

The Allan Railway Papers

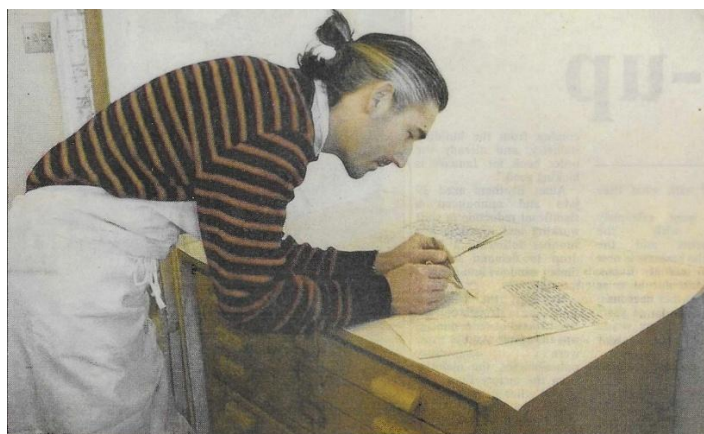
When the Alnwick to Cornhill railway line was fully operational between 1887 and the early 1960s there were numerous stations, crossing keepers' houses and other railway workers' houses along the line.

During the First World War George Allan and his wife lived at Bendor crossing near Wooler where he was the gateman. All three of their sons were away serving. Mr Allan was taken ill with a stroke and his wife was also in poor health. One of their sons had already been killed by this time. Seeing their difficulty the stationmaster at Alnwick got up a petition which went to every station on the line. Each station would have received a foolscap sheet stating the petition and with ruled columns to enter the donations. Ten of these petition papers survive. These Allan documents are a moving testimony and expression of support within the railway community for, as the stationmaster writes in his petition, "the many can help the one when one cannot help the many." Among the stations represented are Alnwick, Hedgeley, Whittingham, Wooler, Akeld, Mindrum and Kirknewton.

Sadly, by the end of the war the Allans had lost another son.

Their third son George became the blacksmith in Milfield at the smithy which was in the present Maelmin café building. The documents passed to his eldest son Thomas (Tucker) Allan and it is his wife Muriel who has offered the documents for preservation.

Thanks to Community Chest funding the papers were professionally conserved by Vincent Lomenech who specialises in the restoration and conservation of works on paper.



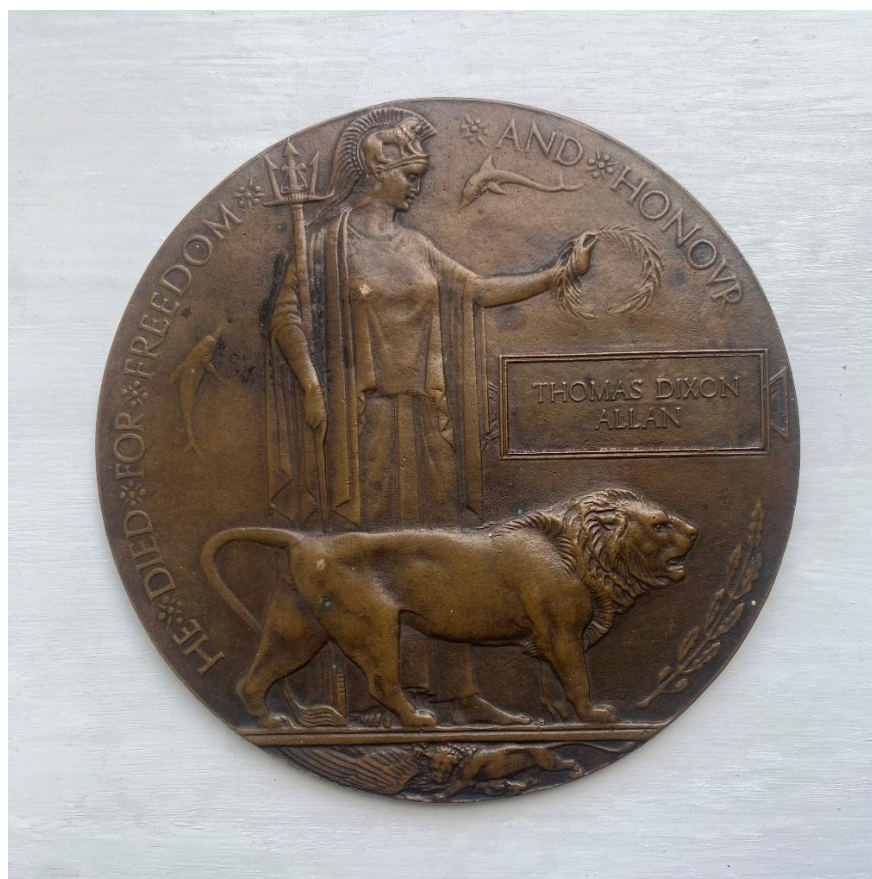
□ FULL STEAM AHEAD - Vincent Lomenech at work on the near 100 year-old railway documents.

