





# PARISH HISTORY

by John Swanson

Many if not most villages in Northumberland boast ancient castles or bastles, churches of Norman or Saxon origin and sometimes even grand houses. Glanton has none of these. No great battle was fought here, nor is there a mention in the record books of a skirmish of any note.

The history of the village might, to some, seem unremarkable, perhaps even dull and uninteresting. Quite to the contrary the surviving records, titles, wills, maps, plans, and even more recent photographic archives provide an extraordinary and fascinating insight into the development of Glanton and the lives of its people through the centuries.

Glanton's history has been well documented. There are innumerable references to the village in publications and documents in the Northumberland Records Office, local public libraries and elsewhere. Two authors of note chronicle the village in some detail. Firstly, David Dippie Dixon in his book 'Whittingham Vale' published in 1895, and more recently and extremely comprehensively, Dr C Willis Dixon in his publication 'Glanton Village', dated 1978.

These few pages are merely a summary of the story of our village, which hopefully will inspire the reader to further study of our fascinating local past.

## EARLY TIMES

**T**he village is situated about 433 feet (132 metres) above sea level and behind it, to the north-west and west, rise the twin peaks of Glanton Hill and Glanton Pyke. Glanton Hill is 695 feet (212 metres) high, slightly more than its neighbour, and commands breathtaking views in all directions from its summit.

Strangely there seems to be no evidence of ancient fortification on either hill particularly when the surrounding peaks are littered with hillforts and farmsteads, although two crop marks have been identified on the north flank of Glanton Hill just south of Hemmel House. One possible explanation is that typically these early settlements were sited at levels of around 300 feet and usually within striking distance of running water. Glanton Hill is high, exposed, and at some distance from the River Aln to the south and River Breamish to the north and could therefore be considered disadvantaged as a possible settlement site. It seems that perhaps our forebears enjoyed their comfort and amenity before taking advantage of a superbly defensible location - and those amongst us who have stood atop either hill on even the warmest of summer days can fully understand their reluctance to set up home there!

The closest settlement or camp to the village has been identified as being sited on the east side of the A697 some 600 metres to the south of the Glanton / A697 junction, on the rise just behind the existing lay-by. Judging by the outline shown on early Ordnance Survey editions it seems likely to have predated the Roman occupation, but there does not appear to be any detailed information or further historical reference to it nor is it shown on earlier maps. The area was formerly a small quarry and has recently been planted with trees. It seems therefore that we cannot say with any certainty that there was any Iron or Bronze Age settlement on the site of the present-day village but that Glanton Hill provided, as it did through succeeding centuries, a most valuable lookout position.

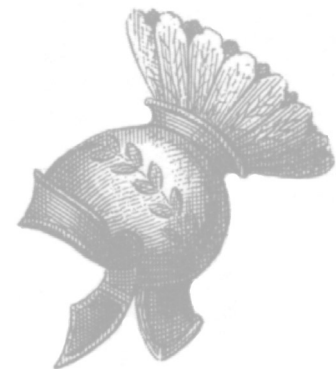
Close to the village, there have however been some archaeological finds of note dating back to the Stone and Bronze Ages. In the field immediately to the west of the house at Glanton Pyke, known as Dere Street (apparently so named because it was thought that a Roman road ran through it), four stone cists were found in 1716 containing urns showing signs of cremation. There were also two other urns found which disintegrated on excavation. Another significant find was recorded when at Thrunton Farm a hoard of Bronze Age weapons was found in a bog in 1847 and is now housed in the Museum of Antiquities at Newcastle University. Various other small finds have been made, but none of any great significance.

43 AD saw the third Roman attempt to colonise Britain. This time they stayed for almost 400 years and left a permanent impression on our towns and cities, our infrastructure and our British culture.

The area around Glanton was, to say the least, at the edge of the Empire. Over the period of occupation the frontier seesawed back and forth from the Solway/Tyne line, the line of Hadrian's

Wall, to the Forth/Clyde line, the line of the Antonine Wall, as the fortunes and pressures of protecting the Empire ebbed and flowed. The implication of this coming and going meant that North Northumberland was denied the sustained Roman settlement of the Tyne Valley and the south. The first our local Britons saw of the Romans would very likely have been during the then Governor Agricola's push northwards in AD 80 on his way to subjugate the Caledonians. His campaigns are well documented and there is no record of any conflict with the local tribe, the Votadini, who occupied the territory from the Tyne to the Forth and inland from the coast to a line roughly about the present-day A68. And who can blame them? The Roman legions and auxiliaries presented a well-organised superior force with which they would have been foolish to meddle, so it is probable that the local inhabitants were quite happy to watch the Romans come and go.

A striking aspect of the Roman colonisation was the relatively peaceful way in which they achieved their aims. Of course there was occasional conflict but generally it appears that the Britons were quite happy to adopt Roman ways and customs. Tacitus when writing on the subject of the Romanisation of Britain observed that *'in their simplicity they call such novelties civilisation, when in reality they were part of their enslavement'*. Agricola, to his eternal credit, expressed a preference for British natural ability to the trained abilities of the Gauls! It is possible and indeed probable therefore that the native population living around the Glanton area became quite Romanised.







expansion of farming and field enclosures in the area around the village.

In 1857-9 the Duke of Northumberland commissioned Henry MacLauchlan to trace the entire length of the road. Even at that relatively recent time, MacLauchlan reported that some parts of the road remained visible. In addition he established the junction with the branch road that ran westward from Low Learchild, passed just north of Thrunton and headed toward Callaly from where it struck south-west to Lorbottle, eventually to meet Dere Street at Rochester.

MacLauchlan's notes also mention a camp at Glanton. From his map it seems to be located in the paddock immediately east of Glanton House, and judging by the undulations in the ground there, it would appear that this is the location to which he refers. He is however uncertain as to its origin and indicates that the enclosure is quadrangular in shape and is probably British. Dixon, in his publication 'Glanton Village', comes to the conclusion that with the close proximity of the Roman camp at Crawley, the site is unlikely to be Roman. Could it, though, have been a temporary site for the protection of legionaries during the construction of the road? Either way only excavation would provide enough evidence to prove its date and use.



The Paddock at Glanton House probable site of a camp

The year 401 saw the beginning of the end of the Roman military occupation of Britain. Hadrian's Wall was finally abandoned and troops were withdrawn to defend Italy against invasion. Insurrection was rife throughout the Empire and Romanised Britain was left, despite pleas to the emperor Honorius, to arrange their own defences against the invading Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

One hundred years later, the Saxons were well established. From 547 AD Ida ruled Bernicia (Northumbria) from his stronghold at Bamburgh, a kingdom which stretched from the Humber in the south, to the Forth in the north, and westward to the Cheviots and Pennines. The following century marked the expansion of Christianity in Northumberland. St Paulinus baptised King Edwin in 627 and preached to 'thousands' near Wooler. His successor, St Aidan, founded the monastic settlement on Lindisfarne in 635 and the most famous Northumbrian saint, Cuthbert, was unanimously elected Bishop of the Church of Lindisfarne at a synod at Whittingham in the presence of King Egfrid and Archbishop Theodore in the year 685.

