

Greendikes

A tale of forgery and greed

by Brian Pears BSc

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Preface

Most families can boast a legend or two about their ancestors. Almost invariably these will have been passed on exclusively by word of mouth and will have suffered exaggeration, embellishment, speculation masquerading as fact, omission and distortion at almost every telling. As the generations pass and branches of the family lose touch we find different versions of the same story; often very different. Nonetheless most family legends contain just a grain a truth; the problem for the family historian is to find that grain - to sort the wheat from the chaff.

This is the story behind one family legend. It differs from most in that it contains far more than a grain of truth and, moreover, despite the fact that the events outlined in the legend occurred early in the nineteenth century, they are still causing trouble to this day.

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Greendikes

Superscript numbers, e.g. Matthew¹¹ Pears, refer to the numbers shown on the charts (family trees) in Appendices 5, 6 and 7 on pages 85-87.

Part 1 — The Background

In many branches of the Pears family just the mention of that place at a family gathering is enough to establish the exclusive topic of conversation. Younger members of the family, new spouses, even friends and neighbours are soon made aware of a terrible injustice inflicted long ago on the Pears family. Just what they are told depends on the teller. They may be told that the family were once landowners in Allendale but were cheated by unscrupulous individuals and lost the property. They may be told of a forged will or of a mother who put the family's money in Chancery for 100 years so that her drunkard sons could not squander it on drink. Or they may simply be told that the Greendikes really belongs to the Pears family but the papers which would prove the claim have disappeared.

My own particular branch of the family were the exception; we had never heard of Greendikes. We did have our own tale of injustice which, with a stretch of the imagine, just might have the same origins - it certainly involves some of the same characters - but more of that later.

Greendikes first came to my attention when I was researching the ancestors of my paternal grandfather, Nicholas¹¹⁵ Pears (1895-1955). His parents, Thomas⁸⁸ Pears and Margaret⁸⁹ Philipson, and most of their forebears for several generations had all lived in a fairly small area on the Northumberland / Durham border bounded by Allendale, Allenheads, Rookhope and Blanchland. Compared to my mother's family and that of my paternal grandmother, this was easy. From the Allendale Church Registers I found that Greendikes was the home of my ancestors, Jane¹⁰ Pears and her parents, Matthew¹¹ and Esther¹². Some of Jane's brothers and sisters were born there, and it was there that Matthew and Esther died.

There was nothing to distinguish Greendikes from the many other family homes occupied at various times by the Pears and Philipson families, although its name did conjure up some delightful images, as indeed did Blossom Hill at Allenheads - but what about Dirt Pot! Census returns showed me that there were members of the Pears family - two of Jane's nephews, William⁵⁴ and Thomas⁵⁷ - at Greendikes as late 1871. A piece of information worthy of note, but not especially important or interesting. And then I found the poem!

This was in the possession of an elderly descendant of Matthew³³ and Margaret³⁴ Pears who lived at Boldon Colliery. It was, this gentleman explained, in a rather tattered condition because his father had it sewn into his great-coat throughout his military service in World War 1. At this stage it may be helpful for the reader to refer to the poem which is reproduced in

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Appendix 1 on page 36. It will probably make as little sense to the reader as it did to me on first reading, so I will summarize it briefly here.

Esther¹² Pears inherited part of the Greendikes from Esther Madgen. When her husband, Matthew¹¹, died Esther¹² and her son, Joseph²⁰, forged a will which ensured that her eldest son, Matthew¹⁸, did not get the property. Another of Matthew¹¹ and Esther's¹² sons, Henry¹⁵ Pears bought the farm (presumably from his brothers who were named in the forged will). Matthew¹⁸ clearly expected to inherit Greendikes and made a fuss, but the family resisted his efforts even to the extent of having him jailed. Fate then intervened and ended the family's problems - Matthew¹⁸ died in a snowstorm while walking across the fells.

The scene then shifts to Beldon Shields near Blanchland some years later. Joseph²⁰ Pears made a deathbed confession about the forged will to his wife, Betty²¹. Rumours spread and the poet was sent off to see Betty along with one of the Pears brothers. The three witnesses to the will were then contacted and they confirmed that the document was witnessed after Matthew's death. The poet and Matthew³³ Pears, the eldest surviving son of the supposedly cheated Matthew¹⁸, then went to Greendikes and tried to gain entry, but they failed and instead went to the fell-house and spent the night there. Next morning Matthew³³ cut down a tree and turned over three sods - perhaps symbolically laying claim to the land. This worried Henry's widow, (Mary¹⁴), and others with a financial interest in the property.

A lawyer, Abraham Dawson, then became involved. He travelled to York to see the will and then went on to London to consult counsel. He met with Matthew³³ and his brother William³⁵ at Allendale and planned their next move. At the time that the poem was written - January 1845 - the case was apparently about to come to court despite pressure from those who stood to lose money if the will was proved false.

To learn of such dramatic events surrounding ones own ancestors is fascinating; a welcome change from the usual diet of births, deaths and marriages. Of course, I had to go to Greendikes. The 1:50,000 Scale Ordnance Survey maps showed two buildings labelled "*Green Dike*" about two miles south of Allendale Town at NZ827527, larger scale versions showed "*Low Green Dike*" and "*High Green Dike*". This had to be the place. (I will use the name Greendikes in the following pages.)

I went there at the earliest opportunity but it was rather disappointing. The scenery was marvellous, but from the road it appeared that most of the buildings including three farmhouses were derelict and had obviously not

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been used for a considerable time. In fact little was left of "*High Green Dike*" and another had lost its roof and front.

The farmer at nearby Hollin Close told me that the Greendikes was now part of his farm and the buildings there were just used for storage. Unfortunately I made the mistake of telling him my name, and the atmosphere changed. Although he remained polite I got the distinct impression that complete strangers called Pears were far less welcome than the rest of humanity.

I later found the reason. In the early 1930's a member of the Pears family had tried to make some sort of claim against the farm. The story I was told was that he approached a lawyer who, after making enquiries, agreed to pursue the claim in exchange for a percentage of any money acquired. This was not acceptable to the Pears in question and he abandoned the whole idea. I do not believe this story but, whatever the truth, the events were obviously disquieting to the owners of Greendikes, even though their lawyer assured them that they had nothing whatsoever to worry about.

Some years later, while on holiday at Allendale, I contacted the farmer again and assured him that I had nothing whatsoever to do with the branch of the Pears family which had caused so much trouble to his family. I was allowed to visit the farm again and, to paraphrase the poem: "*At Hollin-house I had my tea, And treated was hospitably, Then to the Greendikes off I went*". In fact the parallels with 1844 were even closer. When Matthew³³ Pears had tea there, the occupants were called Hutchinson - probably relations of Matthew's mother, Rebecca¹⁹. When I had tea there in 1982 the occupants were also called Hutchinson.

I took several photographs of the Greendikes buildings then, again following in Matthew's footsteps, I headed across the fells - it was not south as the poem states but rather, south-west. The first half mile or so was enclosed by dry-stone walls and then came the open fell. The ruins of the tiny fell-house and its surrounding wall lie beside the field wall which separates the open fell from the enclosed area. This is still referred to locally as "*London*" but the modern maps simply designate it "*Sheepfold*". Further across the open fells I found a quarry which the early large-scale maps call "*Pears' Quarry*" although the latest maps show it as "*Quarry (disused)*". It was an extraordinary experience visiting these places which would have been so familiar to my ancestors and around which there had been such controversy. I was determined to try to find out as much as I could about those ancestors and relations.

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Part 2 — The Poem in Detail

I spent a lot of time over several years trying to verify what the poem states and to find more of the background. The following is a verse by verse analysis of the poem based upon my research, with additional thoughts and comments:-

[v.1]

Old *Time*, for ever on the wing,
That will not wait for queen or king,
Discloses wonders every day,
And curious scenes does oft display :
Poets have written in their songs,
“That *time*, at length, suppresses wrongs.”

[v.2]

When Jacob was a while bereav'd
Of children, how his mind was griev'd :
“ Joseph is not, and Simeon now,
And ye will take Benjamin too ?
All these things, as I plainly see,
Are quite injurious to me.”

The poem begins with three verses of what might best be described as poetic ramblings. They seem to have little, if any, relevance to what follows.

[v.3]

But *time*, at length, arriv'd to shew
The good man that it was not so,—
Though a dark cloud did intervene,
Beyond it lay a brighter scene ;
His children were to him restor'd,
And plenty crown'd the patriach's board.

[v.4]

But to proceed on with my tale,—
The *Greendikes* lie in Allendale,
The houses there, and all the lands,
That now are held by various hands,
Were once the property of one,
Who from this stage of life is gone.

The lady referred to is Elizabeth³ Madgen, not Esther, and the only property left to anyone in the will (see Will, page 65) is “*a half part of one tenement... called Greendikes...*”. Other transactions are mentioned: - In 1775 Elizabeth's husband, John⁴, had loaned £200 to Nicholas Watson as a mortgage on several premises. These may well have included *The Hagg* and *The Park* and the rest of *Greendikes*, but these are not named in the will. In 1780, after John⁴ had died, Elizabeth³ recovered the money by passing the mortgage on to Hugh

[v.5]

Old Esther Madgin made her will,
In which she shew'd superior skill ;
Philanthropy, which sway'd her heart,
Its genial influence did impart ;
Her fine estate she did divide,
That for her friends she might provide.

[v.6]

One got the *Hagg*,—a pleasant place,
The *Park* another did solace ;
The *Greendikes*, I declare to you,
She by her will did halve in two,—
The Farbridges one half obtain'd,
While Esther Pears the other gain'd.

Hutchinson and Joseph Wilson. The Farbridges are not mentioned in the will at all, but an 1829 list of Stinted Pasture Holders (see page 53), names J. Farbridge as the owner of a stinted pasture at Greendikes and also Thomas Farbridge as the original (1800 ?) owner.

What Elizabeth's will actually did was to leave: (i) the interest on the £200 to Joseph¹ and Hannah² Maughan for their lives, then the £200 itself was to go to their daughter, Esther¹². (ii) the half part of a tenement called Greendikes to Hannah² and Esther¹² Maughan, and after Hannah's death it was to go to Esther.

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Which half of which tenement? I do not know. A deed of 1802 (see page 68) describes the same half as the “*West End*” of the dwelling house; but unfortunately all three extant buildings lie north - south. So perhaps we should conclude that none of these is the original Greendikes.

The poem describes the beneficiary as Esther¹² Pears, but Esther was not married to Matthew¹¹ when the will was written, nor when Elizabeth³ died. Matthew and Esther married in February 1782, three months after Elizabeth’s death (see Burial and Marriage, page 48) - when Esther could properly be described as an heiress!

We can get some idea of when Matthew¹¹ and Esther¹² moved into Greendikes by looking at the baptism records of their children (see pages 48 to 50). In 1783 they were living at Greendikes; between 1787 and 1790 they were living in Allendale Town; and from 1791 they were at Greendikes again. Perhaps they lived in with Esther’s parents until they found a place of their own. Then, probably when Hannah² died and Esther¹² inherited the place, they returned to Greendikes. When Joseph¹ died, which was probably in 1793 (assuming that the burial record reproduced on page 49 refers to the correct Joseph), they would have received the £200. This was a sizeable sum; perhaps equivalent to about £50,000 today.

On what basis was Matthew¹⁸ the heir of Matthew¹¹? What was his mother’s share? As the law then stood, if a man died and left no will, the eldest son would immediately

inherit all the real estate - i.e. houses and lands - and everything else would be divided between all the next of kin - i.e. the widow and all of the children. This system was called “*primogeniture*” and it was used until 1925. Even when, as here, the property had originally been left to the wife, it passed to the eldest son when her husband died. However unfair it might have been, that was the law. But a will was produced in this case and, as we will see, there was an added complication - a deed with provisions which may have applied in the absence of a will; namely equal shares for all of the children.

[v.7]

Old Matthew Pears died *intestate*,
This, doubtless, was the will of fate;
Now his son Matthew was his heir,
And should have had his mother’s share,
But *disappointment* was his lot,
For the Greendikes he *never* got!

[v.8]

A Will was forged, as you must know,
By Esther Pears and her son Joe;
Who wrote this will?—there lies the rub,—
A certain man did so for grub,
One hundred pounds—they dear were bought,
But who would risk his neck for nought?

Apparently for the sum of £100 “*a certain man*” wrote the will (see Will, page 71) at the instigation of Esther¹² and Joseph²⁰ Pears. Should it not be “*he dear was bought*”

rather than “*they dear were bought*”? In any case it was expensive for a will which had what appears to be a flaw:- the sole executor was Esther¹²

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Pears, and yet the will contains provisions which would come into effect either on Esther's death or six months after her death, when one hopes she would not really be capable of executing anything !

The provisions of the will were as follows:

- (i) Everything to Esther¹² Pears for her life including the responsibility for keeping daughter Hannah²⁵.
- (ii) On Esther's death, the houses and lands were to go equally to sons Joseph²⁰ Pears, John²⁶ Pears and William²⁷ Pears providing they agreed to maintain their sister Hannah. If they refused to do so, the houses and lands were to go equally to sons Matthew¹⁸ and Henry¹⁵ Pears.
- (iii) On Esther's death, half of the stock, household furniture and crops was to go to Joseph²⁰ and the other half to John²⁶ and William²⁷.
- (iv) Six months after Esther's death, £50 each to sons Matthew¹⁸ Pears and Henry¹⁵ Pears, and £10 each to daughters Elizabeth¹⁶ Robson, Jane¹⁰ Brown and Esther²³ Robson.
- (v) The sole executor was to be Esther¹² Pears.

Of what was Matthew¹⁸ deprived? He presumably got his £50; if the deed had been acted upon he would have had an equal share of the farm along with his eight brothers

[v.9]

And thus poor Matthew was depriv'd,
But the delinquents never thriv'd,
For Esther liv'd not long to know
How matters in this world might go ;
Time resteth not, but travels on,
The *male* transgressors too are gone

and sisters. Would a one-ninth share have been worth much more than £50? It is hard to say. The 1802 mortgage (see Deed, page 68) on the property was for £500, and we are told in verse 46 that another mortgage was obtained by Henry¹⁵ for £700. If these reflect the total value of the property, then Matthew's¹⁸ inheritance was quite reasonable. After all, by 1825 Matthew¹⁸ and Henry¹⁵ had already married and left the Greendikes (see Baptisms of Thomas³⁸ and Esther⁴¹, page 51) while the other three sons were still unmarried and were presumably still living at the farm and probably working there too. So, on the face of it, it made sense to leave the farm to the younger sons and to give money to Henry and Matthew and to the married daughters. Matthew¹⁸ was only "*deprived*" if he had reason to expect to be the sole heir - or if he didn't get his £50, and presumably the poet would have mentioned this if it had been the case.

Esther¹² died in 1827, less than two years after Matthew¹¹ -her death even made the Newcastle papers (see Newcastle Courant, page 52) - and by 1845, when the poem the written, we are told that the male transgressors had died too. Who were they? We know of Joseph²⁰, who died in 1844 (see Death Certificate, page 55), and of the unspecified man who wrote

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the will, but were there others? In particular, were any of Matthew's¹¹ other sons involved in the forgery? We are not told, but all except John²⁶ had died by 1845. Matthew¹⁸, who died in 1831 (see Burial, page 53), can, of course, be ruled out, as probably can Henry¹⁵, who died in 1842 (see Death Certificate, page 55), - they were both treated identically in the will - but William²⁷ just might be implicated. However, since William was only 20 years of age when the will was written, he was probably too young to be trusted with such delicate matters. He, incidentally, died in 1841 (see Burial, page 54). Yet the poem does seem to imply that there were more involved than just Esther, Joe and that "*certain man*".

[v.10]

Yet while they liv'd they did not fail,
Upon the banks of Allendale
To sit, or stand, or walk about,
In conversation grave no doubt ;
What was it made them thus unite,
And draw together day and night ?—

[v.11]

Was it the will they thus had made ?
Or were the gentlemen afraid
The one the other might expose ?
No man can tell, for no man knows !
Time has not yet the reason shown,
And till it does 'twill not be known.

More poetic ramblings - almost certainly speculation.

[v.12]

Poor Matthew Pears ! I now relate
Thy hard way through, and tragic fate :
Robb'd of thy birthright, sad ! sad ! sad !
Mother and *Brother*—'twas too bad ;
But *avarice* is a dæmon fell,
That turns this earth oft to a hell.

[v.13]

The *spoilers* on thy fine domain,
Did render all thy efforts vain ;
False might did over right prevail,
And they immur'd thee in a gaol,
And kept thee there until at length
Reduced was thy former strength.

Once again the poet is implying that Matthew¹⁸ alone should have had the property. Did the "*spoilers*", whoever they were, use physical force or just legal measures against Matthew? Why was he put in jail? There may be court records relating to this, but I have not yet located them.

[v.14]

Those who had robb'd thee, liv'd in dread,
Thou labour'd for thy daily bread,
To keep thy family all fair,
From day to day was all thy care ;
Impoverish'd by thy loss of rights,
Thou toiled hard both days and nights.

So he worked hard to keep his family - like everybody else. No one is impoverished by failing to get an inheritance! He was no worse off than before. Of course, he may have

suffered a grave injustice. What was his work? In 1816, when his daughter, Eleanor³⁷ was baptized (see Baptism, page 51), he was a miner - presumably a lead-ore-miner, but I have no documentary evidence after that date. The widow of an elderly family member thought that she had heard he was a postman, but without corroboration we can place little reliance on this.

Matthew¹⁸ died in a severe snow storm while walking across the fells. The Allendale vicar added the comment "*Perished in the Storm, between Derwent and Allendale Town*"

[v.15]

The drama now drew to a close,
Men are exposed to various woes ;
The muse the dismal tale must tell :—
One night, while walking 'cross the fell,
The storm arose—the wind did blow,
Thou lost thy life amongst the snow !

" to the usual details in his burial register, and the event was immortalised by George Dickinson in his "*History of Allendale and Whitfield*" where we learn that the storm was for many years spoken of as "*Matt Pears' storm*" (see excerpt, page 53). Dickinson also tells us that Matthew was lost on February 4th 1831 - eight days after the storm started. Where did he die? Unfortunately we have no precise information. Dickinson describes it as "*on the moors between Hexhamshire and Allendale*" the vicar, as mentioned above, stated "*between Derwent and Allendale Town*". Hexhamshire is a huge area, Hexhamshire Common, which is probably what Dickinson meant, is a large area of open fell immediately to the east and south-east of Allendale. "*Between Hexhamshire and Allendale Town*" is rather meaningless since they are adjacent. Perhaps the term "*Hexhamshire*" had a different connotation in 1831. The vicar's description "*between Derwent and Allendale Town*" is more easily understood. The nearest part of the River Derwent to Allendale Town is its head at the confluence of Beldon Burn and Nookton (or Knucton) Burn at the spectacular Gibraltar Rock just west of Blanchland, quite close to Beldon Shields. If Matthew¹⁸ was walking between Blanchland and Allendale Town he would probably have followed farm tracks to Harewood Shield and then headed out across the fells on a route that would have taken him over Hangman Hill, the Linn Burn beside a waterfall, Westburnhope Moor, Haggerstone Moss near to Stobb Cross, and then onto farm tracks and roads into Allendale Town - a total journey of some nine miles taking perhaps three or four hours in normal conditions. Of course this is only conjecture and does not really help locate where Matthew died, but we just might find a clue on the modern-day 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey maps. There is a "*Mats Causeway*" at NY875577 about 2½ miles north of this route. It is quite an isolated spot and is nowhere near any tracks or footpaths. Does that name indicate the place where Matthew¹⁸ died, just as "*Matt Pears' Storm*" commemorated the cause? Did he set out across the fells during a lull in the storm only to find himself suddenly in white-out conditions? Did Matthew¹⁸ lose his bearings, and head north instead of north-west until he eventually collapsed from exhaustion and hypothermia? We will probably never know.

Then there is the crucial question of whether his death was somehow engineered by others - as is strongly suspected by many of his descendants, but not explicitly stated by the poet. It would, for instance, have been

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possible to get Matthew drunk and leave him on the moors ! If an inquest was held and the associated records can be found, we might be able to answer some questions such as where he died, why he was on the moors and whether or not there was any suggestion of impropriety at the time ? But in the absence of this sort of evidence we can only speculate. One thing we can state with certainty is that Matthew's death was most fortuitous for his brothers and, as I will show later, seemed to precipitate other events surrounding the family.

When Matthew¹⁸ died in 1831, he left a widow, sons Matthew³³ aged 20, William³⁵ aged 17 and Thomas³⁸ aged 9, and a fourteen year-old daughter, Eleanor³⁷ (See baptisms, pages 51 to 51).

Presumably the two eldest sons would be working and be able to support their mother and the younger children. By 1841 the situation had changed somewhat. Eleanor³⁷ had died (see Burial, page 54), Rebecca¹⁹ and her youngest son, Thomas, a lead-miner, were in lodgings, and both Matthew³³ and William³⁵ were married and both had two sons. Matthew³³, a coal-miner, his wife, Margaret³⁴, and their family were living at West Acomb, just north of Hexham. William³⁵, a lead miner, his wife, Ann³⁶, and their family were living in Allendale Town. Ann supplemented William's earnings by making straw hats. (See Marriages and Directory, pages 54 and 54, and Census Returns, pages 79 and 80).

The poet's attention now focuses on Matthew³³ who, as the eldest son of the eldest son of Matthew¹¹, was now the person who had been deprived of his rights. And, of course, the poet stresses that he too actually had to work for a living to support his wife and family ! The scene is now set for Joseph's²⁰ theatrical death-bed confession.

