

## Extract from Rutherfords Southern Counties Register 1866

### AYTON.

This parish, situated on the coast of Berwickshire, is about 4 miles long by 4 broad. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Eyemouth and Coldingham, on the east by the German Ocean, on the south by the parishes of Mordington and Foulden, and on the west by Chirside and Coldingham. The eastern boundary of the parish comprehends about 2 miles of a bold rocky sea-coast, which at one place rises to the height of 339 feet. The south-western part of the parish is hilly, the highest point being Ayton Hill, 654 feet above sea-level. In the northern part of the parish the ground, although elevated, is much lower than in the southern. The area of the parish, according to the Ordnance Survey, is 6832 acres; of which 26½ are under water (¼ of an acre being tidal), 96¼ are public roads, 37 are occupied by the railway, and nearly 106 consist of "foreshore." The remainder, in the lower districts of the parish, is under the highest state of cultivation; the hilly portions are covered with fine plantations.

The streams in the parish are—the Eye, which skirts at first its southern boundary, then flowing north intersects the parish; and the Ale, which, before joining the Eye, skirts the boundary from the parish of Eyemouth. The Eye contains a few trout of good quality; the scenery on its banks is very pretty and varied. The roads to Eyemouth from Ayton, on either side of the Eye, are very pleasing; and there are some fine views to be had from Flemington, Millerton, and Camp Hills—all within a mile from the village. In the parish are some British remains.

Near the centre of the parish, and situated on the Eye, is the cleanly and pleasant village of Ayton. It is about a quarter of a mile from the station of the same name, on the North British Railway. It is very regularly built, and contains a number of good houses and shops. Good accommodation is also to be had in the different inns. The neighbourhood of the village is dotted over with some very fine residences—among which are AYTON CASTLE, the seat of Alexander Mitchell Innes, Esq., occupying nearly the site of the ancient castle, which was formerly a place of considerable importance. The new building, which was finished in 1851, is a splendid mansion in the Scottish Border style, beautifully situated in the midst of fine woods, and from its commanding position, forms a very prominent object in the landscape. GUNSGREEN HOUSE an excellent mansion, is situated close to the sea-side, at a short distance from the harbour of Eyemouth. This house is said to have been built by a wealthy smuggler. NETHERBYRES, formerly the property of Captain Brown, whose name is well known in connection with suspension bridges, now the residence of John R. L'Amy, Esq.

A new parish church is at present being built to hold 750 sitters. The site is the field between the toll and the bridge, which Mr. Innes, with his well known liberality, has gifted for the purpose. The building is to be in the pure Gothic style, richly carved, with a spire 130 feet high, and to have painted windows of the Nativity, etc. The heritors give £1500, and Mr. Innes contributes the remainder, which it is supposed will cost him upwards of £3000 in all, besides the field, £4500. It is expected to be opened in about six months from this date: (August 1865).

About 2½ miles from Ayton, on the coast, is the small fishing village of BURNMOUTH. It is romantically situated in a deep cove at the bottom of a steep ravine, and has a good boat harbour; also a station on the N. B Railway. The fishery is thriving, and consists of cod, ling, haddock, whiting, flounders, halybut, turbot, mackerel, and other kinds, which are sent to the English markets.

Ayton is about 7 miles from Berwick-on-Tweed, and about 11 from Dunse - with both of which there is communication by rail, the North British line intersecting the parish from east to west. *Annual Holidays* - New Year's Day, and generally the last Tuesday in June.

Population in 1861 of the village of Ayton, 875; of the parish including the village, 2014; who composed 436 separate families; of these 3 were returned as inhabiting houses having no window, 172 in houses of one window, 165 in houses of two windows, leaving a balance of 96 living in houses of three or more windows.

Assessed property in 1864-5, £15,019 : 5 : 11.

Amongst the principal landed-proprietors resident in the parish are — Alexander Mitchell Innes, Esq., of Ayton Castle and John R. L’Amy, Esq., of Netherbyres; non-resident - Trustees of Sir William Fettes of Whiterig, Dr. Patrick Home of Gunsgreen, Earl Brownlow of Fairneyside (Bolton House, Grantham); and Captain Cosens of Peelwalls.

Those marked thus (\*) are Registered Voters in the parish.

POLICE OFFICER - James Steer. Sergeant  
Police Assessment same as County—2d per £

#### **ACTING JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.**

David M. Home of Wedderburn.	Thos. Landale of Templehall.
Alexander M. Innes, of Ayton.	Maj. L’Amy, Netherbyres House.
Jas. Jeffreys Oswald of Edrington Castle	James Grant Suttie, younger of Balgone Maines House.
G. C. Trotter Cranstoun of Dewar.	Alex. T. Heriot of Coldingham Law
John Wilkie of Foulden.	Major A. C. C. Renton of Lamberton
Thomas Anderson of Shawbraes	William Mack of Berrybank
Charles D. Colville, Ayton, Clerk.	James Bowhill, Ayton, J.P., Procurator Fiscal

#### **COURTS**

JUSTICE OF PEACE COURTS are held on the first Thursday of each month, except September.  
SHERIFF SMALL DEBT COURTS are held at Ayton on the Monday before the last Thursday of March; the last Monday of May; the Monday before the last Thursday of July; and the first Monday of November, in the Red Lion Inn.