With the Saxons came village settlements and the names of many places identifiable today. Edlingham (Eadwulfincham) - the homestead at Eadwulf's place, OE name + ing (possessive) + ham (settlement or home); Whittingham (Hwitincham) - Hwita's place; Ingram (Angerham) - the homestead with grassland, OE anger; and Glanton (Glentendon) - hill frequented by birds of prey or used as a look-out place, OE glente (view) + dun (hill). There is no evidence of a settlement in Glanton during the Saxon period, at best there may have been a wattle and daub farmstead. The regional centre was at Whittingham where the stone church had been built.

In 870 the Vikings sacked Lindisfarne and the monks fled south with the remains of Cuthbert to eventually found the great cathedral at Durham. The Viking leader, Halfdan, divided up the territory among his followers who set up farmsteads. Curiously they converted to Christianity - perhaps as a result of integration into the then native population, but nevertheless an interesting development considering their treatment of the religious houses only a few years previously. Halfdan died in 877 and his successor, Guthred, was crowned king in the Vale of Whittingham.

Throughout the tenth century the Scots, who held lowland Scotland and the Lothians, were growing in ambition and power. In 1016 they defeated the Earl of Northumbria at Carham and thus determined a notional border at the River Tweed. The stage was set for a series of prolonged periods of border unrest that would not be finally resolved until the Union of the Crowns in 1603.

# TO THE UNION OF THE CROWNS

**N**orthumbria's resistance to the Norman invasion continued until about 1080. The whole area was so unsettled that consequently there was no inventory of the counties of Northumberland and Durham for their inclusion in the Domesday Book. Eventually, as a sense of order was restored, the Norman lords extended their land holdings into Northumberland and Scotland. As yet the border between Scotland and England remained undetermined and this meant that there was no national allegiance as such - the ordinary people did not consider themselves English or Scots - they were borderers and swore their loyalty to a lord who in turn would pay homage to a noble whose allegiance in turn could be notoriously fickle - it was not unknown for English lords to side with the Scots king or Scots lords with the English king if they thought there was something to be gained!

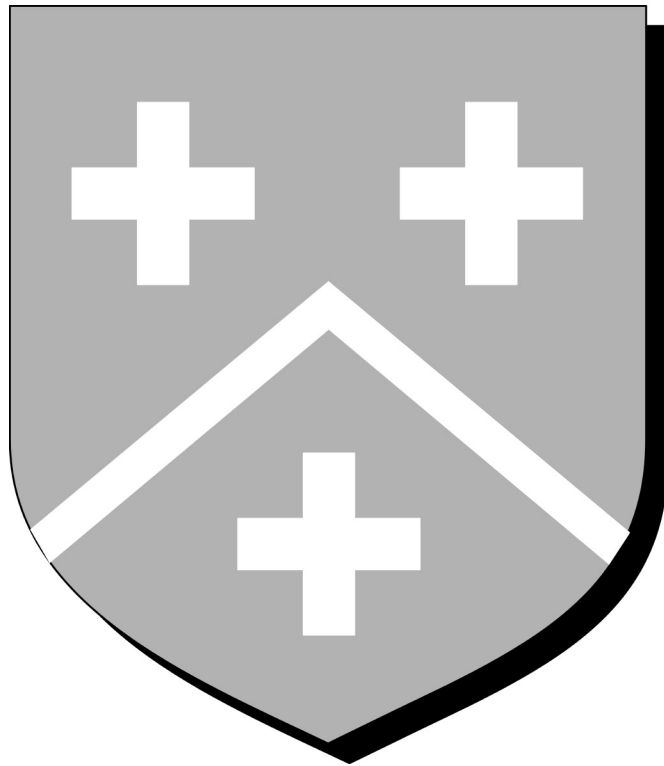
North Northumberland was the scene of constant feuding between warring barons north and south of the Tweed. The populace protected themselves as best they could by seeking the security of local families and so we see the rise to prominence of the Greys, Collingwoods and Lilburns.

After Edward I's campaigns in Scotland and the Scots' subsequent victory at Bannockburn, which established their country's independence, border warfare intensified and led to the construction of many of the great border fortresses. Berwick, Wark, and Norham on the Tweed, together with the coastal defences at Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh, were royal strongholds.

The nobles built their castles at Etal, Ford, Chillingham, Alnwick and Warkworth.

The local lords erected towers on their land. Near Glanton there were towers or peles at Callaly, Whittingham, Shawdon, Bolton, Crawley, Brandon, Prendwick and Ryle.

There is no record of any tower or other form of defence at Glanton probably because the land around the village was held jointly. The eastern portion was held by the Lordship of Shawdon, the south-west part by the Manor of Whittingham. The poor villagers would have had to make haste to the relative security of the towers at either Shawdon or Whittingham in times of trouble, no doubt leaving their stock, possessions and homes to the mercy of their assailant.



Glanton Coat of Arms

The first recorded mention of Glanton is in the Assize Rolls for 1198 to 1272 where, as Dixon notes, there were over 20 different spellings of the village name. The sequence of ownership in early times is confused and not helped by the lack of surnames of title holders! However it is clear that by the early 13th century Glanton is well established as one of the dependent hamlets of Whittingham. Early records show that the Manor was controlled by the Ryle and Glanton families. Robert of Glanton who held part by marriage to Christiana de Flammaville in 1220 became a knight and bore a shield described thus - 'azure a chevron between three crosses patonce argent' - the heraldic device seen in Glanton today.

It is difficult to imagine what the hamlet looked like - whether there was a small village as such or just a cluster of farmstead buildings - but we do know from late

13th century documents that there were a number of families in residence. The names Benet of Glanteton and his wife Agnes, Robert le Mouner, Robert Joye of Glantyndon, Alexander of Glantyndon, Robert of Glanteton, the Bateman family and Simon of Glantendon are all recorded as litigants in land and property disputes, but in addition to these individuals there must have been other village residents less prone to arguments over land ownership.

Rights to land ownership were constantly contested particularly within that portion held as part of the Manor of Whittingham. Disputes were resolved sometimes through the courts and occasionally, failing that, by offering to settle matters by fighting a duel! Eventually this part of the village, through a series of sales, claims and counterclaims, became part of the Collingwood Estate at Eslington.

The other part of the village, that linked to Shawdon, seems to have been farmed in part by a family who had also adopted the village name. In 1296 Joan of Glanton sued her husband, William, who had sold his landholding to William of Goswick against her wishes. A legal battle ensued and eventually the Glantons lost their land. Whether the marriage survived is not recorded!

The Goswick family male line died in 1377 and William of Goswick's original holding was passed to the Middleham family in Alnmouth. They sold in 1577 to Roger Proctor of Shawdon who had acquired the estate partly through marriage and partly through purchase from the Lilburns.

Thus, by the time of the Union of the Crowns in 1603, about half the village was owned by the Proctors of Shawdon, about half by the Collingwoods of Eslington and the balance by various unidentified small tenants.

