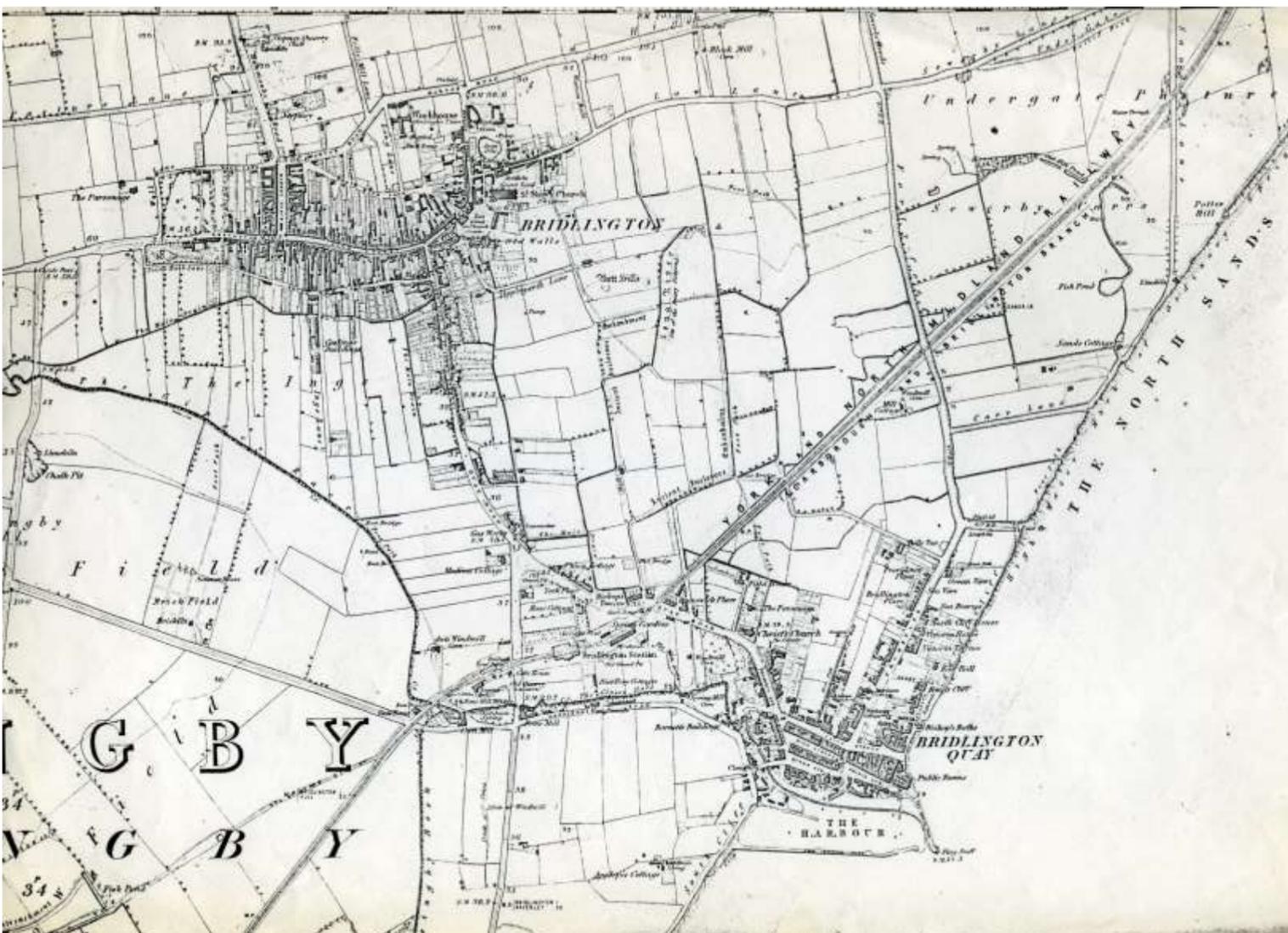


## Burlington and Key

Until the late nineteenth century, Bridlington as we know it was two distinct settlements: Old Town and Quay. Old Town was known as Burlington and centred around High Street. In the late seventeenth century this was where solicitors, merchants and other **professional people lived. Quay or 'Key' was based around the present harbour where** boats were moored, loaded and put to sea. It was mainly sailors and working people that lived here.

During the seventeenth century, Quay prospered on a lively trade in apples, coal, corn, salt, malt and timber, while all around Bridlington was agricultural land, farmed by land owners and their tenants. Those who were not directly involved in farming either processed the farm produce, or provided goods and services to support it. Maritime trade made Bridlington merchants such as Robert Greame rich, but the Greames were also steadily investing in land, which would eventually see them become lords of the manor.



Detail from an Ordnance Survey map c. 1850 showing the two settlements of Quay and Old Town, © Bayle Museum, Bridlington Old Town.

## The Maltsters

As Bridlington was surrounded by farmland on one side and the sea on the other, a natural trade grew up in the production and export of malt. Malting is the first process in the production of beer: grains of barley are soaked in large vats of water known as steeps and then spread out across the malthouse floor. The grains soon germinate and sprout roots and inside the grain the starch breaks down to produce a sugar called maltose. It is this that forms the essential ingredient and at this stage the sprouting grains of barley are heated in a kiln to stop them germinating further.

