

The North-East and Yorkshire

The North-East is an area rich in Jacobite artefacts and places. This is unsurprising, since Northumberland was the place where the English part of the Fifteen began, and it was long an area where many Jacobites lived. Particularly good collections can be found at places such as Bamburgh Castle and Dilston Castle and Chapel, which both belonged to leading Jacobites (Thomas Forster MP and James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, respectively) and still have impressive collections of Jacobite artefacts.

Yorkshire's Jacobite heritage is at first more surprising, as no Jacobite army ever set foot there. Moreover, although some Yorkshiremen took part in both the Fifteen and the Forty-Five, none of them left any substantial effects for posterity. However, the county has an abundance of Jacobite artefacts and imagery, both due to the presence of contemporary Jacobite sympathisers (hence the Jacobite imagery at Fairfax House, and the Jacobite collection at Nunnington Hall) and due to later collectors amassing some Jacobite memorabilia (such as at Temple Newsam).

Bamburgh Castle, Bamburgh, Northumberland

Bamburgh Castle was the home of Thomas Forster MP, one of the leaders of the English part of the Fifteen. Forster was one of the two MPs for Northumberland. Although much of the present castle is 19th century, parts of the original castle (ie. the one familiar to Forster) survive, notably the Norman keep.

The castle has an impressive collection of Jacobite material:

- Portrait of Thomas Forster [corridor]
- Knife and fork belonging to Sir John Fenwick, an arch Jacobite who was executed for his Jacobite plotting in 1697 [Crewe Museum Room]
- Fenwick's sword [King's Hall]
- Dress belonging to Dorothy Forster. Dorothy, sister of Thomas, became one of the Jacobite heroines by effecting the rescue of her brother from Newgate prison in 1716, where he was being held for high treason after his Jacobite army surrendered at Preston [Crewe Museum Room]
- Bleeding bowl belonging to John Talbot, who was 'out' in the Fifteen [Crewe Museum Room]
- Prints of portraits of James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater and Lady Mar Fenwick [Fenwick's wife, who was also a Jacobite] [1st Small Room]
- Portraits of Dorothy Forster [Captain's Lodging and Court Room]

- Portrait of Anna, Lady Derwentwater (who reportedly encouraged her husband to rise in the Fifteen [corridor])

[Bamburgh Castle is at the eastern end of Bamburgh village, which is on the north-east Northumberland coast, 5 miles east of the A1]

Bar Convent Museum, York

The museum has an impressive 18th century clock by the Jacobite sympathiser Henry Hindley. The information panel underneath the clock notes Hindley's Jacobitism. [First floor corridor]

[The Bar Convent Museum is at the south end of central York, just beyond Micklegate Bar]

Beningbrough Hall, Beningbrough, Yorkshire

The hall has portraits of several members of the exiled Stuart royal family: Prince Charles Edward and Prince Henry [both in Lady Chesterfield's Dressing Room] and Princess Maria Theresa [Lady Chesterfield's Bedroom]

[Beningbrough Hall is 8 miles north-west of York]

Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham

The museum has two Jacobite gold rings, both with locks of Prince Charles Edward's hair. One is decorated with garnets and pearls. One of the rings has good provenance, one fair [one ring is in the new Metalwork gallery, and one is at present in storage but can be seen by appointment].

[The Bowes Museum is in the eastern suburbs of Barnard Castle, half a mile from the town centre]

Brotherton Library, University of Leeds, Leeds

The library has several Jacobite MS documents, including an inventory post-mortem of James II's goods (drawn up in 1703), a grant of a marriage portion from James to Princess Louisa (1698) and a copy of James II's will. These documents have 'unrestricted access' and so are available to view upon request [Brotherton Special Collections, under 'Jacobite and other Documents']

[The library is in the Parkinson Building at the east side of the University, half a mile north of Leeds city centre]

Castle Museum, York

Many Jacobite prisoners were held at York Castle after the Forty-Five. Parts of the medieval and 18th century castle where they were held still survive in the museum. (There also survives the medieval keep, Clifford's Tower, which stands next to the museum). These include the 18th century cells where the Jacobite prisoners were almost certainly held, and some of the medieval castle walls, including towers and windows.