[v.18]

His uncle Joseph could not find
Peace to his sad and troubled mind ;
The forged will by night and day
Did banish happiness away ;
Then he resolv'd—what could he less ?—
To *cheat the devil* and confess !

[v.19]

At length his misery he disgorg'd,—
“ My father's will,” cried he “ was forg'd !
'Twas —— wrote it neat and nice ;
He led us then upon the ice,
And left us there to slide or fall,
Or let *old Nichol* get us all.

Joseph²⁰ had married just five months after his brother Matthew's¹⁸ sudden death and both he and his new bride, Elizabeth²¹ Ridley, were described in the Allendale marriage register as “*of this Parish*”. In 1832, when their only child, Joseph⁹³ Maughan Pears, was baptised, Joseph²⁰ is

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described as an Innkeeper of Allendale Town and a trade directory of 1834 identifies Joseph's inn as the Black Bull Inn (see Marriage, Baptism and Directory, page 53). In 1844, when Joseph died (see Death Certificate, page 55) we find the family at Beldon Shields (NY928495), just west of Blanchland, and he is then described as a lead-ore-miner. It seems likely that Joseph and Elizabeth had lived somewhere else between their periods at Allendale and Beldon Shields as they do not show up on the 1841 Census at either place.

[v.20]
" When I am dead, mind you disclose
This secret—source of all my woes ;
With truth and equity it squares,
Who have just claims should have their shares."
This said, he did resign his breath,
And yielded to the stroke of death.

Joseph²⁰ had consumption (pulmonary tuberculosis) and presumably knew he was dying for a considerable length of time. It therefore seems unlikely that his confession was made with his dying breaths. Putting that aside,

we can say that Joseph confided the secret to his wife and instructed her to make it public when he was dead. The secret, of course, was that his father's will had been forged. But there is a subtle change from what we were previously told. Although we once again have that assertion that the will was written by an unnamed man, the phrase "*He led us then upon the ice, And left us there to slide or fall*" implies that this man actually instigated the scheme and had left the family to face the consequences. Why is he not named? The "*male transgressors*" were dead - and he was one of the male transgressors - so the poet would have nothing to fear from the law. It is yet another mystery. Another point worthy of note is Joseph's assertion that there should have been more than one heir. This is clearly at odds with the poet's previous declarations (in verses 7 and 17) that there should only have been one.

Why was the poet, Matthew Wilson, involved? Was he a friend of Matthew³³? Matthew³³ was probably living at West Acomb and the poet may have been living at nearby Hexham - at least he lived there at the time of his death around 1881 (see Census, page 80, and Note, page 61). Was he a friend of the deceased Joseph²⁰? Both were at some time innkeepers. Was there

[v.21]
Now rumours all around were spread,
Of what was said by him that's dead ;
The *poet* off was sent to see
What truth might in these rumours be ;
A brother of *the heirs* went too,
A *friendly* brother you'll allow.

some family connection with Joseph Wilson of Allendale Town who was mentioned in Elizabeth³ Madgen's will (see Will, page 65)? He was yet another innkeeper. We can, of course, only speculate, but we can be a

[v.22]
To *Beldon Shields* we bent our way,
To hear what Betty had to say ;
She told us all that Joe did tell,
Which she remember'd very well ;
I wrote it down and she did sign,—
Betty ! thy candour made thee shine.

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little more definite about the “*brother of the heirs, a friendly brother...*”. It has to be John²⁶ - the only one still living. At least I’m assuming that he was still living as I have no records whatsoever relating to him after 1832 when he lived at Wooley Greens (see Electoral Register, page 53).

So John and the poet went to Beldon Shields - perhaps following Matthew’s¹⁸ fatal route of 1831 in reverse. They interviewed Joseph’s²⁰ widow, Betty; the poet wrote down her account of Joseph’s confession and she signed it. Why should the poet comment on her candour? She had no personal involvement and would have nothing to gain or lose by faithfully carrying out her late husband’s dying wish.

[v.23]

To *Shildon* next we went, to know
How at that place the wind might blow ;
For Mark, a *miner* of some skill,
Was witness to the forged will,
Although, alas ! he cannot write,
Or tell what others may indite !

[v.24]

He said—“ At the Greendikes, I sign’d
A paper once, as I can mind ;
This I was made to understand,
Was an agreement for some land ;
Then Matthew Pears was in his grave,
—’Tis true, as I’ve a soul to save !

[v.25]

“ Both Esther Pears and Joe were there,
Our Richard was not, that I’ll swear,
But only them, our Joe, and I,
I speak the truth, and hate a lie ! ”
I wrote all down, he *mark’d* it too,
This surely reader must be true.

Next they went to Shildon to see Mark³⁰ Noble, one of the witnesses to the allegedly forged will. This was not the Shildon near Bishop Auckland. This Shildon was a small hamlet about half a mile north-west of Blanchland - just about a mile from Beldon Shields. The lead mine at Shildon was reputed to be one of the oldest in England. Mark, who could neither read nor write, stated that he witnessed a document after Matthew¹¹ Pears’ death (in the Summer of 1825 according to a footnote) which he was told was an agreement for some land. Mark

added that only Esther¹² and Joseph²⁰ Pears, himself and his brother Joseph²⁹ were present. He stressed that his brother Richard³¹ was not present even though, as another footnote points out, Richard’s name appears as a witness. Once again the poet wrote down what he had been told and Mark signed it - by making his mark.

[v.26]

On the fair-day, at Allendale
The heir and I were, without fail,—
Saw Richard Noble who did say :
“ I was not present on that day,
At the Greendikes, when *Joe* and *Mark*
Sign’d a forg’d will both false and dark.”

There were several “*fair-days*” at Allendale each year, but there was only one between Joseph’s²⁰ death on September 22nd 1844 (see Death Certificate, page 55) and the date of the poem, January 10th 1845. That was the one specified as being held on “*the first Friday after October 29th*”; in 1844 that would have been Friday November 1st. This enables us to fix the dates of this and next sequence of events up to those described in verse 33.

1.

On this occasion, we are told, the poet and the heir, Matthew³³ Pears, went to the fair to see Richard³¹ Noble. He confirmed that he was not present when his brothers witnessed the will.

[v.27]

To *Steel-Wood-Head* we off did go,
To talk the matter o'er with Joe ;
He there confirm'd what Mark had said,
And all, *the secret*, open laid ;
Let no one honest truth e'er blame,
I wrote it and he sign'd his name.

Steel-Wood-Head, or Steel Woodhead, as it now appears on the maps, is about mid-way between Allendale Town and Greendikes. Joseph²⁹ Noble confirmed what his

brothers had said and, as before, the poet wrote it down and had it signed. Now Joseph's candour really was worthy of note because this amounted to a written confession to a crime. He could write - and presumably could read too - so he could not claim ignorance of what he was signing. To have signed his name under the words "*Signed sealed published pronounced and declared by the said Matthew Pears as his last Will and testament in the presence of us the Subscribers*" when Matthew¹¹ Pears was not there, was a criminal act.

In fact, he may have committed a second crime. A careful examination of the three witness names on the will would seem to suggest that they were all written by the same hand. Joseph would have signed his own name, he could also legitimately have written Mark's name - this was the accepted practice for anyone who could not write; someone else wrote the name, the signatory put something like a cross over it, and the words "*his mark*" were then added - but Joseph could not legitimately have written Richard's name. It appears that he did so - it would be interesting to get the opinion of a handwriting expert.

[v.28]

At *Holling-house* we had our tea,
And treated were hospitably ;
Then to the Greendikes off we went,
To take possession fully bent ;
The heir and I with sticks in hand,
Soon enter'd on his *fatherland*.

[v.29]

We tried a door, but then the lock
Was rusty, and withstood the shock ;
Then we to *London* * ran with speed,
Determin'd there to do the deed ;
The door was open, in we went,
And both of us were well content.

If we assume that Holling-house and Hollin Close were one and the same, then we can probably account for Matthew's³³ cordial reception - the occupants were Hutchinsons, most likely relations of his mother, Rebecca¹⁹ (see Census, page 80). The Greendikes, is right beside Hollen Close, so Matthew and the poet would not have far to go with "*sticks in hand*". They tried to force

an entry into Greendikes but failed, so they went over the fields to the fell-house known as "*London*" and entered that instead. What was this deed that they were determined to do? It sounds as though they simply wanted to enter some part of the Greendikes, and having done so they were "*quite content*". Just what they had achieved, however, is a mystery.

1.

[v.30]

The night was cold we made a fire,
The wind arose higher and higher ;
We were amused at poor Bright,
Who got a fearful shock that night—
He saw us, and, possess'd with dread,
He turn'd, and down the fell he fled !

[v.31]

At the Greendikes a tale he told,
Which made the widow's blood run cold—
" That up at London, two men were
Most frightful," so he did declare,
" They have a mastiff I can tell,
Like a hyæna fierce and fell ! "

They appear to have spent the night at "London" and were spotted there by Bright. "Bright" could be any one of three males living at Greendikes - George aged 90, George aged 35 and John aged 20 (see Census Returns, page 79). When I first read the poem, I misread the end of line 3, verse 30, as "poor old Bright" and assumed that the 90 year old was the "Bright" in question. It

presented a colourful image - a 90 year-old running down the fell in terror - but is perhaps somewhat unrealistic. As far as what he told the widow, Mary¹⁴ Pears, is concerned, and her reaction to the story, this can be nothing more than supposition with more than a little poetic licence. Mention of another household at Greendikes might cause confusion but, in fact, all the census returns reproduced in Appendix 4 show three separate households at Greendikes. There was, of course, more than one house there, but at no stage is it completely clear who lived in which house or portion of a house, or even, in some cases who were owners and who were tenants.

[v.32]

The next day Matthew cut a tree
Down to the ground, no fear had he—
Procur'd a spade, and then and there
Turn'd o'er three sods and land left bare,
London lock'd up without delay,
This done, he home-ward bent his way.

[v.33]

This troubled sore the *young trustee*,
This did alarm the *mortgagee* ;
The muse will say—and where's the sin ?—
Their troubles did but then begin ;
When they will end time has not shown,
One trouble seldom comes alone.

Why did he turn over three sods and leave the ground bare ? It must have had some symbolic significance. Perhaps it was related to an old custom associated with conveyancing called "*livery of seisin*" whereby the vendor gave the purchaser a piece of turf from the property. Why did he cut a tree down ? Where did he find one to cut down ? There are plenty of trees around the farm, but none anywhere near the fell-house, and from the sequence of events in the poem it appears that they were still there. Was the landscape so different in 1844 ?

Once again we have a suggestion as to the reaction of certain individuals to Matthew's theatrical activities, and once again we must conclude that this was supposition. The "*young trustee*", incidentally, was almost certainly John Nevin, a Mining Agent of Coalcleugh, who was named as an executor in Henry¹⁵ Pears' will (see Will, page 76), and the mortgagee is identified in verse 49 of the poem as "*Henderson*" - probably Matthew Henderson of Hunt Rods who was present at Henry's death in

1.

1842 and who was an occupier of Greendikes (see Death Certificate and Tithe Awards, page 56).

[v.34]

Now Abram Dawson took in hand,
To place the heir on his own land,
Regardless of the young trustee,
In spite of the said mortgagee,—
When the foundation's gone, you know,
The house will soon be levell'd low.

[v.35]

Abram arous'd would not sit still,
He went to York and saw the will—
I mean the forg'd one, 'tis a truth,
Then on he journied further south,
Consulted counsel him to shew,
How on his way he ought to go.

The lawyer Abraham Dawson became involved and seems to have engaged on a personal crusade to claim Greendikes for Matthew³³. Where Dawson practised, why he became involved and how his fees were met is not known. There was an Abraham Dawson living at Swinhope Mill, Sparty Lea in 1871 but he was then only 38 years of age and was a Lead-Ore-Washer.

Dawson, the lawyer, went to York to see the will. Why York? Before 1858, the Ecclesiastical Courts of the Church of England were responsible for granting probate on wills. Since Allendale Parish was in York Diocese, wills from there were proved at York and were retained there in the church archives. The original will is still at York, but is now deposited at the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, University of York. After seeing the will, Dawson went on to London to consult counsel.

Dawson then wrote to Matthew³³ and arranged to meet him and his brother, William³⁵, at Allendale. There they would decide how to proceed. The fact that the meeting

took place at Allendale might suggest that Dawson's law practise was there, as might the fact that he "*wrote to*" Matthew (at West Acomb) but "*asked*" William (who lived at Allendale). But perhaps I am reading too much into the phraseology which might have been governed more by poetic considerations than by the facts.

[v.36]

He wrote to Matthew without fail,
To meet with him at Allendale ;
William was ask'd to be there to,
Then they'd consult what's best to do ;
Three heads are better far than one,
Tho' one is better far than none.

[v.37]

I must one thing explain to you :—
In eighteen hundred and two,
Old Matthew Pears I understand,
Did lay a mortgage on his land,
And Esther join'd him in the deed,
This show'd of money they had need.

[v.38]

Five hundred pounds they then and there
Did saddle on their heirs or heir ;
Yet they for one thing did provide—
Their wills could set this deed aside ;
This money paid off, it is shown,
They reserv'd a right to will their own.

The poem now considers that deed of 1802 (See page 68). This was a mortgage of £500 from John Wardell of Cramlington on Matthew¹¹ and Esther's¹² half-house at Greendikes, 24 acres of land around the farm, 41 acres of enclosed fell

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and 9 stints on the open fell (i.e. permission to graze 9 cows or 45 sheep). The interest rate was 5% per annum. As with all mortgages there were

[v.39]

But if no wills or will they made,
Then all their children, it is said,
Must share alike, for so we read,
This is the substance of the deed ;
Failing their wills, this is no joke,
This contract never can be broke.

clauses specifying what would happen when the mortgage was paid off. In this case all rights were to revert to Matthew¹¹ and Esther¹², or the survivor if one was dead. After they were both dead, rights would revert to all of Matthew and Esther's children in equal

or unequal proportions as specified by Matthew in his will. If there was no will then all the children were to share equally. The poem is completely wrong in one respect; the phrase "*their wills*" in verse 38, line 4 and verse 39, line 5, should read "*his will*". The deed states that the estate would go to each child in the proportions that "... *Matthew Pears shall in and by his last Will and Testament... devise...*". No mention of Esther there. The deed did have a clause enabling Matthew and Esther to jointly change any of these provisions while they were both alive, and this may have caused the confusion.

There would have been little point in Esther¹² making a will since Matthew's¹¹ supposed will only gave her a life interest in the property. The remainder of this verse is just a rather convoluted way of restating that she procured a will purporting to be Matthew's after he was dead.

[v.40]

Now Matthew Pears died *intestate*,
And Esther yielded to her fate—
Intestate too, for it is said,
Her own will Esther never made,
Tho' she got one, as *Matthews* wrote,
When he was dead, it goes for nought.

[v.41]

The deed, then, must remain in force,
Take it for better or for worse ;
It was the act of the old pair,
And some think it is not unfair ;
It's framer has display'd some skill,
And there it is. both deed and will.

The deed, as a footnote informs us, was in the Manor Office at Hexham, but the will was at York. The Manor Office was involved because Greendikes was Copyhold property. This form of tenure was very common at that time and essentially it meant that the "*owner*" was really a tenant of the Lord of the Manor. It originally carried with it the obligation to perform certain services for the Lord, but this had usually been changed to money payments - 3s3d (16p) per year in the case of Greendikes. Copyhold property could be bought and sold,

[v.42]

It now is time that I should tell
What the last mortgagee befell :
The first of all was Wardle, who
Did lift his money long ago,—
Five hundred pounds, and interest too,
Then he the Greendikes bid adieu.

[v.43]

But ere he could do this, first he
Did file a Bill in Chancery,
Where, after all the case was heard,
The Chancellor gave his award,
And he recover'd what he sought,—
Oft *litigation* dear is bought.

1.

but all transfers of ownership were carried out at the Manor Court and involved the tenant surrendering the property to the Lord of the Manor, and the Lord then admitting the new tenant. A bailiff or steward usually acted on behalf of the Lord of the Manor. Transfers were often referred to as “*surrenders*” and mortgages as “*conditional surrenders*”. The name “*Copyhold*” relates to the fact that a copy of all transactions involving the property was made in the Court Rolls. The records of Hexham Manor Court are now deposited with the Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, Gosforth.

The poet states that the deed must remain in force, but did it? To me, though very much a layman in legal matters, it seems that the various provisions in the deed relating to the children were there in case Matthew and Esther died before the mortgage was paid off. Clearly there had to be some such provisions so that it would be clear who would have to pay the £500 and interest, and to whom the property would revert when it was paid. If my interpretation is correct then, once the mortgage was paid off, the deed would cease to have any validity. We are told that Wardell got his money back “*years ago*”, although he had to take legal action to get it, and this presumably occurred before Matthew’s¹¹ death. So the property would then have reverted to Matthew and Esther and the deed, having served its purpose, would have been finished with. A lawyer might shed further light on this.

The poet, however, seems to have been convinced that the deed remained valid. So he would now seem to be contradicting his earlier single-heir ideas.

Here we are told that the forged will (see Will, page 71) was proved and duly acted on. So, when Esther¹² died on April 21st 1827 (see Burial, page 52), the farm and land became the property of Joseph²⁰, John²⁶ and William²⁷. Six months later Matthew¹⁸ and Henry¹⁵ would each have received £50 and Elizabeth¹⁶, Jane¹⁰ and Esther²³ would each have received £10.

[v.44]
And now the forged will arose,
Of land and money to dispose ;
This will was prov'd, and deemed right,
But black I'm sure cannot be white ;
This will was duly acted on,
As the last will of him that's gone.

[v.45]
Now Henry bought the Greendikes, and
He enter'd on the luckless land ;
He bought it cheap, but cheaper made
It after purchase, it is said,
For ne'er a friend who claim'd a share,
Could get a sovereign, some declare.

This, to me, is the most puzzling aspect of the whole story. Henry¹⁵ lived at Lintzgarth near Rookhope during the period 1822 to 1829 at least (see Baptisms, pages 52 to 53). For some, probably all, of that period he was a miner - a lead miner, no doubt, at one of the numerous mines in that area. He received

1.

the same consideration in his father's will as his brother Matthew¹⁸. Yet while Matthew¹⁸ is described as "*impoverished*", Henry¹⁵ was able to buy Greendikes outright from his brothers ! Why was he able to buy it cheap ? This is especially puzzling as we are no longer talking about the Copyhold of the half-house and 65 acres of land - the 1832 Electoral List describes Henry as being the owner of "*Freehold Houses and Lands at Greendike*". So at some stage the Freehold of Greendikes, or part of it, had been purchased from the Lord of the Manor of Hexham. Unfortunately we only know that this occurred some time between 1802, when the tenure was definitely Copyhold, and 1832. Matthew's¹¹ supposed will does not specify the tenure, so the Freehold could have been purchased either by Matthew¹¹, the brothers Joseph²⁰, John²⁶ and William²⁷, or by Henry¹⁵. Perhaps a thorough search of the Manorial records would answer this question.

It would not, however, cast much light on the central questions. How was Henry able to afford the farm ? Why was he able to buy it cheaply ? If, as the verse suggests, he was rather 'careful' with his money, he may have been able to save a considerable sum over the years ; or one of his wives, Hannah²² or Mary¹⁴, may have been wealthy. He may have sold a house at Lintzgarth. But why could he buy it cheaply ? Could it be, as has been suggested to me by a descendant of Matthew¹⁸, that Henry¹⁵ knew about the forged will and about what really happened to his brother, Matthew¹⁸ ? That would certainly have given him the upper hand in negotiations ! Probably idle speculation, of course, but it is a possibility. Joseph²⁰, John²⁶ and William²⁷ inherited the farm in 1827, if Henry had wanted it why didn't he buy it then ? Even two years later, in 1829, he was still mining lead at Rookhope. In 1831 his brother Matthew died tragically on the fells and by 1832 Henry was the owner of Greendikes ! Of course, this sequence of events is not necessarily correct - we only know for certain that Henry moved to Greendikes between 1829 and 1832, he may well have moved there before Matthew died.

[v.46]

Another mortgage was laid on,
For Wardle with his cash was gone,
Five hundred and fifty pounds
Were this mortgages utmost bounds,
One hundred and fifty more
A bond or note upon it bore.

[v.47]

But he who laid it on did make,
In doing so, a sad mistake ;
It's basis was the forged will—
Say not his lawyer lacked skill
To detect and shun the artful snare,
And save his money then and there.

[v.48]

But rather ask, what could he do ?
He thought the forged will was true—
Attested, sworn to, prov'd beside !
Whoever dream'd that *dummy lied* ?
Whoever such a thing believ'd ?
No wonder that he was deceiv'd.

[v.49]

A *pigmy vainly* would assay
To stop a *deluge* on its way,
A *giant* just as *vainly* try
To drain the *mighty ocean* dry,
Or Henderson to prove by law,
His deeds are good—*devoid of flaw*.

1.

Henry¹⁵ took out a mortgage for £550, later increased to £700. The mortgagee, Henderson, would clearly have problems if Matthew's¹¹ will was disproved and Henry's title to the property was nullified.