Maltsters were people who made malt and in seventeenth-century Bridlington, there were many of them because it was so profitable: this was the age when it was common to have beer for breakfast! Malt kilns were crammed into yards off High Street and in any available space down in Quay, but it could be a very dangerous occupation. Most buildings were timber framed and thatched with straw and serious fires were a frequent event. So much so that the Manor Court of Bridlington in 1690 created a byelaw which stated:

*no person shall smoke any tobacco within any street, barn, stable, outhouse where any corn or straw is upon any house's side or stack within this manor*



Late eighteenth-century view of Quay from the south west, note the buildings, houses and ships all crowded together, © Sewerby Hall collection.

## The Early Greames

The Greame family connection with Sewerby begins in the sixteenth century; parish registers show that Greames were being baptised, married and buried from the 1560s onwards. In 1601, John Greame's distant ancestor, William, bought land in Sewerby which was originally owned by Bridlington Priory before the Dissolution. He also bought land in Etherdwick, near Aldbrough to increase his holding. William's sons were also active in the area; Robert was a merchant in Hull and John lived at Flamborough but owned land elsewhere. In 1662 their brother Arthur was a tax collector at Quay where the cargo handled had a tax levied on it known as primage; of the primage Arthur collected, he was granted 3/4 of an old penny for every pound.

It was William's grandson Robert who changed the Greame family prospects from yeomen farmers to landed gentry. Robert (1629-1708) shipped malt to Whitby and Sunderland, lived in a house in High Street and ensured that his two surviving children made good marriage matches. His daughter Anne married Timothy Rickaby and later Henry Woolfe; both men came from successful merchant mariner families. Robert and his father John became agents for Lady Boocock who had considerable property holdings in town: after Dr Boocock died, she remarried into the Hustler family - another wealthy merchant family. It was this connection which enabled Robert to buy the manor of West Hatfield in Holderness from Sir William Hustler in 1694. For a while Robert also acted as steward for the Strickland estate at Boynton and in 1668 was appointed tax collector for this area, which was known as the wapentake (a division of the county) of Dickering. He continued to buy houses and land in Bridlington and the surrounding area and when he died in 1708 he left his son John considerable wealth in property, land and connections with the most influential merchant and landed families in East Yorkshire.



Early nineteenth-century view of Quay by Rev. O.W. Kilvington,  
© Sewerby Hall collection.

## A Good Catch

**A good marriage was essential for promoting the family's wealth and social standing. In 1693** Robert Greame arranged the marriage settlement for the wedding of his son John and Grace Kitchingman with her father Thomas. The Kitchingmans were the most important merchant family in Leeds, he was mayor of the city twice, owned a colliery, and was a wool merchant with trade links everywhere. Now the Greames were linked to some of the most powerful trade magnates in the North. Grace brought a dowry of £1200 with £100 for furniture but unfortunately she died in 1698 and there were no surviving children. The following year John married again, this time to Mary Taylor, the heiress of Thomas Taylor of Towthorpe who brought yet more wealth and land to the Greames.



The York Gold Cup,  
© Fairfax House, York.

In 1701, John and Mary Greame began renting the old manor house at Sewerby from the Carliell family. When his father died in 1708, John inherited enough wealth to pursue some of his favourite interests. Horseracing - the **'sport of kings' turned professional during the** reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714) and the system changed from match racing to races of several horses on which spectators betted. The growing popularity of horseracing saw more and more courses established and the competition to attract the best horses with big prizes became intense. In 1713 John **Greame's horse *Champion* won the Gold Cup at York, even beating the queen's horse.** This enabled Greame to rub shoulders with the cream of society and it may have inspired him to buy Sewerby House to display his new status.

The contract to buy Sewerby House, various lands, crofts, tofts and orchards for £900 was drawn up between John Greame and Elizabeth Carliell and her son Henry on 13th November 1713. Soon after this, the old manor house was pulled down and a fashionable early Georgian villa built in its place. There were 56 windows in the original house which created a huge bill of £2 and 18 shillings due to the glass tax - more than any other house in Sewerby and Marton. This annual tax was introduced in 1696 and aimed at the owners of large houses with more than 10 windows; it was therefore a status symbol to pay it. It was because of the glass tax that we see on some Georgian buildings windows bricked up and painted with an imitation window.

## Masters of Change



*The Greames c. 1783 by Henry Singleton,  
Private collection.*

John Greame I died in 1746 and was succeeded by his son John who married Alicia Maria Spencer of Cannon Hall near Barnsley. They did not do any alterations to the house except **buy fashionable furnishings. John and 'Almary' did not have any children; the house and estate was bequeathed to John II's nephew also called John. The painting above shows John Greame III with his first wife Sarah Yarburgh and in the distance is her family's home of Heslington Hall.** They married in 1782 and had two children together: Alicia Maria and **Yarburgh. Unfortunately Sarah Yarburgh died shortly after Yarburgh's birth in 1785. In 1787,** John Greame III married Ann Elizabeth Broadley, daughter of Isaac Broadley of Brantingham who brought up the children as though they were her own.

Once living at Sewerby House, John and Ann presided over an expansive programme of change: they made alterations to the house and to local agricultural practices which changed farming forever. They also continually acquired land surrounding the house so that the landscape park could be developed.

