

LOWICK WAR MEMORIALS

A HISTORY

Researched and compiled by Tony Brown

The following Appendices referred to in the text can be seen in the Berwick Record Office:

A, C-K Reference NRO 470

M Reference PB 7/14

L an extract from the Berwick Advertiser 7 January 1921 included by kind permission of the Berwick Record Office.

LOWICK PARISH WAR MEMORIALS.

An end result of, 'The War to end all Wars' was that countrywide, committees were set up to find ways to 'honour' the dead. Lowick was no exception, and in late December 1918 a Parish Meeting was held and a 'War Memorial Committee' elected. The Committee, which appears to have been some-what 'railroaded' by Brigadier General Sitwell, agreed that **they erect a memorial in a public place and erect a suitable building in the village for public use.** (see Appendix A- copy of what would appear to be War Memorial Committee minutes.) This appeared to be the only suggestion proposed !!

Berwick Journal. December 26th 1918.

Lowick.

Parish meeting was held in Lowick Drill Hall on Friday, Chairman, Mr A Bone. Attendance was fair. Rev. H B Smith proposed a permanent memorial be raised to the men in the Parish who have fallen in the War. Mr Thomas Hogg seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously. Rev P L Corcoran moved and Mr Robt. Reavely seconded, that a Committee be formed to see what could be done and report to a public meeting.

Following were appointed on this Committee- Revs. H B Smith, J L Corcoran, G Tait, D R Wishart, Messrs. R Forrester, J Hall, G Fairbairn, T Young, M Stark, Miss Fennel, Mrs Wishart, Gen. Sitwell, Mr A Bone, T Hogg and W Thompson. Rev H B Smith moved and Mr Stark seconded, that Mr W Thompson be Secretary and this was carried unanimously. A Committee meeting was held in the Commercial Hotel, when the Vicar was elected as Chairman. **Gen. Sitwell proposed we put up a memorial in a public place, with names of fallen inscribed thereon, and erect a building in Lowick, suitable for public gatherings, but pending collection of funds for permanent building, the Committee be empowered to negotiate for an Army Hut.** This was seconded by Mr T Hogg and carried.

Another public meeting will be held in Drill Hall, on Friday Jan. 3rd, at 7.30, as advertised in to-day's "Berwick Journal", to report on the above proposition. (See newspaper report.)

Information from the Berwick Advertiser. Dec 27th 1918

. A public meeting was held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday December 18th to arrange for what was to be done for the boys who had fallen in the war. It was decided to have a 'Memorial Stone' put up in front of Mrs Burnie's shop where there is plenty of room. It was also decided to try and get some sort of hall built for concerts, dances and other open meetings. The Committee will make a start soon and get the money.

Lets do our best and get Lowick like other places.

Scrap Book. Lowick. December 1918. Would all those who have sons, brothers or husbands in the Army or Navy, in Lowick and Bowsden parish, please send their names in as soon as possible to Mr W Thompson, Schoolhouse, Bowsden or to Mr James Hall, The Croft, Lowick. A Committee Meeting will be held in the Drill Hall, Lowick, on Friday night.

Scrap Book. Lowick. A meeting is to be held in the Drill Hall, Lowick, on Friday night to make arrangements for the Memorial Stone and Hall. Everyone will be welcomed.

Jan 3rd 1919. A meeting was held in the Drill Hall to make arrangements for a Memorial and Memorial Hall.

Late December 1918.

Public Meeting to decide what to be done.

THE FIRST COMMITTEE.

Chairman.

Rev. H. B. Smith.

Secretary.

Mr. Wm. Thompson.

Treasurer.

General Sitwell.

Committee.

Father J. L. Corcoran, , Rev. D. R. Wishart, G. Tait, R. Forrester, J. Hall,
G. Fairbairn, T. Young, M. Stark, A. Bone, T. Hogg, R. Barber, C. Milburn,
Miss Fennel and Mrs Wishart.

Only one proposal !!

Advertiser. Jan 10th 1919.

In connection with the proposed War Memorial, a Public Meeting was held in the Drill Hall on Friday January 3rd to consider the suggestion of the Committee. There was a slightly better attendance than at the first meeting. The Rev. H B Smith took the chair at 7.30pm. General Sitwell explained the suggestion, which was that there be a Memorial put up in a 'Public Place', with the names of the fallen inscribed thereon and that the Committee be empowered to erect IN LOWICK, a building suitable for public gatherings, but pending the collection of sufficient funds for a permanent building, be empowered to negotiate for an Army hut. There was some discussion and then the above was put up as a resolution to the meeting and carried unanimously. The Committee was empowered to add to its numbers if necessary and the meeting ended.

A Committee meeting was held immediately after the public meeting. Messrs. C Milburn and R Barber were added to the Committee and General Sitwell was appointed treasurer. It was decided to have a house-to-house collection and collectors were appointed to do the necessary work. It is hoped that there will be a generous response to the invitation to subscribe from all the Parish.

February 14th 1919. The proceeds of a dance held in Lowick on 17th January amounting to £4. 0. 11/2d have been handed over to Brigadier General Sitwell, treasurer of the Lowick War Memorial fund.

February 24th 1919. As a result of the house-to house collection, (one of the actual collection books is owned by Mr George Bone), in the Holborn area by Messrs. A Bone & C Milburn, the sum of £6. 5s 6d was paid over to General Sitwell on the above date. (See photocopy, Appendix B.) There is also a collection book, as used by the treasurer of the War memorial Committee, i.e. General Sitwell, in the Sitwell papers in the Berwick Borough Archives.