Village life revolved around farming and it is probable that the land cultivated was to the south and east. The villagers had rights of grazing on common land and could also cut wood and dig peats and in time became freeholders. Their wealth, such as it was, was

measured in terms of the stock that they owned. It is difficult to estimate the population but Dixon gives us a useful insight.

In 1538 the Muster of Militia listed all able-bodied men who were required by law to serve in the militia:

With horse and harness	Without horse and harness
Edmond Borrell	John Ley
Henry Donne	Thomas Watson
George Reyde	Thomas Staward
William Huntrelle	Rye Hopper
John Woode	John Hopper
John Reyde	Robert Ley
John Glanton	James Smythe
Edward Rede	Edmond Gybson
John Rotter (Rutter)	Roger Nycollson
	Roger Butema
	Larand Trollope
	Cuthbert Ditchborn
	Thomas Atkinson

22 men in total.

Studies suggest that this would have given a total population estimate of around 130 - about half the 1801 census total of 279.

In contrast to Whittingham which boasted a fine church, tower, brewhouse, mills and a smithy, Glanton was poor. The villagers shared their mud and timber hovels with their animals. The first record of the existence of a stone house was in 1588 when a crown lease was confirmed on a property in Glanton. Its location is unknown. In the same year Robert Proctor of Shawdon complained that the Scots in a raid had stolen 20 kye and oxen while Cuthbert Dine lost 30 kye and 2 horses. Eight years later Glanton was again sacked by the Scots, this time by the servants of Lord Cessford in a continuation of the ceaseless cross-border feuding.

# TO THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1783

The accession of James I and VI signalled a major step forward in the development of Glanton. The king appointed the Earl of Dunbar to enforce law and order in the region - an appointment that he took up with some enthusiasm by hanging '*140 of the nimblest and most powerful thieves in the borders*'. Of course the terrain made the area difficult to police but the benefits of peace and the resultant security encouraged the expansion of a more settled community.

After a few years of peace, war broke out again. In 1640 Charles I marched north to put down the Scots Calvinists, made a truce at Berwick and then headed south again. The Scots then invaded Northumberland only months later and took Newcastle. On their way they came via Branton and Glanton - singing psalms - which made a welcome change!

Civil war broke out in 1642 and the Parliamentarians and Scots signed the Solemn League and Covenant one year later, whereupon a Scots force headed south again and retook Newcastle. There they stayed to accept the surrender of Charles I in 1646, eventually to hand him to the English forces one year later on receipt of a large '*subsidy*'. In 1648 civil war resumed and in Glanton a Major Sanderson arrived with a force from Hexham and captured a large number of Royalists who lay asleep. The prisoners were then marched off to Morpeth.

The major landowning families were royalist and Catholic and a number forfeited all or part of their estates. The Collingwoods of Eslington had lost theirs in 1644 but interestingly a Government agent sold it back to the family in 1656 - a useful form of revenue!

The Church of England took action to suppress Catholicism and the Dissenters. As required by law the villagers of Glanton attended the Parish Church in Whittingham, but became Presbyterian. Probably partly because the village had no designated place of worship, but more likely because the freeholders of the village were, for the first time, beginning to assert their independence from Whittingham.

In 1670 houses were licensed for worship and the first house recorded in Glanton to be used as such was in 1702. In 1693 the new church at Branton was built, supported by the leading farming families of Glanton village who signed the deeds of foundation.

These prominent freeholders were Anderson, Hatkin, Heslop, Hopper, Huntridge, Mills and Potts. They were yeomen rather than gentlemen and were, through their diligence and industry, gradually amassing the considerable wealth that would permit their families to invest in farmland and buildings, thus creating the structure of the village of Glanton that we are familiar with and recognise today. The enclosures of 1666 and 1696 defined the various small estates and set the scene for the growth of the community.

The Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1745 had no impact on the yeomen of Glanton. However the Collingwoods, being Catholic and

for centuries landowners in and around the village, supported the Stuarts. This time they were less fortunate in their misplaced allegiance. George Collingwood paid with his life, being captured and executed at Preston, and the family estate at Eslington was forfeited and sold to Sir Henry Liddell of Ravensworth, whose descendants still hold it today.

For the most part, the yeomen families continued to prosper. Farming was profitable and they began to invest in the construction of substantial houses in the village. The Mills family built the mansion at Glanton Westfield (now Glanton Pyke); the present house dates from 1770. In the village on the north side of Front Street stands Town Farm, originally built by the Hopper family in 1721, and next-door to the east, Hatkin House was built in 1796 by the family of that name. On the south side of the road were built The Villa, the oldest of the large village houses dating from 1692, which was probably the Huntridge family's, and next to it Glanton House, built in 1749 by another of the Hopper family, John.

Glanton is unusual for its size to be able to boast such a fine selection of large houses in the village centre. In contrast to many other villages in the area, which were and are estate dependent, Glanton enjoyed, as it does to this day, a diversity of real estate ownership, a product of the entrepreneurial nature of the community.

The village, in the mid to late 18th century, was fast becoming the commercial centre of Whittingham Vale. It was self-sufficient in most things and, in addition to the obvious source of employment from labour on the agricultural estates and servicing the needs of the large houses and farms, provided alternative employment opportunities to a number of tradespeople.

In 1762, 34 able-bodied men were named in the militia, as required by law, of which 14 worked on farms, 16 in trades, 3 in service and one gentleman. Glanton had become a busy, thriving centre.

The population remained predominantly



Presbyterian and the majority of church-goers continued, as they had for many years, to make the journey each Sunday to Branton to worship, until in 1781 there arose a disagreement over the appointment of the new minister. The Glanton members decided to withdraw and set up their own church in their own village (a move that was likely overdue in any case), and for two years held their church services in a granary, now demolished, at Town Farm until their new church was built in 1783. The land was donated to the church and building costs paid by Edward Anderson and in 1812 was put in trust for 'the said congregation of Protestant Dissenters'.

To their great credit, the Presbyterian church members in Glanton established a village school in the same year, 1783, as they built their new church. It was originally housed in a building belonging to Edward Anderson, clearly a true philanthropist, and then moved in 1820 to renovated premises behind the church cottages. There it remained until the new school was built on the West Turnpike in 1875.



NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR  
Top Section South-East Window

# THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

**T**hrough the turn of the century Britain was at war with France. Napoleon had come to power in 1799 and, to counter the French threat, various volunteer forces had been organised in the county. The Cheviot Legion was raised in 1798 and became an expanded unit with the title Royal in 1803. It comprised, at that time, 4 troops of cavalry and 10 troops of infantry - a sizeable force of 800 men. From Glanton, Captain Edward Anderson and Lieutenant John Mills were officers, while Messrs Anderson, Curry, Swanson, Turnbull, Jobson and Mills were troopers. The muster point for the entire force was Glanton.

To counter the possibility of French invasion, elaborate plans had been laid by the government and military, which included the provision of hilltop signalling posts that would raise the alarm and mobilise defence forces at speed if required. On the night of Tuesday, 31st January 1804, Major Hughes, third in command of the Legion and senior duty officer, decided, on the report of a glow to the north, to take no chances and call out the troops. It transpired that the glow from charcoal burners' fires had been mistaken for the warning beacon set at Ros Castle.

