

Swaledale Newspaper Articles (Vol 2: 1883 - 1900)

1883. 13 January. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 13967*

At the meeting of the Richmond District Highway Board on Saturday, the Surveyor reported that during the last month the sum of two hundred and twenty-eight pounds, fourteen shillings and two pence had been expended in cutting snowdrifts, principally in Swaledale.

1883. 31 January. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 13982*

RICHMOND AND SWALEDALE. In Swaledale further devastations are reported. The bridges at Gunnerside, Low Row, and Low Whita are partially washed away, cutting off all communication by conveyance. Great destruction was worked and the Low Row and Feetham bottoms were rendered a perfect wreck, the water having broken in at the Islet Bridge. A large portion of the mining plant at Sir Francis Mine was washed away, and much damage was done amongst the mines in other places. At Reeth, there the Arkle, a strong and rapid stream from Arkengarthdale, runs into the river Swale, the inhabitants at the lower part of the town were awoken by a noise of water rushing into their houses, it having burst through the doors and windows. Sergeant Pickering, of the North Riding Constabulary, with others assisted to rescue the inmates whose houses were some feet deep in water, the furniture swimming about. Extensive damage was done on the Flatts. The Richmond and Reeth mailman, although mounted, was obliged to make a detour round the fields between Grinton and Fremington. Several foot-bridges were swept away. Landslips are numerous. There has been a very large slip of rock and earth near Downholme Bridge, on the Richmond and Reeth road. The slip extends for a couple of hundred yards. Cattle and sheep were washed away. Some hundreds of pounds of damage has been done to Richmond flour mill. Further information discloses the fact that the bridges in Upper Swaledale – Gunnerside, Islet, and Thwaite Bridges – have been swept away. Eskleth Bridge in Arkengarthdale, has shared a similar fate. Many trees have been torn up by the roots. Rocks of ten and twelve tons weight were lauded below the Force at Richmond. With the partial destruction of the Castle Paper Mill a large quantity of timber and furniture, stored there by Mr NORMAN, was washed away. The formidable damstakes below the Force, which supplies the flour mill of Mr ARCHER, were washed away. There has been another slip of earth and rock on Richmond Castle bank.

1883. 09 February. *The Hull Packet and East Riding Times; Issue 5130*

THE FLOODS – GREAT LOSS OF SHEEP. Communication has at length been effected between Richmond and the dales villages by way of the new road, a temporary roadway having been formed at the great landslip, a few miles above Richmond and yesterday the dales folk were enabled to get to the market, when most likely we shall hear of further disasters. Mr GEORGE EARNEST WHITELOCK, of Cogden Hall, near Reeth, had over two hundred ewes, worth five hundred pounds, washed away in the flood. The sheep had only been brought from the moors and placed in the large river-side pastures in front of the hall two days previously. One thousand pounds will hardly cover the loss sustained by this gentleman. On his farm a bridge has been washed down and scores of acres of land next the Swale have been turned into a perfect wilderness, being thickly covered

with sand and all descriptions of debris. Thousands of acres of rich pasture land all the way down each side of Swaledale have been rendered perfectly useless, the soil having been washed off and replaced with sand. Plough land has suffered considerably.

1883. 06 March. Northern Echo; Issue 4075

THE WEATHER... It's (the river Swale) determination to assert itself was pre-eminently distinguished on Sunday and Monday, the 28th and 29th of January last. The remains of a heavy snowfall had been lodged in masses on the distant hills. On the 28th of January

THE RAIN BEGAN TO FALL HEAVILY; down it came in a fashion travellers in the hill country know so well and town cabbies perpetually sigh for; the river was turgid and swollen, and higher and higher it rose. Down, down came the rain, swelling the hillside rivulets and gills to streams; and the river crept stealthily over the low-lying meadow lands. The night darkened, and the dwellers in the hamlets of the dale retired to rest. A south-west wind sprang up, driving the rain into the bedded masses of snow, percolating through them, loosening their sides, struggling and forcing its way beneath them, till with a roar and a rush they entered the gills and becks like miniature avalanches, and like wild, seething rivers, came tearing down the hills, sweeping thousands of tons of massive boulder stones, gigantic mounds of hillock deposits from the lead mines which abound in the dale. Millions of tons of debris, consisting of sand, soil, timber, trees, roots, rubble, pebbles, rushes and tangled grasses into the Swale, making it a boiling ocean, which rushed and roared triumphantly over the rich meadow fields, hurling down miles of strongly-built stone fences, and adding to its heterogeneous freight of debris by tearing and rending at the staunch, stout, massive bridges till, with a fiendish roar, it swept them away. By four o'clock on the Monday morning it had done its worst, and when the sleepers rose and gazed bewildered upon the sea that flowed along their peaceful, happy Dale, bitter, bitter was the anguish that fell upon them when they realised the work of devastation. For the water sinking rapidly by the evening of the Monday, they discovered their dykes demolished, their river "carling" or sloping beds of stones to protect the banks swept away – yea, hundreds of yards of land had disappeared, flocks of sheep were missing, and over all the inundated meadows a pernicious deadly settlement of sand and soil. Which for years to come meant ruin to their land, was deposited. We have alluded to the deadly deposits of sand, and here let us explain that this poisonous nature is caused by the lead mines; the effect to the land being that it poisons the grass, and means death to either sheep or cattle, a period varying from three to ten years being required to eradicate the deleterious chemical.

Let us now describe **THE EFFECTS OF THE DEVASTATION;** commencing at Richmond and ascending the valley sixteen miles to Gunnerside, where the most pitiable damage was done. A view from The Terrace of Richmond showed the damage done to the falls beneath an un-tenanted mill. The pent-up volume of water in the mill-race had burst and swept away one side of the mill, whilst huge boulder stones of several tons weight had been torn from the falls and hurled in fantastic masses beneath, half of the river being diverted for a hundred yards by a silted up bed of stones. On visiting the Temple grounds we found marks which indicated the river had risen sixteen feet above its level, sweeping away trees and strongly-built fences, blocking the mysterious dark passages, destroying a massive rocky footpath, and twisting into fantastic shapes the iron railing that had surmounted it; had covered the beautiful gala field with a six inch deposit of sand. It rooted up and swept away a planting of fifty trees, grimly leaving, by way of exhibiting its

appreciation of the humorous, a variety of misshapen trunks as substitutes. Were a trunk of a different description to be constructed to hold the actual amount of money required to repair the damage in this one case it would have to be sufficiently large to accommodate five hundred pounds.

