

Swaledale Newspaper Articles (Vol 1: 1717 – 1882)

06 December 1757. *London Evening Post*; Issue 4694

Extract of Letter from Richmond in Yorkshire, Dec. 4

“Yesterday, being the market day, a number of rioters to the amount of near an hundred, masons, knitters, and labouring men, from Askrigg, Bolton, and Redmire, and other parts of Wensleydale, with some few from Swaledale, came into the town early in the morning, forcibly rung the Corn-Bell, and their ringleader proclaimed the price of corn, viz. Wheat four shillings per bushel, masseline three shillings and sixpence, oats one shilling and sixpence. When done, they seized the sacks of the farmers and insisted upon having the corn at the price by them set, some of them paying and others taking it without paying any thing. Others of the rioters set the price on oatmeal and potato. Some of the town’s people were as industrious as the rioters themselves, in buying at the price so set. The M----- stood affrighted at his own shop door, without endeavouring to put a stop to their proceedings during all this disturbance, until a neighbouring gentleman of fortune went and insisted upon his reading the Proclamation; and then the gentleman himself seized upon the ringleader and bout ten others, and had them immediately committed to Gaol, where they now remain.

P.S. The rioters seem not the only people who deserve to be represented to the Public”

18 December 1764. *St James Chronicle of the British Evening Post*

Last Saturday Henry PRATT late of Healaugh in Swaledale (the remarkable Quack Cow Doctor) was committed to Richmond Gaol in the County on suspicion of stealing a cow hide, the property of Thomas HUSBAND of Reeth, tanner ; and as the Constables of Middleham were conveying him to the Magistrate at Bedale, the Doctor, when he came to Ulshaw Bridge, took a sudden resolution to get rid of his attendants and threw himself over the battlements into the River Yore, being at that time bank full, but was drove to an island where he lay many hours and was with much difficulty got off.

Tues June 16 1767

On the 3rd day died at Reeth, in Swaledale, Mr. HARKER, a great mine adventurer.

Jul 24 1770

We hear that the property of the rich lead mine, lately discovered in Swaledale in Yorkshire, (said to produce 300l a day) is in controversy between the Earl of POMFRET, and Mr. SMITH of Gray’s Inn, and is to be tried at the next York Assizes.

12 April 1771. *Public Advertiser*; Issue 11348

COUNTRY NEWS

York, April 9. We hear from Swaledale in this County, that on Wednesday the 27th about 40 men, under an apparent Agency, riotously assembled and broke up the weir, setting the water off from Mr Smith’s smelt mill at Raygill near Reeth, and violently assaulted Mr Smith’s Agents and workmen, and entirely laid the mill useless. In consequence of the above riotous proceeding by a set of vagrants who

have no property and could find no bed, 12 of them were apprehended and committed to the House of Correction at Richmond, by Justice Fielding of Starforth.

**02 May 1771. *London Evening Post*; Issue 6770
COUNTRY NEWS**

York, April 30. The riotous proceedings in Swaledale are not yet at an end. Yesterday night a number of lawless vagrants again assembled and destroyed the water-race of Mr Smith's smelt mill at Raygill, near Reeth; which had been only repaired the evening before and set to work by Mr Smith's servants. The smelt mill, called Spout Gill, in Swaledale, in the occupation of Mess. Scot and Metcalf was like-wise laid entirely useless by a new gang of banditti, employed for the vile purpose of doing Mr Smith all the injuries that can possibly be thought of. By the above riotous proceedings, Mr Smith has not a corn or smelt mill left fit for service within his extensive royalties.

**11 May 1771. *Bingley's Journal or Universal Gazette (1771)*; Issue 50
COUNTRY NEWS**

Newcastle, May 11. We are informed by a person from Swaledale that last Saturday night, a number of the banditti, which are there very properly styled *Black Boys* and had the week before destroyed all Mr Smith's mill races, assembled in the night, threw down and turned over several hayricks (in this scarce season for fodder) to the great loss of the peaceable inhabitants of that country; one of which hayricks, belonged to an agent of Mr Smiths, was rolled down into a steep gill and thrown into the water, which makes it appear that those Black Banditti, like the White Boys in Ireland, are encouraged under hand.

25 May 1771. *Westminster Journal and London Political Miscellany*; Issue 1369

They write from Swaledale, that the banditti still continue to destroy Mr Smith's water-course, at Raygill Smelt-mill, as often as his workmen open the same to carry on their work. Which is the more remarkable as they have suffered judgment to pass by default in an action brought against them by Mr Smith, in order for trying at the next York Assizes, whether such violence's upon his property could be justified by their idle pretence of making trails for lead mines.

**27 June 1771. *Middlesex Journal or Chronicle of Liberty*; Issue 350
COUNTRY NEWS**

York, June 25. We hear from Swaledale that the water-race belonging to Mr Smith's corn-mill at Gunnerside was again repaired on the 12th instant, which was no sooner perfected than the black boys immediately assembled, and destroyed it with their usual brutality.

**25 July 1771. *General Evening Post*; Issue 5895
COUNTRY NEWS**

York, July 23. Last Saturday a writ of enquiry was executed before the Hon. Sir Henry Gould, Knt, one of the Judges of Assize; between Mr Smith of Gray's-Inn, London, and his opponents in Swaledale in this county, when they agreed to pay Mr Smith 12 guineas with costs of suit, for the damage done to his smelt-mill, & c. in Swaledale.

Nov 13 1772. *Morning Chronicle*

It is reported that above twenty thousand pounds have been spent in law by the contending parties in the dispute about the Yorkshire lead mine, and a correspondent remarks that the Lawyers, like the Chemist in the Beggar's Opera, possess the art of turning lead into gold.

10 January 1793. *Morning Herald; Issue 4313*

COUNTRY NEWS

At a numerous and respectable meeting of the gentlemen and inhabitants of Swaledale and Arkendale, held at Reeth on the 29th after passing an ignominious sentence on Tom Paine, the arch libeller, his effigy was committed to the flames upon the Market Cross, amidst the acclamations of multitudes, who expressed their loyalty by singing *God Save the King*. – At the same time a subscription was entered into on behalf of the debtors in York Castle, who lately signaled themselves by testifying their loyalty.

14 March 1798. *Sun; Issue 1707*

At a lead mine pay made by PETER DENYS, Esq, on the 6th of March in SWALEDALE, in the NORTH RIDING of YORKSHIRE, a numerous of miners entered into the following resolutions:

We, the swaledale miners, anxious to testify our abhorrence of French principles and a French invasion; and to give an earnest of our loyalty and attachment to our King and Country, have unanimously resolved each to subscribe half a crown out of our wages, as a voluntary aid in support of the war; and in case of actual invasion, to come forward with our personal services to repel the enemy.

Resolved also that a subscription book be opened, and left at the A.D. Inn, Fremington, for the subscriptions of such other miners and labouring classes of people in the neighbourhood, as are desirous to give proof of their loyalty; and that the names of the numerous miners, and others so subscribing, shall be printed from time to time, and placed on the church door at Grinton, as a terror to all republican levellers.

27 April 1805. *The Newcastle Courant etc.; Issue 6707*

TO SCHOOLMASTERS

Wanted immediately: a Master to the School at Muker in Swaledale, Yorkshire. The School is endowed with upwards of 12 l. per Annum, and a few poor children only are taught free. Great encouragement will be given to a diligent young man, who can teach English Grammar, Writing and Arithmetic, and can have a Recommendation.

For further particulars, apply to the Rev. Wm. Richardson, Muker, aforesaid.

07 August 1810. *The Morning Chronicle; Issue 12868*

A strawberry was plucked a few days ago in Mr Geldard's garden at Paradise, in Swaledale, near Richmond, in Yorkshire, which measured one way six inches and a quarter, and the other five inches, in circumference. It weighed one ounce.

