

There are several published books on the genealogy of various Quaker families associated with Great Ayton, and the huge number of books on Captain James Cook, only a few of which are included here.

The Annals of the Cleveland Richardsons and their descendants compiled from family manuscripts

George Richardson

Privately published in Newcastle upon Tyne, 1850

Taken from a letter written by John Richardson (1698-1786) in 1786 which contained an account of his parents. Interesting in view of the confusion over the pronunciation of "Langbaurgh", he refers to it, correctly, as "Langbarf". Much of the text is a eulogy to William and Elizabeth's Quaker beliefs and behaviours.

The book relates how Elizabeth persuaded William to give up malting barley, lest the children should be sent to ale-houses, and the trouble he had with the authorities over the taking of oaths. There are brief biographies of their children.

The remainder of the book is concerned with Isaac Richardson, who set up the Bog Hall tannery at Whitby, and his family.

Records of a Quaker Family: The Richardsons of Cleveland

Anne Ogden Boyce

Samuel Harris & Co., London, 1889

This is the classic history of the Richardson family, starting with William Richardson of Langbaurgh ("Langbaurgh" is printed as "Langbarugh" throughout the book, perhaps a printer's mistaken attempt to correct an unrecognisable name). The second chapter "Ayton, 1684-1740" covers William's marriage to Elizabeth Wilson and their children. Although titled "Whitby, 1688-1789" the third chapter contains a charming description of Old Langbaurgh "almost hidden to its red roof by climbing roses" and lists all the rooms inside. New Langbaurgh had been built above in 1833.

Most of the remaining chapters cover the various descendants of William and Elizabeth, their tanneries and Quaker friends. At the end of Chapter X there is an account of Rachel White, who was a children's nurse to Henry Richardson of Great Ayton. Rachel lived at Little Ayton and later in a cottage on Ayton Green.

Pedigrees of the Dixon of Raby, Cockfield, Rokeby, Staindrop and Great Ayton

Dr. George Blundell Longstaff

1899

Contains family history of the Dixon family, including George Dixon, first superintendent of the North of England Agricultural School and his family.

The Langstaffs of Teesdale and Weardale

Dr. George Blundell Longstaff

London, 1906 and 1923

"Dixon of Raby and Cockfield, County Durham" contains detailed pedigrees of the Dixon family from 1650 to 1880.

The Thistlethwaite Family, a study in genealogy, Volume I

Bernard Thistlethwaite
Headley Brothers, 1910

This publication traces the Thistlethwaite family from the ancestral home, Harborgill, in Dent Dale. Thistlethwaites associated with Great Ayton were:

Page 108: Elizabeth Thistlethwaite (1833-1851), who taught at the Ayton School and is buried in the Friends' Burial Ground in Great Ayton.

Page 110: Christian Anderson (1781-1870), daughter of Margaret Thistlethwaite and James Anderson. In her twenties she had an illegitimate child. At the age of nearly fifty, she married Joseph Binns. After the death of her husband, she went to live at Castleton to be near her son and then moved into one of Thomas Richardson's cottages in Great Ayton. She is buried in the Friends' Burial Ground, Great Ayton, where her headstone incorrectly gives her name as Christiana Binns.

Pages 120-122 Jeremiah Thistlethwaite (1826-1910) was born at Eugalas and attended the Friends' School at Rawdon. He was apprenticed to a grocer in Blackburn and worked for John Horniman, the celebrated tea merchant in the Isle of Wight. He then went to Castleton, where he worked as an assistant to Thomas Baker, along with William Anderson. He lived with William Anderson and , in 1856, he married William Anderson's housekeeper, Rachel Peacock of Castleton. Jeremiah worked for a while at David Baker's grocery shop in Guisborough, but then returned to Castleton. From Castleton, Jeremiah and Rachel moved to Great Ayton in May 1857 to open their grocery and drapery business. On his death it passed to his son.

In 1891 Jeremiah went into partnership with George Dixon of White House, to open a whinstone mine under royalties from Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease and Jonathan Backhouse Hodgkin. About 1904 the partnership was dissolved and the mine became the sole property of Jeremiah Thistlethwaite.

Rachel Thistlethwaite died in 1902, and Jeremiah died in 1910; both are buried in the Friends' Burial Ground, Great Ayton.

Their children were:

Elizabeth Ann was born in 1857 and married John Naughton in 1878, who was a master at the Ayton School for a while.

