

Haltwhistle History and Heritage Group Newsletter

All your history group news, reports, upcoming events and information FREE in your inbox after every meeting.

Edition 11, 14th June 2024

Edited by Steve Gibbon

Our website: <https://history.haltwhistle.org/>

Our Wiki(pedia) <https://haltwhistle.org/history/>

Hello everyone, here is the ninth newsletter of the History Group with a reminder that I am very much dependent on two sources to make this work:

1. My notes taken at a meeting and any other information people can supply, particularly from those people who may have contributed to a discussion or presentation.
2. You, the reader. If you have anything you would like to see in this newsletter, please provide me with information.

I can't do all of this on my own, so all contributions welcome please.

Please note that the group meetings have moved to the second Wednesday of the month. We meet in the Community room of the Hospital which at the moment is provided for free, is on the ground floor and accessible. It is an excellent venue with a small kitchen for tea and coffee preparation. We meet at 1030 for a prompt start. We finish by 12 noon.

I can be contacted via email at steve@stevegibbon.co.uk or by phone on 01434 344 383.

Also feel free to mail this on to anyone else who might be interested or print a copy for them. If you did not receive this directly from myself then I do not have your email address. If you want to ensure you are on the circulation, please contact me by email and ask to be put on it. Equally if you do not want to be on the circulation let me know and I will remove you from it. Thank you.

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Digital Reminder

Steve is happy to receive any stories, anecdotes or recollections you may have of Haltwhistle and the surrounding area so that he can record it in the Wikipedia for posterity. You can find the wiki at <https://haltwhistle.org/history/> (i.e. via the Haltwhistle Partnership website) with some initial information but it can hold any amount of information whether text, images, video or audio.

We also have a website, also hosted by the Haltwhistle Partnership, which you can find at <http://www.history.haltwhistle.org>

Ancestry Help

We had an Australian visitor to the meeting who was seeking help with his ancestry. Colin Stevens ancestry included one Hannah Natrass born September 1794. She married a Bispham and this family eventually went to Lancashire.

Hannah's father was Thomas Natrass who married Ann Glendinning on 14 June 1788.

If you have any knowledge of these families or their local descendants then Colin Stevens would love to hear from you at colinfstevens@hotmail.com

Thank you.

Summary of Meeting held at Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital – 10^{2h} June 2024 – The Temperance Movement and the Band of Hope in Haltwhistle.

Our guest speaker this month was Stan Owen who came to talk about the Temperance Movement in Haltwhistle and, in particular, the Band of Hope.

I provided Stan's notes below from his talk. In addition, Stan provided lots of images, medallions, pledge cards and other memorabilia including "Did You Know" cards for the audience to view and discuss. It was a very enjoyable and informative morning.

1 William Hogarth's portrait of Gin Lane 1751 suggests that "hospitality" was alive in Northumberland. Sir William Blackett (1690–1728) of Wallington Hall took hospitality seriously and allegedly employed six men to carry him and his drunken guests to bed after their drinking sessions.

2 **Whellan's Directory of 1855** lists eight Haltwhistle inns & taverns: Black Bull, Blue Bell, Crown, Grey Bull, Manor House, Old Bay Horse, Sun and Spotted Cow. Railway and Red Lion were temperance. (*Ed. In 1834 just 21 years earlier there were 22 establishments.*)

3 **Temperance principles** emerged in many towns and villages in early 19th century and on large agricultural estates. Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan (1797-1879) inherited Wallington Hall in 1846 and promptly made the nearby estate village of Cambo dry by closing down the Two Queens Inn. The Temperance movement was especially strong among Quakers like **Joseph Fry** and **John Cadbury**, who built **Bourneville** village, and businessmen like **Sir Titus Salt** who built **Saltaire**.

4 **Temperance Missionary** visited Haltwhistle in 1837 but apparently met with little success as, by 1843, "only a few" had signed the Pledge.