As the market day is “wearing late” and “folks began to “tak’ the gate”, we commenced to descend the beauteous valley of the Swale. The river is to our left, rippling and gurgling along; over the dam it goes with a rush and a swirl, endeavouring to hinder the work of repair that is taking place. Sweeping in front of us, and now running on our right, we pass the bridge, far below which the river now runs, but whose coping-stones it had torn off, and pouring right and left along the road, inundated the gatehouse and re-arranged the furniture in a style agreeable to itself. Curving abruptly again, a fine ploughed field now lies covered with stones – grim crop for hardy toil to reap. On either side the towering hills display fantastic forms. A craggy summit opposite, surnamed Willance’s Leap, stands out in bold relief, while a pine-crested range in their grim weirdness intuitively conjure up that doom-striking, deceptive, advancing wood of Birnam. A landslip on the north bank is strikingly apparent, and on the south equally marked are the traces of the overflow in the broken fences and deposits of stones on the fields. A short distance further, and we come to an extensive landslip, extending about 150 yards on the south side. The embankment being steep and high which the road surmounted, and the hillside sloping on to the road, the river had worked into the embankment, causing it to fall away or sink in places, and bringing down masses of stone from the hill above. A short distance, and a conspicuous landmark on the summit of the opposite hills is a monument indicating the last resting-place of an ancestor of the present owner of Marske Hall. And penetrating further into the dale, the river having left the road for a short distance, there is a splendid view of it sparkling down a glen whose trees stud its banks on either side. Leaving Ellerton and Marrick Abbeys, by which the river meanders through a delightful meadow land, we pass Cogden Hall, whose proprietor sustained the terrible loss of nearly two hundred sheep being swept away. Going along at a smart pace the small village of Grinton is entered and crossing the bridge, our eyes rest upon a scene that compels us to start and stare in bewildered amazement. Apparently we are gazing on some desolate seashore, for as far as the eye can see in the evening gloom, on the north side of the river there is a vast plain of sand and rubble stones such as strew our coasts, and we unconsciously expand our chest to inhale a sniff of the briny. The road runs in triangular shape for about a mile, crosses a bridge spanning Arkle gill or beck – a stream now, but which had been an enormous torrent, which comes with a sharp and rapid descent from the hills on the north, at the entry of the township of Reeth, a pleasant village built on a gradual ascent. The river Swale runs along the valley beneath and in front of Reeth, and Arkle Beck runs through Reeth bridge, past Fremington Mill, its course beneath the mill having been confined on the left by an embankment several feet high and a strongly-built wall with a six feet foundation, the distance from the wall to the edge of the bank being from four to eight feet. Arkle Beck joins the Swale a short distance above Grinton, and the two commingling, sweep through the bridge. The enormously swollen state of the Swale had stemmed back the torrent of Arkle Beck, which was full to overflowing, causing it, above Reeth Bridge, to burst on its right and sweep away a portion of stone fencing of one field and about a hundred yards of a second one, with some yards of land and a footpath the length of the field, which had been between the fence and the beck. Sweeping over these fields and through several cottages, at the time of our visit three hundred feet from the water, to a height of five feet, over the road and bridge, now twenty feet above the water, in an angry and turbid torrent, rushing, swirling, and tossing along, till it met the back water of the Swale. Bent on

venting its pent-up waters, and aided by the back water it found a weak point in the left bank, and despite the height and breadth and the strongly-built fence, with its deeply-sunk foundation, it tore it away and rushed over the green acres of fresh meadow land a foaming furious ocean. On, on, bearing masses of the hard-limed fencing, tearing up stalwart trees, hurling down stone fences, depositing a shoal of pebbles here and a bed of rubble there, and acres of sand and slime everywhere. On, on, over the road, tearing the hedges down, till at last it joined the usual course of the river. Thrice did we cross this desolate waste, which had once been green fields and meadow land, and our boots sank ankle deep in the shoal of sand with which they were covered. The weak point of the embankment through which the water rushed now presents an extraordinary aspect. A deep pit extends for a hundred yards into the field, the soil being swept away, and hillocks and pools of water are at the bottom of the pit.

Let us here state that a portion of the valley of the Swale is exceptional in its land division. There are a number of large landowners in the valley, but between Reeth and Gunnerside and especially at the latter place, a considerable quantity of the land is in small holdings, varying from one and a half to ten acres. In some cases the field or two has been handed down from father to son, while in other cases years of struggle and toil, and adding to the little hoard in "t'owd stocking," have enabled the labourer, the lead-miner, or the small tenant farmer to "get a bit land of his own". And it has not been cheaply obtained either. The value of land in Swaledale is from one hundred and twenty pounds per acre upwards; "upwards" not meaning a limit. To some people it may seem incredible, but it is a fact, that a few years since a single acre of land was sold for three hundred pounds. That was an extreme, and at a time of extreme prices, but they do well who purchase land now for one hundred and twenty pounds per acre. One of the first of the small holdings is at Reeth. A hard-working labouring man gathered together sufficient money to purchase about an acre and a half field; he also bought three small cottages. We have alluded to the sweep of the flood over and through them. The field now has the deadly settlement upon it, and one of the cottages has been abandoned on account of the damp; the water having been in them to a height of five feet, their condition may be inferred. Ascending through the village of Reeth, the road runs along half-way up the hill side. Above, on our right, are the hills and sharply descending from them are acres of meadow land, which gradually form an extensive plateau through which the river runs in a sinuous manner. The brown alluvial deposit shows that the fields have been covered on either side for a mile. Some of this land, low-lying as it is, has been flooded before at certain intervals, though never to the present extent. One portion, consisting of eight fields on the south of the river, fifteen years ago cost three hundred pounds to restore and at the present time it is worse than ever. The stone fences are strewn down and carried away, and a bed of poisoned sand covers the fields. Passing on to the hamlet of Healaugh we are conducted by one of the small holders over the land, which here has suffered severely. A considerable aid to the destruction has been caused by Healaugh beck, which comes down the hill at right angles with the Swale. Bursting its confining walls, it swept their debris into the fields on its left bank and rushed like a torrent over them. The river, which is now about ninety feet from the fields, and far below them, had risen sixteen feet high, covering them like a lake. Only a few adhering stones show where the dykes have been, whilst a portion of a planting had been also swept away. These are fields that have never been flooded before, and yet the deposit of sand on them is now no less than three feet deep. Over one of the fields is strewn a huge shoal of stones the size of large turnips. The bed of the beck or gill has been raised several feet by the masses of boulders brought from the hill above. Some of these boulders will weigh half a ton and yet