Dippie Dixon in his book 'Whittingham Vale' recounts the vivid recollections of the villagers: alarm drums, the call of the bugle and riders galloping to and fro in the pitch black.

*"Then beat to arms the rolling drum, and many a darting light,  
Through open door and window small, gleam'd flickering on the night;  
While little girl and mother kind, and matron growing old,  
Gave ready aid, as if their hearts were made of sternest mould."*

In the morning, news arrived that it had been a false alarm. Dixon reports that 'the troopers spent the remainder of the day at Glanton in that social and jovial manner for which our yeoman ancestors were so famous'.

Given the Victorian writer's typical understatement, it must have been quite a party!

About this time Thomas Donaldson, who was a weaver in Glanton, was busily penning verse as Tam o'Glanton in the style of Robert Burns. He published his works in 1809 and had this to say about the possibility of a French invasion:

*"An Acrostic to a Young Recruit.*

*Allan, my lad, here comes a line;  
Lang look'd for's come at last.  
Lang may you i' your armour shine,  
An' gie our foes a blast.  
Now news is gaun that Buonaparte's  
Refitting to come over;  
Old England's tars will coup his carts,  
Conduct him into Dover.  
Hae at him, ere he gets in;  
Engage him wi' the local;  
Sae nicely they will skelp his skin,  
They'll smash him like a cokle.  
E're be steady 'midst these war's alarms;  
Rely on God to aid the British arms."*

Donaldson's poems give us some insight into the life of the tradespeople of Glanton. He refers to their grandfather clocks, their wives' make-up, their diet - porridge, beef, butter, kale etc, their pets - dogs and song birds, and their clothing. Apparently they wore clogs for everyday footwear, shoes for special occasions.

His poem on the death of his favourite hen, Muffie, leaves us with a charming, if slightly tongue in cheek, glimpse of everyday life in the village.

*“On the Death of a Favourite Hen.*

*Ye wives lament thro’ a’ the lan’,  
Let tears rin like the Keppin stran’,  
O’erpower’d wi grief I canna stan’,  
Come haud my head;  
Ne’er sic a Hen was seen by man,  
But Muffie’s dead.*

*My Muffie was a Hen o’ Hens,  
This ev’ry honest neebor kens;  
Wi’ her ten claws, lang wi’ her friens,  
She’d seek her bread;  
Now I may gang an’ get my men’s,  
Sin’ Muffie’s dead.*

*She laid an egg, ay ev’ry day.  
She never wander’d far away  
Like ither hens, that gang astray  
Amang the weeds;  
Like her, alake! I hae nae mae,  
Now Muffie’s dead.*

*She bought me Sugar, Tea an’ Bread,  
Needles, Thimbles, Twist an’ Thread,  
An’ mony ither things, indeed,  
To mak’ me braw;  
But now, alake! poor Muffie’s dead,  
’Tis warst o’ a’.*

*I brought her frae Langhoughton Town;  
I’ve had her twenty seasons roun’.  
My Hen she was a shining Brown,  
Wi’ Muffi’d head;  
She was weel kend, ay a’ will own,  
But now she’s dead.*

*She hurt an e’e ance in a fight,  
Which for a lang time spoilt her sight,  
Yet after she gat hale an’ tight,  
She’d gie them battle;  
An ne’er a Hen o’ Muffie’s weight  
Could stan’ her brattle.*

*That donsie laddie, Billie Brown,  
I wadna’ car’d to’ve crack’d his crown,  
Wi’ his twa clogs he ran her down -  
That idle scholar;  
I swear I’d rather gi’en the loun  
A Spanish Dollar.*

*I gar’d the rascal tak’ her hame,  
Just like a present till his Dame.  
A’ that I charg’d her for the same  
Was but a shilling;  
She bang’d poor Muftie back again -  
She was not willing.*

*Now sin’ they hae return’d her hale,  
An’ ploted neither head nor tail,  
My Hen will mak’ a pot fu’ kail  
I’ time o’ need;  
Sae I conclude this mournfu’ tale -  
That Muffie’s dead.*

*Bill’s hae a present o’ her claws,  
Wi’ her two wings to dust the wa’s.  
Hang up her head to scar the craws  
Frae off the seed;  
An’ mak’ a whistle o’ her jaws -  
For Muffie’s dead.”*

His imitation of the style of the Scots bard is clear, but his use of dialect makes one wonder if he was writing in Burn’s or perhaps his own native Lowland Scots or in the North Northumberland tongue of the day. Presumably his readers understood the content of his verse, which would seem to indicate that with the obvious commonality of words and expression in its structure, country speech north or south of the border was virtually indistinguishable - as it remains in some areas to this day.

**Y**eoman farmers of the village had mixed fortunes after the war with France. In 1815 grain prices collapsed and the industry suffered a prolonged period of recession. As a result there followed a series of property transactions in the village, which was in some ways fortuitous in that the new owners made substantial investments in land and buildings, creating a lasting impact on the structure and character of Glanton.

Edward Anderson, who had been one of the village's main benefactors, went bankrupt. His trustees, who had been appointed to dispose of his estate, had great problems in attracting interest, not helped by the fact that the Hatkin Estate was on the market at the same time. George and Joseph Hughes of Middleton Hall bought the Hatkin Estate and some of the Anderson land. Joseph moved into Hatkin House. Most of the balance of the Anderson Estate which included Glanton House was purchased by John Tewart. The rest, Mile End Farm, was bought by the Rev Browne from Branton.

The Hopper family estate, part of which had earlier been sold to the Andersons, was centred on Town Farm. Indeed part of the farm today, Glanton Hill, was until the end of the nineteenth century known as Hopper's Hill. The residue of the estate was sold in 1838 to William Tewart, son of John.

The Mills family, resident at Glanton Pyke, ran into financial problems too and in 1814 the decision was made to sell the estate. The property consisted of the mansion and 245 acres at Glanton Pyke, 70 acres at Dene House, 9 cottages and the blacksmith's in the village. The Dene House acreage was sold to the acquisitive John Tewart in 1815 but the main property remained unsold. Henry Collingwood, who had married Margaret Mills, made a claim on the property and paid John Mills, his nephew by marriage, £15,000. In his will, he left the estate to his son, F J W Collingwood.

Thus by the early part of the nineteenth century, the original yeoman farmer families had disappeared from the village and without the fresh impetus generated by the new estate owners it is doubtful whether the village would have survived.

As it happened the turnover of primary estates was a godsend - it reinvigorated investment in the village and created continuity of employment to agricultural workers and tradespeople alike. The Napoleonic wars had taken their toll on the economy but against a background of problems nationally in agriculture and industry, Glanton seemed to buck the trend. The population almost doubled between the years 1801 and 1831 when it grew from 279 to 534, a quite remarkable statistic when one considers the growth of industry on Tyneside and the general gravitation of country people to towns and cities.