#### **PUBLIC OFFICES**

Billet Master- James Thompson.  
Collector of Poor Rates, Registration and Sanitary Rate, and Statute Labour Rates -Charles D. Colville.  
Heritors’ Clerk -William G. F. Tod.  
Inspector of Poor - Thomas Thompson.  
Justice of Peace Clerk - Charles D. Colville.  
Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator - Dr. Jeffrey.  
Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths--Chas. D. Colville.  
Session Clerk—Rev. Daniel Cameron, *pro tem*  
Sexton - John Connal.  
Stamps and Taxes - Jas. Bowhill, District Collector of Taxes. Walter Carter, Sub-Distributor of Stamps.

#### **INLAND REVENUE**

Office at Red Lion Inn.  
James Luckie, Haddington, Collector. - Tomlinson, Clerk.  
Collection made every Six Weeks.

#### **POST OFFICE**

MONEY ORDER OFFICE AND SAVINGS BANK.  
George Wood, Postmaster.

Robert Grieve, Letter Carrier.

POST OFFICE HOURS

	Box Closes.
Edinburgh and the North - First,	8.30am
Do do - Second	6.30pm
Berwick . . . . .	10.50am
Berwick and the South First	3.20pm
Do do Second	7.20pm
Dunse, Chirnside &c First	8.30am
Do do Second	8.10pm
Eyemouth First	10.30am
Do Second	8.10pm
Reston Auchencrow & Burnmouth	10.30am
Coldingham . . . . .	10.30am

Deliveries – 11am, 4.25 and 8.30pm, and on Mondays at 7am.

RURAL MESSENGERS

James Paterson, for town and district; Robert Spence jun. for Coldingham; William Mason for Auchencrow and Thomas McVicar for Eyemouth.

**CLERGY &c.**

Presbytery of Chirnside, and Synod of Merse and Teviotdale. The United Presbyterian Churches are in the Presbytery of Berwick. Patron -The Crown.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH - \*Rev. Daniel Cameron (inducted 1843). Sittings, 500. Average attendance at Sabbath School, 60; Minister's Bible Class, 50. Superintendent of Sabbath School - Minister; Church Officer John Connal.

U. P. CHURCH (West)- Rev James Stark (Inducted 1810). Sittings, 300. Average attendance at Sabbath School, 40. Session Clerk —Robert Clark; Presenter – Thomas Renton

U. P. CHURCH (Summerhill) - \*Rev. Thomas Montgomery (inducted 1846} Sittings, 500. Average at Sabbath School, 50.

FAST DAYS—Thursdays preceding last Sundays of Feb. and July.

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS #**

Parochial School—\*William G. F. Tod master; average attend, 50.

Female and Infant School (in connection with Parochial School) - Miss Morrison, teacher; average attendance 80.

Burnmouth School (Parochial)—A. Falconer, master. Average attendance 75.

Odd Fellows' School - P. Sheddon, master average attendance, 75.

Girls' School—Mrs. Hume, teacher; average attendance, 23.

# Children in the parish from 5 to 15, attending school during the first week of April 1861, 324 ; of all ages, 350.

## PAROCHIAL BOARD

James Bowhill, Chairman.  
No. of Poor on Roll, 55.  
Average Rate, 3½ d, per £. Average yearly Assessment, £485.  
Inspector – John Thompson

**BAND OF HOPE LODGE OF ODD FELLOWS** (estab. 1841).  
James Greig, Secretary. John Kitson Gledhill, Treasurer. 40 Members.

## VILLAGE LIBRARY

Open every Monday evening  
P. M'Vicar, Librarian. No. of vols. 632. Annual subscription 2s.

**AYTON CURLING CLUB** (estab. 1855)  
President and Patron—Alex. M. Innes, Esq. of Ayton.  
Patroness-Mrs Innes.  
Vice-President,-Walter Carter, Esq.  
James Bowhill, Treasurer. James T. S. Doughty, Secretary.  
Entry-Money, 10s. Annual Subscription varies.  
Curling Pond. At Littledean on the property of the Patron.

**3RD BERWICKSHIRE RIFLE CORPS—(AYTON).**  
Capt. David Poppelwell, Whiterig. Lieut.—Jas Martin, Millbank.  
Ensign—Hilton Middleton, Cocklaw.  
Chaplain—Rev. D Cameron, sen.  
Drill Instructor - James Dickson.  
Secretary and Treasurer—  
Effective Force, 70. Honorary Members.  
Subscription of Honorary Members, 21s.  
Competitions for medals and money prizes take place on New Years' Day and Annual Holiday.

