

MUGGLESWICK WASKERLEY



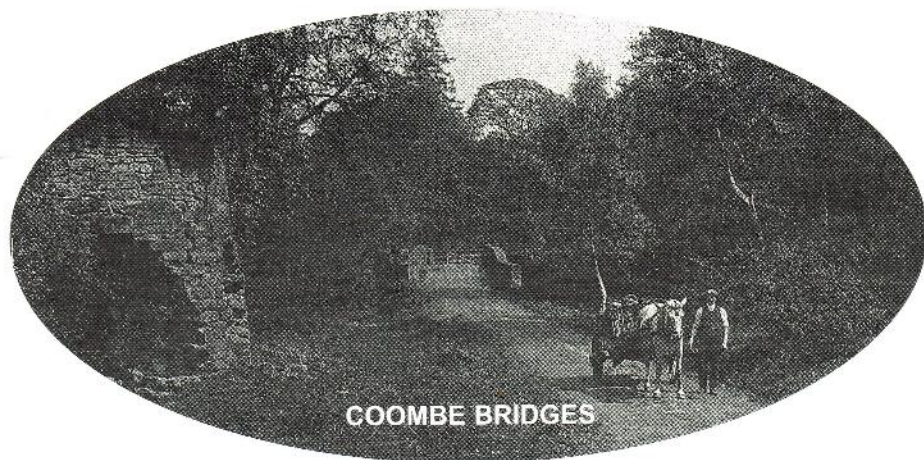
An Eclectic History
with Photographs





The MAYOR tomb in Muggleswick churchyard with probably the first public sculpture of John LOUGH on the headstone.

The brass railing surround was erected by Nanny Mayor's grandson who was an iron master in Dumbarton and is buried in the adjacent plot.



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INTRODUCTION

Muggleswick parish in the north west of Durham is probably the most scarcely populated parish in the county with less than one hundred persons over the age of eighteen. The population was higher in earlier times and expanded rapidly in the C19 with the advent of the railways and the building of reservoirs. The decline has since been unstoppable and many of the farms previously housing large families pursuing a mixed subsistence farming are now decayed and derelict. My own family farmed 60 acres at Combfield House for nearly ninety years before the death of the head of the household caused them to leave in the early 1920s. The House is now in terminal decay. Muggleswick has no street, no village centre. It is a scattering of farms and dwellings in a beautiful setting on the edge of the Pennine moors. Waskerley, now just a dot on the map or a stop on the Waskerley Way, developed very quickly in the middle of the C19 to service the needs of the railway and then had a long slow decline ending with demolition of most of the houses in the 1950s. Muggleswick Village Hall, recently refurbished with Lottery money in 2000, was once the single-room village school but today provides a very important community meeting point for the remote population.



An unusual view of Priory Farm with Priory Cottages behind and the Church in the background

This eclectic compilation of photographs is a distillation of more than twenty years of research into family and local history. Many people have lent their photos over the years and I thank them all. A special word of thanks to Jim Lawson at the Beamish Photo Archive for his help and permission to use some photos. Many postcards by W Bainbridge of Castleside have also been used. The Dean & Chapter archives at Durham and the parish records at the County Record Offices of Durham and Northumberland have all been extensively searched in pursuit of information.



Local Heritage *initiative*

We thank the Local Heritage Initiative, a joint venture of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Countryside Agency and the Nationwide Building Society for generous funding for the production of this booklet. Please direct any corrections of the text, any additional photos which can be copied and returned, or simply expressions of interest to me at 39 Beech Court, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9NE. Tel. 01661 871969 or email muriel@sobo39.freeserve.co.uk

Muriel E Sobo on behalf of the Muggleswick Parish Community Association. August 2001

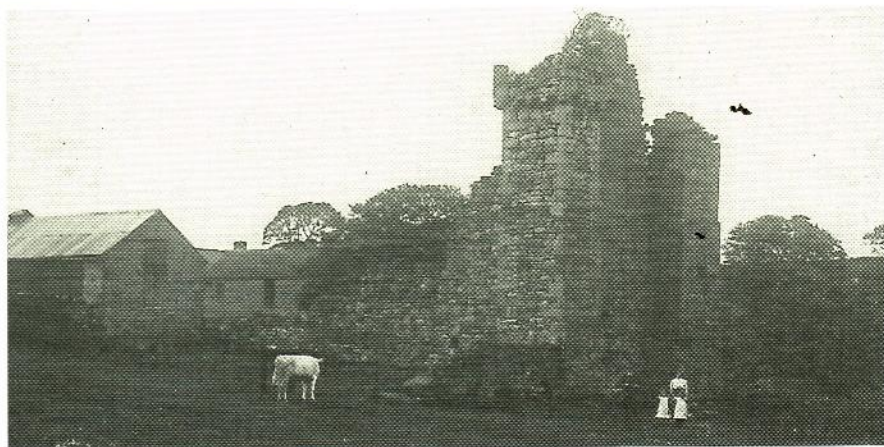
THE GRANGE

William the Conqueror's clerks writing the Domesday Book did not reach as far north as Durham but in 1183 a survey was compiled of lands in the county which is known as the Boldon Book. Muggleswick is listed there as part of the Prior of Durham's lands. The Prior was the head of the Convent or the monks of Durham cathedral and they owned extensive estates in the county. Muggleswick was a stock rearing area and sent meat, hides and tallow to the Durham monastery. There were buildings or 'offices' in Muggleswick to enable the monks to supervise activities. Prior Hugh built a substantial stone grange in the C13 which had a hall, a chapel, a dairy and accommodation. There is a massive East Wall of this building still standing in the field next to the church. It is well hidden in summer and is best seen from the track leading down to Grange Farm. The monks also had a licence to empark and built a park wall to enclose an area of moorland which in later centuries was stinted and tenants had rights to graze a certain number of animals.



The monastery at Durham was dissolved on the last day of 1539 and the monks handed over their estates and wealth to the Crown. However there was no destruction and a Dean & Chapter was formed in 1541 which took over the former monastic estates including Muggleswick and they were the landlords till about the middle of the C19 when the responsibility was taken over by the Church Commissioners.

The earlier photo has a dovecote on the corner buttress.



