to settle for £119.6.11. He instructed a solicitor in Colchester to represent him. The correspondence tailed off and it seems no action was taken and in all likelihood the offer was accepted. It is not clear why court martial proceedings were abandoned. There is a suggestion that many witnesses would have to be brought at great expense but perhaps the key lies in a letter from Lord Dundas where he says that Sir William Howe, General Balfour and himself feel a reference (to arbitration) was the most advisable method to resolve the business "and to prevent very serious discontents which probably would arise amongst the soldiers if the matters of charge were discussed in a Public Court Martial".

At all events everything must have concluded in a satisfactory manner because Clarkson was allowed to continue his service as a Quartermaster. His pay was £7 per month. In 1801 an Act was passed making, in certain cases allowances to subaltern officers of the militia in time of peace who continued to serve until the disembodying of the militia. Lieutenant Clarkson was one of those entitled to the benefit of the Act and received £25. The militia was disembodied on the 26th June 1802 and it is presumed that Clarkson left the service at that time.

When he married, a Settlement was made. Clarkson brought to it the house where his parents had lived in the Great Channel in Richmond together with a meadow near the Free School. His wife settled her share in several substantial parcels of land in the Sandbeck area totalling approximately fifty acres. The trustees of the settlement were to hold the income on trust for Clarkson for life then for his widow and children. So far as one can see, after he left the military service, Clarkson and his family would live on the rents they received. By this time there were two children of the marriage, Christopher and Margaret Faith each named after their parents. He seems to have settled in to the social life of the town. Arrowsmith mentions that he was an occasional attendant at "Tea-pot Routs" or Assemblies, to which those who were respectably connected aspired.

In 1791 a Sunday School was established in Richmond. Clarkson was still serving in the militia but he became involved at the outset. It was a

development which drew immense support from the community. In the first year donations and annual subscriptions raised the very considerable sum of £121.16.0 to finance the scheme and pay the several teachers involved. Clarkson was elected a member of the first committee and continued to support the scheme for a number of years. From 1801 Clarkson was taking part in Vestry meetings and becoming ever more involved in the affairs of the town. By the 3rd January 1805 he had been admitted to the Company of Mercers Grocers and Haberdashers. At that time the membership of the Company was quite small. Often those attending meetings or dinners would number about a dozen, although the total membership would be higher. It would be a mark of social success to be made a freeman of the Company. By that time it had long ceased to have any connection with trade and its members included the local landowners, clergy and professional men. Thomas, Lord Dundas, was himself a member and was present with Christopher Clarkson on occasion. Perhaps they looked back on their days in the militia in happy retrospection. Clarkson was a regular attender. Twice, in 1807 and again in 1819 he acted as deputy for the absent Warden and he himself became the Warden in 1809 succeeding the Reverend James Tate. His last attendance was in January 1830.

He must have started to work on his History of Richmond quite soon after leaving the militia. A first edition of the work was published in 1814 anonymously. It is now quite scarce. He regarded it as "the foundation stone" for his definitive work, published seven years later in 1821. The latter volume was a much enlarged and more comprehensive history suitably illustrated. So far, as one can judge at this distance of time, it did not bring Clarkson much fame or fortune or gain him many plaudits. Scarcely any contemporary references to his work exist and it may be that his "gloomy countenance" reflected his unhappiness at the reception given to his History. It is perhaps rather surprising that, in an age when educated men corresponded frequently and on all manner of subjects, Richmondians apparently fell silent before his work, conceived with so much labour and research and with no little skill. It did not go completely unnoticed, however. The late Peter Wenham, in his biography of the Reverend James Tate, quotes a letter from Robert Surtees of Mainsforth to his friend, James Raine in which he says:

> "I lament that Whitaker's last work on such a gallant subject is so meagre. The desideratum is a history of noble Richmondshire on a new plateau ... and who would be the subtle alchemist? Who but C[hristopher] Clarkson whose industry and fidelity are on record in his substantial sterling quarto which will be a book of reference and authority as long as Swale washes the castle cliffs of Richmond - but I fear too much has been done to expect this and Whitaker will at least stop the way for years against any regular and ample historian. To correct merely the errata of Richmondshire would be a tedious task . . . Clarkson seems the fated individual for whom if aught is to be done at present the high emprize is reserved and who can wish for more than such an honest chronicler as Christopher. Most seriously, I have not seen a volume so stuffed with genuine worthy information well arranged and plainly told, and I trust the citizens of Richmond are sensible of its value, their grandchildren certainly will".

