

competition!

What's the connection?

HERE'S a challenge: what's the link between Barningham and this actor, best-known as Batman's butler? No prizes, but glory in the next *Archive* for the first reader to tell us the answer. We'll explain it



remember, remember...

"NOT within living memory has Gunpowder Plot, the fifth of November, passed without the young folk of Barningham celebrating the event with a bonfire, until this year, when not even a spark was visible on the village green.

"For weeks it has been noticeable that boys were not gathering inflammable materials. They certainly made a start in August with a few thorns, but they never made any further progress.

"The site has been a dumping ground for garden refuse, with a few sprays of ivy to give a decorated appearance to the little heap of rubbish, which would have to be cast later into a fiery furnace to burn.

"And nearby two doormats were placed in position, in order, it is thought, that young people might clean their boots before retiring from the scene."

– *Teesdale Mercury*, November 11, 1927



footnote

"I remember people renting the allotments at the top of the village before the war. That was in 1938. The rent was tuppence a week." – *George Alderson, Hill Top.*



Copies of *The Archive*, the newsletter of Barningham Local History Group, are available for an annual subscription of £10. Back issues can be purchased for £2 each (there's an index on our website). Contact Jon Smith, Tel: 01833 621374 email: history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk website: www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

old hints & recipes

Ferret's left-overs – a sure cure for the cough

THE Rev Arthur Close (the curate who saw a ghost – see *Archive 9*) was renowned as a speaker at Teesdale WI meetings in the late 1920s.

His topic was 'Old-time Folklore in our Northern Dales', and he kept details in a battered notebook that's now in the Bowes Museum library vaults. Here are some of the cures he recorded, some taken from long-lost books, others gathered from parishioners he met as he toured the dales in late Victorian times:

To cure the Whooping Cough: Fill a saucer with milk and allow a ferret to drink half of it, and then give to the patient the half-saucer of milk the ferret has left. A sure cure if the dose is repeated often enough.

To cure a pimple on the face or body: Take the lether of a shoe that hath been worn, being of an Oxhide & burn it, and apply it to the pimple of the body or face & it will cure them.

To cure deafness: The marrow of an Oxe mingled with Goosegrease and powered into the Ear helpeth deafness.

To help a baby cut its teeth: Hang a small cotton bag of moles' claws round the neck.

And from Sir Kenelme Digbie's Receipt Book of 1669:

A cure for toothache: With an iron nail raise & cut the gum from the Mouth till it bleed, & that some of the blood stick upon the nail; then drive it into a wooden beam up to the head. After this is done you shall never have the toothache in all your life.

● If you have old hints or recipes to share, please contact Kay Duggan (01833 621455) who is compiling a book of them.



Archive 11

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



INSIDE: Todds v Milbanks • Poor Agnes • Castle visit • Mole-catchers



Sunday school youngsters in Barningham's former methodist chapel, pictured sometime around 1905. This is the only known photograph of the interior of the chapel, built in 1815, given a substantial facelift in 1868, and closed down in the late 1960s. It's now a private house, whose owner Ann Orton won the 2010 Archive Award for her research into its history. See inside.

contents

LAST MEETING'S MINUTES – Page 2
ARCHIVE AWARD WINNERS – Page 3
BARNINGHAM'S WESLEYANS – Pages 4-8
MOLE-CATCHERS – Page 9
AGNES' LOST LOVE – Pages 10-11
SCARGILL CASTLE VISIT – Page 12

LETTERS & EMAILS – Page 13
HOUSE HISTORIES – Page 14
TODD v MILBANK – Pages 15-16
THE MARRINER FAMILY – Page 17
VILLAGE HALL OPENING – Pages 18-19
RECIPES, COMPETITION – Page 20

NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUES OCTOBER 19th 6pm

Aussie links, fields and schools

Minutes of the Barningham History Group September 7th 2010 at 6 pm.

Present: Jon Smith, Ann Orton, Eric and Kay Duggan, Janet Wrigley, Phil Hunt, Greta Carter, Neil Turner, Diane Metcalf, June Graham, Ed Simpson, Elaine McDermott, Tony Orton, Sheila Catton, Louise Ferrari and Marion Moverley (guest speaker)

Apologies: Bev Peach, Michael Graham and Ann Hutchinson.

Minutes of previous meeting were agreed.

Archive awards: Jon said there had been some excellent entries. The winner was Ann Orton for her history of the Old Wesleyan Chapel (see later in this *Archive*). Ann was still working on this project and it was hoped to put it into book form eventually. Two youngsters were highly commended: Evie Ridgway for her video 'Barningham Today', which it is hoped will go on the website, and Jamie Tirrell for his project on molecatchers: see Page 9.

Village Hall inscription: Jon had found details of this: see Page 18.

Correspondence: The Marriner family had sent details of their family: see Page 17. An Australian family seeking links to the Todds were subscribing to the *Archive*. The British Oral History Society was holding a course at Beamish on Saturday October 9th: anyone wanting to go should contact the secretary.

Finances: Eric said these were still looking very healthy. Income in August had totalled £113.20, expenditure £125.75, leaving a balance of £470.01.

House histories: Ann gave a talk about the Old Wesleyan Chapel, an edited version of which appears in this issue.

Publications: Jon had received an order from Spennymoor library for all the publications. *Archive 10* had been distributed.

Website: An index to the *Archive* had been added to the site to enable easy access to specific subjects.

Recipes: Kay reported that she had made no recent progress but had received loads of information and would be getting it organised now that the nights were drawing in!

minutes of the last meeting

Field names: Jon had been to Durham County Record Office Archives and transcribed all the field names from the 1838 tithe index which were being linked to the maps found in the Rectory. Some were very intriguing.

Wartime: Phil would begin this when he had been to the oral history course in October.

Film Projects: We now had the finished DVD and intended to copy and sell them. A date would be arranged for it to be shown in the village hall. (Now fixed for November 5th, after the bonfire).

Visits: There were 15 people on the list to visit Scargill castle on Friday September 17th (see report on Page 13). The bus for the Whitby visit (Saturday October 2nd) was almost full, but it would be good if all places were taken.

Next Meetings: October 19th: Lance Hodgson is going to speak about his grandfather who was butler for the Milbanks. December 7th: Eric Barnes. January 11th: to be arranged. All meetings at 6pm in the village hall

Any other business: Someone wondered where the clock had gone from the village hall. Apparently it went to Ripon for repairs at the beginning of the first world war and was never seen again. Does anyone know anything about it?

Guest speaker: The meeting ended with a very interesting and entertaining talk by Marion Moverley on the Yorkshire schools and in particular those in Barningham. We are very grateful to her for taking the time to share her research with us and will keep it for use when our house histories feature reaches Newby House.

ANN ORTON, Secretary



footnote

THE Archive is one year old with this issue, and to celebrate (and cope with a mass of material, including the Awards) it has been expanded to 20 pages.