Mary Margaret was born in 1860 and married Samuel Newton in 1892, who was the brother-in-law of George Dixon of White House.

Lucy Maria was born in 1861.

William Henry was born in 1863. He spent some time working for Amos Hinton in Middlesbrough, before entering his father's business and taking over the whinstone mine. William Henry married Alice Elizabeth Dixon, daughter of Ralph Dixon, superintendent of Ayton School. Their children included Bernard, who researched this publication, and Helen, who lived at Harborgill (on Eagle Street).

Rose Hannah was born in 1866, and married Charles Dodsworth, a grocer in Great Ayton.

Page 122: Margaret Thistlethwaite, Jeremiah's sister, came to Great Ayton in 1872 and lived in Leayat House, built for her by Jeremiah.

The Pedigree of the Masterman Family of Little and Great Ayton, in Cleveland, Yorkshire

Cleveland Materman and Cyril Ravenhill Everett

Privately published at South Shields, 1914

Thomas Masterman, a tanner of Little Ayton, died in 1727/8. He owned land in Little Ayton, Great Ayton, Stokesley and the surrounding parishes. The family home was a substantial farm house in Little Ayton with about 200 acres of land. In the nineteenth century, the house, with fine stonework and mullioned windows, was acquired by Alfred E. Kitching of Ayton Firs. It was pulled down as it was "deemed impossible to repair it".

Matthew Masterman, who died in 1788 at the age of 80, was the last of the family to reside in Great Ayton. He was wealthy, with investments in land and in ships.

Descendants of William Barker of Ayton, Yorkshire

Edward Barker

Privately published in Pittsburgh, USA, 1914

(There were numbered copies for members of the family. Since number 52 is owned by a family member in Stokesley, a considerable number of the books must have been printed.)

This genealogy book starts with William Barker (1761-1848). Each page is devoted to a marriage, with photographs of the two partners, and a list of the children. Note that the first William Barker to appear in the Great Ayton Parish Registers is one who was buried on 30 September 1680. Many of the family members in the book seem to be living in the USA.

Through the Years, a miscellany of memoirs

Bevan Pumphrey

Privately published at Middlesbrough, 1952

Bevan Pumphrey lived at Meadowcroft, Station Road. These are scenes from his life around the world as a merchant seaman. There is no mention of Great Ayton in the text.

James Cook, Maritime Scientist

Tom and Cordelia Stamp

Caedmon of Whitby, Whitby, 1978

Chapter 1 is titled "Cleveland Childhood". It includes the story, related by John Watkins in 1837, of young James's narrow escape on Roseberry Topping. He was climbing down the cliff face when he slipped and hung onto a small tree. His shouts attracted the attention of the beacon guard on duty at the summit, and he was rescued. There is an alternative version of the suspected theft of a shilling while Cook was in Staithes; here the young Cook was attracted by a new shilling and exchanged it for an old one of his own, but when William Sanderson noticed the shiny new shilling was missing, he assumed Cook had stolen it.

"A.K." an abridged life story of Arthur K. Cumbor

Steve Nowell

Only a very limited number of these booklets was produced

A.K. Cumbor was born in 1897 and became one of the most well-known residents of the village. In fact he was not born in Ayton, but came to Langbaugh Farm with his family when he was one year old. He was christened at Christ Church.

This booklet outlines the family genealogy, including the connection with George Stephenson. Langbaugh Farm was owned by Squire Jackson but, with his deteriorating mental health, it was taken over by the Lunacy Commissioners. It was then bought by Stanley Cumbor, A.K.'s brother, for £3,000. He in turn sold it to Sir John Fry, and on his death it was bought by the Cumbor family.

A.K. attended the Marwood School for nine years, and then Guisborough Grammar School. His ambition to become a teacher was thwarted when, due to rheumatic fever, he failed his final exams. So, in 1915, he started work at Richardson Westgarth, marine engineers in Middlesbrough, in their administrative department. In 1918 he moved to Bell Brothers at Port Clarence. This involved cycling to Nunthorpe Station, taking a train to Middlesbrough, crossing the transporter bridge, and on to work.

He left the steel industry in 1948 when he bought a two-acre small-holding in Great Ayton. He also helped his mother at Langbaugh Farm, and his brother Stanley at Ingleby Manor. After a couple of years he gave up the small-

holding and became manager of the Richpack egg packing station, a position which continued until 1960 when the business closed.