have been swept along like feathers. The fields on the opposite side of the beck also bear signs of devastation. Returning to the road, we pass on our left Whita Bridge, the approaches of which, with the fences on both sides, have been swept away. The road skirting the right bank of the river for half a mile here resembles the half-dead bed of a stream, for the river has swept over it, and on to the fields beyond, leaving a tidal mark of chips upon which a select party of crows are sagely meditating, as if at an utter loss to explain "this state of things". The road, gradually ascending, takes us to the contiguous villages of Feetham and Low Row. The hills here form a natural basin, the river sweeping in and through an extensive tract of low-lying land and passes on to Whita Bridge. For a mile this portion of the valley extends, and throughout its length the deposit indicates that it has been one vast lake. Descending to Isles Bridge we find the flood had undermined the right span, causing it to settle, and tearing away and demolishing the right arch and the road. A substantial temporary wooden bridge is now being erected. The deposit on the fields here is enormous, and the consequent loss will be proportionate – forty pounds being paid for the mere removal of the sand off a three-acre field. Crossing on to Rowleth Common, an extensive strip of delightful greensward at the foot of Rowleth Hill, now strewn with shoals of large stones; there being an abrupt bend, the river it had swept on and over the common and fields beyond. A few hundred yards and Gunnerside is to be seen in the distance straggling down the hillside. The river here forms an extensive triangle, with the apex to the north. The volume of water has swept over the south side, washing a two-hundred-yard fence away, a quantity of land, and an entire plantation. On the four-acre field from the edge of which this mass of land, fencing, and trees was swept, there were deposited thousands of tons of sand. Last week three horses and carts were engaged for the first three days, and four for the second, each horse and cart removing fifty loads per day, or one thousand and fifty cart loads off a four-acre field in a week. All the land on the north bank is divided into small holdings. From two fields of about five acres which were bought at a cheap rate for six hundred pounds, twenty pounds will have to be paid for merely removing sand; a second owner is paying sixteen pounds per acre for the removal of the debris. The entire frontage and fence of an adjoining field has been swept away, with tons of the soil and the succeeding field is in a similar condition. The two fields adjoining are the worst in the dale. Gunnerside Beck runs by them from the hills, and was, previous to the flood, several feet below them. But rushing down with thousands of tons of boulders, it burst its bank and fence, and poured layer upon layer of them into these two fields. An attempt had been made to remove a portion of them; but in doing so, it being impossible to distinguish, the land itself has been removed. In one, if not in both, of these cases it is very questionable if the cost of removing the debris, the repair of the land, and poisoned condition of the herbage, will not amount to more than the land is worth; and yet one of these fields contains two acres, which took the hard-earned savings of years of an ordinary lead miner to the amount of four hundred and four pounds to purchase, whilst the other is owned by one whose eyes will never gaze upon his loss. Blindness is at times a blessing. The bed of the beck is now raised six feet by the debris it has deposited, and is a rill over which we easily stride. Gunnerside Bridge, a substantial structure of two spans, is a wreck, and above the bridge, for several hundred yards is one mass of devastation.

HELP NEEDED AT HOME

It has been stated that one hundred thousand pounds will not more than cover the actual and consequent, i.e. damage to the land, of this terrible devastation. Well may the mounds of stone strewn on these fair fields seem to us sad monuments of buried hopes. We have not attempted to adorn or exaggerate: ours has been but a brief, plain, unvarnished tale. But it would seem to us that the people of England have no knowledge of the devastation that has been caused in one of their own fair

dales. Money they freely pour into funds of relief for distress and floods abroad, and surely it must be that they are ignorant of such a case at their own doors or their hearts and purses would have been opened ere this.

