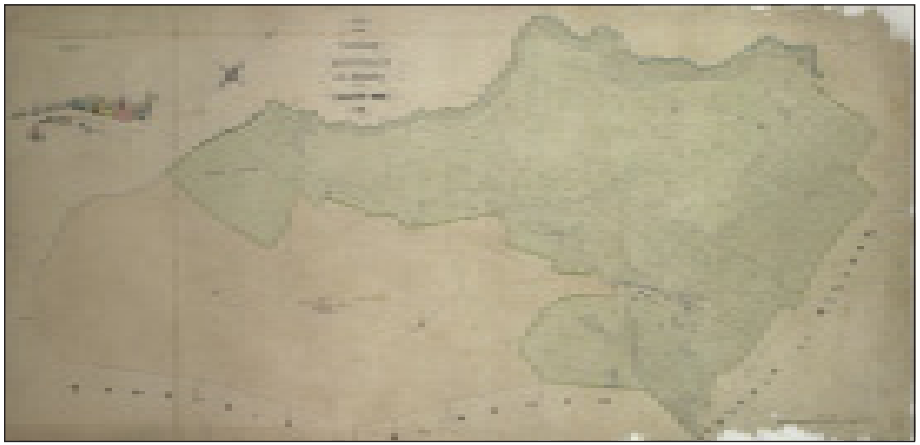


Map goes on show

THIS FULL-SIZE (five foot by two) replica of the 1838 tithe map rescued from the Rectory last spring is now on display in the village hall.

Presented by the history group, it was paid for from the DRCC 'community of the year' award money.

Bring along a picture

HISTORY group members coming to our next meeting are invited to bring along an old photo to show the rest of us.

Pictures can be of people, places or anything else of interest. We may feature some in future Archives.

footnote

COPIES of the 'Barningham Memories' DVD, created from Neil Turner's cine films from the 1960s, are available from Eric Duggan, history group treasurer. They're £8 each: contact Eric on 01833 621455 or email ericduggan@kayduggan.fsnet.co.uk

old hints & recipes

A Cure for the Dropfy

MIX Horse Knops (centaurea nigra, Black Bindweed), Broom, Golden Rod and Hollands Gin.

●Dropsy is an over-accumulation of watery fluid in the tissues or body cavity, often the result of heart or kidney disease. It was a common explanation for death in Victorian days. This recipe does not go on to give quanitities!

Pickled Goofeberrief

TAKE four quarts (2lb) of green gooseberries, three pints of vinegar, ¼oz salt, ¼oz of ginger, ½oz of allspice, ½oz of garlic, 1oz of mustard, one nutmeg, one teaspoonful of mace.

Stew all in the oven until it is all reduced, then pass through a sieve. It is excellent, and much nicer than a chutney.

– One of Brenda Lawson's family recipes

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

The Archive

Copies of *The Archive*, the newsletter of Barningham Local History Group, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2011). Back issues can be purchased for £2 each (see index on our website). Contact Jon Smith, Tel: 01833 621374 email: history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk website: www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

BLHG

Archive 13

Jan^{y} MMXI

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

INSIDE: ●The missing clock ●School history ●Waxworks night

Snow more

Photos of historic interest don't have to be very old. This one, taken less than 20 years ago, shows something we're unlikely ever to see again in Barningham: one of Britain's tallest monkey puzzle trees. See Page 15

contents

BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
INVITE YOU TO OUR

NEW YEAR GET-TOGETHER

at BRAESIDE, BARNINGHAM
on
SUNDAY JANUARY 2nd from 12.20pm

LUNCHTIME SAVOURIES
BRING A iBOTTLE (or two)

Numbers limited so book now! Tickets £5 a head from Kay Duggan 621455 or Tony Orton 621024

NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUES JANUARY 11th 6pm

A new plaque and great mince pies!

minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday December 7 2010:

Present: Jon Smith, Mark Watson, Sheila Catton, Phil Hunt, Neil Turner, Ann Orton, Tony Orton, Kay Duggan, Eric Duggan, Jane Hackworth-Young (Rokeby), Sue Prytherick, Greta Carter, Ed Simpson, Beverley Peach and guests Eddy, Natalie and Harry Milbank.

Apologies: Ann Hutchinson, Diane Metcalf.

