

# Press Release

Date: 16 August 2013  
Contact: Lyndsey Waters  
Direct Tel: 03000 268 064  
Fax: 0191 383 3657  
email: [lyndsey.waters@durham.gov.uk](mailto:lyndsey.waters@durham.gov.uk)



## Treasures will stay in region

Exceptional First World War memoirs and other family gems will remain in the North East thanks to a joint project between Northumberland and Durham County Councils.

The archivists at the two councils have successfully secured a variety of photos, estate papers and regimental records relating to a remarkable Northumbrian family and home. A package of grant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Friends of the National Libraries and the V & A Purchase Grant Fund enabled the councils to purchase items relating to the Morant family from the recent sale of contents from The Hermitage, near Hexham.

Two specially bound volumes entitled 'My experiences and impressions since the declaration of war', compiled by the commanding officer of the 10th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Hubert H S Morant, are sure to excite military historians in the lead up to the First World War centenary. The memoirs are crammed with photos, trench maps, reports, sketches and some critical observations on the way British infantry attacks were planned. Morant's letters to his wife Helen offer a more personal perspective on the war.

The collection is important because of its link with the 68th Regiment and Durham Light Infantry and because it tells the story of a family who were prominent in the social and sporting life of Tynedale. Some items tell more of the story of The Hermitage, an 18th century country house which was once the home of Dr Jurin, an important 18th century scientist and physician.

Most of the military items will be held at Durham County Record Office and the Durham Light Infantry Museum and Art Gallery. The family and estate papers will be preserved at Northumberland Archives which is based at Woodhorn.

Over the coming months both archive services will be cataloguing the new collection and they expect that the records will be available for public consultation in 2014. Copies of pages from the First World War memoirs will go on display for the public to view later in the year.

**Ends**

### Corporate Communications

Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UF  
Main telephone 0191 383 3000 Minicom 0191 383 3802 Text 07786 02 69 56