In the cells of the castle/museum there is at present a good information panel on the Jacobites (although sadly it may apparently fall foul of a revamp).

[The museum is in central York, at the southern end of Castlegate]

Dilston Hall/Castle and Chapel, Dilston, Northumberland

Dilston Castle (dating from the 15th century) formed one part of the splendid Dilston Hall, built by James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, in the early 18th century.

Derwentwater was one of the leaders of the English part of the Fifteen, for which he was executed by the Hanoverian regime in 1716.

The hall was demolished later in the century, but the castle, which formed one wing of it, survived. Small parts of the rest of the Derwentwater's hall, including 18th century windows in the wall of the castle, the arched gateway and some foundations, are still visible.

Adjacent to the castle is the 17th century chapel, which like the castle was used by Derwentwater and his family. His family included his brother Charles (later the fifth Earl) who was one of the very few Englishmen to rise in both the Fifteen and the Forty-five.

The chapel has an impressive collection of Jacobite/Radcliffe artefacts, including

- James Radcliffe's leather gauntlet
- Cloth, lace and nail from James Radcliffe's coffin
- Engraving of Charles Radcliffe, and a note from him dated 1720 whilst he was in exile following the Fifteen
- A cradle in use in the late seventeenth century, and containing the Radcliffe insignia, so probably the one used for both James and Charles in turn as babies
- Good information panels, especially 'The Jacobite Cause' one

[Dilston is 3 miles east of Hexham, off the A695]

Fairfax House, York

Fairfax House belonged to the strongly Catholic peer Viscount Fairfax in the later 18th century. The ceiling and walls around the main staircase are beautifully adorned, but Fairfax also made sure there was some specifically Jacobite as well as Catholic imagery.

One panel shows an oak leaf sprig, which had been a symbol for the Stuarts since the mid-17th century. Alongside the oak leaf sprig are banners showing the double-headed eagle of the Holy Roman Empire and the Union flag. This imagery appears to show Fairfax's hope that Britain and Rome would be reunited via the restoration of the Stuart dynasty.

Peter Brown, the director of Fairfax House, has also suggested other relevant imagery. For example, he has suggested that a female dragon opposing a St Edward's Crown stands for Mary II, who betrayed her father in 1688. He also suggests that the use of St Edward's Crown, which was a crown closely associated with James II, was a Jacobite symbol.

The staircase balustrade also contains rosebuds, another widely used Jacobite symbol in the 18th century. However, whilst in the early 18th century the rosebuds stood for Princes Charles Edward and Henry, it is possible that by the later 18th century they stood for the hope of a legitimate issue from Prince Charles Edward.

The house also has a very good portrait of James III [Drawing Room]

[Fairfax House is in York City Centre, on Castlegate]

Hexhamshire, Northumberland

The countryside around Hexham, roughly forming traditional Hexhamshire, has a number of Jacobite connections from the early days of the Fifteen. There were secret Jacobite 'post boxes' at the holly bushes on the road between Hexham and Slaley, which still survive today, and at an ancient standing stone at Fourstones. The Vale of Nunsbrough, by the Devil's Water river, was used as a campsite by the Jacobite army in mid-October. Rebel Hill, on Hexhamshire Common, south-west of Hexham, was another campsite for the Northumbrian Jacobite army from 15-17 October.

[Hexhamshire was formerly, until the 16th century, a small English county centred on the town of Hexham. It is now, technically, a large parish south of Hexham, but the traditional Hexhamshire is still referred to as the countryside all around Hexham]

Langley Castle, Northumberland

The castle was owned by the Radcliffe family, who were also Viscounts Langley as well as Earls of Derwentwater, and parts of it survive from that time. Near to the castle (now a hotel) there is a cross erected by the road to Haydon Bridge in the 19th century by the Jacobite

historian C.J.Bates to the memory of James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater and Charles Radcliffe, fifth Earl of Derwentwater, who were both executed 'for loyalty to their lawful sovereign'.

[Langley Castle is around 4 miles south of Hayden Bridge]

Lesbury Common, Lesbury, Northumberland

The Northumbrian Jacobite army camped on Lesbury Common for nearly a week, in mid-October 1715, hoping for the landing of French ships at the nearby port of Alnmouth.