February 27th 1919. A letter written by Sir Edward Haggerston to General Sitwell gave permission to erect a memorial, on the site selected by the Committee, if it was in his power to do so, he also suggested that the Rural District Council be involved, as they had been in Belford and Lucker.
(see Appendix C.)

March 14th 1919. An Official letter from the Haggerston Estates Agent to General Sitwell gave permission for a MEMORIAL STONE to be erected on HIS (Sir Edward Haggerston's) LAND, on the vacant ground on the opposite side of the highway to the Post Office. The Solicitor also stated that, as Sir Edward, being only a tenant, for life, cannot give any permission, which will be binding, beyond his lifetime. He also says, however, THE CONTINGENCY OF ANY OBJECTION BY HIS SUCCESSORS IS, I THINK, ONLY THEORETICAL.(see Appendix C.)

March 28th 1919. General Sitwell presided over a meeting in the Drill Hall, Lowick, when the question of a War Memorial was considered. The Chairman after explaining what had been done in Committee, submitted a sketch of the proposed monument and on the motion of Mr Hall, seconded by Mr Young, the recommendation to erect a monument was adopted. A SITE HAVING BEEN OFFERED, the Reverend D R Wishart moved that the work be proceeded with without taking further legal steps in regard of the site. An amendment was moved that legal advice be taken to safeguard the interests of the public, but, on the motion being put, it was carried by a large majority.

June 30th 1919. Letter from Lord Joicey to General Sitwell, with £10 donation to the War Memorial Fund. (Appendix D.)

July 15th & 17th 1919. Letter to General Sitwell from the Haggerston Estates solicitor, giving permission to erect a hut on Lowick Common and suggesting that 6d per annum be paid for the privilege including the erection of the stone. General Sitwell replied, to the effect that the Committee were willing to pay this amount, *as an acknowledgement of his ownership of the site.* (Appendix E). No record has been found of any such transaction taking place!

July 18th 1919. Memorial Hall at Lowick. General Sitwell requested permission from Glendale R D C to erect an Army hut, which had been purchased for £120, on Lowick Common, for use as a Memorial Hall until sufficient funds were present to build a permanent structure. (who bought it, was it ever erected??).
The Borough Clerk held that it was up to the Lord of the Manor (Sir E C Haggerston); if he was agreeable the Council would not object.

Berwick Advertiser. December 19th 1919.

Lowick War Memorial.

We understand that the Lowick Parish War Memorial, although not completed, has been successfully placed in position during the past week. It consists of a rough seven-ton block of 'whinstone', mounted on four smaller boulders, which average two tons apiece. They all came from Kylloe Quarry. This bold and unadorned monument is well in keeping with the rugged valour and unyielding stubbornness in battle of the gallant men whose memory it is intended to preserve for all time.

The stone, which is the native rock of the district in which they were bred and stands in view of the quarry from whence it came. The simplicity of the idea and the beauty of the stone have already won the admiration and envy of many eminent and expert judges, whilst the bulk and obvious weight of these rude ashlar standing in severe simplicity on an outcrop of living mountain limestone, cannot fail to impress the most casual passer-by and cause him to wonder how such rocks have got there. We understand that the names of the fallen have still to be engraved upon the big stone. Yet even now Lowick may well be proud in possessing a monument unique among the hundreds, which are being discussed, erected and disputed over, in every corner of the United Kingdom. (See photo.)

Berwick Advertiser December 26th 1919.

Lowick War Memorial.

It is requested that the relations of those who fell in the Great War and who are desirous of having the names recorded on the Lowick Parish War Memorial, be kind enough to send a statement to the Secretary, Mr Wm Thompson, Bowsden, Berwick, not later than January 31st.

The statement should contain rank, names in full and Regiment or Corps, of the deceased.

January 2nd 1920. Lowick. The War Memorial is giving much cause for argument at the present time and some heated debates are heard. The general opinion is that another public meeting should be called.

In this period several letters appeared in the 'Advertiser', some for, some against the "piece of road metal which looks as though it has been tipped from a Council wagon."

February 6th 1920. Lowick War Memorial. A public meeting will be held in the Drill Hall on Thursday February 19th 1920 at 7.30pm. A good attendance is desired.

February 19th 1920. Letter from Rev Wishart (very much a 'yes' man to the General) to General Sitwell, for the General to retain his £5 donation, and not hand it over to the new treasurer, with the rest of the fund. (Appendix F)

February 20th 1920. Letter and invoice from R W McLaren, re loading and fixing the Memorial stones. (Appendix G). Invoice paid March 17th 1920.

Berwick Advertiser. February 27th 1920. Lowick War Memorial.
As a result of the Public Meeting of the 19th February, the War Memorial Committee resigned 'en bloc' and a new Committee elected. (see attached sheet.)

March 13th 1920. Letter to General Sitwell from Mr Hogg, Kylloe Quarry, stating that the stones for the memorial had been given to General Sitwell personally, and were not to be used for any other purpose.(Appendix H).