This is a detail from a portrait by Henry Singleton painted around 1783 which represents them at ease and fashionably set in country house parkland. It is reminiscent of similar compositions painted by Thomas Gainsborough.

## The End of the Open Field System

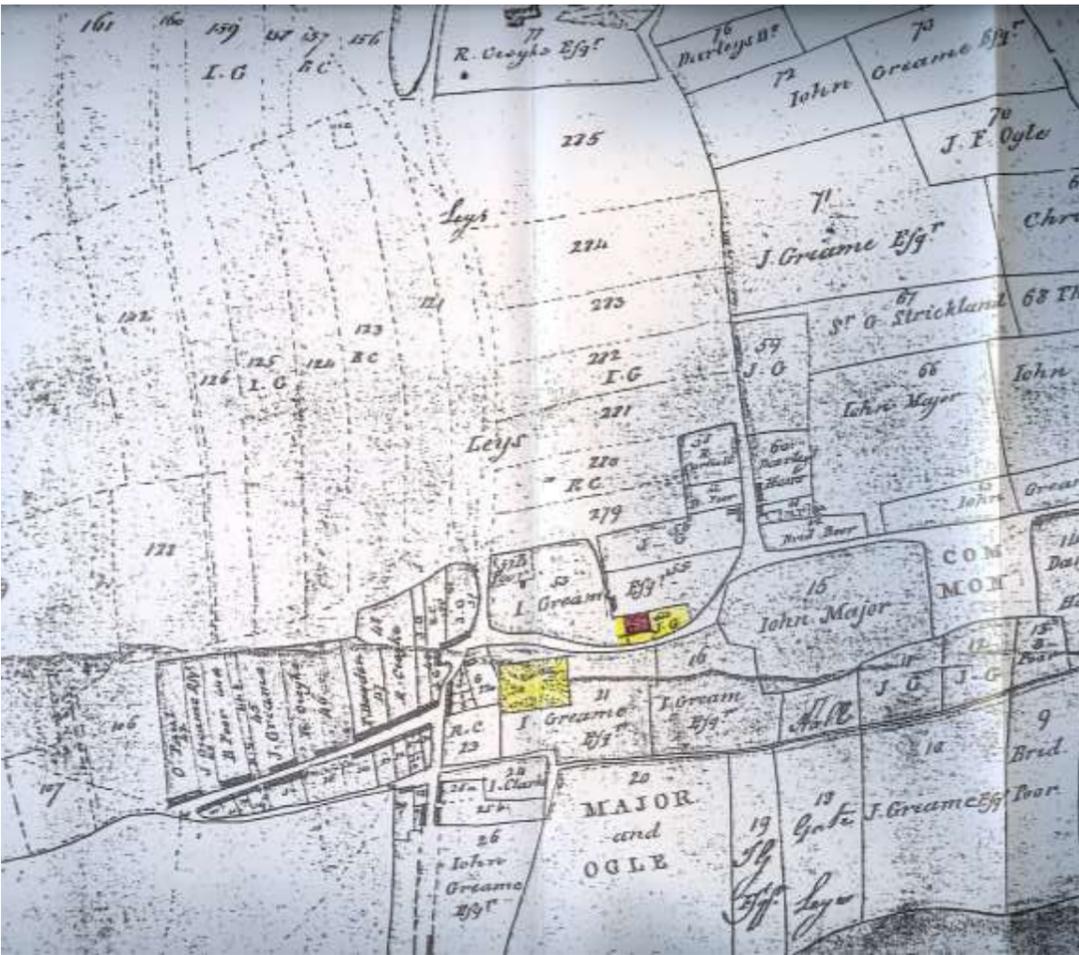
The old method of farming land and growing crops was to cultivate small strips of land in vast open meadows. This was known as the open field system as the strips were not hedged, just separated from the neighbouring strip by a thin ridge of grass known as a balk. The strips of crops could be owned by several different people and any one landowner might own cultivated land in strips scattered across a wide area. From the seven-

teenth century this method of farming began to be considered restrictive, inefficient and in need **of 'improvement'; at the very least it demanded total cooperation between the owners** of neighbouring strips. Yet the old system meant that good land was shared out and not owned by one person and there were common grazing rights on the undivided pastures **for the villagers' beasts.**

The new way of farming came in with enclosure - the practice of consolidating a **landowner's holdings in one compact area, rather than in small strips here and there.** This larger holding of land in one place could then be fenced off or hedged. To make enclosure happen required delicate negotiations with the owners of the neighbouring strips to either sell or swap them for strips next to their other holdings; if there were a good number of landowners each wishing to do the same, it could be tricky. More often than not, enclosure was brought about by the biggest landowner pressing for an Act of Parliament to enforce it and Sewerby-cum-Marton received their Act of Enclosure in 1802.

The enclosure was performed by three men in most cases who were called commissioners. These were men experienced in land management and surveying who had completed several enclosures already. The system was open to abuse as the biggest landowner could hand pick the commissioners and charges of bias were frequently heard. The commissioners: Isaac Leatham, John Hall and John Dickenson measured the strips of land by means of measuring chains and totalled up the holding for each landowner, then the common ground was proportionately divided and the new total land holding was designated in the Award - a legally binding document. Sewerby-cum-**Marton's award** came in 1811 and changed the look of the landscape.