[Lesbury Common is 3 miles east of Alnwick, off the A1068]

Lindisfarne Castle, Lindisfarne, Northumberland

The castle was the scene of an interesting incident in the Fifteen. It was captured temporarily for the Jacobites by Lancelot Errington and his nephew Mark. It thus became virtually the only castle in England to fly the banner of James III during the Fifteen.

Most people think that the present day castle is the early 20th century creation of Sir Edwin Lutyens. However, there is a surprisingly large amount of the original 16th century castle (ie. the castle that the Erringtons held in 1715) surviving to this day, amongst the Lutyens additions.

The surviving 16th century parts include staircases, flag stone floors (including the floor for the High Battery, which was mentioned in a contemporary account of the castle in the Fifteen), doorways, passageways, lower walls in several of the rooms (including rooms mentioned at the time of the Fifteen such as the Powder House and Gunner's Store) and a lot of the outer walls.

There is thus enough of the original castle left for it to count as a genuine survivor from the Fifteen, rather than just as a later building on the site.

Although there are no information panels mentioning the castle's role in the Fifteen, there is a paragraph in the guidebook about it. The castle is 'hoping to produce some better interpretation on the military side of the building' which may include panels on its role in the Fifteen.

[Lindisfarne Castle is at the south-east end of Lindisfarne/Holy Island, off the coast of Northumberland]

Lord Crewe Arms, Blanchland

This hotel was once a medieval and 17th century building owned by the Forsters, one of the leading Northumbrian Jacobite families. Thomas Forster MP, who shortly afterwards became leader of the Northumbrian Jacobite army in October 1715, was here when the Government first tried to arrest him in September. There are portraits of Thomas's sister Dorothy, who became a Jacobite heroine [see under Bamburgh Castle], Thomas's aunt Lady Dorothy Crewe, and Bishop Crewe of Durham, who was a secret Jacobite sympathiser.

[Blanchland is around 10 miles south of Hexham]

Micklegate Bar, York

The heads of two Jacobite prisoners, William Connolly and James Mayne, were hung on Micklegate Bar for their part in the Forty-Five, after they had been hung, drawn and quartered in York. Micklegate Bar had been used for centuries on which to hang the heads of alleged traitors, but these were the last two ever hung there. The heads were rescued in 1754 by Jacobite sympathisers.

The medieval bar (gateway) stands very much as it did in 1746, and is extremely well preserved.

It also contains the Micklegate Bar Museum [below].

[Micklegate Bar is at the southern end of York City Centre]

Micklegate Bar Museum, York

The museum has a model of a Jacobite prisoner in his cell in 1746 with information panels inside the museum and on the wall just outside the door.

[The museum is in Micklegate Bar, details above]

Nostell Priory, Wragby, Yorkshire

The stately home (no longer a priory!) has a portrait of Viscount Dundee, the leader of the 1689 Jacobite rising, who won (but was killed at) the Battle of Killiecrankie (27th July 1689) [Billiard Room]

[Nostell Priory is 7 miles south-east of Wakefield]

Nunnington Church, Nunnington, Yorkshire

Funerary monuments are mostly beyond the scope of this survey. For one thing, they rarely mention the Jacobitism of the people they are commemorating. However, Nunnington Church is an exception to this exclusion, for two reasons. Firstly, there are not one but two monuments to prominent Jacobites in this small, attractive medieval church. One is to Viscount Preston, who remained loyal to, and plotted on behalf of, the exiled James II in the early 1690s. The other is to Lord Widdrington, one of the English peers involved in the Fifteen. The other reason is that both monuments specifically mention the Jacobite sympathies of the two peers. Preston's talks at length of his attachment to James II, and Widdrington's speaks of 'the affair at Preston' (the Battle of Preston in 1715) ending his public life. Widdrington's monument was also built by the Jacobite sympathising architect James Gibbs.

[Nunnington is 7 miles south-east of Helmsley; the church is at the southern end of the village]

Nunnington Hall, Nunnington, Yorkshire

Nunnington Hall belonged to the leading Jacobite Viscount Preston. Preston, having been a courtier (including a stint as ambassador to France) under Charles II and James II, remained loyal to the Stuarts after 1688. He plotted for James II in the early 1690s, was arrested by the Government and tried for high treason, and sentenced to death. The sentence, however, was never carried out, and he retired back to Nunnington.

