

Secrets and Surprises

The Story of North Dalton through Artefacts & Anecdotes



These notes were part of a talk for the North Dalton History Weekend, held on a idyllic early Spring weekend in March 2022. This talk linked with one by Karen Adams on the archaeology of the area which studied the Bronze Age to the Viking era. This talk in essence continues from the Viking era to the present day

The aim of the talk and these notes is that through the use of artefacts from the East Riding Museums Service as well as anecdotes, the story of North Dalton will come to life.

We hope you enjoy reading these notes. If you have any stories to add or information about the area, please get in touch with Caroline Coath, assistant curator for community engagement on caroline.coath@eastriding.gov.uk

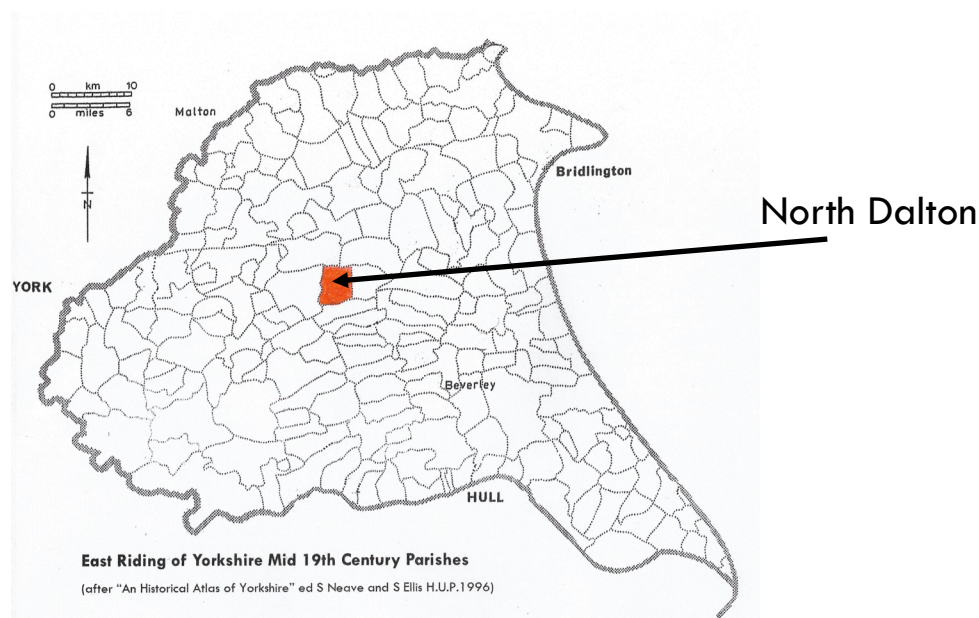
NORTH DALTON VILLAGE



The pretty village of North Dalton had an estimated population of 331 in 2020. It sits in the geographical centre of the East Riding of Yorkshire (see the map below) with its now, mostly 19th century houses clustered around the church of All Saints on its hill.

The ancient tumuli and archaeology found around the village indicates that this area has been home to Man from the earliest times through every historical period up to the present day.

From a village which was self sufficient in the past, the parish website now shows that the only trades/professions working from the village are Arts and Crafts specialists, Yoga and Pilates teachers, holiday cottages and cleaners. Although the pub, The Star is currently closed, there are plans in place to re open it perhaps with a small shop attached. However, the community works hard to keep the village a vibrant place to live.



THE WOLDS



Wolds Landscapes



The Yorkshire Wolds are the northernmost outcrop of a great band of chalk stretching across the country from the Wessex Downs in Wiltshire to the North Sea. As you can see from the map they extend in a rough crescent shape from the Humber Estuary to the cliffs at Flamborough Head.



Map showing chalk band

Archaeological evidence found across the Wolds show that it has been settled from earliest times to present day. In fact the concentration of prehistoric monuments has led to it being compared with prehistoric Wessex in importance!



Chalk cliffs at Flamborough Head



WATER AND THE WOLDS

The Gypsy Race flowing at Burton Fleming

Although there are now no permanent water courses in the Wolds due to the porous nature of the chalk rocks there is a seasonal course—the Gypsy Race. For years at a time, large sections of the course disappear underground. Thenit suddenly bursts into life, flowing intermittently from its source close to Wharram le Street through the Great Wold Valley becoming a permanent water course near Rudston when it flows through Boynton to the sea.