09 March 1818. *The Morning Chronicle*; Issue 15242

DISTRESSED MINERS

Report of the proceedings at a PUBLIC MEETING held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-Street, on Tuesday the 24th February, 1818, to take into consideration the best means of alleviating the condition of the distressed miners in different parts of the kingdom – as taken in short hand. Also is added, the Affidavit of Mr Thos Buxton, as to cases of great distress in Swaledale, in Yorkshire. Also an Appeal to the poor miners.

Printed for Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme and Brown, Paternoster-row; sold also by Asperne, Cornhill; Lloyd, Harley-Street; J and G Todd, York; Charnley, Newcastle; Wilson, Hull; Bowman, Richmond; and all other Booksellers.

19 July 1828. *The Newcastle Courant etc*; Issue 8009

Floods

. . . In Swaledale the water has flooded many hundred acres of grass and done great damage. Some individuals who expected a very abundant crop are bereaved of it, and behold with distress their property completely covered with sand, & c. Horses, cows, pigs, sheep, and trees, were carried away in the wreck. At Barnard Castle little damage has been experienced; but the Tees, on Sunday last, exhibited a most alarming sight, it being higher than it has been for years. ...

08 November 1828. *The Newcastle Courant etc*; Issue 8025

...- As Mr Birkbeck, of Low Row, in Swaledale, was returning from London last year, he fell into company with a son of Dr Chalmers, who gave him six potatoes which he had brought from Ostend. Mr B cut them into 70 sets, planted them in his best ground, and they have produced the great quantity of 17 pecks. They are of a pink colour, and weigh from 21 to 31 ounces each, and grew in clusters like grapes. ..

April 7th 1829.

TO THE CLERGY, CHURCHWARDENS, AND CONSTABLES OF PARISHES
YOUNG WOMAN MISSING

On Monday, the 7th Day of April 1828, a young woman, called BETTY METCALF, left the House of Solomon Harker, Farmer at Kearton, in the Township of Melbecks, and Parish of Grinton. The said Betty Metcalf was twenty-one years of age, of fair complexion, small visage, blue eyes, about the middle height of women, and was far advanced in pregnancy. She was dressed in a cotton chintz gown, white straw bonnet trimmed with white ribbons, a drab cloak, the hood lined with silk of the same colour, had a small reticule basket and it is supposed, 40s in money, and another gown. She has not been heard from since by her relations. As there are serious suspicions entertained concerning the disappearance of this young woman, it is earnestly requested that the Clergy, Churchwardens, and the Constables will make inquiries in their respective Parishes, and that any intelligence which can be gained, may be addressed immediately to the Churchwardens of the Parish of Grinton, near Richmond, Yorkshire.

Sat Jul 27 1839.

Deaths

On the 8th ult. At Gunnerside in Swaledale aged 63, Mr. Thomas RUTTER

Sep 7 1839.

Deaths

On the 12th August, aged 95, Mary, widow of the late Mt. George RAW. 50 years a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

04 July 1829. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 3156*

Deaths

On the 18th, at Reeth in Swaledale in this county, in his 94th year, Mr John Kearton. He was greatly esteemed on account of his ability and integrity as a rider, and won a greater number of gold cups than any jockey of his day.

08 June 1839. *The Leeds Mercury: Issue 5502*

Mr E A KNOWLES. – The trial of John Birkbeck, of Low Row, for a libel on E A Knowles, Esq., of Paradise, having been decided in the Court of Queen’s Bench, by the defendant authorising his counsel, Sir F Pollock, to make a full retraction of every imputation he had endeavoured to fix on the character of the prosecutor, and also stating that he, the defendant, would pay the prosecutor’s costs. The inhabitants of Gunnerside, Low Row, and Feetham assembled on Friday last, and walked in procession to meet Mr Knowles on his return from London. When about a mile from his residence he was met by a large body of people, having two bands of music, and a banner. His horse was immediately taken from the vehicle in which Mr and Mrs Knowles and their little boy were seated; they were then borne along by human power midst the cheers of the multitude, the bands playing appropriate airs. On their arrival at Paradise, three cheers were given, and the meeting, the largest ever seen in Swaledale, quietly dispersed. Mr K is a gentleman who is highly respected by the inhabitants of Swaledale, and their conduct on this occasion must have been truly gratifying to his family who have no doubt suffered much by the malicious attack which had been made upon his character. The result ought to operate as a warning to persons, who, to gratify their revenge would stigmatize the character, and if they could, blast the reputation of a fellow mortal. *Correspondent*

06 August 1841. *The Newcastle Courant etc; Issue 8696*

On Tuesday last, the Lord Bishop of Ripon consecrated the newly-erected church at Melbecks, in Swaledale; a number of the clergy attended on the occasion, and the ceremony attracted a large congregation.

04 August 1843. *The Hull Packet and East Riding Times; Issue 3059*

During the last week Mary Sunter, 86 years of age was one of the most active of hay-makers, employed by John Barker, Esq., of Healaugh, in Swaledale. This hale old woman has worked at hay in the same land for the worthy “Squire of the Rookery” and his predecessors in 50 consecutive years.

7 October 1845. *Glasgow Herald.*

An Uncomfortable Position. – A young man named Porter who resides within a mile of Reeth, in Swaledale, was out the other day with his dog for the purpose of hunting rabbits. The dog having run two rabbits into a hole amongst some stones, Porter made an effort to widen the place, and had thrust his hand and arm into the hole, and had just got hold of a rabbit when the stones gave way and closed him so fast that he could not stir his head or arms or body – only his legs were uncovered. In this extraordinary position he was discovered, after being buried for ninety hours. He was taken home in a wretched condition, but still retaining his consciousness, and is now gradually recovering. His discovery was quite accidental, although the whole neighbourhood turned out to find him.

25 October 1851. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 6151*

To Carpet Manufacturers, and Worsted and Woollen Yarn Spinners.

By Mr GEORGE TERRY, at the Buck Inn, in Reeth, in the county of York, on Friday, the thirty-first day of October, 1851, at three o'clock in the afternoon, subject to the conditions to be then and there produced.

Lot 1. All that substantial modern stone-built mill, called Haverdale Mill, situate near Low Row, in Swaledale late in the occupation of Mr E A Knowles.

This mill is worked by an overshot waterwheel, about 38 feet in diameter by 6 feet wide.

The woollen yarn division of the mill comprises four rooms, 60 feet by 40, containing 2 teazors, 4 scribblers, 4 carders, 4 billies, and one pair of mules, of 548 spindles, quite new – all in good condition and by first-rate makers. The worsted department of the mill is replete with main and counter shafting for the carding, preparing, and spinning of carpet worsted, consisting of four rooms about the size of above named, with two pairs of fulling stocks, and also four pairs of mill stones, two French burrs, one grey and one shilling stone; corn screen, flour dressing machine, elevators, &c. The whole is very complete and of the best construction, and has only been fit up a few months.

The outbuildings consist of an extensive and most convenient dye-house, weaving rooms, warehouses, and stable. There are also attached to these premises TWO good DWELLING-HOUSES, suited for the residence of the foremen or managers. The mill and dye-pans are heated by steam. The water-wheel, shafting, steam boiler, dye-pans, &c., were made and erected by the Bowling Iron Company and are of the best quality and construction.

Lot 2. All that new-built and well-accustomed INN, called the “Miners’ Arms,” with the brew house complete, and stable and coach house thereto adjoining. Also nine acres of most excellent meadow LAND, of first rate quality, with a barn thereon, and four cattle goits; all of which are situate at Low Row aforesaid, and are now in the occupation of Mr Thomas Winter, as tenant thereof.

And also all those FOUR DWELLING-HOUSES, situate at Low Row aforesaid, and now in the respective occupations of John Hunter, Margaret Cherry, Wilfred Calvert, and Mary Knowles, as tenants thereof.

Lot 1 is freehold; the parochial rates are exceedingly low, and have not exceeded £5 per annum. It is distant from Kendal 30 miles, the Ingleton railway station 20 miles, and the Richmond railway station 14 miles. It may be inspected on any day

on application to Mr E A KNOWLES, or Mr THOMAS SHEPHERD, the foreman, on the premises.