April 26th 1920. Letter from Mr Reid, secretary of the War Memorial Committee, to Mr Hogg, to the effect that as money from the 'fund' had been used to get and position the stones, they were the property of the Committee.(Appendix I. 1)

April 27th 1920. Letter from Mr Hogg to General Sitwell enclosing a copy of the above letter. (Appendix I. 2)

May 19th 1920. Letter from Mr Reid, secretary of the War Memorial Committee to General Sitwell, accepting his cheque for £1. 1. 7d plus his £10 donation to the fund, as being the cost of the stones and the removal from the quarry and that the stones were now his property. The letter also asked that they be removed without delay.(Appendix J. 1)

May 28th 1920. Further letter from Mr Reid to General Sitwell asking him to remove the stones within SIX days.(Appendix J. 2)

May 28th 1920. Letter from Northumberland County Council, surveyor's office, to LEND General Sitwell the use of the County wagons to remove the stones. (see Appendix K.)

THE SECOND COMMITTEE.

Chairman.

Mr. R. Forrester.

Secretary.

Mr. Hugh Reid.

Treasurer.

Mr. J. Mabon.

Committee.

J. Sim, C. Milburn, D. Fairbairn, J. Pringle, D. Hodge, Geo. Hope, J. Scott,
Geo. Redpath and J. Foreman.

This committee generated a fair amount of letter writing.

June 4th 1920. (Berwick Advertiser).

Lowick War Memorial.

'General Sitwell Claims the Boulder.'

A Committee Meeting of the Lowick War Memorial Committee was held in the Commercial Hotel on Wednesday evening, last, Mr R Forester, president, in the chair. Letters were read from Mr Hogg, Kylloe and General Sitwell, Barmoor Castle. Mr Hogg's letter was to the effect that he had given the rough boulder to General Sitwell for the first proposed monument, personally, he had no further say in the matter.

In General Sitwell's letter was a cheque for £1. 1s. 7d and he wrote that he wished to withdraw his £10 subscription, but as an expenditure of £11. 1s. 7d had been incurred by the removal of the stone from the quarry to its present site, the £1. 1s. 7d added to the £10 withdrawn, would meet the expenditure, so he therefore claimed possession of the stone.

The Committee decided unanimously to allow General Sitwell's claim and the Secretary was instructed to ask him to remove the stone from the present site in six days.

A letter from Mr Tully, Belford, contractor for the new memorial, stated he would place an estimate and design for the base of the Memorial (in Doddington stone) in their hands in a day or two.

It was decided that the Secretary advertise in local papers for the names of fallen and these names to be placed on the Memorial in the order in which they fell.

The question of raising money for the completion of the Memorial was dismissed.

The present new monument, without base, is to cost some £180 and as the fund now stands at £270. 11s.6d an additional £50 or £60 would be required for the base and for lettering of names of the fallen. It was unanimously agreed to open up a shilling fund for the Parish and Mr Hodge and Mr J Hope to collect the money, contributions to be acknowledged through the Berwick Advertiser.

Berwick Advertiser. June 11th 1920.

Lowick War Memorial.

The much commented on Memorial which was erected in Lowick in memory of the lads who fell in the Great War, is now, we hear, to be erected at Barmoor. Preparations are now in progress to have it removed to it's new site. Seeing it has gained so much publicity in the various newspapers, almost every day a large number of motor cars can be seen to slow up and gaze at the structure.

Lowick.

Preparations are being made to remove that "eye sore" to the villagers, viz- the rough whinstone boulders that were once to be the Memorial. A large heap of sleepers and a bogey are dumped at the spot.

Mr Mabon, treasurer of the memorial fund begs to acknowledge, with thanks the sum of £2.10s from the Ladies Committee and £2.8s from the Young Ladies Committee. The funds in hand for the War Memorial are £170.11s.6d, not £270.11s.6d as stated last week.

Berwick Advertiser. December 24th 1920. Lowick War Memorial.

A Committee Meeting was held in the White Swan Inn at 7.30pm on Thursday evening, Mr R Forester, president, in the chair. The Secretary, Mr Reid reported that the War memorial was now erected.

The unveiling to take place on Sunday 2nd January 1921.

Berwick Advertiser. January 2nd 1921. Lowick War Memorial.

The War Memorial is erected in the Market Place, opposite the Post Office. It stands 11' 6" high. It is constructed of polished Aberdeen Granite with a base of Doddington Freestone. It was officially unveiled by Major J G G Rea of Berrington. (see attached report, Appendix L).

NB General Sitwell was numbered among the dignitaries who attended.

Berwick Advertiser. February 3rd 1922. Lowick.

The Committee of the War Memorial met on Friday evening last, under the presidency of Mr R. Forester. The Secretary gave a report on various items that had been a source of income towards the Memorial. He also said that the names of Ptes. Glazie and Bruce had now been inscribed on the Memorial, that Mr Bruce had paid for the cost of inscribing his son's name and had also given a subscription. The Treasurer reported that they had a balance in hand of £101.1s. 4d. It was agreed to pay Mr Tully, Belford, balance of account due to him, viz., £96. 14s.8d. The Committee were left with a balance of £4. 6s.8d. The Committee decided to again meet on Thursday February 2nd, when they would draw up a scheme for railing the Memorial.

Berwick Advertiser. February 17th 1922. Lowick

A public meeting in connection with the memorial, is to be held in the Drill Hall on Wednesday. It is to be hoped that the public will turn out and give a little encouragement to the Committee, who desire to have rails erected around the Memorial.

Berwick Advertiser. June 2nd 1922. Lowick.