5 **James Saint** (1808-1876) overcame financial difficulties in the early 1840s to become a local entrepreneur with a finger in almost every pie, except any dealing with alcohol. He was a passionate Teetotaler and advocate of Temperance. He was instrumental in forming the **Haltwhistle Temperance Society** in 1848. But a golden opportunity soon arose for him to further his Temperance credentials.

6 **Matthew Johnson**, landlord of the Red Lion, died in 1852 and was buried on 5th September. James Saint moved into the premises and by June 1853 was advertising it as James Saint's Temperance Hotel, Sobriety Place. An advertisement of 1855 promised that "**This house is conducted on strict Temperance principles**" and that "**No poison is sold on the premises**".

7 **James Saint** died at the Red Lion on 9th October 1876 leaving an estate of less than £1000. The Red Lion ceased to be a Temperance Hotel and was taken over by **Robert Hindmarsh**, landlord of the Bowes Hotel, Bardon Mill, known as the Greyhound at this time.

8 **On 15th January 1879**, less than three years after the death of James Saint, the **Haltwhistle Band of Hope** was formed. The Band of Hope had been founded in

Leeds by Rev. James Tunnicliffe and Mrs. Anne Carlile with the first meeting being held on **9th November 1847**.

9 **The Band of Hope** aimed to make juveniles aware of the evils of drink before it was too late: you could bend a twig but not a branch. Various churches in Haltwhistle soon recruited their own Band of Hope under their own banner but they all followed the same principles: making meetings as attractive as possible with parades, picnics, teas, music, medallions, magazines, motto cards and books. Young people were encouraged to sign the Pledge and ride on the wagon to advertise their commitment to Teetotalism. The Band of Hope was colourful and fun and gave its young members something to look forward to. Even so, occasionally, youngsters fell off the wagon and forfeited their membership.

10 Church-going was a way of life a hundred years ago and children enjoyed the “perks” of Sunday School attendance. Haltwhistle had a church for every denomination and, on Sundays, Main Street would echo with the sweet sound of choirs and congregations.

11 Music played a large part in the Band of Hope, with Temperance hymn books including such titles as *Bravely launch the Temperance lifeboat, A song, a song for water bright, There’s a serpent in the glass, Give me no fatal wine cup, Come, let us sing of Temperance, I love the cause of Temperance, Save the drunkard, Join the Temperance army, boys, Touch not the cup, God brews the bright cold water, A song, a song for water bright, Give me a draught from the crystal spring, Wine is a mocker.*

12 **Almost every village around Haltwhistle** formed its own local Band of Hope: Greenhead, Gilsland, Cowburn, Melkridge, Henshaw, Bardon Mill, Haydon Bridge, down Allendale to Allenheads and down the South Tyne Valley to Alston and Nenthead. Temperance had always been strong in mining areas with alcohol being seen as a danger to miners underground.

13 In 1995, the Band of Hope became Hope UK and provides drug and alcohol education for young people, with no government having yet succeeded in conquering the problem of drugs.

14 The founders of the Band of Hope might be encouraged by the place of alcohol in 21st century society. Fewer public houses, more emphasis on dining, licensing hours, drink driving laws, drinking at home, non- alcoholic drinks, expense, etc. Muslim communities have led to the closing of many inner city pubs, though alcohol abuse still remains a problem among some young people.

15 The religion-based Band of Hope and Temperance Societies of the 19th century have largely disappeared or dissipated into other more secular organisations. But they gave the Victorians valuable “pastoral” guidance concerning alcohol abuse, with tobacco often added to the pledge that they took. Members were supported by regular meetings and inducements such as teas, picnics and activities to maintain their interest and encourage them to lay off the booze and stay “on the wagon!” We have come a long way since William Hogarth’s picture of Gin Lane.