03 January 1852. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 6161*

KELD, SWALEDALE - The friends of the Independent chapel in this remote village, held their annual meeting on Christmas day. The weather was favourable and at half-past ten o'clock in the morning 117 children were regaled with tea and buns, after which, headed by music and bearing appropriately inscribed banners, they proceeded to Angram, about a mile distant from Keld whence they returned highly gratified with their recreation. In the afternoon a public tea party was held in the school-room, when 289 persons assembled. In the morning, the children were addressed by the Rev. G F Terry, of Sedbergh. Mr Terry also preached in the afternoon on the nativity of Christ, and in the evening addressed himself especially to the young people. The congregations were large, and much interest was manifested in the proceedings of the day. In the course of the meeting pieces of sacred music were well performed by a party from Gunnerside (Wesleyans) under the direction of Mr G Johnson, and added greatly to the animation of the services. The collection, to defray expenses, amounted to £6.18s., the whole being given on the voluntary principle and when it is considered that Keld, with its vicinity for two miles in all directions, does not contain more than 400 inhabitants, the great proportion of whom are in humble circumstances, the company will appear large and the contributions liberal.

Nov 12, 1852

Richmond Petty Sessions

Joseph BUXTON of Gunnerside charged with assaulting Thomas MARR, was fined 5s and costs

Martha NEASHAM of Muker applied for an order of affiliation to be made on John HARKER of Gunnerside - granted

19 March 1853. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 6224*

Marriages

(on Saturday)

Same day, at Trinity Church, Melbecks, Swaledale, Mr CHARLES TALBOT, of the Royal Sappers and Miners, to Miss AGNES CLOSE, of Gunnerside.

2 Dec 1854

Keld, Swaledale - Mutual Improvement Society

This society was formed some months since in the remote village of Keld, where a devoted agent of the West Riding Home Missionary Society has for many years been labouring. Through his efforts much good has been done; the education of the inhabitants has been advanced, a spirit of inquiry and a desire for improvement have been awakened, and in order to meet the demand thus created, Mr. WILKINSON (the minister referred to) succeeded in the spring of the present year in establishing a Mutual Improvement Society among the younger men. This event formed quite an era in the annals of Keld. The young men of the village, although few in number and much occupied with agricultural pursuits, readily joined the society and have constantly availed themselves of the means of improvement supplied to them by the reading-room, library, and occasional lectures.

13 February 1855. *Liverpool Mercury etc. Issue 2663*

Early on Friday morning last a young man, aged 36, named William Milner Clark, son of a respectable grocer, at Thwaite-in-Swaledale, Yorkshire, a private in the royal sappers and miners, who has been for some time employed in the ordnance survey at Milnthorpe cut his throat with a razor in a frightful manner near the national school and afterwards completed self-destruction by drowning himself in the river Bela, which runs close by the school.

12 July 1856. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 6506*

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY. – LEEDS SECTION.

- The BEAUTIES of YORKSHIRE – Wensleydale and Swaledale, though comparatively little known, are acknowledged to be the most picturesque and beautiful districts in Yorkshire. They are easily accessible, as Leyburn in Wensleydale, and Richmond in Swaledale, possess continuous railway communication with the north and south. For the purpose of enabling the public to explore these romantically beautiful valleys, the Directors of the North-Eastern Railway Company have determined to issue, on and after the 14th inst., Return Tickets to parties of not less than twelve persons from Leeds, Harrogate, Ripon, and Stockton, to Leyburn or Richmond, and back daily at the following extremely low fares:-

FIRST CLASS, 7s 6d. SECOND CLASS, 5s.

The tickets will entitle the holders to return on the day of issue, or by the first or second train on the following day. Those issued on Saturday are available for return by any train on Monday. They are not transferable, and do not entitle the holders to alight at any intermediate station; parties attempting to do so, will be charged the ordinary fares, without any deduction for what has been paid for the excursion ticket. To secure a through carriage, a day's notice must be given.

Trains leave Leeds at	AM 7.25	AM 11.0	PM 1.30	PM 5.0
Arrive at Richmond		2.35	4.55	8.15
“ Leyburn	11.30		4.40	8.40
Trains leave Leyburn	6.00	11.50	5.15	-
“ Richmond	6.45	12.30	5.45	-
Arrive at Leeds	10.15	3.45	9.50	-

Horses and Carriages may be obtained at Leyburn or Richmond for those who wish to extend their excursion to the numerous objects of interest in the neighbourhood. JAS. WILSON. Goods' Manager and Superintendent
Leeds, July 12, 1856.

06 December 1856. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 6569

KELD, SWALEDALE, - The Mutual Improvement Society of this village held their third annual meeting in their reading room, on Thursday, the 27th ult. At seven o'clock the members sat down to a social cup of tea, after which the evening was spent in the transaction of business and the election of officers. The secretary presented a very satisfactory report, and the treasurer's accounts showed a balance of £2 8s in favour of the society.

02 May 1857. *The Bristol Mercury*; Issue 3502

GROUSE SHOOTING, SWALEDALE, YORKSHIRE

To be LET, for such term as shall be agreed upon, the well-known excellent GROUSE MOORS, called the *Keld* or *Muker Moors*, situated at the head of SWALEDALE, in the North Riding of the county of York, adjoining to and bounded by the strictly preserved Moors of Lords De Grey, Wharnccliffe, and Lonsdale, and Sir Richard Tufton and others. These moors have been in the occupation of Mr Osbaldeston, the late Sir Richard Sutton, and other distinguished sportsmen, and have long enjoyed a high reputation. They have been carefully preserved, and had a jubilee last year. There is accommodation for four or five gentlemen adjoining the ground. There is a branch to Richmond from the North Eastern Railway, about twenty miles from the moors. Terms and further particulars may be known on application to Messrs. LANGHORNE and TOMLIN, Solicitors, Richmond, Yorkshire.

24 September 1857. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 6694

SWALEDALE. – INDEPENDENT SABBATH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

Two sermons were preached in the Friends' Meeting House, Low Row, on Sunday the 20th September by the Rev. H Oakley, of Richmond. The children, accompanied by instrumental music, sung several interesting pieces, being ably conducted by Mr S Platt. The collections were liberal.

13 Mar 1858

James HARKER (27) was charged with having at Reeth, on the 22nd of January last, cut and wounded Joshua FAWCETT with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

Mr. Price and Mr. Simpson prosecuted; and Mr. Davison defended the prisoner. The prosecutor and the prisoner are miners, and on the day named they were at the Buck public house at Reeth near Richmond. The prosecutor was in the company of a man named DOLPHIN and the prisoner had a friend with him named SLACK, the latter of whom was also committed upon the charge of cutting and wounding but the Grand Jury threw out the bill against him. Some joking took place between the prisoner and Fawcett, followed by a quarrel. The prisoner challenged the prosecutor to a fight, and he accepted the challenge. They came outside the house, and commenced a pugilistic encounter, Slack acting as second to the prisoner. The prosecutor fought with his fists, but the prisoner "fought underneath" as it is termed, and used a knife with which he struck the prosecutor, and wounded him in seven or eight places on the left side. The prosecutor at length fell sick and exhausted, and was conveyed home. A surgeon was called in, and he discovered on the prosecutor eight wounds; three on the left ribs, three on the left arm between the elbow and the shoulder and two upon the back. One of the wounds on the side was of a serious description, and for a week the prosecutor's life was in danger. When the prisoner was apprehended at his house in Arkendale,

a pocket knife was laid at the bottom of the stairs, and the large blade was bloody. The defence was that there was no satisfactory evidence to show that the prisoner inflicted the injuries, and for aught that appeared Black might have been the party who wounded the prosecutor.

Guilty; to be kept in penal servitude for three years.