## Enclosure



Pre-enclosure plan of Sewerby-cum-Marton by S. Dickenson, 1802,  
© Hull University Archives.



Post enclosure plan of Sewerby-cum-Marton by S. Dickenson, 1802,  
© Hull University Archives.

This is Sewerby's pre enclosure survey of 1802 drawn up by Samuel Dickenson. In addition to Greame's strips scattered all over the village, we can see how small the garden (shaded yellow) is around the house (shaded red). Also note how many different people own land near to the house. Moreover, look at how the main street passes right in front of the house before sweeping north to Marton. Greame relocated the main street much further west on the track marked 'Leys'. This is now Church Lane.

In the post-enclosure drawing, we can see how the holdings have been re-organised but there remain a number of fields owned by other people very close to Greame's house. If John Greame III was to proceed with his grand plan, then there would have to be changes. Greame wanted a fashionable landscape park around his house like his friends' estates; he imagined his house, which he intended to extend, set in rolling parkland and screened from his neighbours by trees. As the Greames owned the land immediately north of the house as far as Ralph Creyke's boundary at Marton, this was developed first. He then set out to buy up the land owned by the others; he paid John Major £3560 for land in 1804 and in 1811, he was able to acquire the land owned by Reverend Ogle from his widow, which included the site of the current cricket pitch. Once Greame owned all the land, his sweeping changes for the formal garden and park could take shape.

## Changing World

High Victorian industry brought statutory holidays and time off from work unheard of **before the Factory Age. The 'weekend' which began at noon on Saturday saw the rise of** organised team sports. The first international cricket match was played in 1868 between British players and an Australian side entirely composed of Aborigines. The Football League was founded in 1888, and soon generated its own star system, which included figures such as Arthur Wharton, Britain's first black professional footballer, who kept goal for Preston North End and Rotherham. Large numbers of Britons learned to swim which was a rare skill before the mid-nineteenth century.

**The expanding population within the cities gave rise to concern for the masses' apparent** lawlessness and ungodliness. There was a surge in church building which characterised the nineteenth century. Patrons like Yarburgh Greame here at Sewerby commissioned one of the most well-known architects of the day to design his village church St John the Evangelist. Sir Gilbert Scott designed St Pancras station, London and the Albert Memorial commissioned by Queen Victoria in memory of her husband Prince Albert as well as many churches.

Queen Victoria, whose reign had presided over the expansion of Empire and the economy for 63 years came to an end 22nd January 1901. She was succeeded by her son, Edward VII who reigned until his death in 1910. Growing tensions in Europe resulted in the Great War breaking out across Europe in 1914. The war caused the disintegration of four empires: the Austro-Hungarian, German, Ottoman and Russian. Germany lost its overseas empire and states such as Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Yugoslavia gained independence. The cost of fighting the war was an instigator in the break up of the British Empire. World War I did indeed change everything, not least bring about social change at home.

## Lloyd-Greame Philanthropy

When Yarburgh died in 1856, his estates passed to his sister Alicia Maria. She was married to **George Lloyd of Stockton Hall in York, although for some time prior to Yarburgh's death** they had been living at Fort Hall in Bridlington. When she died in 1867 Sewerby passed to her younger son Rev. Yarburgh Gamaliel Lloyd-Greame, the vicar of Dunston, Lincolnshire. When he moved to Sewerby to take up his new position, he became a typical Victorian benevolent landowner interested in all aspects of social and moral welfare in the Quay and surrounding area. During his time here he left his mark in the area by building a vicarage in 1865 (now Sewerby Grange) and a reading room in the village in 1880.

In Bridlington he donated £6000 for the building of Holy Trinity Church situated on the Promenade. The foundation stone was laid by him in March 1870 and on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 1871 the church was consecrated by the Archbishop of York. Afterwards there was a luncheon in the Alexandra Hotel presided over by Rev. Lloyd-Greame, at which nearly the whole of the clergy and gentry of the town were present. Earlier that same year there had been a Great Storm and six local lifeboat men were killed, many other seamen lost and thirty vessels wrecked. As a result of this Rev. Lloyd-Greame offered to pay for a new lifeboat. His daughter chose the name *Seagull* for the boat and the naming ceremony was held in front of Sewerby House.

**Philanthropy was an integral part of the family, and in 1868 Miss Alicia Lloyd (Yarburgh's sister) donated £1200 to found The Lloyd Hospital.** It originally opened as a dispensary in a rented house, but by 1876 a new hospital with fifteen beds was opened. It was designed by Smith and Broderick of Hull in the Gothic style, made from red brick with stone dressings. Her brother became the first Chairman of Subscribers and it was his responsibility to raise money through donations and public subscriptions.



A view of the Lloyd Hospital from an early twentieth-century tourism guidebook,  
© Sewerby Hall collection.