The Hughes and Pawson families continued their investments and built cottages and houses on some of the remaining infill sites on Front Street, and the centre of Glanton took the form that is familiar to us

today. Meantime the Collingwoods extended the house, outbuildings, farm buildings and gardens at Glanton Pyke and diverted the West Turnpike to the north of the property. Further afield the reconstruction of Alnwick Castle is said to have employed 800 at its peak.

Commentators of the time looked extremely favourably on the village:

*'Glanton is a fine village situated on the Turnpike road... it has recently been enlarged by the erection of several handsome houses, and is at present one of the most promising villages in the county. Here are two public houses and a Presbyterian meeting house.'* (1825)

*Glanton 'stands pleasantly on the high road and has within the last ten years, been enlarged by the erection of several large houses.'* (1828)

The village developed as the centre of commerce for Whittingham Vale. It had at last thrown off its reputation as being second best to its historic neighbour and had grown faster than comparable communities in the area. Its population peaked in 1861 when the census recorded 619 inhabitants, 313 males and 306 females living in 111 houses. Through the industry of its people the community had become almost a small market town with a quite unique commercial and property ownership structure.

The Glanton Loyal Toast had come to have real significance:

*'Here's to us at Glanton,  
Always lookin' doon on Whittingham.'*



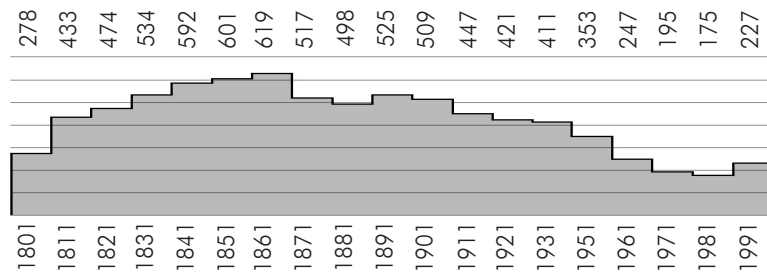
Glanton Shops at the turn of the 19th Century



# A

s mechanisation on the farms increased, and produce prices became more volatile there was a gradual shift in employment emphasis toward trades, commerce and shops. The table below demonstrates the interesting trend in the employment structure of the village from 1841 to 1871

	1841	1871
Agriculture	59	50
Service	47	33
Professional	8	8
Commerce and Shops	11	20
Trades	55	78
Inns	2	4
Misc.	1	6
Total	183	199



Village population from Census years 1801 to 1991

Three primary elements contributed towards the growth and prosperity of the village. Firstly, the success of farming, secondly, the maintenance and supply of goods to the large houses in and around the village, and thirdly, the location of Glanton on the main turnpike and stagecoach route north to Scotland.

The rerouting of the main coaching road north heralded a number of developments in transport and infrastructure that would in time lead to the gradual decline in population and commerce in the village.

In 1824 the renowned engineer, Telford, was commissioned to survey the existing turnpike. This was the old coaching road, which ran from Longframlington via the line of the existing A697, then at Longframlington Gate headed up over the moor and descended into Whittingham Vale on the line of the road that presently runs to the east of Thrunton Wood. It continued down the present-day bridle-path, down Whittingham Lane to Whittingham, then up the existing road to Glanton and over to Powburn. Telford declared this route from Newcastle to Edinburgh ten miles shorter than the coast road, the A1.

The existing road by all accounts was in an appalling state. The Breamish and Wooler Turnpike Trusts were permanently underfunded and were in debt. They were amalgamated by Act of Parliament and took out a loan from Government to construct a new road on the line of the present-day A697 which was completed in



Steam Threshing at Town Farm

1840. However the road was still operated as a turnpike and it was impossible to recoup its costs through toll revenue and, as a result, it remained poorly maintained. It was not until the formation of the Highways Board for the district through the Highways Act of 1862 that revenues for the maintenance of the highway system could be levied through a rating structure and the roads improved. The Turnpike Trust was dissolved in 1877.

Initially the construction of the new turnpike had little effect on the bustling village life of Glanton. In time however there was a marked drift of population away from the community to the industrial and commercial centres to the south.

Glanton had lost its position on one of the main routes north. The rail line from Newcastle to Berwick had been opened in 1849 with a branch line to Alnwick in 1850. The railway age was revolutionising industry and the lives of the population, to the extent that a rail link became essential to any aspiring community. In a remarkably short period of time, the stagecoach had become redundant.

Clearly the communities of mid and north Northumberland were in danger of being seriously disadvantaged if they did not procure a link to the main east coast line and, in 1852 and 1853, attempts were made to link Acklington on the main line to Rothbury, or alternatively Morpeth to Rothbury, and from there to the border via Whittingham and Wooler, but all to no avail.

At a committee meeting at Glanton on 1st March 1864 a request was formulated and

agreed to submit to the Central Northumberland Railway Company that Glanton be included on any railway north of Rothbury. However the company ran into financial difficulty and never extended their line north of there. Some years later a further meeting was convened at Glanton School with Capt. Carr-Ellison in the chair. There the meeting agreed a proposal of Rothbury being linked to Whittingham, Glanton, Powburn and Wooler with a branch line from Glanton to Shawdon, Bolton and Alnwick. This met with the general approval of the villagers but received a setback upon investigation of the cost versus projected revenue. Meantime, the opposition, in the form of the major landowners of the time including the Duke of Northumberland, pressed the North Eastern Railway Company to consider a line from Alnwick to Cornhill. The rival projects were submitted to a Parliamentary Select Committee in 1881 who saw the Central estimated cost as £1,000,000, while the North Eastern was £400,000. Needless to say the latter won approval and work started in 1883.

The railway was the most adventurous and massive engineering project in the area since the Romans built their road 1700 years earlier. The stations, bridges and line buildings were built to an exceptionally high standard of uniform architectural design. The curves, cuttings and viaducts required per mile of construction to allow the required gradients overcome the obstacles afforded by the terrain were, for a small branch line, quite unbelievable. At Glanton, as at other stops, the station was very grand. It included a station house, waiting rooms, goods shed, two sidings and a line to the goods shed. The line ran north to the station from Whittingham and crossed the Aln on an iron bridge 60 feet in length which sat on piles 40 feet deep to give it a foundation. North of the station, the line continued through Shawdon Dene towards Hedgeley where the embankment and boggy ground required a fill of 120,000 cubic yards of material. The engineering investment was immense and it is small wonder that the contractor, Meakin and Deane, eventually went bankrupt.

The line opened on 1st September 1887 and the first train left Alnwick with 100 passengers and headed north to Cornhill where it arrived one and a half hours later. Many locals from Glanton went to the station, bought tickets to Hedgeley and walked home. The Railway Age had arrived!