09 July 1859. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 6975*

A NARROW ESCAPE. – On Tuesday last Mr Marshall, of York, and Mr George Hayes, of Manchester, left Richmond, Yorkshire in a gig for a drive over the districts of Swaledale and Wensleydale. Whilst walking up a very steep and rough road, the horse was stung by a gall fly and became restive, backing the gig some yards off the road to the edge of a precipice. It required all their strength to hold her head and the wheel of the gig for several minutes. Whilst in this dilemma they were seen by some sheep shearers, who ran up the hill to their assistance and thus prevented the destruction of a valuable mare and vehicle.

24 November 1859. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 7034*

KELD, SWALEDALE - The members of the Keld Mutual Improvement Society held their fifth annual meeting on the 18th inst. After enjoying a cheerful cup of tea, the business of the society was attended to. The secretary gave a very satisfactory report showing, after defraying all expenses, a balance of £4 16s. During the evening great unanimity prevailed. The society was formed in the face of many difficulties and few encouragements. Some kind friends in Leeds gave a few books to commence a library, which now numbers 236 volumes, amongst which are some valuable works which are much read by the members. The society is not now looked upon with doubt and suspicion as at first, but commends itself to all as a valuable institution.

14 February 1861. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 7226*

THE LATE STORM

... A Richmond correspondent writes on Monday as follows:

- "The wintry weather which was experienced at the beginning of the year, has visited some parts of the North Riding of Yorkshire with great severity, felt all the more keenly in consequence of its succeeding a few days of spring-like warmth. The visitation has been most capricious in its character. The North-Eastern Railway line seems to have acted like a barrier at the first outbreak of the storm, and while towards the eastern side there was only a fringe of snow, which lay lightly on the ground, and thicker on the hill tops, westward there was a fall of snow which has not been equalled for some time past. At Leyburn, in Wensleydale, the snow commenced to fall on Friday night, and continued to fall without intermission the whole of the following day. In many places the snow was drifted to the depth of ten feet, and the roads from Leyburn, westward and northward, were perfectly impassable on Saturday. In Swaledale the storm was equally violent, and the snow fell most heavily. From Reeth to Richmond the usual transit of the Saturday's market was nearly barred, the roads having to be cleared in many places; and on Richmond Moor the snow lay in a depth of from two to four feet. One poor fellow had a narrow escape from a fearful death during the snow storm. He was passing across Halfpenny Moor, on the road from Bellerby to Richmond, when he was perfectly overpowered, and he fell on the road-side senseless. Fortunately two men, who were seeking for one of their companions who was safe in some other place,

discovered the helpless traveller, and by them he was carried to a place of refuge, where means were successfully used for his restoration and recovery. Sheep have been 'snowed up', in several instances, and it is feared great damage has been done by the present unexpected visit of winter."

30 December 1861. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 7399*

KELD, IN SWALEDALE. – The annual tea party in connexion with the Independent Chapel at Keld was, as usual, held on the 25th inst. The day was fine, which brought together a large gathering of neighbours and friends from a distance. In the afternoon 90 children were supplied with tea and buns. In the evening 254 persons sat down to an excellent tea, after which a service was held in the chapel, when a sermon was preached by the resident minister. Mr T FORD, of Gunnerside, presided at the organ. Collections were made amounting to £8 7s 8½d.

31 January 1862. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 7427*

WANTED, a situation as lady's maid. Good character.
Apply to Miss METCALFE, Healaugh, near Reeth, Swaledale, Yorkshire.

14 February 1862. *The Newcastle Courant etc.; Issue 9764*

HARTLEY COLLIERY ACCIDENT

At a meeting held in the Guildhall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to promote a subscription for the relief of the widows and orphans of those who perished in Hartley Pit The Mayor of Newcastle (JOSEPH ARMSTRONG, Esq) in the Chair.

It was resolved to open a subscription list for the benefit of the sufferers. The men and boys killed number over 200; and those dependent upon them, so far as has yet been ascertained, number 407.

...(extracted from a very long list of contributors from all over the country)...

Collected from the miners in Swaledale and Arkendale, in North Yorkshire (per Mr G A ROBINSON, of Reeth, Richmond) £5 10. 0d.

27 November 1862. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 7684*

KELD, IN SWALEDALE. – The members of Keld Mutual Improvement Society and Literary Institute held their annual meeting on the 22nd instant. After enjoying a social cup of tea, the business of the society was proceeded with. The secretary gave a very satisfactory and encouraging report, showing that during the past year there had been an increase of ten members, that 35 volumes had been added to the library, and that the reading room had been well supplied with newspapers, &c. After paying all expenses, a balance of £9 3s. 7d. remained in favour of the society. A vote of thanks was passed to the various officers, all of whom were unanimously re-elected. The evening was very pleasantly spent.

09 July 1863. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 7875*

THWAITE, SWALEDALE. – On the 26th ult., the first stone of a new Congregational Chapel was laid in the village of Thwaite, Swaledale, Yorkshire, and in honour of the event the whole population of the district kept holiday. About one o'clock p.m., several hundreds of the inhabitants of the dale, young and old, assembled at Keld, which is situated at the head of the valley, and having formed

themselves into a procession proceeded (headed by the Brass Temperance Band, belonging to Mr G ROBINSON, of Reeth) to the site of the proposed building, a distance of about two miles. Having reached the spot, where a large concourse of people who had come from the lower parts of the dale were awaiting the arrival of the procession, the Rev. J WILKINSON, of Keld, gave out a hymn, and the Rev. J H MORGAN of Leeds, offered prayer. Mr W H CONYERS, of Leeds, then proceeded to lay the stone, associating with the ceremony of doing so a few appropriate and impressive remarks. He was followed by the Rev. W THOMAS, of Leeds, who delivered a lucid and comprehensive address, explanatory of the principles and aims of the Congregational denomination. The interesting scene was brought to a close by singing a hymn, which was read out by the Rev. M WHITE, of Reeth, and by prayer which was offered by the Rev. J BARACLOUGH, the superintendent Wesleyan minister of the circuit. The assembly then separated to meet again in a large tent, erected in the middle of the village, where upwards of 500 persons took tea together. After tea Mr R C ALLEN, of Hawes, presided, and very interesting and instructive speeches were delivered by several gentlemen. The new chapel will be attached to the ministry of the Rev J WILKINSON, of Keld, who exertions to promote the social and spiritual welfare of the district have been indefatigable and signally successful. The design and plans for the building have been furnished by Mr Thomas Ambler, architect, of Leeds.

Feb 11 1864

On Tuesday an adjourned inquest was held at Reeth, on the body of an infant child which had been found in a level – a cutting leading to a lead mine at Marrick, between Reeth and Richmond. There being no direct evidence to connect any person with the death of the child, an open verdict of ‘Wilful murder against some person or persona unknown’ was returned. A young woman named WOOD, supposed to be the mother of the above child, has been taken into custody on the charge of concealment of birth.

05 March 1864. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 8080*

DEATHS

ALDERSON. – Feb. 27th, at Thwaite, in Swaledale, aged 66, Mr Edwd. ALDERSON, innkeeper.

19 May 1864. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 8144*

The thunderstorm which passed over Harrogate, Otley, and Halifax on Monday, appears to have swept with unusual violence over the whole of the district lying on the borders of North Yorkshire, Westmoreland, and Cumberland. In Wensleydale and Swaledale the rain came down in torrents, and flooded the beds of those beautiful valleys for miles and miles. The streams rose into the magnitude of small rivers in a very short time, and before the necessary steps could be taken to protect the property along the banks the waters were out, and carried almost everything before them. Bridges and other structures were swept away, and the farmers suffered severely, both in loss of stock and injury to their crops.