In this verse we are told that the matter of the forged will was about to come before the Law. The poet suggests that the widow (Mary¹⁴ Pears) and the trustee (John Nevin)

[v.50]

Doubtless some money will be lost,
No wonder that his mind is tost !
The trustee and the widow now
Perplex'd, enquire, what shall we do ?
The Law will shortly this decide,
And set the doubtful claims aside.

were troubled at the prospect of this - probably quite a reasonable assumption. There was a trustee, incidentally, because most of Henry's¹⁵ children were minors at the time that Henry¹⁵ wrote his will and, indeed, when he died a month later (11/5/1842, see Will, pages 76 and 77). The procedure adopted when someone wished to leave something to a child was to leave it to a trustee (i.e. someone the person trusts) on the understanding that they would hand it over to the child when he or she was of age. Henry's will had provision for all of his children after the death of his wife, Mary¹⁴. Some of his children might still be under 21 at that time, so his bequests to them would be administered by John Nevin until they were of age.

[v.51]

Brave Dawson onward urg'd his course,
Exposing fraud—opposing force ;
The *station* of the young trustee,
Or money of the mortgagee,
In vain to stop his progress, tried,
All opposition he defied.

[v.52]

Firm as a rock the lawyer stood,
Regardless of the surging flood ;
The storm might rise and rage around,
It could not make him quit his ground ;
Thrice he is arm'd whose cause is just,—
The guilty fly, or bite the dust.

The lawyer pressed on with his task despite attempts to stop him. These attempts apparently came in the form of physical threats, influence in high places, and offers of money.

[v.53]

The law will soon determine, and
The heir or heirs will get the land,
The forg'd will cannot bide the test,
It's falsehood is by all confest ;
Old Esther's children, or their heirs,
Of the Greendikes will get their shares.

Once again we are told that the case was about to be decided at law. The poet, however, is now unsure whether there should be one heir or several, but he is certain that

Matthew's¹¹ will would be proved false. In other words his doubt is about the validity of the 1802 deed at the time Esther¹² died. If the deed was valid then all of Matthew¹¹ and Esther's¹² nine children should have shared Greendikes; if the deed was false then Matthew¹⁸ alone should have had it originally, and after his death it should have passed to his eldest son, Matthew³³.

1.

The poet ends more or less as he began - with moralistic ramblings. He surely could not expect harmony and goodwill after a family dispute of such proportions, particularly a family dispute involving money. In fact this particular squabble is still causing trouble to this day, and not only within the family.

[v.54]
And may they long their own enjoy,
And all their energies employ
To heal the *breaches time* has made,
And lend each other mutual aid ;
May love and unity increase,
And all concerned live in peace.

Part 3 — The Events of 1845

It is a great pity that Matthew Wilson wrote the poem before the dispute was decided at law - if he had waited we might have some idea how the dispute was “settled”, and those who still harbour a feeling of injustice might be satisfied. As it is we have no definitive information on the events which unfolded after the poem was written. All attempts to locate relevant court records have failed. It is not clear which court would have been involved; or even what type of court it would have been, ecclesiastical or civil.

The poet implies that, if the will was proven false, the then occupiers would be thrown off the property to be replaced either by Matthew³³ or all of Matthew¹¹ and Esther’s¹² children (or their heirs). But would they? Joseph²⁰, John²⁶, and William²⁷ inherited the property in 1827. Henry¹⁵ bought it around 1831 and he may also have bought the Freehold from the Manor of Hexham. Henderson had loaned money to Henry¹⁵ with the property as collateral. Mary¹⁴ inherited a life interest in the property (and the debt) when Henry¹⁵ died in 1842. John Nevin was looking after the interests of Henry’s children until they were of age. Of these, the only wrongdoer we can be sure of is Joseph²⁰, and he was dead. Could the interests of all of these innocent people be set aside? Indeed, how could all of these transactions involving the property be undone?

Can we get any idea of the outcome by examining what we know of events and the people involved after 1845? What happened at Greendikes? Apparently nothing at all! The widow, Mary, and her children were still there after 1845, just as they were before (see Census Returns, page 82). So should we conclude that Abraham Dawson failed in his efforts to prove the forgery? Perhaps! But we might equally come to the opposite conclusion if we look at the children of the supposedly disinherited Matthew¹⁸, or at least two of them, William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸.

In 1841 both William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸ were Lead Miners (see Census Returns, page 79). In 1847 William was a “Grocer”, in 1851 he is

1.

described as a “Landed Proprietor” and in 1861 he was an “Ironmonger and Butcher”. Thomas was also in business by 1849, as a “Jeweller”, believe it or not, and in 1851 he was an “Ironmonger and Grocer” (see Directory, page 56, Marriage and Electoral Register, page 56, and Census Returns, pages 81 and 82). They may have been in business together or separately but, whatever the case, it would certainly seem that they had acquired or accumulated quite a sum of money. Indeed when Thomas³⁸ died in 1853 his estate was valued at £450 - a considerable sum for a young man of 32, equivalent to more than £100,000 today. This is really not the sort of money he could have made as either a Leadminer, Grocer or Ironmonger or even as a Jeweller. It is tempting to think that William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸ acquired their wealth as the result of money awarded by a court, or possibly as an out-of-court settlement or in return for dropping the legal action, but that is probably not where it came from !

The idea loses a great deal of momentum when one enquires as to where William³⁵, the “Landed Proprietor”, actually had his land. The 1850 Electoral Register shows that William Pears of Allendale Town qualified as a voter because he owned a “*Copyhold house and land at Holling Close*”. Mention has already been made of the fact that there were “Hutchinsons” at Hollin Close, probably relations of Rebecca¹⁹, in fact her first two children Thomas³² and Matthew³³, were born there. Thomas Hutchinson, who was about the same age as Rebecca¹⁹, and William Hutchinson, who was about ten years older, were there in 1832, 1841 and 1845, but not in 1851. Did they die and leave property and perhaps money to Rebecca (who might have been their sister) or directly to William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸? If Rebecca¹⁹ had been the beneficiary of any will or court award then she could well have given it to her sons or willed it to them - she died in 1847 (See Burial, page 56).

Whatever the source of William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸ comparative wealth, there is a problem; Matthew³³, the eldest son of Rebecca¹⁹ and the supposedly disinherited Matthew¹⁸, the one who tried to break into Greendikes and who performed those obscure ceremonials at the fell-house, does not appear to have undergone any significant change of lifestyle; certainly none comparable to those we saw with William and Thomas. In 1841 Matthew³³ was a Coal Miner living at West Acomb, in 1851 he was a Collier (another name for a miner) living at Mickley Square (see Census Returns, pages 80 and 82). I have no record of his whereabouts or occupation after that date, but there is nothing to indicate that he or any of descendants had any money other than the meagre pittances which pass as wages for the working man. I think we can safely assume that Matthew³³ did not receive any property or substantial sum of money.

1.

Why was Matthew³³ left out of the picture? It seems to have become a family tradition but, if that is what happened, it was a somewhat ironic situation - the two eldest sons in succeeding generations, both called Matthew and both treated badly compared to their younger brothers. In fact it was three Matthews, since Henry¹⁵ Pears followed the same tradition - his eldest son, Matthew⁴⁰, was also relatively poorly served.

In any event we are no further forward in establishing the results of Abraham Dawson's efforts to rectify the injustices stemming from Esther¹². and Joseph's²⁰ 1825 forgery. Virtually everything I have written concerning the events of 1845 is mere speculation but, in the absence of anything more definite, it is all we have. It might be possible to get further evidence. Court records may exist. Records from Abraham Dawson's law practise may have survived. Newspapers of the day may have some reference to the case and its outcome. A will might turn up explaining the source of William³⁵ and Thomas's³⁸ wealth. The deeds of Greendikes may contain some relevant references, particularly if any payments were made in settlement (but, as I will explain later, it is extremely unlikely that access to those deeds will be permitted in the foreseeable future). Some branch of the Pears family might even have preserved an accurate version of the events. I have certainly not exhausted all possible sources of further information and I am sure that other clues will emerge in time, perhaps from unexpected places. I hope that someday it might be possible for me or someone else to write an accurate account of the events surrounding the Pears family of Allendale in 1845.

Part 4 — Henry's Family after 1845

The Pears family remained at Greendikes until around 1880. Under Henry¹⁵ Pears' will (see Will, page 74) his "houses and lands at High Green Dike", his "houses and lands at Low Green Dike" and all the rest of his effects were left to his wife, Mary¹⁴, for her life. After her death the four sons of his second marriage, Henry⁵¹, James⁵², William⁵⁴ and Thomas⁵⁷, were to share the houses, lands, farming implements, stock, seed and crops; and his three daughters, Mary⁴⁷, Elizabeth⁴⁹ and Ann⁵⁶ were each to get £20 and shares of the household furniture, linen, china and other goods and chattels. The two children of Henry's¹⁵ first marriage, Matthew⁴⁰ and Esther⁴¹, who were probably raised by relations of his first wife, were each awarded £5.

There were two principal conditions in Henry's¹⁵ will. One prohibited his sons from selling their shares of Greendikes to anyone except each other. The other stated that Mary¹⁴ would lose her life interest in Henry's¹⁵ estate if she remarried or had an illegitimate child. She actually defaulted on this provision in 1848 and possibly in 1844 too - the baptism register of

1.

St Cuthbert's Church, Allendale has the following entries (see Baptisms, pages 56 and 57):

- 3/11/1844 Jane, daughter of Mary Pears of Greendyke, Singlewoman
- 28/2/1848 Margaret, daughter of Mary Pears of Greendyke, Widow
- 23/11/1850 Ann, daughter of Elizabeth Pears of Green Dyke, Singlewoman

It seems clear enough; Jane was the daughter of Henry's daughter Mary⁴⁷, Margaret⁴² was the daughter of Henry's¹⁵ widow, and Ann was the daughter of Henry's¹⁵ daughter, Elizabeth⁴⁹. However, on the 1851 Census, Jane is described as Mary's¹⁴ daughter while Ann is described as her granddaughter; on the 1861 Census, when Henry⁵¹ was head of the family, Jane is described as his sister-in-law (a term which could then mean either step-sister or half-sister) and Ann as his niece, and in 1871 James⁵² describes Jane as his sister (see Census Returns, pages 82, 83 and 85). It is impossible to be certain of Jane's actual status. Mothers often protect the good name of a daughter and grandchild by pretending that a daughter's illegitimate child is their own. However, if that is what Mary¹⁴ did, it was perhaps rather foolish when she had been a widow for more than two years when the child was born.

There is no doubt that Margaret⁴² was Mary's¹⁴ daughter. So in theory at least she lost her life interest in Greendikes in 1848, even though Margaret died after only three weeks. Whether anyone chose to enforce this provision is another matter. Her eldest son, Henry⁵¹, was only 16 at the time, so her interest in all of her late husband's estate should have gone to the trustee, John Nevin, but we cannot be sure that anything at all was done. The Greendikes deeds again might hold the answer. Whatever happened, Mary¹⁴ remained at Greendikes. She is described on the 1851 census as the head of the household, and she died there in 1858 after a long illness (see Death Certificate and Burial, page 58). Mary¹⁴ just missed the birth of another illegitimate grandchild; the baptism registers of St Peters Church, Sparty Lea, show that her son Henry⁵¹ was the father of Archibald Harrison Pears who was baptised in January 1859. Archibald's mother was Hannah Pears of Blossom Hill, Allenheads, the daughter of Archibald Pears and his wife Elizabeth, formerly Harrison, and granddaughter of Henry Pears. It is possible, but by no means certain, that this Henry was the younger brother of Matthew¹¹ which would mean that Hannah was Henry's⁵¹ second cousin. Sadly the child died in infancy (see Baptism and Burial, page 58).

When Mary¹⁴ died, her sons Henry⁵¹, James⁵² and William⁵⁴ were over 21 and would have taken their shares of the property immediately. Thomas⁵⁷ would have received his share in 1862. Two of the daughters, Mary⁴⁷ and Elizabeth⁴⁹, were of age and both were married. They too would have received their comparatively meagre bequests straight away.

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The third daughter, Ann⁵⁶, was 19 years old and still at home. The 1861 Census shows the occupancy of Greendikes three years later, and it is what we would expect with Henry⁵¹, the eldest son, as head of the household and his siblings, James, William, Ann and Thomas and “relations” Jane and Ann living there too. Henry¹⁵ then describes himself as a “Farmer of 50 acres and Lead Ore Miner”, the remainder of the original 65 acres (16 acres, according to the census!) was apparently being farmed by another occupant, Leonard Shield (see Census Returns, page 83), with a third, John⁵⁰ Wilkinson, farming 30 acres - presumably the enclosed land allocated to Thomas Farbridge in 1800 (see Enclosure Plan, page 49). John Wilkinson was married to Elizabeth⁴⁹, Henry’s sister, and might conceivably have been a relative of Mary¹⁴ (see Marriage, page 58).

There were many changes over the next few years. In fact, the first came within a year; James⁵² married Abigail⁵³ Shield, the daughter of labourer, Henry Shield. It seems very likely that Abigail was a relative of Greendikes occupant Leonard Shield - perhaps that is how they met. James and Abigail first set up home at Lead Gate but were living at Path Foot (Peth Foot) by 1864 and remained there until 1871 at least. They had three children in 1862, 1864 and 1868 but the first two children died at a very early age, leaving only Henry. The baptismal registers describe James as a Smelter but the 1871 Census Returns describe him as a “Smelter and Innkeeper”. He was then employing his “sister” Jane as a Domestic Servant (see Baptisms and Burials, page 59, and Census Returns, page 85). I have found no later records relating to James, and I assume that he and his family had left the Allendale area before 1881. It would also appear that James sold his share of the property as his name does not appear on any electoral records relating to Greendikes. Of course, he could only have sold it to one or more of his brothers.

The next change at Greendikes was a tragedy; the death of the head of the household, Henry⁵¹, in 1865 at only 33 years of age (see Burial, page 60). That left just William⁵⁴ and Thomas⁵⁷ as joint owner/occupiers of the Pears property with possibly their sister Ann⁵⁶ and niece Ann living with them. The numbers soon increased again, however, as William⁵⁴ married Eliza⁵⁵ Annie Robson of Haltwhistle Parish and they set up home at Greendikes. By 1871 Eliza had given birth to no less than four children but, as often happened at that time, two died in infancy (see Baptisms, Births and Burials, page 60).

The 1871 Census shows two separate Pears households at Greendikes: the first consisting of William⁵⁴, Eliza⁵⁵ and the children Jane Ann aged 2 years and Henry aged 5 months, and the second comprising Thomas⁵⁷ alone. Both William and Thomas described themselves as “farmers of 37 acres”. Leonard Shield and family were still at Greendikes and he too was a

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“farmer of 37 acres”, so clearly some additional land had been acquired. John⁵⁰ Wilkinson and family, the other 1861 occupants, had left Greendikes as had the two Anns and I have not located any of them on the census. The girls could well have married or gone into “service” outside the area (see Census Returns, page 85).

The records regarding the next twenty years at Greendikes are somewhat confusing and contradictory, but according to the 1881 Census there were no members of the Pears family at Greendikes at that time. Leonard Shield was still there and there were two new occupants, William Parker and William Henderson with their respective families (see Census Returns, pages 86 and 87). What of William⁵⁴ and Thomas⁵⁷ ?

In 1881 William Pears and family were living at Bog House, Henshaw, not far from Haltwhistle - perhaps this was the area where Eliza’s family lived. William was working as a “General labourer”. From the birthplaces of his children as listed in the 1881 Census Returns, it would appear that the family had left Greendikes between 1874 and 1877. They were definitely at Henshaw by 1879 when their son, Thomas William, was baptized - the Haltwhistle register describes William as a Labourer of Henshaw. However the 1880 Electoral Register for Allendale still shows William⁵⁴ as an owner/occupier of Greendikes. We must probably conclude that this was prepared from out of date information (see Census Returns, page 86, and Baptism and Electoral Register, page 61).

William and Eliza’s next child, Matthew, was born in the period 1881-84 in the Allendale area so the family must have returned there, possibly, but not necessarily, to Greendikes. By 1884, however, they had moved again, this time to Burnmouth, between Barrasford and Wark. The Chollerton Baptism Register records the baptism of George Pears, the son of William and Eliza, on August 28th 1884, and William is described as a Labourer of Burnmouth. The 1885/86 Electoral Register for Allendale shows William as living at Burnmouth but still owning Greendikes and the 1890 Register has the same information - which is rather strange since William died at Burnmouth in March 1889. This again suggests that the Electoral Registers reflect the position some considerable time before the period covered by the register (see Birth, Baptism, Burial and Electoral Registers, page 61).

I have not located Thomas⁵⁷ Pears on the 1881 Census and, being single, he has left less trace of his whereabouts. So most information must come from the rather dubious Allendale Electoral Registers. Like William⁵⁴ he is listed in 1880 at Greendikes; but in 1885/6 we find him at Mosswood Cottage, Knaresdale (this should probably read “Knarsdale” and the place referred to is believed to be at Coanwood) and in 1890 at Horsley - and throughout he is shown as an owner of Greendikes, which,

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of course, is why he appears on the Allendale registers at all. Unfortunately there is a problem; Thomas died in March 1886 and was obviously not living at Horsley in 1890, furthermore he was buried at Allendale and is described in the Allendale Burial Registrar as being of "Allendale" (see Burial and Electoral Registers, pages 61). It is difficult to see how an Electoral Register can be four years out of date unless perhaps the compilers followed a policy of recording the latest information they had regardless of how old the information happened to be. So perhaps Thomas did move from Greendikes to Mosswood Cottages, then to Horsley and these moves both occurred before 1886 at which time he returned to Allendale. (There is another unanswered question - which Horsley? There is one near Otterburn and one near Wylam).

Little is known of the ownership of Greendikes after Thomas⁵⁷ and William⁵⁴ left. It may have passed initially to one or more of William's children or to other relatives after the brothers' deaths, but I have not located the wills of the two brothers and, without these or access to the deeds, it is impossible to be sure. The fact that William⁵⁴ was employed as a labourer when he left Greendikes might rather suggest that he left in a somewhat impoverished condition! Perhaps he and Thomas⁵⁷ defaulted on mortgage payments and were evicted - the William Henderson who was an occupier in 1881 might well have been the successor of "Henderson" the mortgagee who was mentioned in the poem. Whatever happened, by 1900 according to the Electoral Registers, probably much earlier in fact, there was no longer any association between Greendikes and the Pears family. Early this century (around 1913, I believe) ownership passed to the Hutchinson family of Hollin Close and, as far as I know, that is still the position today.

William's widow, Eliza⁵⁵ was living at Ryton in 1908, as was her eldest son, Henry, who was employed there as a farm manager at Building Farm. In that year Henry married Janet Forrest whose father owned the Monk farm at Whitfield and Henry became Overseer at his father-in-law's farm (see Marriage and Baptism, page 62). I understand that Henry and Janet later moved to the Belford area. Henry's brother Matthew eventually ended up at Stamfordham and his widow, Jane Ann, was still living there in the early 1970's. I have no information on any other of William and Eliza's large family or indeed of any other descendants of Henry¹⁵, but there will undoubtedly be many of them. If they could be traced perhaps some more of the questions surrounding Greendikes could be answered.

Part 5 — Matthew's Family after 1845

As mentioned in part 3, Matthew's¹⁸ three sons Matthew³³, William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸ were miners in 1841; Matthew at West Acomb and William

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and Thomas at Allendale. Matthew³³ was married to Margaret³⁴ Kell and had two young sons, Thomas⁴³ and Matthew⁴⁵. William³⁵ was married to Straw-Bonnet Maker, Ann³⁶ Parker and had sons, Matthew and Thomas. Thomas³⁸ and his mother, Rebecca¹⁹, were living with the Potts family (see Census Returns, pages 79 and 80).

Over the next ten years there were many changes for William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸. By 1847 William³⁵ was a grocer and by 1850 he owned a copyhold house and land at Hollen Close (see Directory and Electoral Register, pages 56 and 57). He may also have been a Parish Constable. The Quakers in Allendale, as elsewhere, refused to pay Tithe Rent Charges to the Church of England, and they often had produce or stock confiscated by Parish officials. The Quaker records reveal that one of their number, Abraham Shield, had two cows taken around 1851 by two Tithe Commutators accompanied by the Constable, William Pears. The only adult William Pears known to live in the area was William³⁵ (see Quaker Suffering, page 57). By 1851 William's family had increased; he had two more sons, Hugh and William, and a daughter, Anne Rebecca (see Baptism, page 56 and Census Returns, page 80).

Thomas³⁸ probably remained with his mother, Rebecca¹⁹, until her death in 1847 (see Burial, page 56). Two years later he married Ann³⁹ Robinson, who was eight years his senior. On the marriage certificate Thomas is described as a "Jeweller", but on the 1851 Census Returns he is described as "*Ironmonger and Grocer*" (see Marriage, page 56, and Census Returns, page 81). Sadly Thomas³⁸, then described as an "*Ironmonger*", died in 1853 of typhoid and bronchitis. He left no will and, having no family, his entire estate, valued at £450, passed to his widow, Ann³⁹. (see Death Certificate, page 58, and Letters of Administration, page 78).

By 1858 Ann³⁹ Pears was a "*China and Glass Dealer*", while her brother-in-law, William³⁵, was an "*Ironmonger, Butcher and Farmer*". Perhaps William had bought the ironmongery business from Ann³⁹, or perhaps the brothers' businesses had been run jointly and William³⁵ simply carried it on. The 1858 Directory gives William's address as "*Peth Head*", Allendale Town. This is the only specific address in Allendale Town given in any records relating to William and Thomas; in fact the vast majority of Directory, Electoral and Census records simply refer to "*Allendale Town*". "*Peth Head*" is still standing; it is the large house on the right at the top of the bank leading down to Allendale Bridge. I understand that there was a butcher's business there at a much later date (see Directory, page 58).