1884. 29 April. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 14370

OBITUARY

Mr JAMES ROBINSON TOMLIN, of Thernswood, Swaledale and Bolton Crofts, Richmond, Yorkshire died at the latter residence yesterday morning after a few months' illness. The deceased gentleman was the son of the late Mr OTTIWELL TOMLIN, solicitor, of Richmond and was born in Frenchgate. Educated at Richmond School, he afterwards served articles with his father and was admitted as solicitor in 1846. The deceased gentleman was Town Clerk of the borough for sixteen years, having been appointed on the 7th of May 1868. He closely studied the interests and the welfare of his native town, and he was the recognised authority in reference to the ancient records appertaining to the Castle and other historic places. Mr Tomlin was a large shareholder in the Swaledale mines; but was perhaps more closely identified with the working of the Old Gang and the A.D. Lead Mining Companies, and he did a good deal in promoting the mining industry of the dale. He was a great promoter of the railway schemes coming through the district, and always manifested much anxiety in connecting the eastern with the western coast. It was through his untiring efforts that an Act of Parliament was some years ago obtained for the Richmond and Reeth Railway, but the scheme fell through. Mr Tomlin made renewed and very recent efforts to open out the beautiful dale in connection with the Richmond and Hawes Junction Railway. Meetings were held, and although it was understood that the funds would be provided if permission could be obtained, for some reason or other there was one there to respond to the bill when called upon. Mr Tomlin was solicitor to the Earl of Zetland; he was steward of the Swaledale Manor, of which Captain Lyell is Lord; he was clerk to the Hutchinson Charities at Richmond, Gilling, and Fremington; and was proctor of the diocese of Ripon. In addition to being Town Clerk of Ripon, he was appointed Clerk to the Urban Sanitary Authority under the Public Health Act, 1875. The deceased was Clerk to the Richmond District Highway Board, to the Reeth Board of Guardians, to the Grammar School Trustees, and to the Richmond Grand Stand Committee, besides being a Burgage owner of the racecourse. He was Registrar of the County Court, and vestry clerk for the parish of Richmond. Mr Tomlin was President of the Zetland Working Men's Club, of which he was an ardent supporter. In politics he was a Liberal and aided in the election of the present Earl – then LAWRENCE DUNDAS – as well as Mr JOHN CHARLES DUNDAS for Richmond. For many years he was Liberal agent, having lately been succeeded by Mr C G CROFT. He was a Churchman. He married Miss PLEWS, of Ripon. The deceased gentleman was of a kind and generous disposition.

1884. 01 November. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 14530

SHEEP SCORING NUMERALS

Mr JOHN WRIGHTSON states, in the Agricultural Gazette for March 24th and April

31st (sic), 1884, that “The Dale shepherds still use the old counting. In Niddersdale and Swaledale, in Yorkshire; in Wasdale, Borrowdale, Man, Cornwall, and other places where the Celt lingered. The numeration appears to be closely related to Sanskrit, Hindustani, old Welsh, modern Welsh, and Romany.” He gives the numerals where are used in the districts of Knaresborough, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Old Welsh and Nidderdale.

KNARESBOROUGH

Yah
Tiah
Tethera
Methera
Pip
Teezar
Leezar
Catterah
Horna
Dick
Yah-Dick
Tiah-dick
Tethera-dick
Methera-dick
Bumper
Yah-de-bumper
Tiah-de-bumper
Tether-de-bumper
Mether-de-bumper
Jigger

MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE

Yan
Tean
Tether
Mether
Pip
Sezar
Azar
Catrah
Horna
Dick
Yan-a-dik
Tean-a-dik
Tethera-a-dik
Mether-a-dik
Bumfit
Yan-a-bum
Tean-a-bum
Tether-a-bum
Mether-a-bum
Jiggit

OLD WELSH

Un
Dan
Tri
Pedwar
Pump
Chwech
Saith
Wyth
Naw
Deg-or-dec
Un-ar-dec
Deu-dec
Triar-dec
Petuarar-dec
Pymthec
Un-ar-pymthec
Deu-ar-pymthec
Tre-ar-pymthec
Petuar-ar-pymthec
Ucent

NIDDERSDALE

Yain
Tain
Eddere
Peddero
Pitta
Tayter
Layter
Overro
Coverro
Dix
Yain-dix
Tain-dix
Eddero-dix
Peddero-dix
Bumfitt
Yain-o-bumfit
Tain-o-bumfit
Eddero-bumfit
Peddero-bumfit
Jiggit

1885. 06 June. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 14715*

THE ENSILAGE COMMISSION.

Mr GEO. BRODERICK, of Swaledale, North Riding of Yorkshire, was examined before the Ensilage Commission of Thursday, in London.
(a lengthy discussion between various witnesses ensued on the merits and costs of feeding ensilage to cows and horses.)

1885. 20 August. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 14779*

PONY RACING AND ATHLETIC SPORTS IN SWALEDALE.

The annual racing and athletic sports were held at Grinton, near Richmond yesterday. A **round trail** across the mountain sides was won by Mr RICHARD RAW'S Dancer; Mr J WOODWARD'S Jingler being second, and Mr SIMON CHERRY'S Duster third.

The **mile handicap foot-race** was won by W J CALVERT (the Swaledale champion), who beat G SUNTER, of Gunnerside, and H CALVERT.

The Volunteer **prize shooting** was won by MICHAEL RAISBECK, of Arkengarthdale; G WOODHALL, being second.

The **mile trotting** was won by Mr JOHN PEACOCK'S Rapid Rhone, Mt WOORWARD'S pony being second; and Mr RICHARD MIDDLETON'S pony third.

The **Fives playing** fell to M COTTINGHAM, of Gunnerside; W J CALVERT second; and W METCALFE, Arkendale, third.

J H SMITH, of Gunnerside, secured the **440 yards handicap**; J SUNTER being second.

Quoit playing – J T HALL, 1; D McCARTHY, Stockton, 2.

Ball playing – E CLOSE, Stockton, 1; A HARKER, 2; R HILLARY, Spennymoor, 3.
100 yards flat race – JOHN PEACOCK (4 yards), Reeth, 1; HAMMOND HALL (4 yards), 2; JOHN KENDALL (scratch), 3.

Mile race – W PRATT, Reeth (scratch), 1; JOHN BEARPARK (10 yards), 2; E CHERRY, Fremington (70 yards), 3.

440 yards handicap – JOHN PEACOCK, 1; JOHN W KENDALL, 2; E CLOSE, Stockton, 3.

Flat race, for miners over 50 years of age – THOMAS DUNN, Reeth, 1; HAMMOND HALL, 2; MARK BLENKIRON, 3.

Race for boys under 15 – SIMON CHERRY, Fremington, 1; L SUNTER, Gunnerside, 2; G W SHAW, Grinton, 3.