The population statistics of the mid century census reveal considerable overcrowding. In 1861, as we have seen, 619 Glantonians lived in 111 houses. Sanitation, even for the time, was crude and basic with the water supply being provided from the Kepping Well, so-called because the villagers 'kepped' or caught their daily supply of water from the source on the side of Glanton Hill. In 1868 a committee of 9 village people determined that the supply should be improved and a Mr Patterson, a mason, was commissioned to supply a new trough which could be fed from the Glanton Hill source. His work now stands at the flagpole at the west end of the village. A pipe extended to another trough situated at the eastern end of Front Street near the grass bank at the junction with Whittingham Road. In spite of attempts to improve the situation, the supply remained poor. The

Public Health Act was passed in 1872 and a Mr Wilson was appointed the local Sanitary Inspector based in Alnwick. On his inspection of Glanton in 1873 he noted 35 water taps, only 18 of which were inside houses, 5 water closets and 1 shower bath. To remedy the situation, and under protest from local ratepayers, he took possession of the Glanton water supply, upgraded it, and took firm action against landlords who refused to comply with the provisions of the Act.

In spite of this, improvements were slow. Sewage ran unpiped in a ditch down the Whittingham Road. The smell must have been unbelievable and when eventually Lord Ravensworth complained about the effluent spilling onto his land, a meeting was held to make provision for a new settling tank. Predictably the ratepayers in the village complained about the expense but at last, in 1890, a tank was installed. Water and sewage provision remained unsatisfactory until Alnwick Rural District Council implemented the powers conferred on them by the Public Health Amendment Act of 1890 and levied sufficient rates to upgrade the water supply to the village and build a new sewage works which was completed in 1900.



Laying Water Main circa 1890



The two main institutions in the village continued to be the church and school. The church enjoyed considerable support from the villagers with leading members of the community serving as trustees and elders. In the national census of 1851 it was noted with some concern that the church-going population had declined to 45%. It would be interesting to calculate what the percentage is today! The pews were rented - the source of income to pay the minister and maintenance costs - and on 30th March it is recorded that 440 members attended morning service and 126 the evening service. In 1856 the average attendance was 270 with 250 communicants and 320 seat holders.

At around this time, concern was expressed at the management of church affairs and, by 1867, the church and manse buildings had deteriorated to the extent that they were in an extremely poor state of repair. The manse roof leaked and the church interior was in need of renovation. It was decided at last that the buildings had to be put in order and the congregation moved back to hold their services at the Town Farm granary (as they had until the church was built in 1783) for three and a half months while the church was renovated. The main entrance, which had been on the south side of the building, was repositioned to lead off West Turnpike, major repairs were made to the rotten timbers and the cottages to the west, which are still owned by the church, were extended to provide extra living space.

Up to 1886 the church had no organ. Singing was led by a precentor who, with the aid of a tuning fork, would lead off the singing of psalms until the congregation joined in. At a meeting of church members it was agreed by a vote by 200 to 34 that an American organ be installed.

In 1890 the church embarked on another fundraising venture to mark the 25th year of their minister, the Reverend Davidson. The decision was taken to provide a village clock which was built in 1891 on the east gable of the church while a turret was added to the roof to house the bells.



The School and Village circa 1880

The school since its foundation in 1783 continued as the other Presbyterian establishment in the village. Parents were continually urged to send their children to lessons and, in 1851, 83 out of 116 five to thirteen year olds in the village attended regularly. In 1861, the peak of Glanton's population, 115 attended out of a total 148. In 1866 the annual examination of the school reported 'Excellent discipline and proficiency attained in the various classes'. The curriculum included reading, spelling, arithmetic, dictation, geography, and scripture. The schoolroom was dreadfully overcrowded and became subject of comment by inspectors and the press.

The new Education Act made it possible to fund a Board School from rates under the management of a Board elected from ratepayers. The first Board was elected in December 1873 and got on with the business of securing funds for a new school. Approval for a loan was received from the Public Works Loans Commission and the foundation work was started in September 1874.

The new school on West Turnpike was opened on Monday, 24th July 1876.

By 1891 the school had become too small yet again and by 1893 a new infants classroom had been provided, which was opened in October by F J W Collingwood of Glanton Pyke. Various Parliamentary Acts changed the pattern of schooling so that, by the end of the century, every child up to the age of 12 had to attend and parents could be fined for failing to send their children to regular classes. Mr Greig and his wife ran the school from 1891. Prior to their appointment it seems that their predecessors had taken a lenient view on the practice of children following the hunt during the season and not attending lessons. The Greigs would have none of it - they promptly abolished the custom and insisted that their charges attended school, hunt or no hunt. There existed too another rather odd and perhaps unique custom at the school. This was called 'Barring-out Day' which took place immediately before Christmas, and was presumably typical of the pranks children play even today during the high jinks that usually precede school holidays. The children met early at school with the objective of barring the headmaster from the school. If successful it seems they claimed a day's holiday. Mr Greig being the disciplinarian that he was had this 'tradition' discontinued too!

The Glanton Games were first held in 1855 in the field in front of what was then the Red Lion inn. The programme included wrestling, putting the shot, hurdles, flat racing, sack races and even a donkey race. Ten years later it was reported in one of the local papers that photographs had been taken - sadly none seem to have survived. By 1869 the games were known as The Great Northern Games at Glanton, a grand title indeed that perhaps did not necessarily reflect the scale of the games, but more the Victorian penchant for prefixing the names of many of their institutions, companies, and even modes of transport, with the word 'great'.

The Gazette reported that 'Glanton may be said to be the nursery of wrestling in North Northumberland' in 1887, but by 1891 the same paper reported that the Games had been allowed to 'fall through'. In 1895 they reported 'the sports are a thing of the past'. However the same year the village launched the Glanton and District Art, Industrial and Loan Exhibition - probably the forerunner to the Glanton Show that we know today.

Then as now, country sports were popular - hunting, shooting and fishing were the main pursuits while pigeon shooting was organised in a field behind the Queen's Head. Football and cricket clubs had been formed and the advent of the bicycle led to the formation of Cyclist Clubs. In 1897 a great meet of local clubs was held in the village as part of the Jubilee celebrations which was attended by over 2000 who assembled on Glanton Hill to listen to a sermon. The same year, another celebration on the hill was preceded by a march through the village by a brass band, the Artillery Volunteers, the Rifle Volunteers, a choir, other village organisations and the public. The flagpole at the summit was erected by the Volunteers to mark the occasion.

By the end of the century, Glanton had developed into a community that enjoyed a completeness of life. The village was a busy, active centre where the virtually self-sufficient inhabitants relied on each other for work, trade and recreation.



Mrs Greig - Cycling

School circa 1900

Memorial Hall

Jubilee Parade



## FROM 1900 TO THE MILLENNIUM

**D**uring the last one hundred years the village has seen more change than at any time in its thousand-year history. The introduction of cars and buses had an enormous impact on the lives of Glantonians and led to the continuing decline in population that had begun with the introduction of the railway. The number of inhabitants fell from a peak of 619 in 1861 to 509 in 1901, and to 447 in 1911 as people gradually drifted to the prosperous towns and cities in search of alternative employment. For those who continued to live in Glanton the availability of transport allowed them to work and shop further afield. The consequences for the village were inevitable. However, up to the 1914-1918 war, there still existed a thriving commercial community.