We can't promise it'll be this big every issue, but it may well be the case next time when we intend to include a full index to all the articles published in the Archive in 2009 and 2010.

village hall opening

Rev. W. B. James, and Mr. McCulloch, a trustee for the school, merely said a few words to the children concerning their benefactors and their own future good conduct; and we sincerely trust that, under the able teaching of Mr E C. Spink, assisted by the daily attendance of the Church clergy and others, that Barningham school, now possessed of such able appliances, will become a source of permanent blessing to the neighbourhood, morally and intellectually.

We understand that while this school is conducted purely upon religious and Church of England principles, yet the most solicitous care is taken not to suggest subjects which would only confuse children and irritate others. We are requested to say that visitors will always be welcomed at any time during school hours, so long as the course of instruction is not interrupted.

It is earnestly hoped that the parents of children will awaken to their own responsibilities in enforcing punctuality and regular attendance, without which they cannot expect great progress in their children's knowledge.

The school fees are very low, and the extra expenses, though exceedingly heavy, are cheerfully borne by those who ask for no other reward than the pleasure of seeing that their gifts and labours are rendering a substantial benefit to the neighbours.

● The Teesdale Mercury Archive, with searchable images of every copy of the paper between 1854 and 1954, is expected to go online by the end of the year. At the moment we have the loan of the data-base, which can be browsed only by publication date. If you'd like to know more, contact me. -Ed.



footnote

THE latest British Association for Local History magazines have arrived: see their website www.balh.co.uk for contents, ask Jon Smith if you'd like to see them.

Barningham Local History Group Publications



Where Lyeth Ye Bodies

A guide to Barningham church, graveyard map, memorial details and list of every known burial. £8 / £10 + £1 p&p.

Counted: An A-Z of Census returns 1841-1911

Arranged so that families can be tracked through 70 years. Volume 1: Barningham, Scargill and Hope; Volume 2: Newsham and New Forest. £8 each / £10 each + £1 p&p

A Child of Hope

The 1895 diary of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847. £4 / £5 + £1 p&p

Barningham Vestry Minutes 1869-1894, Parish Minutes 1894-1931

Transcripts of meetings, with background history, index and list of named parishioners. £4 each / £5 each + £1 p&p

Aback to Yuvvin: 1849 Glossary of Teesdale words & customs

A reproduction of Frederick Tinsdale's *Glossary of Provincial Words*. £4 / £5 + £1 p&p

The Archive: Group newsletter. Back issues £1 / £2 + £1 p&p

Prices: members/nonmembers

More details: see our website: www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

'A memorial of love for this parish'

There's a plaque on the front of Barningham village hall, weather-worn and unreadable, recording its creation as the village school in 1875. The village hall committee wants to renew it, and asked us if we could track down the original inscription. Armed with the Teesdale Mercury Project's data-base, we found the paper's report on its opening. Here it is, from the edition dated December 15th 1875.

ON Tuesday, December 7th. the new school, built upon the village green, was first used for educational purposes.

It stands close upon the site of the old school, once so famous under the care of Messrs. Newby, Clarkson, and Hough respectively. Upon the latter retiring the premises and adjoining land were purchased by Mr. F. A. Milbank MP, who, most liberally, immediately requested the rector, he being chief manager of Barningham School, to make any use he pleased of the building.

Upon examination it was found that the school-house was not of proportions suitable to the requirements of modern schools. This discovered, the remedy was immediately and nobly suggested by the generosity of Mr. Milbank and his family, who offered to undertake the entire expense of the building and its premises; and certainly all that money and good taste, coupled with convenience, could do, has been done.

The outline of the buildings was given by a friend who for the last twenty-five years has controlled the designs for all schools built in Great Britain, under the sanction of the Committee of Council of Education, and this outline has been kindly and most skilfully carried out by Mr Henry Cockbain, architect, Middleton, near Manchester; consequently, we may believe that Barningham now possesses as good a model for a mixed school as can be.

It consists of one long room, thirty-six feet by eighteen, backed up by a class-room sixteen by fourteen feet. There are separate porch entrances, playgrounds, and premises for boys and girls, each porch being fitted up with hat pegs and lavatory. The school and class-room have, so-called, open roofs, mullioned and latticed windows, the walls being boarded four feet high from the floor; all the woodwork is stained



The plaque is above the centre window – just below the circle where the clock used to be

and varnished, and the doors are handsomely decorated with ornamental hinges, handles, and locks.

An eight-days' clock, made by Benson, of London, two feet in diameter, has been presented, chiefly by the Rev. W F. Wharton, late rector of the parish, and will be placed in a gable in the north side, facing the village; the bell turret is surmounted by a weathercock, while an iron ornamental cross is placed on the west side, a lightning conductor being added to each.

The whole is surrounded by substantial lime-built walls, partly guarded by wrought-iron fencing and gates. Messrs Joseph Brown and Brothers, of Newsham, have done the masonry; Mr Geo. Nicholson and Sons, of Barningham, the woodwork; Mr R. Hind and Son, of Newsham, the ironwork; Mr Fryer, of Richmond, the plumbing; Mr Stevenson, of Barningham, the painting; and Mr. Spence, of Richmond, supplied the spouting and many other articles. The whole has been done in a most satisfactory and workman-like manner.

Upon a stone beneath the clock the following inscription will be cut: "This school was erected by the family of the Lady Augusta Henrietta Milbank. A memorial of her love for this parish and people." A small portion of the yards and outbuildings is still unfinished. Neither Mr. Milbank nor anyone of his family being in the neighbourhood, it was felt that no formal opening was advisable. The rector, therefore in the presence of his own family, the

Ann, James and Evie win our first history project prizes



WINNER of the 2010 Archive Award for local history projects was Ann Orton for her research into Barningham's former methodist chapel, now her home.

She was presented with the trophy by Lady Belinda Milbank at the village show on September 4th.

The judges, who included Chris Lloyd, the man behind *Echo Memories* in the *Northern Echo*, and Andy Kluz, producer of Tyne-Tees' acclaimed series *The Way We Were*, praised Ann's work, excerpts of which appear later in this *Archive*.

Ann is continuing her research, and when completed we hope to publish it as a BLHG booklet.

Two other entries were highly recommended and earned prizes for ten-year-olds Evie Ridgway and James Tirrell.

Evie produced a video of life in Barningham today which will go into the archives for future generations to see. We hope to put it online, too.

James investigated molecatchers, and his project included an interview with former mole trapper John Carter of Fountain Cottage. You can see this on Page 9.

Congratulations to all three.

● *The deadline for the next awards will be Saturday August 27th 2011, which seems a long way away but you can't start too soon!*



Ann Orton collecting her award from Lady Belinda Milbank. Below, James Tirrell and Evie Ridgway.
Photographs by Sue Prytherick



The Old Chapel: mirroring the rise and fall of Barningham Methodists

This is an edited excerpt from Ann Orton's history of Barningham's Wesleyan Chapel, which won her the history group's 2010 Archive Award for local history projects. Her research continues; when complete, we hope to publish it all in booklet form.