## Name Change

Generations of the Greame family were given the same names. Over and over again we see the same names appearing in the old documents. This was a tradition rather than a lack of imagination on the part of the parents. When the third John Greame married Sarah Yarburgh in 1783 they had two children, a girl named after Aunt Alicia Maria and a boy **called Yarburgh. When Yarburgh Greame inherited his mother's estates around Heslington Hall in 1852 he changed his surname to Yarburgh, and so became known by the unusual name of Yarburgh Yarburgh.**

When Yarburgh Yarburgh died in 1856 his estates passed to his sister Alicia Maria. She had married George Lloyd of Stockton Hall, a descendant of a Leeds and Manchester woollen merchant called Gamaliel Lloyd. When Mrs Lloyd died in 1867 she was a widow. Under the **terms of her husband's will, Heslington Hall passed to her eldest son John George, who changed his surname to Yarburgh, and Sewerby House passed to her younger son Yarburgh Gamaliel who had to change his name to Lloyd-Greame as directed by his uncle's will.** Yarburgh Gamaliel Lloyd had to have permission from parliament to add the surname Greame to his name and to use the Greame family coat of arms. The Royal Licence was granted and dated 12th July 1867; from this point the owners of Sewerby House were known as the Lloyd-Greames.



*Greame armorials from the family pedigree, 1867, Private collection.*

## Philanthropic Acts

The building programme that Yarburgh undertook did not stop at improvements to the house and grounds. In addition to the church which opened in 1848, he also created a school for the children of Sewerby residents in the grounds of his estate. The school opened in 1849, over thirty years before education became compulsory. Not only did he build the school, but he also furnished and maintained it until the Education Act came into force. The Gothic style school was designed by the same person who created the Norman style church. The architect Gilbert Scott (later to become Sir Gilbert Scott when he was knighted in 1872) was renowned for his Gothic designs, so the school project must have been an enjoyable one for him. While designing the church, Yarburgh had interfered so **much that in Scott's memoirs he remarked**

*Sewerby near Bridlington where troubles were encountered owing to the fads of my employer*

Yarburgh was active in public life and served as High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1848. He was obviously a forward thinking man who cared about the people around him. After his death in 1856 when the estate passed to his sister and her husband, George Lloyd, the family continued to follow his philanthropic example with charitable acts of their own.



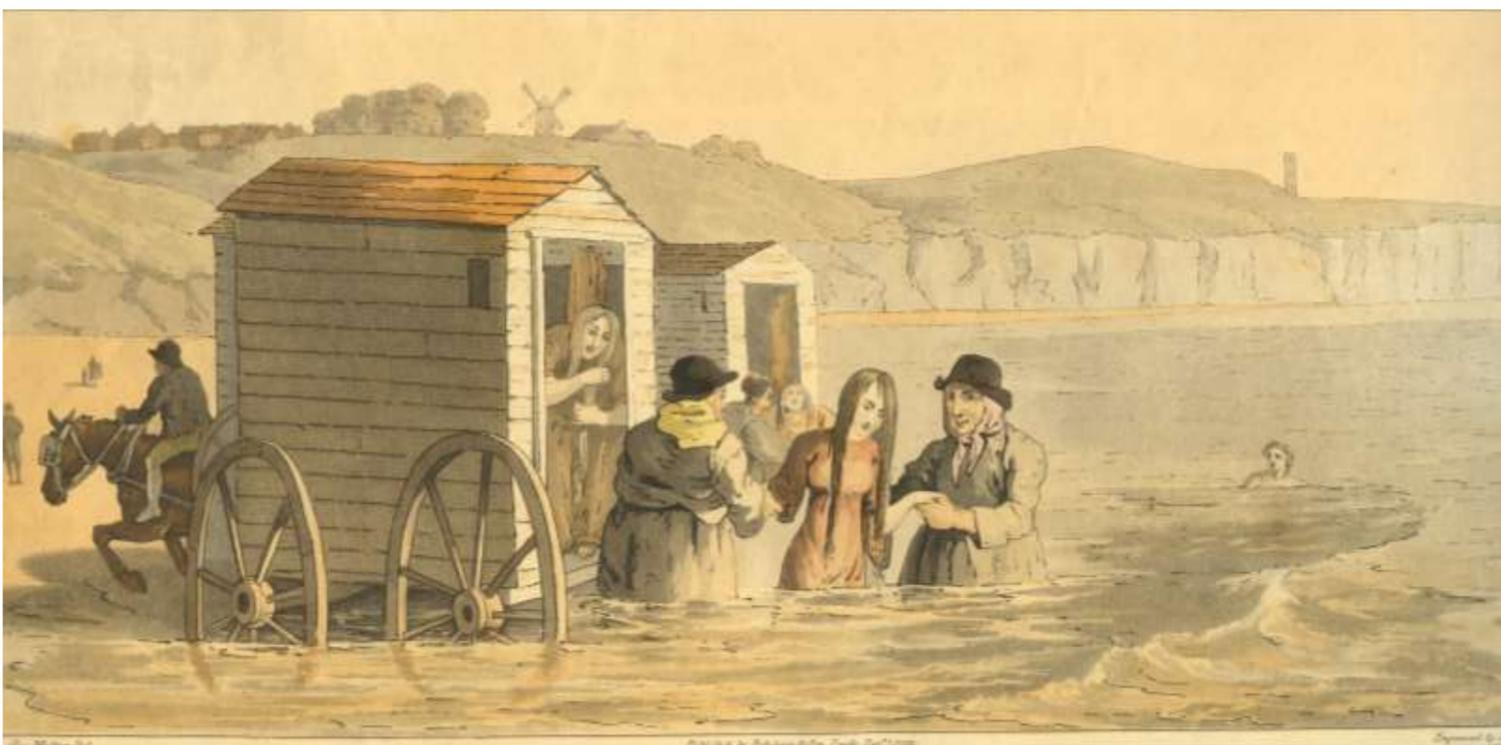
Watercolour painting of Sewerby village school by Rev. O.W. Kilvington, 1849,  
© Sewerby Hall collection.

