

Henry Pease, a short story of his life
by Mary H. Pease

This book is a biography written by Henry's second wife Mary, and published in 1897. Intended mainly as a family keepsake it provides a fascinating insight in to the life of one of Darlington's most famous sons.



Henry Pease was born in 1807. He was the son of Edward (father of the railways) and younger brother of Joseph. Henry ran the family mill, became the first Mayor of Darlington, and served as MP for South Durham from 1857 to 1865. He made his home at Pierremont, widely known as the Buckingham Palace of the north for its stunning landscaped gardens. He is perhaps best known however as the founder of Saltburn. Mary describes in the book how Henry first imagined the gentile seaside resort:

"In the summer of 1859....., while staying a few days with his brother Joseph's family at his sea-side house at Marske-by-the -Sea, Henry Pease one afternoon disappeared, and returned heated and exhausted and late for dinner. He explained afterwards that he had walked along the sand-hills.....And that, seated on the hill-side, he had seen in a sort of prophetic vision, on the cliff before him, a town arise, and the quiet, unfrequented glen, through which the brook made its way to the sea, turned into a lovely garden....."

Henry made his vision come true and two years later in August 1861 the first train carrying passengers arrived in Saltburn.

'Henry Pease, a short story of his life' is just one of many items in the collection that feature the Pease family.