WESLEYAN Methodism spread to Teesdale in the mid-1700s, with the methodist chapel at Newbiggin-in-Teesdale – reputedly the oldest chapel still in continuous weekly use in the world – opening in 1760.

The first meetings in Barningham appear to have taken place not long afterwards, held in a private house in the village. There are records of the collections taken and sent to Barnard Castle: in 1766 the income of the Barningham preachers was £1 4s.

The driving force behind the village methodists was Henry Hunter, described in *The History of Methodism in Barnard Castle and the principle Places in the Dales Circuit* (written by Anthony Steele in 1857) as “a veritable patriarch”, born in Northumberland but who “in the providence of God was led in early life to take up his residence in Barningham... Here in the commencement of Methodism he was truly converted to God, and then opened his doors for the preaching of the gospel, cheerfully providing the ministers of the Most High, with the best entertainment his house could afford.”

He was, said Steele, the father of Methodism in Barningham, “and through a long life maintained an upright and irreproachable character, so that for many long years his name was precious in the remembrance of those who had the opportunity of appreciating his worth. He lived to a great age and witnessed with his latest breath the guardian care and faithfulness of his God”.

Hunter was buried in Barningham churchyard in October 1802¹. He left behind a strong body



of methodists in the village, and they were determined Barningham should have a chapel to meet in. An indenture dated November 2nd 1815 records the purchase from Francis Carter, a labourer of Barningham, of a piece of land measuring “in length from north to south 9 yards and a half and in breadth from east to west 7 and a half yards or thereabouts and bounded by lands of Mark Milbank Esq. in or towards the east, the dwelling house and premises of William Law on or towards the west and the Town street of Barningham on or towards the north for the sum of £5 10s 0d” by Isaac Nicholson of Barnard Castle, a stationer.

Nicholson was buying the land with money raised by The Society of Methodists and was to hold it in trust for them, “and the same society have since erected on the said piece or parcel of ground a certain building then used by them as a meeting house or place of assembly.”

The stone plaque above the door reads *Wes-*

¹ His age isn't recorded, and we have no details of his family or where they lived. However, a Mary Hunter, married to a Henry, is recorded as having died here in 1759, not long after the deaths of three youngsters all listed as the children of Henry Hunter. If this was his family, it is clear that Henry had suffered grievous personal losses which perhaps turned him to religion in later life. –Ed.

How the Marriners came... and went

WE have two Marriners among our history group members – John in Middlesbrough and his second cousin Tony in Dorset – and dozens of their ancestors in Barningham graveyard. We asked John to tell us what they've discovered about their family history.

THE first recorded Marriner in Barningham was the baptism of Robert in 1620; unfortunately the names of his parents are not clear due to the poor quality of the ancient parish records. About that time Marriners were also living at Arkengarthdale and Rokeby. A William Marriner, son of William, born at Rokeby in 1628, could possibly be the above Robert's sibling.

In the 1500s Marriner families were found living in the Ingleton, Yorks, Thornton and Lonsdale area. Members could easily have migrated north via the drover roads to Hawes and over the tops to Barningham, and that view is strengthened by evidence of some Marriner men from the Barningham area finding wives in the Thornton area.

Parish records show that the family lived in Barningham for over 180 years. The last record is the death of Christopher in 1800; his headstone (badly weather-beaten) still exists in the churchyard, although his name is incorrectly spelt ‘Mariner’ (a common occurrence).

Barningham Local History Group became interested in this family and from church records and documents relating to the original church building they found Marriners who worked on it as masons, painter, builder and glazier.

The history group directed me to Christopher's will, held in the National Archives, and finding and transcribing it brought Barningham people to life. Christopher was not only a mason but the owner of various plots of land (not specified), among them a dwelling and land which he let out to an Andrew Bowman. He also left five guineas to members of his extended family of four separate groups.

From the late 1700s Marriner families started to move away from Barningham and by 1800 all had left. Males married lasses from other villages, then moved away; possibly work played a part in it.

Matthew Marriner married Elizabeth Wintter and moved to Stanwick, Robert married Elizabeth Fox and moved to Romaldkirk, John married Ann Cogland and moved to York, while another Christopher married Mary Shaw and



The 1800 gravestone

moved to Gainford. Their children in turn moved to other villages, such as Staindrop, Melsonby, Piercebridge, East Layton, and Barton as well as Barnard Castle, working as masons, blacksmiths, butchers, grocers, farmers, millers, railway employees and publicans. Robert L, born 1815 in Melsonby, was recorded in 1851 as the publican of the Fox Hall Inn and farmer of Fox Well, both on what is now the A66. In 1871 he was publican of the World's End in Melsonby.

Another Robert married Hannah Rudd and moved to Middleton Tyas. Their children moved north to Hamsterly; two sons Edward and Robert became farmers who moved back to Wotton-le-Wear and Robert eventually moved back to Moulton (full circle).

During the 1900s as the families expanded they moved to Tyneside, Wearside, Teesside, Ripon, York, Scarborough, Leeds, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincoln, London, South Africa and Australia.

So from Robert, born Barningham in 1620, his descendants became (to name but a few) a Methodist missionary in South Africa, a confectionery foreman at Rowntree in York, a world-renowned violinist and orchestral conductor and, more recently, the current registrar (finance and operations) at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa.

● *Many thanks for help in compiling this information to Mike Simpson, Tony Marriner, and Arthur Marriner in South Africa.*

todd v milbank, 1880

quickly leapt to his defence.

A second letter that day came from his cousin James Todd, of Fairview, saying that he too had been summoned to the Hall and heard Mark say that no man who shot would farm on his land.

And a third correspondent, this one calling himself 'A Lover Of Truth', declared: "Everyone knows it is no use placing turnips for hares, if any were left to place, after the 6th of April (when Mr Todd came into possession of the fields in question), and I can only say Mr W R Todd is too much of a gentleman to do any such thing." It was rather a pity William had already admitted doing so.

It was at this point that Mark decided it was time he entered the fray personally, and he picked up his pen to respond. It was true, he acknowledged in a letter published in next day's *Echo*, that William hadn't ruined the shooting party on August 12th: he'd done it on the 18th, when he "drove the high moor to collect his sheep, without first acquainting the shepherd, or having the shepherd with him, or using the shepherd's dog. By doing so, he subjected himself to a penalty of five shillings for each of those five offences against the rights of pasture on the moor, besides spoiling the sport of my friends."

And in reply to William's comment that the Milbanks didn't own the moor, he added: "I beg to state that out of 300 stints on the moor 261 are my own private property, the remainder being divided between 18 freeholders. And I have been Lord of the Manor of Barningham for considerably over half a century, and my forefathers before me."

The anonymous 'Justice' weighed in with another letter that day, too, saying William was motivated solely by revenge and his "quibbling, abusive letter" had given no answers to the accusations about using turnips to attract Milbank pheasants.

There was another letter from Allanson repeating his accusations, and a fourth from William himself clarifying details of his earlier missives.

Then the letters stopped (probably much to the *Echo* editor's disappointment: the row had been filling up his correspondence columns wonderfully). But the story doesn't end there.