The hall remains very much as Preston left it. He was responsible for the south front, which he added in the French style in the 1680s. Inside, there is also much that Preston himself was responsible for, including a fine armorial ceiling, and some 17th century tapestries he brought to the hall.

The hall still has a very good Jacobite collection, thanks in the main to Preston's two Jacobite daughters, who lived there for many decades after his death, and who amassed much of the collection.

It includes:

- An Order of the Garter and blue garter ribbon belonging to Prince Charles Edward Stuart
- Several Jacobite gold rings
- Portrait of Preston's Jacobite daughter Catherine, as well as other portraits of the family
- Pieces of surviving Jacobite plaid

- 17th century prayerbook belonging to Preston, which he apparently had with him during his imprisonment in the Tower

[Nunnington Hall is at the north-east end of Nunnington]

Preston Hall Museum, Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham

Among the very good collection of weapons and armour here are some weapons and related objects from the Jacobite era and of the Scottish type. Given that many of them are not standard government issue, it is fair to presume that some at least were used by Jacobites. The best is an 18th century powder horn engraved with the picture of an armed Highlander, which (especially given the sympathetic presentation by the engraver) is likely to be Jacobite.

[The museum is 2 miles south-west of Stockton-on-Tees]

Regimental Museum of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars QMO and the Light Dragoons, Cannon Hall, Barnsley, Yorkshire

The museum has a modern painting of an incident during the Battle of Prestonpans (1745). It shows Jacobites as well as Government troops.

The information board near the painting mentions the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745, as does the timeline nearby.

[The museum is upstairs in Cannon Hall. The hall is five miles west of Barnsley]

Rothbury, Northumberland

During the early days of the Northumbrian rising as part of the Fifteen, the small Jacobite army stayed overnight at Rothbury. The doorway and a commemorative plaque, mentioning the Jacobite connection, survive from the inn where James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, stayed. Rothbury then played host to the rendezvous between the Northumbrian Jacobites and a Scottish Lowland Jacobite force under Lord Kenmure, on 19th October 1715.

[Rothbury is about 9 miles south-west of Alnwick]

Royal Armouries, Leeds

The armouries has several Jacobite items, including:

- 18th century Jacobite pistol said to belong to Colonel MacGillivray, leader of Clan Chatten, who fell at Culloden.
- Early 18th century targes and weapons from the Jacobite period, and of the Jacobite type, some of them used.
- Several information panels discuss the Jacobites, including the Jacobite victory at Killiecrankie (1689)
- There are also a number of weapons from James II's reign (1685-1688) engraved with messages of support for him. The best is a bayonet from 1687 engraved 'God Save James the 2'. These may well have been used in the campaign of late 1688, and given that they clearly belonged to strong adherents of James, they and their owners may well have ended up fighting for the Jacobite cause in Ireland or Scotland in 1689-1691.

[The Royal Armouries is in south-east Leeds, 1 mile from Leeds city centre]

Shaftoe Crags, Wallington, Northumberland

Shaftoe Crags was where James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater and his brother Charles hid from Government messengers when a warrant had been issued for his arrest, in September 1715, on the eve of the Northumbrian rising in the Fifteen. The crags, including a large boulder called the Devil's Punchbowl, are much as they were in 1715.

[Shaftoe Crags are 2 miles south-east of Wallington Hall]

Sunderland Bridge, River Wear, Durham

After James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater had been executed in 1716 for his part in the Fifteen, his body was secretly returned to Northumberland for burial. As the cortege passed over Sunderland Bridge, south of Durham, a spectacular display of the Northern Lights occurred. This was widely interpreted as heaven's displeasure at the execution of the earl.

The original bridge still stands to this day, just upstream of the modern bridge.

