

## MINING THE DCLHS BULLETINS

### 1972 - Bulletin 14 *Easington Rural District*

It is over 50 years since Bill Moyes published the attached article, which DCLHS has now produced in a new PDF version. Recently, Journal 89 focussed on Durham's coast and all the articles about the coast, including Moyes', in our Bulletin/Journal are listed in John Banham's article: *A maritime county – reflections on Durham's coast*.

A few years before his Bulletin article, Moyes had written *Mostly Mining* published in 1969 by Frank Graham in Newcastle upon Tyne. A recent blog remembering this long out of print book – now a collector's item – is worth reading.

<https://matthewkilburn.wordpress.com/2020/08/08/1969-mostly-mining-by-william-a-moyes/>

Kilburn's review suggests that Moyes' account is patchy in its coverage of the history of East Durham and there is some truth in this. For example, the wider significance of the Easington Ward of the County Palatine from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries is lost. This ward, one of four in County Durham, covered a much larger area than the Rural District Bill Moyes wrote about in his Bulletin article. In the mid-seventeenth century, at the time of the Protestation, the Ward covered the parishes of Bishop Wearmouth, Castle Eden, Croxdale, Dalton le Dale, Durham North Bailey, Durham South Bailey, Durham St Giles, Durham St Margaret's, Durham St Nicholas, Easington, Houghton le Spring, Kelloe, Monk Hesleton, Pittington, St Oswald, Seaham, Sherburn Hospital, Sunderland and Trimdon.

See details at: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/3af93e28-7756-4f49-9730-3cad223121d7>

However, Moyes did not just cover the area's mining heritage, he also identified the pre-Conquest history of the area but gave no references for the reader to follow up. Recently the Brigantia Archaeological Practice published a report on a *Deserted medieval village off Eden Lane, Peterlee*. This links the pre-Conquest village of Yoden with information in Simeon of Durham's twelfth century *Historia ecclesiae Dunelmensis*. See details at:

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/issue.xhtml?recordId=1101094&recordType=GreyLitSeries>

East Durham has changed a great deal in 50 years – all the many collieries have closed. Professor John Tomaney's piece for the 2022 Durham Book Festival - *The lost world of Peter Lee* – encapsulates that change, see details at:

<https://durhambookfestival.com/commission/john-tomaney-the-lost-world-of-peter/>

**Footnote:** John Banham, author of *The Hetton Coal Company 1820-1836 Adventurers or Madmen*, published by the Society to mark the bicentenary of the Hetton Colliery Railway in 2022, points out an inaccuracy on page 8 of Moyes' article. The statement *John Buddle proved the coal in the Hetton area in 1822 and Robert Stephenson became Hetton pit's engineer*, needs clarification. Buddle was Viewer of the rival Penshaw and Rainton collieries and not in charge of the Hetton Coal Company, whose shaft proved there was coal under the magnesian limestone. Robert Stephenson (George Stephenson's brother) supervised the construction of the Hetton Colliery Railway after George moved from Hetton to undertake work on the Stockton to Darlington Railway. For the full story see: <http://www.hcr200.org/Publications.html>