Four days later, on October 6th, a front-page advertisement announced that Terry & Coates,

the Barnard Castle auctioneers, had been instructed by William "who is leaving his farm" to sell everything he possessed at Haythwaite on the 14th – just eight days later, not a lot of notice for potential buyers, and evidence that William really had been told to get out fast.

Up for sale were "all the valuable First-class Stock of Beasts, Sheep, Horses, Implements, Hay and Eatage": 310 ewes, 130 lambs, 10 gimmer shearlings, four Leicester tups, 12 horses, two foals (one "a very grand colt, one of the best in Yorkshire"), 12 bullocks and heifers and one cow.

How much the sale made we don't know, but by the end of the month William and his family had left Haythwaite. They probably moved into one of the many Todd-owned cottages in the village, and certainly they were in Barningham for the next year or so: in January 1882 William and his cousin James were listed among the Barningham supporters of a Liberal-backed Tenant Farmers' candidate for the next election.

Some time after that William left the area, first taking on Newham Grange Farm at Stockton – where his fifth and last child, Hubert, was born in 1885 – and then, in the 1890s, Mount Pleasant Farm at Longnewton.

He died in the early years of the 20th century; his widow Dorothy lived on at the Stock-ton home of her married daughter Dorothy for a further decade.

By that time Mark Milbank had long gone to join his forefathers. He died in October 1881 and was buried at Well, near the family estate at Thorp Perrow (Barningham Park was still just their holiday home). The lordship of the manor passed to Frederick Acclom Milbank, who shortly became the first baronet and a Sir.



footnote

From the Teesdale Mercury, July 28th 1875: "At Greta Bridge Police Court, John Todd, of Barningham, was charged by Mark Milbank Esq with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined 80s and costs." On the bench: Mark Milbank Esq, JP.

wesleyans in barningham

leyan Methodist Chapel 1815. The Durham archives list the chapel as possibly converted from a former agricultural building, borne out by the west wall where there is evidence of former window and possibly an outside staircase. On the east side is what was perhaps a small opening of the kind often seen in barns and on the south side you can see where the roof was lifted at some time.

This evidence is supported by the front extension to its neighbour Rosebank Cottage. This was built in about 1760 and the east wall just touches the chapel at the front. It seems strange that the chapel would have been built so close to an existing building.

The Wesleyans had a policy of preachers being supplied by circuits, Barningham being part of the Barnard Castle Circuit. They liked to vary the ministers sent to each chapel so although several ministers lived in the village they didn't usually take the services but would be sent to



Evidence of old windows from before the 1868 renovation

The first trustees – and the last

ON April 23rd 1821 ownership of the chapel was transferred to trustees appointed by the Society of Methodists. They were:

Thomas Carter, merchant; George Pearson, cordwainer; William Todd, gentleman; Miles Alderson, farmer (all from Barningham); John Thornton, from Newsham Moor; Joseph Maine from Dalton; Henry Cooke, paper manufacturer, from Startforth; Anthony Todd and John Turner, farmers, from Brignal; William Dixon, merchant of Barnard Castle; Joshua Monkhouse and Joseph Proctor, druggists from Barnard Castle.

These trustees owned the land and the chapel but were obviously subject to the rules and regulations set out in the indenture.

Among these were rules on who might preach at the chapel: "only those who as shall be appointed and sent by the general yearly conference of the people called Methodists to officiate therein as Ministers or expounders of the word of God. provided always that such person or persons so to be respectively appointed as aforesaid preach no doctrine contrary to the New Testament and to what is

contained in the notes and annotations thereon and in the several volumes of sermons written and published by the said John Wesley."

When the number was reduced to three then new ones could be appointed "with the consent and approval of the Superintending preacher or Minister for the time."

This actually occurred in 1948 when only three trustees were still alive to sign the document adopting the new model deed of the Methodist Church! All three were from Barnard Castle: Thomas Whittaker Bainbridge, clerk to the council, George Clarkson Harker, a chemist, and Ernest Watson, retired.

It is not clear how long this state of affairs had lasted but new trustees were quickly appointed. Sixteen names are on the list including three married women but only one person was from Barningham parish, Ernest Dixon of Garthwaite, the rest being from Winston, Dalton, Scargill, Gayles, Rokeby, Newsham and Barnard Castle. When the chapel came to be sold in 1972 there were 13 trustees, and again the only one from Barningham was Ernest Dixon.

wesleyans in barningham

other parts of the circuit. In 1838 John Todd left money to build a house for the minister (now The Nook – see *Archive 3*) and from 1839 to 1876 nine ministers lived in Barningham. Most stayed for only a year or two, the exception being G Johnson who lived at Wilson House from 1847 to 1875 when he seems to have moved to Woodland. I wonder if he was also a farmer as he took very few services and only in Barningham and Newsham as far as I could see.

Services were listed in a “Lords Day Plan”, the earliest of which I could find is for 1844. Headed *What Hath God Wrought*, it shows that Barningham had Sunday services at 10.30 and 6.00. Over the various plans there are annotations saying what collections should be taken and when other meetings would be held. The *Darlington and Stockton Times* of July 3rd 1869 records: “The annual camp meeting of the primitive Methodists was held on Barningham Moor on Sunday. The day was exceedingly favourable, and a large assembly was present. Addresses of an interesting and edifying nature were delivered by Messrs J Lynn, W Parker, R

Peel, B Wade and T Dalkin. In the evening a love feast was held in the house of Mrs Pearson, at which there was also a large attendance.” A love feast was not as exciting as it sounds; apparently the participants would sit around a table enjoying a meal and talking about their faith.

In 1861 services started on Thursdays at 6.30 as well as the usual Sunday ones. After a while they alternated with prayer meetings and were invariably led by Mr James Rosser, a minister resident in Barningham at the time. From 1855 to 1876 a further five ministers had stayed in the village, and in 1859 there were three resident ministers.

This seemed to be a very active time for the methodists, culminating in the chapel being rebuilt in 1868 at what must have involved considerable work and expense. The *D&S Times* of July 11th that year recorded its opening:

“On Sunday the 5th of June, a new Wesleyan Chapel which has been lately erected on the site of the old one, was opened by Mr Thos. Tarn. The place was crowded to excess by the inhabitants of the village and surrounding country, and very liberal collections were realised. This new building is very neatly built, and is an ornament

Baptisms from all over at the chapel

I was delighted to find that the Durham Archives held a baptism register from the chapel. I propose to produce a copy of this in due course but in the meantime I have extracted the following information.

There are 90 entries in the register, that runs from 1872 to 1917. Children (no adults were listed) were baptised from all over the dale – Mortham Tower, Dousgill, East Layton (performed at Dalton), Scargill, Woodland, Bowes, Barnard Castle Moor, Staindrop, Dalton Hall, Greta Bridge, West Hope and even Middlesborough – this one a child called Grace, the daughter of Mary Eleanor Longhorn (no mention of a father), who was baptised aged three days. Was the mother just visiting the area or was she working for someone in the village?