Very little had changed by 1861 when the Census records Ann³⁹ as a "*China and Earthenware Dealer*" and William³⁵ as an "*IronMonger and Butcher*". William's son, Thomas, who was a shoemaker, may also have operated from the same premises (see Census Returns, page 82). A year

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later in 1862, however, William³⁵ died of consumption and bronchitis (see Death Certificate, page 59). His widow, Ann³⁶, continued the ironmongery business, so, in 1871 we find the two widow Pears, Ann³⁶ and Ann³⁹, each running their respective businesses in Allendale Town. Ann³⁶ describing herself as an “*Ironmonger and Landowner*” and Ann³⁹ as a “*China Dealer*”. William³⁵ and Ann’s³⁶ children, William and Anne Rebecca, were still living with their mother. The other three children Matthew, Thomas and Hugh had apparently left home and left Allendale as they are not listed in the 1871 Census Returns for the area (see Census Returns, pages 84 and 84).

Ann³⁹ was still a “China Dealer” in 1881 but Ann³⁶ had apparently retired - she described herself as a “Proprietor of house and land”. Unfortunately I do not know which house and land is referred to. It may have been the property at Hollen Close which her husband owned back in 1850; perhaps the wills of William³⁵ or Ann³⁶ herself would answer this particular question - if they can be located. The 1881 Census also shows that Ann’s³⁶ son, Thomas, had returned to live with his mother, but the other four children were apparently not in the area. (see Census Returns, page 86)

Both widows died in the mid 1880s, one in 1884 aged 72 and the other in 1886 aged 74 -it has not been possible to determine which was which (see Burials, page 61). I have no further information relating to the businesses or to William’s³⁵ children, and it appears that there was no subsequent association between this branch of the Pears family and Allendale. Once again, if any descendants of William³⁵ and Ann³⁶ can be located, they may have useful information on the events of 1845 and after.

Little has been said of Matthew³³ - in fact little is known. One thing we can be reasonably sure of, however, is that, unlike his brothers, Matthew³³ did not receive any substantial benefits between 1841 and 1851. In 1851 Matthew was a coal-miner as he had been ten years earlier. The only apparent change was a move from West Acomb to Mickley Square (see Census Returns, pages 80 and 82).

We do not know the source of William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸ comparative wealth - it may have been a bequest from their relations at Hollin Close, it may have been as a result of a court case relating to the allegedly forged will, it may have been both or neither. Any money or property from whatever source may have gone directly to William and Thomas or it may have gone initially to their mother, Rebecca¹⁹, and subsequently to William and Thomas. But why was Matthew³³ excluded from the family’s good fortune? Whatever the reason, it has left a lingering sense of injustice in some of his descendants.

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Matthew³³ and Margaret³⁴ had two children, Thomas⁴³ and Matthew⁴⁵. I will look first at the latter. The only documentary evidence I have relating to Matthew⁴⁵ after 1851 is a baptism entry for his daughter Margaret Catherine at St John's Church, Newcastle in 1866 and an 1871 Census Return for Benwell which lists the family. From these we can deduce that he married Isabella⁴⁶, a native of Benwell, probably in the early 1860s. In 1863 the family were living at Walbottle, in 1866 at Denton, in 1867 at Scotswood, and in 1871 at Benwell. In 1863 Matthew⁴⁵ was a miner and in 1871 he was described as a "Brakeman" - perhaps something to do with the railway (See Baptism, page 60, Census Returns, page 84).

The Census shows only two children, Mary and Christiana, suggesting that Margaret Catherine, who was baptised in 1866, must have died before 1871. Family tradition also tells of a Samuel John who died young. There were two more children, John Samuel¹⁰², who was born shortly after the 1871 census was taken, and Grace, born around 1875. Family tradition also relates that Matthew⁴⁵ deserted his family leaving Isabella⁴⁶ to raise the family alone. This might explain the fact that his descendants had not heard of the Greendikes saga.

The family's links with the Allendale area were not entirely broken since Matthew's⁴⁵ only surviving son, John Samuel¹⁰², married Rebecca Ann Pearson¹⁰³ of Allenheads just before the turn of the century. They lived in the Elswick area of Newcastle and raised four sons and a daughter. Several descendants still live in the west end of Newcastle but, because of the small family sizes of recent decades, the sole responsibility for carrying the "Pears" surname in Matthews'⁴⁵ branch of the family into the next century rests on the shoulders of twenty year-old Anthony Craig Pears of West Denton.

Thomas⁴³ Pears kept a record of his family's births and deaths in a family bible which has survived. (see Family Bible entries page 54 and pages 59 - 62). From this we can ascertain that he married Ellenor⁴⁴ (believed to be Ellenor Melrose) and had four sons and four daughters between 1865 and 1879. Unfortunately this does not indicate where the various family events occurred and the only information I have is that his second youngest son, Thomas¹⁰⁰, was born in 1876 at Brandon near Durham City. Apparently the family was very mobile as the sons, and possibly Thomas⁴³ himself, earned their living as shaft-sinkers - they dug mine-shafts in many parts of the North-East.

Thomas¹⁰⁰ (1876-1947) might well have been engaged in this trade when he met his future wife, Hannah¹⁰¹ Robson of High Spen (the nearby Chopwell No 2 Pit - 392 feet deep - and No. 3 Pit - 415 feet deep - were sunk during the period that Thomas was in the High Spen area). Thomas¹⁰⁰ and Hannah¹⁰¹ had eleven children, and from their places of birth we can

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establish that they lived at High Spen until around 1910, then at Crawcrook and from around the end of the Great War they were in the Urpeth/Pelton/Ouston area. Many of his descendants still live in this area including Stephen¹²¹ Pears (born 1963) who spent several years following the profession of his forebears - he was a farmer on the Ravensworth Estate. Fortunately Stephen¹²¹, his wife Sharon¹²² and his cousin Gloria¹²⁰ Pears have become interested in the Pears family history in general and the Greendikes saga in particular. I hope they have more success than I have had in this regard.

The eldest son of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ was Robert Pears⁹⁸ (1865-1924). Robert⁹⁸ inherited his father's family bible and recorded the births of his four sons and two daughters. The eldest of these sons was Emmanuel¹⁰⁴ Pears (born 1893) and this gentleman reportedly regarded himself as the rightful heir to Greendikes. The story which I have been told is that Emmanuel received some compensation for an injury at work and used that money to approach a lawyer in an attempt to lodge some sort of claim towards Greendikes. As previously related, the lawyer is said to have agreed to pursue the matter in exchange for a large proportion of anything he managed to acquire. Emmanuel¹⁰⁴ was supposedly not happy with this arrangement and dropped the case. He then moved to Doncaster and had no further contact with his relatives in the North-East. This story sounds rather suspect since, as far as I am aware, a lawyer is not allowed to charge fees which depend on the outcome of a case; but there is no doubt that, around 1930, some sort of legal moves against the owners of Greendikes were at least contemplated, though I have absolutely no idea who was responsible.

The Hutchinsons were understandably disturbed by these events and this accounts for my less than enthusiastic welcome on my first visit. However, after my second visit I was very hopeful that when the gentleman who farmed the land actually inherited the property, he would allow me to see the deeds of Greendikes which might help answer many of the questions referred to earlier. Unfortunately it happened again! Unbelievably in the 1990s someone again tried to press a claim for the farm. I do not know the details but apparently a couple, probably in their sixties, turned up at Greendikes, stated that it was their land and were most abusive to the Hutchinsons. I have no idea who these people were, but may well be the same people who have approached various family members (all descendants of Thomas⁴³) in recent years seeking some elusive and unspecified "papers" relating to the Greendikes.

Of course the present owner of Greendikes was very upset and as a result has resolved not to let anyone see his deeds or indeed have any information from them. I cannot say that I am surprised - I think my attitude would be the same if I was in his position.

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Apart from Emmanuel¹⁰⁴ (born 1893), Robert Pears⁹⁸ had the following children: Margaret born 1891, Ellen born 1898, Thomas William born 1900, Robert¹⁰⁵ born 1902 and John Ross born 1909 (see Family Bible entries, pages . It was Robert¹⁰⁵, whom I met about twenty years ago at his home in Boldon Colliery, who had the only known copy of the poem reproduced in Appendix 1, and his son, another Robert¹¹⁸ (born 1928), who had possession of the family bible mentioned earlier. A member of the next generation, Walter Robert¹²⁹ Pears (born 1948), son of Robert¹¹⁸, was also researching his family history.

Part 6 — The Other Stories

One aspect of the Greendikes story that I have not dealt with concerns “money in Chancery”. The legend tells of a mother who, because of her eldest son’s heavy drinking, determined that he should not have any of her money. Instead she put the money “in Chancery” and stipulated that it should be available for some future generation of the family. This story seems to be based on a misinterpretation of the term “in Chancery”. As far as I can ascertain a dead person’s money or other property is put “in Chancery” (i.e. under the control of the Chancery Court) when there is no legal heir or when the heir cannot be traced. There it remains until someone can prove their right to that money or property. The idea of someone deliberately putting money “in Chancery” does not seem to make sense. It would be possible to appoint a trustee to administer one’s estate until an existing grandchild was of age, but I am not sure that it would be possible to leave anything to a descendant as yet unborn. Whatever the case, the story make little sense but may contain a germ of truth; it might suggest the reason why an eldest son might have been left out of a will - he was a drunkard, a very common failing in the Pears family. But which eldest son? It could be Matthew¹⁸ who did badly out of the supposedly forged will. It could be Matthew³³ who did not share in whatever good fortune came the way of his younger brothers, William³⁵ and Thomas³⁸. It could even be Matthew⁴⁰ who did rather badly out of Henry’s¹⁵ will.

The concepts of “money in Chancery” and injustice also feature in another, apparently distinct, legend which was preserved by a single branch of the “Brown” family - the family into which two of Matthew¹¹ and Esther¹² Pears’ children married. Jane¹⁰ Pears married Thomas⁹ Brown in 1818 and Henry¹⁵ Pears married Thomas’ niece Mary¹⁴ Wilkinson, the “widow” of the poem, in 1826.

First a little background. The eldest son of Thomas⁹ and Jane¹⁰ Brown was Thomas⁶⁷. He was actually born before Thomas and Jane married, but was almost certainly Thomas’ child as Jane¹⁰ took out a “bastardy” order against Thomas⁹ which effectively forced him to marry her. In 1840

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Thomas⁶⁷ married Hannah⁶⁸ Jordan and they had a daughter, Jane Ann⁸³, in 1842. Unfortunately Thomas⁶⁷ died in 1843 of a “Scrofulous Abcess with Bronchitis”. There are a number of conflicting tales as to what then befell Hannah⁶⁸ (viz death, insanity, remarriage) but all that is certain is that by 1851 she had completely disappeared from the scene leaving Jane Ann⁸³ to be raised by her grandparents, Thomas⁹ and Jane¹⁰ Brown.

Jane Ann⁸³ grew into a very attractive young lady and was courted by a young man from the Blanchland area, Francis⁸⁴ Pears, who was two years her senior. It appears that Francis was not a blood relative of Jane Ann’s grandmother, Jane¹⁰ Pears. Jane Ann had two illegitimate children to Francis - Ann⁸⁷ in 1864 and Thomas⁸⁸ in 1867- and they married at Durham Register Office on Saturday, 19th December 1868. Next day their two children were baptised at Rookhope Parish Church. At this time Francis⁸⁴ was living at Medomsley and working as a coal-miner.

Their third child, Hannah⁹⁰, was born on Tuesday, November 23rd 1869 by which time the family was living at Leadgate. Tragedy then struck; a smallpox epidemic hit Leadgate, and on March 12th 1870 Jane Ann⁸³, who had not been vaccinated, caught the dreaded, deadly and disfiguring illness. She died ten days later and was buried on March 23rd, in Leadgate Churchyard. No doubt fearing that little Hannah⁹⁰ had been exposed to the infection, no time was lost in baptising her - her baptism took place in the same church and on the very same day as her mother’s funeral!

Francis⁸⁴ was devastated by his young wife’s horrible death and turned to drink in an attempt to drown his sorrows. He even drank the money left by his in-laws to pay for a headstone on the grave. Such was his grief that he was found one day lying on the grave wishing himself dead. With neighbours frightened to help and Francis barely conscious, the three children, aged 5 years, 2 years and 3 months, were terribly neglected. When Francis was visited by his late wife’s relation, John⁷⁷ Brown, a few days later, he was so shocked at the state of the children that he took two of them, Ann⁸⁷ and Thomas⁸⁸, back to Rookhope with him. Little Hannah⁹⁰, however, was left with her father - a very puzzling feature of this sad tale, and one for which I have no satisfactory explanation, unless she actually had smallpox.

Thomas⁸⁸ was brought up at Rookhope by his uncle John⁷⁷ and John’s second wife, Elizabeth⁷⁸, who had no children of their own. They lived first at Bolts Walls, then at Hilton Terrace and finally at Blue Row. Around 1889 Thomas⁸⁸ left Rookhope to take up work at a coal mine at Throckley. While there he married an Allendale girl, Margaret⁸⁹ Philipson.

Ann⁸⁷ went to live with her great-grandparents, Thomas⁹ and Jane¹⁰, at Broaddale House. Also living there were her great-uncle, Joseph⁷⁹, and her mother’s cousin, Elizabeth, the daughter of John⁷⁷ by his first wife.

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Jane¹⁰ died in 1871 and Thomas⁹ in 1872 but Ann⁸⁷ remained with Joseph⁷⁹ and Elizabeth. When Joseph⁸⁷ married in 1875 and set up home at Chapel Row, Rookhope, Ann⁸⁷, then aged 11, went with him. Sadly Joseph's wife died in 1878 leaving a 1-year-old daughter, Margaret Jane, and Ann⁸⁷ became Joseph's housekeeper and nanny to the baby. Tragedy struck again in 1882 when little Margaret Jane died.

Francis⁸⁴ Pears and little Hannah⁹⁰ apparently spent much of the period 1870 to 1880 in Lanchester Workhouse after which time Hannah went to live with her mother's second cousin, Elizabeth⁹⁶, and her husband James⁹⁷ Scott, who ran the Robin Hood Inn at Hexham. Exactly when she went is rather uncertain and it is possible that Hannah⁹⁰ lived first with Elizabeth's parents, Joseph⁹³ Maughan Pears and Honor⁹⁴. Joseph Maughan Pears, a blacksmith and Primitive Methodist local preacher, was the son of Joseph²⁰ Pears who made the deathbed confession about his father's will. Hannah⁹⁰ went from Hexham to work at the Three Mile Bridge Inn at Seaton Burn and there she met and married miner William⁹¹ Brown in 1900.

Francis Pears had continued to drink to excess but circa 1883 he was "saved" by the Salvation Army, probably through his brother William who was a member at Consett. He re-established contact with his daughter Ann⁸⁷, who was by then in service with a family at Edmondbyers, and they remained in touch by letter and visits for many years. (Francis' letters to Ann have survived - they are the source of much of the detail given here). In 1888 Ann⁸⁷ went as housekeeper to William⁸⁶ Joseph Hall whose wife, Mary⁸⁵ Jane (Polly), had died, leaving two very young children. Polly was Ann's cousin, or at least she was the step-daughter of Francis' brother, William. As often happened in such circumstances, Ann⁸⁷ and William Joseph⁸⁶ were married shortly afterwards. They set up home at Gateshead.

Thomas⁸⁸ and Hannah⁹⁰ were never reconciled with their father, Francis⁸⁴, but they did meet each other again and they both met with Ann⁸⁷ and communicated with her by letter. Francis' life too seemed to be getting back on track and in 1891 he married the lady with whom he had been cohabiting for at least eight years, widower Bessie Whitfield. Something went badly wrong, however, and by 1896 he was back in Lanchester Workhouse and was completely shunned by his friends and family, even by Ann⁸⁷. We can only assume that he had lost his faith and returned to drinking but, whatever the cause, he was never to get his life sorted out. Over the next eight years he was admitted and discharged from the workhouse a number of times, and he died there in 1904.

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Appendix 1...The Poem

Matthew Wilson's poem "*The Greendikes or The Forged Will*" is reproduced on the following pages. The page layout and typefaces closely approximate to those used in the original version of the poem as printed by Thomas Cheesbrough of Hexham in 1845. The only deliberate changes are the inclusion of verse numbers [v.1]---[v.54] and an increase in page size from about 4½ X 7 inches to A4.

THE
GREENDIKES:
OR
THE FORGED WILL.

A POEM

BY M. WILSON, HEXHAM.

“I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is, and I will give it him.” EZEKIAL C. 21, V. 27.

HEXHAM:

PRINTED BY THOMAS CHEESEBROUGH,

Fore Street,

1845.

THE GREENDIKES, &c.



- [v.1] Old *Time*, for ever on the wing,
That will not wait for queen or king,
Discloses wonders every day,
And curious scenes does oft display :
Poets have written in their songs,
“That *time*, at length, suppresses wrongs.”
- [v.2] When Jacob was a while bereav'd
Of children, how his mind was griev'd :
“ Joseph is not, * and Simeon now,
And ye will take Benjamin too ?
All these things, as I plainly see,
Are quite injurious to me.”
- [v.3] But *time*, at length, arriv'd to shew
The good man that it was not so,—
Though a dark cloud did intervene,
Beyond it lay a brighter scene ;
His children were to him restor'd,
And plenty crown'd the patriach's board.
- [v.4] But to proceed on with my tale,—
The *Greendikes* lie in Allendale,
The houses there, and all the lands,
That now are held by various hands,
Were once the property of one,
Who from this stage of life is gone.

* *Genises, chapter 42 verse 36.*

- [v.5] Old Esther Madgin made her will,
 In which she shew'd superior skill ;
 Philanthropy, which sway'd her heart,
 Its genial influence did impart ;
 Her fine estate she did divide,
 That for her friends she might provide.
- [v.6] One got the *Hagg*,—a pleasant place,
 The *Park* another did solace ;
 The *Greendikes*, I declare to you,
 She by her will did halve in two,—
 The Farbridges one half obtain'd,
 While Esther Pears the other gain'd.
- [v.7] Old Matthew Pears * died *intestate*,
 This, doubtless, was the will of fate ;
 Now his son Matthew was his heir,
 And should have had his mother's share,
 But *disappointment* was his lot,
 For the Greendikes he *never* got !
- [v.8] A Will was forged, as you must know,
 By Esther Pears and her son Joe ;
 Who wrote this will ?—there lies the rub,—
 A certain man did so for grub,
 One hundred pounds—they dear were bought,
 But who would risk his neck for nought ?
- [v.9] And thus poor Matthew was depriv'd,
 But the delinquents never thriv'd,
 For Esther liv'd not long to know
 How matters in this world might go ;
 Time resteth not, but travels on,
 The *male* transgressors too are gone
- [v.10] Yet while they liv'd they did not fail,
 Upon the banks of Allendale
 To sit, or stand, or walk about,
 In conversation grave no doubt ;
 What was it made them thus unite,
 And draw together day and night ?—

* *The husband of Esther Pears.*

- [v.11] Was it the will they thus had made ?
Or were the gentlemen afraid
The one the other might expose ?
No man can tell, for no man knows !
Time has not yet the reason shown,
And till it does 'twill not be known.
- [v.12] Poor Matthew Pears ! I now relate
Thy hard way through, and tragic fate :
Robb'd of thy birthright, sad ! sad ! sad !
Mother and Brother—'twas too bad ;
But *avarice* is a dæmon fell,
That turns this earth oft to a hell.
- [v.13] The *spoilers* on thy fine domain,
Did render all thy efforts vain ;
False might did over right prevail,
And they immur'd thee in a gaol,
And kept thee there until at length
Reduced was thy former strength.
- [v.14] Those who had robb'd thee, liv'd in dread,
Thou labour'd for thy daily bread,
To keep thy family all fair,
From day to day was all thy care ;
Impoverish'd by thy loss of rights,
Thou toiled hard both days and nights.
- [v.15] The drama now drew to a close,
Men are exposed to various woes ;
The muse the dismal tale must tell :—
One night, while walking 'cross the fell,
The storm arose—the wind did blow,
Thou lost thy life amongst the snow !
- [v.16] Thy widow, and thy family too,
Did mourn, but then what could they do ?
Compell'd they were, as is most fit,
To heaven's fiat to submit,
And hope thou there, among the blest,
Found, what this world denied thee, rest.

- [v.17] Thy eldest son, as thou hadst been,
Was *filched* of his rights I ween ;
He has a wife and family,
And has to labour hard like thee ;
Now time which wrongs oft puts to right,
A curious secret brought to light.
- [v.18] His uncle Joseph could not find
Peace to his sad and troubled mind ;
The forged will by night and day
Did banish happiness away ;
Then he resolv'd—what could he less ?—
To *cheat the devil* and confess !
- [v.19] At length his misery he disgorg'd,—
“ My father's will,” cried he “was forg'd !
'Twas —— wrote it neat and nice ;
He led us then upon the ice,
And left us there to slide or fall,
Or let *old Nichol* get us all.
- [v.20] “ When I am dead, mind you disclose
This secret—source of all my woes ;
With truth and equity it squares,
Who have just claims should have their shares.”
This said, he did resign his breath,
And yielded to the stroke of death.
- [v.21] Now rumours all around were spread,
Of what was said by him that's dead ;
The *poet* off was sent to see
What truth might in these rumours be ;
A brother of the *heirs* went too,
A *friendly* brother you'll allow.
- [v.22] To *Beldon Shields* we bent our way,
To hear what Betty had to say ;
She told us all that Joe did tell,
Which she remember'd very well ;
I wrote it down and she did sign,—
Betty ! thy candour made thee shine.

