

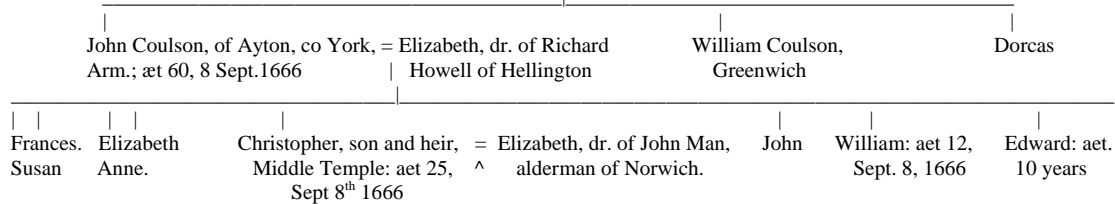
**Parish of Great Ayton** - In Domesday, we find the township of Ayton Magna originally contained three distinct manors, as follows:

1. Lands of the king, or demensne lands, 2 car., which Ulchil rated *ad geldum*.
2. Lands of the Earl of Morton, to be taxed 6 car., and there are 3 pl. Norman had there 1 manor. Nigel now has it of the Earl. In the demesne, 1 pl. and 8 villanes, with 2 pl., a church, and 6 acres of meadow. T. R. E. 40s, now 30s 4d. Lands of Robert Mallet, manor in Ayton: - Aldred, Edmund, and Turorne, had 4 car. of land, to be taxed where there may be 2 pl.; Robert has now there 1 pl. and 9 villanes, with 2 pl. and 3 acres of meadow. T. R. E. 20s, now 25s 4d.

In the reign of King Stephen, Robert de Estoteville, <sup>1</sup> a valiant knight, who fought bravely at the fray of the Standard, died possessed of this manor. In this family it remained till the 17<sup>th</sup> Henry III, when it passed, by marriage of Joan, <sup>2</sup> daughter of Nicholas de Estoteville, to Hugh, son of Baldwin de Wake, in whose family it remained till the reign of Edward III. The sons of Hugh de Wake dying without issue, his daughter Margaret, widow of Edmund de Woodstock, earl of Kent, became the next heir; from whom it descended to Sir Thomas Holland, kt., by marriage with Joan, her daughter. Afterwards, by marriage, it became annexed to the extensive possessions of the Nevilles, <sup>3</sup> earls of Westmoreland, but was forfeited in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, on the attainder of Charles, earl of Westmoreland.<sup>4</sup> In the reign of James I. it was granted by the king to Sir David Foulis, of Ingleby Manor, Bart., who sold it in the reign of Charles I., to Christopher Coulson, citizen of London.

COULSON, OF GREAT AYTON

Christopher Coulson of South Mimms co Middlesex :died 1641 = Susan dr. and coheiress of Richard Matthew, of South Mimms



1 A Robert de Estoteville, or Stuteville, founded the priory near Rosedale, 1190. The first Robert de Estoteville came over with the Conqueror, and enjoyed his favour; but Roger de Estoteville was for a time deprived of his possessions for rebellion.

2 The impression of the seal of this Joan de Estoteville was a woman riding on horseback sideway, and holding the bridle in her right hand, because she was the first who began the custom now in use, for women to ride in that manner. It is an error, therefore, to attribute this fashion to Anne, queen of Richard II. and daughter of Winceslaus the emperor.

3 This famous family produced six Earls of Westmoreland, two Earls of Salisbury and Warwick, an Earl of Kent, a Marquis of Montacute, a Duke of Bedford, Baron Ferrars, Barons of Latimer, and Baron of Abergavenny, besides one queen, five duchesses, and several baronesses and countesses. George Neville, archbishop of York, at his installation, about 1470, gave a feast, in which 4000 woodcocks, 4000 venison-pasties, 8 seals, 4 porpoises, &c., dainties of the time, graced the board. Inside of the roof of Kirby Moorside Church are the arms of Neville, viz. a shield, supported by an angel, field gules, saltier argent..

4 Charles, the 6<sup>th</sup> and last Earl of Westmoreland, in the year 1570, 13<sup>th</sup> Eliz, forfeited, by his rebellion, an estate of £30,000. per annum, - an enormous sum in those days. This unfortunate nobleman fled into Flanders, where he lived on a slender pension allowed him by the king of Spain, and died in penury, 1584, when the title became extinct.

From the Coulsons, it descended, by marriage, to the Skottowes; from a descendant of which family it was purchased, in 1801, by Henry Richardson, Esq.<sup>1</sup>

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The Church of St. Mary's of Ayton was granted to Whitby Abbey by Robert de Meinill, in the time of the Abbot William de Percy. It possessed no fewer than three chapels subject to it, viz. Newton-under-Rosebury, Little Ayton and Nunthorp. Ayton Church had some special benefactions assigned to it, among which was the grant of Richard de Thoccyts, of Great Broughton, who bound himself and his heirs to find a lamp always burning before the high altar during the celebration of mass. In the time of Thurstan, archbishop, Henry king of England " granted and confirmed to God, and the church of St. Hilda, at Whiteby, and to the monks performing divine service there, the church of Aton, in Cliveland, with its appurtenances, for perpetual alms, for the soul of my father, King William, and for myself and my heirs." And, in the year 1195: " William de Estutevill, influenced by divine love for the salvation of his own soul, and those of his father and mother, and his heirs, granted and confirmed, &c. the church of Aton, in Clifland, with all its appurtenances.

The minister of Ayton-Magna was one of the *curati conductivi* of the monastery at Whitby; the priory of Gisburne also had lands here.

The church was valued in Pope Nicholas's taxation at £20; Nova tax, £9; in 1707, the curacy was certified at £14; and in 1818, at £70 10 10d. The rector is entitled to a modus of 6s 8d a year, in lieu of the tithes of a mulcture water corn-mill. It was augmented, in 1772, with £200; in 1786, with £200; 1813, with £600; and, in 1832, with £200, from parliamentary grant.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1743, faculty was granted to erect a gallery; 30<sup>th</sup> July, 1759, ditto to remove a loft, and build pews; 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1760, confirmation granted for allotment of pews; and, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1788, faculty to rebuild the steeple of the church.