There are two entries that are marked ‘Illegitimate’, the mother a girl from Bragg House who had twins in 1902 called Alfred Edward and Ada Adeline. A lady visiting the village

recently told us of one of her ancestors who was to be baptised at the church. His father, landlord of the Black Horse, was drunk and the rector refused to perform the service. The family then asked the methodist minister to perform the baptism and surprisingly he agreed! This appears in the register for March 12th 1893 as Thomas Cecil Lee, son of Richard and Mary. It would seem that this goodwill was short-lived as the methodists closed the Black Horse down in 1916 and it became Elim Cottage.

David Foster says baptisms were still being carried out until the 1960s but they were usually done at the person’s home.

The last entry in the register states that on December 9th 1917 James Percy, the son of William and Ethel Metcalf of Barningham House, was baptised at home. The obligatory William had already been baptised in 1915 in the chapel, along with his sister Florence.

The day William Todd called his landlord a tyrant – and regretted it

BARNINGHAM readers of *The Northern Echo* who opened their paper on the morning of Tuesday September 28th 1880 were astonished to see an impassioned letter from a local farmer denouncing his landlord, Mark Milbank Esq, as a tyrant.

William Robert Todd, 36-year-old tenant of Haythwaite farm’s 800 acres, complained bitterly that after he had recently rented out a few extra fields from someone else, Mark had summoned him to the Hall and forbidden him to go shooting on his newly-acquired land – or anywhere else.

William protested that he had gaming rights on his new fields and that was the only place he used a gun, but Mark told him bluntly: “I don’t allow my tenants to shoot. You must either give up shooting or my land.”

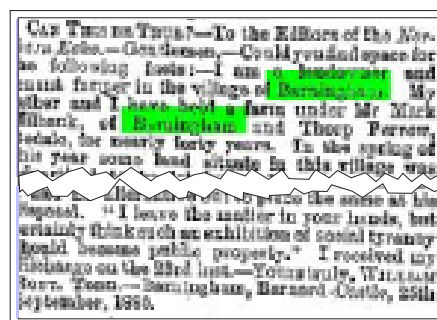
The problem was that the fields were surrounded by Milbank land and William’s shooting interfered with the nurture and slaughter of neighbouring Milbank pheasants.

“I returned home and wrote to Mr Milbank stating if that was the only condition upon which I could farm his land, I had no alternative but to place the same at his disposal,” wrote William in his letter to the *Echo*. “Such an exhibition of social tyranny” should be made public knowledge. The *Echo* agreed, and happily reprinted the letter in full under the headline *Can This Be True?*

Mark, who was 84 and had reached an age when he wasn’t going to waste what little time he had left arguing with rebellious tenants, promptly accepted William’s resignation as tenant of Haythwaite, and instructed his agent, Thomas Allanson, to find a new one.

William soon regretted sending the letter. He and his father before him had farmed Haythwaite for nearly 40 years, he had a wife and four young children to feed, there were hundreds of sheep, lambs and other beasts in his care, his newly-harvested hay was stacked up in his barns, and he had nowhere else to go.

Swallowing his pride, he went to Allanson asking if he could have his farm back and offering to hand all his shooting rights over to the Milbanks. Too late, said Allanson. Haythwaite had already been re-let, and would he mind leaving the place as soon as possible?



Part of William Todd's first letter to *The Northern Echo*

Allanson revealed all this in a letter to the *Echo* on September 30th, and added a fresh accusation: William, he claimed, had been putting turnips on his fields which attracted nearby Milbank pheasants, who ended up in the Todds’ supper pot. William vehemently denied this, saying he was only trying to lure hares within shooting range.

Allanson wasn’t William’s only critic that day: there was a second letter, written by someone hiding behind the pseudonym ‘Justice’, which accused him of “not having the manliness to state the whole facts of the case.” Mark, it said, had lived all his life among his tenants “on the very best of terms and friendship” and “has always been looked upon in the North Riding as a pattern to country gentlemen”. And was it not true, continued ‘Justice’, that William had hunted the moor for his sheep on August 12th, the very morning Mark had planned a shooting party, “to spoil his sport – although he was warned not to do so, and by doing so was also breaking the pasture rules agreed to by himself and others”?

William quickly responded. On October 1st the *Echo* carried another letter from him, describing Allanson’s claims as “a fabrication of falsehoods”. He had never gone on the moors with dogs on the Glorious Twelfth, even though he had been put to considerable loss by not being able to gather his sheep that day. “Let me remind ‘Justice’ and all parties concerned that Mr Milbank has not an exclusive right to the moor.”

William had relatives all over the area – some of them prominent local landowners, though none as powerful as the Milbanks – and they

Pub that became a haven of peace

Continuing our survey of all the houses in Barningham, with details of their history and who has lived in them over the years. If you have more information about featured houses, please let us know.

ELIM COTTAGE

DATING probably from the late 1600s, heightened in the 18th century and with bay windows added in Victorian times, Elim Cottage was for many years a public house called the Black Horse until a Methodist minister bought it in 1916 and closed it down.

There used to be a large sign above the door – see the photo below – and there's a lintel on the right above what was once a passageway giving access to stables at the back.

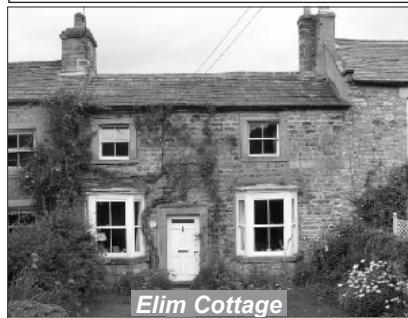
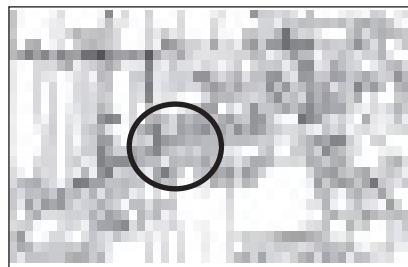
In 1823 the pub was owned by Alex Macdonald (see *Archive 3*), who ran it until his death in 1854. It was taken over by William Lee (probably his son-in-law), run briefly by George Temple and Thomas Rain in the early 1890s, and ended up in the hands of George Armstrong and his wife Jane, William's daughter, who was landlady there until 1916.

The cottage (christened Elim by the teetotal minister who closed it down: it means 'A Haven of Peace in the Wilderness' – see Exodus xv v.27) appears to have been bought by the Milbanks shortly after it was ceased to be a pub, and by the 1930s was home to the family of an ostler at the hall called Strover.

Later it was the home of a succession of district nurses. One, Miss Adamson ("a peach" says Neil Turner) lived there with her mother and brother; she was followed by Nurse Wearmouth,



The Black Horse, pictured a century ago



house histories

another unmarried girl who earned Neil's thorough approval. Major and Mrs Bannister were tenants in the late 1940s. She was cook at the hall and, says Neil, carried her husband's dinner home in a suitcase like a hot box.