CALF HALL



This farm is documented as Calfe fall in early records like the Parliamentary Survey of 1649 or the will of John Ward in 1717 but most likely existed a long time before these dates. In the 19th century Calf Hall was a small farmhouse thatched with ling or heather like most of the dwellings in Muggleswick and district. Ann Oliver, a widow, and her brother Thomas Ward were tenants until their deaths in the 1860s. The Ward and Ritson families were linked over the years by a number of marriages and it seems likely that a Ritson took over the tenancy after these deaths. Utrick Alexander Ritson eventually came into the property, bought it from the Church Commissioners and completed a fine new building in 1907 which is what we can still see today.

THE RITSON FAMILY

A Golden Wedding photo taken in the snow in January 1917 at Calf Hall of Utrick Alexander and Annie Ritson with their 9 surviving children, their families and friends. Another son, Major John Ritson was a POW.



The Ritsons are descended from a John Ritson who came to Muggleswick from Allendale in the 1760s. Both John and his only son William were weavers and dedicated Wesleyan Methodists. Their names appear in the class lists of the Wesleyan meetings at Coalgate in the early 1800s and they were involved in the first Methodist Chapel opened at Watergate in 1803. William and his wife Elizabeth had 11 children and it was another William, born in 1811, who became a very successful contractor and Victorian entrepreneur. He built railways and docks, he manufactured tin-plate in Wales and he owned collieries in Durham. He built a large house at Woodeyfield west of Hexham and retired there. William's eldest son Utrick Alexander (UAR) born in 1843 carried on the ownership of the collieries and lived first in Elswick and then in Jesmond in Newcastle. He used Calf Hall as his country residence. He was a director of several companies and held many public offices during a long life of service to the community.



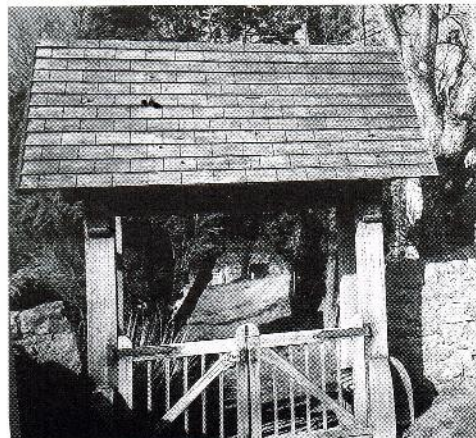
William & Jane's family of seven children about 1860 with UAR, born in 1843 on the far right



Domestic staff at Calf Hall

UAR was a generous benefactor to the Muggleswick church while he still adhered to the Methodist tradition. In 1891 he donated a granite monument and drinking fountain to Newcastle marking John Wesley's first visit to the city. It now forms the centrepiece of Wesley Square on the refurbished quayside.

The LYCH GATE in the SW corner of the churchyard was erected in 1933 by the children of Annie and UAR in memory of their parents. UAR died in 1932 aged 90 years at Calf Hall but he is buried at Hexham. The lych gate is a pleasing design and constructed from seasoned teakwood from the battleship HMS Powerful. The initials of their nine surviving children are carved into two of the posts.



MUGGLESWICK CHURCH

The plain parish church stands on a small ridge with panoramic views to the elegant arches of Howns Gill viaduct and to Consett. It is quite possible that there has been a church on this site since the C12 or before but the present building dates from the early or mid C19. Dowsing in 1993 by Denis Briggs and confirmed by Edwin Taylor of Mosswood, showed a plan of a larger church with north and south aisles and an apse at the East End. The dedication to All Saints has been generally adopted but there are no records of such a dedication.

Surtees in his C19 County History said there was none and Reverend Fawcett in his book of the Muggleswick Registers also states that the dedication was unknown. The advowson was held by the Dean & Chapter and the clergy appointed were Perpetual Curates.



For two centuries from the appointment of John Durie in 1661 till James Cundill's in 1855, the same clergyman served the churches of Muggleswick and Edmundbyers. Then they each had their own man until 1953 when the two parishes were once more combined under the same priest. A number of factors, common to most rural parishes, has led to further amalgamation and now Muggleswick and Waskerley are combined with Edmundbyers, Hunstanworth, Blanchland and Sleafy where the present vicar lives.

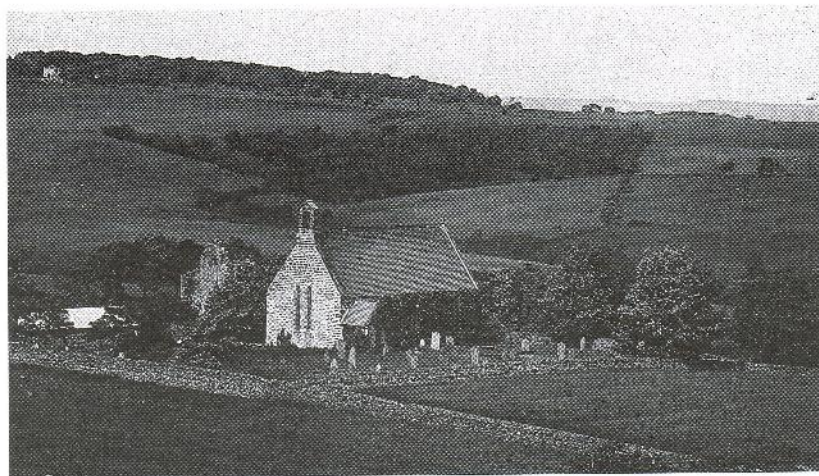


The church interior shows the fine oak furniture of the pulpit and choir stalls, a gift from the Ritsons in 1917

There is a worn tombstone in the floor at the West End of the church to Rowland Harrison who was a border reiver or mossrooper and died in 1712. It is not clear how such a memorial came to be inside the church but perhaps it was saved and placed inside to protect it from erosion during one of the rebuilds.

The churchyard is a quiet place well removed from the noise and business of life, apart from the odd RAF jet on training exercises. Four clergymen are buried here and there is a group of interesting table tombs. The MAYOR family tomb is identified by the brass railings around it. The family history is written in the births and deaths recorded and a careful look at the northern edge of the stone reveals the name I Lough.