<sup>1</sup> The following grants occur in the charters of Whitby Abbey, &c. Robert and Stephen de Meinill gave to the monks of Whitby the church of Ayton, in Cleveland, with the chapel of Newton, under Ornebach (Rosebury), in the archdeaconry of Cleveland. Stephen de Bolemer confirmed this; and Gertrude, his wife, added 24 acres. Hugh, son of Gerard de Ayton, gave 5 acres to the monastery of Whitby; John, son of Hugh, gave the homage and service of Nicholas, son of Peter de Ayton, and his heirs, along with a toft and croft; William de Meinel gave to the monks of Whitby, Wm. Cokelun and all his family, *cum tota sequela sua*; John, son of William, elder son of Gilbert de Ayton, gave 1 toft here; Alan, son of Alan de Percy, Le Meschin, gave 1 car. of land here near to Rochesbury (Rosebury), which was confirmed by David and Malcolm, king of Scotland, and by Philip and Thomas de Coleville. Sir William de Malebisse, kt., gave security to the abbot and convent of Whitby, that the chapel of Ayton Parva should be no prejudice to the mother-church of Ayton, in Cleveland, which had been granted to them, along with the chapel of Newton, in Cleveland, hitherto belonging to Robert and Stephen de Meinill.\*

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\* "Dicunt quod Petrus de Malo-lacu tenet quatuor feoda milit, cum Castro de Mulgrave, de domino rege in capite, unde Nicholaus de Meinill tenet unum feodum in magna Ayton, magna Broughton, et Tunstall, unde x, car. Terræ faciunt feodum, et reddit Ballivo regi pro fine iis. xd." – Kirby's *Inquest*.

A new glebe-house is about to be erected near the churchyard, but the site is not so eligible as might be desired.

Register-books commence 1666; present patron and impropiator, George Marwood, Esq., of Busby Hall; Rev. Joseph Ibbetson, B.A., incumbent.

In the church are several inscriptions:-

"Here lyeth interred the body of John Coulson, who departed this life the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1764, who was owner of the manner (sic in orig.) of Great Ayton, and the privileges."

"In memory of Thomas Skottowe, Esq., lord of the manor, who died February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1771, aged 75 years; also Ann, his wife, who died May 2d, 1751, aged 50 years. A testimony of affection by their son, N. S."

"Here lies the body of Coulson Skottowe, brother of Thomas Skottowe, Esq., who died the 6<sup>th</sup> July, 1750, in the 55<sup>th</sup> year of his age."

"Constable Bradsaw (Bradshaw), of Nunthorp, gentleman, died the 22d of October, 1702."

Within the Chancel, a marble monument, greatly ornamented, records the gallantry, philanthropy, and integrity of Commodore Wilson, <sup>1</sup> who died the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 1795, aged 80. Pitt's Straits, and the eastern passage to China, were discovered, we are told, by "Commodore Wilson, commander of the Pitt, East India ship of war, and commander-in-chief of the marine force of the English East India Company." James Cook, father of Captain Cook, was buried at Marske; and in this churchyard is a plain stone, "In memory of Grace, wife of James Cook, who died February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1765, aged 63 years." Also

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“To ye memory of Mary, and Mary, Jane, and William, daughters and son of James and Grace Cook. Mary, died June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1737, in ye fifth year of her age; Mary, died June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1741, aged 20 months and 6 days; Jane, died May ye 12<sup>th</sup>, 1742, in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of her age; William, died Jay, ye 29<sup>th</sup>, 1747, aged 2 yrs, 12 mos, 16 das and 7 hors, and also John, their son, dyed September 20, 1750, aged 23 years.”

This tombstone is the more interesting, as it is doubtless the composition of the father Cook; and having been a stonemason, the mechanical part is probably his also.

The Chapel-Well is near the quarry at Newton, on the left of the road from Guisborough to Ayton, and was long famous for the cure of agues, ophthalmias, and other diseases.

<sup>1</sup> The late Captain Wilson, of Ayton, sprang from a respectable Yorkshire family; but owing to embarrassment in his father's affairs, commenced life with very slender means. At the age of 14, he entered the East India Company's service; and having passed through the usual gradations of rank, was appointed, in 1744, to the command of the Great Britain, of 30 guns, and 250 men. In sailing from the Downs, he fell in with a Spanish frigate, of superior force, which he obliged to sheer off; and a month afterwards he captured a Spanish sloop of war, with £10,000, in specie on board. He afterwards engaged three French West Indiamen, and took two of them. Returning from China (1746), in the Suffolk East Indiaman, he fell in with a French ship of the line, Comte de Provence, 74 guns, and the Sylphide, 36 guns, and beat them off; for which heroic action he received the thanks of the Lords of the Admiralty, and the Court of Directors, who presented him with a gold medal, worth 100 guineas. In the same year, he was appointed by the directors to the Pitt ship of war, of 54 guns, and 250 men, and constituted “commodore and commander of all the ships and vessels in the Company's service.” In the Bay of Bengal, he brought to action a French ship, greatly superior to his own in rate and force; and at Batavia, compelled the Dutch governor to acknowledge, that “the English had a right to navigate wherever it had pleased God to send water.”

CHARITIES – William Young's gift, by will dated 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1678, is a rent-charge of £6 per annum out of Buckbank, half for buying clothes for the poor, and the other half for putting out a poor man's child as apprentice. Elizabeth Bulson left the rent of 3 acres of land at Falsgrave, of which £4 10s is paid to the schoolmaster, and the residue to the rent is applied in aid of the poor's rate. In addition to this £4 10s, the township pays £5 16s per annum interest for money lent to the poor, and taken by the parish.