Next came Beatrice Chilton, who had lived at Banks House with her uncle Ralph. When she died in 1953, Tot Bulmer, a gardener at the hall, moved in with his wife Ethel and their daughter Vera, later Mrs Bagley: she died in 1976; her mother in 1989, aged 96.

Within a year the Milbanks had sold the cottage to Alison Walton. Its name changed to Elm Cottage, but reverted to Elim after its sale in the mid-1990s to David and Julie Teasdale. A decade later they swapped homes with current owners Steve and Stef Ottevanger from Grinton.

● *The House Histories maps in the last Archive mistakenly showed Westoe as the Black Horse site, not Elim – sorry! The same feature said David and Doreen Powell had five daughters; there were only four (though Doreen says it felt like a lot more at times).*

wesleyans in barningham

to the village, and no doubt great success will attend the labours of the inhabitants, who have put forth their energy to erect this Chapel."

Was the Chapel rebuilt using the old stone or was the original building enlarged? My next task is to find a map that predates 1815; the earliest one so far is the 1838 tithe map.

The only known photograph of the interior appears on Page 1, but there are various documents that give us some insight into how it must have looked. My favourite is an extract from the *D&S Times* dated April 24th 1869:

"The recent alterations in this place of worship have lately been supplemented by further improvements and embellishments. The surface of the walls internally has been neatly papered with a handsome imitation of Sienna marble. Above the rostrum has been affixed a tablet containing the Lord's Prayer, beautifully emblazoned in gold and colours. This little sanctuary may now be considered a model of elegance in its appearance, and of comfort in its arrangements. We may add that the painting and artistic work have been executed by Mr J Stevenson of Barningham."

I would have loved to have seen it!

When the Chapel first opened the seats were free, unlike the ones in the church which were all paid for. However by 1897 the stewards' accounts show that several seats were being paid for, at an annual cost of 5s. Weekly collections for that year ranged from 4s 3d on June 13th to £1 7s on August 8th, the money mostly going to the Circuit in Barnard Castle to pay for preachers and administration.

Some collections were taken for specific reasons such as the Educational Fund, the Home Mission, Kingswood and the Preachers' Horse Hire Fund. The only records for this fund that I could find start in 1903: 10s 4d was collected in August that year.

Each year Mr J Todd paid one penny to the chapel in "acknowledgement for garden" but why and what for I have been unable to discover.

Mr Benjamin Morrell from the post office was the steward and he kept very detailed accounts of the expenditure of the chapel. A Mrs Allen was paid £1s 6d every six months

'An edifice of very pleasing appearance'

From the Teesdale Mercury, June 1868:

ON Sunday, the 5th inst, two excellent sermons were preached to crowded congregations, by Mr Thomas Tarn, of Hayberries, on the occasion of re-opening the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Barningham, after the recent alterations and improvements. The amount realised at the public services, together with a love feast, was upwards of £11.

As completed the edifice presents a very pleasing appearance. New Gothic windows and entrance have been substituted for the very plain ones formerly existing. A double flight of steps protected by neat metal railing has been constructed, and the whole of the chapel externally has been rough-cast.

Internally the alterations comprise the lowering of the floor, and re-seating with ornamental open benches. An elegant rostrum supplies the place of the antiquated pulpit, and is sufficiently commodious to serve as a platform when such is required. Ample arrangements have been made for lighting and warming.

The cost of the improvements will amount to about £120, the whole of which has been subscribed, together with more than £30 towards the extinction of the old debt. The various works have been creditably performed by Mr Joseph Walton, of Bowes.

for cleaning and occasionally earned an extra 1s 6d for weeding the path. There are several references to the stove that heated the chapel. In 1896 29cwt of coke was bought for 16s 11d and in later years there are payments for a stovepipe £1 12s 4d and stove door 3s. There was a clock (perhaps to time the sermons?) which in 1900 Mr. Young charged 2s 6d for cleaning, and in 1910 he charged the same amount for repairs. Lighting was provided by oil lamps – the oil being supplied by Mr Burn! – and a Mr Bell looked after the organ. In 1897 the door was painted in grained oak at a cost of 5s.

The chapel was apparently redecorated in 1898 when 24 pieces of paper were bought for £1 4s, and 74 yards of border at 2d a yard, and

wesleyans in barningham

the fringe for the pulpit was dyed (2s 8d). Further restoration work was done in 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1921 but no details are given. I was surprised to see that four blackout frames and dark blinds were not fitted until 1941.

It would seem that the chapel was well looked after. David Foster of Hutton Magna, who attended services as a boy, remembers it as being very plainly decorated in the 1950s and 60s. He can remember the pulpit at the front with steps on the right. According to Neil Turner this was quite large and very intricately carved. The organ was to the left of the pulpit and there were wooden pews on each side with a gap left for the pot-bellied stove.

By the 1950s it is surprising to see that many of the services were led by women: Miss Allen, Mrs Pettit and Mrs Stout. The last two were listed as exhorters (the equivalent of a lay reader) but Miss Allen seems to have no qualification; presumably after the war the number of ministers available was much diminished. David attended services from 1959 and remembers Miss Allen as a very slight elderly lady but when she was in the pulpit she still breathed fire!

By the early 1960s services were held at 6.30 on a Sunday and 7.00 on a Tuesday, but only a few families attended and when they either died or moved away the services finished, around about 1969, we think.

I have a copy of the declaration by the president of the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church giving the consent of the conference to the sale of the chapel and the land, dated

December 20th 1971 and signed by the Rev Herbert Rushworth, superintendent minister of the Barnard Castle Circuit. The chapel was then duly sold on July 8th 1972 to Victor Atherton of Gayles, with the covenants that "the premises... shall not be used for the manufacture distribution sale or supply of intoxicating liquors nor for any purpose in connection with the organisation or practice of gambling on any of its forms nor as a public Dance Hall."

Mr Atherton obtained the necessary planning permission and in 1973 bought the piece of land that is now the chapel garden from the Milbanks. He sold the land and chapel to Les and Janet Ridley of the Laurels in 1981, who in turn sold it three years later to Paul Charles Digweed from East Sussex, who eventually converted it into the house you see today. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his very sensitive conversion. The exterior looks very much as it always has and inside he created a comfortable family home.

In 1986 the property was sold to Graeme Ryman and his wife Diana and it was sold again in 1989 to Alison Smith from Woking in Surrey. I think that she rented out to several people, until Dr Swan bought it sometime in 1996 as a holiday home. He knocked two bedrooms into one and built an en-suite bathroom.

We are the current owners, Tony and Ann Orton, who moved here from Nottingham in 2005. We love living in the chapel and despite what two of our daughters claim to have heard we have never heard any ghostly singing!

● *The covenant forbidding the supply of intoxicating liquor on the premises has, of course, always been rigorously enforced. – Ed.*

Meanwhile, on the other side of the religious fence...

AS Methodism flourished in the 18th century, Catholics continued to have a hard time. Laws passed at the beginning of the 1700s ordered all Catholics to take the Oath of Supremacy and subscribe to a Declaration against Popery, or face severe penalties including the forfeiture of all land.