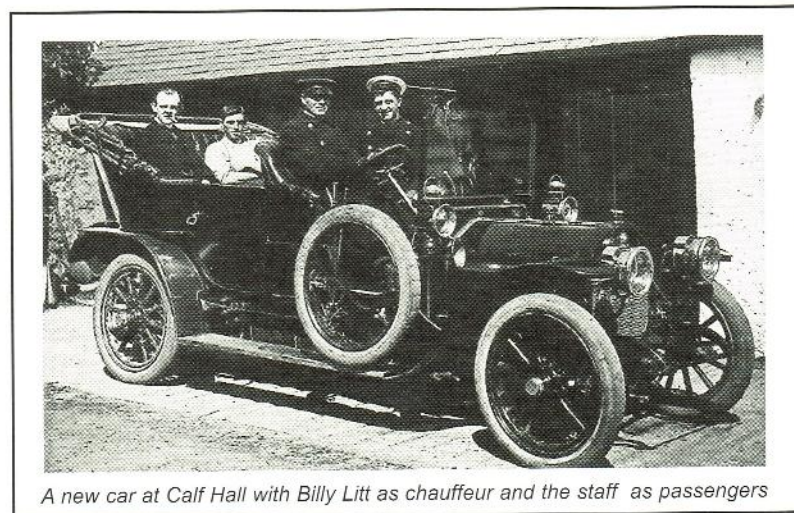
MUGGLESWICK CHURCH



A fine view of the church, early C20, with the East wall of the Grange seen behind it. No lych gate or war memorial. There was a shed for the horse-drawn hearse in the corner of the churchyard nearest the entrance.



The War Memorial is at the West Side of the Church



A new car at Calf Hall with Billy Litt as chauffeur and the staff as passengers



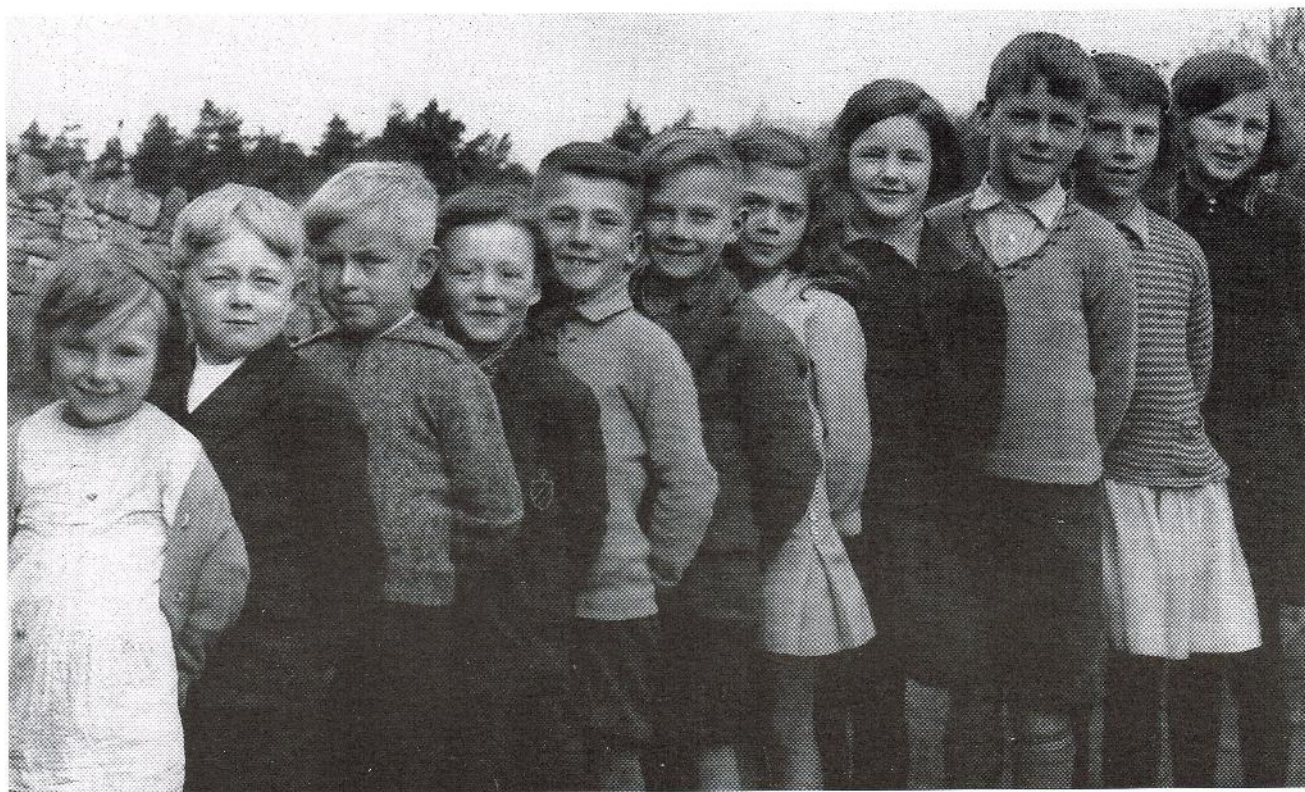
*A painting of Joseph Dawson who held both the Muggleswick and Edmundbyers livings and died in 1837
(Courtesy Northumberland CRO)*

SCHOOL

The refurbished village hall has taken on a new life as the centre of the community but it was the village school until it closed in 1937. There will be some older people who still have memories of Mary Davidson who retired just before closure after 32 years of service. The Church of England school was built in the 1850s and a house erected nearby for the school teacher and family. 'We had a good mile to walk and it took about an hour. The teacher was a middle-aged spinster and she ruled with a rod of iron. We were taught scripture, grammar and maths, the same subjects every day. We learnt to write by making straight strokes and hooked sticks as we used to call them and joined them together to form letters. My work had to be correct or the cane would be used. The cane was in evidence every day for some reason or another on one of us poor bairns. For school I wore a home-knit jersey, short trousers, home-knit stockings and a pair of strong boots. We carried our dinners and bottle of tea in a haversack. In winter these bottles were placed on the top of the stove to get warm.' From the memories of John Lowery, born 1909 at Combfield House.



Pupil numbers were small. Annual concerts by the pupils raised funds for the trip to the seaside by train from Rowley station. In 1917 the pupils were (left to right) John Lowery, Mary Cook, Edna Cowen, Frances, Sammy in front of her, Connie Cook, Mary Kitchen, Alice Lowery, Nancy Lowery, Betty Copeland and Kingsley Smith the vicar's son.



An unusual school photo of 1933 with an unknown girl in front then Clarence Bolam, Ken Armstrong, Ruth Wearmouth, Alan and Freddie Porthouse, Ethel Crowe, Molly Bean, Jack Armstrong another Porthouse and Bertha Milner.