SCHOOLS – Before us, in MS., is “A short statement of facts respecting the poor-house and school-house of Great Ayton, from the year 1704 to 1793.” The document runs as follows:-

“In the year 1704 did Michael Postgate build a single room for a school-house, and chambered it, with a salary of £4 a year to the master, for teaching eight poor boys, he being a widower, and having no child by his former wife. But it so happened, two or three years after, his age then supposed to be between 70 and 80, that he married a second wife, and by her had a son, upon which he ceased the payment of the £4., but confirmed the house and ground a free gift.”

A second entry in this manuscript appears worthy of extract:-

“William Boys and Thomas Hugill happened to be overseers of the poor of Great Ayton in 1785-6, in which time land-produce increased so much in its price, as gave the poor people a handle for craving additional support, very grievous to be borne, daily threatening they would apply to the justices for relief, in a manner quite inconsistent with reason. To redress similar cases elsewhere, and ease the burthen, poor-houses were growing more and more common every day, on which Ayton resolved immediately to build one, and follow the rest. On the very ground given by Michael Postgate was there a little dwelling erected at the cost of an old neighbour and his wife, viz. £20, and £10 added by subscription. The sum of £100 was then raised by assessment, the interest to be given for teaching four poor boys, and re-building the premises. Accordingly, the school-house built by Michael Postgate, and the house for the master to dwell in, were both taken down, and all the materials wrought up in the general building, valued £10.

“To render the work effective, it became evident that a further sum of £100 was required, whereupon I proposed, that if eight would join in the work, myself would be one of the eight to raise that sum, which being known, the number soon enlarged to eleven, which reduced our proportions of the sum to £9 2s a man.

Money raised by 11 men of landed property	£ 100 0 0
By a general rate on landowners, already mention	100 0 0
	-----
Total sum for the building poor-house and school	200 0 0
Materials of old school-house and dwelling, valued at	10 0 0
Two legacies left by Ann Stockton, £10 each	20 0 0
Two legacies by an old neighbour and his wife	20 0 0
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	£ 250 0 0

The interest of this sum, viz. £10 10s, to be paid yearly to a schoolmaster, for teaching poor boys, by the overseers of the poor of Great Ayton. The three new houses, built on the old site, to be let to poor inhabitants of the place, at a rent of 16s. 8d each house.

In this humble school, Captain Cook, whose father and mother we have already noticed, received the rudiments of his education, at the expense of Thomas Skottowe, Esq.

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AYTON BRITISH SCHOOL - On Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1842, a public meeting took place in the parochial school-room; John Richardson, Esq., in the chair.

Thomas Richardson, Esq., having proposed to endow the school with four shares in the Stockton and Darlington Railway, and a suitable site for the building having been procured, it was resolved:

That the proposal of Thomas Richardson, Esq., be thankfully accepted, and a subscription be forthwith entered into for the purpose of defraying the expenses of such site and buildings.

Accordingly, William Procter, Esq., lord of the manor, subscribed £100, Lieut.-Col. Hildyard, £50, and others in like proportion, by which means the cost of the proposed school, viz. £500, was speedily raised. The school is a neat, commodious building, divided into two compartments, for 50 boys and 50 girls. This school is in connexion with the British and Foreign Society, and its rules permit the admission of children "without regard to sectarian prejudices." The preamble sets forth, that

"While it teaches the doctrines and precepts of religion from the page of divine inspiration itself, it excludes creeds and catechisms; and thus occupying the ground of our common Christianity, it acts as a powerful auxiliary to Sabbath-school instruction, and leaves untouched the formularies and discipline of particular churches."

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL - The subject of the education of "the offspring of those connected with the Society of Friends by membership, and otherwise, having engaged the attention of the Durham quarterly meeting, Friends were solicited to give their sentiments, furnish information, and consider how far a boarding-school for such could be commenced, with a reasonable prospect of the needful pecuniary and other support from members of the quarterly meeting, and districts adjoining."

The difficulties in which the committee felt placed were unexpectedly met by the offer of a highly eligible estate at Ayton, in the North Riding of the county of York, for the sum of £6500, and a contribution of £5000, towards the funds.

The property, which includes more than 75 acres of good land, in grass, under the plough and in garden-ground, is well-watered, and not deficient in wood.

As a remarkable degree of ignorance prevails regarding the nature, objects, and design of this school, we make a selection from the original prospectus:-

"The view of Friends is to embrace what may be termed the labouring classes of those who are in any way connected with our society; combining labour with learning in a perhaps greater degree than is the case at any of our schools, Brookfield, Ireland, excepted. It is proposed that their food, clothing, and accommodation, altogether, shall be marked by the utmost frugality and simplicity consistent with health and comfort; the object is to induce habits of personal industry, and to fit the young people of both sexes to be useful and happy in those circles in which an unerring Creator has placed them, rather than to prompt them to aspire after more elevated walks of life; at the same time they would give an education upon which, as a basis, a valuable super-structure can be formed, and from which they may rise, according as Divine Providence may have fitted them for other and more enlarged spheres of action.

"The committee, regarding a really religious education of inestimable value, are especially anxious that in the commencement and carrying forward of the school nothing may at any time be taught at variance with the blessed truths of revealed religion, as declared in holy Scripture; or (as connected therewith) the Christian views and testimonies maintained by our society from the beginning, and illustrated in the volume of *Rules of Discipline and Advices*, revised and published by the yearly meeting of London, in 1833. They believe that the great doctrines of the gospel of peace are by no people more comprehensively held, and by none viewed in a light more calculated to promote present happiness and eternal peace; and would therefore consider, that it will be a duty and a privilege to have all the children committed to their care educated in *all respects as Friends*."

These are further set forth in the printed regulations;

"The objects of this institution are to give religious, moral, and useful education to children, not members of the Society of Friends, but connected with it, and to the children of its members under certain circumstances; giving a preference to such as reside within the limits of Durham, Cumberland and Northumberland, and Westmoreland quarterly meetings; the monthly meetings of Lancaster and Guisbro"; and the meetings in Scotland; and it is intended, by combining labour with instruction, to promote habits of industry.

"The course of instruction is to include knowledge of reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and grammar, with such other branches of learning, in English, as circumstances may admit.

"A portion of the boys' time is to be occupied in agricultural and other useful manual employment.

