

Extracts from 19th century newspapers relating to Berwick's markets

BERWICK MARKET - Green pease were for the first time this season exposed for sale in our market on Saturday last, and sold for 2s a forpit. Cherries and strawberries also have now made their appearance.

Berwick Advertiser
14th July 1838

LOCAL NEWS - On Wednesday last a large quantity of green peas and gooseberries were imported by the Glenalbyn steamer from Hull, and were exposed for sale in our market, the former at 6d and the latter at 5d per forpit.

Berwick Advertiser
13th July 1839

BERWICK MARKETS, JULY 1839

Saturday July 20

Wheat	42s to 52s a boll of six bushels
Oats	23s to 25s
Peas	30s to 36s
Barley	27s to 28s
Chevalier	29s to 30s
Beans	30s to 32s
Oatmeal	47s to 50s a sack of 20 stones
Grits	47s to 50s
Fine Flour	55s
Barley ditto	30s
Barley No. 1	13s 6d to 14s per cwt
Barley No. 2	15s d to 16s
Pearl do	18s to 19s

Friday July 26

4 lbs loaf	9d
Biscuit per cwt	20s, 22s, 25s
Beef per lb	6d to 8d
Mutton	7d
Veal	5d to 7d
Lamb	7d
Pork	6d
Eggs per hundred	6s
Butter per firkin	48s
Salmon	9d
Grilse	6½d
Trout	5d

Prices in the Exchange:- Butter 10d to 1s per lb. Eggs 7d per dozen. Ducks 2s 6d Chickens 1s 8d per pair; No other Poultry in the market.

Berwick Advertiser
27th July 1839

PRICES AT THE EXCHANGE

Turkeys 5s to 5s 6d; Beans 3s 6d to 4s each; Duck 3s; Chickens 2s to 3s per pair; Butter 1s per lb; Eggs 1d to 1s per dozen.

Berwick Advertiser
14th December 1839

Fairs and Markets in the District

Berwick – Cattle – 2nd Wednesday
Coldstream – last Thursday
Jedburgh – Cattle – 1st Thursday
Kelso – Cattle – 2nd Thursday
Melrose – Stock – 1st Saturday
Wooler – Cattle – 2nd Thursday

Berwick Advertiser
7th February 1846

Fairs and Markets in the District

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Berwick Advertiser
7th February 1846

ST. NINIAN'S FAIR – This Fair was held on Wednesday last. There was a middling supply of fat cattle, few of which, however, were sold in consequence of the owners asking extravagant prices. The two best lots returned home unsold. There was a fair show of lean cattle, which fully maintained last year's price. One good lot of 147 calves from the south sold at from £4 to £5 a heads. There was a good supply of sheep, which met with a good selling market. The best lots were all sold – Cheviot ewes from 16s to 21s; fully-bred ewes from 34s to 42s; half-bred 26s to 32s.

Berwick Advertiser
30th September 1848

NEW CORN MARKET, BERWICK

It is intended by the Agricultural Gentlemen and others attending this Market to invite the Committee for the Erection of the New Corn Market in this town to a Public Dinner at the Kings Arms Hotel here on SATURDAY the 5th of December next, as a mark of appreciation for their spirited conduct in executing the said building. Gentlemen desirous of attending the said Dinner are respectfully requested to signify their intention at the Bar of the said Hotel at their earliest convenience.

Dinner on the Table at half past 8 o'clock.

Berwick Advertiser
28th November 1846

LARGE PIG – Mr. W. Anderson of Ayton has this week slaughtered a pig eighteen months old, which weighed 40½ stones! It had been bought in Berwick market, having been brought there from a distant part of the county of Northumberland. In length it measured three feet nine inches and in girth five feet nine inches.