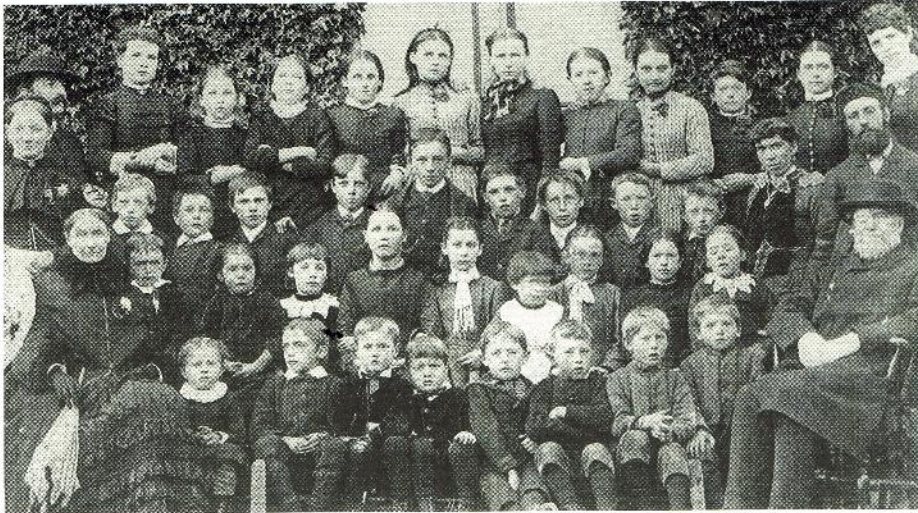
Former school now refurbished as Village Hall



Ken Armstrong at Goldhill and his brother Willie, now the oldest inhabitant



MUGGLESWICK SCHOOL



School group circa mid 1880s. Was the gentleman on the right in the armchair the vicar, the Rev J J Cundill, and was the photo posed outside the vicarage? The girls have a rose pinned to their dresses. What was the occasion? Who are the adults? Kate and Mary (b.1873) Pattinson from Spring House are 4th and 7th from the R on the back row.

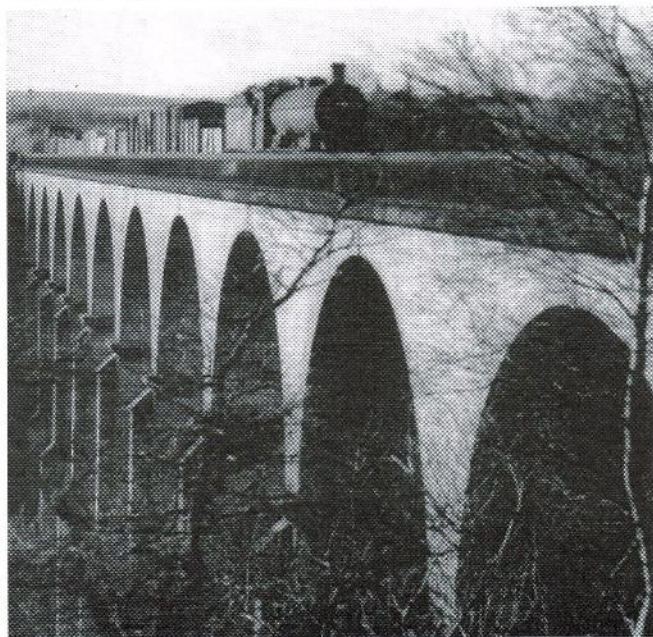
Another Muggleswick group circa late 1890s. The girls again have a floral decoration on their dress and the young men seem to have something pinned on their lapel. A more mature and self-assured group but what was the event and where was the picture taken? John Lowery is 1st L on back row, Thomas Lowery is 1st L on the front, Lizzie Annie Lowery 2nd R on the middle row and Margaret Chatt 5th R on middle row. We don't know the reason for the painted face on R of middle row.



WASKERLEY

In 1851 there were three hundred people living at Waskerley, a railway village at a height of over 1000 feet on the Muggleswick moors. Today there is an eerie feeling as cyclists and walkers who use the old railway track, the Waskerley Way, pass only a couple of houses and a farm that are now all that remain of a once bustling and busy community.

A railway was built from Crawleyside to Consett and continued to South Shields initially carrying limestone and later coal, ironstone and lead. The line, completed in 1834, was faced with many difficulties because of the difficult terrain. The Nanny Mayor incline was a rope-worked section and to cross the Howns Gill the wagons were lowered down one side and hauled up the other side. The line went bankrupt and was later taken over by the Stockton & Darlington Railway. The Burnhill deviation built in 1859 by-passed the Nanny Mayor incline and the impressive Howns Gill viaduct was built across the ravine. The photo shows a goods train crossing the viaduct on the way to Consett.



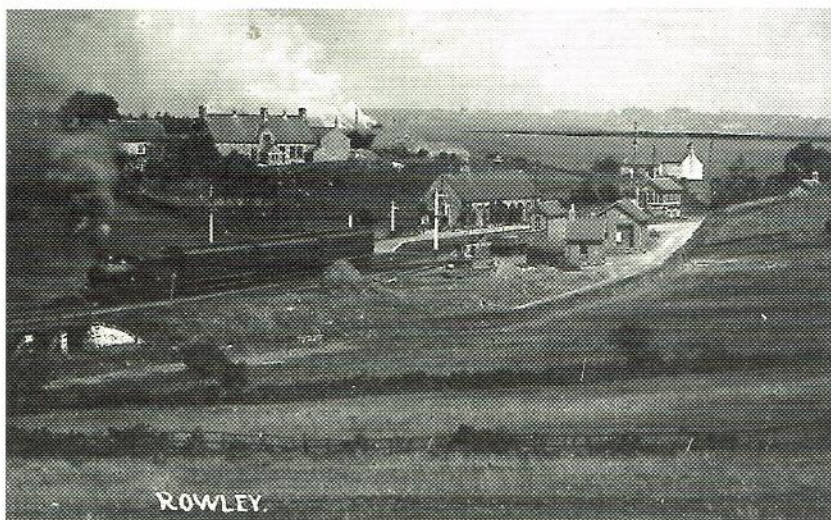
Waskerley had two main rows of houses, railway sheds and repair shops, a school, a Post Office, a mission church, a Methodist chapel and the railway carried passengers as well as freight. Rowley station, the first to be built in NW Durham and down line from Waskerley, served a wide area of Muggleswick and after the trains stopped running it was dismantled and rebuilt at the Beamish Open Air museum. When the railway closed Waskerley gradually emptied and the final demolition was in 1956. There are still many railway artefacts to be seen by the sharp-eyed such as the K9 above a house doorway, the stone boundary markers for the S&DR still found on the moors above and beyond Waskerley and original stone sleepers. The mission church still holds occasional services but the Methodist chapel is in use as a farm building. The thriving community produced a winning football team in 1911 when they posed for a photo with the 'Castleside Charity Cup'.