In 1914 the following businesses were listed

Dodds Bros	Builders	Hunter, Andrew	Draper
Dodds, S J	Butcher	Johnston, John	Plumber
Douglas, Miss	Confectioner	Kitchen, William	Saddler
Douglas, Wm	Ironmonger	Miller, Edward	Blacksmith
Foggon, R & Son	Grocer	Robson, Mrs Elizabeth	Laundress
Gladstone, John	Red Lion	Thompson, Andrew & Son	Auctioneers & Valuers
Gray, Robert	Carrier	Turner, Albert	Queen's Head
Hardy, Mrs Barbara	Nurse	Utterson, Edward	Bootmaker
Herriot, Mrs Edith	Baker	Whittle, Jnr. Thos.	GPO & Stationer
Hogg, Miss Isabella	Shopkeeper	Younger, John	Tailor

Clearly there was available to the village an adequate infrastructure of businesses to supply their everyday needs, but these came under increasing pressure as people shopped and procured supplies and services from a distance.

The main focal point of the community remained the Presbyterian church. Until then the school had been used as a village hall but there was growing pressure to provide a proper facility for the various organisations that had grown up. In 1905 the coach-house and stable to the west of the manse were demolished and work was started on a new hall. Remarkably nearly all the costs were met with the proceeds of a two-day bazaar and it was opened in August the same year.

In 1912 the interior of the church was remodelled and a new porch which incorporated a vestry and staircase added to the north elevation of the building. The architect was George Reavell of Alnwick. The interior alterations involved the resiting of the pulpit, which originally stood between the windows on the south wall, to the west end of the church, replacing the woodwork, and removing the galleries from the north and west walls. In 1922 the organ of 1886 was replaced. This then completed the form of the church as we know it today.

The other main village institution, the school, thrived under the guidance of Mr Greig, the headmaster, and his wife who was head of the infant department. In 1903 one report said 'the teaching is sound, and the children trained to think'. In 1921, when evidently the tradition of excellence had been carried on by the Greigs' successors, the school was reported as being 'an excellent little school'.

The school amenity was continually improved, firstly by removing the gallery in the infants room and then in 1908 by replacing the old earth middens with new lavatories which boasted water closets - progress indeed!

In 1914 the outbreak of war effectively put paid to most of the initiatives in the village and accelerated the decline in trade. It was said that 'the village went flat after the war' as people continued to move away. As we have seen, the census of 1911 shows that there were 447 people in the village. By 1921 the total had reduced to 421 and by 1931 to 411.

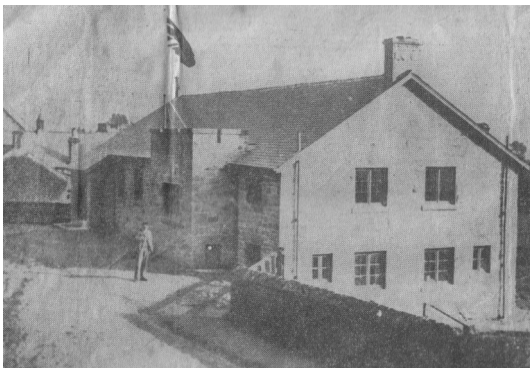
The change in modes of transport continued to impact on the village. In 1920, Mr Cairns pioneered a bus service which was said to be rather unreliable but nevertheless represented the introduction of serious competition to the railway. This was followed in 1926 by a daily service which ran from Wooler to Newcastle via the local villages. The convenience to passengers that this new service offered took virtually all local trade from the railway whose stations were often at some distance from village centres, and in September 1930 the line was officially closed to passenger trains. Staff were cut and Glanton Station came under the supervision of the stationmaster at Hedgeley.

**A**fter the First World War the Glanton Memorial Hall was built. The story behind it is interesting. In 1919 a public meeting was called at Whittingham to consider the erection of a suitable memorial to the local fallen heroes. It was unanimously decided that there should be a memorial, but the meeting had some difficulty in determining the district boundaries and whether Glanton would wish to be included. Notwithstanding, the meeting decided that an institute be erected in Whittingham and a committee was formed to ascertain the cost and determine if Glanton would be prepared to join in.

At a subsequent meeting some seven months later, to which representatives from Glanton were invited, it was proposed that a joint effort be made to raise funds which would be divided equally for the provision of a memorial in each village. This was agreed. The Glantonian streak of independence was alive and well!

Over succeeding months a series of meetings and fundraising initiatives culminated at a further meeting on 9th June 1920 when the Glanton representatives were asked if 'they were going on'. Quite what prompted this is not clear, but it did at least galvanise the Glanton committee into action. At a meeting in Glanton on 22nd June, it was decided that the memorial take the form of an institute and they continued to work jointly with Whittingham. Fundraising continued throughout the year and the next, and on 11th May 1922, Lord Ravensworth presided over a meeting of the Whittingham Committee. There they decided, apparently unilaterally, that the time had come for the funds to be divided equally as agreed. A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the Glanton committee with presumably, but it is not recorded, their share of the funds!

The committee continued with the task of raising funds. A site on West Turnpike was deeded from the Collingwood family to the Trustees and the builders, Johnson & Son, were commissioned to carry out construction work. The fine hall we have today was opened in 1930.



The Hall in 1930

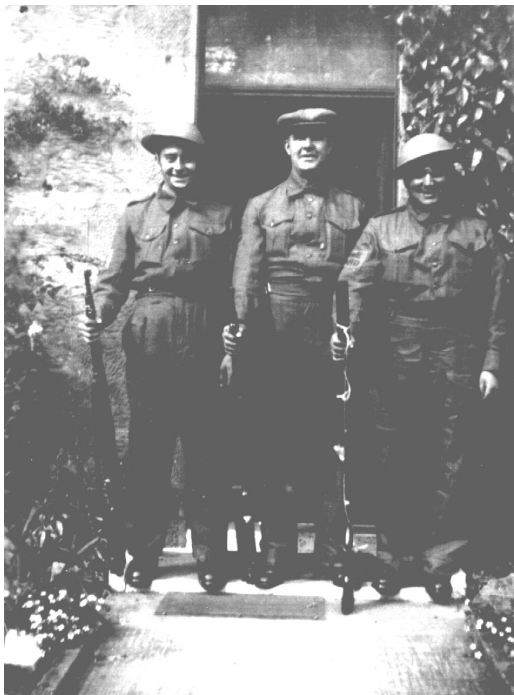
By the mid 1930s the school was accepting children from Bolton, Branton and Ingram. To comply with new educational directives and space requirements, the County Council purchased 12 acres in the Dovecot fields where they erected a prefabricated building for woodwork and domestic science classes, presumably as the first stage of an expansion of the Glanton facilities. This move seems to have reignited the old intervillage rivalry which resulted in the erection of a new Church of England school in Whittingham where there was previously no available land! The Glanton school was expanded no further.

The railway continued to lose money and by 1939, with only two trains a day running over the line, it was fully expected by many to close completely.

However the outbreak of war prompted a temporary reinvigoration as military use increased. The Army took over large houses up and down the line - Bolton Hall, Glanton Pyke and Titlington were served by Glanton Station and extra railway staff had to be recruited to cope with the massive increase in the movement of goods and personnel. Trainspotters of the day (if there were any) would have been amazed and delighted to see the Flying Scotsman pass through Glanton Station with a troop train diverted because of bombing on the main line.

