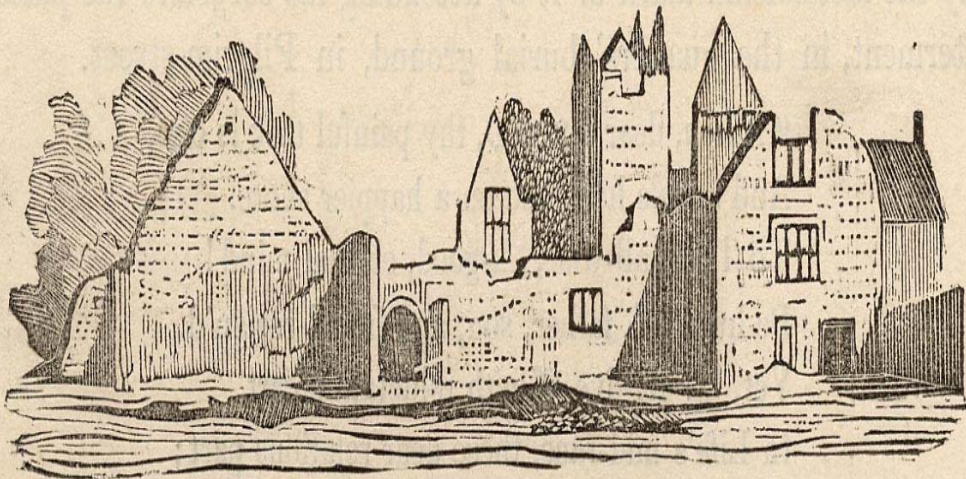


Gateshead House

During the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, the old Hospital of St Edmunds and the land around there were acquired by William Riddell Esq. Mayor of Newcastle and c1595/6 he erected a large mansion called Gateshead House behind the high street. The Riddell's lived there for several generations, Sir Peter receiving his Knighthood from King James I during May 1617. Sir T Riddell occupied the house during the siege of Newcastle 1644 when it was much damaged by the Scots troopers. The house and grounds passed into the hands of the Claverings.



RUINS OF GATESHEAD HOUSE, FROM AN OLD PRINT. See page 9.

(Courtesy of isee.gateshead.gov.uk)

On 27 January 1746, The Duke of Cumberland moved north to meet Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Scottish followers; his expected arrival in Gateshead caused great excitement. When news came that King George's army was crossing the Fell the excitement grew into a frenzy. Irresponsible elements caused a riot and smashing into Gateshead House, set the place on fire, looting many of the priceless heirlooms.

Notes from Clarence Walton