"The girls are to be taught knitting, needlework, and the different departments of housekeeping; and they are to assist in doing the work of the house.

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“The bill of admission is £8 per annum; but the parents and friends of children who are of ability are encouraged to contribute liberally towards the funds of the institution, by adding their names to the list of annual subscribers, or otherwise.

“Each yearly payment is to be made in advance.

“Children may be placed on the list for admission when nine years old; but it is only by leave of the committee they can remain at the school after having attained the age of fourteen years.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Numerous schools of a similar description, conducted on the Lancasterian system, according to the directions contained in the *Manual of the System of Primary Instruction pursued in the Model-Schools of the British and Foreign School Society*, have already been established in different parts of England. Many of them are munificently endowed by voluntary contributions. For instance: Ackworth, £35,872 6s 4d; Wigton, £10,387 2s 4d; Sibford, £3,452 7s 11d; Penketh, £3,266 6s 0½d; Rawden, £3,132 1s 2d.

The donations to Great Ayton school were exceedingly liberal, viz. Thomas Richardson, of Ayton, £5000; Edward Pease, Darlington £200; Jonathan Backhouse, Darlington, £100; John Backhouse, Darlington, £50; and six others of the Backhouse family, £110.

The first report of the general meeting of the Ayton (North of England) Agricultural School, held at Darlington, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 1842, contains little information, the school having scarcely come into actual operation. The report of 1843 states the number of children at 60, 36 boys and 24 girls; that the school-duties answered all expectations; and that the allotted time had been devoted by the boys to field-pursuits. It proceeds:-

“There is much difficulty in putting a money-value on the services of the children. The farm-committee have allowed £19. 12s 6d for the boys, being at the rate of one penny for three hours, with a little additional for harvest; whilst the labour in the house (boys and girls), on a moderate calculation, amounts to £26. The average cost of each child, which would have been £15. 9s 7d, has been reduced by this means to £14 5s 3d, or equivalent to a saving of £1 4s 4d per head. When the land has been brought into a state to shew the effects of spade-husbandry, and those concerned in its cultivation have had the advantage of greater experience, more decided results may be safely anticipated.”

The inventory of effects announces the property of the school at £10,183 11s 6d.

The report for 1844 is still more explicit and explanatory:-

“The acquirements of the children were considered satisfactory and encouraging: their reading was generally correct, yet the prevalence of provincial dialects and pronunciation claimed close attention; at the examination in the 2d month last, a marked improvement was observable. The constant accession of fresh children will continue to require vigilant attention in these respects.

“The Scriptural examination (during which the behaviour of the children was serious and becoming) shewed that they had attained a general knowledge of the contents of the Old and New Testaments, and, according to their years, some right appreciation of the truths of revealed religion, an also the scriptural foundation of the distinguishing features of the Society of Friends.

“The industrial arrangements of the school have been continued as heretofore, and without perceptibly retarding their acquisition of school-learning. The boys have been engaged in out-door work, and general assistance to the establishment, an average of about two hours and seven-eighths per day; and the girls, in domestic duties, five hours per day, which equals £1 1s 3d per head on the whole school, the boys' labour being calculated at a penny for three hours, and the girls' at a penny for six hours: the average cost per head, £15 13s 8d.”

The assets this year had increased to the sum of £10,664 11s 10½d, notwithstanding a loss on the farm of £51 6s 3d.

From the above, it will be seen that the agricultural school of Ayton was established by voluntary donations among Friends; that the children admitted must be the offspring of a father or mother who have formerly been in connexion with the Society of Friends, but not the children of Friends now in actual connexion; that their time must be devoted alternately to education and agricultural labour; and that they must be trained in the principles and belief of the Quakers, and attend regularly their place of worship.

Mr George Dixon, master of the school, shewed us through the establishment; and everywhere the strictest order, regularity, and precision, were observable. The school is in the form of a parallelogram, the entire centre being occupied by desks and forms. The upper end of the room a raised platform is erected, surmounted by a master's desk and drawers. The windows are elevated 5 or 6 feet from the ground. Maps are hung against the walls, and at a distance from the floor, rails are fixed, from which the lesson-boards are suspended. The desks and forms are so arranged, that when all the pupils are seated, each fronts the master.

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Mr Dixon also exhibited an excellent selection of plants and insects made by the boys during their pleasure-excursions and holidays. A splendid collection of Australian birds, comprising 235 specimens, from a Friend in that colony, graces the entrance-hall.

THE BRIDGE - The old manuscript, from which we have already quoted, recites that

“The town of Great Ayton laid in such a form, that a continual water had its course in an awkward manner, and a disagreeable crooked passage, the whole length of the town, so that the carriage or horse-road was practiced lengthways in the said channel or water-course, several times crossing the same, with the view of a better-road sometimes on the one side and sometimes on the other, aggravated by an alum-work, newly erected above the town, the carriage of its produce and other requirements being of such a heavy nature, that the stony part of the road was quite worn through into quick-springs, thereby rendering it very dangerous both for horse and carriage to travel in. To remedy this did the town set to work, and about the centre or middle part of it did they build a good stone bridge, consisting of two considerable arches, which suited well the road, north and south, across the water, as also the town itself. This bridge being planned, and the cost estimated, appeared to be no less than £100. Then to raise battlements between water, and fronts both for horse and carriage, was still necessary, the further expense of which rendered the amount of ultimate charge extremely uncertain. But as the work would answer no comfortable or agreeable end without the bridge and battlements being formed so as completely to answer each other, wherefore Parson Hastwell, Nicholas Richardson and Thomas Weatherill, were nominated and appointed to begin the work, and complete the same, without having any other engagement for the payment thereof than that of two or three years' common day's-works, for both the horses and carriages, as also highway-cesses and dues of all kinds. For the honour of the town, a subscription was immediately set on foot by Justice Wilson with the sum of seven guineas, seconded by another for his two sons of seven guineas, which was followed by many others in a genteel manner, some subscribing five pounds and some five guineas; so that the sum amounted to little short of the £100 first estimated. It was supposed that the battlements would cost little less than the bridge, a great sum indeed to run the risk of compromising the honour of the town; but the whole is now completed, one part to answer another, agreeable to the satisfaction both of town and country, continued, by the help of common days'-works, till the whole was fully paid for.”

