

Bampton The Splendid Durham Bull



On Thursday, September 27, 1838, the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland held a show in the New Cattle Market in Glasgow, Scotland.

An estimated 17,000 people attended, among them William Murdoch from Annaroe, Ireland and a few of his Shorthorn cattle.

On display were cattle, swine, sheep, horses, wool, seeds, vegetables (over 100 varieties of potatoes), and farming implements.

This bull graced one of the entryways into the New Cattle Market.

Alexander Ramsay in his *History of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland* mentions William Murdoch's presence at the 1838 show:

At this show there were entered two cows and two heifers by W. Murdoch, Annarve (sic Annaroe), Ireland, being the first occasion on which Shorthorns were entered at the Highland Society from their sister island. Mr. Murdoch's stock, although entered, were not forward.

Of the eleven entries of Shorthorn bulls in the "aged class" (born between 1-1-1833 and 1-1-1836), first prize (25 sovereigns) was awarded to Thomas Ferme of Braidwood, Edinburgh, for a bull bred by James Burnet, Seton. In turn, Mr. Burnet was awarded The Honorary Silver Medal as breeder of the best bull in this class.

A reporter for the *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture* noted:

We may mention that the bull which gained the first premium was immediately thereafter bought by a gentleman in Ireland.

The gentleman from Ireland was William Murdoch and the bull was Bampton.

After the show, 1,800 people attended a grand banquet. Among the luminaries from Scotland and England were visitors Andrew Stevenson, the American Ambassador to Great Britain, and Ekbal ood Dowla, the Prince of Oude of Northern India, a "fine and jolly fellow." Thirty-eight toasts were proffered. Number 23 was to our "Agricultural Friends in Ireland and prosperity to that Country." Undoubtedly William Murdoch and Bampton made an impression.

Read about William Murdoch 1795-1865 here <http://ancestorsandothers.net/>

The men behind the breeding and raising of Bampton were James Burnet of Seton, later of Aberlady, and Thomas Ferme of Braidwood. Mr. Ferme had married Mr. Burnet's sister and the families lived within twenty miles of each other.

At the time of the show in Glasgow, James Burnet 1797-1870 was the farm manager at Seton in East Lothian. He soon moved a bit east to a 350 acre farm in Aberlady, located along the Firth of Forth. For 40 years Burnet was the land agent for the Earl of Wemyss.

Mr. Burnet is remembered in *Tranent and Its Surrounding*:

Mr. Burnet was a man of sterling character, of great mental capacity, of thorough business habits and held the responsible position of factor to the late Earl of Wemyss for a period of forty years. He was also tenant in Seton farm, and was one of the leading agriculturists in East Lothian up to the day of his decease.

Thomas Ferme 1803-1871 lived at Braidwood in Midlothian. He was the resident farmer of the 430 acre farm owned by the Earl of Rosebery. The Midlothian Ordnance Survey Name Book 1852-1853 describes Braidwood as a *Farm house with substantial offices, a thrashing machine and farm attached. The property of the Earl of Rosebery and in the possession of Mr. T. Ferme.*



The Braidwood Farm House stands today. As late as 2008, it was still a working farm.

Bampton slept here!

After their grand success with Bampton at the 1838 Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland's Show, Burnet and Ferme continued to exhibit at agricultural events.

* * * * *

THE DURHAM BULL, "BAMPTON."—This beautiful animal, which gained the first prize and medal, at the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland's Show, in Glasgow, last week, is now exhibiting in Belfast, having been purchased by Wm. Murdoch, Esq., of Glasslough, County Monaghan. He is one of the most splendid of the breed ever imported into this country; and Mr. Murdoch, already famed for his improvement in cattle breeding, deserves high credit for his enterprise in adding "Bampton" to his stock.—*Northern Whig.*

10-4-1838 *Enniskillen Chronicle*

Bampton and William Murdoch left Glasgow and crossed the water to Belfast. Bampton was lodged at Gowdy's Yard on William Street for a few days.

**HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF SCOTLAND.**

**The Splendid Durham Bull,
"BAMPTON,"**

WHO obtained the First Prize and Medal at the Society's Show, held in GLASGOW, on THURSDAY, the 27th ult., can now be seen in Mr. GOWDY'S Yard, WILLIAM-STREET SOUTH, for a few days.

Admittance, One Shilling each Person.

This magnificent Animal is the finest of the kind ever imported into this country, and was purchased by a spirited gentleman in the neighbourhood of GLASSLOUGH, justly celebrated for his Short-horned Stock, and who will let him to a few Cows, at 2l. 2s each.

BAMPTON will be shewn in Lisburn, on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, the 9th and 10th inst.; in Moira, on THURSDAY the 11th; in Lurgan, on FRIDAY, the 12th; in Portadown, on SATURDAY, the 13th; and in Armagh, on MONDAY and TUESDAY, the 15th and 16th.

14 979

Mr. Gowdy was glad for a little advertising. He was retrofitting the old fish market into a venue for selling poultry, eggs and butter.

Just days after purchasing Bampton for a reported 175 guineas, William Murdoch (the "spirited gentleman" in the advertisement) was recouping his investment, charging one shilling for a look at Bampton.

It was a straight line home from Belfast to Annaroe, a distance of 50 to 60 miles. Bampton was displayed at stops along the way--Lisburn, Moira, Lurgan, Portadown and Armagh.

October 2 and 4, 1838 *Northern Whig* (Belfast)

Bampton's new home, Annaroe, is located about one and a half miles northeast of Glaslough, on the River Blackwater, in County Tyrone.

The townland encompassed 147 acres. A tree-lined drive led the way to Annaghroe House. The Farm Yard was located at the south end of the parcel and included a barn, well, orchards and gardens. The perimeter of the townland was open meadowland.

William had built a state-of-the-art cattle barn, which included a cistern for watering live-stock and a second floor hay loft.

All in all, it was a nice setup for Bampton.



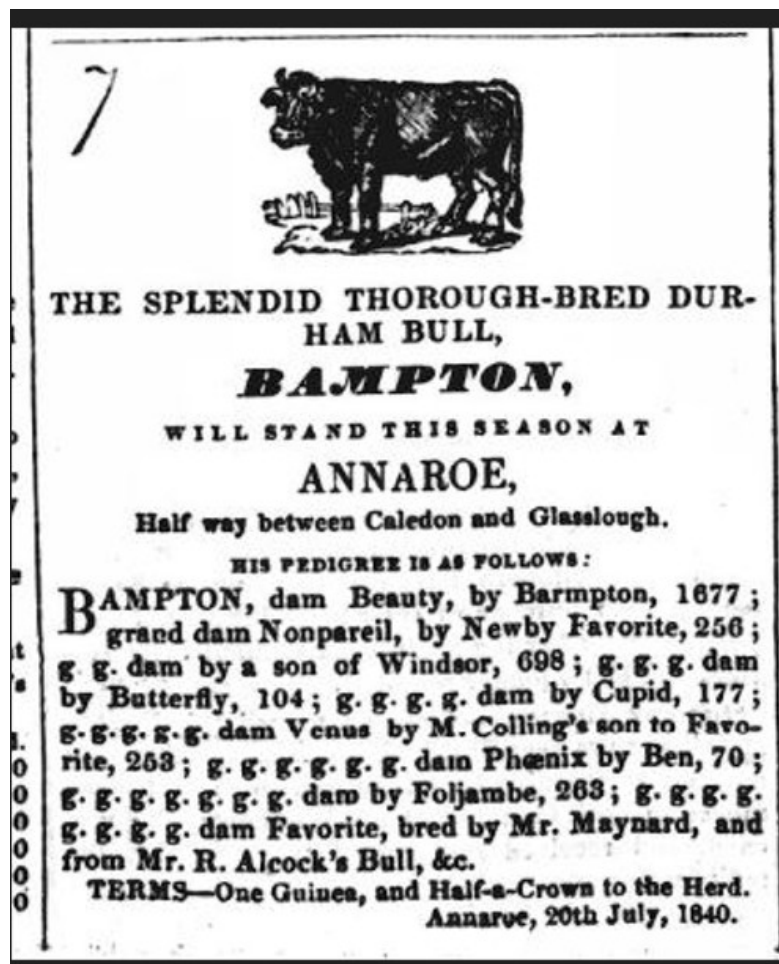
The 9-14-1839 *Northern Standard* reported The Trough Farming Society (started by William Murdoch) held its autumn cattle show in Glaslough, County Monaghan. William Murdoch exhibited his Durham cattle, which were awarded three prizes, and a sow.