Editor: We learned a number of interesting (and sometimes disturbing) things in this talk:

1. The derivation of “signing the pledge”
2. Gin and “Mother’s Ruin”. The amount of gin drunk by some was prodigious but worst was the practice of giving gin to very young babies as a way of killing unwanted children.
3. The derivation of “Falling off the wagon” in relation to drinking and being a teetotaler.
4. The Band of Hopes have all but died out but the organisation still exists as Hope UK, <https://hopeuk.org> Hope UK is a United Kingdom Christian charity based in London, England which educates children and young people about drug and alcohol abuse. Local meetings started in 1847 and a formal organisation was established in 1855 with the name The United Kingdom Band of Hope Union.

Wanted – your Memories and Anecdotes.

What are your memories of the 40’s, 50’s, 60’s and 70’s or even more recently. What anecdotes and stories can you tell? One of our objectives is to capture this information before it is ‘lost’. If you have anything you can share and any images to go with it please don’t hesitate to forward it to me when I can then incorporate it into future newsletters as well as our Wikipedia of information about Haltwhistle and its surrounding parishes.

Thanks, Steve Gibbon steve@stevegibbon.co.uk 01434 344 383

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 10th July 2024. 10:30 in the Community Room of Haltwhistle Hospital. The subject of the morning is “Show and Tell”. Please bring along an object which has past memories for you or others that you could either talk about or simply display for others to reminisce over.

There is no formal meeting in August but two members will be leading a guided town walk.

Ideas for Future Talks

We now have a full programme for this year and some ideas for next, but nothing yet set in concrete for 2025. Do you have any ideas for a future meeting talk? If so, could you let a member of the committee know so we can keep a full programme developed, many thanks.

Library

You can also find this information on the website at <https://history.haltwhistle.org/>

A reminder from Jan that some people may have borrowed books from the library and may not have signed for them or returned them. If you have a book from the library, could you please just let Jan know that you have it and whether you will be hanging on to it or returning it. Thank you. Jan can be contacted at janmillward@btinternet.com

A small reference library of books, maps and pamphlets has already been built up. For now, it will be available at each meeting or via Jan Millward. A sign in/out book will be used to record who has what so books can be kept track of. The list of available publications is provided below.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
265 Years of a Dissenting Congregation in Haltwhistle	Roberta Wood
A Haltwhistle Christmas	Tony Storey
A Walk Along the Wall	Hunter Davies
Altweasel at the First Millenium 1000 AD	Tony Storey
Bishop Ridley and the Reiving Ridleys	Tony Storey
Carnival News 2002	
Castle Hill Methodist Church Centenary Brochure	
Church of the Holy Cross, Haltwhistle	
Featherstone Castle	John Cornforth
Haltwhistle 8th Walking Festival	Haltwhistle Partnership
Haltwhistle and South Tynedale (1973)	Tony Storey
Haltwhistle and South Tynedale (Pamphlet)	Tony Storey
Haltwhistle and the Great War	Northern Cultural Projects

Haltwhistle Methodist Church Centenary Brochure	
Haltwhistle Methodist Circuit Souvenir Programme	
Haltwhistle Station	Tony Storey
Haltwhistle, Haydon Bridge and South Tynedale	Frank Graham
History of Gilsland	
Holy Cross Church (Pamphlet)	
In Nancy's Memory	Matthew Parker
Legends of Haltwhistle and the South Tyne	Richard and Susan Sim
Letter from Haltwhistle	Brian Lee
Medieval Castles, Towers, Peles and Bastles of Northumberland	T H Rowland
My History of Featherstone Castle	John Clark
Northumberland Folk Tales	Rosalind Kervan
The Church at Hautwysel	Tony Storey
The Reivers, The Story of the Border Reivers	Alistair Moffat
Towers and Bastles	P F Ryder
Tynedale Songster	Frank Graham
War on the Banks of the Tyne	Haltwhistle Partnership

Deadline for contributions

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome – even short stories or anecdotes. You may also provide an image with your contribution for inclusion in the newsletter and email it to me. Please make sure the image is your own or you have copyright permission for it.

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