Berwick Advertiser
15th April 1854

BERWICK MARKETS, JULY 1853

Sat July 9

Wheat	40s to 46s a boll of 6 bushels
Oats	15s to 18s
Pease	23s to 26s
Barley	22s to 25s
Chevalier	22s to 25s

Oatmeal	33s	per cwt
Grit	29s to 32s	
Fine Flour	47s	
Barley ditto	20s	
Barley No 1	10s	
Barley No 2	11s 6d	
Pearl ditto	14s 6d to 15s	

Fri July 15

4 lbs loaf	6½d
Coarse ditto	5½d
Biscuit per cwt	18s to 20s
Beef per lb	6½d to 8d
Mutton	7d
Veal	7d to 8d
Pork	7d to 8d
Lamb	8d
Salmon	9d to 10d
Grilse	8d
Trout	6d to 6½d
Eggs per 100	4s
Butter a firkin	45s

Prices in the Exchange: Butter 10d per lb, Eggs 6d to 7d per dozen, Ducks 3s, Chickens 2s a pair, Pigeons 7d per pair.

Berwick Advertiser
16th July 1853

BERWICK CATTLE MARKET,

December 31st – We had a very fair show in our market today, and the demand was comparatively brisk. Ten lots were taken away unsold. The numbers shown were:- Fat 19, milch cows 18, sheep 379. Prices – beef, best quality 7s 6d per stone; mutton 6½d per lb; ewes 5d; milch cows from £6 to £14. A few of the milch cows were in first-rate condition, and readily obtained purchasers.

Berwick Journal
5th January 1856

BERWICK AUCTION MART

Monday, 12th September

30 Fat Cattle

350 Fat Sheep

1 Sow in Pig

JOHN EMBLETON & SON

Horncliffe Mains, Berwick

Berwick Advertiser
9th September 1887

WOOLER AUCTION MART

Monday 12th September

Sale at 10 o'clock prompt

20 Fat Cattle

170 Fat Sheep and Lambs

100 Keeping Ewe and Wether Lambs

Calving Cow, 6 years old, time up

Terms – Cash before Removal

THOMPSON & STAWART

Akeld Steads, Wooler

REFRESHMENTS ON THE GROUND

Berwick Advertiser
9th September 1887

BERWICK EXCHANGE – Prices current today:- Eggs, per dozen, 1s to 1s 2d; fresh butter, per lb, 1s 2d; hens, per pair, 3s; young ducks, per pair, 4s 6d; rabbits, per pair, 1s 8d; pigeons, per pair, 8d; young chickens, per pair, 4s 6d; turkey, per lb, 6d; Supplies good; quality, good; demand, easy.

Berwick Journal
13th September 1888

BERWICK EXCHANGE – Prices current today:- Eggs, per dozen, 1s 6d; fresh butter, per lb, 1s; hens, per pair, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; young ducks, per pair, 3s 6d to 4s; rabbits, per pair, 2s; pigeons, per pair, 8d; young chickens, per pair, 4s; hares, each, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; turkey, per lb, 9d; Supplies, good; quality, good; demand, middling.

Berwick Journal
13th December 1888

WEEKLY CORN RETURN

The following is an account of the quantities and prices of the several sorts of British corn sold in Berwick Market, or the said town during the week ended Saturday last, according to the Returns made to the Inspector to the Corn Factors, &c, computed by the Standard Imperial Measure:-

	Quantities		Value			Price per qr.		
	Cwt	bushel	£	s	d	£	s	d
Wheat	131	4	209	3	4	1	11	9
Barley	1,084	0	1,597	18	10	1	9	5
Oats	371	4	341	2	0	0	18	4

Berwick Advertiser
9th September 1887

MARKET RIGHTS AND TOLLS IN BERWICK

This morning, Mr. David Maurice Chapman, barrister-at-law, one of the Assistant Commissioners appointed under the Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls, held an Inquiry in the Council Chamber, Berwick, into the market rights and tolls of the borough.

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In answer to the Commissioner, the Town Clerk then stated that the market rights and tolls were founded on Charter of 30th April 1604, and confirmed by Act of Parliament in the following year. The Charter gave the market rights, lands and other rights to the Freemen. There were about 300 resident Freemen. A great many more, non-resident, were not entitled to the privileges.

The Commissioner: By the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 no Freemen, not born at that time, was to maintain his rights.