22 August 1864. *Daily News; Issue 5707*

A WILD MAN IN YORKSHIRE. – Some excitement has prevailed in Swaledale, Arkendale, the borders of Westmoreland, as well as at Barnard Castle and Richmond, by the proceedings of a man who lived in the woods and on the moors. He was of middle height and though of slender build, he possessed considerable muscular power, as was evidence by his surprising activity. His clothing consisted of a fragment of an old dressing-gown, reaching from his waist to his knees, fastened round him with a cord, and a few rags clinging to his shoulders. His feet and legs were covered with dirt. His hair and beard were long and matted, saving which there was nothing ferocious in his aspect, his features being naturally mild and not unprepossessing. Occasionally he had approached farmhouses; and at Scargill and other places, kind-hearted people had given him food, which he had eaten with avidity, but he had refused to accept the clothes offered him. He ran with wonderful speed, sometimes leaping into the air and glancing behind him at nearly every step. He seemed to have no fixed route, but diverged on each side of the way as he rapidly traversed the ground. It is thought that he must in some degree have subsisted upon such game or vermin as he could catch; and he has been observed eating the garbage lying in the vicinity of farmhouses. He was perfectly inoffensive; but his singular appearance and his mode of running and screaming had terrified many women and children. It is related also that a man living at a farm near Barnard Castle had risen early to go to the coal pits, but had been so frightened by the sudden appearance of the “wild man” that he hastily unyoked the horses, hurried back to the house, and barricaded the doors and windows. There is no doubt that the “wild man” is a harmless lunatic who has escaped from confinement. The police have been on the lookout for several weeks, but have failed to capture him until this present week, when the police stationed at Greta Bridge succeeded, after an exciting chase, in seizing him. He stands remanded for 14 days to Northallerton gaol, in order that inquiries might be made concerning him. – *Yorkshire Gazette*

03 August 1867. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 9144*

NISI PRIUS COURT, Friday
(Before Mr Justice LUSH)

WILSON v WILSON

Mr MANISTY, Q.C. and Mr SHEPHERD appeared for the Plaintiff; Mr PRICE, Q.C., and Mr KEMPLAY for the Defendant. The plaintiff, Mr THOMAS WILSON, resides at Keld, in Swaledale, and he brought this action against Mr ROBINSON WILSON, the defendant, as the executor of his father, Mr JOHN WILSON, to recover £240, with interest, upon a promissory note. The plaintiff is a gamekeeper, and was the brother of Mr JOHN WILSON. The latter having got into difficulties, he left a farm which Thomas sometimes occupied himself and sometimes let. He allowed John to look after it, and John got further into debt, which the plaintiff paid off. In June, 1853, different transactions having been going on for several years, the parties met and settled the account. It was agreed that £240 were owing, and it was arranged that John should give his brother a promissory note for the amount, and pay £9 a year interest. The last payment that was made was early in 1865, and the sum was now claimed of Mr John Wilson’s executor, who succeeded to the farm his father had occupied. There were several pleas to the action, such as never indebted, payment, and the statute of limitations, but the substantial defence was that the defendant succeeded to no assets from his father at the time of his death, he having no property whatever, and that he (the defendant) had himself paid for the stock, &c., he had upon the premises.

The jury retired for forty minutes, and then found a *Verdict for the Plaintiff for £120*, that being, in their opinion, the value of the assets of the late Mr John Wilson.

ALLEGED CONCEALMENT OF BIRTH NEAR RICHMOND

FANNY ROBINSON (21) was indicted on the charge of having concealed the birth of her child at Whashton, near Richmond, on the 3rd May. – Mr SHEPHERD prosecuted, and Mr CAMPBELL FOSTER and Mr SKIDMORE appeared on behalf of the prisoner. – The prisoner was in the employ of Mr MILES ALDERSON, a farmer residing at Hope, near Richmond, as his housekeeper. On Friday, the 3rd May, a boy named MATTHEW ALLAN, who was on his way from school, saw on an island in a stream known as Whashton Beck a bag, which as it appeared to contain something bulky, he obtained and on examining it he found that it was the body of a newly-born male child. This Allan left in a field and then went away, but afterwards returned to the spot accompanied by a police-officer named Shepherd, who removed it to a stable, and there found that it was wrapped in part of an old petticoat and a lady's vest, the former of which corresponded with some cloth found in the prisoner's box. The way in which it was further sought to connect the prisoner with the child was as follows: - JANE HINDMORE, who had slept with the prisoner on two occasions some five or six weeks before the discovery of the body, said that the prisoner on both occasion slept with her clothes on, and that subsequently on seeing her at Richmond, she noticed a great change in her appearance; on the 1st May the prisoner was seen on the highway in the vicinity of Whashton; on the 4th of the same month the body of the child, on which there no signs of decomposition, was examined by Mr THOMAS CARTER, physician and surgeon, who found that there were no external marks of violence and it was his opinion that it had breath, and that death had resulted from congestion of the lungs. The same gentleman had subsequently examined the prisoner, and found that she had been recently delivered of a child. On the night of the 10th May the prisoner, while in the charge of Mrs SINGLETON, the wife of the inspector of police at Scorton, five miles away from Richmond, said that she did not think Mr STELLING, the superintendent of police, would get any evidence against her, for she knew her master would not go against her to do her any harm. Mrs Singleton said, "Perhaps it was that the baby being found so near to where you lived caused suspicion to be thrown upon you," to which the prisoner replied, "Oh no, for I took it nearly eight miles away before I put it down." Mr FOSTER contended that the whole case seemed to hinge entirely on Mrs Singleton's evidence, and urged that whatever the prisoner had said had been the result of ingenious questions put to her. The Learned Counsel then reviewed the evidence, contending that there was nothing to bring home the charge to the prisoner, and dwelling especially on the facts elicited on cross-examination that the prisoner went about her farm duties, milking cows, churning butter, &c., from which he urged that she could not have been in the condition in which the prosecution had endeavoured to prove. There was no proof, he maintained, that the prisoner had given birth to a child, and that if she had given birth to a child there was no proof that it was the child found at Whashton Beck. – His LORDSHIP having summoned up, the jury immediately returned a verdict of not guilty, amid the applause of the spectators, which was immediately suppressed.

25 September 1868. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 9502

PROPOSED RAILWAY EXTENSION IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES. – Several projects have from time to time been mooted whereby better communication could be obtained between Richmond and upper Swaledale. There is a large mining population living at Reeth, Arkendale, Gunnerside, &c., and a considerable trade is done in lead mining. At present the pigs of lead have all to be carted to Richmond at great cost, that being the nearest point of railway. A meeting has just been held at Richmond with Sir GEORGE DENYS, Bart., in the chair, at which it was determined that a railway should be constructed to consist of a single line. Plans were submitted by Messrs. Lucas and Wilkinson, of Westminster, from which it is estimated that the new line will cost from £3,000 to £4,000 a mile. Mr J R TOMLIN, of Richmond has been appointed to solicitor of the proposed company. Several gentlemen present were prepared to take shares, and one offered to give land. Swaledale, which will be thus opened out, is one of the most picturesque parts of Yorkshire.

17 May 1869. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 9702

NORTH-EASTERN AND NORTH BRITISH. – It is now stated that the North-Eastern will shortly exercise its running powers over the North British, and that North-eastern trains will run to Edinburgh after the 1st of June. The North-Eastern has convened a special general meeting for June 3rd to consider the provisions affecting the company in the bill for making a Swaledale railway to Reeth.