Lowick War Memorial Committee at a Meeting held on Friday last, decided to erect ornamental railings round the Cenotaph. These railings will cost more than subscribed for the purpose but Mr Foreman, Lowick, has generously offered the Committee any balance that is required, on loan, to get the work completed. Mr Foreman is a member of the Committee and his kind offer is much appreciated.

Later that year railings were put in place around the Memorial and that was the end of the first part of the tale. The question of ownership of the strip of land on which the Memorial stands had never been formally recognised and the Committee had gone ahead regardless of the lack of any written consent from the apparent owner, Sir Carnaby Haggerston.

By 1928 the War Memorial Committee had become an anachronism, so the problem arose of what to do with the War Memorial in relation to its upkeep?

A search through some of the Parish Council minutes brought up a few interesting points, viz.

January 26th 1928, Mr Forester raised the question of the Council taking over the War Memorial. After discussion it was decided that the Secretary of the War Memorial (*Committee*) write to the Parish Council and it would be considered at the next meeting.

Parish Council Meeting October 24th 1928. It was decided on the motion of Mr Fairbairn, seconded by Mr Hall that-

On the receipt of a letter from Mr Forester (*Chairman of the War Memorial Committee*), the Council take over the War Memorial and that the Clerk see Mr Barber and make arrangements for its care.

Council Meeting January 23rd 1929. A letter from the Committee of the War Memorial was read (per Mr Forester) desiring the Council "to take over the care and preservation of the said Memorial" (dated November 15th 28.). The Council, as decided at the last Meeting, accepted responsibility and Clerk was instructed to see what arrangements Mr Barber had made.

March 27th 1929. Clerk explained what arrangements, in connection with the War Memorial, had been made ?????

As a P.S. to this meeting was a note, "Mr J Ridpeath was appointed caretaker at 1/- a week, presumably for the War Memorial.

February 22nd 1935. The Clerk was instructed to ask for tenders for caretaker for the War Memorial, from April 35-March 36.

March 25th 1935. The Clerk informed the Council he had five applications for caretaker for the War Memorial, these being read. After a lengthy discussion it was decided on the motion of R Hope, seconded by A Bone that Jas. Davidson be elected as caretaker, his offer for the work being £1. 5. 0. per annum.

Early 1936, date unknown. Mr Davidson resigned as War Memorial caretaker, the job to be advertised in the village.

Next Council Meeting, date unknown. The Clerk announced two applicants for post, A Waters appointed.

April 22nd 1937. Mr Anthony Waters offered the post of Memorial caretaker for the term of office of the present Council- three years- at 35/- per annum.

March 25th 1938. A letter was received from the Lowick Branch of the British Legion drawing attention to the condition of the War Memorial.

It was moved and seconded that the work of renovating be done and that the Clerk obtain an estimate, for work of painting the rails and lettering of the Memorial, be got from Mr Wilson, sculptor.

April 22nd 1938. Estimate of £5 for renovation of the War Memorial, from Mr Wilson, be accepted. The lettering to receive three coats of paint and the surrounding rails two coats, after thorough clean.

February 23rd 1940. The attention of the Council was drawn to the rail around the Monument; the rail had got damaged at one part, it was moved by Mr Strother and seconded by Mr Nichol, that the damage be repaired.

July 1943. Untidy state of the War Memorial. Present War Memorial caretaker's engagement to be terminated and an effort made to obtain someone more reliable as caretaker.

August 28th 1943. The question of a caretaker for the War Memorial, was put forward. Clerk to endeavour to obtain someone to undertake the duties.

November 11th 1943. The Clerk reported that Mr J Ridpeath had agreed to act as caretaker at the salary of £1. 10. 0. per annum.

October 1946. At the Parish Council meeting, Councillor Fairbairn moved that the names of the men of the Parish who fell in the 1939-45 war should be put on the 14/18 War Memorial, seconded by Councillor Nichol. The Clerk was instructed to get an estimate from Mr Wilson, Sculptor, Tweedmouth.

January 1947. War Memorial. Estimate from Messer's. J Wilson and Son, Sculptor, Tweedmouth, was read, - To cutting and painting additional inscription and names (200 letters), cleaning monument, repainting existing names, repairing and painting railings, One coat. **PRICE £22 approx.** Councillor Sanderson moved and Councillor McGough seconded, that this estimate should be accepted.

C 1948. Robert Sinton says that about that time, his father, being Clerk to the Parish Council, had a visit from Sir Carnaby Haggerston, the gist of the meeting being that Sir Carnaby verbally gifted the land surrounding the War Memorial to the village (ie Parish Council), but no record in Council minutes.

(so, while the Parish Council have decided that the War Memorial and its surrounds are property of the Parish, obviously the Haggerstons still maintained that it is their property.)

March 1951. Mr Redpath (War Memorial caretaker) paid fee of £1. 15s.

May 18th 1951. A complaint was made to the Parish Council re the unkempt state of the War Memorial. The Clerk to write to Mr J Redpath to ask him to give his earliest attention to the Memorial enclosure.

May 29th 1951. Letter from Mr Ridpeath who gave notice to terminate his contract as War Memorial caretaker.

The Clerk to advertise the vacancy, locally.

September 1952. Only one applicant, Mr Fairbairn, duly appointed.

February 1954. War Memorial caretaker's salary increased to 50/-.

