

Newcastle University Library

Local Heroes and Heroines



**An Exhibition of material
in the Robinson Library
Special Collections**



Awarded for excellence

Local Heroes and Heroines

This exhibition has been compiled by the library's Liaison Assistants, who have chosen a hero or heroine from north-east England, using items from the Robinson Library's Special Collections. The material selected by the assistants illustrates the wealth and range of information held within this department.

This leaflet gives a synopsis of each hero or heroine, who lived between the 17th and 19th centuries, with a summary of items they have used, and the collections they are from.

Special Collections are collections of books, manuscripts, maps, archives and wood-blocks that are a valuable resource to the academic researcher. Their age, value and in most cases uniqueness, means that they are kept in areas closed to readers, however they are listed on the public catalogues and can be requested for consultation. A printed guide to the Special Collections is available. Please enquire in the Special Collections Reading Room on level 1 of the library. The guide can also be found on our web pages, along with a feature on this current exhibition.

See below for further details.

The exhibition can be found on level 2 in the Robinson Library and is located on the walkway through to the computing clusters.

Contributors:

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Web sites of interest:

Special Collection web pages:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/speccoll/exhibs.html>

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/library/speccoll/guide.html>

Further information on local heroes and heroines:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/vg/famous.html>

For further details contact:

lib-specenq@ncl.ac.uk or telephone 0191 222 5146.



Dorothy Forster

1686 – [1740?]

The Heroine of the “Fifteen”

Dorothy and her brother Tom lived in Bamburgh Castle which had been owned by the Forster family from the 16th Century.

During the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715 Tom enlisted to fight for the Stuart cause and was known as the General of the English army.

He was captured and held in Newgate Gaol, London. Dorothy, disguised as a servant travelled to London, and in a daring plan, helped her brother to escape and he fled to France.

Dorothy arranged for a coffin to be filled with sawdust and placed in the family vault at Bamburgh to outwit the authorities.

When Tom died in 1738 his body was returned to England and laid to rest in the Crypt of St Aidan’s Church in Bamburgh. After Dorothy’s death she was buried alongside her brother. Her story is told in the novel *Dorothy Forster* written by Walter Besant in 1890.

Material used:

Clarke Collection:

Dorothy and the Forsters of Bamburgh.
Saint Aidan’s Church Bamburgh
The Lord Crewe Arms Blanchland
All written by J.Bird

Friends Collection:

The Annals of King George..... For the Year 1716.
An account of Tom’s escape.

Robinson Collection:

The London Gazette. A Royal Proclamation. A reward for the recapture of Tom.

1801-1850 Collection:

Dilston Hall, or Memoirs of the Earl of Derwentwater.
This gives an account of Tom’s escape and the opening of the Crypt in St Aidan’s Church in 1837.

18th Century Collection:

The History of the late Rebellion by Robert Patten
1st edition and 3rd editions
The later edition gives a more detailed account of Tom’s escape.

Victorian Collection:

Dorothy Forster by Walter Besant.



Admiral Lord Collingwood [1750?] - 1810

Cuthbert Collingwood was born on the 26th of September [1750?] in Newcastle upon Tyne. Educated at the Royal Grammar School in Jesmond, Collingwood joined the Royal Navy, serving on the frigate Shannon aged 11. Collingwood spent the majority of his life at sea, though he did have a house in Morpeth which he visited only twice. Rising steadily through the ranks, he was second in command to Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, taking command on Nelson's death. Collingwood spent the remaining 5 years of his life at sea, dying on his way home to England after finally being given permission to return due to his failing health. He was given a hero's burial in St Paul's Cathedral in London and a monument was erected to him in Tynemouth.

Material used:

Clarke Collection

Portrait of Lord Collingwood from Clarke biographical files
Tyneside celebrities by W. Lawson
Admiral Lord Collingwood by W.C. Russell
The life and letters of Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood by Oliver Warner

White Collection



Lord Eldon – John Scott

1751 - 1838

John Scott, or Lord Eldon as he later became known, was born in Love Lane in Newcastle upon Tyne. His elder brother, William also received a peerage and became Lord Stowell. John Scott was educated at Newcastle Grammar School and later went to Oxford where he was elected for a fellowship and awarded a B.A. He fell in love with Elizabeth (Bessy) Surtees who lived in Surtees House in Newcastle. Bessy's parents objected to the affair as they felt John Scott was a comparatively poor man and beneath them in social status. However, on 18th November 1772 they eloped and travelled by coach across the border into Scotland where they were married by an Episcopal clergyman. In 1773 he was made Attorney General and in 1799 he was elevated to Baron Eldon. After his retirement he lived at his estate at Encombe in Dorset until his death.