“Canny Yatton, under Rosebury Topping,” is famous as the scene chosen by Margery Moorpoot, in that widely-circulated narration of her adventures, which contains the best glossary of our broad Yorkshire dialect extant. The parish of Great Ayton includes the hamlet of Langbargh, belonging to John Richardson, Esq. it contains 1014 inhabitants, 244 houses, 3160 acres; amount of property assessed, £5,226 16s 8d; amount of tithes assessed, £612 1s.

NEWTON (under Rosebury) is a small, dirty, insignificant village, consisting of a few miserable huts, with a wretched, squalid population, and only worthy of detailed notice in connexion with our famed Cleveland Parnassus, *Rosebury*.

So much as already been said or sung of this celebrated mountain, that we shall chiefly confine ourselves in this place to antiquarian and historical description. It is situated at the north-west angle of the eastern moorlands, and is composed of an immense mass of aluminous stratum, consisting of sandstone at the top, ironstone, limestone, jet, coal, etc., below, as indicated in our geological analysis. On the summit, or imbedded in the different strata, are quantities of petrified shells and other marine deposits, chiefly bivalves, - such as cockles, oysters, petrified scallop-shells, etc., - shewing that the whole of its enormous range of alum-rock has lain beneath the waters of the ocean.

The elevation of Rosebury is said to be 1488 feet above the level of the sea. The base facing the south is broad and abrupt, the western boundary thickly covered with oak-wood; afterwards it rises almost precipitously in a cone-like form, like an enormous sugar-loaf. The whole is covered with the most delicious greensward, interspersed with a plentiful pasture of fern or bracken; and numerous mountain-sheep are seen nibbling the tender herbage, their lambs running playfully around them. The apex of the cone has been considerably diminished of late years, owing to the barbarous irruptions of certain Visigoths, who have actually worked our classic mount as a *quarry*.

The original of the name *Rosebury* has puzzled the most learned antiquarians; but the most original explanation, and one to which we feel inclined to attach the highest degree of credit, appears in Faber's Origin of Pagan Idolatry, part of which we have quoted, p. 132 - “in plain English *ros* simply means a healthy hill, an elevated promontory, or, if Mr. Faber will have it so, “the mountain;” and *bury, or burgh*, is nothing more nor less than a fort on a high hill, “a military camp surrounded with a large trench; and if any one will take the trouble to examine the higher part of Rosebury, he will find immediate and convincing proof to this day”.

The following has been noted by the transcriber because of the reference to James Cook the famous navigator who lived in Great Ayton as a boy. The information was taken from chapter xvii, which relates to the Parish of Marton.

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Page 546.....Dame Walker was the daughter of the wealthiest farmer in the neighbourhood; and her husband, a respectable yeoman of the first class, resided at Marton Grange. Young Cook, then a mere lad, tended the stock, took the horses to water, and ran errands for the family; and in return for such services, the good old lady, finding him an intelligent, active youth, was pleased to teach him his alphabet and reading. Dame Walker was great-great-great-grandmother to the author (John Walker Ord) on the maternal side.

In the following;

References:

“Dr Young” – Rev. George Young, A.M. 1836 “Life and Voyages of Captain James Cook.”

“Coleridge” – Hartley Coleridge, 1833 “Lives of Distinguished Northerns.”

James Cook was born at Marton, in Cleveland, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1728. His father was a farm-servant; and is said to have come from Ednam, in Roxburghshire, the birth-place of Thomson, the elegant poet of the Seasons. The house in which Cook was born was a small thatched cottage; the site of which was pointed out to the author by the son of Timothy Lax, who died some time ago, at the age of fourscore. Ann Mainsforth, mother to the wife of Timothy Lax, died at the age of ninety-six, and was present at the birth of Cook.

The cottage in which he first beheld the light of day was ruthlessly demolished in 1786, when Major Rudd erected the stately mansion which has since been burnt down. A small plantation of trees occupies the place where several houses were destroyed, and on the site of the clay-biggin where Cook was born grows a willow.

“It should have been a *weeping* willow,” exclaims Dr Young, “to express the regret which every stranger feels at the destruction of a dwelling which ought to have been carefully preserved, and decorated with evergreen shrubs and fragrant flowers, in honour of the hero who drew his first breath under its roof, and who, had he not been prematurely cut off, might have breathed his last in a palace as a peer of the realm.”

As Cook grew older, he was employed at the Grange by “Dame Walker,” who took such deep interest in his welfare, that during the evenings she taught him his alphabet and reading. When eight years of age, his father removed him to Ayton, where he was put to school at Mr Skottowe’s (with whom his father was hind) expense, and instructed in writing and arithmetic, in which he made considerable progress.

The house in which his father lived (probably built by himself, as he was latterly a stonemason) stands across the bridge, near the Red Lion Inn; and over the doorway appear the figures and initials, “1755; J. G. C.” – James and Grace Cook. Before young Cook attained his thirteenth year he was apprenticed to Mr Sanderson, a shopkeeper in Staithes, a small fishing village in Cleveland. The constant roar of the sea, dashing almost to the very counter behind which he stood, the cheering view of busy vessels passing to and fro, together with the conversation of the seamen among whom he was thrown, kindled the natural genius of our young hero, and induced him to select the sea as the domain best adapted for his future ambition. Accordingly he quarrelled with the shop, leapt over the counter, and bound himself apprentice to Messrs John and Henry Walker of Whitby, with whom he faithfully served seven years in that hardy nursery of British seamen, the coal trade.