Plaque unveiling: Jon welcomed Eddy and his family and thanked them for coming to the meeting to unveil the brass plaque commemorating the opening of the village school exactly 135 years ago to the day. Eddy said what an honour it was to be asked to unveil the plaque as when the school had been opened on December 7 1875 none of the Milbank family was available to perform a formal ceremony. He was very happy to be able to acknowledge the part his family had played in the provision of the school and was pleased to know that the village still valued this (see *Archive 11* for full details of the school opening).

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising: The clock: Jon brought us up to date on the ongoing saga of the missing village hall clock – see Page 3. Neil Turner said his mother believed it had been sent to Ripon but he wondered if it came back to the post office as there was once a big station-type clock in the window. Jon asked what happened to the school weathercock: Neil said it was taken down when the school closed and never seen since.

Map: It had been agreed at the Parish Meeting to use some of the prize money from the DRCC competition to create a replica of the 1838 Tithe map (now received and on show).

BBC: Who Do You Think You Are? had sent us two copies of the December issue which contains the article on our group.

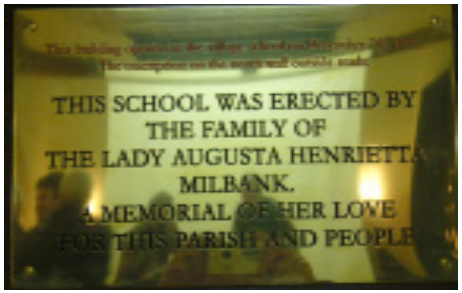
DVD: Eric Duggan said 15 had been sold and there were still some available.

Correspondence: Jon has had an influx of emails from people asking for help with their family histories: details in the future *Archives*.

Financial report: Income since the last meeting totalled £827 (much of it advance subscriptions) and expenditure £473.75, leaving a balance at the end of November of £663.18.

Recipe: The meeting was interrupted at this point by Kay and Greta with mince pies made from the

Eddy, Harry, Natalie and the plaque



Elizabethan recipe featured in *Archive 12*. Everyone agreed that they were very tasty, and all were were soon polished off!

House Histories: The Yews and Post Cottage.

Publications: Archive 12 had been delivered.

Oral history: Phil would try to borrow some equipment for interviews.

Guest speaker: Eric Barnes was unable to attend due to bad weather. A new date will be scheduled.

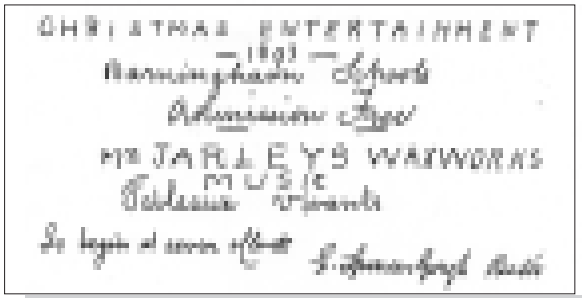
Next meeting: January 11 at 6pm.

Any other business: Jon suggested that members bring old family pictures to discuss at forthcoming meetings.

Fund-raiser: Kay and Eric's offer to hold a social and fundraising event at Braeside on January 2nd at12.30 was enthusiastically agreed. Tickets would be £5 with food provided but people to bring their own drink.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

The night Mrs Jarley brought waxworks to life



Waxworks: highlight of a Victorian Christmas

THIS crumpled little hand-drawn notice from 117 years ago was discovered by Marion Moverley and given to the BLHG when she came to speak to our September meeting.

Mrs Jarley, created by Charles Dickens in *The Old Curiosity Shop*, was the "stout and comfortable" waxworks exhibition proprietress who employed Little Nell.

christmas 1893

The idea of staging waxworks exhibitions rapidly caught the imagination of Victorian ama-teur dramatics groups after the book's publication in 1841, and as they hadn't got real waxworks they devised an alternative: people dressing up as Mrs Jarley and waxwork figures to perform live shows. They became enormously popular events on both sides of the Atlantic for at least 60 years.

The 'waxworks' appeared on stage in groups, each one being described in a humorous way by the supposed Mrs Jarley. Then they were 'wound up' and 'oiled' by her assistants before springing to life and performing a few jerky, mechanical movements. Audiences loved it, including the one at Barningham on the night of Thursday December 14th 1893. "The programme was most attractive," reported the *Teesdale Mercury* the following Wednesday.