- [v.23] To *Shildon* next we went, to know
 How at that place the wind might blow ;
 For Mark, a *miner* of some skill,
 Was witness to the forged will,
 Although, alas ! he cannot write,
 Or tell what others may indite !
- [v.24] He said—“ At the Greendikes, I sign’d
 A paper once,* as I can mind ;
 This I was made to understand,
 Was an agreement for some land ;
 Then Matthew Pears was in his grave,
 —’Tis true, as I’ve a soul to save !
- [v.25] “ Both Esther Pears and Joe were there,
 Our Richard was not, † that I’ll swear,
 But only them, our Joe, and I,
 I speak the truth, and hate a lie ! ”
 I wrote all down, he *mark’d* it too,
 This surely reader must be true.
- [v.26] On the fair-day, at Allendale
 The heir and I were, without fail,—
 Saw Richard Noble who did say :
 “ I was not present on that day,
 At the Greendikes, when *Joe* and *Mark*
 Sign’d a forg’d will both false and dark.”
- [v.27] To *Steel-Wood-Head* we off did go,
 To talk the matter o’er with Joe ;
 He there confirm’d what Mark had said,
 And all, *the secret*, open laid ;
 Let no one honest truth e’er blame,
 I wrote it and he sign’d his name.

* *This was in the Summer of 1825, though
 the will he then signed bears date Nov. 1824.*

† *Richard Noble’s name is at the Forged
 Will though he was not present at the time, nor
 did he ever sign it at all !*

- [v.28] At *Holling-house* we had our tea,
 And treated were hospitably ;
 Then to the Greendikes off we went,
 To take possession fully bent ;
 The heir and I with sticks in hand,
 Soon enter'd on his *fatherland*.
- [v.29] We tried a door, but then the lock
 Was rusty, and withstood the shock ;
 Then we to *London* * ran with speed,
 Determin'd there to do the deed ;
 The door was open, in we went,
 And both of us were well content.
- [v.30] The night was cold we made a fire,
 The wind arose higher and higher ;
 We were amused at poor Bright,
 Who got a fearful shock that night—
 He saw us, and, possess'd with dread,
 He turn'd, and down the fell he fled !
- [v.31] At the Greendikes a tale he told,
 Which made the widow's blood run cold—
 “ That up at London, two men were
 Most frightful,” so he did declare,
 “ They have a mastiff I can tell,
 Like a hyæna fierce and fell ! ”
- [v.32] The next day Matthew cut a tree
 Down to the ground, no fear had he—
 Procur'd a spade, and then and there
 Turn'd o'er three sods and land left bare,
London lock'd up without delay,
 This done, he home-ward bent his way.
- [v.33] This troubled sore the *young trustee*,
 This did alarm the *mortgagee* ;
 The muse will say—and where's the sin ?—
 Their troubles did but then begin ;
 When they will end time has not shown,
 One trouble seldom comes alone.

* *The name of the Fell-House at Greendikes.*

- [v.34] Now Abram Dawson took in hand,
To place the heir on his own land,
Regardless of the young trustee,
In spite of the said mortgagee,—
When the foundation's gone, you know,
The house will soon be levell'd low.
- [v.35] Abram arous'd would not sit still,
He went to York and saw the will—
I mean the forg'd one, 'tis a truth,
Then on he journied further south, *
Consulted counsel him to shew,
How on his way he ought to go.
- [v.36] He wrote to Matthew without fail,
To meet with him at Allendale ;
William was ask'd to be there to,
Then they'd consult what's best to do ;
Three heads are better far than one,
Tho' one is better far than none.
- [v.37] I must one thing explain to you :—
In eighteen hundred and two,
Old Matthew Pears I understand,
Did lay a mortgage on his land,
And Esther join'd him in the deed,
This show'd of money they had need.
- [v.38] Five hundred pounds they then and there
Did saddle on their heirs or heir ;
Yet they for one thing did provide—
Their wills could set this deed aside ;
This money paid off, it is shown,
They reserv'd a right to will their own.
- [v.39] But if no wills or will they made,
Then all their children, it is said,
Must share alike, for so we read,
This is the substance of the deed ;
Failing their wills, this is no joke,
This contract never can be broke.

* *To the City of London.*

- [v.40] Now Matthew Pears died *intestate*,
 And Esther yielded to her fate—
Intestate too, for it is said,
 Her own will Esther never made,
 Tho' she got one, as *Matthews* wrote,
 When he was dead, it goes for nought.
- [v.41] The deed, then, must remain in force,
 Take it for better or for worse ;
 It was the act of the old pair,
 And some think it is not unfair ;
 It's framer has display'd some skill,
 And there it is.* both deed and will.
- [v.42] It now is time that I should tell
 What the last mortgagee befell :
 The first of all was Wardle, who
 Did lift his money long ago,—
 Five hundred pounds, and interest too,
 Then he the Greendikes bid adieu.
- [v.43] But ere he could do this, first he
 Did file a Bill in Chancery,
 Where, after all the case was heard,
 The Chancellor gave his award,
 And he recover'd what he sought,—
 Oft *litigation* dear is bought.
- [v.44] And now the forged will arose,
 Of land and money to dispose ;
 This will was prov'd, and deemed right,
 But black I'm sure cannot be white ;
 This will was duly acted on,
 As the last will of him that's gone.
- [v.45] Now Henry bought the Greendikes, and
 He enter'd on the luckless land ;
 He bought it cheap, but cheaper made
 It after purchase, it is said,
 For ne'er a friend who claim'd a share,
 Could get a sovereign, some declare.

* *In the Manor Office at Hexham.*

- [v.46] Another mortgage was laid on,
 For Wardle with his cash was gone,
 Five hundred and fifty pounds
 Were this mortgages utmost bounds,
 One hundred and fifty more
 A bond or note upon it bore.
- [v.47] But he who laid it on did make,
 In doing so, a sad mistake ;
 It's basis was the forged will—
 Say not his lawyer lacked skill
 To detect and shun the artful snare,
 And save his money then and there.
- [v.48] But rather ask, what could he do ?
 He thought the forged will was true—
Attested, sworn to, prov'd beside !
 Whoever dream'd that *dummy lied* ?
 Whoever such a thing believ'd ?
 No wonder that he was deceiv'd.
- [v.49] *A pigmy vainly* would assay
 To stop a *deluge* on its way,
A giant just as *vainly* try
 To drain the *mighty ocean* dry,
 Or Henderson to prove by law,
 His deeds are good—*devoid of flaw*.
- [v.50] Doubtless some money will be lost,
 No wonder that his mind is tost !
 The trustee and the widow now
 Perplex'd, enquire, what shall we do ?
 The Law will shortly this decide,
 And set the doubtful claims aside.
- [v.51] Brave Dawson onward urg'd his course,
 Exposing fraud—opposing force ;
 The *station* of the young trustee,
 Or money of the mortgagee,
 In vain to stop his progress, tried,
 All opposition he defied.

[v.52] Firm as a rock the lawyer stood,
 Regardless of the surging flood ;
 The storm might rise and rage around,
 It could not make him quit his ground ;
 Thrice he is arm'd whose cause is just,—
 The guilty fly, or bite the dust.

[v.53] The law will soon determine, and
 The heir or heirs will get the land,
 The forg'd will cannot bide the test,
 It's falsehood is by all confest ;
 Old Esther's children, or their heirs,
 Of the Greendikes will get their shares.

[v.54] And may they long their own enjoy,
 And all their energies employ
 To heal the *breaches time* has made,
 And lend each other mutual aid ;
 May love and unity increase,
And all concerned live in peace.

Hexham, Jan. 10, 1845.

Appendix 2...Miscellaneous Records

Superscript numbers, e.g. Matthew¹¹ Pears, refer to the numbers shown on the charts (family trees) in Appendices 5, 6 and 7 on pages **Error! Bookmark not defined.** to **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

- 1608 Survey
John Hutchinson - a certain close called Hollinclose and the Greene
Dike. Rent 15/8
- Monday, 28th November 1757 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Elizabeth¹³ daughter of Joseph¹ & Hannah² Maughan of Allendale Town
- Wednesday, 25th November 1761 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Esther¹² daughter of Joseph¹ and Hannah² Maughan of Dryburn.
- Tuesday, 19th April 1763 Conveyance See Appendix 3, page 64.
Conveyance of part of *Greendikes* from James Broadwood and Hannah
his wife (formerly Hutchinson) to John⁴ and Elizabeth³ Madgen.
- Thursday, 7th December 1775 Will See Appendix 3, page 65.
Will of Elizabeth³ Madgen.
Mentions: Joseph¹ Maughan
Hannah² Maughan
Esther¹² Maughan
- Thursday, 15th November 1781 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Elizabeth³ Madgeon, Widow of The Hagg
- Thursday, 7th February 1782 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
Matthew¹¹ Pears of this Parish of Allendale and Esther¹² Maughan of
the same place were married in this Parish Church of Allendale by
Banns this 7th Day of the Month of February 1782. (Witnesses Joseph
Maughan, Ann Watson)
- Monday, 26th August 1782 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Thos. Farbridge of The Hagg
- Saturday, 11th January 1783 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Elizabeth¹⁶ daughter of Matthew¹¹ and Esther¹² Pears of *Greendyke*.
- Thursday, 14th October 1784 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Jacob Hutchinson of Holly Close
- Monday, 3rd December 1787 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Matthew¹⁸ son of Matthew¹¹ & Esther¹² Pears of Allendale Town
- Thursday, 11th February 1790 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Jane¹⁰ dghtr of Matthew¹¹ & Esther¹² Pears of Allendale Town (about 1
year old)
Joseph²⁰ son of Matthew¹¹ & Esther¹² Pears of Allendale Town
- Saturday, 29th January 1791 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Elizabeth daughter of Thomas & Tabitha Forster of *Greendyke*

Sunday, 25th December 1791 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Henry¹⁵ son of Matthew¹¹ & Esther¹² Pears of Greendyke

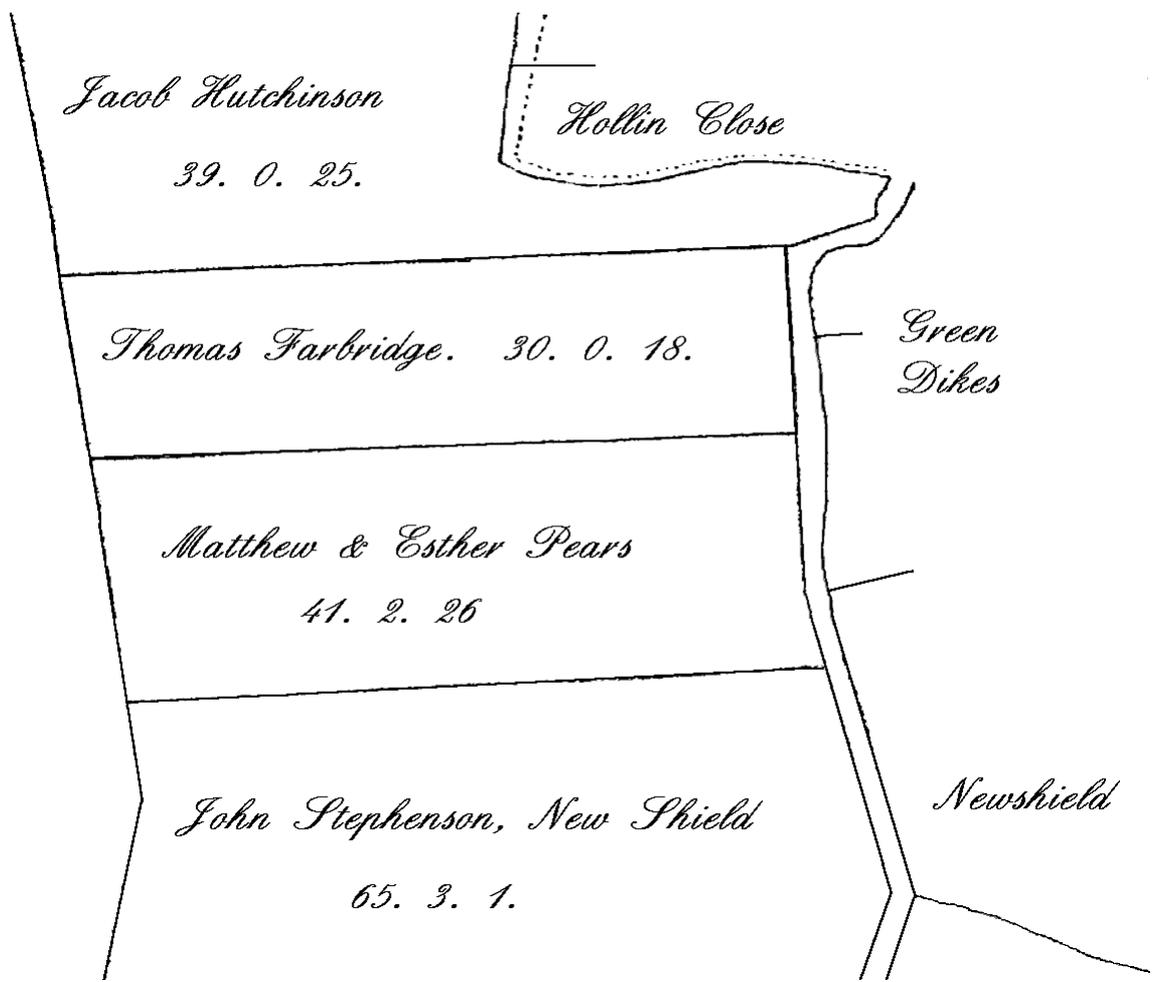
Sunday, 15th April 1792 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Elizabeth daughter of Matthew & Margaret Lee of Greendykes

Sunday, 28th July 1793 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Rebecca Hutchinson of Hollin Close, Widow

Sunday, 20th October 1793 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Joseph¹ Maughan of High Oustley

Sunday, 17th August 1794 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Esther²³ daughter of Matthew¹¹ & Esther¹² Pears of Greendyke

1800 Enclosure Awards
Matthew¹¹ and Esther¹² Pears of Green Dikes
41 acres, 2 rods, 26 perches
East Boundary: Acton Road
West Boundary: Stinted Pasture
North Boundary: Thos. Farbridge's Allotment
South Boundary: John Stephenson's Allotment
Boundary to be fenced: East, West and South
Number and Fifths of Stints: 9 -
Tenure: Copyhold
Grieveship: Park



[From a tracing of the original plan at Northumberland Record Office]

Tuesday, 16th February 1802 Deed of Mortgage. See Appendix 3, page 68.
Greendikes mortgaged by Matthew¹¹ and Esther¹² Pears to John Wardell of Cramlington.

Saturday, 19th April 1806 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
Joe Henderson son of the late John Henderson of Low Acton
Nanny Farbridge daughter of Thomas Farbridge of the Hagg,
Gentleman

Saturday, 17th January 1807 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Hannah²⁵ Pears, born 5/5/1799, 4th daughter of Matthew¹¹ Pears,
farmer, native of this Parish, by his wife Esther¹², late Maughan, native
of this Parish.

John²⁶ Pears, born 26/9/1801, 4th son of Matthew¹¹ Pears, farmer,
native of this Parish, by his wife Esther¹², late Maughan, native of this
Parish.

William²⁷ Pears, born 29/11/1804, 5th son of Matthew¹¹ Pears, farmer,
native of this Parish, by his wife Esther¹², late Maughan, native of this
Parish.

Sunday, 19th July 1807 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Robert Henderson, born 8/3/1807, first son of Jos. Henderson of Lane Side, a native of Allendale, Miner, and Ann his wife, late Farbridge

Sunday, 4th September 1808 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Matthew¹⁸ Pears and Rebecca¹⁹ Hutchinson, both of this Parish, were married in this church by Banns.

Sunday, 22nd July 1810 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
 John¹⁷ Robson and Elizabeth¹⁶ Pears, both of this Parish. Witnesses Thomas Robson and Jane¹⁰ Pears (X her mark).

Sunday, 4th November 1810 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Thomas³² Pears, 1st son of Matthew¹⁸ Pears of Holly Close
 Matthew³³ Pears, 2nd son of Matthew¹⁸ Pears of Holly Close

Sunday, 11th July 1813 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 William³⁵ son of Matthew¹⁸ & Rebecca¹⁹ Pears, Holling Close, Miner

Saturday, 16th December 1815 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Matthew²⁴ Robson of Blanchland Parish and
 Esther²³ Pears of this Parish

Friday, 14th June 1816 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Eleanor³⁷ daughter of Matthew¹⁸ & Rebecca¹⁹ Pears, Wooley Burn Foot, Miner

Friday, 14th June 1816 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Thomas³² Pears of Wooley Burne Foot, 7 years

Sunday, 22nd December 1816 Baptism Blanchland
 Thomas, son of Matthew²⁴ Robson of Shildon House, Husbandman, and his wife Esther²³, formerly Pears

Thursday, 17th July 1817 Northumberland Quarter Sessions
 Midsummer Session: Recognizances: No 34
 Thomas⁹ Brown of Rookhope, Co Durham. Ore Miner
 James Brown of same place, Farmer
 Taken by me Simon Newburn Esq
 (Testator Tho Brown⁹ to answer Jane¹⁰ Pears on a charge of Bastardy)

Saturday, 25th October 1817 Baptism Stanhope
 Thomas son of Jane¹⁰ Pears of Allendale, Spinster

Saturday, 11th July 1818 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Thomas⁹ Brown of the Parish of Stanhope and Jane¹⁰ Pears of this Parish were married in this Church by Banns.

Sunday, 28th October 1821 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Thomas³⁸, born 6/10/1821, son of Matthew¹⁸ & Rebecca¹⁹ Pears, Allendale Town

Sunday, 25th August 1822 Baptism Blanchland
Henry, son of Matthew²⁴ Robson of Shildon House, Farmer, and his
wife Esther²³, formerly Pears
Joseph, son of Matthew²⁴ Robson of Shildon House, Farmer, and his
wife Esther²³, formerly Pears

Sunday, 22nd September 1822 Baptism Stanhope
Esther⁴¹ daughter of Henry¹⁵ & Hannah²² Pears of Lintzgarth,
Rookhope

Friday, 20th February 1824 Burial Stanhope
Hannah²² Pears of Lintzgarth, 25 years

Tuesday, 5th October 1824 Baptism Blanchland
Emerson, son of Matthew²⁴ Robson of Shildon House, and his wife
Esther²³, formerly Pears

Saturday, 6th November 1824 Will See Appendix 3, page 71.
Supposed will of Matthew¹¹ Pears.
Mentions: Jane¹⁰ Brown Hannah²⁵ Pears
Esther¹² Pears John²⁶ Pears
Henry¹⁵ Pears William²⁷ Pears
Elizabeth¹⁶ Robson Joseph²⁹ Noble
Matthew¹⁸ Pears Mark³⁰ Noble
Joseph²⁰ Pears Richard³¹ Noble
Esther²³ Robson

Thursday, 2nd June 1825 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Matthew¹¹ Pears of Green Dyke, 65 years

Sunday, 5th June 1825 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
John, illegitimate son of Hannah²⁵ Pears, Greendyke

Saturday, 22nd April 1826 Marriage Stanhope
Henry¹⁵ Pears of this Parish and Mary¹⁴ Wilkinson of this Parish
(Witnesses James Brown, Elizabeth Wilkinson, George Dodds)

Saturday, 21st April 1827 Death Notice Newcastle Courant
Esther¹², widow of Matthew¹¹ Pears, Greendyke, Allendale

Wednesday, 25th April 1827 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Esther¹² Pears of Green Dyke, 66 years

Sunday, 10th February 1828 Baptism Stanhope
Mary⁴⁷ daughter of Henry¹⁵ & Mary¹⁴ Pears, Lintzgarth, Miner

Saturday, 24th May 1828 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
William²⁷ Pears & Mary²⁸ Noble, both of this Parish

1829 Stinted Pasture Owners in the Parish of Allendale
 Greendikes 6 stints, 2 parts. Original owners: Thomas Farbridge.
 6 stints, 2 parts. Present owners: J. Farbridge
 Green Dikes 9 stints Original owners: Mat¹¹. & Est¹². Pears
 [BLANK] Present owners: [BLANK]

Sunday, 11th October 1829 Baptism Stanhope
 Elizabeth⁴⁹ daughter of Henry¹⁵ & Mary¹⁴ Pears, Lintzgarth, Miner

Thursday, 27th January 1831 History of Allendale and Whitfield - Dickinson.
 A terrible storm commenced on this day, accompanied by wind, and
 continued with slight intermission for six weeks. On February 4th a
 man named Matthew¹⁸ Pears was lost on the moors between
 Hexhamshire and Allendale. The storm was for many years spoken of as
 "Matt Pears' Storm"

Monday, 7th February 1831 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Matthew¹⁸ Pears, Allendale Town, 46.
 Perished in the Storm, between Derwent and Allendale Town

Saturday, 16th July 1831 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Joseph²⁰ Pears & Elizabeth²¹ Ridley, both of this Parish

1832 Electoral Register
 Thomas Hutchinson Abode: Holling Close
 & William Hutchinson Qualification: Shares of Copyhold
 Houses & Land at Holling
 Close. Thomas & William Hutchinson,
 Tenants.
 Henry¹⁵ Pears. Abode: Greendike.
 Qualification: Freehold Houses and Lands at
 Greendike,
 Henry Pears and others Tenants.
 John²⁶ Pears. Abode: Wooley Greens.
 Qualification: Copyhold House and Lands at Wooley
 Greens,
 John Pears and others Tenant.
 Francis Shield Abode: Barnard Castle, Durham
 Qualification: Allendale Town and Strudder.
 Joseph²⁰ Pears, John Nairn, and Others, Tenants.