- Best bull
- 2nd best bull
- Best two year heifer
- Best sow

Was Bampton the best bull? Unfortunately he was not named.

William Murdoch's letter to John S. Skinner of Baltimore, Maryland, editor of the *American Farmer*, dated Annaroe, 31st January, 1840: *I have a great many young bulls, and one of the best five year old bulls I ever saw, Bampton; I will in autumn send him out, but where to I cannot at present say.*

William Murdoch placed this advertisement in July and August, 1840, in the *Northern Standard* (Monaghan). Here we have Bampton's genealogy. Bampton was born circa 1835. I don't know how to interpret this pedigree. Is Bampton's mother Beauty? Is his maternal grandfather Barmpton 1677? Does this list tell us who Bampton's father is?



7

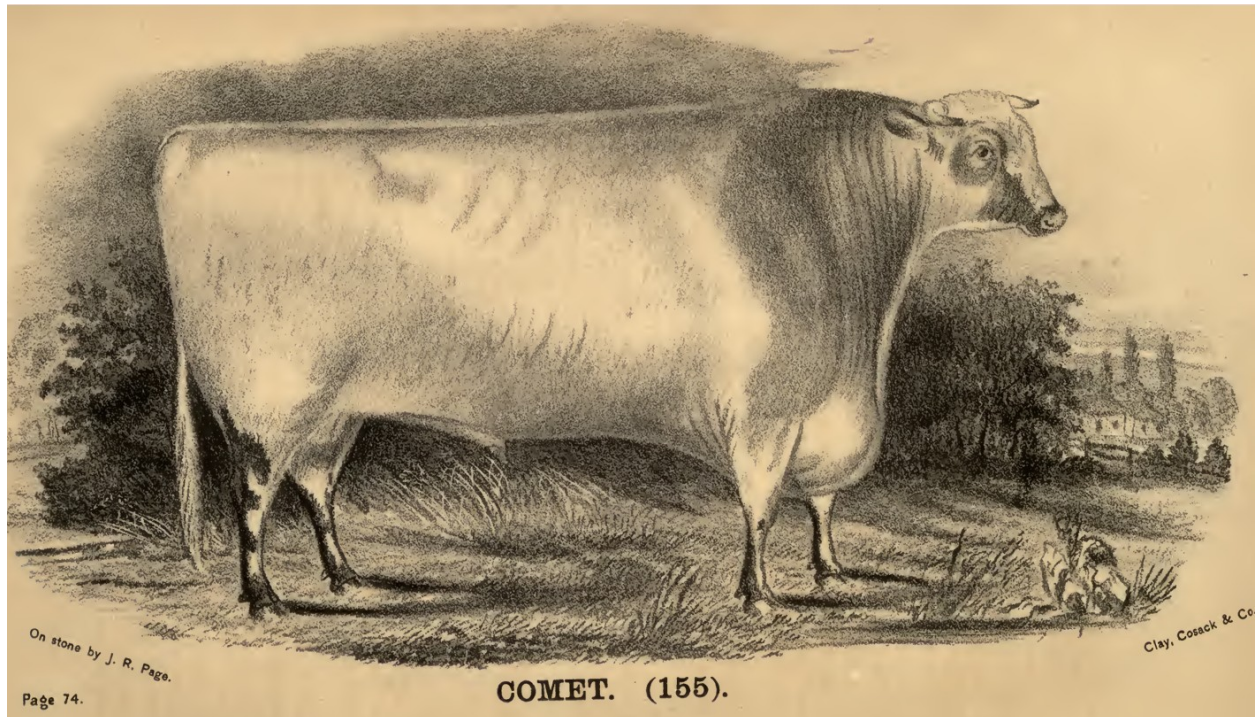
THE SPLENDID THOROUGH-BRED DURHAM BULL,
BAMPTON,
WILL STAND THIS SEASON AT
ANNAROE,
Half way between Caledon and Glaslough.

