

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alistair George McKeand Sinton, affectionately known as :

‘Mr Alnmouth,’ was a beloved figure in the village of Alnmouth, Northumberland. Born in Newcastle in August 1927, Alistair spent his entire professional career with the law firm Sinton’s LLP, where he was articled to his father, John H. Sinton, starting in 1949.

Alistair married Dorothea Harbottle in 1953, and together they had three children: Richard, Philip, and Joanna.

The couple was deeply involved in the Alnmouth community, initiating numerous activities that continue to thrive today.

Alistair was particularly known for leading the Alnmouth Veteran Walkers, organizing walks that explored the local hills and historical sites

His contributions to the village were numerous and varied. He played a key role in the Alnmouth Village Show, often participating in entertaining roles such as Uncle Fester and a crocodile for Punch and Judy. Alistair was also instrumental in creating a village map, which remains displayed in Hindmarsh Hall

Alistair’s interests extended beyond his professional and community work. He was passionate about trains, painting, golf, and history. His model train set has been bequeathed to the Aln Valley Railway, where it is hoped, the trains will continue to run for public enjoyment.

He is fondly remembered for his energetic involvement in village life and his legacy in Alnmouth.

LOVAINE TERRACE

Its history and its people

by
Alistair Sinton

A reconstruction of display at Hindmarsh Hall 2016ⁱ



THE SUN IS ALWAYS SMILING!

As I live in the Terrace I can not praise its qualities enough save to say that it really is a very pleasant place to reside as it is perched on the top of its steep bank down to the riverside field and with its view catching the afternoon sun and sunset over the ever changing tide and towards the Warkworth road and the railway beyond.

Repeating the late Fred Bettes's words in – "The story of Alnmouth" – an interesting feature of the area is the terrace of small villas that were constructed of in-situ concrete by a local builder called Peter Rule between 1872 and 1878, they form prominent feature when the Village is viewed from the West, their colour-washed facades looking down to the estuary present a welcome appearance.

But now more detail from a study of number 7 by The Traditional Architecture Group of The Centre For Lifelong Learning, University of Newcastle "made in 2002- " Lovaine



Terrace is listed Grade II by English Heritage. It is a terrace of eight houses facing West overlooking the estuary of the river Aln. The land on which it was built was acquired by Peter Rule on 13th May 1872. The terrace was under construction by 1874 and by 1877 five houses were complete and sold although numbers 6 and 7 were not sold until 1884. It would appear that the houses were a speculative venture. By this time Alnmouth had become an

established watering-place and properties were being let to holiday-makers. The name, Lovaine was one of the family titles of the Duke of Northumberland from whom the land had been bought.

Peter Rule was a plasterer and slater and apparently came from a family with a long connection with those trades in the north of Northumberland. He was born in Norham in 1819 and settled with his family in Ford in the late 1850s. In 1877 his address was 136 Main Street Tweedmouth. In a directory of that year he is described as a "Plasterer and slater (and concrete builder and slate merchant). It is probable that 136 Main Street which is of similar mass concrete construction as Lovaine Terrace and also 132-136 Main Street bearing a date 1887 were all built by him. Peter Rule died in Tweedmouth in 1901 and is buried in Ford churchyard.

From outside, the terrace appears to be of traditional construction, cement-rendered and lined out to represent stone ashlar. The roof coverings and windows do not differ from those in any other terrace of this date. The interiors too are typically Victorian in appearance, with an arch at the end of the entrance hall with decorative corbels to mark the division between the public and private domains and with elaborate ceiling roses in the living rooms.

The floors and roof are of standard timber construction but the external walls are constructed of nine inches of solid mass concrete cast in timber plank forms, which were visible in unaltered areas such as roof spaces and cupboards, confirm that the construction is not blockwork as described in the English Heritage listing. Apart from some minor cracking, which may be due to the absence of contraction joints, the concrete is still in excellent condition.

There are examples of the use of mass unreinforced concrete as a building material for domestic properties dating from 1830s and it became an accepted method of construction. When a cement works was opened on the Tyne in the mid 1800s it was perhaps no coincidence that the first patent for reinforced concrete was taken out for a small house in Newcastle about 1865.

The introduction of concrete at Alnmouth and Tweedmouth may have been attractive from an economic standpoint because local people had the right to take gravel from the beach without payment, Peter Rule could therefore have obtained this to use as aggregate in his cement.



The various houses in the Terrace were not colour washed when first built. Indeed we do not know when the first one was coloured but believe that this was some time in the 1920s. Here is a photograph taken before then (1905)- what a difference to the well-known picture of today! The apparent block effect in the concrete is entirely artificial.

Lovaine Terrace, Alnmouth, 1904
There are no gardens down the slope. PC 62



This photograph also shows that none of the gardens were then developed. We believe that the garden land was used as allotments during the First War. We do know that it was sold by the Duke of Northumberland on 6th June 1917 and was presumably split up after that. I have heard that it was used as allotments during the 14-18 war but I have no proof of that. Nor have I evidence of this next statement but it was only those owners at the time who wanted a garden who bought. Not all did with the result that

the boundaries separating the present gardens do not line up with the boundary divisions between the houses. Even now number 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 do not have such gardens. Indeed there was no front garden with No. 7 when we bought in 1979. The garden of No. 8 stretched right across No. 7 and part of No. 6 and were later able to purchase half of that land and turn it into our own garden. We live in the green house but that does not mean that we are good gardeners!

Over the years whilst we have owned Number 7 several visitors have told us that they stayed in the house as a child or for holidays.

Here is a list of the various owners since 1884 –

Peter Rule sold to	Richard Harris 9 th November 1884
who sold to	Walter Weston on 5 th May 1888
""	Sarah Foster on 2 nd March 1903
""	Jessie Buckley on 10 th November 1934
""	James & Marion Miller on 21 st September 1942
""	James & Vera Glenwright on 12 th June 1952
""	Jessie Hepburn on 3 rd October 1952
""	David Rothwell Stokoe 29 th October 1956
""	Charles Newcombe on 15 th December 1956
""	Alistair & Dorothea Sinton on 28 th September 1979

Display at Hindmarsh Hall 2016

All computer files lost

Reconstruction with neighbour Borge Johannesen, 5 Lovaine Terrace



LOVAINI TERRACE

No 8	No 7	No 6	No 5	No 4	No 3	No 2	No 1
Bertram Bingham Lopling Russet Arrowsmith Scott	Liddell Stokoe Newcombe Sinton	Stan? Hyatt Joy Nesbitt McIllespie Fricker B Gillespie Rowlands	Rutherford Holmes Sheel Curten Soppitt Nieta? Freet Johansen	Willie Thompson Bond McParough	Campbell Dexter Marjorie	Bushby RAF Moutain Denton Jowett	Boughan Helle Dick Hall
				Blin Kbonny		Rosemount Betters Emma Dunn R. Taylor wert R. Taylor	Phall Kitcher E shoot Potter Galbraith