"Every character was splendidly sustained, and both the 'figures' and the dresses occasioned continuous and enthusiastic applause from a delighted audience which filled the school-room. Indeed, many were unable to get inside, and had to be content with looking through the windows."

In charge was the Rector, the Rev Edwin Spencer Gough, whose aging American mother-in-law Mrs Frances Morand, visiting Barningham at the time, played the part of Mrs Jarley. There were 14 tableaux, some illustrating nursery rhymes, others historical subjects, and all accompanied by popular songs.

"The music, vocal and instrumental, was tastefully performed," said the *Mercury*, "and, altogether, it was universally admitted to have been one of the most delightful evenings of the kind the people had ever enjoyed. We cannot single out any part of the programme for special notice or praise, for it all appeared so perfectly done.

"Those who for some weeks had been making preparation, and those who took part, must have felt well rewarded by the large attendance, and by the unstinted praise and enthusiasm the whole performance called forth."

The parish magazine for January 1894 mentions the event, and lists others who took part. Adults included the Misses A and G Watson, the Rev A W Close, Messrs J and R Johnson, John Nicholson, Miss A Goldsbrough and E Coates; among the children were Nellie and Georgina Sayer, Alice Westmorland, Lily Raw, Sydney Coates, Paul Birtwhistle, Harry and Bertie Chilton and the wonderfully surnamed Dora Squance.

The notices for the event appear to have been made using carbon paper, the only method of copying documents available at the time. The handwriting suggests that they were copied out laboriously by Barningham's schoolchildren from an original by the Rector. He forgot to say when the show was taking place, and had to add the date, in ink, to each one before it was sent out to potential spectators.

● *Many thanks to Marion Moverley for giving us the notice and other items of interest.*

Blacksmiths, Carters and farmers

1841 census trail

Continuing our series tracing Barningham's 1841 census form collector through the village

THE 31st dwelling on the 1841 list was the home of 31-year-old Elizabeth **Cockfield**, an agricultural labourer with an eight-year-old son called Theophilus.

Theophilus had been born in Reeth, and there's no record of his father. By 1851 both he and his mother had moved away. Theophilus was then apprenticed to a draper in Barnard Castle marketplace; there's no record of Elizabeth that year, or of either of them thereafter.

Living in the same building as the Cockfields in 1841 was Elizabeth's 22-year-old newly-married sister Alice and her husband, blacksmith George **Walker**, 20. Not long afterwards, a 68-year-old widow called Dorothy Cockfield – almost certainly the mother, possibly the grandmother of Alice and Elizabeth – moved in with them all.

George came from Whashton, his wife from Barningham. Their first child, Richard, was born in 1842 and followed by William, Isabel, Anne and John. William died in 1860 at the age of 16, his mother two years later. Richard and John both became blacksmiths in the village , but died relatively young: Richard in 1893, his brother in 1900. Isabel and Ann moved away.

George took a second wife a few years after Alice died, marrying a Barnard Castle woman called Hannah who was in her early thirties. They had three children, Georgiana, William and Robert, before the family left Barningham sometime after 1871 and moved to Hutton Magna.

Hannah died not long afterwards, and by 1881 George and the three youngsters were being looked after by one of George's daughters-in-law, 25-year-old Mary. We don't know which of his sons she'd married, but she had three young children of her own living there too. By 1891 we've lost track of all but George, who, by then 72, was living in Richmond with his daughter Isobel and her stonemason husband Richard Balloch. George appears to have died a few years later.

Back to 1841 and the next entry from the census enumerator's book. This was for a couple called Charles and Mary **Garforth**, both aged about 80, who were living with their 32-year-old daughter (or possibly grand-daughter) Ann. There had been a Garforth family in Barningham since the 1780s, but these were to be the last. Mary died the following year; Charles, working as an agricultural labourer to the end, in 1843. Ann remained unmarried, living alone and working on farms in the village until her death in the 1870s.

Next on the list was Robert **Elliott**, another agricultural labourer. He was 50, living with his daughters Isabella, 12, and ten-year-old Anne. He was a widower, formerly married to Elizabeth (nee **Appleby**) who had died seven years earlier at the age of 44.