March 1957. Councillor Ord proposed that when the War Memorial caretaker received his salary a letter should be enclosed requiring that he carry out his duties more fully, or his post would be terminated, seconded by Councillor Mabon.

June 1957. War memorial caretaker resigned.

September 1957. Mr A Cossar appointed War Memorial caretaker.

July 24th 1958. Parish Council reported on the untidy state of the War Memorial, decided that the present caretaker's engagement be terminated and an effort made to engage a person more suitable. Several attempts were made to find another caretaker and eventually in March 1959 Mr Wm Dobson took on the job.

May 1961. Mr Dobson resigned as War Memorial caretaker and in August the same year Mr Dawson accepted the post.

This must have been very much of a 'new broom' as in November 1961 the Parish Council sent a letter of thanks to Mr Dawson for the excellent way in which he had attended the War Memorial.

May 28th 1962. A letter was received from Colonel Phillips of 'The Garden House', giving details for the proposed layout of waste ground adjoining the War Memorial. He sought the Parish Council's permission to carry this out. The Council agreed, in principle to this and the Chairman and Mr Ord were appointed to meet Col. Phillips and discuss the matter with him.

August 1962. The Chairman and Mr Ord reported on having seen Col. Phillips re his plans for improving the frontage of The Garden House. Their report was accepted as satisfactory.

March 1963. Mr Crabtree asked if the British Legion could floodlight the War Memorial during Remembrance Week, the Council agreed to this request. *(the floodlights were apparently fixed to Col. Phillips house and he paid for the electricity, used. This appeared to have been a verbal agreement, only.)*

August 1965. Mrs Phillips (*parish councillor*) mentioned that her husband proposed turfing the area around the War Memorial, and also removing the iron railings, subject to the Parish Council's approval. The Meeting agreed in principle to this, pending further investigation by Col. Phillips.

November 1965. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Divisional Superintendent of Northumberland County Council re plans to repair the area around the War Memorial. Mrs G Smith reported that the W.I. proposed putting bulbs on the War Memorial to mark their Centenary, this was approved, with thanks.

July 1966. Rev. Robson said he had been approached by Col. Phillips who wanted to remove the iron railings from the War Memorial at his own cost. It was felt that a Public Meeting be called to discuss this.

July 25th 1966. Public Meeting.

August 30th 1966. The Chairman reported that no objection to the removal of the iron railings had been received. It was unanimously agreed that Col. Phillips be given permission to proceed with their removal.

May 1967. The Clerk was instructed to pay Mr Dawson for work done at the War Memorial and also to write to Col. Phillips, Lowick, who was floodlighting the Memorial, and taking at present general care of it, to see how much he would be willing to pay Mr Dawson.

September 1967. A reply was received from Col. Phillips agreeing to pay Mr Dawson at least half as much again as what Mr Dawson already received for cutting grass at the War Memorial. ???
It was agreed that the British Legion could, if they wished, clean the letters on the War Memorial. (No record of this happening?)

In March 1971 the Parish Council paid G. Dawson £2.10/- for upkeep of the War Memorial.

December 1972- Mr Daniels, Garden House planted Daffodil bulbs around the War Memorial, this was noted by the Parish Council but they decided not to take any action.

April 1973- Mr Smith to cut the grass around the War memorial on the same terms as Mr Dawson.

December 1973- Parish Council clerk to approach Berwick Borough Council (new Municipal Authorities Act) re grass cutting of Lowick Common, the War Memorial and the Churchyard. Also some of the posts around the War Memorial are rotting and will need to be replaced soon. The clerk was also instructed to look up old documents to try and find owner.

March 1974- Ownership of the land on which the war Memorial stands under dispute, Parish Council and Mr Daniels to share expense, meanwhile. (a previous Parish Council minute showed Col. Phillips sharing the cost of grass cutting, with the Council.)
No trace of ownership in old minutes, clerk to apply to register as 'Common Land'.

July 29th 1974. War Memorial. A letter was read out from the County Archivist, which said that because the Council had looked after the War Memorial for such a long time there was little doubt that the land on which the War Memorial was built, belonged to the Parish. Mrs Bousefield proposed that a letter be written to Mr Daniels (owner of Garden House) explaining the position, but saying that the Council were quite agreeable that the cost of cutting the grass around the War Memorial, would be shared, as before.

The Council thought this was a good idea and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Daniels concerning this.

It was also decided that posts round the War Memorial be replaced, if rotten and posts and rails be painted.

A letter was also received from the Rural District Council to the effect that when Col. Phillips sold Garden House, the plans of the site showed the boundary of the plot as the frontage of Garden House and did not include any of the land surrounding the War Memorial.

A letter was also received from the Solicitors for the Haggerston estate, who had no record of any transaction whereby Sir Edward or Sir Carnaby Haggerston had gifted the land to the Parish, however their view was the same as the County Archivist, in that the land had been so long in public use that any claim by anyone else, to own it, would fail.

In 1974 a serious attempt to solve the ownership of the land surrounding the War Memorial was made by Tom Johnston, the clerk to the Parish Council. The local thought was that the land had been gifted to the Parish by Sir Carnaby Haggerston but the Solicitor for the Haggerston Estate was not aware of any such gift. His opinion was however that as the land had been in use for so many years as if owned by the Parish and been maintained by them, that it would be very doubtful if anyone else could make a serious claim as to ownership.(Appendix M)

The Parish Council then applied to have the area registered as 'Common Land' but apparently they were too late as the date for registering common land had expired.