G W GARBUTT beat C CALVERT in another race,

1885. 26 December. *Northern Echo; Issue 4943*

A RENOVATED SWALEDALE CHURCH. Melbecks Church, Swaledale has just undergone considerable renovation. A wooden floor has been put down. New open seats of Memel pine have also been laid; the former seats being old, very cold, and uncomfortable. The church has also been wainscoted on both sides, almost up to the windows. The wood work has been executed by Mr THOS. PETTY, joiner, of Reeth. The seats and wainscoting have also been stained and doubly varnished by Messrs CROFTS, of Reeth. The following have kindly subscribed towards the cost of the above improvements: - Captain LYELL, lord of the manor of Swaledale, through Mr A T ROGERS, solicitor, of Richmond, ten pounds ten shillings; Misses SIMPSON and BONSALL, ten pounds ten shillings; Mr JOHN L TOMLIN, of Thiernswood, five pounds; the Rev R V TAYLOR, Melbecks, five pounds; Misses BRODERICK and

CLARKSON, five pounds; Mrs WILLIAMS and Miss GARTH, two pounds ten shillings each; and Dr TURNER, two pounds.

1886. 18 March. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 14958*

THE SNOWSTORM

RICHMOND. There is comparatively little, if any, abatement in the fury of the snowstorm which visited the Richmond district early yesterday morning. Snow fell again today, and the wind was high. This morning a number of snow-cutters were despatched to the main road above Richmond High moor to cut out some men who with their horses and hay wagons were completely snowbound. A gentleman connected with the lead mines in the dales had gone up in a three-horse trap with the intention of giving the miners their month's wages, but he was blocked four miles from his destination. The storm has put a stop to ploughing. Some farmers have got very little done. Stock-keepers are very serious losers. They are out of fodder and are obliged to buy. Cattle and sheep at present are not worth so much as they were last year at this time, and the price of hay is rising daily. In some places it has already reached as much as one shilling per stone, but in Richmond it varies according to quality from seven pence to nine pence per stone.

SETTLE, Wednesday. By the use of snow ploughs the Settle and Carlisle Railway has been kept clear. The mountain roads leading from Settle to Malham Tarn, Littondale, and other places, which had only just been opened, have again become impassable. In a few localities the snow still lies to a depth of several yards. Great suffering exists among the mountain sheep owing to their inability to obtain food, and farmers anticipate that before the snow disappears hundreds of sheep will perish. Sportsmen state that hares have died in vast numbers, and many of the grouse have migrated from the higher moorlands, and are not likely to return in the same numbers.

SOUTH DURHAM. Our Hawes correspondent writes- The storm continued with unabated fury during the night of Tuesday and all day yesterday. After a fortnight's incessant cutting, all the high roads in the mountain passes communicating between Upper Wensleydale, Wharfedale, and Swaledale are blocked. The Swaledale carriers returning from Hawes market on Tuesday night were unable to reach home, and had to stay at Askrigg. Farmers are out of fodder, and large numbers cannot procure any on account of the roads being blocked. A miner who started on Tuesday to walk from St John's Chapel, Weardale, to a village a few miles distant, lost his way and was found yesterday morning in a delirious state on the moors.

1886. 21 May. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 150131*

THE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT SNOW STORM IN RICHMONDSHIRE. Our Richmond correspondent says – Hundreds of lambs have been lost. Mr WILLIAM IVESON, of Moorcock, is stated to have lost about a hundred, and Mr GUY, of Schoolmaster Pasture, in Swaledale, experienced a similar loss. The ewes and lambs were overblown by the snow, but most of the ewes managed to struggle out, and left the lambs to perish on the moor.

1886. 18 September. *Northern Echo*; Issue 5170

LEADMINING IN SWALEDALE. Lead mining – once a flourishing industry in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale – shows signs of revival. The mine opened by the Hurst Mining Company at Hurst, a few miles west of Richmond, has proved to be one of the richest in England and at present is in full operation, over one hundred and fifty men being employed. The ore is of a splendid quality. The Hon Mrs PRIOR WANDESFORDE, the owner of two estates near Richmond, is displaying some enterprise, men having been engaged to bore for coal, which is well known to abound in large quantities on Hudswell Moor. Trials will also be made in other places on the estate.

1886. 11 December. *Northern Echo*; Issue 5242

LEADMINING IN SWALEDALE. DISCOVERY OF A NEW VEIN. For many years the lead mining industry of Swaledale has been declining. It is therefore gratifying to hear that at length there are prospects of a revival of the industry, for the men employed at the Hurst mines, which are backed up by some enterprising gentlemen, have struck a most valuable vein. It is said to be the largest and richest ever discovered since the commencement of the Hurst mines.

1887. 12 February. *Northern Echo*; Issue 5295

FALL DOWN A MINE SHAFT NEAR RICHMOND. MIRACULOUS ESCAPE. THOMAS POUNDER, of Ivelet, near Gunnerside, in Swaledale experienced a miraculous escape the other day. He was going to his work at the Hurst lead mine, and stood on the mouth of the mine until his fellow-miners had descended the double ladder. He then proceeded to follow suit, but failed to obtain a firm foothold, and although he strove vigorously to maintain a firm grip of the ladder, it was so slippery from grease that he was obliged to relinquish his hold, and he fell to the bottom of the shaft with great violence. The poor man was found in the most wretched state. Blood was oozing from his ears and mouth, and he received very serious bodily injuries. He was conveyed home, and medical aid was quickly in attendance. The poor man, however, still lies in bed in a very moderate state. He is about twenty-six years of age, and the accident happened at a most inopportune time, as the injured man was on the eve of his marriage.

1887. 23 July. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 15379

Grinton lead mines in Swaledale, which have been idle for about eleven years, are about to be reopened. Colonel Charlesworth has leased the mines for 21 years, at a seventeenth royalty or dues, to Mr H HOSKINS, of Newton Abbott, Devonshire. Some six years ago the same gentleman leased the Hurst lead mines from Colonel MORLEY. Mr Hoskins is now in London making arrangements for opening the mines, and he expected to commence working them very shortly.