ANN MAYOR, 1775-1860, originally from Wolsingham married John Mayor in 1800 at Muggleswick and had at least seven children, four of whom died very young. Ann Mayor lived at Tween House between Waskerley and Bankfoot and when the railway passed her door she saw the commercial opportunity and sold ale to the railway workers. Tween House was called the Railway Tavern or Inn and the incline was known as Nanny Mayor's incline.

WASKERLEY



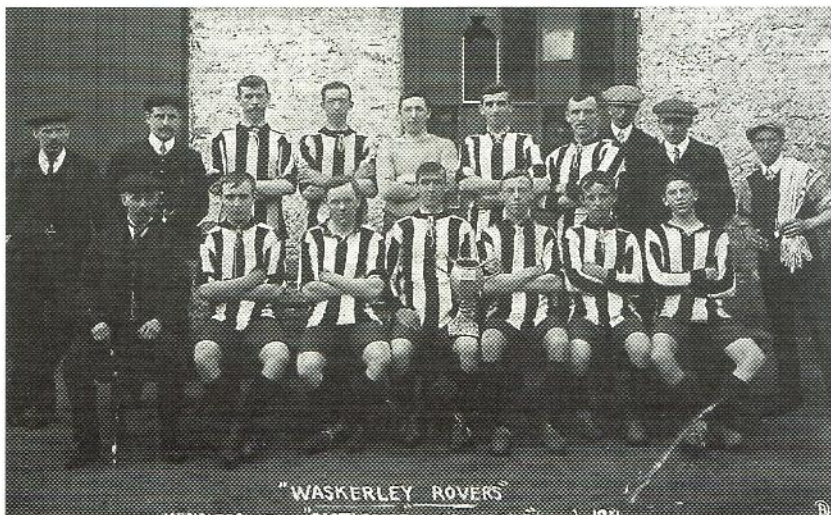
Nanny Mayor's Incline today



Rowley Station with the Baptist Church behind.



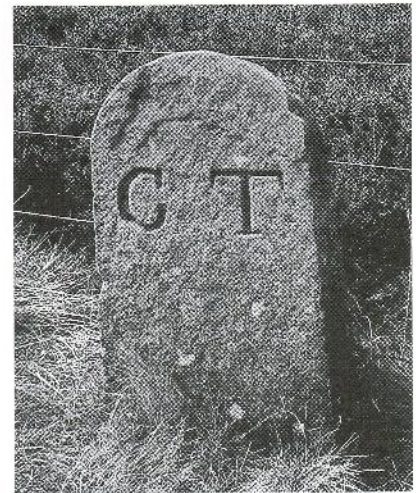
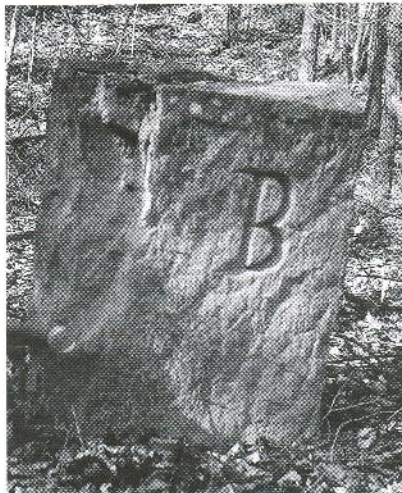
*Former Stockton & Darlington
Railway House at Waskerley*



*There was a thriving community and a skilfull football team who were the
proud cup winners in 1911*

BOUNDARY STONES

The Manor of Muggleswick was a large unit made up of the parishes of Muggleswick and Edmundbyers and the township of Healeyfield, part of the Lanchester parish. In the days before accurate maps officers of the Dean & Chapter undertook boundary perambulations at regular intervals and some records of these have been preserved. Along the river Derwent there are stones marked B on one side and D&C on the other. D&C is obviously the Dean & Chapter, the landlords, and B is for the Bolbec Manor in Northumberland which stretched to the Derwent. The original name of the Manor House, the popular inn on the A68, was the Bolbec Manor. South of Mosswood the markings change and indicate different ownership. Instead of B there is CM which are the initials of Charles Monck or Middleton, the owner of the Belsay estates. One of these stones has the date 1823 inscribed across its top. The holiday cottages on the A68 at Allensford were previously an inn called the Belsay Castle.



A further series of stones mark the boundary between Blanchland Estates and Muggleswick Manor up on the moors near Sandyford. These stones are marked D&C and CT for Crewe Trustees. The Lord Crewe was Bishop of Durham from 1674 to 1722 and inherited the estates through his wife, Dorothy Forster. There was no issue to the marriage and Trustees were set up to run the estates, which they still do today.



The Edmundbyers Cross is marked on the O S Explorer maps and all that remains is a socketted base on the side of the B6278 road between Edmundbyers and Stanhope, near the junction with the road from Castleside.

MURDER AT LAMB SHIELD

Few events in rural Muggleswick are of sufficient note to reach the world outside but the murder of a bachelor farmer was a sensation in 1843.

William Lawson, 37 years old, lived at Lambshield farm and employed one servant girl to help in the house and with the milking. William had inherited the farm in 1839 through his mother's will although he was not the only son or even the eldest. Thomas Lawson was the eldest and lived only a quarter of a mile away at Cote (or Coat) House with his wife and small daughter. The mother had left the farm, all the land and the chattels to her youngest son William and Thomas was to receive £10 to be paid in annual instalments of £1!