Saturday, 20th October 1832 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Henry⁵¹ son of Henry¹⁵ & Mary¹⁴ Pears, Greendyke, Miner

Saturday, 27th October 1832 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Esther daughter of William²⁷ & Mary²⁸ Pears, Low Green Dyke, Stone
 Cutter

Isabella daughter of William²⁷ & Mary²⁸ Pears, Low Green Dyke, Stone
Cutter

Sunday, 9th December 1832 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Joseph Maughan⁹³ Pears, son of Joseph²⁰ & Elizabeth²¹ Pears, Allendale
Town, Innkeeper

1834 Directory

Joseph²⁰ Pears, Black Bull Inn, Allendale Town

Saturday, 6th December 1834 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
James⁵² son of Henry¹⁵ & Mary¹⁴ Pears, Green Dyke, Yeoman

Saturday, 4th April 1835 Marriage St John Lee, Acomb
Matthew³³ Pears of Allendale and Margaret³⁴ Kell
(Witnesses Elizabeth Parker, William Pears)

Thursday, 18th February 1836 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
Birth of Thomas⁴³ Pears

Sunday, 27th March 1836 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Thomas⁴³, born 18/2/1836, son of Matthew³³ & Margaret³⁴ Pears of
Woolley, Miner

Sunday, 26th February 1837 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
William⁵⁴, son of Henry¹⁵ & Mary¹⁴ Pears of Green Dyke, Farmer

Thursday, 22nd February 1838 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
William³⁵ Pears²⁴, Bachelor, Lead Miner, Allendale Town,
son of Matthew¹⁸ Pears, Lead Miner
Ann³⁶ Parker 27, Spinster, Dress Maker, Allendale Town,
daughter of Hugh Parker, Lead Miner

Saturday, 24th November 1838 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Matthew, son of William³⁵ & Ann³⁶ Pears of Allendale Town, Lead Miner

January 1839 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Ann⁵⁶, daughter of Henry¹⁵ & Mary¹⁴ Pears of Green Dike, Farmer

Tuesday, 7th January 1840 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Ellen³⁷ Pears of Allendale Town, 24 years

Sunday, 17th May 1840 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
Birth of Ellenor⁴⁴ (Melrose)

Saturday, 21st November 1840 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Thomas, son of William³⁵ & Ann³⁶ Pears of Allendale Town, Lead Ore
Miner

1841 Directory

Ann³⁶ Pears, Straw Bonnet Maker, Allendale

Tuesday, 2nd February 1841 Headstone of William²⁷ Pears Newbrough
William²⁷ Pears. Died at Stonecroft 2/2/1841 aged 34

Sunday, 6th June 1841 Census See Appendix 4, page 79.
Includes reference to: Thomas⁹ Brown Elizabeth⁴⁹
Pearse

Jane ¹⁰ Brown	Henry ⁵¹ Pearse
Mary ¹⁴ Pearse	James ⁵² Pearse
Henry ¹⁵ Pearse	William ⁵⁴ Pearse
Rebecca ¹⁹ Pears	Ann ⁵⁶ Pearse
Matthew ³³ Pears	Thomas ⁶⁷ Brown
Margaret ³⁴ Pears	Hannah ⁶⁸ Brown
William ³⁵ Pears	Esther ⁷¹ Brown
Ann ³⁶ Pears	James ⁷² Brown
Thomas ³⁸ Pears	Mary ⁷⁴ Brown
Thomas ⁴³ Pears	John ⁷⁷ Brown
Matthew ⁴⁵ Pears	Joseph ⁷⁹ Brown
Mary ⁴⁷ Pearse	Matthew ⁸¹ Brown

Sunday, 10th October 1841 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Thomas⁵⁷, son of Henry¹⁵ & Mary¹⁴ Pears of Green Dike, Farmer

Saturday, 9th April 1842 Will See Appendix 3, page 74.
Will of Henry¹⁵ Pears

Mentions: Mary¹⁴ Pears Henry⁵¹ Pears
 Matthew⁴⁰ Pears James⁵² Pears
 Esther⁴¹ Pears William⁵⁴ Pears
 Mary⁴⁷ Pears Ann⁵⁶ Pears
 Elizabeth⁴⁹ Pears Thomas⁵⁷ Pears

Wednesday, 11th May 1842 Death Certificate
Eleventh of May 1842 at Green Dyke
Henry¹⁵ Pears, Male, 51 years, Lead ore Miner
Dropsy and Disease of the heart
Informant: Matthew Henderson of Hunt Rods, in attendance.

Friday, 13th May 1842 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Henry¹⁵ Pears of Green Dike, 51 years

Sunday, 9th October 1842 Marriage Warden
John Bell, Widower, and Mary²⁸ Pears, Widow, daughter of Thomas Noble

Sunday, 22nd September 1844 Death Certificate
Twenty-second of September 1844 at Beldon Shield, Blanchland
Joseph²⁰ Pears, Male, 56 years, Lead-ore Miner, Consumption
Informant: Thomas Robson of Jemson's Mill, In Attendance

Tuesday, 24th September 1844 Burial Hunstonworth
Joseph²⁰ Pears of Baldon, 56 years.

Sunday, 3rd November 1844 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Jane, daughter of Mary⁴⁷ Pears of Greendyke, Singlewoman

Friday, 10th January 1845 Poem See Appendix 1, page 36
Poem "The Greendikes or The Forged Will" written by Matthew Wilson
of Hexham.

1847 Directory
William³⁵ Pears, Grocer, Allendale

Monday, 24th May 1847 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Rebecca¹⁹ Pears of Allen Town, 66 years

Monday, 31st January 1848 Headstone of William²⁷ Pears Newbrough
William Thomas Noble Pears, his son. Died at Settlingstones 31/1/1848
aged 7

Monday, 28th February 1848 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Margaret, daughter of Mary¹⁴ Pears of Greendyke, Widow

Thursday, 2nd March 1848 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Margaret⁴² Pears of Greendykes, 3 weeks

Sunday, 4th June 1848 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Anne Rebecca, daughter of William³⁵ & Ann³⁶ Pears of Allen Town,
Yeoman

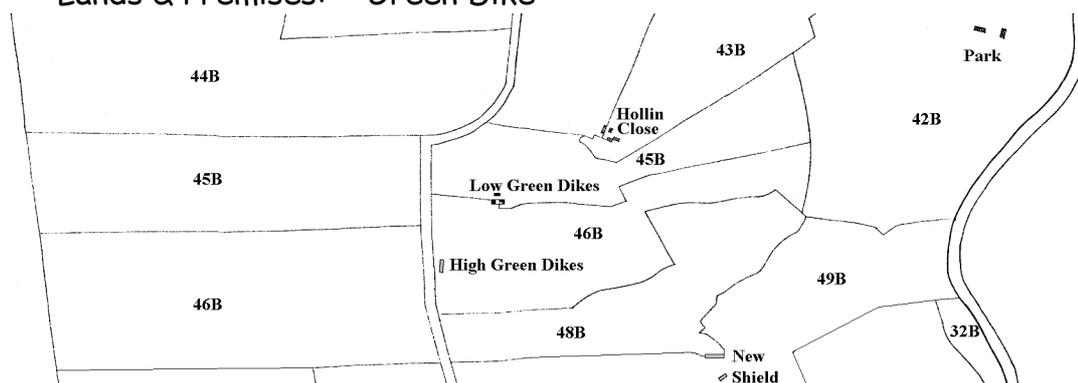
1849 Tithe Awards (Rent charges in lieu of tithes)
The Heirs of Henry¹⁵ Pears, Greendykes, 65 acres 2 rods. Rent charge
£2.

Landowner: The Heirs of Henry¹⁵ Pears

Occupiers: Matthew Henderson

Numbers on plan: 46B

Lands & Premises: Green Dike



[From a tracing of the original plan at Northumberland Record Office]

Thursday, 18th October 1849 Marriage Wesleyan Methodist
Thomas³⁸ Pears, 27 years, Bachelor, Jeweller, Allendale Town
Father: Matthew¹⁸ Pears, Miner
Ann³⁹ Robinson, 35 years, Spinster, Allendale Town
Father: George Robinson, Miner

1850 Electoral Register
 William³⁵ Pears. Abode: Allendale Town.
 Qualification: Copyhold house and land at Holling
 Close.

Saturday, 23rd November 1850 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Ann, daughter of Elizabeth⁴⁹ Pears of Green Dyke, Singlewoman

c1851	Quaker Sufferings	Allendale
<u>Sufferer</u>	<u>Demand</u>	<u>Claimant</u>
<u>taken</u>		<u>Constable</u>
Abraham	Tithe Rent Charge	William ³⁵ Two Cows
Shield	Commutation Expenses	William Taylor Pears
	Tithe Commutators	

Monday, 31st March 1851 Census See Appendix 4, page 80.

Includes reference to:	Thomas ⁹ Brown	James ⁵² Pears
	Jane ¹⁰ Brown	William ⁵⁴ Pears
	Mary ¹⁴ Pears	Ann ⁵⁶ Pears
	Elizabeth ²¹ Pears	Thomas ⁵⁷ Pears
	Matthew ³³ Pears	James ⁶⁰ Brown
	Margaret ³⁴ Pears	Joseph ⁶² Brown
	William ³⁵ Pears	Elizabeth ⁶³ Brown
	Ann ³⁶ Pears	Mary ⁷⁴ Brown
	Thomas ³⁸ Pears	Jane ⁷⁶ Brown
	Ann ³⁹ Pears	John ⁷⁷ Brown
	Thomas ⁴³ Pears	Matthew ⁸¹ Brown
	Matthew ⁴⁵ Pears	Jane A ⁸³ Brown
	Mary ⁴⁷ Pears	John ⁹² Heatherington
	Elizabeth ⁴⁹ Pears	Joseph Maughan ⁹³ Pears
	Henry ⁵¹ Pears	

Saturday, 6th September 1851 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Joseph⁴⁸ Brown, Full age, Bachelor, Labourer, Riding Hill, son of George,
 Miner
 Mary⁴⁷ Pears, Full age, Spinster, Green Dyke, daughter of Henry¹⁵
 Pears, Yeoman

Sunday, 7th September 1851 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Elizabeth, daughter of Mary⁴⁷ Pears of Green-dyke, Singlewoman

Saturday, 22nd January 1853 Marriage Hunstanworth
 Joseph⁹³ Pears, 20, Blacksmith, Ramshaw, son of Joseph²⁰ Pears, Miner
 Honor⁹⁴ Hahir, 20, daughter of Patrick Hahir, Farmer

Friday, 25th March 1853 Death Certificate
 Twenty-fifth March 1853, Allendale Town
 Thomas³⁸ Pears, Male, 32 years, Ironmonger
 Acute Bronchitis 7 days, Typhoid Fever 7 days, Certified
 William⁵⁴ Pears, Allendale Town Present at the death

Sunday, 27th March 1853 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Thos³⁸. Pears of Allendale Town, 32 years

Saturday, 28th May 1853 Marriage St Cuthberts, Allendale
 John⁵⁰ Wilkinson, 27, Bachelor, Miner, Swinhope, son of John
 Wilkinson, Miner
 Elizabeth⁴⁹ Pears, 23, Spinster, Greendyke, daughter of Henry¹⁵ Pears,
 Miner

Thursday, 16th June 1853 Letters of Administration See Appendix 3, page 78.
 Thomas³⁸ Pears, Allendale Town. Administratrix: Ann³⁹ Pears

1855 Directory
 William³⁵ Pears, Allendale Town, Ironmonger.

1858 Directory
 Mrs Ann³⁹ Pears, China and Glass Dealer, Allendale
 William³⁵ Pears, Ironmonger, Butcher and Farmer, Peth Head, Allendale

Friday, 17th December 1858 Death Certificate
 Seventeenth December 1858, Green Dyke, Allendale
 Mary¹⁴ Pears, Female, 50 years,
 widow of Henry¹⁵ Pears a Lead Miner and Landed Proprietor
 Chonic Peritonitis 10 month, Certified
 Informant: John⁵⁰ Wilkinson, Swinhope, Allendale. Present at the death

Sunday, 19th December 1858 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Mary¹⁴ Pears of Greendyke, 50 years

Friday, 21st January 1859 Baptism St Peters, Sparty Lea
 Archibald Harrison Pears, illegitimate son of Henry⁵¹ Pears,
 Greendykes, Farmer, and Hannah Pears, Spinster, Blossom Hill

Tuesday, 25th January 1859 Burial St Peters, Sparty Lea
 Archibald Harrison Pears of Blossom Hill. Infant

Monday, 8th April 1861 Census See Appendix 4, page 82.
Includes reference to: Thomas⁹ Brown William⁵⁴ Pears
Jane¹⁰ Brown Ann⁵⁶ Pears
Elizabeth²¹ Heatherington Thomas⁵⁷ Pears
William³⁵ Pears John⁷⁷ Brown
Anne³⁶ Pears Joseph⁷⁹ Brown
Ann³⁹ Pears Jane⁸³ Brown
Elizabeth⁴⁹ Wilkinson Joseph⁹³ Maughan Pears
John⁵⁰ Wilkinson Honor⁹⁴ Hahir
Henry⁵¹ Pears Elizabeth⁹⁶ Pears
James⁵² Pears

Saturday, 30th August 1862 Death Certificate
Thirtieth August 1862, Allendale Town
William³⁵ Pears, Male, 49 years
Proprietor of Houses and Land and Ironmonger
Bronchitis, Consumption, Not certified
Informant: Ann Holdon, Allendale Town, Present at the death

Tuesday, 2nd September 1862 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
William³⁵ Pears of Allen Town, 49 years

Saturday, 29th November 1862 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Henry, son of James⁵² & Abigail⁵³ Pears of Lead Gate, Smelter

1864 Directory
William³⁵ Pears, Allendale Town, Ironmonger, shopkeeper, dealer in
groceries and sundries.

Sunday, 23rd October 1864 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
Margaret Ann Polly, daughter of James⁵² & Abigail⁵³ Pears of Pathfoot,
Smelter

Monday, 5th June 1865 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
Birth of Robert⁹⁸ Pears, son of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Sunday, 25th June 1865 Death Notice Newcastle Chronicle
Settlingstone Lead Mines, Miss Esther Pears, age 34

Sunday, 25th June 1865 Headstone of William²⁷ Pears Newbrough
Esther Pears, his daughter. Died at Settlingstones 25/6/1865 aged 35

Tuesday, 26th December 1865 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Henry⁵¹ Pears of Green Dyke, 33 years

Sunday, 18th March 1866 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Margaret Ann Polly Pears of Pathfoot, 1¹/₂ years

Monday, 9th April 1866 Baptism St Johns, Newcastle
Margaret Catherine, daughter of Matthew⁴⁵ & Isabella⁴⁶ Pears,
Denton, Miner

Thursday, 20th December 1866 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
 Birth of Agnes Ann Pears, daughter of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Tuesday, 11th June 1867 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
 Birth of Rebecca Pears, daughter of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Thursday, 1st August 1867 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
 Death of Rebecca Pears, daughter of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Friday, 13th March 1868 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Andrew James, son of James⁵² & Abigail⁵³ Pears of Pathfoot, Smelter

Sunday, 29th November 1868 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Henry, son of William⁵⁴ & Eliza⁵⁵ Pears of Greendyke, Miner

Thursday, 3rd December 1868 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Andrew James Pears of Pathfoot, 2 years

Thursday, 28th January 1869 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
 Birth of Rebecca Pears, daughter of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Thursday, 25th March 1869 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Henry Pears of Green Dyke, 1 year

1869-1871 Birth Index, Allendale Sub-District (23/2/1869-21/4/1871)
 Jane Ann Pears daughter of William⁵⁴ Pears and Eliza⁵⁵ formerly
 Robson
 Henry Pears son of William⁵⁴ Pears and Eliza⁵⁵ formerly Robson

Sunday, 11th December 1870 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 Ellen, daughter of William⁵⁴ & Eliza⁵⁵ Pears of Greendyke, Miner

Monday, 3rd April 1871 Census See Appendix 4, page 84.
 Includes reference to: Thomas⁹ Brown Thomas⁵⁷
 Pears

Jane ¹⁰ Brown	Mary ⁷³ Brown
Ann ³⁶ Pears	John ⁷⁷ Brown
Ann ³⁹ Pears	Elizabeth ⁷⁸ Brown
Matthew ⁴⁵ Pears	Joseph ⁷⁹ Brown
Isabella ⁴⁶ Pears	Matthew ⁸¹ Brown
James ⁵² Pears	Catherine ⁸² Brown
Abigail ⁵³ Pears	Anne ⁸⁷ Brown
William ⁵⁴ Pears	Thomas ⁸⁸ Brown
Eliza ⁵⁵ Pears	

Wednesday, 26th April 1871 Burial Rookhope
 Jane¹⁰ Brown of Broad Dale House, 84 years.

Saturday, 28th October 1871 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
 Birth of John Mill Ross Pears, son of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Sunday, 21st April 1872 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
 John, son of William⁵⁴ & Eliza⁵⁵ Pears of Greendyke, Farmer

Wednesday, 3rd December 1873 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
Birth of Susanna Pears, daughter of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Sunday, 10th May 1874 Baptism St Cuthberts, Allendale
James, son of William⁵⁴ & Eliza⁵⁵ Pears of Greendyke, Farmer

Monday, 22nd May 1876 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
Birth of Thomas Pears, son of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Saturday, 14th June 1879 Family Bible of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴ Pears
Birth of Matthew Pears, son of Thomas⁴³ and Ellenor⁴⁴.

Sunday, 2nd November 1879 Baptism Haltwhistle
Thomas William, son of William⁵⁴ & Eliza⁵⁵ Pears. Henshaw, labourer

1880 Electoral Register

William⁵⁴ Pears. Abode: Green dyke.

Qualification: freehold house & land at Green dyke

Thomas⁵⁷ Pears. Abode: Green dyke.

Qualification: freehold house & land at Green dyke

Leonard Shield. Abode: Green dyke.

Qualification: house & land at Green dyke

c1881 Unknown source

Matthew Wilson, prominent poet, died just prior to 1882, kept Half
Moon Inn, Hexham, Local Preacher, Brother: Willie Wilson

Monday, 4th April 1881 Census See Appendix 4, page 86.

Includes reference to: Ann³⁶ Pears Elizabeth⁷⁸ Brown

Ann³⁹ Pears Joseph⁷⁹ Brown

William⁵⁴ Pears Annie⁸⁷ Brown

Eliza⁵⁵ Pears Thomas⁸⁸ Brown

John⁷⁷ Brown

1881-1884 Birth Index, Allendale Sub-District (20/4/1881-27/2/84)

Matthew Pears son of William⁵⁴ Pears and Eliza⁵⁵ formerly Robson

Saturday, 12th April 1884 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Ann³⁶ Pears of Allendale Town, 72 years

Thursday, 28th August 1884 Baptism Chollerton
George son of William⁵⁴ & Eliza⁵⁵ Pears of Burnmouth, Labourer

1885_1886 Electoral Register

William⁵⁴ Pears. Abode: Bournemouth, Wark.

Qualification: Freehold Land & House at Green dyke

Thomas⁵⁷ Pears. Abode: Mosswood Cottage, Knaresdale.

Qualification: Freehold Land & House at Green dyke

Sunday, 28th March 1886 Burial St Cuthberts, Allendale
Thomas⁵⁷ Pears of Allendale, 45 years

Sunday, 21st March 1909

Baptism

Whitfield

Mary daughter of Henry and Janet Pears of the Monk , Whitfield,
overseer

Appendix 3...Wills and Deeds

Conveyance of the Greendikes from
James Broadwood and
Hannah his Wife (formerly Hutchinson)
to John and Elizabeth Madgen.

The Regality or
Manor of Hexham
with the Members
in the County of
Northumberland.

The Great-Court or Head-Court,
Court-Leet and View of
Frankpledge together with the
Court-Baron of Mary Wife of
William Rastell Clerk Lady of the
said Manor holden there the
Nineteenth Day of April in the
Year of our Lord 1763 before
Edward Collingwood Esq learned
Steward of the same Court

At this court came James Broadwood late of Hindley Hill and now of Greendikes Yeoman and Hannah his Wife / which said Hannah is one of the Daughters of Thomas Hutchinson who was Son of John Hutchinson of Greendikes aforesaid Yeoman both deceased / She the said Hannah being first sole and secretly examined / and Surrendred and released into the hands of the said Lady of the Manor by her Steward aforesaid The Moiety or half part of one Tenement with the Appurtenances lying in East Allendale called Greendikes of the Yearly Rent of Three Shillings and Fourpence and the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders thereof and of every part and parcel thereof and all the Estate Right Title Interest Equity of Redemption property Claim and Demand whatsoever of them the said James Broadwood and Hannah his Wife or either of them of in and to the said premises or any part thereof To the Use

and Behoof of John Madgen of the Hagg in East Allendale aforesaid Gentleman and Elizabeth his wife their Heirs and Assigns To Whom the said Lady of the Manor by her Steward aforesaid granted Seisin To have and to hold to them and to their Heirs and Assigns forever according to the Custom of the said Manor Rendring therefore yearly to the said Lady of the Manor her Heirs and Assigns Three Shillings and Fourpence at Feasts accustomed and doing other Services therefore due and of right used Having given to the said Lady of the Manor for their Fine and Entry as appears in the Margin and so forth they are thereupon admitted tenants

Court This is a true Copy agreeing with the

Rolls examined by me Rich Ellis. Clerk

[Northumberland Record Office: Allendale Papers]

Will of Elizabeth Madgen.