Material used:

Clarke Collection

The Sandhill by Frank Graham

Sketch of Lords Stowell and Eldon by W.E. Surtees

Family of Surtees by Brigadier-General H Convers Surtees

1801-1850 Collection

The public and private life of Lord Chancellor Eldon by

Horace Twiss 3 vols

Law Library

John Scott, Lord Eldon 1751 – 1838 by Rose A. Melikan



Robert Stephenson

1803 - 1859

The only son of George Stephenson was born on 16th October 1803 at Willington Quay. He assisted his father in the surveying of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1821. In 1823 he was appointed manager of the locomotive works in Newcastle established by his father and it was under Robert's direction that the famous "Rocket" was built.

He assisted his father on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway and other lines. From 1833 onwards he was, in his own right, involved in major railway work both in Great Britain and abroad.

The other field of civil engineering that Robert was famous for is bridge building. Among the bridges he built were the High Level Bridge and the Victoria Bridge over the St. Lawrence at Montreal, for many years the world's longest bridge.

Material used:

1801-1850 Collection

Clark, Edwin - The Britannia and Conway tubular bridges: with general inquires on beams and on the properties of materials used in construction.

Rare Books Collection

Marshall, W. P. - Description of the patent locomotive steam engine of Messrs. Robert Stephenson and Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Clarke General Collection

Robert Stephenson engraving by D.J. Pound
Cutting showing the birthplace of Robert Stephenson
Letter from Robert Stephenson to the Revd. Jas Booth

Local Illustrations Collection

West view of the High Level Bridge at Newcastle



Grace Horsley Darling

1815 - 1842

Grace Horsley Darling was born on the 24th November, 1815, at Bamburgh, in the home of her grandfather, Job Horsley. Grace was the fourth daughter and seventh born of nine children of William Darling and his wife Thomasin.

William Darling succeeded his father in 1815 as keeper of a lighthouse on the Farne Islands. Grace was taken for the first time to Brownsman Island in December 1815. It was to be her home until 1826 when the Brownsman light discontinued and her father was appointed to the new Longstone light on the outermost of the Farnes.

On Longstone, Grace Darling lived a quiet and secluded life assisting her father and mother in their work. On September 7th 1838 the Forfarshire Steamboat was wrecked upon Harker's rock. Grace and her father rescued nine survivors, this brave act produced a mass of public and media interest. Grace at twenty two years of age was a heroine.

Material used:

Clarke Collection includes

Grace Darling maid and myth by Richard Armstrong
Grace Darling the heroine of the Farne Islands: her life and its lessons by Eva Hope
The Journal of William Darling, Grace Darling's Father: from 1795-1860 edited by the author of "Grace Darling: her true story"

Cowen Tracts

Grace Darling by our special correspondent

Burman Alnwick Collection

The loss of the Steamship Forfarshire, Captain Humble: which struck on the Fern Islands on her voyage to Dundee on the night of the 7th September, 1838, and the heroic conduct of Grace Darling in venturing her life, and rescuing the survivors from destruction.

Victorian Collection

Grace Darling, or, The heroine of the Fern Islands: a tale by G.M. Reynolds



Joseph Crawhall the Second

1821 – 1896

The Newcastle Wood Engraver

Joseph Crawhall the second was born at West House, Newcastle in 1821, the eldest son of Joseph Crawhall the industrialist. As well as running the family ropery business with his brothers, Crawhall's artistic energy was spent illustrating, making wood cuts and producing books. He also had a great interest in music, landscape painting and fishing.

Material used:

Clarke Collection:

A collection of right merrie garlands for north country anglers
Chorographia (Crawhall reprint of Gray's Chorographia)

Rare Books Collection:

A Jubilee thought
Old London Street Cries and the cries of today by A Tuer
(including some Crawhall illustrations)
The compleatest angling booke that euer was writ
Chorographia, or, A survey of Newcastle Upon Tine by W. Gray
(1649, 1st edition)

Friends Collection:

A Christmas card
Advertisement for Pears' Soap
A letter to Charles Mitchell, local shipbuilder and fellow art
enthusiast
Old Aunt Elspa's ABC

Miscellaneous Collections

A watercolour from the Crawhall family jottings albums
Woodblocks from our woodblock collection

Further information is available in:

***'Joseph Crawhall: The Newcastle Wood Engraver
(1821-1896)*** by Charles S Felver.
(Shelfmark: 769 CRA(Fel))