Robert himself died in 1848. By 1851 Isabella had either married or left the village. Anne was working as a servant for a neighbour, George Walton, another widowed farm worker with a young family. There is no further trace of her.

The next 1841 entry was the village shop, now Post Cottage, where Thomas **Carter** was running a grocery and drapery business. He'd been a shopkeeper in the village since at least 1823 (see Page 16) and was now a widower in his sixties with two daughters, 23-year-old Sarah and Caroline, 20, still at home. Their mother may have been the Jane Carter (possibly nee **Moore**), who was buried at Barningham aged 46 in 1832.

Thomas served on at the shop until his death in 1858. Caroline died, unmarried, two years later. Of Sarah we have no further information.

Moving up the village and over the road, our census trail takes us next to Hill Top, and the **Alderson** family whose descendant George is still there. In 1841 the occupant was David Alderson, a farm worker in his early thirties, his wife Margaret (a **Bainbridge**) and their daughters Esther, two, and a baby named after her mother. More children were to follow: four sons called James, John, Thomas and David.

Young Margaret spent most of her childhood living nearby with her aunt Ruth, David's sister who had married cordwainer George **Pearson** (see Page 16 again). The boys grew up on the farm; some left to work elsewhere, others remained until their father's death in 1874, when young David took over the farm. His mother died in 1893.

● *See Archives 1 and 5 for detailed Alderson family trees.*

Stories – and even a cartoon – in the Teesdale Mercury and Northern Echo

The great village hall clock mystery

LITTLE did we imagine back in October, when one of us asked idly at our history group meeting what had become of the village hall clock, that it would provoke page lead news coverage in all the local press and even feature as the story of the week on BBC Radio Tees.

The whatever-happened-to-it? query was prompted by our publication of the *Teesdale Mercury*'s report of the opening in 1875 of Barningham school in the building that is now the village hall.

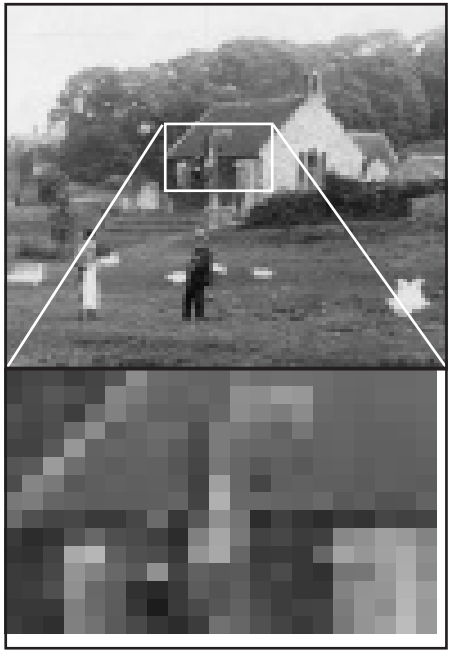
It talked about a clock "presented chiefly by the Rev W F Wharton, late rector of the parish" that would be placed in a gable on the north side. It was, said the *Mercury,* an eight-day-clock, two feet in diameter, made by the highly reputable firm of Benson of Ludgate Hill, London (founded in 1749 and shortly to become clockmakers to Queen Victoria).

The Rev William Fitzwilliam Wharton had been rector of Barningham from 1840 until his retirement at the age of 63 just two years before the school opened. "Presented chiefly" suggests there had been some kind of fund-raising effort to buy the clock. Who else contributed?

The *Mercury* doesn't say whether or not the clock chimed the hours, but there was a bell in the tower at the west end of the building which was rung to summon pupils to school.

Chiming or not, there is no doubt that a clock was installed. The photograph above right, taken almost certainly in the 1880s, shows it clearly (enlarged still further, you can even see that the hands are pointing to 1 and 4, and the absence of shadows suggests that the sun was overhead and the time twenty past one).

Sometime after that the clock vanished.



The clock in place, around 1880.

When? Read on and judge for yourself from the evidence.

Exhibit 1 is the parish magazine for May 1890. In his notes the Rev Edwin Spencer Gough, who had just taken over as Rector from the Rev Wharton's successor, the Rev George Hales, wrote:

> THE CLOCK FUND. – I daresay few are aware of the existence of this fund. It was started, I believe, by Mr Wharton, a former Rector of Barningham,

the missing clock mystery

> giving a donation of £5, since when two more donations and interest have brought the amount to over £10. It was for a clock in the new schools which, since the excellent clock has been placed over the Hall stables, has become unnecessary. I cannot, therefore, say what will be done with the money at present: those who have had to do with it must decide. Perhaps a non-striking clock would be useful.

