

Extracts from 19th century local newspapers relating to Harvest Home and Thanksgiving

HARVEST BEER

THE BORDER BREWERY COMPANY begs to inform the FARMERS of the District that the Price of their HARVEST BEER is 24s per Barrel of 36 Gallons.

*Berwick & Kelso Warder
18th August 1841*

To FARMERS

The Subscriber begs to intimate that he has Now ready for sending out HARVEST ALE of excellent quality, which he can confidently recommend and respectfully solicits a share of Public Patronage.

Thomas Johnson, Tweed Brewery

*Berwick Advertiser
8th August 1846*

HARVEST HOME – On Wednesday night, the 11th instant, Mr. Bird, Rentonbarns, gave his servants and those in the vicinity who had assisted him in cutting and securing his crop, an excellent supper. The profusion of dainties was such as might have graced the table of Royalty. The condescending attention and services rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Bird and family at supper, were highly gratifying. After supper, Mr. Bird expressed himself happy at seeing his servants met together; he hoped they would enjoy themselves. Next to the loyal toast, Mr. Bird proposed the health of Sir Samuel Stirling, his present landlord, and Mr. Samuel Stirling, heir to Sir Samuel, which was drunk and received with great cheering. The health of Mr. Bird, Mrs. Bird and family, was also drunk and duly acknowledged. Dancing followed.

*When hornpipe, jigs, strathspaths and reels
Put life and mettle in their heels.*

It is but proper to add, the music was captivating, Mr. Bird having secured the services of Messrs. Steel and Hall, Berwick

*Who screwed their pipes and gar'd them skirl
Till roofs and rafters a' did dirl.*

*Berwick Advertiser
14th October 1854*

PAXTON HARVEST HOME - At Nabdean on the 8th of October, the reapers of F. Ramsay Esq., along with a party of friends, held their kirk. All were plentifully supplied with tea and cake, after which they all retired to the barn, which was brilliantly lighted up with naphtha lamps. Dancing commenced and was kept up with great spirit until an early hour next morning, when all retired, highly pleased with their night's entertainment.

*Berwick Journal
8th October 1856*

HARVEST HOME - Mr. Gillie, farmer, East Ord, having completed harvest work upon his farm, entertained his servants, to the number of about seventy, to a "harvest home" on Thursday night, in the barn, which was gaily decorated for the occasion. Mrs. Gillie provided an ample supply of spice loaf and tea, to which all did full justice, after which dancing commenced to the inspiring strains of two violin players from Tweedmouth. During the night other beverages were served, and the hilarity was kept up with unabated vigour till an advanced hour the following morning.

*Berwick Advertiser
15th September 1865*

HARVEST HOME IN THE SNOW – The farm labourers in the vicinity of East Bolton, near Alnwick, enjoyed their “kirn supper” on Saturday last, the crops having been got in. East Bolton is situated on the borders of one of the most dreary moors in Northumberland, and the snow lay deep on the ground, rendering travelling difficult. There were fifty persons at the dinner, other having been kept away by the bad weather: but all were most hospitably treated. The beef was from the Park Farm of the Duke of Northumberland, and was among the choicest animals selected for Christmas by Mr. Patton, whose name is ample guarantee for the quality. The puddings and other edibles were not inferior, and full justice was done to them. Afterwards the room was cleared for a dance, which was kept up with unbounded spirit till near midnight, the company being supplied at discretion with strong ale and hot punch. A splendid branch of mistletoe and other evergreens decorated the room. It will be long before the merry evening is forgotten or the warm hospitality of Wm. Grey, Esq., of East Bolton, or the dancing to the merry sound of the drum and fiddle. Had it been three days later, it would have been the earliest harvest home on record.

Berwick Journal
5th January 1861

NORHAM KIRN - On the evening of Monday last E. Liddle Esq. of Morris Hall, entertained his work people to a handsome supper upon the occasion of the completion of harvest operations. From twenty five to thirty sat down to supper, which was presided over by Mr. Murton. The gentleman's health, who had kindly provided the entertainment, was proposed and received with hearty applause: thereafter a number of other toasts were proposed, including that of the Chairman, Messrs. Whittlie, Lawson and Weatherburn. These latter gentlemen especially distinguished themselves in promoting the harmony and enjoyment of the evening by singing some excellent songs: their rendering of that once popular duet “Dorothy Draggletail” was highly appreciated. Altogether it was a most excellent entertainment, and after keeping up the dance until well on in the morning, the proceedings closed with three hearty cheers for their employer.