HIS PEDIGREE IS AS FOLLOWS:

BAMPTON, dam Beauty, by Barmpton, 1677 ;
grand dam Nonpareil, by Newby Favorite, 256 ;
g. g. dam by a son of Windsor, 698 ; g. g. g. dam
by Butterfly, 104 ; g. g. g. g. dam by Cupid, 177 ;
g. g. g. g. g. dam Venus by M. Colling's son to Favo-
rite, 253 ; g. g. g. g. g. g. dam Phoenix by Ben, 70 ;
g. g. g. g. g. g. g. dam by Foljambe, 263 ; g. g. g. g.
g. g. g. g. dam Favorite, bred by Mr. Maynard, and
from Mr. R. Alcock's Bull, &c.

TERMS—One Guinea, and Half-a-Crown to the Herd.
Annaroe, 20th July, 1840.

This is Comet 155, one of Bampton's many, many, many cousins. They have a common ancestor in Foljambe 263.



COMET (155), light roan, bred by Charles Colling, calved in 1804, got by Favorite (252), out of Young Phoenix, by Favorite (252), Phoenix, by Foljambe (263), Lady Maynard, by R. Alcock's bull (19), by Jacob Smith's bull (608), by Jolly's bull (337). At 6 years old. Drawn by Weaver. Plate after a copy by Dalby. Page 74 (Allen)

The short-horn cattle of James Burnet, Thomas Ferme and William Murdoch were, as far as I can tell, never recorded in published herd books--at least the ones available on the internet (or perhaps anywhere else). Barmpton 1677 and his ancestors can be found in Coates's Herd Books, along with the history of the Colling brothers who are famous for their improvements of the short-horn breed of cattle

Robert Colling lived in Barmpton which is near Darlington in County Durham, England. A few of his bulls were named Barmpton which, unfortunately, give rise to red herrings if the R is omitted from the name.

History of the Short-Horn Cattle by Lewis F. Allen, 1872
<https://archive.org/details/historyofshorth00alle>

Coates's Herd Books
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/009195281>

The 9-19-1840 *Northern Standard* reported on the Trough Farming Society's cattle show in Glaslough. Bampton won first prize.

A few years since, a Durham cow, or any such animal, over the value of £10 or £12, was hardly known in the neighborhood; but now, we are happy to say, that almost every farm in Trough can turn out a stock of cattle fit to adorn the domain of the proudest aristocrat. This beneficial change is altogether owing to the exertions of Mr. Murdoch, of Annaroe, who, in order to improve the breed in the country, embarked a large capital in the trade, and, by the most approved management of his stock, convinced the farmers around him, by the forcible argument of the great profits he realized, that a good stock, though at first dearly purchased, eventually yielded a larger return: or--to use his own trite expression--"if good stock won't pay, it can't be expected that bad will."

The first prize--a silver vase--was adjudged to Wm. Murdoch, Esq., for the best Thorough-bred Bull, that gentleman having exhibited that wonderful animal, Bampton, decidedly the finest specimen ever seen in this country, weighing upward of 25cwt., which, we understand, he is about exporting for America.