I Elizabeth Madgen of the Hagg in the County of Northumberland Widow Do make and declare this to be and contain my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say, Whereas at a Court Baron hold for this Regality or Manor oh Hexham in the said County on the Seventh Day of December One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy five Nicholas Watson of Taylorburn and Jane his wife according to the Custom of the said Regality or Manor Surrendered several copyhold premises To the use and behoof of John Madgen late of the Hagg aforesaid and afterwards of Allendale Town in the said County

Gentleman and Elizabeth his Wife by way of Mortgage for securing the Sum of Two hundred pounds and Interest And Whereas the said John Madgen is now since dead and the said Elizabeth hath him survived and hath been admitted to the said Copyhold premises since the said John Madgen's decease, and on the twenty first Day of December One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty the said Elizabeth by her Attorney lawfully authorised Surrendered the said premises so given in Mortgage as aforesaid To the use and behoof of Hugh Hutchinson of Allendale Town aforesaid Merchant and Joseph Wilson of the same place Innkeeper their Heirs and Assigns for ever and they were at the same Court Admitted to the said premises Subject to such Right of Equity of Redemption as the said Nicholas Watson his Heirs and Assigns might have or Claim of in and to the said premises by Virtue of the Surrender made and passed on the said Seventh Day of December One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy five Now my Will and pleasure is and I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto Joseph Maughan Senior of the Hagg aforesaid Gamekeeper and Hannah his Wife and for the life of the longer liver of them and from and immediately after my decease the Interest of the said Sum of Two hundred pounds and all such Interest as may happen to be in arrear and unpaid from and immediately after the decease of the Survivor of them the said Joseph Maughan and Hannah his Wife Then I do hereby give Devise and Bequeath unto Esther Maughan Daughter of the said Joseph Maughan by Hannah his said wife, her Executors Administrators and Assigns the said principal Sum of Two hundred pounds And I do also give devise limit direct and appoint unto the said Hannah Maughan and to and for her sole use only,

notwithstanding her Coverture, and to the said Esther Maughan The Moiety or half part of one Tenement with the Appurtenances called Greendikes lying in East Allendale of the Yearly Rent of three Shillings and four pence and also all other my Real and personal Estate that I may be possessed of at the time of my decease to the use and behoof of the said Hannah Maughan and the said Esther Maughan Share and Share alike during the natural life of the said Hannah, only, and from and immediately after the decease of the said Hannah Then I do hereby give devise limit direct and appoint all and singular the said Moiety of the said Tenement called Greendikes To the use of the said Esther Maughan her Heirs and Assigns to hold to her, her Heirs and Assigns for ever And I do hereby nominate constitute and appoint the said Joseph Maughan sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former and other wills by me at any time heretofore made And do hereby publish and declare this to be and contain my last Will and Testament, in manner aforesaid In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this Eighteenth Day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty One.

Signed sealed published and declared by the said testatrix Elizabeth Madgen as and for her last Will and Testament in the presence of us, who in her presence, at her request, and in the presence of each other, have Subscribed our Names as Witnesses hereunto.

Thos Walton

Nicholas Shield
Henry Boyd

those several Fields or Closes called by the respective Names of High Pasture Broadfield and Pryefield and the South part of the Buttery Field as now inclosed containing together Twenty four acres Two Roods and Thirty-nine Perches more or less of the apportioned Yearly Rent of Three Shillings and three pence and all that Allotment of Land late part of Allendale Common lying within Park Grieveship which was set out and allotted to the said Matthew Pears and Esther his Wife upon the Division of certain parts of Hexhamshire and Allendale Common containing Forty one Acres Two Roods and Twenty six Perches more or less and bounding on Acton Road on the East the stinted pasture on the West Land allotted to Thomas Farbridge on the North and Land allotted to John Stephenson on the South and also all those Nine Stints or Beast Cases in and upon Allendale Common which were awarded to the said Matthew Pears and Esther his Wife on the stinting the depasturing the other parts of the said Common To the Use and Behoof of John Wardell of Cramlington Husbandman his Heirs and Assigns To have and to hold to him and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever according to the Custom of the said Manor Rendring therefore yearly to the said Lord and Lady of the Manor and to the Heirs of the said Lady Three Shillings and three pence at Feasts accustomed and doing other Services and so forth and so he is to be admitted Tenant Provided always nevertheless and upon Condition that if the said Matthew Pears and Esther his Wife or either of them their or either of their Heirs Executors or Administrators shall and do well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said John Wardell his Executors Administrators or Assigns the full Sum of Five Hundred pounds of lawful Money of Great Britain with Interest for the same at the Rate of Five

Pounds for One Hundred Pounds by the Year on the Sixteenth Day of August next ensuing the Date hereof without any Abatement or Deduction whatsoever according to the Condition of one Bond or Writing Obligatory bearing even Date herewith made and entered into by and from the said Matthew Pears to the said John Wardell in this penalty or penal Sum of One Thousand Pounds Then and in such Case and upon such Payments as aforesaid being made the said John Wardell his Heirs or Assigns and all persons lawfully claiming or to claim by from or him or them shall and will upon the Request and at the proper Costs and Charges at the loss of the said Matthew Pears and Esther his Wife or either of them their or either of their Heirs or Assigns surrender and assure the said Copyhold Premises with the Appurtenances to the Use and Behoof of them the said Matthew Pears and Esther his Wife and their Assigns for and during their joint natural Lives and the natural Life of the longer liver of them and from and the Decease of the Survivor of them the said Matthew Pears and Esther his Wife Then to the use of all and every the Children or such one or more Child or Children or the said Esther Pears by the said Matthew Pears begotten or to be begotten and in such equal or unequal Shares and Proportions and for such Estate or Estates as he the said Matthew Pears shall in and by his last Will and Testament in Writing to be executed in the presence of three or more credible Witnesses give and devise limit direct or appoint And for the want of such Gift and Devise Limitation Direction or Appointment Then to the use of all and every the Child and Children of the said Esther Pears by the said Matthew Pears begotten or to be begotten their Heirs and Assigns forever to take as Tenants in Common and not as Joint-Tenants But so always that it

shall and may be lawful for the said Matthew Pears and Esther his Wife at any Time or Times during their joint Lives by any Surrender or Surrenders to be by them made and passed together or with any other person or persons of the said Copyhold Premises or any part thereof to revoke make void or change all and every or any of the Uses Powers or Limitations hereinbefore mentioned of and concerning the same Premises or any Part thereof and by the Same Surrender or Surrenders to limit declare or appoint the same or any new or other Uses or Powers and Limitations of and concerning the said Premises or any part thereof any Thing above contained to the contrary notwithstanding This Surrender was made and passed the Day and Year first above written in the presence of us

Jn Bell
John Ruddock

Jn Bell Junr
Nick Ruddock
Joseph
Forster

[Northumberland Record Office: Allendale Papers]

The supposed Will of Matthew Pears.

In the Name of God Amen I Matthew Pears of Greendike in the Parish of Allendale in the County of Northumberland Yeoman do make Publish and declare this my last will and Testament in Manner and form following that is to say First I Will and Order that all my Just Debts and funeral Expences shal be Paid and Discharged by my Executor hereafter Named as soon as conveniently may be after my Decease and I give and Bequeath to my son Matthew Pears the Sum of Fifty Pounds Six months after the Death of his Mother from and out of My Real Estate and I give to my son Henry Pears the Sum of Fifty Pounds from and out of

my Real Estate Six Months after the death of his Mother And I give to Elizabeth Robson Jane Brown and Esther Robson my Daughters the Sum of Ten Pounds Each from and out of My Real Estate Six Months after the death of their Mothers And I give and Bequeath unto my Wife Esther Pears all the Household furniture with Stock and Crop of every Description Houses and lands which I may be Possessed of at the time of my Decease for her Natural life and to be liable to keep my Daughter Hannah for the Course of her Natural Life And I give and Bequeath to my Sons Joseph Pears John Pears and William Pears after the Death of their Mothers All my Houses and Lands with Appurtenances of every Description that I may be Possessed of at the time of my Death Equally Amongst them Share and Share alike to them and their Heirs or Assigns for ever upon Condition that they keep and Maintain their Sister Hannah Comfortably for the Course of her Natural life from And out of my Real Estate And if they Refuse So to do then my Landed Estate to go Equally to Matthew and Henry and as for the Stock that may be upon my Estate at the Death of my Wife I give to my Son Joseph one full Half and to my Sons John and William the Other Half of Stock Household furniture and Crop and I likewise make Constitute and Appoint my Dearly beloved Wife Esther Pears Sole Executor of this my Last Will and Testament And I do hereby Disallow Revoke and Disannul All and Other former testaments Wills Legacies and Executors by me in any ways before Named Willed And Bequeathed Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal this Sixth Day of November in the year of our Lord 1824

Matthew

Pears

Signed sealed published pronounced and declared by
the said Matthew Pears as his last Will and testament
in the presence of us the Subscribers

Joseph Noble

Mark X Noble

his mark

Richard Noble

Probate on the supposed will of Matthew Pears:-

I do hereby certify that on the 29th Day of August in the
Year of Lord 1825, Esther Pears of Greendike, in the
Parish of Allendale, in the County of Northumberland,
and Diocese of York, Widow, the Relict and sole
Executrix, named in this the last Will and Testament of
Matthew Pears late of Greendike aforesaid, in the
Diocese of York, Yeoman, deceased, was sworn well
and truly to execute and perform the same; and that
the whole of the Goods, Chattels, and Credits of the
said deceased, within the Diocese of York, do not
amount in value to the Sum of one hundred Pounds

Witness my hand

Sworn under £100

Exchequers

Thomas Scurr

Surrogate

Died 30th May 1825

Passd 22nd September 1825

[Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, University of York.]

Will of Henry Pears.

The last Will and Testament of Henry Pears of Green Dike in the Parish of Allendale & County of Northumberland, Farmer, made and signed April 9th in the year of our Lord 1842.

In the Name of God Amen.

I, Henry Pears, of Green Dike in the Parish of Allendale & County of Northumberland, Farmer, being of sound
— mind memory and understanding do this Ninth Day of
April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
hundred and forty two make this my last Will and
Testament in manner & form following - that is to say -
First I order and direct that all my just debts funeral
expenses and the expense of proving this my Will be
— fully paid and discharged by my Executors & Executrix
hereinafter named as soon as conveniently may be
after my decease - Then I do give & bequeath to my
Executors & Executrix, upon Trust, for the use and
benefit of my wife and children hereinafter named all
my Property and effects real & personal & of what kind
soever & consisting of houses and lands at High Green
— Dike, also of houses & lands at Low Green Dike, in the
Parish of Allendale, with their appurtenances, and also
of my personal effects viz Stock Seeds Crops Farming
Implements household furniture china Linen with all my
goods & chattels of what kind soever, to be by them
— disposed of and divided among my Wife & children
according to the several provisions of this my Will - that
is to say - I give & bequeath unto my Executors &c
hereinafter named all my several properties aforesaid
real & personal, upon trust, for the sole use and benefit
of my dear Wife Mary Pears during the term of her
5 — natural life provided she shall so long remain my

Widow - the said estates freehold and other effects to be divided & disposed of from & after the decease of my said Wife in the way & manner hereinafter named: But in case the said Mary Pears do enter into a second marriage or be delivered of a child not lawfully begotten — after my decease, then I order and determine that her Interest in this my Will and in all the estates & effects aforesaid shall thenceforward cease and that the said several estates & effects shall be divided & disposed of as hereinafter mentioned in like manner as in the case — of the death of my aforesaid wife Mary Pears - Then from and after the decease or second marriage &c (as the case may be) of my aforesaid wife Mary Pears I give & devise all those my estates freehold before-mentioned, viz, my houses & lands at High & low Green Dike in the Parish of Allendale with their — appurtenances, and also all my farming implements, Stock, Seeds, and crops unto my Sons Henry Pears James Pears William Pears and Thomas Pears their heirs & assigns for ever, to be possessed by them as Tenants in Common and not as joint-tenants, share & share alike, & so that the said Estates freehold shall — not in whole or in part be sold by them or any of them (except to one another). and yet not so as to exclude or prejudice the rights of any male child my me lawfully begotten which may be born after my decease & of which my Wife at the time of such my decease shall have been pregnant - such male child being hereby declared true & undoubted heir to an equal share with his brothers in all the aforesaid Estates & effects. Then I give & devise unto each of my daughters Mary Pears Elizabeth Pears Ann Pears & any other daughter of which my wife may be delivered within Eight months after my decease, the sum of Twenty pounds lawful money, which several sums of twenty pounds I order &

direct my Executors to pay to my said daughters out of the rents & profits of the beforementioned Estates & effects at such times as to them shall seem expedient. Also, I devise unto my said daughters, from & after the decease or second marriage &c of my aforesaid wife, all my household furniture Linen China & all my other goods & chattels not herein otherwise disposed of, to be divided equally share & share alike in such time and manner as my Executors shall deem convenient. Also I give to my Son Matthew Pears and to my daughter Esther Pears the sum of five pounds each, the said sums of five pounds to be paid by my Executors within six months from the time of my decease. And I hereby nominate & appoint my Wife Mary Pears, my Son Henry Pears, and also Mr John Nevin of Coal Cleugh in the Parish of Allendale my Executors & Executrix for the carrying of this my Will into effect. the said executors & Executrix & the survivor of them and the
— executors and administrators of such survivor being
— hereby empowered to make from time to time such changes in the management of the aforesaid Estates as to them shall appear necessary & also to reimburse themselves & himself respectively all such costs & charges as they or any of them may be put unto or
— sustain in & about the execution of this my Will. And
— revoking all former wills at any time made or signed by me I do hereby solemnly declare this to be my last Will & Testament, in witness whereof I have hereunto put
10 — my hand & seal this Ninth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & forty two.

Henry Pears

— Signed sealed published & declared by the
— said Testator Henry Pears as & for His last
— Will & Testament in the presence of us who
— at his request and in his presence & in the

presence of each
other have hereunto
affixed our names as
Witnesses thereto

Charles Arnison
Henry Stephenson

Probate on the Will of Henry Pears

Died 11th May 1842

I do hereby certify that, on the twenty fifth day of October in the Year of our Lord 1842, Mary Pears of Green Dike in the Parish of Allendale in the County of Northumberland, Widow, the Relict and John Nevin of Coal Cleugh in the Parish and County aforesaid, Mining Agent, two of the Executors named in this the last Will and Testament of Henry Pears late of Green Dike aforesaid in the Parish and County aforesaid and in the Diocese of York, Farmer, deceased, were sworn well and truly to execute and perform the same, and that the whole of the goods, chattels and credits of the said deceased, within the Diocese of York, do not amount in Value to the sum of Two Hundred Pounds.

£

Sworn under 200

Exchequer

Passed 23rd December 1842

Witness my hand

William Airey

Surrogate

[Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, University of York.]

Letters of Administration of Thomas Pears.

Prerogative Ent^d
Pears Thomas - Allendale Town,
Co. Northumberland - Ironmonger
16th June 1853

Pass'd 16th June 1853, und 450^l & und

I do hereby certify that on the 26th day of April in the year of our Lord 1853, Ann Pears the administratrix within named, was sworn duly to administer, and that the whole of the goods, chattels, & credits of the deceased within mentioned, within the diocese of York do not amount in value to the sum of Four hundred & fifty pounds.

Sworn under £450
Exchequer
Died 25th March 1853

Witness my hand
J. Hudson
Surrogate

[Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, University of York.]

Appendix 4...Census Returns, 1841 - 1881

Numbers in curly brackets, e.g. {19}, refer to the numbers shown on the charts (family trees) in Appendices 5, 6 and 7 on pages **Error! Bookmark not defined.** to **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

1841 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY
	Joseph	Potts	25	Joiner	Yes
	Mary	do	30		Yes
	Sarah	do	4		Yes
	John	do	3		Yes
	Joseph	do	1		Yes
{19}	Rebecca	Pears	60		Yes
{38}	Thomas	do	15	Lead Ore Miner	Yes

1841 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY
{35}	William	Pears	25	Lead Ore Miner	Yes
{36}	Ann	do	30		Yes
	Matthew	do	2		Yes
	Thomas	do	2 months		Yes

1841 Bolts Burn, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY
{67}	Thomas	Brown	25	Lead Miner	Yes
{68}	Hannah	do	20		Yes

1841 Broaddale House, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY
{9}	Thomas	Brown	40	Lead Miner	Yes
{10}	Jane	do	43		Yes
{72}	James	do	15		Yes
{77}	John	do	14		Yes
{79}	Joseph	do	12		Yes
{81}	Matthew	do	10		Yes
{71}	Esther	do	16		Yes
{74}	Mary	do	14		Yes
	John	Reed	30	Common Labourer	Yes

1841 Green Dyke.

	NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY
	George	Bright	90	Lead Ore Miner	Yes
	do	do	35	Lead Ore Miner	Yes
	Sarah	do	35		Yes
	John	do	20	Lead Ore Miner	Yes
	Sarah	do	12		Yes

1841 Hollen Close

NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION
William	Hutchinson	70	Independent
Thomas	do	60	do
Mary	do	50	
Jane	Pigg	20	Family Servant

1841 Low Green Dyke

NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY
Thomas	Henderson	35	LO Smelter	Yes
Mary	do	30		Yes
Mary	do	8		Yes
Jane	do	6		Yes
Thomas	do	4		Yes
John	do	2		Yes
Sarah	do	5 months		Yes

1841 Green Dyke

	NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY
{15}	Henry	Pearse	45	Farmer	Yes
{14}	Mary	do	30		Yes
{47}	Mary	do	13		Yes
{49}	Elizabeth	do	12		Yes
{51}	Henry	do	8		Yes
{52}	James	do	6		Yes
{54}	William	do	4		Yes
{56}	Ann	do	2		Yes

1841 West Acomb

	NAME	SURNAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHETHER BORN IN SAME COUNTY
{33}	Matthew	Pears	30	Collier	Yes
{34}	Margaret	do	25		Yes
{43}	Thomas	do	5		Yes
{45}	Matthew	do	1		Yes

1851 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{35}	William	Pears	Head	Marr	38	Landed proprietor and occasionally working as labourer	Nd. Allendale
{36}	Ann	do	Wife	Marr	40	Straw Hat Maker	do
	Matthew	do	Son		12	Scholar	do
	Thomas	do	Son		10	do	do
	Hugh	do	Son		8	do	do
	William	do	Son		6	do	do
	Anne R	do	Daughter		3		do

1851 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{38}	Thomas	Pears	Head	Marr	29	Ironmonger & Grocer	Nd. Allendale
{39}	Ann	do	Wife	Marr	39	do	do

1851 Bolts Burn, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{62}	Joseph	Brown	Head	Marr	46	Lead Miner	Du. Stanhope
{63}	Elizabeth	do	Wife	Marr	48	Wife	Nd. Allendale
	James	do	Son	Unmarr	12	Lead Ore Washer	Du. Stanhope
	Thomas	do	Son	Unmarr	9	Day Scholar	do
	Joseph	do	Son		6		do
	Mary	do	Daughter		3		do
{60}	James	do	Brother	Unmarr	56	Lead Miner	do

1851 Boltshope Mill, Hunstanworth

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{92}	John	Heatherington	Head	Marr	63	Blacksmith	Cu. Alston
{21}	Elizabeth	do	Wife	Marr	64	Blacksmith's wife	Nd. Allendale
{93}	Joseph	Pears	Lodger	Unmarr	18	Blacksmith	do
	Robert	Elliott	do	Unmarr	21	Lead Ore Miner	do
	John	Atkinson	do	Marr	40	Engine Keeper	Nd. Blanchland
	Jane	Peacock	Servant	Unmarr	16	House Servant	Du. Birtley

1851 Broaddale House, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{9}	Thomas	Brown	Head	Marr	56	Farmer of 20 acres	Du. Stanhope
{10}	Jane	do	Wife	Marr	63		do
{74}	Mary	do	Daughter	Unmarr	26		do
{81}	Matthew	do	Son	Unmarr	20	Lead Miner	do
{83}	Jane A	do	Granddaughter		8		do

1851 Green Dike

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
	Hannah	Nattress	Head	Widow	42	Agricultural Labourer	Nd. Allendale
	Thomas	do	Son	Unmarr	18	Land Surveyers Assistant	do
	Hannah	do	Daughter	Unmarr	14		do
	Joseph	do	Son		12		do
	Mary Ann	do	Daughter		8		do
	Margaret	do	Daughter		7		do
	William	do	Son		11 months		do

1851 Green Dike

NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION
Thomas	Henderson	Head	Marr	43	Smelter & Farmer of 65 acres
Mary	do	Wife	Marr	39	
Jane	do	Daughter	Unmarr	16	
Thomas	do	Son	Unmarr	14	Agricultural Labourer
John	do	Son		12	Scholar
Sarah	do	Daughter		10	do
Joseph	do	Son		8	do
Ann	do	Daughter		6	do
Mary	do	Daughter		5	
Hannah	do	Daughter		1	

1851 Green Dike

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{14}	Mary	Pears	Head	Widow	42	Annuitant	Du. Stanhope
{47}	Mary	do	Daughter	Unmarr	24		do
{49}	Elizabeth	do	Daughter	Unmarr	21		do
{51}	Henry	do	Son	Unmarr	18	Lead Ore Miner	Nd. Allendale
{52}	James	do	Son	Unmarr	16	do	do
{54}	William	do	Son	Unmarr	14	Scholar	do
{56}	Ann	do	Daughter		11	do	do
{57}	Thomas	do	Son		8		do
	Jane	do	Daughter		6		do
	Ann	do	Grand Daughter		7 months		do