Robert Surtees was a distinguished Durham historian himself as was his friend James Raine who subsequently edited Surtees' biography and founded the Surtees Society. Surtees is referring to Dr. Whitaker the author of *A History of Craven* and *A History of Richmondshire*, the latter being published in 1823. Although they were published within two years of each other, the histories of Clarkson and Whitaker are completely dissimilar in their approach. Whilst it is true that Whitaker writes about the whole area of Richmondshire while Clarkson confines himself to the town and its environs, the authors have a quite different view of what they are setting out to do and it is instructive to consider this difference. Whitaker's approach is primarily that of a scholar and antiquarian. He recites at length the charters, grants and ordinances by which the region was fashioned and ruled and the lives and genealogy of its noble and landed families, the history of its churches and religious foundations, its ecclesiastical governance and the castles and mansion houses adorning its parks and pleasure grounds. He is in the direct line of Roger Gale whose *Honoris de Richmond* had been published in 1722, a hundred years before. By contrast, Clarkson deals with his subject in what I can only term a more intimate way. As he rather touchingly says in his preface, he is writing about "a place to which he feels the warmest attachment". In a sense, it is a "modern" work. One only has to look at some of the chapter headings to see the different approach of Clarkson. It would not be in Whitaker's scheme to write about "Views and Walks", "Old Customs" or "Archery" and his readers would not expect to see a chapter headed "The Present State of Richmond with some other remarks".

On the other hand, it is thanks to this that we know where the gaol and the bank were situate and that we know the customs and the habits and the pastimes of the ordinary inhabitants. We know also just how the ancient borough functioned and was governed and had been governed from its beginning. Then there are the Counsel's opinions. That is a delightful touch.

The historian wants to share with us every quirk, every scrap of information he has delved for our amusement. Finally there are the

Appendices. And what Appendices! There are no less than fifty and the fiftieth by way of climax gives us "A list of the rarer Plants and Shrubs growing wild about Richmond". There are one hundred and thirteen and each habitat is precisely described. What huge research is represented in all those pages.

As Clarkson says in his introduction, he had to go along an almost unbeaten path. "No one had taken the trouble deeply to investigate [the town's] antiquities or to collect materials for a detailed history". But for his exertion it "would in all probability have still remained unknown to those who are most likely to appreciate its discovery". This is, indeed, true. If a modern student wishes to know anything about the history of Richmond he must go to Clarkson. There is no substitute even after 170 years. The words of Surtees in which he suggests that the grandchildren of Clarkson's fellow citizens will be sensible of its value have been proved true.



Ralph Waggett, retired lawyer and father of the refounded Company of Fellmongers of Richmond and Fred Wood, Chairman of Richmond and District Civic Society at the unveiling of the plaque to Christopher Clarkson. Mike Wood

There is a rather sad little sentence towards the end of the introduction to the history where Clarkson "trusts that he will not become the object of private malevolence or unfair public censure". He did not escape censure. Slanders live on. There is a damning allegation by Michael Fryer, for a time the librarian at Marske Hall where Clarkson had been permitted to study the family archives. Fryer alleged that two specific deeds (which he describes) having elaborate seals had been removed by Clarkson and not returned. In fact that statement is untrue. The very documents in question are listed as present with the Hutton archive in the County Record Office. Poor Clarkson seems to have fallen out with the Squire of Marske perhaps over some trivial gaucherie. There is preserved a letter from him to John Hutton dated 21st February 1821 when he was 69 years old.

> "Sir, I always fancied myself a welcome guest at Marske, untill undeceived by the conversation which passed between us on Monday evening. When a man has reached my time of life, he feels it too late to begin a reform in manners, or to promise like an offending children, "To behave better for the future". I had not the most distant idea, when I saw you at the ball & in the joy of my heart imagined that I was meeting an old friend, that anything was brooding in your mind unfriendly to me. All I can do, is to assure you, Sir, that you need not fear any future intrusion from one who has always felt & as far as in his little power proved himself your warm and sincere friend."

Hutton did not even bother to reply. He simply filed it away with other letters all of which merited the terse note "no reply".

