

XV.—A REGENCY ITINERARY

Edward Miller.

The original letter containing the instructions transcribed below is in the possession of Mr. T. Jackson, retired blacksmith, of Morpeth. Mr. Jackson's grandmother was a Shotton and married T. Jackson, a blacksmith at Felton.

The Swarland House referred to was that known latterly as Swarland New Hall. Built in 1765, it was recently pulled down.

The writer of the instructions was Mr. Alexander Davidson who purchased Swarland House in 1795. He was a naval contractor both in Britain and in Canada and was a native of Kirknewton parish. He was friendly with Lord Nelson and by the A1 before its diversion he put up a cenotaph to Nelson's memory in 1807.

*Instructions to George Shotton with Two Horses
from
Swarland House to London Sept. 1816*

To start every morning by 7 o'clock at latest so that you will get to the next stage before the heat of the day giving the horses 2 or 3 hours rest in the middle of the day at baiting time and always setting off so that you reach the next stage by $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 o'clock in the evening. Each day may be performed at a walking pace, avoid by all means over heating the horses and never give them corn till they have been in the stable some time and quite cool.

To take special care to secure the best stabling, avoiding putting the horses where other horses are, and cautiously avoiding a stable in which diseased horses are or have been in.

Day's Journey	Distance			
First Day	To Morpeth	Queen's Head	Bait	12
	Newcastle	Queen's Head	Keep	14 26
Second Day	Durham	Wheat Sheaf	Bait	15
	Rushyford	Wheat Sheaf	Keep	9 24
Third Day	Darlington	King's Head	Bait	9
	Northallerton	Hursts	Keep	16 25
Fourth Day	To rest the horses all this day at Northallerton			
Fifth Day	Boroughbridge	Crown		19 19
Sixth Day	Wetherby	Angel	Bait	12
	Ferrybridge	Swan	Keep	16 28
Seventh Day	Doncaster	Angel, right hand	Bait	15
	Barnaby Moor	Bell	Keep	13 28
Eighth Day	Scarthing Moor		Bait	12
	Newark	Kingston Arms	Keep	12 24
Ninth Day	Grantham	Angel	Bait	14
	Greetham	Royal Oak	Keep	13 27
Tenth Day	stop and rest at Greatham all this day			
Eleventh Day	Wansford	Haycock	Bait	14
	Alconbury Hill		Keep	16 30
Twelfth Day	Eaton	Cock	Bait	16
	Baldock	White Horse	Keep	16 32
Thirteenth Day	Welwyn	White Hart	Bait	12
	Barnet	Green Man	Keep	14 26
Fourteenth Day	To St. James' Square	London		12
				Miles 301

To see that you are provided with the very best hay and corn that fresh hay be always put in their racks, not suffering any hay that remains that has been put in for other horses. Horses on a journey often get diseases by neglecting this necessary precaution of emptying their Racks and Mangers.

To proceed at a walking pace the whole journey and not allowing either of the horses to get accustomed to a shuffling trot.

You are to use your discretion should any day turn out very wet, by going only one stage instead of two—as also, in travelling should either of the horses feel unwell or too

fatigued your own sense and observation on these points must be your guide.

I have put down the names of each stage and the Inns you are to stay at, as being the Inns I always drive to and who all know me, consequently will be attentive and civil to you.

You will write to me on the journey every third day that I may know where you are should I have occasion to write to you with any fresh orders, and I should like to know your progress and how the horses bear the journey tho as you travel so regularly and feeding accordingly as you see them eat their corn kindly I should imagine both the Mare and the Horse will be better than when you set off with them from Swarland.

I should think 4 feeds of Oats to each, every day would be sufficient—take care neither get a surfeit—you will of course ride one or both as you find it agree best with them and be particularly cautious on meeting carriages, and on passing through Towns as sometimes the most serious accidents happen to led horses on streets, and too much attention cannot properly be given to the led horse.

You will take special care to see that they are well shod and examining their shoes and feet daily, and that the saddle fits well and easy.

You will give the Ostler where you stop to bait 9d and where you stop all night one shilling.

I have always allowed my Groom 3/6 a day for himself.

You will take from each Ostler a bill for the horses and keep them in a small book together with the Turnpikes.

Let me know the day you set off and be careful to write me every third day afterwards—and where you are, at the different Inns ask if there be a letter for you as it is possible I may have to write to you.

St. James' Square,
27th Aug. 1816.

