

Glendale History Society.

Rescheduled from October, due to unforeseen circumstances, **John Sawnson** gave his talk on “**The History of Glanton Pyke and its Gardens**” on Wednesday 8th Dec.

He began by displaying a litho, 300 years old, of the original country house at Glanton Pike. He went on to trace the origins of the families who had lived there, for over 200 years, before he and his wife bought it in 1987.

The Mills family had owned land in Glanton from 1699, and 4 years later the first Joseph Collingwood bought the land at Glanton Pike. The two families were from then on intertwined, so that the property was always held between these two families. At one time, a Joseph Mills (Joseph being a repeated name in the family), married a Mary Collingwood, whilst her brother Henry married Joseph's sister Margaret.

The Agrarian Revolution brought huge changes to the estate. The introduction of the Seed Drill (1701), the Iron Plough (1703) followed by selective breeding of livestock, and crop rotation, led to bigger yields and to greater land productivity.

The Napoleonic Wars in the early 19th century brought out a depression. Pitt the Younger had huge debts, and land prices halved. The estate was put up for rent. A Captain Franklin took on a lease. In 1814 the Mills sold it to the Collingwoods, and the estate began to prosper again.

The houses redesigned by Dobson (Northumberland's premier architect), and the orientation changed so that the new front faced west. In a painting of 1836, a dovecote has been added, and Mary and Fred Collingwood are painted in the foreground.

Having no heirs, a nephew, Edward Collingwood inherited, but in 1920 he moved to Lilburn.

During the war, the army requisitioned Glanton, and in 1945 it reverted to Collingwood occupation until the present owners bought it.

Since then box hedges, a maze and specimen trees have been planted, and a parterre developed on the former tennis court. A new porch on the west front in matching stone is an unobtrusive addition, and garages have been put up. The garden has been landscaped so that, despite some damage by Storm Alwen, we can see today the property in all its glory.