November 1974- The Parish Council clerk wrote to Mr Daniels confirming that the land surrounding the War Memorial belonged to the Parish Council and suggested, subject to Mr Daniels approval, that maintenance should continue as before.

(there did not seem to have been any reply to this.)

The Parish Council also confirmed that the road behind the War Memorial was a right of way. Also that the 'Spotlights?' at the War Memorial used electricity from Garden House following a VERBAL agreement between the British Legion and the owner Col. Phillips.

January 1975 – **An estimate of £72** was received for repair and replacement of rotting posts around the War Memorial.

July 1975. The Council discussed, in general, the War Memorial site, posts tubs etc, also the floodlights which were concealed in the tubs, and used electricity from Mr Daniels house. Consideration was given to the removal. *(did it happen?)*

September 1975 – Mr Daniels offered to purchase wooden flower tubs to replace the broken and dilapidated ones.

The Parish Council accepted his generous offer.

October 1975- Reported to the Parish Council that Mr Bates had repainted the posts surrounding the War Memorial, voluntarily.

January 15th 1976. It was noted that Mr Daniels had placed new flower tubs around the Memorial. The Chairman had written to him.

January 1976 – Mr G Smith to be paid £5 p.a. for cutting grass at War Memorial, no mention of any one else contributing.

March 1977 – Some of the posts at the War Memorial need replacing. Mr Sinclair said that he could get 9 steel posts Mr Bookless said he could cut them to size. This duty was then left to Mr Sinclair and Mr Bookless.

Mr Reavely, on behalf of the Jubilee Committee, asked permission (of the Parish Council), to erect a flagpole on the War Memorial ground, permission was granted.

May 1977 – Reported to the Parish Council that the Posts and Chains around the War Memorial were in 'situ'. The Council expressed its thanks to Mr Sinclair and Mr. Bookless and several other members of the community.

The Parish Council was asked to take over responsibility for the Flagpole, from the Jubilee Committee, agreed.

May 1979 – Mr Smith still maintaining the upkeep of the War Memorial, was given an increase in his yearly payment from £5 to £10.

March 1980. - G Smith paid £10 for grass cutting at the War Memorial. (End of Available minutes).

We now come to the recent past. In the middle of 2004 while researching my own family history I went to check the War Memorial for a family name. I found that the naming was virtually unreadable, so I decided to copy the details in order to research all the names on the Memorial.

About the same time, a project by the Lowick Heritage Group, to restore and re-dedicate the Memorial was proposed. The Parish Council, who had taken over the Memorial site and maintained it for many years, passed the responsibility for the project over to the Heritage Group.

The Memorial was inspected and while the basic structure was in fair condition, the lettering needed very much TLC, the cross on the top was said to be loose and the base area needed repointing.

At this stage various public bodies became involved, mainly English Heritage and the North East War Memorials Project, (grants to refurbish War Memorials were available).

Estimates were obtained from various firms who did this type of work, they ranged from about £800 to £8000, but the sensible ones were in the region of £1000. (Alan Kinghorn).

Funding..... déjà vu House to House collection gave us a good start, then after a lot of paperwork English Heritage on the 1st August 2005, gave us a grant.

In the meantime, Channel 4 were busy compiling a series of documentaries on War Memorials, entitled 'NOT FORGOTTEN'. Obviously they were in close contact with ENGLISH HERITAGE and they found our story quite interesting. As a result a film crew and producer visited us. We managed to trace several descendants of casualties on the memorial, Hetha Bruce, Dave Wilson, Charlie Sanderson and myself and had quite an in depth interview, which we hoped would be part of series.

HOWEVER..... The narrator and presenter was IAN HISLOP and while the story and interviews were well received, the powers that be, Channel 4, decided that because Mr Hislop did not do the interviews, we did not qualify so we did not get our 'fifteen minutes of fame'.

We did however get a mention, a full page, in the Neil Oliver book about the series, NOT FORGOTTEN, also three pictures.

Eventually in mid 2006, the task of the renovation of the memorial started and luckily when the work took place it was found that the cross didn't need to be removed to re-dowel it so we were saved some expense and by November the restoration was complete, to every-ones satisfaction.

On a wet and windy day, Saturday 11th November 2006, the refurbished Lowick War Memorial was re-dedicated by the Vicar of Lowick, Reverend Victor Dickinson in the presence of the Mayor of Berwick, Councillor Anthony Murray and Civic party together with contingents from the British Legion, the Northumberland Fusiliers, the Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and various other bodies and a sizable attendance of Villagers.

Mr E Johnstone Holborn	✓	10	-
Mrs Johnstone	✓	10	
Mr Jas Bone	✓	10	
Mrs Bone	✓	5	
Miss Bone	✓	5	
Mr Jas Scott	✓	5	
Mrs E Sanderson	✓	2	
Mr E Sanderson	✓	2	
Mr W. Arnott	✓	2	
Mrs J. Hornum	✓	2	6
Mr R. Smith	✓	1	
Mr R. Arnott	✓	1	
Miss Arnott	✓	1	
Mrs & Mrs Rutherford	✓	5	
Mr J. Gallahar	✓	2	6
Miss Gallahar	✓	2	6
Mr & Mrs Crombie	✓	5	0
Mr A Henry	✓	3	11 6
		3	12 6

LOWICK WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED.

