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Famous Northerners

CHARLES W ALCOCK, KING AETHELFRITH,

LEWIS CARROLL, KATE ADIE, VENERABLE BEDE,

JAMES ARTHUR, GEORGE CAMSELL, RIACH CARTER, RICHARD ANNAND VC, PAT BARKER, GERTRUDE BELL, THOMAS ADDISON, CARTIMANDUA. LIZ CARLING,

SIR GEORGE AIRY, WILLIAM ARMSTRONG,

JAMES BARBOUR, THE BALLIOLS, MARK AKINSIDE, JOSEPH COWAN, WENDY CRAIG, KING EDWIN.

JOHN GILROY

**Famous Northerners**

**Thomas Addison** 1793-1860

**Discovered Addison’s Disease**

 Born in Longbenton near Newcastle, Addison was a physician and scientist. The son of a grocer and flour dealer, he was educated at Newcastle’s Royal Grammar School and the University of Edinburgh’s Medical School. After studying medicine he went on to work at Guy’s Hospital in London and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. He carried out researches into diseases and in 1855 discovered Addison’s disease – a disease of the adrenalin gland which takes its name from him. Famous sufferers of this disease have included US President, John F. Kennedy. Addison is buried in the churchyard at Lanercost Priory half way between Carlisle and the Northumberland border.

**Kate Adie OBE** Born 1945.

**War Zone Reporter**

 Former TV news reporter for the BBC best-known for her seemingly fearless war reports from scenes of conflict. War reporting was very much a male-dominated field at that time. Born in Whitley Bay, Adie was adopted as a baby by new parents in Sunderland where she was raised. Educated at Sunderland Church High School and Newcastle University, Adie began her broadcasting career at BBC Radio Durham, progressing to BBC regional TV news in the south of England and then national TV news. She was the first TV reporter on the scene for the Iranian Embassy siege in 1980 from which she reported live.

**Sir George Airy** 1801-1892

**Greenwich Meridian Man**

 Mathematician, astronomer and Astronomer Royal, born Alnwick. Airy was important for studies of planetary orbits, for calculating the mean density of the earth and for establishing Greenwich as the Prime Meridian.

**Mark Akenside** 1721-1770

**Poet and Physician**

 English poet and physician, born in Newcastle upon Tyne. His most notable work as a poet was *The Pleasures of Imagination* published in 1744 and inspired by a visit to Morpeth. He is remembered in the Newcastle street-name, Akenside Hill and in the caricature of a republican doctor in Tobias Smollett’s *Adventures of Peregrine Pickle*

**Charles W. Alcock** 1842-1907

**Inventor of the FA Cup**

 Sunderland-born sportsman and sports administrator who dreamt up and instigated the FA Cup competition. The Harrow-educated Alcock also organised the world’s first football international and the world’s first cricket international

**Richard Annand VC** 1914-2004

**Victoria Cross Winner**

 Born in South Shields, Annand was the first member of the British army to be awarded a Victoria Cross in the Second World War. He was a 2nd Lieutenant in the Durham Light Infantry serving in Belgium. During the night of May 15-16, 1940 he defended an attack from opposing forces across a river, by solely venturing onto a broken bridge amidst heavy fire. Armed with grenades he took out a German party involved in repairing the bridge. Following a further attack he ventured again into enemy territory with grenades and was wounded. After his troops were ordered to withdraw he learned his wounded personal servant was left behind so returned to rescue him using a wheelbarrow before losing consciousness from his own wounds. He was awarded the VC in 1940 and promoted to Captain in 1948. A Deputy Lieutenant for County Durham from 1956, he lived in retirement in Durham City.