Later in the same magazine are the annual parish accounts, showing that the Clock Fund had been set up with the Rev Wharton's £5 on November 2 1877 and the money invested in the Yorkshire Penny Bank. In 1880 there were the two further donations totalling £2.10s, and by the end of December 1889 the account had generated £2.14s 9d interest, making a total in the fund of £10.4s 9d.

In May 1892 the accounts record a further five shillings-worth of interest. Then the Clock Fund vanishes. Accounts are published, but they are much briefer than the previous ones and there is no further mention of the £10. 9s. 9d (plus more interest) sitting in the Yorkshire Penny Bank... if it was still there.

All this raises a host of questions:

? Why did the Rev Wharton set up the Fund in 1877? He'd left Barningham four years earlier and retired to the French Riviera (hard life, being a retired rector in those days). He'd already given one clock. What prompted him to suggest another one? Had the first clock already vanished or broken down?

? Was the Fund intended to pay for a second clock *inside* the school (one that struck the hours, which suggests that the one outside – if it was still there – didn't). The Rev Gough clearly thought so.

? Who made the other donations and why did they dry up after 1880? Was this because nobody wanted a second clock after that – because, as the Rev Gough pointed out, there was now one on the Hall stable block chiming out the hours? (it's still there, and chiming well).

? What happened to the money in the Yorkshire Penny Bank? Did it stay there, forgotten, until nobody could remember who it belonged to and the bank shut the account? Or did the Rev Gough, the churchwardens or someone else decide to close it in 1891 and, if so, where did the £10. 9s 9d go? (It was a lot of money in those days – the entire year's church collections only came to £31. If it had stayed in the bank, with compound interest it would be worth about £1,146,760 today).

None of this answers the question about what happened to the original clock, of course. Neil Turner recalls his mother Hannah telling him that it was taken away during the first world war, perhaps in 1916, for repair by a firm in Ripon, and never came back.

Well, enter Exhibit 2, found at Durham County Records Office which holds all the school logs and school managers' minutes for the years 1875 to 1930. Among them is this entry in the school log for Tuesday September 11th 1917:

> Canon Gough visited this morning and checked the registers and found them correctly marked. He brought back the school clock which he had cleaned and repaired. It is now going splendidly and keeping correct time.

That's the only mention of a clock during all those years, but it's enough to prove one was still around somewhere. So:

? Was it the original clock, from outside? Or a second clock, bought with the Fund money and situated inside the classroom?

? Had Canon Gough cleaned and repaired it himself? Or had he sent it away, perhaps to Ripon?

Whichever clock this 1917 note referred to, there certainly wasn't one on the outside by the 1930s: all our oldest residents are agreed that all that could be seen on the front of the building when they were young was the same empty space we see today.

? So what happened to the original clock? When and where did it go? And why did nobody think to ask where it was for at least the next 70 years? We still haven't the faintest idea.

● *Neil says mischievously that there was an ornate clock in the post office for many years in the 1950s and wonders if it was the one from the school. Send us your theories – we'd love to solve the mystery!*

● *The 1875 Mercury report said the bell tower had a weathercock on top, which Neil believes was taken down when the school closed in 1944. So what happened to that? Cue for the Mercury and Echo to leap into print again!*

Stan Atherton, Amy Ethering-ton and Connie Atherton take a break in the sun-shine outside the post office in the 1960s.

Below left, the ad for the post office when it went for sale a few years later

house histories

competitor). Carter was there for another decade or so, before the village shop was taken over by Elizabeth Shepherd. By 1871 it was in the hands of Benjamin Morrell and his wife Maria, who ran it for the next 30 years and more, taking on the role as postmaster and making their home the post office as well as village shop sometime in the late 1800s.

Their successors were Thomas and Florence Shepherd, followed by the Grahams, Chadwicks, Athertons, Richmonds and Galilees (see *Archive 2* for a full account of the post office since 1900).