Thomas was in financial straits. He owed money and his creditors were pressing him. His younger brother could help him if he was minded and had not paid him for some sheep they had sold together. He rose early one Sunday morning in May and went up the hill to have it out with Willy. The servant girl was away home for the weekend and the brothers argued. Tommy followed Willy out of the house to the byre and the lack of response and taunting from his brother caused him to lose his temper. Blows followed and they fell to the ground where Tommy took a stone and bashed his brother's head. He then left to get on with his work and Willy crawled away from the buildings.

Friends called on Willy in the afternoon but couldn't find him around although there had been a fire in the grate. By evening concern was growing for his whereabouts. Neighbours did the evening milking and the weather turned rough and wet. The next day Willy was found, battered and bloody, but still alive lying in a quarry a short distance from the house. He was brought inside where the servant girl looked after him but he died 2 days later. The inquest was held at the Punch Bowl Inn at Edmunbyers and Thomas, initially denying all knowledge, later confessed. He was found guilty of manslaughter at the Summer Assizes at Durham in 1843 and sentenced to transportation for life. He was taken to the hulks on the Thames where conditions were filthy, cold and miserable to await a ship for Australia but died there in January 1844.

The tenancy of the farm passed through the remaining brother, John Lawson and there were still Lawsons there up till the 1940s.



Lamb Shield Farm with rethatching in progress

THE SNEEP

The Derwent Gorge is a beautiful meandering length of the river Derwent where unusual flowers and birds flourish and it has attracted naturalists and visitors who enjoy the delights of the lush beauty and the quiet tranquility. The Sneep on the steeply wooded banks of this part was a popular picnic and camping spot in the early decades of the C20. Charabanc trips came from the industrial heartlands of



John & Annie Storey outside Crooked Oak



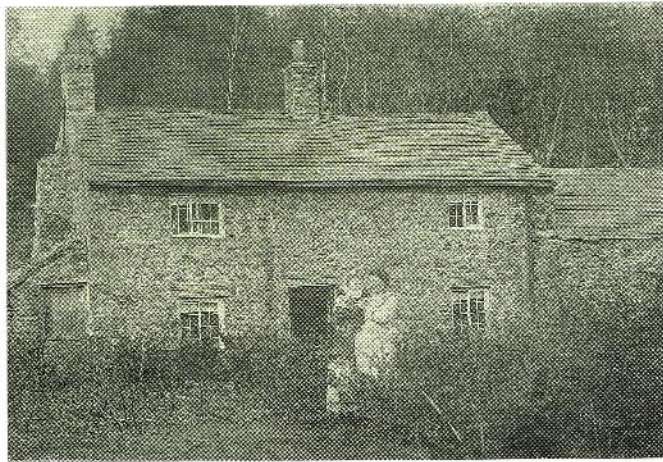
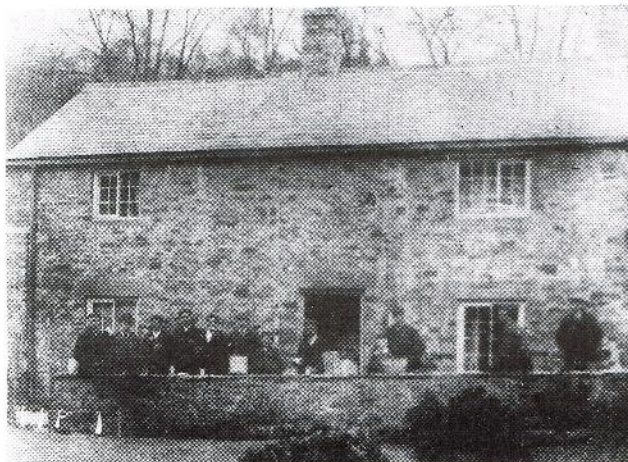
Picnickers by the Derwent at the Sneep

Gateshead and Blaydon as well as Consett and received hospitality on either side of the Derwent from the Lowrys at Combfield House or the Storeys at Crooked Oak. When Annie Storey of Crooked Oak died in 1926 an 'immense concourse gathered for the funeral. The farm cart, honoured to bear the coffin, was beautiful with pine boughs, and the wealth of lovely flowers made it an ark of beauty. Then by car or on foot, the long procession took the long road to the churchyard of Muggleswick, to wind among the hoary headstones into the church of great interior beauty.' There were members present at the funeral from the Sunshine Campers, Gateshead Campers and the High West Street Wesleyan Church.

On the Muggleswick side there were chalets and camping facilities at Combfield and a bus service ran out from Consett to the Dene Howl road ends for camper families. The Sneep has various spellings and the O S map has Snape Wood.

LEAD MINING

Muggleswick was on the edge of the north Pennine orefield and lead mining in Blanchland is recorded as early as the C15. There are many remains in the parish associated with lead mining activities over three centuries although the main activity ceased with cheap imports of lead towards the end of the C19. The remains of smelt mills, openings into drifts, wheel cages, engine houses, crushing floors and reservoirs can all be found but after centuries of decay and neglect and the ravages of invading vegetation the finding and interpretation of the sites is a job for experts and enthusiasts. Fortunately there is a growing interest in these industrial remains. The Silvertongues lead mine was on the north side of the Derwent. The presence of silver with the lead made the mines very profitable. The Snowdon family lived near the disused mine and in 1892 the young son was searching for water near its entrance. He was overcome by noxious fumes and when his mother came to help she too was overcome and both tragically died in this incident.



Leadmill cottage is near the Silvertongues mine and there are miners gathered outside for an early photograph. The later one shows it as a family home and this postcard was sent by Mrs. James seen outside with her children in 1909.



Castleside was a discrete part of Muggleswick parish until population growth resulted in the formation of a separate parish in 1863. There was a smelt mill, seen here in the foreground, with a zig-zag flue up the hillside. This was the latest in a succession of Healeyfield smelt mills.

FARM HOUSES

Many of the farms in Muggleswick are of ancient origin. The rental books of 1396 kept by the monks name for example Birkhouses, Carp Shiel, Goldhill and Camhous which can be identified with current buildings. A survey by Cromwell's men in 1649 named more of the farms which had 'walls built of clay and thatched with ling'. In those troubled times the tenants of Muggleswick and Edmundbyers had to find or finance 32 men and horses for border service!



COMBFIELD HOUSE, listed in a survey of 1641 as *Camfielde House*, about 1906 with the Lowery brothers, Thomas and John and their sister Lizzie Annie.

FARM HOUSES



PRIORY FARM, near the church, about the beginning of the C20 without the later small extension of the dairy which extended the building right, towards the track.