**Sir William Armstrong** 1810-1900

**Industrial Wizard**

 Born in Shieldfield in Newcastle, William Armstrong, later Lord Armstrong, was a genius engineer, an armaments manufacturer, a hydro-electricity pioneer, an international businessmen, an inventor, a scientist and the owner of Cragside House and Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland. He was educated at Whickham and at Bishop Auckland where he developed a keen interest in the activities of a local engineering works operated by William Ramshaw. He also showed a keen interest in Ramshaw’s daughter, Margaret, who he would marry in 1835. Armstrong trained as a solicitor for five years but his career in law was short-lived and he pursued his interests in engineering, developing a rotary engine which he employed a friend to manufacture at a works in High Bridge, Newcastle. Further developments by Armstrong led to the manufacture of a piston engine and a hydraulic crane that proved a great success. He purchased land at Elswick to establish a business manufacturing hydraulic equipment and cranes. His customers included the docks at Liverpool and Grimsby. Armstrong turned his attention to making armaments at Elswick developing a breech loading gun (he would supply both sides in the American Civil War). Branching out into making naval guns necessitated the movement of ships up river to Elswick, bringing about the removal of the old stone-built Tyne Bridge which Armstrong replaced with the Swing Bridge in 1876. From 1835 Armstrong had resided in a house (since demolished) in Jesmond Dene  but in 1863 he purchased land near Rothbury where the architect Richard Norman Shaw would develop the spectacular mansion of Cragside. With its magnificent landscaped grounds set within the Northumbrian hills, Cragside was the first house in the world lit by hydro-electricity, using lighting developed by Joseph Wilson Swan (see). Armstrong donated the beautiful grounds of his old home of Jesmond Dene to the people of Newcastle upon Tyne, as a park, in a philanthropic gesture.

**James Arthur** Born 1988.

**Boro Boy Singer**

 Middlesbrough-born singer and songwriter. Raised in Redcar and Bahrain he made his name through a TV talent show and regularly tops the music charts.

**Æthelfrith, King  of Bernicia** 593-616AD

**First King of Northumbria**

Æthelfrith was the grandson of King Ida (see also) whose kingdom of Bernicia was based in North East England. Æthelfrith’s capital was *Din Guarie,*a coastal fortress that wasrenamed Bebbanburgh meaning Bebba’s fort and now called Bamburgh. It was named from Æthelfrith’s wife, Queen Bebba. Æthelfrith seized control of the rival kingdom of Deira (in east Yorkshire) in 604AD to effectively become the first king of all Northumbria – a name given to all the land north of the Humber. Æthelfrith was killed in battle at Bawtry (near Doncaster) fighting Raedwald, King of East Anglia. Æthelfrith’s young son, Oswald (see) fled into exile in Scotland and Æthelfrith was succeeded by Edwin of Deira as king.

**The Balliols** 1066-1360s

**Barons (and Scottish kings) of Barney**

 The Balliols were powerful medieval barons of Teesdale whose family included two Kings of Scotland.

* Frenchman, **Guy De Balliol** was granted land in Teesdale by King William Rufus in the years following the Norman Conquest and his family would play an important part in defending the northern border.
* Guy was succeeded by his nephew **Bernard Balliol** (died c1162) who seems to have been an ally of King David I of Scotland. Along with Robert Brus of Guisborough in Cleveland, Bernard negotiated for peace with the Scottish king on behalf of the English. However,  Balliol’s lands were under constant threat from Scottish raids and he completed the construction of the Teesdale castle of Barnard Castle which still bears his name around which the town – that also bears his name – developed.
* Bernard’s son **Bernard Balliol the 2nd**(died 1190) succeeded his father in Teesdale. This Bernard captured the Scottish king, William the Lion in a battle near Alnwick in 1174.
* Bernard was succeeded by a cousin **Eustace Balliol** and then by **Hugh Balliol** the son of Eustace.
* Hugh’s son, **John Balliol** (c1208-1268) married the powerful Dervorguilla of Galloway and is remembered for having a disagreement with Walter Kirkham, the Bishop of Durham. As a penance for the fall out Balliol donated funds for the establishment of a college at Oxford in 1263 that became Balliol College.
* John’s son, **John Balliol** (1249-1314) inherited Barnard Castle and was King of Scotland from 1292 to 1296. He was succeeded as Scottish King by Robert the Bruce,  a descendant of the Brus family of Guisborough and Hartlepool.
* John Balliol’s son **Edward Balliol** (1283-1367) claimed the Scottish throne and ruled over part of that nation with English support from 1314 to 1356.

**John Barbour** Died 1918

**Wax Jackets**

 Scotsman John Barbour founded the outdoor clothing retailer *J Barbour & Sons* at number 5 Market Place, South Shields in 1894. The internationally renowned company now trades by appointment to Her Majesty the Queen. The company began with a focus on importing oil cloth for fishermen. Now best known for its wax cotton jackets, the company is operated by the fifth generation of the Barbour family and has its headquarters at Simonside, South Shields.