Sunday, the 2nd day of January, 1921, will be a never-to-be-forgotten day in Lowick and parish, for on that day the memorial was unveiled in honour of the brave lads who went forward at their country's call to make the great sacrifice. The memorial has been erected in the Market Place, opposite the Post Office, and is of Aberdeen Granite, with a Doddington Freestone base. The site is an ideal one, and the memorial standing 11 ft. 6 ins. high, looks well and lends beauty to its surroundings. It was early evident the work of the Committee had been appreciated, for people came from all parts of the parish, many carrying wreaths. About 2 p.m. the crowd numbered anything from 800 to 1,000 persons. Promptly at 2.10, the procession was formed up at the churchyard gates and singing the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers," moved slowly forward as follows: Buglers, Cothrades of the Great War (under Capt. Gee and Sergt. Pringle), relatives of the fallen, Sunday School children, Church congregations, Church Officers and Choirs; Major Rea, Capt. Elliott, Capt. Alexander, Mr. R. Barber, the Rev. C. V. Gee, and the Rev. G. Tait, followed by the general public.

On arrival at the memorial, the procession formed into a square with military precision. On the platform were the Rev. C. V. Gee, the Rev. G. Tait, Major J. G. G. Rea, Captain Elliott, Mr. R. Barber, Capt. Alexander, and Capt. Gee.

MR GEE'S ADDRESS.

Led by the choir, the whole gathering sang the hymn "O God our Help in Ages Past," and then the Rev. C. V. Gee delivered a very pathetic address. This, he said, is a great and happy day for the village and parish of Lowick—the day on which the memorial in honour of our brave departed is to be unveiled, but it is, I fear, also a day which brings to many hearts very sad and bitter memories. I beg to offer to all the relatives of the fallen our very deepest sympathy. There are times when the sympathy of our fellow men and a firm shake of the hand are of great comfort, and I trust it will be so now. Well, we have offered our thanksgiving to the Almighty God, we have extended our sympathy to the bereaved, and shortly shall see the Memorial unveiled. Is this, he said, to be the end? Certainly it marks the completion of a long effort to provide a suitable memorial to the fallen, but I would ask you to think of it, not as the end, but as the beginning of a new day and a new spirit in Lowick. Let all controversies and jealousies be buried beneath this stone. Let us concentrate our hostility against meanness, cowardice, selfishness, lust, and intemperance. All Churches, choirs, and classes are united to-day in honouring the fallen. Let us go forward, determining to work together in harmony and goodwill, to elevate and ennoble the life of Lowick Parish. May the Cross that surmounts this stone ever remind us that not by selfishness, but by sacrifice, are the great ends in life attained. So shall these men not have laid down their lives in vain.

The Rev. G. Tait thereafter read from Revelations VII., 14—"These are they." The choirs and mass then sang very sweetly the Hymn "Peace, Perfect Peace," and the Vicar engaged in prayer, afterwards asking Major J. G. G. Rea to unveil the Memorial.

MAJOR REA ON WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

You have done me the honour, he said, of asking me to unveil the Memorial. This Memorial has been erected to men who went out to the War from Lowick parish. We look back on their memories with feelings of pride and gratitude, pride that men from your neighbourhood gladly and willingly ran the risk of pain and suffering. They forsook their homes for the certain discomforts and horrors of war. We feel gratitude because each one

of these men played their part in breaking the German military spirit. We shudder to think what the result would have been if the Germans had defeated our Navy and Armies. Conditions of life are more difficult in England than they were before the war, but they would have been many times more difficult if the Germans had been victorious. The number of men who went to the war and we are sorry to say never returned is 26 and it is to be hoped that this monument will be some solace to the widows and relatives of the fallen. Besides this we shall look on the Memorial in a wider sense. It will serve to remind future generations for all time of the sacrifices of our Navy and Army in the greatest War there has ever been. It is thoughts such as these that the Memorial shall perpetuate.

All will understand that the erection of such a monument has cost a considerable amount of money. The sum of £189 13s 6d has so far been subscribed, but a further £50 is still required. Contributions will be thankfully received by the Secretary, Mr. D. Hodge, Lowick, and the Treasurer, Mr. J. Mahon, Lowick, and acknowledged through the local Press. I now beg to unveil this tribute to our glorious dead.

The Major then undid the ribbon that held the Union Jack in position and as it dropped the K.O.S.B. buglers under Dmr. Sergt. Abbot, sounded the "Last Post," uniformed officers, including Brigadier-General Sitwell, saluting. The Vicar thereafter pronounced the Benediction, thus closing a very interesting and pathetic ceremony.

THE NAMES OF THE FALLEN.

Comrades of the Great War, friends and relatives placed wreaths on the Memorial and many tears were shed. Let us hope that this beautiful Memorial will be kept so that the memory of these men will live for ever. The names of the fallen are as follows:—

Sgt. G. Pringle.	Sgt. J. Scott.
L/Cpl. G. Stothart.	Pte. W. Smith.
Rtln. R. Forester.	L/Cpl. G. Proudlock.
L/Cpl. T. Young.	Gunner J. A. McCreith.
Pte. J. Fairbairn.	Pte. J. Piercy.
L/Cpl. W. C. Millburn.	Pte. R. Wilson.
A.B. A. C. Mark.	Pte. R. Hills.
Driver D. Fairbairn.	L/Cpl. J. Wilson.
Pte. G. Alexander.	Pte. W. Hall.
Pte. J. W. Renton.	L/Cpl. J. Proudlock.
L/Cpl. J. Corcoran.	Pte. D. Fairbairn.
Pte. A. Wado.	Pte. E. W. Saunderson.
Sgt. B. Hills.	

