

# DURHAM COUNTY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Mark Egan<br><i>Editorial</i>  | 3  |
| John K. Little<br><i>The Other James Cooke: Trade on the Tees in the Seventeenth Century</i> | 5  |
| George Muirhead<br><i>The Fishing Industries of Sunderland 1800–1914</i>                     | 26 |
| Jenny Braddy<br><i>A Forgotten Ferry</i>   | 54 |
| Jean Stirk<br><i>Paper Mills of County Durham</i>  | 63 |
| Mark Egan<br><i>The Skyetender Pilots</i>  | 69 |
| Win Stokes<br><i>Industrialisation and the Historical Identity of Teesside</i>               | 84 |
| Reviews  | 93 |

## EDITORIAL

This issue of the Journal focuses on Durham's rivers and the different ways in which they have contributed to the county's economic development. I took a risk in deciding that this issue should have a theme and I am grateful to our various contributors for rising to the challenge. I think they've delivered a varied set of high-quality essays. I hope you agree.

Starting in the south of the county, John Little discusses the development of Stockton in the seventeenth century, through the story of the Cooke family. His research leads us to consider further questions about the conditions which drive economic growth and development. Further east, Jenny Braddy sets out the evidence for an early ferry across the Tees at Newport. George Muirhead discusses the Sunderland fishermen in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Despite a ready market for fish, Sunderland failed to become established as a significant fishing port: the condition of the river and the attitude of the river commissioners contributed to this state of affairs. I have abused my privilege as editor to write about the development of a distinctive community of river pilots at South Shields in the late eighteenth century. The county's smaller rivers have not been neglected as they were important for the papermaking industry, as Jean Stirk describes. As usual, some recent books and web resources have been reviewed.

There won't be a theme for the next Journal, so please get to work writing up your research or let me know of books we should review or people we can approach to write for us. I am considering having another themed edition in 2020 – it might seem a long way off but it's not! Perhaps Durham women? If you have an idea let me know.

MARK EGAN