In the spring of 1755, hostilities having commenced between France and England, Cook, who desired a more extensive field of action than the route from Whitby to Newcastle and Newcastle to London, volunteered to serve on board the *Eagle* frigate, commanded by Captain, afterwards Sir Hugh Pallister, whose regard he speedily won by his diligence and activity. Shortly afterwards, Mr Walker gave him a letter of recommendation to the captain; and in a few months William Osbaldeston, Esq., M.P. for Scarborough, wrote strongly in his behalf, and was warmly seconded by Mr Skottowe of Ayton. On the 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1759, he was accordingly appointed master of the *Mercury*, in which he was present at the siege of Quebec.

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During that memorable siege he was instructed to take the soundings of the St Lawrence, directly opposite to the French camps at Montmorency and Beaufort, in order that the admiral might be enabled to lay his ships before the enemy's batteries. This he was unable to effect without considerable risk; for having been engaged in the business several nights successively, he was at length discovered by the enemy, who sent a number of armed canoes to surround him; and he was so closely pursued that he had scarcely run on shore and leaped from the bow of the boat, when the Indians entered it by the stern, and carried it off in triumph.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 1759, Cook was appointed master of the Northumberland man-of-war, commanded by Lord Colvill, then station at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he employed his leisure during the long winter in studying Euclid, and improving his general education.

In 1762 he returned to England, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> December of this year married, at Barking in Essex, Miss Elizabeth Batts, an amiable and worthy lady, who survived him many years. The felicities of matrimonial life did not, however, detain him long from the duties of his profession, for, the next year he went out to make a survey of Newfoundland; and in 1764, his steady friend, Sir Hugh Pallister, being appointed Governor of Newfoundland, Cook was made marine surveyor of Newfoundland and Labrador.

In the summer of 1766, Cook had an opportunity of observing an eclipse of the sun near Cape Ray, on the Newfoundland coast. The result of his observations was communicated to the Royal Society by Dr J Bevis, who styled him "an able mathematician."

In 1767, Government determined, at the request of the Royal Society, to send out astronomers to the South Pacific Ocean to observe the transit of Venus across the sun's disc, in which expedition Cook was appointed commander. Accordingly, he sailed from Deptford, August 23, 1768, in the Endeavour, a Whitby-built vessel of 370 tons, accompanied by Mr Green, as astronomer, and Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., and Dr Solander, as naturalists.

Passing round Cape Horn, they anchored April 11, 1769, at Otaheite; and as it was necessary to remain some time on the island, and highly expedient to be on good terms with the natives, Lieutenant Cook used much precaution to establish an equitable traffic with the natives, to prevent a recurrence of those wanton insults and injuries which had been too often inflicted by Europeans on the rude inhabitants of those newly discovered regions. The transit was satisfactorily observed June 3 and July 13. The Endeavour resumed her voyage, pursuant to Cook's instructions, which were to prosecute his discoveries in the Southern Ocean. To give a particular account of all the places which he visited would be tedious; suffice it to say that after ascertaining New Zealand to be two islands, and spending six months in exploring their coasts, he made for New Holland, where he anchored in Botany Bay on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 1770. In the run between Madeira and Rio Janeiro, on the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> October, the monotony of "blank ocean and mere sky" was interrupted by an appearance as if the sea were a blaze of fire. Sometimes quick successive flashes, sometimes a multitude of brilliant points, illuminated the waves around the vessel, seeming to increase with the agitation of the waters. These phenomena are caused by animals of the genus *Medusæ*.

After taking possession of New Holland, to which he gave the name of New South Wales, he made sail for New Guinea, and from thence proceeded to Batavia. Here they obtained refreshments and repaired the ship, which was found to be in a most dangerous state, the bottom having been greatly damaged by the coral rocks. Great mortality also prevailed on board. In the course of six weeks, Mr Sporing, one of the naturalist, Mr Green the astronomer, the boatswain, the carpenter, Mr Monkhouse the midshipmen, and old sail maker, the ship's cook, the corporal of the marines, two of the carpenter's crew, and many of the seamen, perished through the pestilence of the climate, and were committed to the deep.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 1771, the Endeavour reached the Cape of Good Hope, where Lieutenant Cook stayed till the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, to recover the sick and refit his vessel. He then proceeded on his voyage; and after touching at St Helena, arrived in the Downs on the 12th June following.

The striking proofs which Cook had exhibited of sagacity, resolution, and activity, during this perilous enterprise gave him a just claim the patronage of Government and the consideration of his sovereign, and he was, therefore, soon after his arrival, promoted to be a commander in his Majesty's navy, by



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commission bearing date August 29, 1771. The public curiosity was also strongly roused to know the particulars of his adventure; and it was gratified by an account of the several expeditions to the Southern Ocean commanded by Byron, Wallis, and Cook, composed by Dr Hawksworth from the original materials, and illustrated by charts and plates engraved at the expense of Government.

Though Captain Cook had fully accomplished the main objects of his voyage, having traversed a great part of the Pacific Ocean and explored the coasts of New Zealand and New Holland, he had not, however, succeeded in solving the great enigma of a *terra australis incognita*, or southern continent. To determine this point, so important to geography and navigation, his Majesty George III, who had a true regard for science and literature, and was a conspicuous patron of men of merit and genius, planned a second expedition, and at his especial request Captain Cook was appointed to the chief command. With this design, two Whitby-built vessels were purchased by Captain William Hammond of Hull; the largest, of 462 tons burden, was called the Resolution and the other the Adventure – names peculiarly significant of the enterprise.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, 1772, Captain Cook sailed from Deptford, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July joined the Adventure in Plymouth Sound. From Plymouth he departed on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and having touched at Madeira to obtain water, wine, and other necessaries, proceeded on his voyage to the Cape. The expedition left the Cape of Good Hope November 22, and cruised for nearly four months between the Cape and New Zealand, from E. long. 20° to 170°, their extreme point to the southward being lat. 67° 15'. Having satisfied himself that no land of great extent could exist between these longitudes to the northward of 60° S. lat., Cook made sail for New Zealand to refresh his crew, and reached it March 26, 1773.