The current owners are Andrew Grimston and family, to whom we're grateful for sending us a copy of the 1838 auction poster.

neil's notes

● When Mr Phillips visited the Milbank Arms just after moving into The Yews, he said he didn't want to sit in the bar and asked us to open up the big room for him. Then he asked who the local gentry were, and when I replied "The Milbanks" he said: "Consider me the second gentry!" I wasn't impressed.

● During the war, I remember, the Todd sisters used to collect sphagnum moss from the moor, dry it in the front garden and then send it off to the army to be used for dressing wounds. They collected nettles, too, and dried them for iodine.

● Annie Emmett who worked at the post office for years knitted a pair of socks for every baby born in the village, blue for boys and pink for girls. I filmed her when she returned to the village for her 90th birthday: it's on the history group DVD.

● Mary Richmond closed the village shop after a row with a neighbour who did all her shopping at the supermarket but used to knock her up every Sunday for something she'd forgotten.

● The post box used to stand outside the post office (it was moved down the road when the shop closed) and I remember it had metal feet and was tarmaced into the ground. One day a boy from the village pinched a rude book from his dad's drawer and showed it to a girl, who to his horror posted it in the box. He waited until later and then tried to dig the box out of the tarmac with a pick-axe! He was discovered and his dad had to pay for its reinstatement.


Post Cottage

The auction poster from 1838


Outside the post office, c1900: Benjamin Morrell's name is over the door

house histories

Neil Turner. "He had a moustache that curled round and the ends went up his nose.") In his retirement Eric ran a company supplying pub snacks. The couple had a son, found dead, says Neil, in mysterious circumstances in the Scotch Corner Hotel.

They were followed at The Yews by salesman David and Sylvia Miles and their children Jeremy and Trudy, and then, in the late 1970s, by John and Clare Pumphrey and their sons David and John.

A decade later the house was occupied for a few years by a young couple no-one can recall (except that one of them bumped Kay Duggan's car) before Lady Davina Barnard, the current owner, arrived in 1993.

POST COTTAGE

SO-NAMED, of course, because for more than a century it was the village post office.

It's a 17th-century cottage with a shopfront added sometime in the late 1800s and famed for the green telephone box outside. We don't know when it first became a shop, but it was probably at least 180 years ago.

Thomas Carter was recorded as a village shopkeeper in 1823, and in 1841 he was running his grocery and drapery business in what is now Post Cottage.

The poster on the left, advertising the sale of shop furniture and stock in 1838, was found in the cottage some years ago. Up for auction was a variety of household furniture – beds, tables, chairs, kitchen utensils and "a good clock with oak case" – as well as stock-in-trade including clothes, cloth, tobacco, foodstuffs, tea, the shop counters and even his weights and scales.

All these belonged to George Pearson, who was giving up his business to work as a cordwainer (see *Archives 9, 10* and *11* for more). We don't know if he had been based in Post Cottage, and Carter moved in there in 1838, or if Pearson had premises elsewhere in the village and Carter, long-established in Post Cottage, bought some if not all the stock up for auction and kept the poster as a record of his purchases (and perhaps something to gloat over as evidence of his commercial triumph over a

letters & emails

Anyone know where the Judsons lived?

I received your society details and was most impressed with what has been created in a small village.

My interest is in the Judson family who crop up in christening records for Barningham and also Kirby Ravensworth from 1670. I would be interested to place the family to a more precise location, a farm possibly, maybe Dalton Fields where a Thomas Judson was born in 1772. He was married in London to an Elizabeth Judson (a first cousin?), the daughter of William Judson and Elizabeth Rowlandson. I have miniatures of them, inscribed with death in Pimlico. This boy was enjoying the good life!

My mother was the last to carry the Judson name from this family. If any of your members has information as to domiciles or any other I would be very interested.

DAVID SAWYER, Mobberley, Cheshire
family.soya@virgin.net

● *There are 15 Judsons/Judgsons/Jugsons buried in Barningham between 1629 and 1802 and we've tracked down a number of births and marriages involving the surname. David is trying to piece them together and we hope to do more on them later –Ed.*

Westmarland links

WHAT a great website! I find it especially interesting as my grandmother was a Westmarland of Barningham – Jane (born 1875), one of the five Miss Westmarlands who were looked after by their uncle George after their parents died.

I have the Westmarland family tree going back to the early 1700s and am related to Bainbridges, Coates, Lawsons and Grahams.