04 February 1873. *Northern Echo*; Issue 962

LIFE IN UPPER SWALEDALE. – At the Gilling West Petty Sessions, on Saturday last a rather singular affiliation case came before the Court, in which MARY ALDERSON, of Kisdon, near Muker, single woman, was the plaintiff; and EDWARD KIRTON, now working at Cold Knott Colliery, near Crook, was the defendant. Mary Alderson said that on the 11th December last she was confined of a male child, of which Edward Kirton was the father. She had known him six or seven years, and he was living till lately about half a mile from her home. He had kept company with her for about four years. Her brother saw them together on more than one occasion. Cross-examined by Mr Teale, of Leyburn, for the defence: He left Thwaite in August and she never told him of her condition, for she had never spoken to him since March. – GEORGE ALDERSON gave corroborative evidence, and said that when he saw Kirton with his sister he “pitchered” Kirton, who offered him a penny, which he threw back at him as he expected more. He did not pitcher him the first time he saw them, as he didn’t think of it. When he “pitchered” him, it was with a hat and they were under a “bild wall, which was “fur t’beeasts to shelter under.” The witness then explained in his broad Swaledale dialect that “pitchering” was a common custom in Upper Swaledale; when two persons were sweethearting, it was common for a bystander to ask money of the man which was generally caught in a pitcher, used afterwards to drink the beer bought from. – CATHERINE ALDERSON, a little girl, stated that she had seen Kirton in the house, with his “comrade” JERRY CLARKSON. They often came in together but Jerry sometimes went out before Kirton. – Alice Kirtoff corroborated the girl’s testimony. – Mr Teale then addressed the Bench for the defence, pointing out certain inconsistencies in the evidence, and submitting that on that evidence the Bench ought not to make an order on his client. – After a consultation in private, the Chairman (Mr H W Yeoman) said the Bench unanimously came to the determination to grant an order

for one shilling and six pence per week and four pounds three shillings and six pence costs.

31 Mar 1873. *Northern Echo*

At the Richmond County Police Court on Saturday, James THOMPSON, who travels the neighbourhood of Reeth as packman and resided above Gunnerside, was charged with aggravated assault upon Elizabeth SMITHSON, wife of Isaiah SMITHSON. Mr. TEALE of Leyburn, presented; and Mr. W. ROBINSON, of Darlington and Richmond, defended. The complainant said; I am the wife of Isaiah Smithson, and reside in a house by itself, just below Low Row. On Friday, the 21st of March between seven and eight o'clock in the morning, I went to the cow-house to milk the cow. I heard a shout and went out to see who it was, and it was the defendant, James Thompson. He asked if I wanted anything and I said not this morning. I went into the cow-house, and he followed me in, and while I was milking the cows (he had placed his pack down on the ground) he said if I had got a man like him we would have had more children than we had. I replied we have one, we have plenty, and we are very nicely off. I began to put the conversation off. I had to go to the end of the house to serve a calf, and the defendant followed me. (Mrs. Smithson then spoke to a particularly offensive act, as he pulled her down.) I screamed and tried all I could to get up from him, and struck him once or twice. I said I would tell my husband, then the defendant said he would cut his (meaning himself) throat and stroked his hand across his throat, as though he was about to suit the action to the word. The defendant is a widower. I did not tell anyone till my husband came home, but when he did so I told him. Cross-examined by Mr. Robinson; He has previously said something to me. On one occasion his wife had only just been buried, and I did not like to tell my husband for fear it would make mischief. I ordered him off when milking the cow. It took me ten minutes and he stood there all the time. I went and told the defendant's father on the Monday, and said I would fetch his son up. The father replied that I could do what I liked to him. I told him I would not make it up at all. On Monday morning I was getting my breakfast and he came into the house and asked if I would forgive him; he had got converted. He knelt down and began praying, asking my forgiveness. Mr. Robinson then appealed to the Bench on behalf of his client. The Bench to complainant; What time did he come to you on his knees? About eleven o'clock. The Bench said the defendant was liable to be imprisoned for two years with hard labour, as the offence was a most grave and serious one. For this offence, however, they would inflict a penalty of 20l, or four months imprisonment. The money was paid.

31 Mar 1873. *Northern Echo*

At the Richmond County Police Court, on Saturday... James HOLTON was charged with committing an indecent and aggravated assault upon a girl, 14 years of age, named Christiana McPhail, daughter of Police-constable McPHAIL. Mr. TEALE, of Leyburn, appeared for the defence. Complainant said; I live at Gunnerside, in the township of Melbecks, near Reeth. On Friday, the 21st of March, between one and two o'clock in the afternoon I was coming from my uncle's on the public road leading from Heights to Gunnerside, and had a little boy with me, named Robert WHITFIELD. I had a bundle in one hand and a basket in the other with a cat in it. The cat put its head out of the basket, and the defendant, who was in his own field, got over the wall, and said he could not bear to see cats abused. He says, "What are you going to do with it?" so I told him I was going to carry it home. He says, "Can't you leave your Thomas it?" and I said, "No, he has one; he brought this to me yesterday" The defendant then took the cat, and it escaped from him. He then

seized me round the waist, and says, "I'll have a kiss." I says, "You shan't." He took me up in his arms, and lifted me. He has insulted me three times before. Once on the moor, another time at the cowhouse, and another while I was coming from the village. When I got up and looked round a young woman, Mary Ann THOMPSON, was just turning the corner. He never kept company with me. He did not strike me. I saw him at our house after that, and he denied committing an assault the first time, but his father afterwards came and wanted to make it up. The defendant also came and wanted to come to some agreement, and he would give all he had.....Robert Whitfield, aged ten years, and cousin to complainant, corroborated almost the whole of his cousin's evidence.....The Bench thought it was a very serious and aggravated assault, and they would inflict a penalty of 10l on the defendant, which they thought very lenient indeed; in default, three months. The money was paid.

19 January 1874. *Northern Echo*; Issue 1257

SAVAGE ASSAULT NEAR RICHMOND. – At the Richmond County Police Court, on Saturday, before Mr H W Yeoman, Mr GEORGE GILPIN-BROWN, Sir GEORGE W DENNIS, Bart., and the Rev. H W YEOMAN, a miner, named JOHN TIPLADY, was fined five pounds, including costs, for a savage and unprovoked assault on a fellow miner, named Wm. BELL, on New Year's Day. The men reside near Reeth, in Swaledale, and on the day named they were at a public-house at Gunnerside, when some words arose between them in reference to a previous quarrel. The complainant, who was accused of being a lying fellow, denied it, and the defendant then struck him a severe blow on the eye, bursting the pupil, and causing the complainant to lose his sight. – The medical man (Mr A B KERNOTT), in reply to the Bench, gave it as his opinion that the eye had been burst either with a weapon, which the defendant must have had in his hand, or by the defendant's thumb nail.

Jun 30 1874

A violent thunderstorm passed over Richmond and the neighbourhood on Sunday. At Grinton a village a few miles from the town, the lightning struck the Church tower, a portion of which fell and broke a large headstone belonging to the Denys family. The heavy fall of rain will do much good.

Jul 21 1874

On Sunday last three boys named John CHERRY, son of Matthew CHERRY, age 13; Francis KENDALL aged 15 and the youngest son of Mrs. BUXTON aged 17 were drowned whilst bathing in the river Swale near Gunnerside. The boys, after attending Sunday school in the morning, proceeded to the river to bathe. CHERRY went into the water first and getting out of his depth KENDALL being a good swimmer went to his rescue. The drowning boy clung to KENDALL, who was not able to sustain him and both began to sink. The third and oldest boy, BUXTON, then sprang in to help his younger companions, but instead of saving their lives he but shared their fate. Clinging with the convulsive grasp of the drowning, they so hampered his movements that he was unable to move and in a few seconds they all sank. It was about twenty minutes before their bodies were recovered by Mr George

CALVERT and Mr TIPLADY when life had long been extinct. Cherry and Buxton were removed to their own homes, but Kendall, whose home is at Reeth, was taken to Miss REYNOLDSON's with whom he was staying. They are to be buried today.

(son of Mark Kendal of Reeth, son of Thomas Buxton of Gunnerside, Cherry of Ivelet Heads)

17 February 1875. *Northern Echo*; Issue 1595

A SWALEDALE GRIEVANCE. – A petition has been numerously signed in Swaledale, asking the postal authorities to allow the mail cart to travel by the new road to and from Reeth, in lieu of the old road; a daily post to Muker and Keld, in lieu of the three deliveries per week; and the establishment of a money order office and other privileges either at Gunnerside or Muker. The hon. secretary has received letters of sympathy from the following members of Parliament; - Mr F A MILBANK, MP (North Yorkshire), Hon. J C DUNDAS, MP (Richmond), Mr EDMUND BACKHOUSE, MP (Darlington), Mr J DODDS, MP (Stockton), Mr J W PEASE, MP (South Durham) &c.