A.K. was best known for his work on the Parish Council, from 1928 to 1962. He enlisted as a special constable in 1936 and was a founder member of the Captain Cook Schoolroom Trust.

At the end of the booklet are some fascinating recollections from A.K.'s life in the village. One concerned Middlesbrough Co-operative Society cycling club outing when a boy and girl fell into a well in Slacks Quarry. Their bodies were recovered next morning by a policeman lowered down on a rope. Other recollections are that, after the 'flu epidemic of 1918, Doctors Stewart and Murray were presented with gold watches. Also, during the First World War, Johnny Elcoat from Tree Bridge was ready with his pitchfork "The buggers are coming – I'll have 'em!" There are three pages of Cumbor family trees.

Biographical Dictionary of British Quakers in Commerce and Industry 1775-1920

Edward H. Milligan

Sessions Book Trust, York, 2007

An authoritative work with entries for about 2,800 Quakers. Three entries have direct connections with Great Ayton. There are entries for several Dixons of Cockfield, ancestors of Waynman Dixon, who lived in the village for thirty years, but not for Waynman himself. Similarly, there are entries for several entries for Thistlethwaites of Dent Dale, ancestors of Jeremiah Thistlethwaite who established the grocery business in Eagle Street, but not for Jeremiah himself. Edward Pease is mentioned as a promoter of Ayton School.

William Richardson (1660-1740) of Old Langbaugh, who started the Richardsons' tanning enterprises, is too early to gain an entry, but several of his grandsons and their descendants feature in the book. However, none of them are Richardsons who lived in Great Ayton.

Joshua Bowron (1774?-1837) operated West (Grange) Mill at Ayton as a seed crushing plant with Henry Richardson. He died, childless, in the village. There is a minor error in this entry; the mill that was incorporated into the Quaker School was the East Mill of the Philip Hesleton, not Grange Mill.

Ralph Dixon (1785-1854) was the father of George Dixon, first superintendent of the North of England Agricultural School at Ayton, and Robert Dixon, who retired from Crook to live in Crook House at the corner of High Green. Not mentioned in the article, Ralph did visit his sons in Great Ayton.

Thomas Richardson (1771-1853) the famous founder of the hugely successful bill-broking business of Richardson, Overend and Gurney. He retired to Great Ayton, where he built Cleveland Lodge, and was a great benefactor to the village, including contribution of over £11,000 to the Quaker School.

Arthur Pumphrey (1862-1899) married a daughter of Ralph Dixon, second superintendent of the Friends' School.

The Captain Cook Encyclopaedia

John Robson

Chatham Publishing, Lionel Leventhal Ltd., London, 2004

The entry on Great Ayton includes Cook's father's employment at Aireyholme Farm, the Postgate School, the Bridge Street cottage, its transport to Australia and the replica obelisk, the High Green statue and the Easby Moor Monument. Other relevant entries are for the Skottowe family, Cook's early years (very similar to the equivalent section on "Captain Cook in Cleveland"; one of the contributors to this book was Cliff Thornton) and the Cook family.

Captain Cook in Cleveland

Cliff Thornton

Tempus Publishing Limited, Stroud, 2006

Chapter III "The Family moves to Ayton" covers James Cook's time at Aireyholme Farm, with a map showing the site of the cottage the family lived in at Aireyholme. Chapter X has his return to stay with William Wilson and visit his father in the Easby Lane cottage. Chapter XI "Cook Monuments in Cleveland" includes the attempts to get a permanent monument to Cook, and the building of the Easby Moor monument, paid for by Robert Campion. The 1895 restoration is mentioned, with a photograph, but not the extensive repairs necessitated by the lightning strike in 1960. The removal of the cottage and its replacement by the replica Point Hicks obelisk, and the Nicholas Dimbleby statue on High Green complete the Ayton monuments. The author avoids mentioning the controversy over the statue's lack of footwear.

There are some interesting Appendices, with the text of the indenture for his father's purchase of land on Easby Lane in 1755 on which to build the cottage, and the sale of the two cottages in 1772

William Jones and the first chemical factory in Middlesbrough

Ian Pearce

The Cleveland Industrial Archaeologist Number 32, 2008

This paper is primarily about the alkali factory on Cargo Fleet Road, established by William Jones in 1859. William Jones lived in Great Ayton, initially at White House on Dikes Lane and then at Undercliffe, which he built from whinstone on land owned by the Cleveland Lodge estate.