Railway papers are preserved for posterity

In the Kirknewton document donations are received from the postman, the vicar, the schoolmaster, a railway signalman and the sexton, amongst others. The documents give a very

interesting insight into the communities of the time. These wonderful documents will be of great interest for generations to come and are now deposited with the Berwick Records Office.

The family were also presented with these commemorative plaques from the government. They were known as 'Death Pennies' or 'Dead Man's Pennies' and made of bronze gunmetal. All were made of bronze to show equality. They were 12 centimetres (almost 5 inches) in diameter.



Inscribed : 'He died for Freedom and Honour'

Thomas Dixon Allan



Inscribed: 'He died for Freedom and Honour' Edward Allan

The Petition

Mindrum

Fellow Workmen
I beg to Appeal to you on behalf of George Allan
Veteran at Bender Crossing who have not been
Able to work since the 10th of February this year owing
to taken a stroke. his wife also is an invalid he
has lost one son killed in this war and he has
two other sons serving in the Army from whom he
receive no Allowance. No doubt you are already
Aware of this case and I do think it is one
- deserving our sympathy and support hoping you will
do what you can in this case. As nearly as help
we can we cannot help the many

Yours truly
H. Wayte

L. & D.

Alnwick

Alnwick

Fellow Workmen

I beg to Appeal to you on behalf of George Allen
 Gatehead at Bunder Crossing who have not been able
 to work since the 10th of February this year owing to
 taken a stroke. his wife also is an invalid he
 has lost one son killed in this war and he has
 two other sons serving in the Army from whom
 he receives no Allowance. No doubt you are already
 aware of this case and I do think it is one deserving
 our sympathy and support hoping you will do
 what you can in this case. As many can
 help one when one cannot help the many

Yours truly
 W Wright

W Green	20	J. Murdie	156
John Richardson	20	J. Albornaby	6
James Rouseedge	10	R. Johnstone	16
W. Nixon	10	J. Karlele	268
J. Dandoe	10		<u>£ 1106</u>
E. Darling	10		
E. Karlele	10		
T. Sheel	20		
A. Turnbull	10		
J. Hall	10		
H. B. Stringham	10		
L. Kirby	10		
M. Ashew	10		
W. Nelson	10		
E. Yitlak	10		
A. G. Elliott	10		
E. Thompson	10		
D. Spool	10		
Fred Wallano	10		
John G. Hart	10		
R. Scott	10		
Albion	10		
J. Wright	6		
	<u>156</u>		

Akeld

Akeld

fellow workmen

I beg to appeal to you on behalf of George Allen
 boatman at Bender Crossing, who have not been able
 to work since the 10th of February this year, owing to
 taking a stroke. His wife also is an invalid. He
 has lost one son killed in this war and he has
 two other sons serving in the Army from whom
 he receives no allowances. No doubt you are already
 aware of this case. And I do think it is one
 deserving our sympathy and support hoping you
 will do what you can in this case. as many can
 help one when one cannot help the many

yours truly
 H. Wright

	£	S	D
J. Moffat	2	6	
C. Keen	2	6	
H. W. Laughlan	2	-	
G. Gough			
J. Wright	5	0	
Wm Wright	2	6	
R. Wright	2	6	
H. R. Wilson	3	0	
G. Scott	2	6	
W. G. G.	1	-	-
J. G. G.	5	0	
	<hr/>		
	£	27	6
	<hr/>		
R. T. Baird	1		
	<hr/>		
	2	8	6

