



North Yorkshire 2012-13



GEORGE AND SARAWIN-DARLEY

Henry Darley (1777-1846), High Sheriff of Yorkshire 1827-8.

We greatly enjoyed the opportunity to visit the North Yorkshire County Record Office just before Christmas. We spent a morning with the dedicated full-time and volunteer staff, who do a wonderful job of recording, archiving, restoring and making these records available to a wide variety of professional and lay users. These range from other government departments, to lawyers, estate and land agents and members of the public carrying out research.

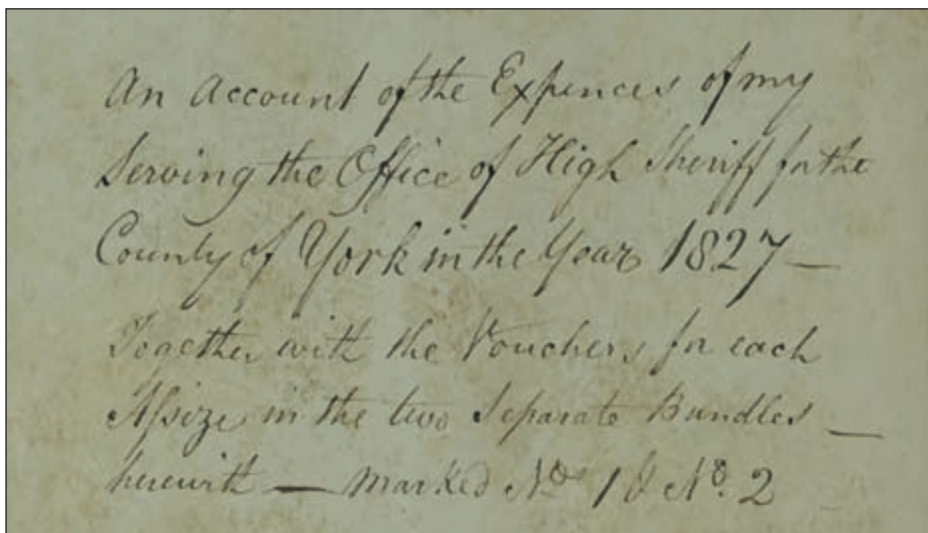
Rather than being subject to headline cuts, the North Yorkshire Record Office has been set a target to increase the amount of funding it achieves through the provision of commercial services. Increasingly, researchers do not need to visit the archives in person, as many of the records are available online and, in other instances, the Record Office staff will copy documents to professional standards.

One of the fascinating items made available for us to view was the account book for Henry Darley, High Sheriff of Yorkshire 1827-28. Darley was a man of means; items of expenditure during his year of office include five guineas (£460 in today's money) paid as a gratuity for a concert and payments to the innkeeper at Greenham for provision of an apartment for the use of the judges at the 1827 Spring Assizes. Henry Darley's chaplain received a gratuity of £120 (£11,049 today) and his Steward £50 (£4,603). The judges in 1827 were clearly a gregarious lot, as substantial sums were spent on entertaining at the theatre and at various balls. Likewise, there are numerous entries for both gloves and 'glove money' (tips), including an entry of five guineas for glove money given (as compensation?) when no execution took place.



Scrope family tree at the North Yorkshire Record Office December 2012. Keith Sweetmore, County Archivist with Peter and Penny Scrope.

Tongue was clearly a favourite at the dinner table as there are a number of entries for this delicacy. Current High Sheriffs may be relieved that we are no longer required to make payments for the 'keep of prisoners' (at the castle and town goals), which are a regular feature of these accounts. Henry Darley's footmen were paid 2/6d for a day's work. In total, Henry Darley's shrieval



NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Henry Darley's account book.

Items of note, which may have more resonance with today's incumbents of the office, include:

Taylor:	£315-0-0
Shoemaker:	£38-0-0
Hatter:	£84-0-0
Milliner:	£116-0-0
Painting of banners:	£32-16-0
Ale for the Summer Assizes:	£1-9-9
High Sheriff's carriage painting:	£25-0-0
Trumpeters:	£20-14-0
Hairdresser:	£11-0-0
Ringers at York Minster:	£2-2-0
Singing boys at the Minster:	8 shillings
Dinner for 72 people:	£18-12-0
Saddlery:	£63-16-0



News from and about Members

expenses for his year of office amounted to £2,184/14/5d, equivalent, according to the Bank of England inflation calculator, to £201,188.07 at 2012 prices!

Other High Sheriffs may wish to consider a visit to their own county record office; as we can vouch, it may provide a fascinating opportunity. The North Yorkshire Record Office can be contacted at archives@northyorks.gov.uk. □

Peter Scrope

High Sheriff of North Yorkshire 2012-13



YORK CITY ART GALLERY

York Castle Yard with the Court House (still in use) on the right, 1841, by J H Lee



The High Sheriff of North Yorkshire and Mrs Scrope JP on the occasion of the Olympic torch passing through Bedale, 20 June 2012.

As the Daily Mail proclaimed, “Ee bah gum!” If Yorkshire had been an independent country, it would have finished twelfth in the Olympic’s medals table, with seven gold, two silver and three bronze, beating Jamaica, Spain, South Africa and the 2016 hosts, Brazil. At one point Yorkshire even reached the dizzy height of seventh in the league table; North Yorkshire played its full part in this outstanding achievement with eight individual or team medal winners.