Luke Gibson, Agent for the Earl of Arran in Donegal, paid a visit to Mr. Murdoch at Annaroe and took a great interest in Bampton. Impressed, he wrote to the 10-24-1840 *Wexford Independent* with Bampton's measurements.

—●—
AGRICULTURE.

We have been favoured by our friend, Mr. GIBSON, with the following particulars of a gigantic Durham Bull, called Bampton, which he saw in the possession of Mr. MURDOCK, of Caledon, on the former's recent visit to the county Tyrone :—

This spendid animal, at present weighs 29½ cwt., and measures ten feet in length from the insertion of the tail to the corona sutures, he stands full 16 hands in height—measures 2 feet 6¾ inches, between the extremities of the loin bones. His huge buttocks are perfectly perpendicular to the horizontal line of his back.

Bampton was purchased by Mr. Murdock in 1837, for 175 guineas—in '39, 300 was offered and refused; at present Bampton is sold, and about to be sent to Port Gibson, Mississippi Territory, New Orleans, for £400

Bampton's Statistics

- at present weighs 29½ cwt.
(note: 3,304 pounds)
- measures 10 feet in length from the insertion of the tail to the corona sutures
- stands full 16 hands in height
(note: about 5.4 feet)
- measures 2 feet 6¾ inches, between the extremities of the loin bones
- his huge buttocks are perfectly perpendicular to the horizontal line of his back

Mr. Gibson was a facts and figures kind of guy. In March of 1841, Mr. Gibson wrote to the *Wexford Independent* giving the details of the great flood caused by failure of the dam at Emy Lake. The water inundated William Murdoch's flour mill at Emy and the flax mill at Mullan.

In his October 1840 letter, Mr. Gibson reported that Bampton had been sold for £400 and was about to be sent to Port Gibson, Mississippi. **So far, this is the last we know of Bampton.**

William Murdoch had relatives in the Port Gibson area. William's half brother John Murdoch 1780-1826 owned a plantation in Cane Mount, Rodney, Mississippi. John Murdoch's son, John Murdoch 1813-1861, along with his mother Esther Anketell and his sisters, paid a visit to Glaslough in the summer of 1838. They arrived at the end of July. Maybe they were still around in October when William Murdoch brought Bampton home. And so impressed was nephew John that maybe he purchased Bampton in 1840. Well...this is all speculation, but it would be a treat to find Bampton in America.

On April 24, 1841, William Murdoch auctioned his stock of Durham cattle. Sixty-eight head sold for £2,000 pounds. Three lots of cattle and a bull named "Prince Albert" were destined for export to America, most purchased by a Mr. Riddle of Liverpool.

In the spring of 1843, William Murdoch exported himself and his family to America.

* * * * *

There are a few sightings of Bampton's offspring. This advertisement appeared in the 2-5-1842 *Northern Standard* (Monaghan). Monaghan is about 15 miles from Annaroe. It's too bad we don't know the name of Young Bampton's Keeper.



YOUNG BAMPTON.
THIS Beautiful and High-Bred DURHAM BULL, (got by that Celebrated Sire BAMPTON, the property of Wm. Murlock, Esq., Annaroe,) will serve this Season at
MONAGHAN.
TERMS—HALF-GUINEA, and a Shilling to the Keeper, who (being accountable) must be satisfied previous to service. His Pedigree of both Sire and Dam, may be had of the Keeper.
Monaghan, Feb., 1842.

I have written about the journey of Bampton's daughters Loo Choo, Phoebe and Sophy. They travelled from Ireland to Baltimore, arriving on March 27, 1840, aboard the *Ship Pocahontas*, along with some of William Murdoch's sheep and his prized Black Sow. Mr. Skinner, editor of the *American Farmer*, arranged for the sale of the animals. William Murdoch provided the pedigree for the cattle which Mr. Skinner printed in the 4-22-1840 *American Farmer*. All were "backed by Bampton." Sophy was purchased by George Law of Baltimore. Nicknamed "the Irish giantess," she was much admired at agricultural shows.