26 February 1875. *Northern Echo*; Issue 1603

SWALEDALE POSTAL GRIEVANCES. – On Tuesday evening, in the House of Commons, the brief or statement of facts drawn up by the Secretary to the Association was laid before the Right Hon. the Postmaster-General, and supported by the following MP's: Messrs MILBANK, LEEMAN, BACKHOUSE, DODDS, DUNDAS, and other. His Lordship having (with the other hon. members) gone through the facts of the case, as stated in the brief, said that, after perusing the same, he was fully aware of the wants of Swaledale, as appeared from the facts so ably laid before him by Mr WILLIAM ALDERSON, M.B.L.C., the Hon. Secretary, and they should have his attention.

19 May 1875. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 11577

ALLEGED ROBBERY OF A CASH BOX NEAR RICHMOND. – Yesterday SARAH KEARTON, daughter of Mr JAMES KEARTON, of the Miners' Arms Inn, Muker, Swaledale, appeared at Richmond before the North Riding magistrates – Mr C Cradock and the Rev H W Yeoman – to answer a charge of stealing a cash box containing about £20, from Mr GEORGE REYNOLDSON'S King's Head Hotel, Gunnerside, particulars of which have already appeared in our impression. Mr Wm COOKE appeared for the defendant, who pleaded not guilty, reserving her defence. She was therefore committed to take her trial at the North Riding (Northallerton) quarter sessions, and was admitted to bail.

03 February 1876. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 11799

REMARKABLE CASES OF HYDROPHOBIA NEAR RICHMOND. – Our Richmond correspondent furnishes us with several fatal cases of hydrophobia in Swaledale and Wensleydale. During the severe snowstorm in December a strange cross-bred dog, supposed to be suffering from hydrophobia, attacked and bit a number of sheep belonging to Mr JOHN ALDERSON, of Kexworth, near New Forest. A few days afterwards one of the sheep became mad and died from the effects. Subsequently within a day or two another sheep became the victim of the madness, whilst since that time upwards of a dozen sheep belonging to the same flock have died from madness. Mr ROBERT HILLARY, of West House, New Forest, also had a number of sheep attacked by the same dog, four of which have expired from the disease. At Newsham, another sheep belonging to Mr COATES died from a bite of the same dog. Towards the centre of Swaledale a calf and a quantity of sheep, supposed to have been attacked by the same dog, have also succumbed to the disease. At Swaledale Head, half a dozen dogs suffering from hydrophobia from the bite of the same dog have been shot, the animal which has caused so much destruction having also been destroyed at the same place. A notice signed by two of the Gilling West (North Riding) magistrates, Mr GEO. ROPER and the Rev. H W YEOMAN, has been issued under the Dogs Act, 1871 prohibiting, under a heavy penalty, all dogs from roaming at large in the townships of Arkingarthdale, Dalton, Gayles, Kirby Hill, Marrick, Marske, Melbecks, Muker, New Forest and Reeth. A number of dogs in Wensleydale, supposed to have been bitten by the same mad dog, have also suffered from hydrophobia, and the magistrates have issued a similar restriction to that mentioned above in respect of Leyburn, Middleham, Askrigg, Hawes, Preston, West Burton, Downholme, Grinton, and Hunton.

17 February 1876. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 11811

HYDROPHOBIA IN THE RICHMOND DISTRICT

A few days ago we reported on the death of a number of sheep and a calf from hydrophobia. The dog which was supposed to have attacked the animals was reported to have been destroyed in Swaledale. Since that time several other mad dogs have been seen roaming at large in the neighbourhood of Richmond. In the village of Dalton a day or two ago a mad dog made its appearance and bit a pig, a goose, and several dogs, all of which had to be destroyed. The dog was followed and after an exciting chase was destroyed a few miles from the village. The Gilling West Division (North Riding) magistrates – Mr GEO. GILPIN BROWN and Mr CHRIS. CRADOCK – have issued fresh notices, ordering all dogs to be confined, unless they be under the control of someone, until the 16th of April. This notice extends throughout the whole of the division.

Sep 4 1876

Richmond Petty Sessions. On Saturday at these sessions, Simpson ALDERSON of Gunnerside was bound down in \$45 for holding a knife over his wife's head, and threatening to murder her.

Richard SIMPSON who did not appear was ordered to be apprehended for committing an aggravated assault upon Wm BYWELL in the harvest field.

18 December 1876. *Northern Echo*; Issue 2166

HOW ACCIDENTS ARE CAUSED. At the North Riding (Richmond) Sessions on Saturday, JOHN ALDERSON, a native of Swaledale, was charged with furious driving. JOHN COATES stated that at eight o'clock on the morning of the 2nd September he, with his son and daughter, were driving down to Richmond in a Whitechapel. They saw the defendant advancing towards them, and they pulled to one side of the road; but defendant was coming at such a furious pace that he could not check his steed before it ran against his vehicle. The consequences were that his trap was broken, and his son was thrown violently out into the road beneath defendant's horse's feet, causing him serious injuries. The Bench fined the defendant eight pounds seven shillings and six pence, including costs, stating that complainant was at liberty to bring an action against him for damages afterwards.

31 Sep 1877

At the Richmond (Yorkshire) county police-court on Saturday, the Rev. N. Valentine Blake EVANSON, vicar of Melbecks-Swaledale was charged with attempted murder. It was alleged that while suffering from delirium tremens the accused had attempted to cut the throat of one of his parishioners, a miller named Airey. He was bound over to keep the peace in three sureties - one of £50 and two of £25 each.

Dec 24 1877

At North Riding Police Court on Saturday, Richard RAW of Gunnerside was fined 25s for keeping two dogs on only one license.

12 June 1878. *Northern Echo; Issue 2623*

A LUNATIC CAPTURED IN SWALEDALE. A lunatic named HENRY WALSH, who escaped from Croydon last August, and has been roaming at large in the Reeth district in Swaledale ever since, was the other day captured by Police-Constable WILLIAMSON and brought to Richmond. Yesterday the man was brought before Mr C G TATE, at the office of Messrs HUNTON, and ordered to be sent to the lunatic asylum.

5 Oct 1878

Dr. Walton, North Riding Coroner, held an inquest at Muker on Thursday, to inquire into the cause of death of Joseph Brunskill, lead miner. Mr. Atkinson, the Government Inspector of Mines for Durham, was present during the inquiry. The deceased who was 29 years of age, was employed on the 2nd inst., at Sir Francis Level's lead mine, near Melbecks, along with others, preparing a hole for the purpose of blasting a portion of rock when a large quantity of stone fell upon him. He was killed on the spot. Verdict: "Accidentally killed in a lead mine."

27 December 1878. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 12703*

RICHMOND. Christmas Day was succeeded by a stormy night of some severity. Snow fell all night and drifted to such an extent that as soon as daylight broke snow-cutters were busily employed, and carts were employed all day in leading the snow out of the principal streets. Yesterday was, at the recommendation of the Mayor, observed as a general holiday; but there was very little pleasure to be derived by the holiday folk, the frozen streams and ponds being covered with such a heavy coat of snow. The Primitive Methodists had their usual treat, and during

the day the streets were enlivened with the strains of the Swaledale band. In addition to the distribution of 100 tons of coal to the poor by the gentry of the town, Councillor WRIGHT followed up the worthy example by distributing amongst a number of the poor people legs of mutton and vegetables.