**Pat Barker CBE** Born 1943

**Teesside Tales**

 Thornaby-on-Tees-born novelist, whose birth name was Patricia Drake. Barker, was the surname of her husband who died in 2009. Her work is inspired by the North East and particularly her native Teesside. Her debut novel *Union Street* (1982) was later adapted as the Hollywood film *Stanley and Iris* starring Robert De Niro and Jane Fonda. Other novels include *Century’s Daughter* and her *Regeneration Trilogy* set during World War One.

**The Venerable Bede** 672-735 AD

**Man of the Years**

Born in Sunderland, this renowned saint resided at the monasteries of Weamouth and Jarrow. He was the writer of the first history of the English people which was entitled *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*– *A church History of the English People*. This was the first time the concept of the English as one people had been put forward in an age when Britain was a collection of several kingdoms. Other works by Bede included his *Life of St Cuthbert* and *De Temporum Ratione* (*The Reckoning of Time*) in which he successfully popularised the AD system of counting years from Christ’s birth across Christian Europe. Prior to his time years had been counted according to the reign of a particular monarch or pope. The reason our current year has the number it has, is in a large part down to Bede. Bede also had knowledge of science and astronomy, for example he knew that the world wasn’t flat, but spherical with polar ice caps, temperate zones and a hot equatorial region. He also understood the relationship between the tides and the moon. The most famous Englishman of his era, he was renowned throughout Europe. Bede is buried in Durham Cathedral, his remains having been transferred there from Jarrow in the eleventh century.

**Gertude Bell** 1868-1926

**Queen of the Desert**

 Born in Washington, County Durham and raised in Redcar, Gertrude Bell was an industrialist’s daughter, a renowned adventurer, a fearless diplomat, a mountain climber and an explorer. She was born in the Bell family home of Washington New Hall, a short distance from Washington Old Hall (the ancestral home of US President, George Washington’s forebears). Bell was formidable and fearless in her dealings with Arab tribal leaders and was fluent in Arabic and several other languages. She had an exceptional knowledge of the Arabian desert tribes and their history as well as the relationships between the different tribes. Along with T.E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), she drew up the borders of a new country called Iraq from out of Mesopotamia which had previously belonged to the Ottoman Empire. She has sometimes been called ‘The uncrowned Queen of Iraq’ and was even referred to as ‘the most powerful woman in the British Empire’. Bell was the subject of the 2015 movie *Queen of the Desert* starring Nicole Kidman. The movie chronicles her life as an explorer, traveller, archaeologist and diplomat.

**George Camsell** 1902-1966

**Durham’s Boro Hero**

 Footballer, born Framwellgate Moor, Camsell was a miner who played for Esh Winning, Tow Law Town and his home town of Durham City before signing for Middlesbrough in 1925. He is the club record scorer for ‘Boro’ with 325 goals in 419 appearances.

**Liz Carling** Born 1967

**Actress**

 Middlesbrough-born TV and radio actress. Carling’s TV roles have included parts in the late 80s and early 90s series *Boon* with Neil Morrissey and Michael Elphick and the role of Phoebe for three series of the 1990s time travel comedy *Goodnight Sweetheart* alongside Nicholas Lyndhurst. She played Wendy in Jimmy Nail’s *Crocodile Shoes II* in 1996 and was a regular in the BBC hospital drama *Casualty* during the noughties. A notable film role for Carling was as Barbara Clough, wife of Brian Clough (played by Michael Sheen) in the 2009 film *The Damned United*.

**Lewis Carroll** 1832-1898

**Worms, Words and Wonderland**

 Lewis Carroll was the pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson who was born in Daresbury, Cheshire but raised at Croft-on-Tees near Darlington where his father was the rector. He has strong family links to Sunderland and South Tyneside as well as the Darlington area and is best known as the author of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass.*The *Jabberwocky* wyvern-monster of his famous nonsense poem was inspired by the ‘worm’ legends of Croft and Wearside, while the *Walrus and the Carpenter* is thought to have been inspired by one of Dodgson’s visits to his relations in the Sunderland area. Dodgson was a close friend of the Liddell family of Oxford who also had strong connections to the region.  Alice Liddell (1852-1934), the young daughter of the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford was befriended by Dodgson and provided the inspiration for the Alice stories which are both set on her birthday and dedicated to her. Alice’s grandfather was Henry Liddell, Rector of Easington in County Durham who was the brother of the powerful County Durham coal owner Thomas Liddell of Ravensworth near Gateshead.