1851 Mickley Square

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{33}	Matthew	Pears	Head	Marr	40	Coal Miner	Nd. Allendale
{34}	Margaret	do	Wife	Marr	37		Nd. Bolam
{43}	Thomas	do	Son		15		Nd. Allendale
{45}	Matthew	do	Son		11		Nd. Acomb

1851 West Brandon Walls, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{77}	John	Brown	Head	Marr	25	Lead Miner	Du. Stanhope
{76}	Jane	Brown	Wife	Marr	20	Miner's wife	do

1861 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{35}	William	Pears	Head	Marr	48	Ironmonger & Butcher	Nd. Allendale
{36}	Anne	do	Wife	Marr	50	do	do
	Matthew	do	Son	Unmarr	22	Mason	do
	Thomas	do	Son	Unmarr	20	Shoe Maker	do
	Hugh	do	Son	Unmarr	18	Cartwright Apprentice	do
	William	do	Son		16	Agricultural Labourer	do
	Ann R	do	Daughter		13	Scholar	do

1861 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{39}	Ann	Pears	Head	Widow	49	China & Earthenware Dealer	Nd Allendale

1861 Broaddale House, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{9}	Thomas	Brown	Head	Marr	65	Farmer of 11 acres	Du. Stanhope
{10}	Jane	do	Wife	Marr	70	Farmer's wife	do
{77}	John	do	Son	Widower	36	Lead Miner	do
{79}	Joseph	do	Son	Unmarr	33	do	do
{83}	Jane	do	Granddaughter	Unmarr	18	Farmer's daughter	do
	Elizabeth	do	do		5	Miner's daughter	do

1861 High Green Dyke

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{51}	Henry	Pears	Head	Unmarr	28	Farmer of 50 acres & Lead Ore Miner	Nd. Allendale
{52}	James	do	Brother	Unmarr	26	Carter	do
{54}	William	do	do	Unmarr	24	Agricultural Labourer	do
{56}	Ann	do	Sister	Unmarr	22		do
{57}	Thomas	do	Brother	Unmarr	19	Lead Ore Miner	do
	Jane	do	Sister in law	Unmarr	16		do
	Anne	do	Neice		11	Scholar	do

1861 Low Green Dyke

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION
{50}	John	Wilkinson	Head	Marr	35	Farmer of 30 acres & Lead Ore Miner
{49}	Elizabeth	do	Wife	Marr	31	
	Robert	do	Son		7	
	Jane	do	Daughter		5	
	Job	do	Son		3	
	Mary	do	Daughter		1	
	John	do	Son		2 weeks	

1861 Low Green Dyke

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND-ITON	AGE	OCCUPATION
	Leonard	Shield	Head	Marr	51	Farmer of 16 acres & Stone Quarrier
	Ann	do	Wife	Marr	40	
	Mary A	Graham	Daughter in law	Unmarr	17	
	William	do	Son in law		15	Agricultural Labourer
	Hannah	Shield	Daughter		7	Scholar
	John	do	Son		5	
	Rebecca	do	Daughter		2	
	Joseph R	do	Son		1	

1861 Midge Holm, Hunstanworth

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{21}	Elizabeth	Heatherington	Head	Widow	77	Blacksmith's widow	Nd. Allendale
{93}	Joseph	Pears	Son	Marr	28	Blacksmith	do
{94}	Honour	do	Daughter in law	Marr	28	Blacksmith's wife	Ireland
	Joseph	do	Grandson		7	Scholar	Du. Hunstanworth
	Mary Ann	do	Granddaughter		5		do
{96}	Elizabeth	do	Granddaughter		3		do
	James	do	Grandson		11 months		do

1871 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{39}	Ann	Pears	Head	Widow	59	China Dealer	Nd. Allendale

1871 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{36}	Ann	Pears	Head	Widow	59	Ironmonger & Landowner	Nd. Allendale
	William	Pears	Son	Unmarr	26	Labourer at Cinder Oven	do
	Ann	Pears	Daughter	Unmarr	23		do

1871 Benwell

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{45}	Matthew	Pears	Head	Marr	30	Brakeman	Acomb
{46}	Isabella	do	Wife	Marr	29		Benwell
	Mary C	do	Daughter		7		Walbottle
	Christiana H	do	Daughter		5		Scotswood

1871 Boltsburn, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{81}	Matthew	Brown	Head	Marr	35	Lead Miner	Du. Stanhope
{82}	Catherine	do	Wife	Marr	34		do
	John	do	Son		12	Lead Ore Washer	do
	Mary J	do	Daughter		10	Scholar	do
	Elizabeth	do	Daughter		7	do	do
	Thomas	do	Son		4		do
	James	do	Son		2		do

1871 Bolts Walls, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{77}	John	Brown	Head	Marr	43	Farmer	Du. Stanhope
{78}	Elizabeth	do	Wife	Marr	39		Northumberland
{88}	Thomas	do	Nephew		3		Du. Stanhope
	Thomas	Rutherford	Servant		10	Shepherd	do

1871 Bolts Walls. Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{73}	Mary	Brown	Head	Widow	48	Lead Miner's Widow	Northumberland
	Thomas	do	Son		14	Labourer at Lead Mine	do
	Jane	do	Daughter		10	Scholar	Du. Stanhope
	Elizabeth A	do	Daughter		5		do

1871 Broaddale House, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{9}	Thomas	Brown	Head	Marr	75	Lead Miner farming 10 acres	Du. Stanhope
{10}	Jane	do	Wife	Marr	83		Nd. Allendale
{79}	Joseph	do	Son	Unmarr	42	Lead Miner	Du. Stanhope
	Elizabeth	do	Granddaughter	Unmarr	15		do
{87}	Anne	do	Granddaughter		6		do
	Anne Rutherford		Servant	Unmarr	29	General Servant	

1871 High Green Dyke

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{57}	Thomas	Pears	Head	Unmarr	28	Farmer of 37 acres	Nd. Allendale

1871 High Green Dyke

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{54}	William	Pears	Head	Marr	34	Farmer of 37 acres	Nd. Allendale
{55}	Eliza	do	Wife	Marr	25	Farmers wife	Nd. Haltwhistle
	Jane A	do	Daughter		2		Nd. Allendale
	Henry	do	Son		5 months		do

1871 Low Green Dyke

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
	Leonard	Shield	Head	Marr	61	Farmer of 37 acres & Jobbing Labourer	
	Ann	do	Wife	Marr	50	Farmer's wife	
	Hannah	do	Daughter	Unmarr	17	Farmer's daughter	
	John	do	Son		15	Farmer's son	
	Rebecca J	do	Daughter		12	Scholar	
	Joseph R	do	Son		11	do	
	Thomas	do	Son		8	do	

1871 Path Foot

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{52}	James	Pears	Head	Marr	36	Lead Ore Smelter & Innkeeper	Nd. Allendale
{53}	Abigail	do	Wife	Marr	42		do
	Henry	do	Son		8	Scholar	do
	Henry	Shield	Father in law	Widower	72	Retired labourer	do
	Jane	Pears	Sister	Unmarr	26	General Servant (Domestic)	do

1881 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{39}	Ann	Pears	Head	Widow	69	China Dealer	Nd. Allendale

1881 Allendale Town

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{36}	Ann	Pears	Head	Widow	69	Proprietor of house & land	Nd. Allendale
	Thomas	do	Son	Unmarr	40	Bootmaker	do

1881 Bog House, Henshaw

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{54}	William	Pears	Head	Marr	44	General Labourer	Nd. Allendale
{55}	Eliza	do	Wife	Marr	34		Nd. Haltwhistle
	Jane Ann	do	Daughter		12	Scholar	Nd. Allendale
	Henry	do	Son		10	do	do
	John	do	Son		9	do	do
	James	do	Son		7	do	do
	Mary Elizabeth	do	Daughter		4		Nd. Henshaw
	Thomas William	do	Son		1		do

1881 Chapel Row, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{79}	Joseph	Brown	Head	Widower	52	Lead Miner	Du. Stanhope
	Margaret J	do	Daughter		3		do
{87}	Annie	do	Neice	Unmarr	16	Housekeeper	do

1881 Hilton Terrace, Rookhope

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
{77}	John	Brown	Head	Marr	54	Lead Miner	Du. Stanhope
{78}	Elizabeth	do	Wife	Marr	51		Nd. Allendale
{88}	Thomas	do	Nephew		13		Du. Stanhope

1881 High Green Dyke

	NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
	William	Parker	Head	Marr	37	Agricultural Labourer & Farmer of 33 acres	Nd. Allendale
	Mary	do	Wife	Marr	35		do
	Phillis A	do	Daughter		13		do
	Thomas W	do	Son		10	Scholar	do
	John R	do	Son		8	do	do
	Joseph G	do	Son		6	do	do
	Martha E	do	Daughter		4		do
	Mary I	do	Daughter		2		do
	Frances H	do	Daughter		5 months		do

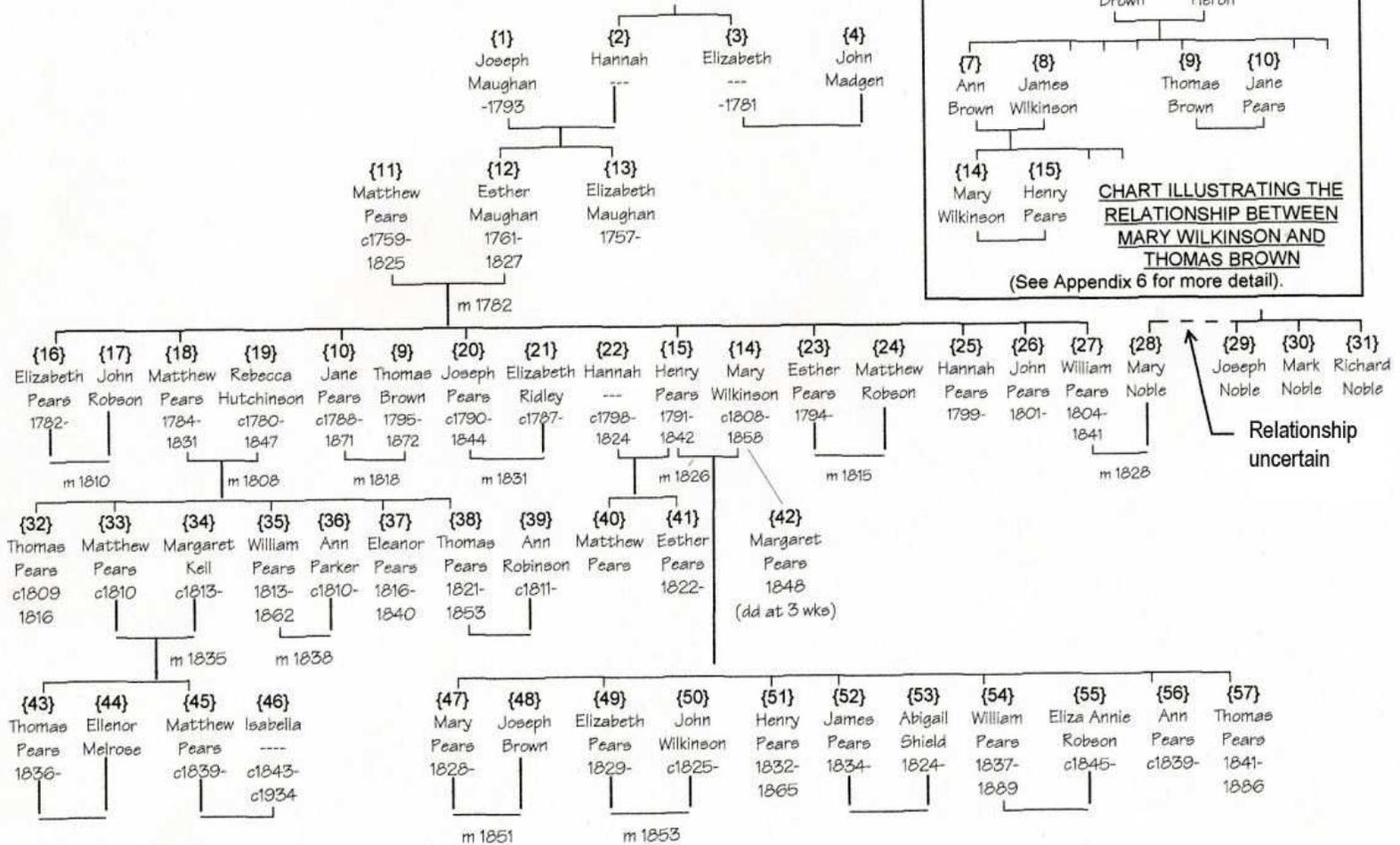
1881 Low Green Dyke

NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
William	Henderson	Head	Marr	58	Farmer 39 acres	Nd. Allendale
Jane	do	Wife	Marr	52		Nd. Hartley Burn
Thomas	do	Son	Unmarr	26	Agricultural Labourer	Nd. Allendale
Edward	do	Son	Unmarr	24	Lead Ore Miner	do
Jane	do	Daughter	Unmarr	16		do
William	do	Son	Unmarr	21	Agricultural Labourer	do
Elizabeth	do	Daughter		12	Scholar	do

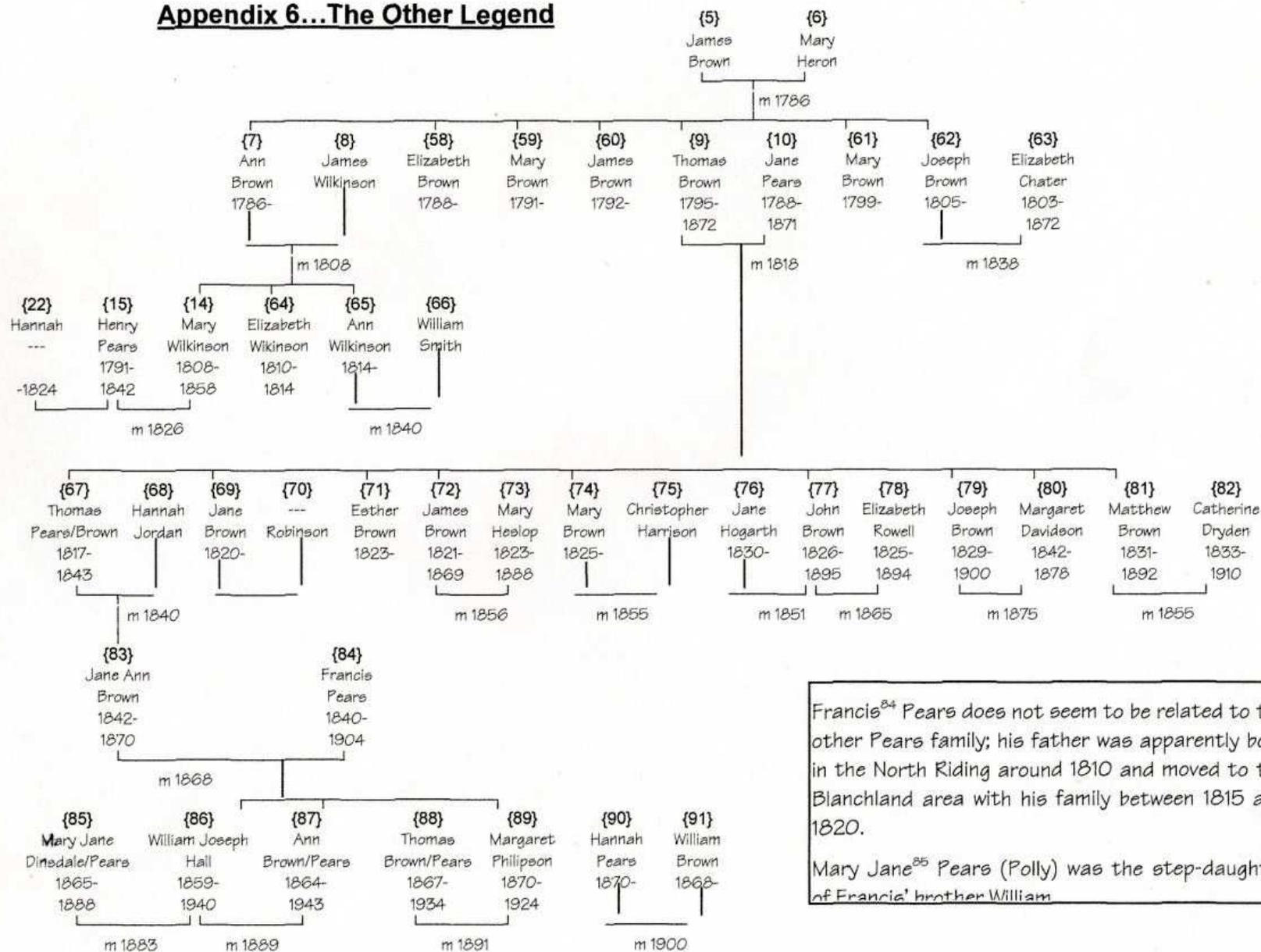
1881 Green Dyke

NAME	SURNAME	RELATION TO HEAD	COND- ITION	AGE	OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
Leonard	Shield	Head	Marr	70	Farmer 49 acres	Nd. Allendale
Ann	do	Wife	Marr	60		do
Rebecca J	do	Daughter	Unmarr	22		do
Joseph R	do	Son	Unmarr	21	Farm Labourer	do
Thomas	do	Son	Unmarr	17	Assistant in Co-operative Store	do
William	do	Grandson		2		do

Appendix 5...The Pears of Greendikes



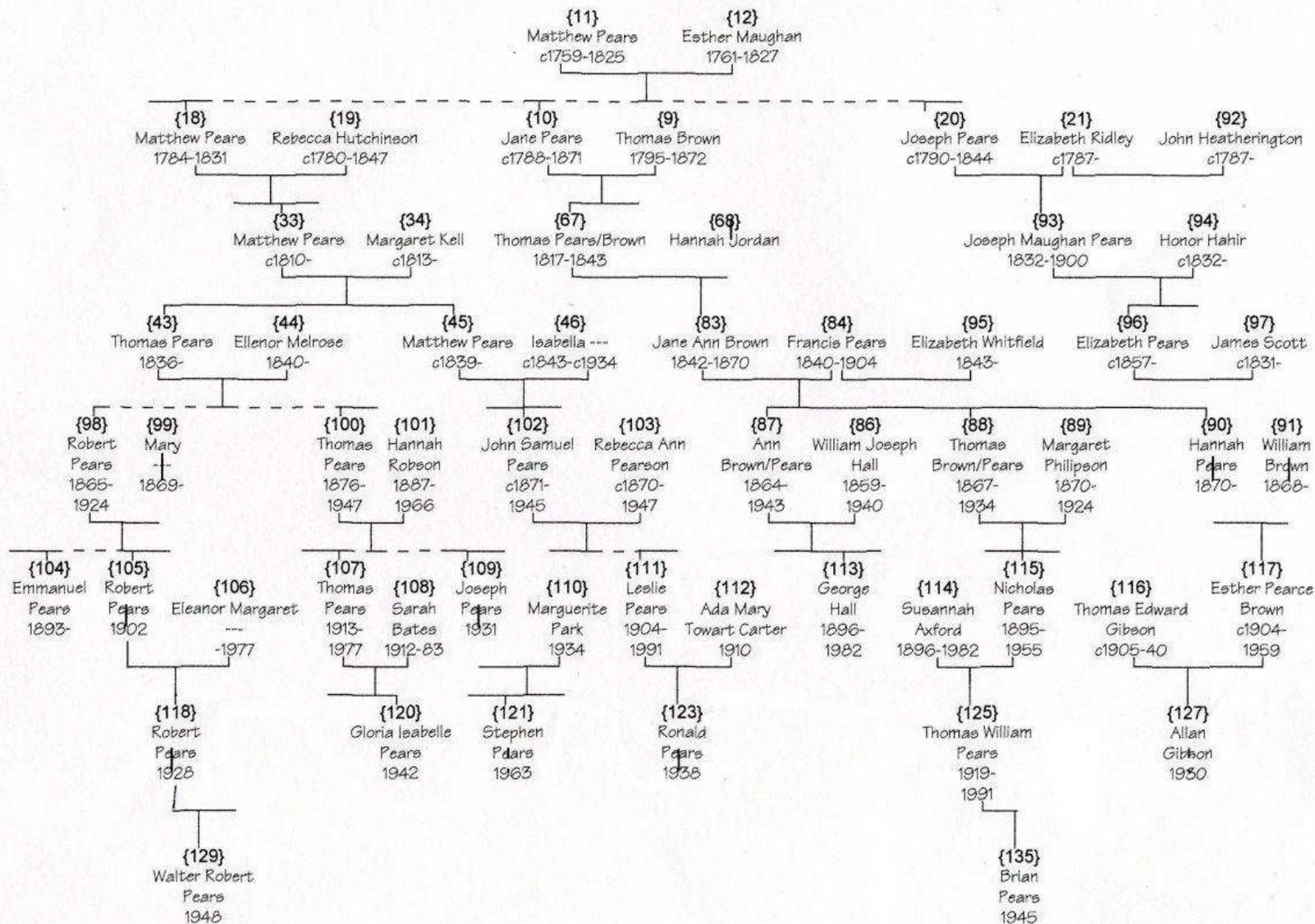
Appendix 6...The Other Legend



Francis⁸⁴ Pears does not seem to be related to the other Pears family; his father was apparently born in the North Riding around 1810 and moved to the Blanchland area with his family between 1815 and 1820.

Mary Jane⁸⁵ Pears (Polly) was the step-daughter of Francis' brother William.

Appendix 7...Skeleton Chart Showing Additional Persons Mentioned In The Text



Appendix 8...Life-Lines of Some Family Members