From New Zealand he again set sail for the “land of frost and snow,” and reached to lat. 67° 31', W. long. 141° 54'. In this perilous navigation he was exposed to difficulties which none but a man possessed of extra-ordinary resolution could have surmounted; yet such was his indomitable and daring character, and so great his skill and experience in navigation, that though encountering huge islands of ice, and in momentary hazard of being dashed to pieces by massive mountains of floating crystal, he bravely proceeded till nature herself set a limit to his career by repelling all further advance. Many of these icebergs were two and three hundred feet in height and from two to three miles in circumference, with perpendicular sides or cliffs that must have filled an ordinary mind with terror and amazement. South of this impassable barrier Captain Cook thought there must be land; “but if there is,” says he, “it can afford no better retreat for birds, or any other animals, than the ice itself, with which it must be entirely covered.” He then continues: “I, who was ambitious not only of going farther than any body had gone before, *but as far as it was possible for man to go*, was not sorry at meeting with this interruption, as it in some measure relieved us, and shortened the dangers and hardships inseparable from the navigation of the southern polar regions. Since, then, we could not proceed farther to the south, no other reason need be assigned for my tacking and standing back to the north, being at this time in the latitude of 70° 10' south, and longitude 106° 54' west.”

Returning northwards, during the winter months he traversed nearly the whole extent of the Pacific Ocean between the tropics, visiting Easter Island, the Marquesas, the Society and Friendly Islands, the New Hebrides, and another island, the largest yet discovered in the Pacific, except that of New Caledonia. He then proceeded to New Zealand, and having passed three weeks in friendly intercourse with the natives, took his departure November 10. Having cruised in various latitudes between 43° and 56°, a portion which he had not yet explored, and being W. long. 138° 56', he determined to steer direct for the western entrance of the Straits of Magellan, and thence along Terra del Fuego, to the Straits of Le Maire. December 29 he passed Cape Horn, and re-entered the Atlantic Ocean, and standing southward discovered Sandwich Land, a desolate coast, the extreme point of which he named the Southern Thule, lat. 59° 13', as the most southern land that had ever been discovered. The result of these researches in Cook's mind was, “that Sandwich Land was either a group of islands, or else a point of the continent, for I firmly believe that there is a tract of land near the pole. I also think it probable that it extends farthest to the north opposite the Southern Atlantic and Indian Oceans, because ice was always found by us farther to the north in these oceans than anywhere else.”

Having thus explored many *terra incognita*, and pursued his course as far as human enterprise was capable, he returned with his worn-out ship and weary crew to his native land, where he arrived on the 19<sup>th</sup> July, 1775, after an absence of three years and eighteen days. He was received in England with every mark of enthusiastic applause, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August raised to the rank of post-captain, three days afterwards appointed to the lucrative situation of captain in Greenwich Hospital, and shortly after this

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admitted a member of the Royal Society. On this occasion, a paper of his composition was read by Sir John Pringle, containing an account of the method he had taken to preserve the health of his crew during their voyage round the world. It thus concludes: "Whatever may be the public judgment about other matters, it is with real satisfaction, and without claiming any other merit but that of attention to my duty, that I can conclude this account with an observation which facts enable me to make, that our having discovered the possibility of preserving health among a numerous ship's company for such a length of time, in such varieties of climate, and amid such continued hardships and fatigues, will make this voyage remarkable, in the opinion of every benevolent person, when the disputes about the southern continent shall have ceased to engage the attention and to divide the judgment of philosophers." For this admirable paper the Society determine to present him with Sir Godfrey Copland's gold medal, on delivering which Sir John passed the following highly honourable eulogium on our hero: "If Rome decreed the civic crown to him who saved the life of a single citizen, what wreaths are due to the man who, having himself saved many lives, perpetuates in your Transactions the means by which Britain may now, on the most distant voyages, preserve numbers of her intrepid sons, her *mariners*, who, braving every danger, have so liberally contributed to the fame, to the opulence, and to the maritime empire of the country!"

But it was not destined that a mind of the activity, vigour, and calibre of Cook's should long remain unemployed. Another geographical question of still greater interest engaged the attention of the mercantile classes at that time, viz. the practicability of a north-east passage to China and the Indies. Cook, who loved a life of action, volunteered to Lord Sandwich to quit his well-earned repose, and take the direction of the expedition, which offer was accepted with enthusiasm. He was requested to proceed by the Cape of Good Hope to New Zealand, thence through the chain of islands scattered along the tropics, which he had already visited. He was then to proceed northward to latitude 65°, and give his attention to the discovery of a passage into the Atlantic; and to encourage and reward him further, parliament offered a reward of £20,000 to the commanders, officers, and seamen of the ship, if successful. The vessels fixed upon for this discovery were the *Resolution* and the *Discovery*. The command of the former was given to Captain Cook, and of the latter to Captain Clerke, who had been our navigator's second lieutenant in his second voyage. Every article likely to preserve health was provided in abundance; and that the inhabitants of Otaheite and the South Sea Islands might be permanently benefited by the expedition, his Majesty commanded various assortments of useful domestic animals and fowls, garden-seeds, &c., to be put on board for their use.

In this voyage he again visited New Zealand, the Society and Friendly Islands, and discovered a group, to which, in honour of his friend and patron Lord Sandwich, he gave the name of Sandwich Islands. March 7, 1778, the west coast of America was seen; and after spending a month in executing necessary repairs in Nootka Sound, the voyagers advanced to the Aleutian Islands, and up Behring's Strait. Here Cook ascertained the continents of Asia and America to be only thirteen leagues apart, and laid down the position of the most westerly part of America, just within the Arctic Circle, which he named in honour of the king's eldest son, Cape Prince of Wales.

August 18 he reached lat. 70° 44', W. long. 162°, his extreme point, and continued to traverse those frozen regions till August 29, when the ice daily increasing, he was induced to return to a more congenial quarter. He therefore resolved to pass the winter at Sandwich Islands, intending to return northward early enough to reach Kamschatka by the middle of May in the ensuing year. In Captain Cook's former visit to this group, he had observed five islands situated between the latitude of 20° 30' and 22° 15' north, and between the longitude of 199° 20' and 201° 30' east, the names of which in the native tongue were Wohahoo, Atooi, Oneebeow, Oreehoua, and Tahoora; but on his return he unfortunately discovered another, which the inhabitants distinguished by the title of Owyhee. This island, which he had so much rejoiced to see, was the spot where our great navigator's life was prematurely closed. The natives, being much addicted to thieving, had stolen one of the ship's boats; and Captain Cook thought it his duty to proceed on shore for the purpose of taking the king of the island on board his ship as an hostage till the boat was returned. This was resisted by the natives, who poured in a volley of stones among the marines, which they answered by a general discharge of musketry, and a fire from the boats.