The Town Clerk: Berwick is excepted.

The Commissioner: The freemen here still have the rights of markets tolls and dues?

The Town Clerk: The freemen must reside in the old town of Berwick – the parish of Berwick. The ratepayers get no benefit from the markets whatever. It all goes to the Freemen's Fund.

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The Town Clerk: There is just one yearly fair here – on the last Friday in May; and it is a cattle and pleasure fair. The cattle fair is held in the market and the pleasure fair in the streets.

The Treasurer: The revenue for the last twelve months in the cattle market was £172. The revenue is two-pence per head of cattle sold in the market. At the request of some cattle dealers, stalls were put up, and let at £1 each per year. There are 28 such pens, and each will hold 25 cattle. Horses are sold in the street, a market fee of 2d per head being charged. An auction sale monthly in Hide Hill realises two-pence per head on the animals sold. There used to be great cattle fairs in Hide Hill at Whitsuntide, August and November, but since the introduction of weekly markets, these have been dropped. Sometimes 1,000 cattle would be shown in Hide Hill on a Saturday, and shopkeepers and others complained at the nuisance. The rights of levying tolls was leased to the Urban Sanitary Authority by the Corporation for £1 a year. The whole expenses of constructing the new cattle market in Castlegate was £1,007, £407 of which being paid from the General District Rate and £600 borrowed.

The change of market from the streets improved the revenue. The number of cattle sold for the year ending May 26th 1888 was 20,175, of which 14,601 came from Yorkshire, Cumberland and the north of England, and 5,574 from Ireland. We never have foreign cattle. In the Exchange, poultry, butter, and eggs are sold every Saturday. There is no charge for poultry or butter, but for every 30 eggs there is a toll of one egg collected by the beadle. One penny weekly is paid by stallholders in the streets, the revenue from this source being something like 3s 6d per week. Fish stalls in High-street pay nothing. I don't know why poultry and butter are privileged. It has always been the custom.

The Treasurer: A pig market may be held in front of the Townhall every week, and for which no charge can be made. The Townhall belongs to the freemen. Shops have been built under the Townhall, in what used to be butchers' stalls. One shop – a fish dealer's – pays £4 rent; the others pay £3 10s on leases of 15 years, the shops being fitted up by the people themselves. The total revenue from the shops is £14 a year.

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The Town Clerk: The Works Committee of the Urban Sanitary Authority controls the markets, and the Farm Committee takes charge of all the revenue. The farms are the entire property of the freemen. The scavengers, who clean the streets after markets, are employed by the Urban Sanitary Authority, and the cleaning of the cattle market is done at the expense of the Freemen's estate. The beadle has 10 per cent commission from collecting from the stallholders in the streets.

The Surveyor stated that the Cattle Market covered three quarters of an acre of ground, and had accommodation for 1,100 head of cattle – 600 in the pens and 500 in the open spaces. There was an office for the dealers in which to transact their business; and the market was a lean one. Fat cattle were sold in the auction marts, and at the annual Fair.

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The Treasurer: There used to be a sheep market too, but these all go to the auction mart now. We have public slaughterhouses licensed by the Urban Sanitary Authority. No slaughtering takes place in shops.

The Commissioner was surprised to see slaughtering in shops in Sunderland and Durham.

The Treasurer: A great quantity of corn is sold in the market, and there are no dues on it.

The Corn Market was formerly held at the foot of Hide Hill, but 40 years ago, or so, a company was formed, and a very fine hall built. An annual charge is made to stall-holders, and one penny entrance fee to each person, or 5s for a yearly ticket. There are no public dues on the sale of corn.

Mr, Ralph Thompson, late Secretary to the Corn Exchange Company, stated, in answer to the Commissioner, that concerts, meetings, balls, and such like were also held, And that the accommodation was very good. The lighting was from the roof, and as a market the building was considered perfect.

The Commissioner: Has it ever been suggested that the Corporation should acquire the rights of the Corn Market?

The Town Clerk: No, never. He added that the Wednesday street market was now done away with.

Berwick Journal
September 20th 1888