I never lived in Barningham but have many happy memories of visiting relatives there as a child. The post office was run by Bob Graham and his wife Alice, my grandmother's sister, and my father stayed there as a young boy, probably around 1927. Once Alice made a batch of jam tarts and he ate so many that he went into a coma (he wasn't diabetic but it sounds similar) and his mother and the doctor had to be sent for.

We often visited the Lawsons (Tom and Annie) who had a farm at the end of the village. Another of my grandmother's sisters, Edith, married a Bainbridge and lived at The Terrace, a strange-looking place, and I see it again on the website. Their daughter Myra married Hughie Watson and I believe there are Watsons still in Barningham.


Thomas and Elizabeth Judson

My grandmother married John George Alcock from East Cowton and my father, also called John George, was born in 1919. I'm now in Australia so it's a bit hard to find out much but I'll be visiting your website regularly.

JANE BROWN, Australia
jb.edits@bigpond.net.au

● *The Lawsons lived at Manor Farm; the Watsons were the grandparents of Mark Watson of Sussex House. Jane was directed to our website by Dani Miles – see the letter on the next page. The story of the Westmarland sisters is a remarkable one, and we plan to tell it in a future Archive – Ed.*

Clarkson connections

I'M seeking information on John Clarkson, born about 1823 in Barningham. He subsequently moved to Ambleside and his son John, born about 1853, migrated to South Australia in 1877. He was my great-grandfather.

I have little info on Barningham Clarksons but have done a lot of digging about the area which sounds lovely and would love to visit sometime. Thank you for any help.

ANN KUGLER, Austin, Texas, USA
annandy42@hotmail.com

● *There have been scores of Clarksons in Barningham over the years – 56 are buried in the churchyard. We've sent Ann information about possible ancestors, including a John Clarkson christened here in January 1825 – Ed.*

letters & emails

Relations everywhere

MANY congratulations to your group for its energy and public spirit.

I had relatives in Barningham – Cameron/Kellett and Atkinson/Fenwicks. The connection is a bit tenuous. My great-grandfather John Cameron (1850-1913) had a sister Margaret who married Joshua Collinson, whose daughter Sara married John Atkinson of Wilson House.

My father was the son of John Cameron's daughter and a local farmer in 1916 (I have the details but other descendants are still alive in the area and I don't want to embarrass them by giving names).

I don't often get up your way but sometimes we bring a caravan to Lartington, and I would spend all summer in the area if I could.

On one visit I was standing outside the library in Barney waiting for it to open and I got into conversation with five ladies. We discovered that I was related to all five of them!

DANI MILES, Havant, Hampshire
wrynose47@gmail.com

● *Dani has supplied us with family trees including details of several other local families including Andersons, Alsops, Sowerbys and Watsons. She's writing a family history and when that's published we may be able to reveal more – Ed.*

Tracking the Wisemans

I'M trying to find out about a cordwainer called John Helmsley Wiseman who got married at Barningham in around 1813.

His daughter Ann married at Barnard Castle and had a son called William – my husband's great-grandfather.

SANDRA CLEMINSON, Bridlington
davidcleminson@btinternet.com

● *There were Wisemans in the village from the 1600s to 1870s. We tracked down John Wiseman's marriage to April 1814, when he married Mary Brown. They lived in a cottage near the pub, rented from the Milbanks, and raised a family here. Ann married at Barnard Castle register office in 1839 – one of the first recorded civil weddings. We've sent Sandra details from our census records –Ed.*

from the parish mag

120 YEARS AGO: Sir Frederick Milbank has most kindly sent parcels of clothing for distribution in Newsham and Barningham Sunday Schools, the girls are each to receive sufficient material for a dress and the boys a warm navy blue jersey. *– January 1891*

90 YEARS AGO: At a meeting of the District Nursing Association, it was agreed that in future non-subscribers requiring the services of the Nurse should pay 1s. for the first visit and 3d. per visit thereafter. The revised Maternity Fees are now: To subscribers – Without doctor, one guinea; with doctor, 7s 6d. To non-subscribers – Without doctor 30s; with doctor. 15s. *– January 1921*