Wooler

Wooler

Fellow Workmen

I beg to Appeal to you on behalf of George Allen
Wittman at Bender Crossing, who have not been able
to work since the 10th of February this year owing to
taken a stroke. his wife also is an invalid. He
has lost one son killed in this war and he has
two other sons serving in the Army from whom
he receives no Allowance. No doubt you are already
aware of this case. And I do think it is one
deserving our sympathy and support hoping you
will do what you can in this case. As nobody can
help me when one cannot help the Army

Yours truly
H. Dwyer

A. F. Ford	26		
R. Jacob	10		
G. Redpath	10		
L. Hinson	20		
J. Logan	20		
H. Bayley	70		
M. Ward	1		
W. Carr	1		
F. Conway	1		
W. G. G.	26		
S. W. G.	10		
W. W. G.	20		
H. Dwyer	26		
<hr/>			
J. Redpath	20		
<hr/>			
	126		

Kirknewton

Kirknewton

Fellow Workmen

I beg to Appeal to you on behalf of George Allen Gledhill at Bunder Crossing who have not been able to work since the 10th of February this year owing to taking a stroke. his wife Edith is an invalid he has lost one son killed in this war and he has two other sons serving in the Army from whom he receives no Allowance. No doubt you are already aware of this case and I do think it is one deserving our sympathy and support hoping you will do what you can in this case. As many can help one when we cannot help the many

Yours truly
R. Wray

Kirknewton		Brought forward	
John Dixon	1 0	E Jones	6
John Walter Dixon	1 0	J Hardy	7
Mrs Sarah Dixon	1 0		6
Mrs Young	1 0	J Burns	1
J Vitch	1 0	W Lockburn	1 0
John McHugh	3 0	Mrs Watt	6
Mrs L. All	2 6	J Marton	6
Mrs Mary	2 0	M Fair	1
Alurvel	1 -	J Hardy	6
John Dunn	2 6	W Lackieby	6
Mrs Vitch	1 6	J Mallert	6
J Carbit	1 6	R. Lawson	1
J Pearson	2	M. Straughan	6
Mrs Piddocke	3 -	Mrs Johnson	6
C Lawler	1	Mrs Johnson	1
M Robertson	1	W. Patterson	3 0
J McGregor	1	J Johnson	1
J. Donaldson	1	J. Gull	6
A Shell	6	M Robertson	6
J. Nesbit	6	M. Hether	1
Mrs Gibson	6	A. Adamson	5 0
G. Robson	6	J. Adamson	2 6
M. a. Straughan	6		
M. Lyall	1 1 0		
			2 15 0

Mindrum

Mindrum

Fellow Workmen

I beg to Appeal to you on behalf of George Allen
 Glatman at Bender Crossing who have not been
 able to work since the 10th of February this year owing
 to taken a stroke. his wife also is an invalid he
 has lost one son killed in this war and he has
 two other sons serving in the Army from whom he
 receive no Allowance. No doubt you are already
 aware of this case and I do think it is one
 - deserving our sympathy and support - hoping you will
 do what you can in this case - as Money can help
 our lot - we cannot help the money

Yours truly
 H. Wray

L. d. 2

Thomas Middlemiss	2 6
W. Hinton	2 6
A. Douglas	2
W. H. Hinton	5
Thomas Lee	2
J. Hall	1
M. Hand	2 6
M. B. H. H. H.	3 6
M. H. H. H. H.	10 0
M. Middlemiss	2 0
W. Baxter	2 0
A. Henderson	1 0
John S. Skell	2 6
M. Commerville	5 0
M. H. H. H.	5 0
Wm. H. H. H.	2 6
	<u>2 10 6</u>



Mindrum Station staff c. 1920

Alex Henderson (L) signs and donates 1/- to the appeal.

Esau Wilkinson (Centre) Stationmaster signs and donates 2/6d

Harry Trotter (seated right) would later marry Ellen Dunn from Kirknewton. Her father John Dunn, signalman, appears on the Kirknewton petition where he signs and donates 2/6d.

Other people who donated were:

J. Tarbit, postmaster 1/6d

Mrs Lambton (Hon C Lambton's wife) 5/-

Mrs Piddock, vicar's wife 3/-

John Dixon, sexton, 1/-

Mr Neesom, Headmaster 2/-The groom at Kirknewton House donated as did Mrs Thompson, owner of Kirknewton House.