## AYTON GAS COMPANY.

Balfour Balsille, farmer, Dykegatehead, Treas. C. D. Colville, Secy.  
John Swanston, Manager.  
7s. 6d. per 1000 feet. Amount of Stock, £600, pays 5 per cent

## BANKS

COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND (established 1846)  
James Bowhill, Agent; Andrew Whitley, Accountant.  
ROYAL BANK (established 1857)—Walter Carter, Agent; George Matthewson, Accountant.

## INSURANCE AGENTS

INSURANCE CO. Of SCOTLAND (Fire) . . . . . James Bowhill.  
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE Co . . . . . James Bowhill.  
SCOTTISH AMICABLE . . . . . Wm. G. F. Tod  
PHOENIX FIRE OFFICE . . . . . John Jeffrey, MD.  
LIFE ASSOCIATION . . . . . Walter Carter.  
SCOTTISH UNION . . . . . Walter Carter  
UNITY FIRE . . . . . Chas. D. Colville.  
SCOTTISH TRADE PROTECTION SOCIETY . . . . . Chas. D. Colville

## SUNDRIES

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS - \*John Jeffrey, M.D.; James Cruickshank, surgeon.

SOLICITORS —James Bowhill; \*Charles David Colville, NP.

MILLS &c:       Ayton—Flour—John Nisbet.  
                  Flemington— Corn - \*James and \*Peter Lawson.  
                  Netherbyres—Corn - \*Robert Bell.  
                  Ayton—Paste and Milled Boards—Martin & Co, Millbank.  
                  Bleachfield (Ayton)—Paste and Milled Board—William Martin, Millbank

CARRIERS - Hogan Fulton, to Coldingham every Saturday. Robert Guy, to Berwick every Saturday.

CONVEYANCE BY RAILWAY - North British main line to Edinburgh and the north, Berwick and the south, and by the Duns branch line to Hawick and all parts of the west.

At the inns conveyances can be had to Eyemouth.

## AYTON DISTRICT OF STATUTE LABOUR ROADS

Including the parishes of Ayton, Eyemouth, Coldingham, and Cockburnspath

Two meetings annually, on the last Friday of April, and 26th Oct.

Charles D, Colville, Writer, Ayton, District Clerk and Collector. John Wilson, Chapelhill, Surveyor.

## TRADES

\*Bathgate, Thomas, merchant  
\*Berry, James, mason  
*Bathgate Hotel*, Mrs. Elizabeth Whitlaw  
*Black Bull Inn*, Mrs. Whitlaw  
Bowhill, James, writer  
Bruce Brothers, tanners  
\*Cairns, William, baker  
Chalmers, William, joiner  
\*Clark, Robert, grocer  
Clay, Robert, blacksmith  
Delgatty, Alexander, carter  
Delgatty, Margaret, grocer  
\*Davidson, Adam, Saddler  
\*Dunlop, James, tailor and clothier  
\*Edington, Archibald, Shoemaker  
Edington, Stuart, grocer  
Gillie, Peter, saddler  
\*Henderson, John, joiner  
Henderson, Alexander, tailor and clothier  
Henderson, Alexander, clothier  
Hume, R., painter  
Kerr, John, mason  
Knox, J. H., grocer  
Mack, Peter, baker  
Marshall, Robert, tailor  
\*Martin, William (of Ayton and Bleachfield Mills)  
\*M'Craw, James, slater  
\*Nisbet, John, joiner

- \*Orkney, James, merchant
- \*Patterson, James, shoemaker
- Sanderson, A., baker
- Scott, J. & W., drapers
- Simpson, Alexander, baker
- \*Sinclair, David, grocer
- \*Sinclair, William, flesher
- Storey, Thomas, draper
- \*Spratt, Andrew, hedger
- Swanston, Robert, shoemaker
- \*Thomson, James, sheriff officer
- \*Thompson, Thomas, joiner
- Watt, James, blacksmith
- White, J. & J., clothiers
- White, George, grocer
- \*Whitlie, J. & A., tailors and clothier
- White Swan Inn, Thomas Logan
- \*Wood, Joseph, mason

#### **RAILWAY STATION**

Ayton — Station-Master and N. B. R. Company's Coal Agent- John Yule.

