

Northumberland & Durham Regional Newsletter – December 2025

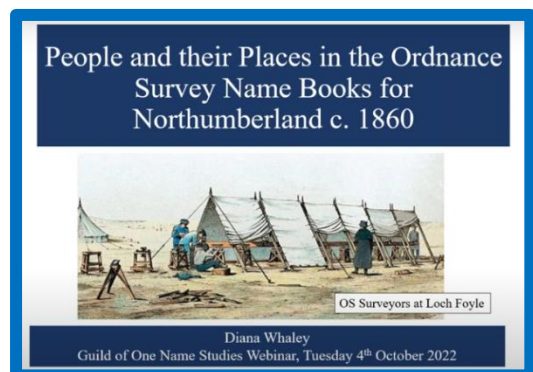
This is an occasional newsletter aimed at **Guild of One-Name Studies** (<https://one-name.org>) members who are in the **Northumberland & Durham Regions**.

It is also available to others who are interested or researching in the regions, or surnames that have their origins in the regions. Written by Julie Goucher (<http://anglersrest.net>) and does not reflect the views of the Trustees of the Guild of One-name Studies.

Hello everyone, this is a long overdue newsletter, and I plan to share a variety of resources for those researching in the two north east regions. I have also made this available to others who are interested in the regions, either those researching more generally, or those whose surnames have their origin typically in the region.

This is also going to be incorporated with the Guild of One-Name Studies Yorkshire regional newsletter, which also goes out to several other regions, so I hope I am forgiven for sharing again part of the May 2024 newsletter.

- The biggest news for those of us researching in County Durham was the opening of **The Story** (<https://thestorydurham.org>) on 14 June 2024. This is the long-awaited Record Office for the County of Durham:
 - Comprising of 6 miles of archives, which span 900 years of local history,
 - Permanent & temporary exhibitions
 - Durham Register Office with a wedding & civil ceremony area for 100 people
 - Archive of the Durham Light Infantry which unites the archive and object collection for the first time since 1996.
- For 2026, an Art and Science venue, which is to be called **Light** will open in the former home of the Durham Light Infantry Museum. As far as I am aware, no actual date has been released, but this is an important element of local history, not just in the regeneration of a regional building, but also a nod to Durham University and its involvement with the James Webb Space Telescope
- For those that might have missed it, the **Northumberland Name Books** webinar hosted by the Guild of One-Name Studies with Diana Whaley. The recording is available to non-members of the Guild and can be found at <https://one-name.org/northumberland2/> (image here is from the presentation, copyright of Dr Diana Whaley)



- **Annual Big Meet** will take place on **Saturday 11 July 2026**. The big meet takes place on the second Saturday in July and has been held since 1871, it is the biggest celebration of trade unions & community values - <https://www.friendsofdurhamminersgala.org/> As someone from the south east of England I am fascinated with the community spirit of the mining communities, because whilst mining has left the communities and mining is no longer an employment opportunity, the spirit does live on. My husband has mining ancestors, from both here in the north-east and in Derbyshire.

One of the first heritage type visits we did when we first moved the County Durham was to visit the building known as the “**Pit Parliament**”, this is opportunity that appears to be repeated each year as part of Heritage week. Having been through a period of refurbishment, the website now shows an interesting video stream of the regeneration of the region, and you can get a glimpse of the inside of the “Pit Parliament”. If you have never been, I do recommend it - <https://redhillsdurham.org/>

- **Northumberland & Durham FHS** – <https://ndfhs.org.uk>. Membership is a very reasonable £15 a year, with some resources available to non-members and more to members. The Society has a Facebook group. (image here is from the NDFHS Website). For those who are members, renewals are due for the NDFHS on **1st January 2026**.