Many myths and legends have grown up around the flowing Race, or “Woe Waters” as it was called in the past. It is said that when the waters run, disaster hits the country. It is true that they flowed before the start of the Black Death, the English Civil War, the Execution of Charles I, the disastrous harvest of 1861, the 2 World Wars and the bad winters of 1947 and 1962. However, the flowing waters have also protected various historical figures as when in the mid 15th century when they are alleged to have protected Prior Willy of Bridlington Priory who, being chased by fairies jumped the Race and escaped (fairies cant cross fast flowing water) Henrietta Maria (Charles I wife) was also protected when she sheltered on its banks as she fled from Bridlington and Cromwell's forces in 1632.



A weekend of Wolds history in North Dalton

26th and 27th March 2022

Come time travelling from the Bronze Age to the swinging 1960s through a series of fascinating talks, displays and discussions.



ARTEFACTS AND ANECDOTES

As this talk is part of the programme of the Wolds History Weekend at North Dalton, it links with a talk on the archaeology on of the area from the Bronze Age to the Viking Period by Karen Adams. So apart from a peep at Roman artefacts we will start this exploration in the Anglo Saxon Period

Here is the peep...an early silver Roman coin hoard, included because it was found in North Dalton. The 15 silver denarii includes coins representing Vespasian, Trajan, Antonius Pius, Hadrian, Galba, Domitian, Titus and Nerva. The coins of these earlier emperors showed the emperors as they appeared whereas those from later centuries showed emperors looking like gods.



This talk really starts with the arrival and subsequent settlement of the Angles and Viking invaders to this part of the Wolds. Here is an Anglo Scandinavian early 11th century stirrup mount. At the top a strap would link to the saddle whilst the actual stirrup would attach to the bottom

It is decorated in the Danish style known as Jellinge with intertwined sinuous animal forms. Viking artefacts are relatively uncommon in the East Riding, this was found in Lowthorpe ER

MIDDLE AGES

We pass the upheavals of the Norman Invasion and Domesday and arrive in the High Middle Ages. Here are a group of silver pennies (the weight suggests 37) found in Huggate - that are likely to have melted in a house fire.

The top coin is minted in London from the time of Edward I. They would have been minted after 1279 when groats, round farthings and silver halfpennies were first issued.

Edward I had the nicknames "Long Shanks" (for his 6'2" inches) and "hammer of the Scots" for his wars to unite England and Scotland. He was also not averse to fighting in Wales and battling whilst on Crusades in the Holy Land.



Edward was a strong, highly respected king, however he did have failings, the worst was the expulsion of the Jews from England (to make money from the lands and property left behind). An edict not lifted until the times of Oliver Cromwell.

Moving forward in time, to the left is a late 13th to early 14th century silver brooch found in Barmby Moor. It has a simple stamped decoration and would have been used for fastening clothes at the neck from the late c13 to early c14.

The Black Death landed in this country on the Dorset coast in 1348 and by July 1348 the Archbishop of York, Archbishop Zouche, was writing about great mortalities, pestilences and infections of the air.

The "Great Mortality" entered Yorkshire in February 1349 and quickly spread, particularly among the clergy, due to them ministering to the sick and burying the dead.

From the inquisitions post mortem (formal enquiries into lands held at their deaths by tenants in chief of the Crown) it is recorded that in North Dalton 14 bovates (207 acres) was waste with no one to work it by 1350, indicating the Black Death had ravaged this village.





Religion and faith were a crucial element in the lives of medieval individuals. To the left is half of a portable mirror case used by medieval pilgrims to capture the reflections from saintly images and relics. They were often found pinned to their hat.

Pilgrims believed that they could capture the essence of the saint in the mirror's reflection. They could take this home to share with family and friends who couldn't travel to get the benefit of the saint's blessing. This is late 13th early 14th century and found in Boynton.



To the left is a lead crucifix made circa 1400 and found in Langtoft

On the right is a silver gilt crucifix found in Stamford Bridge. It would be part of a larger object and probably dated from the late 15th early 16th century.