Berwick Advertiser
8th October 1876

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

- On Wednesday night a thanksgiving choral service for the late harvest was celebrated in St. Mary's Church. The church was very tastefully decorated with evergreens, choice flowers, and grains with scriptural devices; at the altar was the inscription “I am the bread of life” and on the communion table was placed a sheaf of corn and vases of flowers, most of which came from Ayton Castle. The attendance was very large, the church being filled.

Berwick Advertiser
29th September, 1865

DODDINGTON THANKSGIVING SERVICE

- On Thursday week, St. Matthew's Day, divine service was performed in the church. On two other evenings of the week dances were given by James B. Boyd, and by Charles Rea, Esq. to the workers who had gathered in the crops and their friends. That given by Mr. Rea was a great improvement on the one which preceded it. The barn in which it was held was beautifully and tastefully decorated with fine flowers and evergreens.

Berwick Advertiser
29th September 1865

HARVEST THANKSGIVING – On Sunday special Services were held in Berwick Parish Church to celebrate the ingathering of the cereal crops. The interior of the edifice was decorated in a more elaborate style than usual. On the sill of the eastern window of the chancel there was a layer of white wool upon which were scattered flowers, ivy leaves and grain. The centre was raised and it was tastefully ornamented with a floral cross. Miniature sheaves of corn, and a vase of flowers stood upon the altar, above which was fixed against the wall the scriptural quotation “I am the Bread and Life” wrought in white letters upon a scarlet background, set off with flowers, leaves and grain. The sills of the side windows in the church were covered with foliage and a few floral ornaments, while on the communion rails and the fronts of the sidestalls were bunches of corn and flowers. About the lectern was a profusion of floral embellishments, while the reading desk and pulpit were set off with grain, ivy leaves, flowers and red berries. The churchwardens’ stall was decorated with the same materials and the sill of the window above it was covered with foliage, etc. Round the pillars supporting the projecting part of the organ were wreaths of evergreens, corn and red berries. The baptismal font was adorned with asters, ivy leaves and new foliage, etc.

Berwick Advertiser
29th September 1876

TWEEDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH - HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE - The yearly thanksgiving service in celebration of the ingathering of the cereal crops for Tweedmouth took place in the Parish Church there on Sunday. The interior of the edifice was very tastefully decorated. At the altar were several vases of white flowers. Against the east wall of the church was the text “I am the living bread from Heaven.” This was very beautifully formed of large letters of straw, on a blue ground. In front of the communion table was a large sheaf of corn, bound with mauve ribbon. The altar rails were ornamented with corn and ferns. The window sills, both in the chancel and the body of the church, were covered with moss, ferns and flowers, the latter tastefully formed into crosses, wreaths and other devices. Suspended in front of the pulpit was a beautiful emblem of the pastoral offices. It was in oval form with a blue ground, having a crucifix in the centre, crossed with two shepherds’ crooks, etc., the devices being formed of straw. The reading desk also was embellished with grain and flowers and a rich floral wreath on the top. In front of the organ gallery was the text “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and note his coming with praise” with the border of corn. The font was neatly adorned with a profusion of grain and flowers, and a rich floral wreath on the top. Over the door to the porch of the church were sheaves of corn and flowers. Appropriate sermons were preached by the Rev, the Vicar.

Berwick Advertiser
29th September 1876

HARVEST FESTIVAL AT BERWICK PARISH CHURCH

– Last night the annual harvest festival was held in the building, which was prettily decorated for the occasion by several ladies of the congregation. The church, pulpit, reading desk and baptismal font as usual showed a wealth of grapes, and other fruits, corn, leaves and flowers. At the entrance to the church were three arches, over which was the inscription “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereby.” There was a numerous congregation and the service was choral, special canticles being sung. The anthem was “Thou visited the earth”, by Dr. Green.

Berwick Advertiser
16th September 1887

ETAL HARVEST FESTIVAL

– The harvest thanksgiving services were held in the church on Sunday last, and were of a very successful character. The beautiful little church was suitably decorated for the occasion with corn, flowers, etc. Over the altar were the words “The harvest is the end of the world”, and on the other side was a banner with the appropriate texts “The seed is the Word of God”, “The reapers are the Angels”. On the altar were two miniature sheaves of wheat, while the other kinds of grain were represented in the chancel and the nave. Prayers were said by the incumbent, the Rev. Augustine Brutton, BA, who also preached a very instructive sermon from St. Matthew 9: 37 “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few”, concluding with special remarks of thankfulness to God for a bountiful harvest.

Berwick Advertiser
30th September 1887