- **Northumberland Archives** - <https://northumberlandarchives.com/> with access to their catalogue and a variety of projects.
- **Durham County Local History Society** <https://www.durhamweb.org.uk/dclhs/>
- **Tyne and Wear Archives** - <https://twarchives.org.uk/>
- **Tyne and Wear Museums** - <https://www.twmuseums.org.uk/>
- **Durham Book Festival** – will return for October 2026, though the dates have not been released yet.
- **Top 10 events in County Durham**, according to this website - <https://www.thisisdurham.com/inspire-me/durhams-unmissable-highlights/top-10-events>
- **Home Guards Durham** – <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/durham-home-guard-records-1939-1945/> These are not just available at TNA, but available to be downloaded – you can create an account on TNA website which enables you to download free of charge 100 records a month. Home Guard records for areas NOT in County Durham can be accessed via the MOD website and are subject to a fee being payable.

- **Podcasts** with links to the Northeast

- **Tales from the Rails** <https://talesfromtherails.podbean.com/> 200 years of Stockton and Darlington Railway.
- **Tales from the Trowel** <https://talesfromthetrowel.podbean.com/> Archaeology News of the North-East.

- **Durham Mining Museum** - <http://www.dmm.org.uk/> which is a fantastic resource, freely available. It also includes mines outside of Northumberland and Durham. Including mines in Cumberland, Cleveland and even Derbyshire.

- **GENUKI** – <https://www.genuki.org.uk/> an excellent resource and starting point for researching in the United Kingdom and the Island of Ireland

- **Northumberland** - <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/NBL>
- **County Durham** - <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DUR>

- **Durham University** - <https://libguides.durham.ac.uk/asc-family-history>

- Wills <https://familyrecords.awh.durham.ac.uk/nei/data/simple.php>
- Marriage Licences - <https://libguides.durham.ac.uk/asc-family-history/marriagelicences>

With access to the digital images at FamilySearch

- **North-East Surnames**

There are several members who are researching names, with studies registered, that have a significant presence, or origin in the north-east of England. These are just those that have crossed my path, but I would recommend checking the Guild website to see what surnames might be registered.

Surname	Registrant
CHICKEN	chicken@one-name.org
DAGLISH	daglish@one-name.org
FEATHERSTONE	featherstone@one-name.org
TICKLE	tickle@one-name.org
RISDALE	ridsdale@one-name.org
DINSDALE	dinsdale@one-name.org
UNTHANK	unthank@one-name.org

- **Researching in the North-East (Durham, Northumberland, and Tyne & Wear) –**
The Society of Genealogists (sog.org.uk), in collaboration with The Story, NDFHS and Northumberland archives etc. held an online event for those researching in Northumberland and County Durham.

The recording is made available to everyone free of charge and begins with Else Churchill of the SOG sharing what the Society holds for the region. You can view the recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMbmtWgGBXw>

The SOG have undertaken other online events as part of their “Researching in..” series and these can be viewed on YouTube, and are available to everyone -

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQkoy8bkE6cCuNLTewaLxisYRiZttu5vF>

- **Bellingham Heritage Society** - <https://www.bellingham-heritage.org.uk/>
- **Sturdy and Stordy in Cumberland from 1250** (surname research project) by Charles Wood, which opens with an introduction, incorporating Northumberland sources - <https://legacy.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/542/795/6637/442319182.pdf>
- **Hexham Historian** - <https://www.hexhamhistorian.org/>
- **Manors of Northumberland, 13th-20th Century –**
<https://www.northumberlandarchives.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Manorial-Map.pdf>
- **Houghton-Le-Spring Society** - <http://www.houghtonlespring.org.uk/>
- **Stockton and Darlington Railway (SDL200)** 200-year anniversary event hosted for 9 months from March to November 2025 - <https://www.sdr200.co.uk/>
- **Zoom Meetings?** - Up until now I have not organised any Zoom meetings, as there did not appear to be any interest in them, however, a member has asked if we could hold them. My view is that if there is real interest in having an online Zoom meeting then I don't have a problem with setting one up, which would be for both Durham and Northumberland regions. If you are interested, please let me know via email to rep-durham@one-name.org

Best wishes for the holiday/festive season, until next time,

Julie Goucher,

Regional Rep – Northumberland and Durham

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