## The Rise of the Sea-side Resort

As Bridlington went through a decline in its fortunes during the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Scarborough was experiencing a boom in visitors to take waters at the Spa. Health was a major preoccupation of the Georgian middle and upper classes, and in order to take **advantage of this it wasn't long before Bridlington discovered its own 'Spaw' in the early 1730s. When Scarborough's spa was destroyed by a cliff-face collapse in 1737, Bridlington along with other northern coastal towns, tried to take over. Scarborough did not waste time and by 1739 new buildings had been erected and Bridlington's chance had gone. Although people were not attracted to 'take the waters' in Bridlington, they did come to bathe in the sea. Sea bathing was recommended as a remedy for many ills, and as a craze it really took off in the 1750s. Sea bathing was soon recommended by doctors, and Bridlington took advantage of this fashion and began the process of changing from a port and harbour into a seaside resort.**

As the Quay changed from a busy port into a seaside retreat, the visitors tended to come from local landed families or members of the merchant or professional communities. The main enjoyment of a stay at Bridlington came from promenading on the pier, taking walks in the countryside and observing fellow visitors. The Quay was gradually becoming fashionable and respectable, and in 1805 the first official guide was produced, including a rhyme that sums up how Bridlington wanted to be seen.

*In rich assemblage here delight  
The convalescent and polite.  
Peers, knights and squires and dames repair  
To bathe, and drink and take the air.  
Such situation on the coast  
Such air, such water none can boast.*



Early nineteenth-century bathing machine at north sands,  
© Sewerby Hall collection.

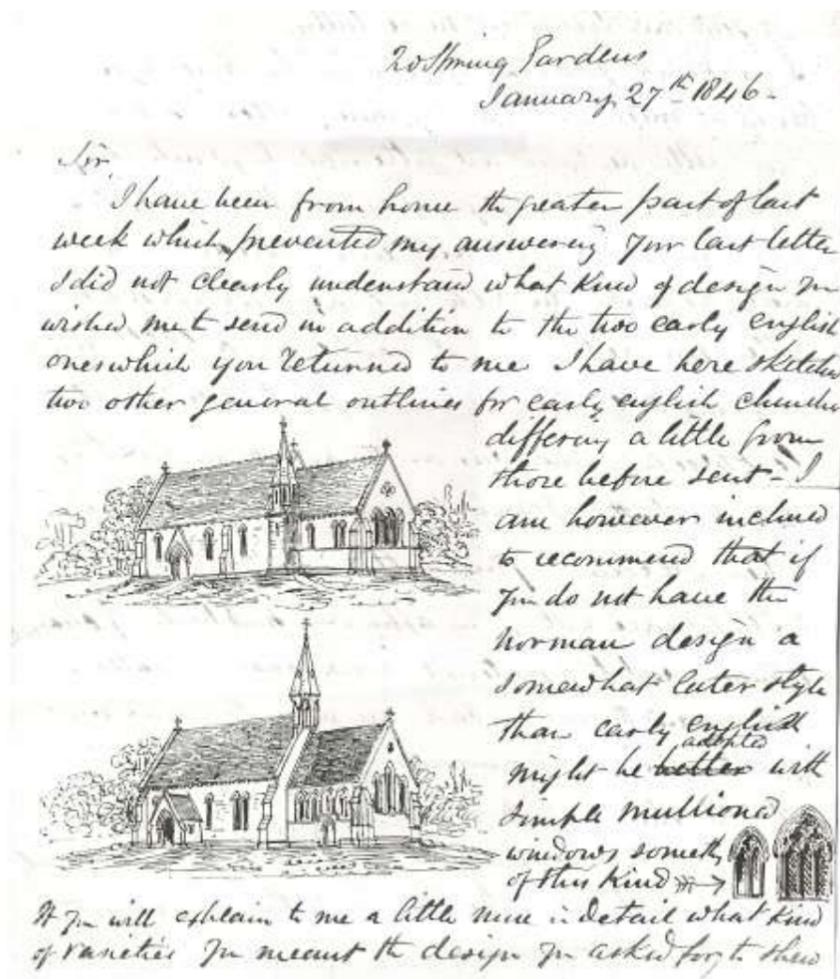
## The Victorian Changes to the House

Sewerby House saw very few changes during Rev. Lloyd-Greame's occupation. When he died in 1890 the estate passed to his son, Colonel Yarburgh George Lloyd-Greame, who immediately set about 'improving' the house and grounds. The Colonel formed a new dining room (now the Swinton Room) from the old library and adjoining passageway, and added the rococo style ceiling. The old dining room became a library and billiard room, an essential addition to any fashionable gentleman's home. This room is now a secure storeroom housing the Sewerby collection. The drawing room (Halifax room) and the Orangery were refurbished and he added a new laundry and toilet facilities. In the grounds he removed an octagonal conservatory and replaced it with a small temple. Only the portico front of this structure still remains. Documents show that in 1888 his father received an estimate to repair the conservatory, but the cost of £324 was obviously too high so the work was never done. Colonel Lloyd-Greame must also have considered this too much of an expense when he inherited the estate, and so it was removed.