With the war came evacuees from Tyneside. The school was the receiving centre where blankets and sheets were stockpiled along with the extra books, pens and pencils that had also been requisitioned by the school to satisfy the needs of the sudden influx of pupils. The children arrived by bus, complete with luggage and gas masks, and were met by reception helpers who allocated them to their 'foster parents' - local families who had indicated their willingness to board them. The village was choc-a-bloc with children whose parents and relations descended en masse on the place at weekends - to quote the then Headmaster '*rather like the locusts on Egypt*'. Gradually many of the original evacuees returned to Tyneside and some sense of organisation and normality was restored.

In Napoleonic times, the able-bodied men of Glanton were recruited to the Cheviot Legion which was raised to counter the threat of invasion. This time, those who were not on active service could become a Local Defence Volunteer. The legendary activities of those who constituted Glanton's last line of defence against Hitler's invading panzers would have made an interesting and equally amusing sequel to the hilarious adventures of their comrades based at Warmington-on-Sea!



Home Guard

It seems the volunteer force was formed one evening in the village hall where Major Houstoun-Boswell of Glanton Pyke organised proceedings. He asked the question, "Have any of you fellas pooped orff a gun or such, evar?" and so the force was born. Each of the members was issued with an armband with the initials LDV so that he was recognisable and, more importantly, safeguarded under the Rules of the Geneva Convention should he be captured by the opposing forces! Some time later, uniforms arrived and the LDV armbands were discarded to be replaced by 'Home Guard'.

At first weapons were scarce - non-existent in fact - and pitchforks and old shotguns were pressed into use. Some guns were said to be so old that they presented more danger to the aimer than the aimed at! Eventually rifles arrived and with them the force practised their marksmanship at Moorlaws where they "pooped them orff". They had 5 rounds each and the story goes that one lad failed to hit his target while his neighbour's had 10 holes in it.

As it had for centuries, Glanton Hill served as the look-out post. An observation hut (shepherd's bothy) had been hauled up the hill and was equipped with a bunk and canvas stool together with a notebook and pencil, provided to note the movement of aircraft, friend or foe, direction of flight etc. Watches were shared in shifts of three hours each.

Occasionally the Glanton Home Guard would make trips further afield to acquaint themselves with the variety of anti-invasion weaponry available to them. These contraptions, which probably presented more danger to our forces than Hitler's, especially when in the hands of our local unit, included a 'Northover Projector' which fired petrol bombs with a remarkable degree of inaccuracy to a range of 60 yards; an anti-tank device which featured mines dangling from a step ladder; and most dangerous of all, a flamethrower made from a steel drum packed with oil, petrol and anything else remotely explosive with which our illustrious defenders hoped to fry panzers!

The 'professionals' were stationed at Glanton Pyke which had been taken over for a time by the Royal Artillery. The gun emplacement, guardhouse foundation and 'Explosives' warning signs - remains of military occupation - are visible to this day.

With the end of the war, progress was made with the provision of council houses which had been delayed due to the outbreak of hostilities. In 1946 the Rural District Council approved twelve houses, thus beginning a new phase of expansion of the village; the ratepayers agreed to light the village with electricity and the water supply was improved. Rubbish, which in 1937 was not collected for nine months, was now uplifted every fortnight.

Traffic on the railway had continued to decline and in August 1948, a month of torrential rain and flooding, the bridge at Ilderton was washed away. Rather than incur the reconstruction expenditure, British Rail decided to terminate the goods and parcels service at Ilderton Station and from there transfer freight by road to Wooler, the next station up the line. This was no way to run a railway, and eventually the inevitable happened and the line was closed on 2nd March 1953. The Wooler to Cornhill section remained open until 1965 when it fell victim of the infamous Beeching Axe.



Last Train Glanton Station

In 1944 the government introduced an Act providing secondary education for all. This meant that Glanton children over the age of 11 were sent to Wooler and it probably signalled the beginning of the end of the village school. In 1958 the Dovecot property was leased by the Red Cross Society from the County Council. They bought it in 1972 and it was used to provide holidays for handicapped children until closure in 1981. The buildings have since been sold and converted into a joiner's shop.

The school came under increased threat of closure as pressures for cost saving in education provision increased. By the mid 70s, in spite of protest from the Parochial Council and parents, the school had reduced its function to a First School for children aged five to nine. It continued to maintain its tradition of excellence, as it

had done since inception by its Presbyterian founders in 1783, but fell foul of the forces of consolidation and closed in 1981.

Village trades and shopkeepers continued to lose business to Alnwick and Newcastle as the rise of supermarket chains destroyed their viability. The inevitable consequence of price-cutting and growth in the availability of convenience shopping, together with a continuing decline in population, meant that by the mid 70s four shops survived with two pubs and a bank which opened one day a week. As we enter the new millennium one shop, the post office and one pub have survived.

The structure of land ownership has changed too. By 1963, the three large estates which historically covered most of the land in the village, Hughes, Tewart and Shawdon, had been sold. The Collingwoods remained at Glanton Pyke. So by the mid 60s, the landowning structure had for the most part gone full circle and reverted to owner farmers once more.

We see change in the number of new homes in our village where more houses have been built in the last twenty years than probably at any comparable period in its entire history. The list is remarkable - 8 at Playwell Court, 4 at The Juries, 2 new at South Farm with 7 conversions from the existing buildings, 5 in the old Red Lion building, 4 on the west side of Whittingham Road, 4 behind the Queen's Head and church, 3 along West Turnpike and 1 on Front Street, a total of 38. From a population low point in 1981 of 183 there has been encouraging growth to 227 living in 102 houses in 1991.

As we have seen, most of the businesses that grew up around Glanton's structure as a market village - the shops and services - have closed. The village's tradition of farming and provision of building trades services continue to play a large part in the economy of the community, but there are encouraging signs that the communications revolution is bringing further change to the village from which it will surely benefit.



**T**oday, there are over thirty businesses in Glanton, some created to take advantage of the growth in tourism, others highly specialised, the most recent set up as a direct result of the accelerating change in our ability, via the expansion of computerised communication, to locate our workplace away from a central office, factory or market. This then is a busy place.

Some village activities continue as they have for many years. The church is less well attended than in days past and has to share its pastoral care with two other congregations, but it has services every Sunday as it has for the last 217 years. The WI, that venerable body of women who founded their institute here in 1931, continues to do much for the community, and the Glanton Show, one of the best attended and supported in Northumberland, continues to be staged each year on the second Saturday of August.

There are enormous pressures for change on the countryside and its traditions. Glanton is far from immune, but the strength of its community will ensure that, as in times past, Glantonians will adapt to modern influences and harness them to their advantage.

In his book 'Whittingham Vale', David Dippie Dixon wrote in 1895:

*"The salubrious little village of Glanton stands on the southern brow of the ridge that divides the valleys of the Breamish and the Aln, about two miles north of Whittingham. From its commanding position, a magnificent panoramic view of many miles in extent is obtained."*

- nothing changes!