Mr. Law took Sophy to the October 18, 1843 Cattle Show held by the Baltimore County Agricultural Society. The *American Farmer* printed an extensive report of the livestock on display.

The *next pen* was an object of universal admiration, for it contained that *Irish giantess*, *Sophy*, a full bred improved Durham, as the following pedigree will attest:

"Sophy, roan, with red neck, got by Exmouth, d. by Prince, g d by Leopold (370) g g d by Duke Wellington (231) g g g d by Sir Harry (1444) gggg d by Helmsman, ggggg d by Yarmouth, (705) ggggggg d by Young Marcke, gggggggg d by Topknot (1521) ggggggggg d by Foljamber (283) gggggggggg d by Bolinbroke, (86) ggggggggggg d Exmouth, gggggggggggggg by Hubback, 319, backed by Bampton."

But independently of her long pedigree, which traces back through a pure strain of ancestry for a hundred years, she has that about her to give assurance of the nobility of her blood; her port and form are in admirable keeping with her high breeding, and what is of no inconsiderable moment to the lovers of good milk and butter, when, in the prime and freshness of her milking powers, we are informed by her owner, that she yields 32 quarts a day.

By her side stood her yearling son, a dark roan, and answering to the euphonious name of *Paddy O'Rafferty*—he is by *Lord Althorp*, a full bred Durham of great size. These are the property of Mr. *Geo. Law*, of Baltimore.

10-5-1843 *American Farmer* - Sophy
https://archive.org/details/sim_american-farmer-devoted-to-agriculture-horticulture_1843-10-25_5_23/page/183/mode/1up?q=sophy

This advertisement was found by fellow Bampton enthusiast Sue Moore. It was published in the 12-18-1840 *Charleston Daily Courier* (South Carolina). A Durham Cow, now in calf by the celebrated Bull Bampton, had arrived in Charleston.

Imported Durham Cow.
BY D. C. LEVY.
On TUESDAY, 22d instant, at 10 o'clock, will be sold,
before my store, Vendue Range,
A very superior DURHAM COW, (now in Calf by the
celebrated Bull Bampton,) imported in ship Countess of
Arran. She was raised by Lord Althorp, and has for two
successive years taken the premiums at the Cattle Shows
in Donegal and Londonderry, as the finest animal ex-
hibited.

† D 15

The barque *Countess of Arran* left Donegal, Ireland, on October 12, 1840, and arrived in Charleston on December 10, 1840. Its cargo was listed as ballast. The ship was owned by William Rankin, a merchant in Donegal.

Small world that it is, William Murdoch knew everyone in Donegal. He lived there during the years 1833 to 1835 when he served as land agent for the Marquis of Conyngham. A Mr. William Rankin leased property in Donegal owned by William Murdoch (tenement with corn stores and kilns). William Murdoch's friend Luke Gibson was the agent for the Earl of Arran in Donegal. Was Rankin Murdoch's tenant? Was the barque named after the Earl's wife? Probably.

A cow's gestation period is nine months, so the timing is right for Bampton to be the father of the calf carried by this Durham Cow. On some level, this is Bampton's wife, sailing to America, looking for her husband, or, at the least, the father of her child! The timing is such that you wonder if Bampton and Durham Cow were being shipped across the Atlantic at the same time. Last we knew, it was reported in October 1840 that Bampton was about to depart for America.

This Durham Cow was raised by Lord Althorp. Lord Althorp, also known as Earl Spencer, was John Charles Spencer 1782-1845 (who has his own Wikipedia entry). I think Lord Althorp begrudgingly performed his civic duties until he retired and then happily devoted the rest of his life to breeding cattle and other agricultural pursuits. Lord Althorp's posthumous claim to fame is being an ancestor of Princess Diana.