Colonel Lloyd-Greame's dining room (now the Swinton Room) hung with family portraits, c. 1900,  
© Sewerby Hall collection.

## Yarburgh Greame's Church



Yarburgh's plans didn't rest within the house and garden: in 1845 he approached the Gothic Revival architect George Gilbert Scott with a view to him designing a church at the western edge of the park for himself and Sewerby residents. The correspondence between architect and patron was brisk - largely Scott submitting sketches of designs and Yarburgh rejecting them. In 1846, Scott was forced to admit that he

*did not clearly understand what kind of design you wished me to send in addition to the two Early English ones which you returned.*

Original letter from G.G.Scott to Yarburgh Greame, January 1846,  
© Hull University Archives.

Eventually, and not before sacking one clerk of works and several disputes with the builder **over the bill, Yarburgh's church was dedicated to St John the Evangelist and consecrated for church services in 1848.** It is a delightful little church which belies the small plot allotted it by Yarburgh next to the park. One of the ways Scott managed this was to build the tower in the middle of south façade rather than the traditional west end position. Yarburgh was very pleased with the final outcome; in his portrait painted in 1847, the church is clearly visible in the background.

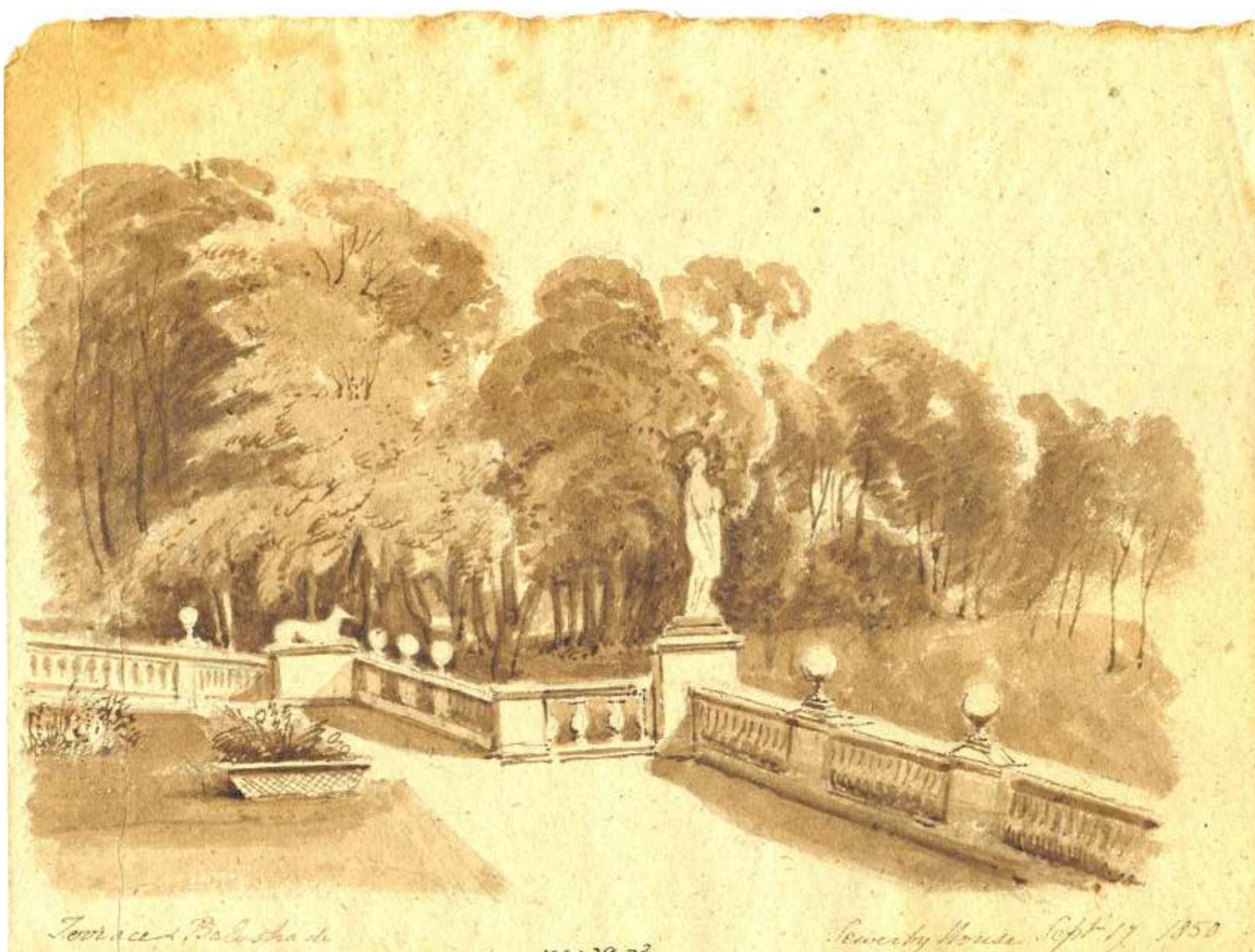


Watercolour painting of St John the Evangelist at Sewerby by Rev. O.W. Kilvington, 1849,  
© Sewerby Hall collection.