The inscription on the polished column is: "Sacred to the memory of those men who gave their lives for God, King and Country in the Great War, 1914-1918. The inscription at the foot is: "Lest we forget. They died that we might live."

UNVEILED 2ND JAN 1921

BERWICK ADVERTISER

7 JAN 1921

PHOTOGRAPHS.

First Memorial.

1. Stone arriving on Steam Wagon, (c18th December 1919.)
2. Stones being levered into place.
3. First memorial in place. (Looking South).
4. First Memorial in place. (Looking West).
5. First Memorial being removed. (early June 1920).
6. The SITWELL Memorial re-sited at Barmoor corner.

Second Memorial. Dedicated Sunday 2nd January 1921.

7. After DEDICATION with temporary wooden rails.
8. War Memorial after being fitted with IRON RAILS. (c July 1922).
9. War Memorial c1966 after the removal of the IRON RAILS.
10. RE-DEDICATION of the War Memorial after renovation.
(Saturday 11th November 2006).

[Map showing area of designated War Memorial site. - not included
in pdf]

① STONE ARRIVING BY STEAM WAGON c18TH DECEMBER 1919





3







JUNE 1930

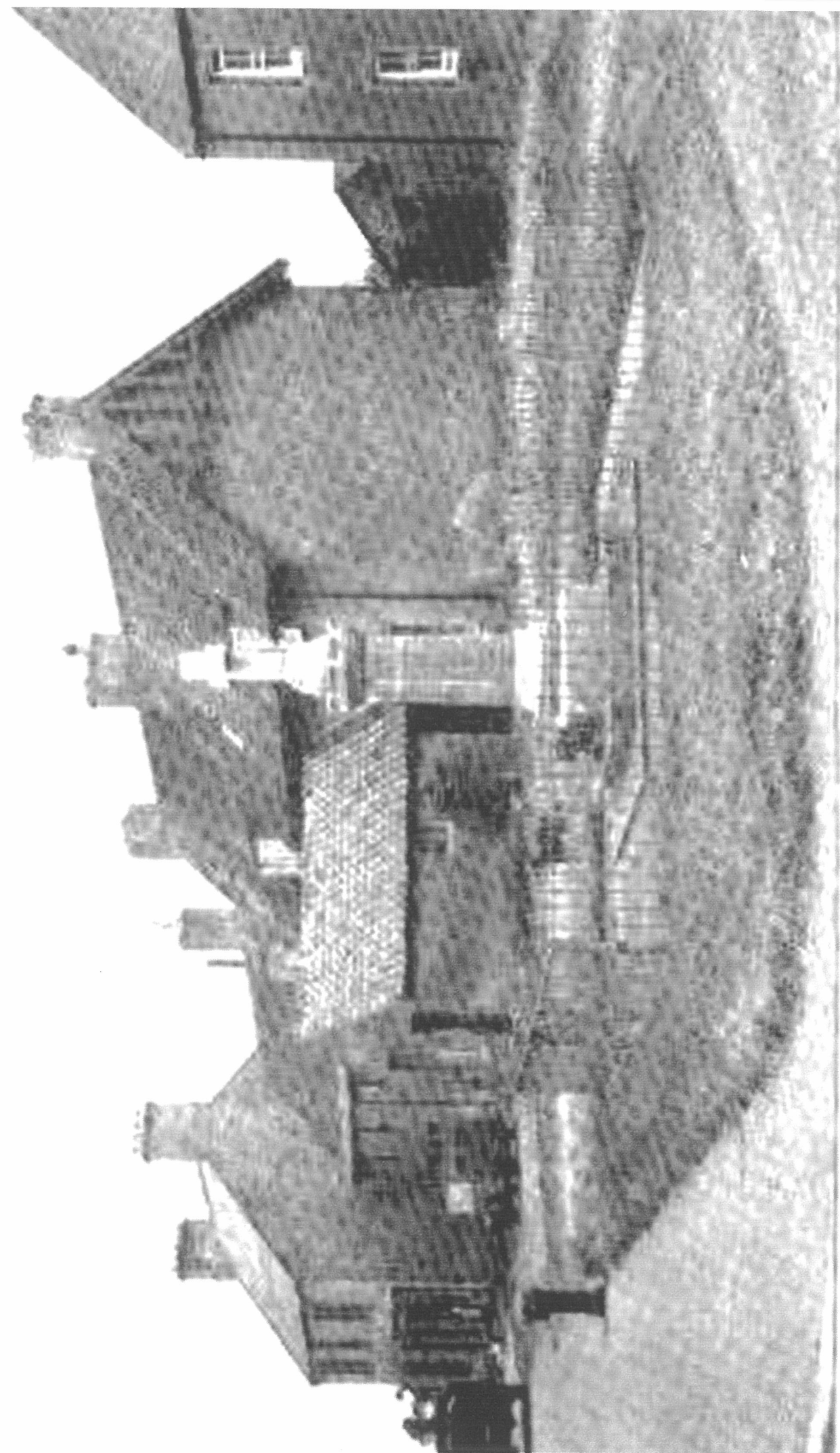


June 1920

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