The original **LANE HEAD HOUSE** with two ladies, Mrs Storey and Mrs Noble, standing at the side gate, probably just after 1900.

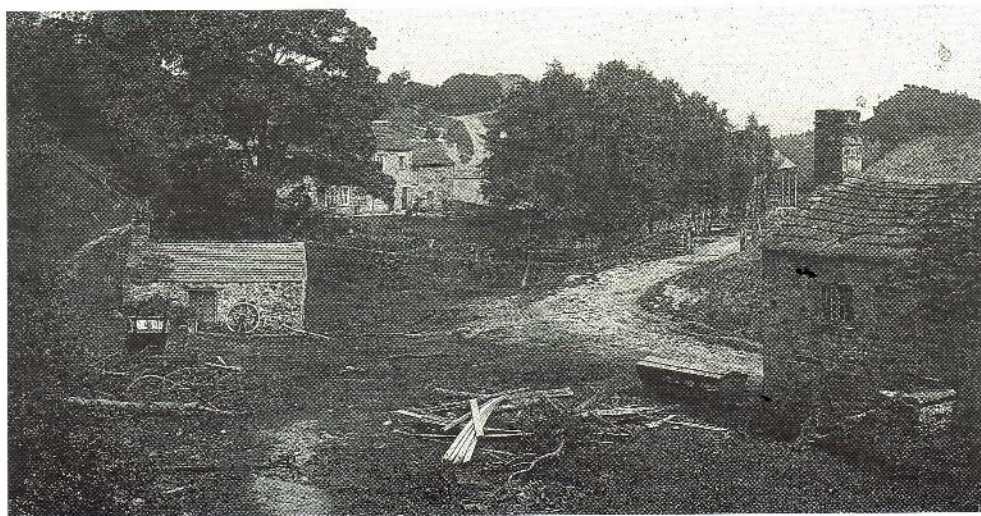


FARM HOUSES



DYKE HOUSE with the heather thatch typical of many dwellings in Muggleswick up till the twentieth century when they were soon replaced with Welsh slates.

Robert Urwin and his wife Mary Ann lived at Dyke House



DENE HOWL in the background and the other buildings which were associated with the near-by lead mine. The blacksmith's shop is on the left.

FARM HOUSES



COAL GATE is now kept as a shooting lodge but in 1788 it was the home of Thomas Readshaw who applied for a licence for his house to be used for Dissenting worship. This was the beginning of a dedicated group of early Methodists who went on to build a chapel at Watergate in 1803.

SPRING HOUSE.

Once situated below Dyke House but of which there is no trace now. This was the home of the Wilkinson family in the late C18 and the Pattinsons in the late C19.

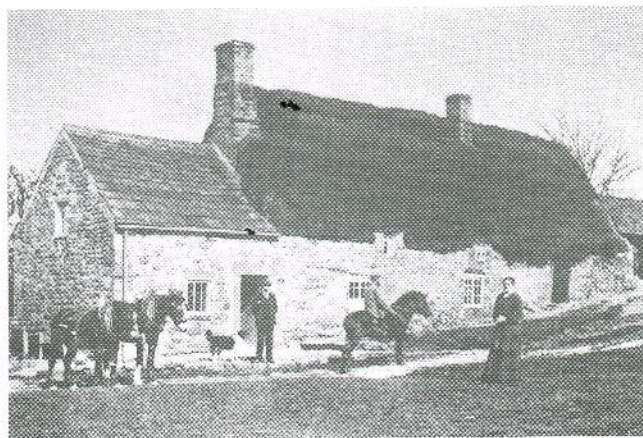
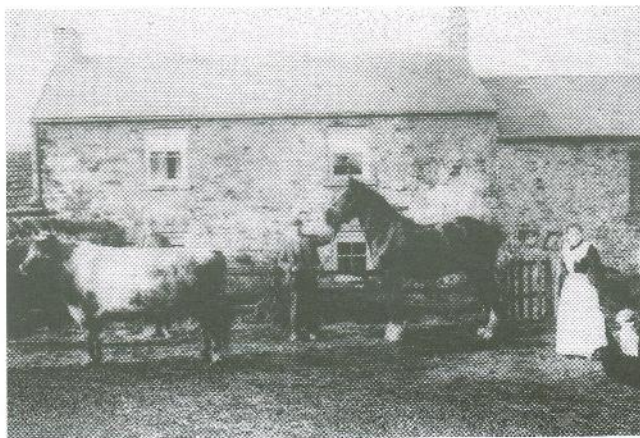