## Yarburgh Greame's Garden

Yarburgh made significant changes to the outside of the house too. Building on the work done by his father, he perfected the landscape park with more tree plantations. He laid out the formal garden and built the garden terraces and balustrade ornamented by statues of **the Greek goddesses Flora and Ceres**. Yarburgh's new gateway and the lodges flanking it, the clock tower over the stables and the archway were all designed by the Hull architect Francis Lockwood in the Greek Revival style before he moved to Bradford in 1849.

Yarburgh's nephew Gamaliel Lloyd inherited Sewerby House after the death of his mother in 1867. It was during his time that Sewerby's famous Monkey Puzzle trees were planted by the head gardener, Robert Alexander Anderson in 1869. There were originally seven Monkey Puzzle or Arucaria trees which were the first to be successfully grown further north of Kew Gardens since their arrival in Britain from Chile in 1796.



Watercolour sketch of the balustrade and terrace by O.W.Kilvington, 1850,  
© Sewerby Hall collection.

## All Change!

The arrival of the railway changed everything; suddenly people and cargo could be transported quickly and efficiently from one end of the country to the other. George Hudson the Railway King was chairman of the York and North Midland Railway Company whose plan it was to develop lines linking York and Hull with the seaside resort of Bridlington. The Hull to Bridlington line opened on 6th October 1846 with a great ceremonial procession from the Market Place to the new station, which was situated half way between Quay and Old Town so neither had the advantage over the other!

Negotiations for a branch to link the York to Scarborough line with Bridlington were **begun by Hudson's company in 1843. A plan of the proposed railway track was drawn up superimposed on the local field plan which was numbered and labelled with the landowners' names. As the railway line headed north from Bridlington station to Marton and north to Filey, it had to pass through land owned by Yarburgh Greame; in 1843 this was valued at £140 per acre. The negotiations were lengthy as the final agreement was drawn up 31st December 1846, in which the York and North Midland Railway Company agreed to pay Yarburgh £160 per acre for twenty acres and a handsome £200 per acre for just under ten more.**

**Memorandum of an Agreement**, made the  
*31<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>* day of *Dec<sup>r</sup>* One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty *6*  
BETWEEN  
*Yarburgh Greame of Swerby*  
*House in the County of York Esquire*  
of the one part, and  
*George Hudson of the City of York*  
*Esquire*  
one of the Directors of the York and North Midland Railway Company, for and on  
behalf of the same Company, of the other part.

THE SAID *Yarburgh Greame*

\_\_\_\_\_ agree to sell, and the said  
Company agree to purchase at or for the price ~~and~~ *following namely at the*  
*rate of One hundred and Sixty pounds per acre*  
*for two thirds of the land hereby agreed to be purchased*  
*and at the rate of Two hundred pounds per acre for*  
*one third thereof*  
ALL those piece<sup>s</sup> or parcel<sup>s</sup> of Land as now staked or set out for the purposes of the Branch  
Railway hereinafter mentioned, containing *Twenty nine* acre<sup>s</sup> *one* \_\_\_\_\_ rod - and  
*Thirty seven* perch<sup>s</sup>, ~~in the township of Swerby~~

\_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ now  
standing and being thereon, situate in the Township of *Swerby* in the  
County of York, and in the occupation of *George Simpson and others*

\_\_\_\_\_ which said piece<sup>s</sup> or parcel<sup>s</sup> of Land, Hereditaments, and Premises above described, are part and  
parcel of certain Lands and Hereditaments numbered *123, 125, 127, 131, 130,*  
*134, 173, 170, 189, 139, 191, 194, 199, 207, 210,*  
*209, 213, and 215<sup>a</sup>* \_\_\_\_\_ and delineated and described in or  
in the Plans and Books of Reference thereto, relating to the said Branch Railway, deposited by the said  
Company in the Offices of the respective Clerks of the Peace for the North and East Ridings of the  
County of York, which are the same Plans and Books of Reference as are referred to by an Act of  
Parliament passed in the ninth year of the reign of her present Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An  
Act for enabling the York and North Midland Railway Company to make a Branch Railway from the  
"line of the York and Scarborough Railway, in the township of Seamer to Bridlington."

## All Change Again!

The arrival of the railway made transport available to everyone; it was no longer restricted **to the privileged classes. Bridlington's new line from Hull and the branch connection to the York-Scarborough line made the East Coast accessible to a whole new audience; in 1860, 57% of the visitors to Bridlington came from the West Riding of Yorkshire.** However, **Bridlington's reputation for being a genteel watering place was under threat from the 'swarms of working people' and 'rough excursionists' pouring out of railway carriages and onto the sands.** While residents noted that the 'trippers' should not be stopped altogether, **the town's prosperity depended on the more affluent visitors who stayed for the entire season.** The quotations from the *Bridlington Free Press* of July 1874 and the *Bridlington and Quay Gazette* of 1889 show that this was considered an ongoing problem

*the shameless conduct of trippers ... who too frequently use language of a most deliberately disgusting nature, and commit acts which it would be a libel to say would disgrace a beast*

*ordinary visitors should have a secluded place where they could get away from the rough excursionists.*



*Bridlington sands packed with visitors, c. 1900,  
© Sewerby Hall collection.*