In pre Reformation times, crucifixes showed the body of Christ crucified on the cross. Generally, after the Reformation in England, crosses in Anglican churches had no body on them representing the fact that Christ had risen from the dead, so we know that these two pre date the Reformation.





17th CENTURY NORTH DALTON

Now we reach the 17th century; a time of great upheaval encompassing Civil War, Plague, and Revolution affecting every citizen.

A couple of years after his restoration, King Charles II needed to find a way to refill his coffers after the exigencies of the Civil War and Commonwealth. He turned to a tax popular on the continent - a tax on every hearth or fireplace in the house. The tax was 1s per hearth, paid twice a year. There were exemptions for the very poor although these individuals were still recorded, and the benefit for us is it gives us a good idea of who was living in our villages in the mid 17th century.

In the 1672 Lady Day tax in North Dalton 30 households paid the tax and 28 were exempt. Only 3 families had more than 1 hearth. The Barnards with 10 hearths, John W with 3 hearths and Mr Dixon with 2.



Even in the 17th century there appeared to be a north/south wealth divide. In the North of England including the East Riding, a max of 20% per settlement had 3 or more hearths (3 or more hearths indicated that the householder was of the "middling sort") whilst in Southern England it was common for more than a third (33%) to have over 3

THE 18TH CENTURY

...society about twelve o'clock.
Last Friday morning was found dead in his bed, at an obscure lodging in Calwell-street, Wm. Swan, Esq. he was the only surviving male heir of the late Thomas Swan, Esq. Alderman and Mayor of Hull in Yorkshire, who left estates to the amount of 20,000l. per annum, and for which the above unfortunate gentleman had been trying (in vain) for above twenty years to recover. The history of this heir is no less remarkable than that of his father, who, when but nine years of age, (to disinherit him) was trapped from his father's house (Richard Swan, Esq. of Benwell-hall, near Newcastle) and put on board the New Britannia brig, was wrecked on the rocks of Scilly with Sir Cloudesly Shovel's fleet, and was afterwards taken prisoner by an Algerine vessel, and sold for a slave; but after four years imprisonment he was set at liberty by the redeeming Friars: After this he was again shipwrecked, was carried and sold for a slave, to a planter at South Carolina, where he suffered almost every human woe. He returned again to England, after a banishment of above twenty years, in 1726, and was identified by one Mrs. Goston, of Newcastle, his nurse, and Mr. Thomas Chance, who had been his father's footman. He directly laid claim to the estates of Alderman Swan, but having neither money nor friends living to assist him, all his efforts proved abortive. After this he settled at an obscure village near Hull, called North Dalton, where he married one Jane Cole, by whom he had one son, the above unfortunate William Swan.—He afterwards died of a broken heart at the above village in 1735.
Extract of a letter from Liverpool, March 8.

The story of William Swan .

In newspapers of 1786 there were reports of the death in poverty of William Swan in London. The reports continued with the story of William's father who was born in Northumberland around 1696

He was kidnapped as a child of 9, (allegedly to keep him from an inheritance), and put on a ship as a powder monkey—a boy employed to carry powder from the magazines to the guns). He fought with Sir Cloudesly Shovell's fleet in the war of the Spanish Succession, narrowly escaping shipwreck off the Scilly isles only to be captured and sold into slavery on the Barbary coast. After a number of years he was freed by the "Redeeming Friars" (monks tasked with attempting to free the enslaved on the Barbary coast and Ottoman empire). He was then captured again and sold as a slave to a plantation in South Carolina. Four years later, he escaped and made his way home. He made many attempts to regain his inheritance but failed and ended up in North Dalton where he met and married Jane Cole in 1728 . He had a daughter Jane and this son William, but sadly died in 1735 aged 39 and was buried in the churchyard.

Jane, his wife survived him by 10 years and went to work for the Barnard family (the local landlords) in the village where she was left money by Ramsden Barnard when he died.