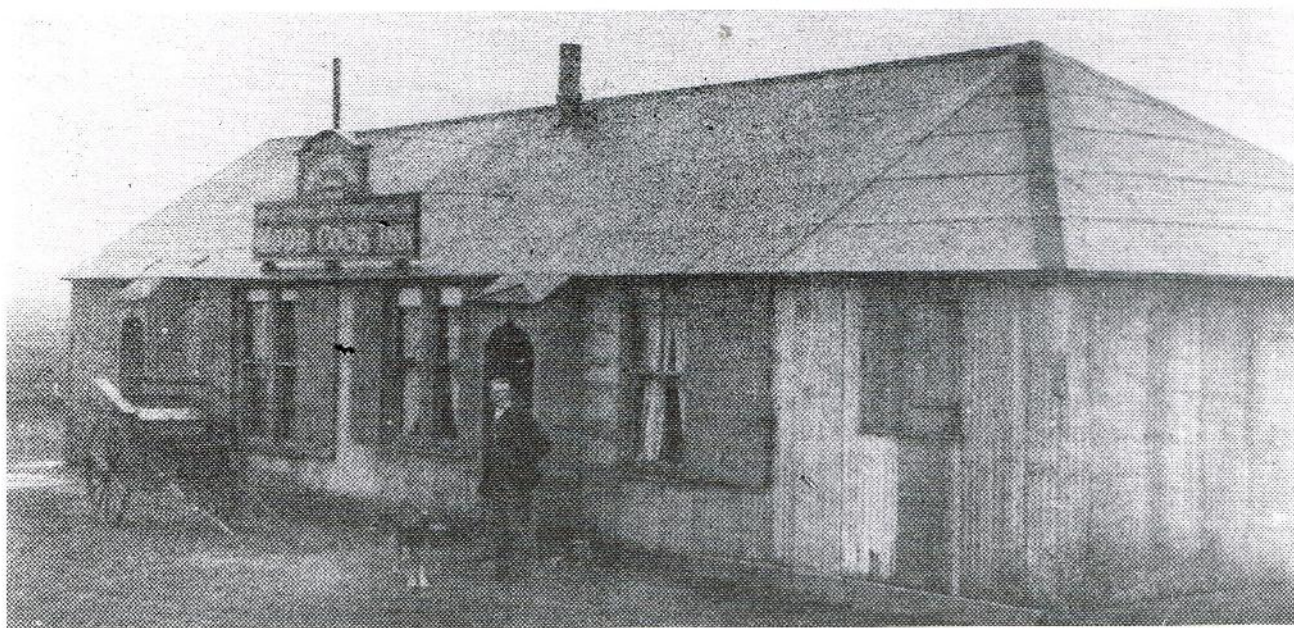
FARM HOUSES



THE DEANS. *The Robson family in a photo taken early in the twentieth century.*

Two farmhouses, thought to be in Muggleswick, but not identified. Any suggestions?





THE MOOR COCK INN still stands in lonely isolation on the moors above Muggleswick. In the 1890s the licensee was Andrew Moody but the licence was temporarily transferred to the corrugated shed in the photo which was part of the short-term accommodation for the Irish navvies building the Hisehope reservoir. This was located further out at a place known as High Dock to locals and somewhere near the track into the Waskerley reservoir. The thirsty navvies were in need of alcoholic refreshment and no doubt money was made from them.



THE MUGGLESWICK PLOT

Religious diversity flourished in England after the execution of Charles I. Baptists, Independents, Unitarians, Quakers, Levellers, Fifth Monarchists and many more all had their followers. Some have faded away and others are still with us. The Baptists were founded locally in Hexham in 1651 and the following year formed a branch at Muggleswick with the baptism of at least eight people in the river Derwent. One of these was John Ward who became the leader of this flourishing congregation and was elected an elder at the age of 25 years, in 1655. These beginnings led later to the formation of the Rowley Baptist Church.

Charles II on coming to the throne in 1660 promised religious tolerance but introduced instead a series of repressive laws and persecuted those who did not hold to the established church. Dissenter's meetings went underground and members were accused of sedition. Rebellion, agitation and insecurity were the order of the day. In this state of unrest an informer, one John Ellerington, a servant of Dorothy Forster at Blanchland, made a deposition to the Durham magistrates in 1662. He named more than 30 people who met in secret in Muggleswick Park, sometimes at John Ward's house, who plotted rebellion, the murder of all clergy and the seizing of money and munitions. He claimed to be one of them but had turned informer. The Bishop of Durham alerted the militia and ordered arrests. Although investigations were carried out over two years no convictions were made. A lot of ink has been spilled in learned articles claiming that Muggleswick was part of a wider plot, with centres in Yorkshire and Westmorland, where a number of people were caught and executed for their part in the conspiracy. Like Surtees in his County History I think the Muggleswick evidence is insufficient and simply reflects the very unsettled state of the county.

John Ward lived at Calf Hall, or Calfe fall as it was written, and was a mineralogist working in the lead industry, as well as an elder of the church. He was an educated and well-respected man and died in 1717 at the age of 87. His sons died in 1686 and 1687 and all the family are commemorated in a chest tomb in the churchyard.



*The Three Currocks or the
Three Sisters in Muggleswick Park*

THREE WALKS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

All walks start and finish at the road junction a few yards to the north of the Village Hall.
OS Explorer 307 for Consett and Derwent Reservoir.

1 *Approx distance 3.5 miles, about 2 hours. A gentle walk taking in the Church and Grange with some quiet road walking and a return across the moor with wide views north to the Derwent reservoir.*

Follow the road with Key West (renamed Haverley Lodge) the former vicarage, on the R till the 2nd white gate is reached in the wall on the R. Go straight through the fields to the church, crossing the drive to Calf Hall, not normally visible in summer, and enter the churchyard by the lych gate. The church is open at weekends and there is historical information in the porch. Sit and enjoy the stillness and the views. Note the Grange in the field to the north. A closer look can be taken from the track R of Priory Farm. Go out through the main gate to Priory Farm and TL up to a gate and rejoin the road at Lane Head. Walk R on the road and bear L at the sign for Edmundbyers and on past The Deans. Watch out for a path L, before reaching the next houses, which turns back up through the heather. This track climbs up to Muggleswick Park which is grouse territory and comes right back to the start.

2 *Approx distance 5 miles, about 2.5 hours. An exciting walk over the moors, bleak and lonely in winter and covered with purple heather in late summer. There are extensive views in all directions.*

Start by the FP sign and climb straight up onto the moor, past the line of grouse butts. The 3 stone currocks, or the 3 sisters, come into view on the L and the Derwent reservoir and Edmundbyers on the R. Take care not to follow the path downhill but bear L and eventually to a stone wall. The path leads L and to Lamb Shield but continue straight on without going in the farm gate. Continue walking in more or less a straight line with the wall on the R over several fields, some with stiles, some not, till coming downhill a track is joined on the L. This rough track goes past Birkhot, a working farm, then past Coalgate now used as a shooting lodge and onto the road. Turn L and past a few dwellings till the village hall is again reached.

3 *Approx distance 4.5 miles, about 2.5 hours. An easy walk past the farms of Muggleswick with a more demanding descent through the woods to the Hisehope Burn.*

The start of this walk reverses the end of Walk 2. Take the road southwards and before the cattle grid turn R and follow the track to Birkhot where the L path past the farmhouse goes downhill and crosses the Hisehope Burn by a FB. Follow uphill to the derelict farm Cushat Leazes and TL towards Carp Shield, two fields away. Join the track winding uphill to the road at Goldhill. Cross straight over to the stone stile in the wall. Follow the field paths past the first farmhouse to reach Middle Horsleyhope and TL through a metal gate. Follow the path through several fields, crossing the last to reach a stile in the corner of the woodland. The path goes steeply downhill through the wood and can be difficult in wet weather. If you manage to keep on the right track it comes to a FB across the Hisehope and then a short uphill to reach the road. TL and follow it all the way back to the start.

Walking groups are welcome in Muggleswick. Refreshments can be provided in the Village Hall by arrangement. Contact, Village Hall Secretary, telephone 01207 590986.





Aerial view of Waskerley