**Raich Carter** 1913-1994

**Wearside Cup Hero**

 Horatio ‘Raich’ Carter, Sunderland-born footballer. He was Sunderland AFC’s club captain and a prolific goal scorer for his home-town club. Captain of the 1937 cup-winning team, he scored 118 goals in 245 appearances for Sunderland.

**Cartimandua** circa 43AD – circa 69AD

**The First Named Northerner**

 Cartimandua was the Queen of the Brigantes, an ancient British tribe that dominated most of what is now Northern England at the time of the Roman Conquest. She has the distinction of being the first individual from our region to be mentioned in history. Her rule was centred on a great fortress at Stanwick which is about two miles south of the River Tees half way between Barnard Castle and Darlington. The Roman army under Claudius invaded Britain in 43AD and made peace with Cartimandua who agreed to recognise Roman rule. A British chieftain called Caractacus from southern Britain rebelled and headed north but Cartimandua betrayed him and the Romans took him prisoner. Civil war ensued amongst the Brigantes exasperated by Cartimandua’s divorce of her husband Venutius, who was a consort not a king. Cartimandua now favoured a new lover, Velloctacus, who had been Venutius’ armour bearer. Venutius rebelled in 56 AD but was crushed by the Romans. He rose again in 69AD, forcing the Romans to rescue Cartimandua but her subsequent fate is unknown. The Romans finally crushed the Brigantes in battle in 71 AD and began their subjugation of the north.

**Chas Chandler** 1938 -1996

**Manager of Slade and Hendrix**

 Musician, born Heaton, Newcastle. Bass player in *The Animals*. Record producer and manager of Slade and Jimi Hendrix.

**Joseph Cowen** 1829-1900

***Chronicle* Editor and Garibaldi’s Friend**

 A radical Liberal politician, journalist and Newcastle MP and a friend of Garibaldi, born at Stella Hall, Blaydon. Cowen was the son of Sir Joseph Cowen who had also been a Newcastle MP. Cowen junior was a champion of the miners and working classes and often emulated them in his ways,  with his strong North East accent and sense of dress. Cowen was one of the most influential and forthright politicians of his age, noted as a rough but gifted orator, an anti-slavery campaigner, a supporter of Irish nationalism, of Jewish emancipation and votes for working men and women. He often opposed major aspects of his own party’s politics. He was known as the ‘Blaydon Brick’ (his father owned a brick business) and was involved in smuggling letters and documents hidden in bricks to radical individuals who he supported abroad. The younger Cowen was well-connected to radical and revolutionary politicians in Europe, some of whom came to visit him at Blaydon. His friends included the Italian revolutionaries Mazzini, Orsini and the famed Italian nationalist Giuseppe Garibaldi as well as the French socialists Louis Blanc and Ledru-Rollin and the Russian socialists and revolutionaries Herzin and Bakunin.  Cowen was the editor and from 1859, the sole owner of *The Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*Established in 1858 as a successor to the Newcastle Chronicle (1764) this newspaper would later become *The Evening Chronicle*. Cowen also played a part in establishing the Tyne Theatre and Opera House in 1867. On his death in 1900 Cowen was described by *The New York Times* as “…a friend to every conspirator from Moscow to Madrid.” There is a bronze statue of Cowen, in Newcastle’s Fenkle Street just off Westgate Road.

**Wendy Craig** Born 1934

**Butterflies and Brighton Belles**

Actress, born Sacriston, County Durham. Educated Yarm Grammar School, Darlington High School and Durham High School. Her TV roles include *Nanny, Butterflies, Brighton Belles, And Mother Makes Five*and*Not in Front of the Children.*

**John Gilroy** 1898-1985

**Guinness is Good For You**

 Whitley Bay-born and Durham University educated artist and illustrator famed for his iconic advertising posters that he designed for the Guinness brewery’s Irish stout. He developed the designs while working for the S.H.Benson advertising agency in London which he joined in 1925. The images often appeared on tin plate posters and featured animals such as sea lions, a toucan and occasionally a zoo keeper, sometimes accompanied by phrases like ‘Guinness is Good for You’ , ‘Guinness for Strength’ and ‘My Goodness My Guinness’.