3 Jun 1879

On Saturday Dr. WALTON, County Coroner held an adjourned inquest at the Miners' Inn, Melbecks respecting the death of George Harker MILNER, aged 21 years, lead miner. The inquiry was opened on the 26th ult., and was adjourned until Saturday to allow one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines to attend. The deceased was, along with other men, employed on 21st May at the Sir Francis Lead Mines, and whilst passing near to some cog-wheels he was caught by them, and received such injuries that he died 48 hours afterwards. From the evidence it appears that the deceased was passing by a path alongside of the machinery so as to save some distance by going the proper route. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was accidentally killed by injuries received by a lead-crushing machine and added – 'This jury also desire to give the following presentment; that from the evidence before them they cannot but consider that the death of the said George Harker MILNER has in some degree arisen from the want of caution on the part of the managers and officials of the A.D. Mining Company Limited in not carrying out fully the regulations of the Mining Act, by which all the exposed and dangerous parts of the machinery used in and about the mine are to be securely fenced'.

22 September 1880. *Northern Echo; Issue 3321*

NORTH COUNTRY NEWS

Yesterday, at Richmond Borough Police Court, ISABELLA ALDERSON, of Grinton, in Swaledale was fined three pounds seven shillings and sixpence for selling butter deficient in weight.

26 February 1881. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 13380*

OBITUARIES

Sir GEORGE WILLIAM DENYS, Bart., of Draycott Hall, near Reeth, in Swaledale, Yorkshire died on Wednesday night – inflammation of the lungs being the cause his death. Sir George was a great mine owner, a North Riding magistrate, a thorough sportsman, and a warm supporter of the Volunteer movement. Aged 70.

04 March 1881. *The Hull Packet and East Riding Times; Issue 5028*

OBITUARIES

The death of Sir GEORGE DENYS, of Draycott Hall, Swaledale removes one of the most distinctive of the heads of North Yorkshire families. He inherited a large part of the mineral royalties of Swaledale, once so exceedingly productive, by the marriage of an ancestor with the daughter of one of the Earls of Pomfret, and for years his strong hobby was to develop the mineral wealth of his native dale. Long a Liberal, he 'turned' before the last General Election, and was one of the chief of the investigators of the unsuccessful opposition to the brother of the Earl of Zetland in

his safe seat at Richmond. The stout burly baronet, whose figure is most impressed on the mind as he drove along the road from Richmond to Reeth, or as higher up Swaledale, he visited the mines which still retain the distinctive appellation of a prior owner's initials, the A D mines.

06 July 1882. *Northern Echo*; Issue 3870

MELBECKS, NEAR RICHMOND. The Low Row and Feetham Sunday School children had their annual midsummer treat on Monday afternoon and evening in a large field at Rowlette Bottom, between Gunnerside and Low Row. All the children – over 230 – accompanied by their thirty teachers and many of their parents, met at one o'clock at the Wesleyan School, and proceeded thence, accompanied by a large banner and the village band, under the leadership of Mr JOHN REYNOLDSON to the field where the Swaledale Athletic Sports were held. On arriving at the field they were regaled with currant buns and milk, which had been kindly provided by the teachers and friends, many of the farmers having given large quantities of milk. After the feed, all the children had a penny each given them to spend at the stalls, &c. Mr JAMES KNOWLES, of Paradise then gave a short address, and then the Rev. R V TAYLOR, the vicar of Melbecks, made a few remarks and examined the children on the principal characters in the Book of Genesis, and a number of shillings (16) were given to the children who answered the greatest number of questions; and then the Rev J BENNETT, of Reeth, made a short speech, after a hymn had been sung and votes of thanks given to the Chairman, speakers, band, and subscribers. Mr NICHOLSON, the schoolmaster, superintended the various games in the evening, giving a number of prizes to those who most distinguished themselves.

07 July 1882. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 13805

SWALEDALE ANNUAL ATHLETIC SPORTS. These sports were held on Tuesday and Wednesday at Rowleth Bottom. The following are the results of the various competitions:

Ball Playing – E DOLPHIN and J E WHITEHEAD, Arkendale; 2nd: U SUNTER, Swaledale, and J ALDERSON, Richmond.

20 Yards Flat Race – H TATE, Richmond; 2nd: S CHANLER, Richmond.

One Mile Flat Race – T CHAT, Barnard Castle; 2nd: W J CASTLE, Gunnerside; 3rd: T BROWN, Swaledale.

440 Yards Flat Race – T CHAT; 2nd: J SUNTER; 3rd: S CHALLONER, Richmond.

Pole Leaping – J R BROWN, Scarr Gill; 2nd: J E WHITEHEAD.

Go-as-you-please Flat Race (20 minutes' duration) – W J CALVERT, Swaledale; 2nd: S CHAPMAN, Wensleydale; 3rd: J KINCHIN, Richmond; 4th: J STEVENSON, Richmond.

Hound Trail – J BEARPARK'S Rumper; 2nd: R RAW'S Spanke; 3rd: R RAW'S Rumper; 4th: J CHERRY'S Merryman; 5th: W PEACOCK'S Music.

Hurdle Race – T CHAT; 2nd: C DOLPHIN, Swaledale.

200 Yards Flat Race – H TATE; 2nd: T CHAT.

Half Mile Race (for boys not exceeding 15 years of age) – M H CALVERT, Gunnerside.

100 Yards Flat Race (district) – C DOLPHIN; 2nd: W J CALVERT, Gunnerside.

100 Yards Flat Race – T CHAT; 2nd: H TATE.

200 Yards Race (district) – C DOLPHIN; 2nd: J CALVERT, Gunnerside.

Wrestling – W COATES, Low Row; 2nd: T METCALFE, Low-Row; 3rd: R METCALFE, Keld.

One Mile Walking Race – J HOPPER, Bainbridge; 2nd: JA CALVERT.

20 July 1882. *Northern Echo*; Issue 3882

LEADMINING IN SWALEDALE

The valuable mining plant and machinery of the Hurst lead mines, near Richmond, has just been sold by private contract to Mr ROBERT RICHARDS, iron merchant of Sunderland. The mines are among the oldest in the district.

Aug 4, 1882

On Sunday at Hill Top Farm, near Gunnerside, Richard GUY went out to look at some young cattle and was soon afterwards found in a field dead. His clothes were literally torn to shreds. (*Killed by his bull*)

15 December 1882. *The Newcastle Courant etc.*; Issue 10850

THE STORM IN SWALEDALE. It is forty years since such a storm was experienced in this beautiful dale. Townsfolk cannot form any idea of the immense accumulation of snow in the out-lying districts. Below the town, in the neighbourhood of Catterick, there is a bare covering of snow. In the borough the fall averages about a foot, but this is nothing compared to what it is further up the valley. On the hill at the north side of the dale the huge drifts commence, near the Belle Isle, and continue in pretty regular succession for many miles. The depth at first is about six feet, but on ascending the hill the cuttings are thrown up on each side to a considerable height. Approaching Lord Zetland's black plantation, there is another big drift, which is eclipsed by one in Claygate, near Marske. All the way across the country and up Arkendale the farmers and miners are completely snow-bound. Hundreds of sheep have been lost on the moors on both sides of the dale. One dealer has only, so far, discovered about a dozen of a flock of 500. Large numbers of grouse have been forced from the moors, and two or three days ago a flock of about 300 brace was startled from a field near Richmond Barracks. Communication has not yet been effected between Richmond and Arkengarthdale, and the mining companies are unable to get their lead down to Richmond Station. Horsemen have had some exciting struggles in the snowdrifts. On the southern side of Swaledale the storm has been equally severe. All the way up Hudswell Lane there has been a complete block; indeed, the villagers of the latter place were unable to effect any communication with Richmond until Friday evening. The wind has evidently swept the snow across from the north in great masses. For fully half a mile the roads ran level with the hedgerows, the hedges and gates at intervals being completely buried. The village of Hudswell, however, presents a most grotesque appearance. Some of the drifts have gone to a height of 15 feet. Some of the lower stories and doors of the houses have disappeared, and in one or two instances, where houses are uninhabited, the drifts have even reached to the chamber windows. The lower public house, which is deserted, only displays its higher stories, and the George and Dragon is fairly blockaded.

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