#### **VILLAGE OF BURNMOUTH**

The hamlet, besides its fishing population, also contains the following: —

- Aitchison, Robert, fish-curer
- Cairns, John, fish-curer
- Dixon, Robert, baker and grocer
- Falconer, Alexander, schoolmaster
- Martin, Alexander, grocer and fish-curer
- Martin, Robert, grocer
- Martin, William, innkeeper
- Wilson, Adam, innkeeper
- Railway Station- Master — James Grey

#### **RESIDENTS, FARMERS, &c, IN THE PARISH**

- \*Brodie, Thomas, farmer, Chesterbank
- \*Darling, David, do. Ayton Mains
- \*Darling, John, do. do.
- \*Flemington New Inn, Alice Holme
- \*Fulton, James, farmer, Whitefield
- \*Gibson, Thomas, do. Gunsgreenhill
- \*Inglis, William, do. Prendergust
- \*Leitch, Alexander, do. Fairneside
- \*Logan, Robert, do. Flemington
- \*Lugton, William, agricultural implement maker, Hillburn
- \*Middleton, Hilton, farmer, Cocklaw
- \*Middleton, William, jun., do.

- \*Middleton, William, do.
- \*Moffat, James, gardener, Ayton Castle
- \*Nisbet, Archibald, farmer, Greystonlees
- \*Nisbet, David, do. do.
- \*Paterson, John, do. Ayton House
- Popplewell, David, do. Whiterig
- \*Tod, Peter, do. Redhall
- \*Weatherhead, James, boat-builder, Brownsbank

## SEATS OF COUNTY FAMILIES IN THE PARISH

### AYTON CASTLE

The property and residence of \*Alexander Mitchell Innes, Esq. of Ayton Castle, eldest son of the late William Mitchell Innes, Esq., of Ayton Castle; born 1811; succeeded, 1860; married 1st., 1840, Charlotte Gordon, daughter of the late Sir Thomas Dick Lander, Bart., of Fountainhall (she died in 1848); 2nd., 1852, Fanny Augusta, youngest daughter of the late James Vine, Esq., of Puckaster, Isle of Wight, and has issue —

\*William Simpson, born 18 —

\*Norman Mitchell Innes, Esq., born 18 —

Mr. Innes, who is a Magistrate for the counties of Berwick and Mid-Lothian, and Lord of the Baronies of Ayton and Whitehall (Berwickshire) was formerly Captain of the 47th Foot.

Town addresses — New Club, Edinburgh; Carlton Club, S.W. (See Earlston parish, p. 516).

### GUNSGREEN HOUSE (see p. 595)

Situated near the mouth of the Eye on its north aide and opposite the town of Eyemouth — the property of Dr. \*Patrick Home of Gunsgreen; at present occupied by J. G. Wood, Esq., W.S., Edinburgh.

### NETHERBYRES (see p. 596)

Situated also on the south side of the Eye, and about a mile from Eyemouth, the property and residence of \*John Ramsay L'Amy, Esq., of Dunkenny, Forfarshire, eldest son of the late James L' Amy, Esq., of Dunkenny; born 1813; succeeded 1854; married, 1845, Mary Riche McLeod, only daughter of the late William Mitchell Innes, Esq, of Ayton Castle, Berwickshire, and has issue —

Christina, born 1846; died 1859

James, born 1847; died 1865.

William, born 1850.

J. A. Ramsay, born 1852.

Norman, born 1854; died 1855.

Eustace George, born 1857.

Simpson Macleod, born 1860.

Mary Williamina

Mr. L'Amy is a Justice of the Peace for the counties of Forfar and Berwick, and Deputy-Lieut, for the county of Forfar.

Other addresses— Dunkenny, near Forfar; New Club, Edinburgh; Junior United Service Club, S.W.

## PEELWALLS

Situated in the southern district of the parish, near the Dunse and Chirnside Road, and about 1 mile from Ayton— the property of Mrs. Cosens (Agnes Dickson, only child of the late John Dickson, Esq., of Peelwalls); married, 17th July 1863, George Weir Cosens, Esq., eldest son of the late Robt. Cosens. Esq., of Karnes (Eccles parish); a magistrate for the county of Berwick, and Captain in H.M. 85th Light. Infantry. Peelwalls is at present occupied by Col. Forbes, L.E.I.C.S.

### **REGISTERED VOTERS (Non-Resident)**

Colville, Robert Kerr, surgeon, America  
Edington, Stewart, baker, Berwick  
Innes, Thomas Mitchell, Parsons Green, Edinburgh  
Innes, Gilbert Mitchell, Lochbroom  
Johnston, Rev. George, Edinburgh  
Knight, Henry, merchant, Blandford  
Laidler, Thomas, farmer, Chatton, Northumberland  
Lyal, Smith, millwright, Manchester  
McGregor, Thos. Dods (of Barnside, Abbey St. Bathans), The Brunt, Dunbar  
Meikle, Henry, farmer, Banks, Linlithgow  
Meikle, Robert, steward, Laugton, Dorset  
Meikle, Gilbert, Invarary  
Meikle, Thomas, Mount Pleasant, Edinburgh.  
Renton, David, Edinburgh