We've come across a list of people convicted at York in 1716 of being 'Popish recusants'. Among them was one man from Barningham, (Robert Collingwood), six from Newsham

(Robert Shaw, Henry Thompson, John Thompson, Robert Smithson, William Appleton and Christopher Hamon), four from Dalton (Gabriel Appleby, Paul Maltus, Matthew Pattison and William Chappelow) and a host from Arkengarthdale including nine confusingly called Barningham, two Hamonds and a Milner.

The laws remained in force until the end of the century and as late as 1771 a priest was tried for his life at the Old Bailey for saying Mass.

scargill castle visit (cont)

Unlike its medieval predecessor, this Tudor rebuild was never meant to be a true 'fortified' manor but just a facade to impress.

Mary died in 1578 and her grandson Francis sold the estates in Lancashire and moved to Wycliffe, at which point Scargill became disused as a principal residence. It is thought much of the fabric of the Scargill building was taken to Wycliffe. By 1780 Castle Farm had been built and the roof of the gatehouse was repaired and used as a barn and labourer's cottage.

Niall and Caroline are anxious to safeguard the future of the building and plan to convert it into a one-bedroom holiday let. We all owe them a deep debt of gratitude for preserving this part of our heritage; without their efforts it would probably be a heap of rubble by now.

● *Many thanks to Niall for making our visit so enjoyable and informative.*

letters & emails

Farmers in wartime

IT was lovely to meet you all at the last meeting.

I've just come across notes I made on the 1941 wartime agricultural survey of Barningham, which shows the names of the farmers at this time

They were: R Clarkson, Moorcock Farm; T F Alderson, Hill Top Farm; H B Watson, Glebe Farm; G T Lawson; Manor House Farm; C F Hutchinson, Saunder House; N S Jackson, Wilson House; R D Jackson, Crooks House; William Metcalfe & sons, Barningham; T G Nicholson, Barningham; A C Thompson, Eastwood Hall; J White; Haithwaite; W Todd, Fair View; R Chilton; Bragg House; Capt Beadon, agent for Sir F Milbank; J Brown, Bourn View (or South View?)

I think that it was as a result of the first survey that the farmer at Crooks House left and my uncle (John Gill) and my father (Richard Gill) took it over. This list may give Neil some names to reminisce over. When I read the list out to my dad he could remember all sorts of details about them all and their families. The full

reference is MAF 32/1076/190 at the National Archives in Kew.

If you are ever at Kew it would be worth getting a copy of the whole thing. There is a separate sheet for each farm.

MARION MOVERLEY, Richmond
moverley.lyons@virgin.net

● *Richard Gill's memories of farming in the area were recorded in his book No Time To Stand and Stare, published last year shortly before his death. See Archive 1. – Ed.*

South African link

YOUR group are doing a wonderful job with the Archive newsletter. My relative John Marriner, one of your subscribers, has been sending me copies which I find very interesting.

I want to start writing up my family history soon and was wondering which software programme to use. I believe you use Adobe, which I have on my computer, so I will see how it goes.

Thank you for the information and keep up the good work.

ARTHUR MARRINER

Port Elizabeth, South Africa alsak@iafrica.com

● *The Archive is produced using Adobe PageMaker, which is very good but expensive and as a result few people can access it. We've advised Arthur that if he's planning to produce something he can send by email for others to download, he might be better off using Microsoft Office Publisher, which does much the same thing as PageMaker and which almost everyone has or can access fairly easily.*

It comes with a fairly good tutorial and it will be the programme used in the desk top publishing course planned starting in Barningham village hall later in the autumn: if you want to join it, contact me. – Ed.



footnote

"I remember the seats where us boys used to sit. They were open at the back so we could pinch the bottoms of the girls in front." – Neil Turner, reminiscing about Sunday School in the old chapel in the 1940s.



PHOTO: PHIL HUNT

A tour of the wedding present castle

SEVENTEEN members of the history group visited Scargill Castle on September 17th. ANN ORTON reports.

ON a lovely September evening an eager group were warmly greeted by archaeologist Niall Hammond, who bought the castle as a wedding present for his wife Caroline in 1999.

The main surviving building, the gatehouse, was on the English Heritage "at risk" register and they were able to access funding for essential repairs. The whole building was re-pointed (they were surprised it was still standing, there was so little mortar left) and the chimney had to be rebuilt as it had collapsed when the Home Guard used it for training in the war! The roof was put back on and although much of the interior was beyond saving there was enough left to be able to replicate what had been there.

It was wonderful to be able to look around. We all climbed gingerly up the spiral staircase and were greeted by a lovely fire in a Victorian grate within the original Elizabethan surround. Two small windows, set into the three-foot-thick walls, look out onto fabulous views. Then up again to the bedroom with the same fabulous views but, much to Genevieve Ferrari's disappointment, no bed!

Niall explained that after the Norman Conquest the land was granted to the Scargill family and a settlement with a manor house (including fortified tower), a small chapel, a series of farms and a few small buildings was formed. The road

**Our guide: owner
Niall Hammond**



from Barningham passed directly in front of the house at that time, winding down to a ford.

In 1261 one of the Scargills married Clara Stapleton, who owned four manors in the West Riding, and the family moved there although they kept the property at Scargill. By 1538 there was no male heir. Mary (Maria) Scargill married Francis Tunstall of Thurland Castle in Lancashire and on his death returned to Scargill to live. She rebuilt the house and the gatehouse whose timbers have been dated to about 1552-57.

The remains of the Elizabethan floor and fireplace of a grand hall were found when the Time Team investigated the site, and there was also a tower and possibly an Elizabethan garden.

A brief history of molecatching

This is the text of young James Tirrell's highly commended entry in the Archive Awards

The Mole is an earthworm-eating, underground-living animal, that people think is a pest. A 75 per cent blind creature, it relies on its sense of smell. As it tunnels through the soil, it begins to need to surface and catch worms. So it finally erupts from the soil, making the unwanted heap of earth in a crop, lawn or cricket pitch! This is the main reason for people wanting to get rid of it. Hence molecatchers came into existence. Their federation still exists today.

Molecatchers originated from the Roman times. Back then they used earthenware pots, dug into the ground and filled with water as traps. Clay was a popular material retaining little trace of human scent, and moles, because they mainly rely on their fantastic sense of smell, were trapped more easily. Gradually, as time passed, the traps became more complex. The earthenware traps disappeared and were replaced by wooden ones, which finally became steel ones, designed so that when the mole passed through them, claws snapped shut.

Traditional molecatchers: Moving from farm to farm, traditional molecatchers caught moles for their clients, and they provided them with food and lodging in return. On large estates there may even have been a house for them, as there seems to have been at one time in Barningham. For each mole he caught, the molecatcher would be paid, earning extra money by selling moleskins to fur dealers. As well as this, plumbers used the moleskins to 'wipe', or finish joints in lead piping.