What followed after this seems to have been a scene of fright and confusion. Several of the marines were forced into the water and killed. The lieutenant also was wounded, but managed to reach the pinnace. Captain Cook was violently attacked with stones, and forced to retreat, carrying his musket under his arm. An Indian who had followed him, but with caution and timidity, at length advanced

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nearer and with a large club or stake, struck him a heavy blow on the back of the head, and then precipitately retreated. By this stroke Captain Cook seemed to be stunned, staggered a few paces, then fell on his hand and one knee, and dropped his musket. As he was rising, and before he could recover his feet, another Indian stabbed him in the back of the neck with an iron dagger. He then fell in a bight of water, about knee deep, where others crowded round him, and endeavoured to keep him under; but struggling very resolutely, he got his head above water, and looked towards the pinnacle, as if expecting assistance. But although the boat was only five or six yards distant, the crew, paralysed with fear and surprise, made not the slightest effort to rescue their gallant commander, or punish his assailants. The Indians thereupon pursued their advantage, again got him under, but in deeper water. He was enabled, however, to raise his head once more, and being almost spent in the struggle, he turned to a rock, and was endeavouring to support himself by it, when a savage struck him with a club, and he was seen alive no more. They then hauled him, lifeless upon the rocks, where they seemed to take a savage delight in exercising every barbarity on his dead body, snatching the bloody daggers out of each others' hands, for the horrid satisfaction of piecing the helpless victim of their brutal range.

Thus perished, in the fifty-first year of his age, this truly eminent and illustrious man, equally distinguished for his ability as a mathematician and navigator, and for his heroic constancy and firmness as a man. Though rigid in discipline, he was mild, just, and humane; and his people, to whom he was a father, were obedient to his commands rather from affection than fear.

“The constitution of his body,” writes Captain King, “was robust, inured to labour, and capable of undergoing the severest hardships. His stomach bore without difficulty the coarsest and most ungrateful food. Great was the indifference with which he submitted to every kind of self-denial. The qualities of his mind were of the same hardy vigorous kind with those of his body. His understanding was strong and perspicacious. His judgment, in whatever related to the services he was engaged in, quick and sure. His designs were bold and manly; and both in the conception and in the mode of execution, bore evident marks of a great original genius. His courage was cool and determined, and accompanied with an admirable presence of mind in the moment of danger. His temper might; perhaps, have been justly blamed as subject to hastiness and passion, had not these been disarmed by a disposition the most benevolent and humane. Such were the outlines of Captain Cook’s character; but its most distinguishing feature was that unremitting perseverance in the pursuit of his object, which was not only superior to the opposition of dangers and the pressure of hardships, but even exempt from the want of ordinary relaxation. During the long and tedious voyages in which he was engaged, his eagerness and activity were never in the least abated. No incidental temptation could detain him for a moment; even those intervals of recreation which sometimes unavoidably occurred, and were looked for by us with a longing that persons who have experienced the fatigues of service will readily excuse, were submitted to by him with a certain impatience, whenever they could not be employed in making a farther provision for the more effectual prosecution of his designs.”

To honour his name and memory, the Royal Society struck an elegant medal, bearing on one side, the head of Captain Cook in profile, with the inscription, JAC. COOK, OCEANI INVESTIGATOR ACERNIMUS; and on the exergue, REG. SOC. LOND. SOCIO SUO. These were struck in gold, silver, and bronze. A gold medal was given to each of the subscribers of twenty guineas; among whom were Sir Joseph Banks, the Prince of Anspach, the Duke of Montagu, and Lord Mulgrave. Gold medals were also presented to the King, Queen, and Prince of Wales; to the Empress of Russia and King of France; also to Mrs Cook, the Earl of Sandwich, Dr Benjamin Franklin, and a few other distinguished friends.

It remains for Cleveland, Yorkshire, England, to render justice to this gallant commander’s exploits, by erecting a column in his native district to his memory. Manly gratitude, honour, and regard for the achievements of genius, pity and sorrow for his execrable murder whilst engaged in pursuit of the national good, every noble and patriotic feeling which ought to animate the human breast, call aloud to us, and imperatively demand that a durable monument be immediately erected to the memory of the illustrious circumnavigator. The Queen on her throne will feel pleasure and pride in rendering honour to one whom her good and venerate grandfather personally loved and admired; the aristocracy of the land will come forward to testify their regard for talent joined with integrity, and to express their sympathy with the people; the noble middle classes, ever the most generous and enthusiastic in appreciating and rewarding merit, will lend a helping hand to this glorious design; even the humblest labouring man will proudly subscribe his mite to rear a monument to one who, like himself, sprung

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from the soil, and by distinguished abilities, untiring perseverance, and unswerving integrity, raised himself to the most honourable position, and has conferred addition glory on

“ A bold peasantry, their country’s pride. ”

Let the most famous of our Yorkshire hills be selected as the site of this national tribute, that the sailorboy and mariner may behold from afar the towering monument of Cook, feel stimulated to rival his industry and emulate his virtues, acknowledge Britain’s generosity and gratitude for those who exert their energies and peril their lives in her service, and with cheerful and enthusiastic aspirations gaze upon that column as if pointing across the waves to their own future glory and renown.

Monuments there are in abundance to naval and military heroes, to statesmen and poets, - to Nelson and Wellington, to Melville and Canning, to Burns and Scott, - let, then, Englishmen of all classes unite to rear a similar testimony to the fame of the gallant Cook, of one who may truly be styled the greatest discoverer, the ablest and most renowned navigator, this or any country ever produced.