1888. 30 July. *The Leeds Mercury*; Issue 15698

THE FLOODS IN SWALEDALE. SERIOUS DAMAGE. Farmers attending Richmond market on Saturday gave particulars regarding the floods in Swaledale. The damage to meadow land is serious, and a large portion of the land is still under water, and that which is not is covered with sand and refuse rendering it useless. Messrs. THOMPSON, of Fremington Mill, have lost two-thirds of their meadow land. It is the

property of Messrs. LITTLEFAIR, of Gathorn Hall. The flood of five years ago cost them six hundred pounds. When they were acquainted with the present flood they sent a representative into Swaledale, who kindly promised to meet the tenants half way. Mr WILLIAM COTTINGHAM, of Gunnerside, who sustained a loss of five hundred pounds at the great flood, has not lost three hundred pounds, for not only the grass but the soil has been washed away. Mr JAMES KENDALL, of Swale Hall, Grinton, has had 20 acres of meadow land rendered useless; and out of 40 acres of meadow land Mr A E KNOWLES of Gorton Lodge, Low-Row, has only five acres of good meadow left. Many others have been serious losers, and the small farmers can ill afford to bear the loss. Many thousands of trout and other fish have been picked up on the land.

1888. 06 August. Northern Echo; Issue 5757

RICHMOND DISTRICT HIGHWAY BOARD. THE RECENT FLOODS. GREAT DEVASTATIONS. The monthly meeting of the Richmond District Highway Board was held in the Council Chamber on Saturday afternoon. Mr SAMUEL ROWLANDSON presided. The Chairman read the appended report as to damages done to the roads, bridges, drains & c., by the late flood in the River Swale on the 2rth July last: "Gentlemen, I have to report that very great damage has been done to the roads and bridges in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale parts of the district. At Brompton-on-Swale the river has broken into the bank adjoining the new road that was made a few years ago to the extent of fifty-five yards in length. At Rowleth Bottoms (Melbecks) the river has caused considerable damage, having overflowed its banks and washed away the wall adjoining the river, filling up the bed of the river with stones and gravel. This will require to be opened out, so as to keep the river as much as possible in its proper course. At Gunnerside the large bridge which crossed the river at this place is entirely swept away, also the road leading from the village to the bridge for about 500 yards, rendering it impassable by the beck which flows through the village. Its proper course is filled up and it rushes over on to the road, breaking up the roadway from four to six feet deep the whole length. I have caused this road to be fenced off at both ends. The beck on the roadside at the west of the village of Muker has done immense damage, having broken into the road in three places. This I have caused to be protected until the damages are repaired. Askrigg road was blocked for a few days on account of a large slip of earth falling on to the road from the hill above, but it is now open again for traffic. In Arkengarthdale the Arkle Beck, a large brook running down from the mountains and effecting a juncture with the Swale between Reeth and Grinton, has done much damage throughout the dale. The foundation of the north pillar of Whaw Bridge has been dangerously undermined and the pillar very much broken. This bridge I have caused to be underset until we can have it repaired. I don't think the arch will need to be taken down if I find the foundation of the north pillar good. I expect this bridge has been damaged by large boulder stones and trees which were brought down the dale by the force of the flood. At the north side of this bridge the road is very much broken up, caused by the beck breaking over the bank onto the road, which runs alongside the beck at this place, where the traffic will pass by a back road until the other road is repaired. The Cocker foot road has been damaged by the overflow from the Arkle beck, but not to any great extent, and the road is open for traffic. The roads in other parts of the dales have been considerably damaged by the flood – the estimated damage being between seven hundred and eight hundred pounds. The Muker Beck road has also given way. JOHN HODGSON, district surveyor, North Cowton, 3rd August 1888"

The Surveyor stated that the flood had overflowed the valley in such a manner that the crops of hay from one end to the other of Swaledale were perfectly worthless; Mr COATES asked if the Highway Board was compelled to make the bridge; the Clerk answered that as there was no road remaining the Highway Board had nothing to do with it. Ultimately the question was left to a committee.

1888. 19 October. *Northern Echo*; Issue 5821

GOLD PREFERRED TO BEEF FOR A WEDDING. – Yesterday, at the Richmond County Court, EDWARD BROWN sued JAMES STUBBS for the sum of three pounds fifteen shillings, being a portion of his share from a will of a relative. It seemed that the plaintiff had the money left him by a grandfather and he was going to be married. The old man would give him beef as a wedding present, but the youth preferred money instead. The old man therefore gave or lent him – there are two sides to the story – five pounds. His Honour gave a verdict for one pound five shillings.

SHEEP-WORRYING IN SWALEDALE. – Yesterday, at the Richmond County Court before Judge TURNER - WILLIAM BELL, of Low Whita, near Reeth brought an action against METCALFE CALVERT, a farmer, of the same place to recover three pounds fifteen shillings compensation for sheep worried by the defendant's dog. Mr JAYNES, of Darlington appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr C G CROFT, of Richmond for defendant. On the first of May plaintiff turned some ewes on to a common adjoining his farm, and they got into a pasture belonging to defendant, whom it was alleged dogged them off, and some of the sheep were so severely bitten that two of them died. Defendant expressed his willingness to pay for the injury, providing sufficient proof was forthcoming that his dog had worried the sheep. MARK KENDALL, the inspector of nuisances for Reeth, valued the dead ewes from twenty-eight shillings to thirty shillings each, though he had purchased ewes from eighteen shillings to twenty-two shillings. In giving his evidence the witness fainted. Defendant said he collected the sheep and put them off in the ordinary way, but his dog did not do any injury. Verdict, two pounds eighteen shillings with costs.

1889. 05 March. *Northern Echo*; Issue 5937

MR RICHARD PEACOCK, member for the Gorton Division, whose death was briefly noted in yesterday's *Northern Echo* was, as we then said, a Swaledale man. His father, RALPH PEACOCK, from a working man rose to be superintendent of several Swaledale mines, and developed a singular talent for mechanical construction, which proved hereditary in the case of his son. Young PEACOCK'S tastes and talents were strongly marked before he was five years old. He was taken to Darlington just after the Stockton and Darlington line was opened to see the locomotive at work, and from that moment his career was fixed. Having received elementary education at a Sunday school, and as his father's fortunes improved, at Leeds Grammar School, PEACOCK was apprenticed to FENTON, MURRAY, & JACKSON, the famous locomotive builders. At eighteen Sir DANIEL GOOCH gave him an important appointment on the Great Western. In 1841 he became locomotive superintendent to the Manchester and Sheffield line, and fourteen years later he, in conjunction with a partner, built the works at Gorton. Mr PEACOCK was not only successful financially, but a man of liberal and enlightened views and generous disposition. His personality was naturally a commanding one in the Gorton Division, for which he was returned in 1886 by a majority of 457. The

majority is not a large one, looking to the strength of the candidate and the duty incumbent on the Liberal party of selecting a successor needs to be set about with great care.