[Sunderland Bridge is 3 miles south of Durham]

Temple Newsam House, Leeds, Yorkshire

The stately home has several Jacobite items:

- Earthenware punchbowl with portrait medallions of James III [English, 1732] [Gallery 11, oak passage]
- Jacobite glasses, engraved with Jacobite symbols [c.1750, English] [Room 38, 1st floor]

[Temple Newsam is in the far east of Leeds, just north-west of the M1]

Treasurers House, York

This intriguing house from a variety of periods has several Jacobite items:

- Two Jacobite glasses, with portraits of Prince Charles Edward, and other Jacobite engravings including the white rose and a Jacobite motto. In common with many Jacobite glasses they have thick stems and heavy bases for enthusiastic 'King over the Water' toasts [English, c.1750] [hallway between King's Room and South Dressing Room]
- Portrait of the Jacobite poet John Dryden, a copy of the famous Kneller [top of the King's Stairs]

[Treasurers House is in York City Centre, by York Minster]

Wallington Hall, Northumberland

Wallington Hall belonged to two different Jacobites in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. In the late 17th century it belonged to the Jacobite plotter Sir John Fenwick. In the early 18th century it was the property of Sir William Blackett, a Jacobite sympathiser who was involved in the plotting in the lead-up to the Fifteen, but who was arrested by the Government and so took no part in the actual rising.

The present day hall is from 1688, so although not the one that Fenwick knew, it is the one familiar to Blackett. The cellars from the original (Fenwick's) house are still extant, however, and can be seen underneath the present building.

The house still contains several Jacobite items:

- Engravings of Sir John and Lady Mary Fenwick (Lady Mary was also a committed Jacobite) [East Corridor]
- Painting of White Sorrell, the horse confiscated by William of Orange after he had Fenwick attainted and executed on the strength of just one witness (English law required two). Reportedly it was White Sorrell whom William was riding in 1702 when the horse stumbled on a mole hill and threw its royal rider, resulting in

William's eventual death as a result of the injuries. If true, many might regard this as the ultimate poetic justice. [East Corridor]

- Portrait of James II [West Gallery]
- Roundels of Fenwick and James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, in the 19th century murals [Central Hall]

[Wallington Hall is 20 miles north-west of Newcastle]

Warkworth, Northumberland

The Northumbrian Jacobite army under Thomas Forster MP proclaimed James III as King in the marketplace of Warkworth in early October 1715. The marketplace and many of the buildings survive from that time. In one inn is an inscription commemorating the fact that James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater and some of the Jacobites dined there that night.

[Warkworth is about 6 miles south-east of Alnwick, off the A1 on the A1068]

Waterfalls Hill, Green Rigg Moor, Northumberland

A Roman milestone marks the spot of an important initial rendezvous of different strands of the Northumbrian Jacobites in early October 1715, at the start of the Fifteen.

[Waterfalls Hill is east of the A68, about 8 miles south of Otterburn]

York, City of

Many parts of York city centre survive as the Jacobite prisoners would have known it when they were brought here after the Forty-Five. These include the medieval city walls and bars and many of the medieval churches.

There is a plaque below Micklegate Bar about the Jacobites in the Forty-Five held there and later executed in York.

Other York sites, including York Mansion House [below] and the Castle Museum [above], also preserve evidence and mentions of York's Jacobite links.

[York is 25 miles north-east of Leeds]

York City Art Gallery, York

The art gallery has several portraits of local 18th century Jacobites, notably the historian Francis Drake. However, one of these is on long-term loan to York Mansion House, and the rest are rarely on display.

[The art gallery is in Exhibition Square, York city centre]

York Mansion House, York

The Mansion House contains several echoes of York's interesting Jacobite past, including

- Portrait of Francis Drake, a Jacobite local historian who consistently refused to take the oaths of allegiance to the Hanoverian regime [Dining Room]
- Portrait of Richard Boyle, Earl of Burlington, who was a clandestine Jacobite [see also Burlington House, London, and Chiswick House, London] [Dining Room]
- Portrait of one of the Stuart Royal family, Ludovick Stuart, Duke of Lennox. This was acquired by the Lord Mayor and aldermen in 1743, at around the time they had a secret meeting with the Duke of Perth where they professed support for the Stuart cause [Staircase]
- Clocks made by the Jacobite sympathiser Henry Hindley, an expert clockmaker who lived in York [Hallway]

[The Mansion House is in York city centre, in St Helen's Square]