Christopher Clarkson died on the 18th February 1833. His wife survived him and she and her daughter left Richmond soon afterwards to join her son, Christopher, who was a clergyman occupying the living at Elworthy in Somerset. The family connection with Richmond was effectively ended although the family home was not sold until 1870. Clarkson lived in a house which by 1874 had become the offices of Messrs. W. & C. Hunton, Solicitors and now number 19 Frenchgate. In the writing of his history Clarkson was no mere mechanic. There are passages where his sentiments shine through in phrases of elegance and sincerity. Consider this from his earlier 1814 edition:-

> "Some have thought Richmond in Surrey more preferable for situation, but the view there being of a different nature, consisting chiefly of works of art, Noblemen's Seats and Plantations around them, makes the landscape milder and more artificial; here nature exhibits herself in mountainous scenery, marked with grandeur and sublimity"

or this from his principal work when he surveys the scene from Beacon Hill.

> "Eastward, in a summer's afternoon view, with a bright sun after a rain, the tower of Hartlepool Church is very distinct, as also the mouth of the Tees, and the long range of sea to Redcar. Sometimes, if we catch the lucky moment when a fleet of Colliers and other coasting vessels are going past from Shields and Sunderland to London, the white sails of the ships surprise the spectators . . . The prospect is terminated by the lofty towers of York Minster, which appear above the horizon like three long white pillars, often buried in mist that blends them with the clouds; but when this is dispersed, they are very distinctly seen with the naked eye. On these hills, the vapour, attracted into a dense body, frequently floats down the sides to the very bottom in a sullen drowsy state, at one moment concealing, at another disclosing, the dark brown cliffs; then rising again, either vanishes in a falling shower, or mixing with the mass of air, totally disappears".

Christopher Clarkson's history is a more fitting and enduring memorial to his memory than that offered up by his contemporaries. It "will be a book of reference and authority as long as the Swale washes the castled cliffs of Richmond".

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Waterfall, Mr. & Mrs. C., 8 Lyons Road,
Waugh, Mr. & Mrs. D., 65 Frenchgate,
Weeks, Mr. M. T. & Mrs. J. M., 2 West End Avenue,
White, Rev^{d} Canon C. N. H. & Mrs. P. A., Orchard House, Aske,
Whittaker, Mr. & Mrs. D. J., 9 Mile Planting,
Wiseman, Mr. & Mrs. R. J. S., 20 Kettle End, Barton,
Wood, Mr. & Mrs. F. L., 71 Bolton Avenue,
Wood, Mr. M. & Mrs. S. C., The White House, 35 High Green, Catterick Village,
Wright, Mr. R. & Mrs. G. C., 3 Olliver Lane, Skeeby

Young, Mr. A. G. & Mrs. S. M. S., Thryft House Farm, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield, S11 7TA,

Deaths:
Mrs. A. Coussens
Mr. R. Sheraton

Resignations:
Mrs. M. Bridgen

Subscriptions:

Life Membership:	Please enquire of the treasurer
Patron Membership:	£25
Single Membership	£10
Family Membership	£15

Subscriptions are due after the A.G.M. please.
New members joining after the summer recess are required to pay half the current subscription, with a full subscription for the following year due after the A.G.M.

Acknowledgements
Richmond and District Civic Society is most grateful to Iris Vollborth for typing, to Mark Whyman for taking photographs and for enhancing old ones and to the providers of other photographs as indicated.

Obituary: Mr. Roger Sheraton

Those of us who knew Roger Sheraton were sad to learn of his recent death. He was secretary of the Society for four years beginning in 1986 when the late Peter Wenham was chairman. Roger is remembered as possessing a likeable and cheerful personality and the way he used his business experience to benefit the Society brought him the respect and gratitude of his fellow members.

David Morris

Civic Society Programme 2007

Friday 12th January	David Edwards ***The Story of the Grand Canyon***
Friday 9th February	Jane Whittaker ***Developments at The Bowes Museum***
Friday 9th March	Professor D. M. Knight ***The Voyages of the Beagle***
Friday 13th April	Dr. Michael Green ***Nanda Devi - The Valley of the Flowers***
Friday 11th May	Mark Newman ***Nostell Priory***

During June a summer visit will be organised to Nostell Priory.
The details will be announced later.

Friday 14th September	Dawn Webster ***Georgian Life in a Yorkshire Country Home***
Friday 12th October	David Grainger ***In the footsteps of Lawrence along the Hijaz Railway in Saudi Arabia***
Friday 9th November	Valerie Hepworth ***Patterns, Pleasure Grounds and Paradise***
Friday 7th December Richmond Town Hall	***The Annual General Meeting*** 7.30 p.m. Followed by an entertainment to be announced later

All lectures will be held in the Zetland Christian Community Centre commencing at 7.30 p.m.,
but the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, also commencing at 7.30p.m.