

## Lost Mansions

Of the mansions in the outer parts of Bishopwearmouth, little has endured but the names which are now attached to suburban housing estates or parks. Some were ancient family seats, rebuilt to suit the fashion of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Others were new houses of that period. Most were lost before 1920.

Barnes, seat of the Bowes family from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was divided into the High and Low Barnes estates in 1668. Low Barnes had vast grounds, including 'extensive garden with hot walls and excellent fruit trees; thriving plantations of fir, elm, etc., and a pond well stored with tench'. At Pallion, a branch of the Goodchild family of Ryhope lived from 1572, building a new hall, High Pallion, in the 1790s besides the older Low Pallion. Bainbridge Holme similarly grew from medieval origins, to an important residence of the early modern period, inhabited by Shipperdsons until 1704, and afterwards by the influential Pembertons. While it showed signs of having been remodelled around 1800, Bainbridge Holme, like Thorney Close, home of the Story family from about 1700, was on a more modest scale than Barnes or Pallion.

Among a newer generation, John Maling's house, the Grange, was built in or before 1784 on Stockton Road, and Ford Hall built in 1785 by George Mowbray. The Grange was soon converted to a boarding school, perhaps too grandiose to function as a house so close to the town centre.

Older halls close to the river made convenient homes for Sunderland's 19<sup>th</sup>-century ship-building aristocracy, but became less attractive as the shipyards encroached. Deptford House, long-time residence of the Laings, was dismantled in 1902 by the shipbuilders Doxford. After John Goodchild's bankruptcy in 1815 Low Pallion became the residence of the ropemaker Christopher Webster, and from 1850 of George Short, shipbuilder. The estate was divided, land going for shipyards and other uses in 1848, and the mansion demolished in 1901. Ford Hall had also been in Goodchild's ownership, let to the Havelock family and later home for a time to William Bell, owner of Monkwearmouth colliery.

Most of these fine houses were lost to riverside industry, or made way for housing estates, public or private. Deptford, Pallion and High Barnes were demolished before 1905, Low Barnes in 1921, and Ford Hall in 1924 after being sold to Sunderland council. Bainbridge Holme, the last survivor, was razed in 1964

### NOTES:

Surtees, 25, 42, 40, 45, 38, 51; Durham Chapter Lib., Sharp 70 EREBUS, p. 236; Robinson, 'Some historic houses', 21-2; Meadows and Waterson, 44-5; T&WCMS, notes on Thorney Close estate; Origins 67-70; *Sunderland Echo*, 14 Jan. 1964; T&WAS, DF.PEM1