1889. 06 March. *The Derby Mercury; Issue 9086*

DEATH OF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Mr RICHARD PEACOCK, M.P., head of the engineering firm of BEYER, PEACOCK, and Co., and the Liberal member for the Gorton Division of Lancashire died on Sunday night at Gorton Hall, Manchester, after a lingering illness. Mr PEACOCK was born in Swaledale, Yorkshire in 1820, and was educated at the Leeds Grammar School. After serving an apprenticeship to Messrs FENTON, MURRAY, and JACKSON, engineers, he became Locomotive Superintendent on the Leeds and Selby Railway, and some years later he held a similar appointment on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway whose great works at Gorton he planned. The Firm of Beyer and Peacock commenced in a modest way at Gorton; but it prospered exceedingly, until nearly three thousand people were employed. Two hundred locomotives were turned out per annum, and the wages bill for one year amounted to over one hundred and twenty thousand pounds. Mr Peacock was elected member for Gorton in 1885 by a majority of 1,748 over his Conservative opponent. In 1886, as a Gladstonian, he defeated Viscount GREY de WILTON by 457 votes.

1889. 14 June. *Northern Echo*

Inquest at Great Bridge. Coroner Walton, Northallerton, heard an inquest yesterday, at Stangfoot Inn, Greta Bridge District, on the body of Robert Hillary, 33, West House, Hurst, who met his death while working in Scargill Lead Mining Company's mines. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased met his death by a huge stone falling unexpectedly upon him from the head of the drift. Death was instantaneous. Verdict, "Accidental death." A Government inspector was in attendance.

1889. 30 November. *The Newcastle Weekly Courant; Issue 11211*

REETH

THREE CHILDREN SUFFOCATED. – A very sad affair happened at Reeth, in Swaledale, on the evening of Friday, the 22nd inst. Mrs BLENKIRON, wife of Mr THOMPSON BLENKIRON, jun., went to a neighbour's house for the milk, leaving her three children in the house and a candle burning on the table. When the mother returned she found her home in flames, and her alarming cries speedily brought the ready assistance of neighbours. On entrance being made the whole of the three children were found lying dead on the kitchen floor, having been suffocated. Dr KERNOTT was quickly on the spot, but too late. There were no marks upon the children – MARK BLENKIRON, aged four, THOMAS WILLIAM BLENKIRON, aged three, and MARY ANN BLENKIRON, aged two. The flames were soon extinguished. It is supposed that one of the children had taken the candle and ignited some shavings beneath the stairs. Alarmed at the fire they all climbed into an arm chair, which fell over with them, and it is very apparent the children were immediately suffocated.

1890. 01 November. *The Leeds Mercury; Issue 16403*

LEAD-MINING IN YORKSHIRE

..... In the Swale and Melsonby district, Arkengarthdale has done very well and the company no doubt have still a brighter future before them, as the ore appears to be plentiful, considering that even in what has been considered as bad times the average monthly production has been equal to 150 tons. The Hurst Mining Company has done tolerably well, despite some difficulties that have had to be overcome, but as there is plenty of lead ore some good discoveries having been made a year or two ago The property should become a valuable one with the increased facilities that before long will be afforded for reaching the various markets where lead can be disposed of. In the same district the Old Gang has had a tolerably fair time of it, at one period having turned out upwards of 1,400 tons of lead ore in a year, and most likely will do so again if it does not considerably increase that output, to do which there should be no great difficulty.

The Grinton Moor Mine, along with Summer Lodge and Whiteside, belonged to Mr J.C.D. CHARLESWORTH, of Chapelthorpe Hall, near Wakefield, one of the largest colliery-owners in the West Riding, but was abandoned several years since when lead could not very well be worked at a fair profit. More recently, however, the Grinton Mine has been taken in hand by a limited company, with a capital of fifty thousand pounds and operations have been pursued with energy, for at least four bings of ore were being raised weekly even thus early from the undersets. This mine is again likely to take a good position, and several parcels of lead have already been sold during the year, 16½ bings of ore being raised and dressed recently in the course of four weeks, the lead realising at the rate of twelve pounds ten shillings per ton.

Keld Heads, which belongs to Mr THOMAS DYMOND, of Burntwood Hall near Barnsley and formerly proprietor of the well-known Oaks Colliery, has given good returns and there is no reason why it should not do so again, as the mine is considered a good one; and should even now be worked at a fair profit, as it is capable of considerable development and is only about five miles from Leyburn. In the same district, Lord Bolton has several mines, including Ape Head and Thornton Moor, which should now be made to pay; and the same may also be said with respect to the Summer Lodge and Whiteside mines, belonging to Colonel Charlesworth.

The Arkendale Mining Company have a rich mine in the Swaledale and Melsonby district in Arkengarthdale, and large as the yearly returns have been, there is very little doubt they are capable of being greatly increased. The same remark may also be said to apply to the Swinnergill, Lunehead, and Surrender mines in the same district, as well as to Pateley Bridge West, Craven Moor United, Stony Groves, Pateley Bridge, Cockhill, and Sunnyside, and other mines in the West Riding. From the above facts, it will be seen that lead-mining in Yorkshire is now in a fair way of reaching, and even exceeding, its former proportions seeing that not only has the price of lead improved of late, but the proposed railway will connect Pateley Bridge and some of the more northern mining districts with large and important centres of commerce and shipping ports as well.