In Barningham a longstanding resident, John Carter, has been a molecatcher for 60 years. His experience catching moles on his farm makes him a real expert in the field and he talks of the tradition with real understanding and respect for these clever little creatures.

"The first thing I did before I laid the trap, was to cover my hands in soil from a molehill to get rid of the human scent," he said. "Then I'd follow the molehills along, then place the trap a few inches into the mole run somewhere between them. I would come later that day or



next day to see if I'd caught one." If the trap hadn't been scented by soil too, the clever mole would sense it and avoid it.

Modern Molecatchers: In modern times, traditional ways of catching moles (such as clay and steel traps) gave way to the use of poison. Even though using poison is more efficient than using steel or clay traps, environmental and ethical concerns have been raised over the use of poison.

There are complaints that it isn't only an inhumane way of catching the moles, but also there is the high possibility of other animals associated with moles could be poisoned as well. However, as the molecatcher in Henry Tegner's book *The Mole Catcher Says* said, "Cy'nides only fit for rats and rabbits. Moles are too fly for gas."

Instead strychnine, or snow as it was known, would be put in the mole's larder, where the moles bit off the "travellin' ends" of the worms and stored them. These days poison is highly controlled so mole numbers have risen. Farmers and gamekeepers instead rely on the traditional trap.

So next time you see trembling in the turf, think of the long-running battle of wits between man and this super-sniffing digging machine, the mole.

JAMES TIRRELL



footnote

NO space in this issue for the latest step in our 1841 census trail feature, but it will be back next time.

Agnes, a poor servant girl forbidden to find true love

HE was the son of the local methodist minister, educated and destined for high things. She was a beautiful but tragically disfigured young servant girl, daughter of a widowed washerwoman. At the height of the Edwardian era they fell in love.

Their families, horrified at the thought of marriage between two young people from such far-apart social backgrounds, did everything they could to halt the relationship. In a romantic novel they would have triumphed, married, and lived happily ever after. But it didn't work like that in Barningham. They spent the rest of their days apart, regretting what might have been.

The story has been unravelling in emails across the Atlantic from Lynda Johnson in Spokane, Washington DC, who wrote to us asking if the history group had any details about her grandmother Agnes Robinson, born in Barningham in 1888.

Yes, we replied; in fact there had been mention of her in *Archive 10* when the Census Trail spot featured the Robinson family living at North View in the early 1900s. Lynda emailed back with more information, plus the pictures you see here and the one on the front page of this newsletter of children in the chapel.

Agnes, her grandmother, was one of nine children of George and Elizabeth Robinson, and the unhappiness in her life started very early on. As a child she lost an eye, "put out by one of her brothers who was playing and threw a sharp object at her," says Lynda. "She had a glass eye but was disfigured, and they always removed her from school pictures and so on because of that. It is so sad as she was a beautiful woman."

Agnes left school, started work as a domestic servant in the village, and fell in love with the minister's son (whose name we have yet to discover). "He would try to call on her," says Lynda, "but her mother would not allow or approve of it because they were in different classes in society, my grandmother being a disfigured servant girl."

Confirmation of all this came when Lynda crossed the Atlantic to visit Barningham with her mother in 1973. "We were invited to tea with a minister in Barnard Castle, who related how his dad had told him that he had been in love with Agnes but had not been allowed to pursue that because of being in different classes," she tells us.

"I think my mom was shocked to hear personally that my grandmother had lost her chance at love and that it was all actually true."

By 1911 Agnes had left Barningham to work as a



servant for a family called Waumsley who ran a grocer's shop in Nidd, near Knaresborough. She never married, but she did have a child – Lynda's mother Joyce, born in 1921. The father, says Lynda, was a farm-hand called Todd "working at a place called Overlook Farm". We can't track this down, but we have found a family of Todds living in 1911 at Holme Bottom Farm in Nidd – and there were five young sons among them, any of whom might well have been Joyce's father.

According to Lynda, Agnes almost died in childbirth, and the baby's name was chosen by the nurses attending her. She was later registered as 'Joyce T. Robinson' – T for Todd, perhaps?

Agnes never returned to Barningham with the baby and was disowned by her family. "It is all so sad," says Lynda, "but she loved Barningham so much and passed that on to me!"

Joyce went to the States as a GI bride after the war and Lynda was born there. In the late 1950s Agnes



Mary, Annie and Agnes Robinson, pictured around 1905 (Agnes turning her face from the camera to hide the loss of her eye). Left, Agnes in her seventies, pictured aboard the Mauretania on her way to visit Barningham in the 1960s

moved over to spend her last years with them, returning twice to Barningham to visit relatives. She died in August 1968 and is buried in Washington.

Agnes was not the only Robinson girl to suffer great misfortune. Her younger sister Mary, born in 1894, lost her hearing after catching measles as a child, and grew up with severe speech problems. While the rest of the Robinsons later moved away, she stayed in Barningham, living alone in one of the Heath Cottages until the 1960s. She then moved to Barnard Castle, where Lynda visited her in 1973 and recalls her as "quite a character". She died three years later and is buried in Barningham churchyard.

● *Mary is the girl fourth from the right in the back row in the cover photo of this Archive. One of the boys is her brother Bobby, destined to die of pneumonia in 1909. He, too, is in the churchyard, in an unmarked grave.*

● *Lynda came back to Barningham in 2004, and plans another visit one day.*

from the parish mag

120 YEARS AGO: The Children's Treat, which Sir Frederick and Lady Milbank give every year at the Hall, gave the children of the parish a happy afternoon; and as invitations were not restricted to the children, a great many of the parishioners, in fact we suppose as many as could find time and be spared from the harvest and other farm work, were on the ground. A large tent was erected where all had tea, and an excellent tea it was. The Band of the Militia were engaged from Barnard Castle and their bright uniforms and the hundreds of little flags which lined the beautiful terraces and slopes made the scene very picturesque and pretty.
– October 1890

90 YEARS AGO: The Secretary of the Board of Education has sent the following report upon Scargill school: 'Notwithstanding the irregular attendance at this remote moorland school through the winter months, the general condition of the work is creditable. The tone is happy and pleasant. The children are eager to learn; they are carefully trained in habits of self-reliance and independent effort, and the older girls use books profitably. Needlework, drawing and handwork are above the average. Games are played with an unselfish spirit.'

– October 1920

60 YEARS AGO: It is proposed to hold a series of whist drives on Thursdays. The proceeds will go to Church expenses which, like everything else, are "going up". Anne Lawson, having gained her School Certificate, has left Richmond Girls' Grammar School and is to become a Student Nurse at Northallerton. Donald Malsbury has won a scholarship and now attends the Boys' Grammar School, Richmond. Well done Donald! Baptisms: John Hartley, son of James and Margaret Maude; Elizabeth June, daughter of George and Nancy Collinson.
– October 1950

40 YEARS AGO: The Harvest Thanksgiving services are on Friday October 9th at 7pm and Sunday October 11th at 6.30. There will be very few as they look back on this remarkable summer who find no reason to thank God for the wonders of His creation in the traditional way.
– October 1970