Somehow Durham Cow found herself off loaded at Magwood's Wharf in Charleston. David C. Levy 1805-1877 was an auctioneer/commission merchant in Charleston. He generally sold quantities of items like hats, shoes, segars, and brandy, so it's unusual to see him auctioning one cow. Concurrently, the captain of the *Countess of Arran* was running an advertisement to sell a Durham Cow at the wharf. One and the same, or two different cows?

There is something odd about a valuable animal just being plunked down in Charleston. When William Murdoch shipped livestock to America, there was always someone in America to take charge (i.e. Mr. Skinner in Baltimore or Murdoch's relative William Bell in Kentucky.) Likely there is more to this story.

END NOTES

5-28-1840 *Courier Journal* (Louisville, KY)

GREAT SALE OF SHORT-HORNED DURHAM CATTLE, SHEEP & HOGS.



The undersigned will sell at public auction on *Wednesday, 1st of July next*, at the Oakland Race Course, near Louisville, Ky., some 35 or 40 head short-horned Durham Cattle, bulls, cows and calves, from 2 months to 7 years old in general of the finest symmetry, all except the calves were imported direct last summer and this spring. Catalogues and pedigrees furnished on Saturday before sale.

At same time a lot of bucks of the pure Leicester sheep which produce the most approved cross on the common sheep of our country the Merino and Saxony, adding surprisingly to both fleece and carcass; also, a number of hogs from 6 weeks to 15 months old, called Beltz's, a cross of the English Berkshire with the Irish Grazer.

Gentlemen from a distance need fear no disappointment as regards the sale or quality of this stock, and will be found worthy the attention of those engaged or about to engage in stock raising affording the greatest variety of imported stock ever offered west of the mountains.

For all sums \$50 or under, cash in hand, over \$50 to \$100, six months; over \$100, twelve months credit, negotiable notes with approved security, payable at either of the Banks in Louisville, will be required.

WILLIAM BELL,
Agent for Mr. Murdoc, of Europe.

At same time, and on same terms, John S. Snead will offer for sale his stock of Durham Cattle, together with a variety of other breeds, worthy the attention of Breeders; also, his stock of horses.

[may 28 dlaw&wid
The Franklin Farmer, Maysville Eagle, Hopkinsville Gazette, Nashville Banner, Whig & Union, St. Louis Republican and Argus, Cincinnati Gazette, Columbus (Ohio) Journal and Ohio Farmer, Sangamon Journal, Springfield, Ill., and Terre Haute Courier will publish the above to amount of \$3 each, in their weekly papers, and send one paper to the advertiser, and forward bill to this office.

William Murdoch convinced his distant relative William Bell 1790-1865, who lived in Kentucky, to take on the task of selling some of his short-horned Durham cattle. Murdoch apparently sent them over in the summer of 1839.

Bull on an entryway to the New Cattle Market

<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4078345>

History of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland by Alexander Ramsay, 1879
Third Show at Glasgow

<https://archive.org/details/historyofhighlan00ramsuoft/page/246/mode/2up?view=theater>

Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, Vol. 9, June 1838 to March 1839

<https://books.google.com/books?id=YvQVfe91N50C>

The Farmer's Magazine, Vol. 1, 1838, page 336 - report on the Glasgow Show and toasts
<https://books.google.com/books?id=Q7J2C2tv5IIC>

Tranent and Its Surrounding by Peter M'Neill, 1884
<https://archive.org/details/tranentitssurrou02mnei>

Bradwood Farm House photo
<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/200392820-braidwood-temple>

Irish Newspapers – findmypast.com

American Farmer
https://archive.org/details/pub_american-farmer-devoted-to-agriculture-horticulture

Heritage Shorthorn Society – I don't know one thing about breeding cattle, so I learned a thing or two here:
<https://www.heritageshorthorn.org/historical-shorthorns/prior-to-1890>