1892. 21 March (source unknown)

At the Richmond County Petty Sessions on Saturday, John Henry ALDERSON and Isabella ALDERSON (brother and sister) were charged with stealing hay from the premises of Mr. Simon CHERRY, mining agent, of Fremington; also with assaulting Acting-Sergeant Wm. INGOLDSON. Prisoners dwell at Grinton, near Reeth. They

had been suspected by the officer of the theft, and chased them and captured the female, whereupon the male prisoner sprang at him and dealt him a blow on the head with a pick-axe (produced). Between the two the officer was dreadfully ill-used, and the prisoners made their escape, but were apprehended on Tuesday, when they behaved violently to Sergt. BOLLAND. Prisoners were sent to gaol for four months each with hard labour.

1892. 11 April

At Richmond on Saturday a Swaledale farmer named James THWAITES of Gunnerside was charged by Inspector Cape of the S.P.C.A with cruelty to his stock. Mr T.M. Barron of Darlington prosecuted. From information received the inspector proceeded to the defendant's farm on the 5th of April and learnt that the defendant had lost several beasts in the course of the past few months, and at the time of his visit he found one beast dead upon the premises. A post mortem examination was made which disclosed the fact that the poor animal had been suffering from the effects of hunger and had died from dropsy and inflammation of the stomach. Defendant had actually been advertising and selling his hay and starving his own stock. Mr. Stevens, veterinary surgeon of Darlington, and Mr CLARKSON, veterinary surgeon of Reeth, having given evidence, the Bench imposed a fine of \$2 and costs amounting to #.13s.1d

1893. 11 Jan

Ancient Swaledale Church Dole- The Grinton dole amounting to #6 0s 2d, has this new year been distributed by Mr. William ALLEN, churchwarden in the following manner; to the poor of Grinton, Fremington and Reeth, #3 18s 8d; to the poor of Healaugh, 10s; to the poor of Melbeck, 18s; and to the poor of Muker, 15s 6d.

1893. 12 May

One of the most remarkable providential deliverances that we remember to have heard of (states a Methodist journal) has been vouchsafed to Mrs J. Calvert COATES, wife of the president of the Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association. Mr Coates was preaching for the association at Darlington on Sunday week and on Monday went over to Gunnerside, his native village in Swaledale. On Tuesday he was driving with Mrs Coates to the railway station, when the horse jibbed. Mr Coates got out to go to the horse's head but before he could reach it the frightened animal had got off the narrow lane in which they were travelling and over the side of a stone quarry taking the carriage and Mrs Coates with it – a sheer fall of seventy feet. As soon as possible, having sent for help, Mr Coates made his way to the bottom of the quarry where he found the carriage smashed and the horse lying across the body of Mrs Coates, with one of its legs locked in a wheel and the others kicking vigorously. It was an hour before Mrs Coates could be liberated and during that period of awful suspense the horse's hoofs were in such close proximity to her that portions of her dress were torn away, and even hair from her head; while when Mr Coates put his hand over his wife's eyes to shield her it was more than once struck. Ultimately Mrs Coates was removed to Gunnerside, when a surgical examination showed that, most wonderfully, no bones were broken. The shock however, and bruises were most severe. One leg is numbed and paralysis was at first feared, but the doctor now hopes that in a fortnight Mrs Coates will be able to leave her bed, where she now lies prostrate. Hundreds of friends in all parts of the

country will rejoice with the genial President of the Local Preachers' Association in his providential deliverance from so imminent a prospect of sad bereavement.

1899. 24 April

A Hale Nonagenarian

On Friday last, Mr Jas. CALVERT of Gunnerside entered upon his 90th year. He has always been an ardent Liberal in politics and some years ago began to follow the example of Mr Gladstone by felling a tree on his birthday. This feat he accomplished on Friday last, being hale and hearty for his years. What makes the event more remarkable is that he has felled the last of a lot. But the veteran woodcutter had numerous offers from his admiring neighbours, that if spared to another year to again undertake the duty that trees would not be wanting by which to test his strength and accomplish the task.

1900. 29 Nov

The remains of the late Mr. John BARKER of Langhorne House, Reeth, in Swaledale, were yesterday consigned to their last resting place in the pretty little churchyard of Grinton on the Swale - nestling at the foot of the heath-clad hills, where the deceased gentleman had roamed and spent so many happy days, close beside the rippling trout stream which he loved to follow with the rod, and in the heart of the beautiful country where he took such a delight in following the Swaledale hounds. Many memorable days had he passed in various branches of sport in these wild, though charming regions. Mr. Barker was a good all-round sportsman, and whilst he was an expert angler and a capital shot, he was a prominent and enthusiastic supporter of the various sporting festivals and agricultural societies of the dales. He was always to the front in support of the several railway schemes likely to open out and develop the various mining industries. He was a landowner in various parts, and superintended the management of the moorland estate of Colonel Charlesworth for well on to 40 years, during which time he gained the respect and esteem of the various gentlemen located at Grinton Lodge for the grouse shooting season. Mr Barker's death came as a great surprise, for he had only been packing grouse last Thursday when he had a serious stroke, and died on Saturday evening; it was a great shock to the dales people returning from Richmond market. The funeral was attended by a large and representative gathering from all parts of the dales, as well as from North Yorkshire and South Durham, for he was a man very widely known and highly esteemed. The Rev. J. J. Merry conducted the beautiful special funeral service - for the deceased always took a deep interest in the church. The coffin was covered with beautiful floral tributes. The deceased was 62 years of age. Amongst those present at the funeral, despite the inclement weather, were representatives of the Duke of Leeds, the Marquis of Zetland, Lord Bolton, the Duchess of Northumberland, Mr Gilpin Brown, Sir Francis Denys, Colonel Charlesworth, Mr Geo Gilpin Brown, members of the Richmond and Reeth Rural District Councils and Boards of Guardians, Ald. T.M. Barron, Mr. Wm Sewell, representatives of the miners etc.

Many thanks to Malise McGuire for many of these entries

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