THE 19TH CENTURY POOR HOUSE

	Breakfast	Dinner	Supper
Meal Times	Summer 8am Winter 9am	12 oc	Summer 7pm Winter 6pm
Sunday	Milk/Beer Pottage	Boiled Beef and Roots	Milk Pottage
Monday	Beef Broth	Beef and Potato Pie	Bread and Milk
Tuesday	Milk Pottage	Cakes and Milk	Bread and Milk or Pottage
Wednesday	Broth	Puddings or Dumplings	Milk Pottage
Thursday	Milk/Beer Pottage	Boiled Beef with Potatoes or Herbs	Bread and Milk
Friday	Broth	Beef and Potato Pie	Milk Pottage
Saturday	Milk Pottage	Dumplings or Cakes	Bread and Milk

In 1794 11 villages in the local area banded together to build a poor house in North Dalton. It would have only been a small house probably housing 6 at the most.

The ER archives have the rules and regulations from the house in the 1830s of which the prescribed weekly diet is shown above.

Residents who were able, were expected to work, starting at 6 in summer and 8 in winter finishing at 6 with half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner. If they worked overtime, they were allowed to keep the money. They were expected to retire to bed at 8 in the winter 9 in the summer (this was the daily routine of agricultural labourers as well).

On Sundays, when they weren't expected to work, they attended Church service with the governor of the Poor House and his wife. Days off were New Year's day, Epiphany, 13 Jan, Good Friday, Easter Monday and Tuesday, Ascension Day, Whitsun Monday and Tuesday 29 May, 5th November and the King's accession day.

Visitors were allowed with permission, liquor was also allowed with permission although no spirits.

Any children who entered the house were given 2 hours of reading and writing tuition by the governor's wife.

North Dalton's poor house remained functional until 1836 when the Driffield Poor Law Union was formed covering 43 villages in the area. Those needing support now had to apply to the Workhouse in Middle Street Driffield.

19th CENTURY LAW AND ORDER



Above is a 19th century ceremonial police truncheon. It was awarded to Thomas Ford, High Constable of Baynton (sic) Beacon 1849. Thomas was a farmer from Lund and was 49 when he received this.

As high constable (an unpaid role), he was responsible for co ordinating the work of the constables, especially in relation to the licensing sessions, reports from the overseers of the poor and the state of the highways and also ensuring the parishes were fulfilling their duties in their upkeep. They were elected annually and as with constables were unpaid apart from some minor fees.

In 1839 A County Police Act came in allowing local justices to rise a paid police force. In 1842 ER appointed 12 constables, rising to 60 men by 1856 and 188 by 1928.

WORLD WAR TWO



In World War Two, the village hosted a number of very different groups of individuals.

The first group arrived in September 1939 and was made up of evacuees from Redby Junior school in Sunderland. If the newspaper reports are to be believed, the children settled well into the village.

The only complaints appeared to be that the children who went to Middleton on the Wolds thought themselves superior to North Dalton children as Middleton's pond had 2 swans on it whilst North Dalton could only boast ducks! Many villagers took in evacuees including one Mrs Arnott from Westwood House who had 11 evacuees and 2 helpers billeted on her.

Various sections of the British army made their base in North Dalton and were welcomed. One of the few blots on their copybook was caused by the tanks who whilst training managed to damage the east end of the church shattering most of the stained glass which the villagers gathered together so that it could be later restored.



Later in the war a very different group of individuals were billeted in Westwood House—the second armoured division of the Free French under General Leclerc. According to local villagers they lived and ate very well there,. Their stay wasn't without its problems. It is known that one of the group was discovered signalling to German aircraft and was court martialled in one of the bedrooms. Another soldier drunkenly fell over the bannisters and broke the newel post. When it was restored a note was put inside the repair for future generations to know what happened.

NORTH DALTON—THE FUTURE

The thing about “history” is that it is being made on a daily basis. Not just on a national or international scale affecting all of us, but locally. One day future inhabitants of North Dalton will wonder how those living then were touched by the Covid pandemic just as we wondered how our ancestors were affected by the flu epidemic after WW1, the plague of 1665 and the Black Death.

If you have any interesting stories or objects that you think need keeping for the future, please don't hesitate to contact me at the Museums' Service on caroline.coath@eastriding.gov.uk

Once again, thank you for asking me to be involved in the History weekend which has given me the opportunity to find out more about your beautiful home