80 YEARS AGO: I am sorry to find from the Magazine payments book that 21 people have as yet paid nothing for 1930; 7 have not paid for 1929; 7 have not paid for 1928; and 7 are owing various amounts for 1927. Some of these have been receiving the Magazine for the last four years, and have paid nothing. I cannot believe there is any intentional dishonesty, but it is difficult to understand. The amount owing to the Magazine account is £6 4s 4d. Money should be paid to the Rector.
– January 1931

70 YEARS AGO: For their Christmas treat the school children went to Barnard Castle, where they saw a cinema show and also had tea. They also received some money to spend and were given sweets. This treat was possible owing to the generosity of the people of Barningham and Newsham. We are all very grateful to the collectors in both villages.
– January 1941

45 YEARS AGO: Once again the members of the Women's Institute have given the children a most magnificent Christmas Party, with Santa Claus and Mr Cherry, the conjuror who delighted and mystified both young and old alike.
–January 1966

15 YEARS AGO: Once again the A66 has been the scene of a traffic accident which involved one of our parishioners. This has highlighted the danger faced by all who travel on this road, especially the stretch from Bowes to Scotch Corner, sandwiched between wide roads that have been 'duallised'. It is a horrific situation. *– January 1996*

Todds galore, trees and shopkeepers

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.

THE YEWS

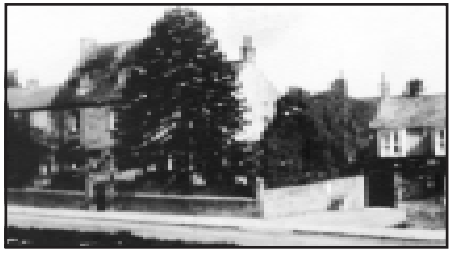
TWO buildings linked together, one half later than the other. The lefthand side probably started out as a typical 17th-century cottage, and when the 1838 tithe map was drawn (see below) it is shown as no wider than its neighbours, though stretching further back, with a garden to the east.

The house, garden and field to the rear all belonged to William Todd, and during the next decade or so he enlarged the house and built a new section linked to it at the back of the garden, with a front door where the two met. It became one of the Todds' family homes in the village and remained in Todd hands for the next century.

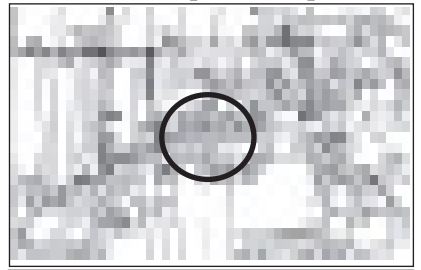
Why it was called The Yews seems obvious, though there are no trees of that kind beside it today. What there was in the garden was a monkey puzzle tree, planted by the Todds, which was to grow to enormous size: in 1965 it was described as the tallest of its kind in the North Riding. It was felled some 30 years later for safety reasons.

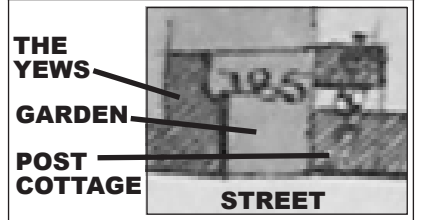
There were several William Todds around in Barningham in the mid-1800s. We're not absolutely certain which one lived at The Yews, but think it was the one born in 1800 who married Hannah and whose son James was to build Fairview. In 1911 James' 35-year-old son William was living at The Yews with his wife Sophie, and when he moved out sometime later his four sisters – Minnie, Margaret, Mary and Lilian – moved in.

Minnie married and moved away. Mary married, moved away, was widowed within a year and came back. Margaret and Lilian remained spinsters, and the three of them lived on at The Yews.



The monkey puzzle tree, 1929





The 1838 map, showing the garden

house histories

Margaret died in 1934, Lilian 20 years later. By then Mary was 83, and decided to move out, gifting the house to her nephew, Minnie's son Johan Lauritz Johanson, a lieutenant-colonel in the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles. He promptly sold it to a couple called Phillips who stayed for about ten years before selling it to Eric and Connie Licence.

Eric had retired from running the pub in Newsham. He was an avid pipe-smoker with a large collection of pipes, and during his time there the pub changed its name from the Dun Cow to the Pipes Tavern. ("He would sit in his smoking jacket – he had a different one every evening – and a fez with a tassel," recalls

barningham school

Miss Alderson and pupils

pened to her husband) and stayed three years, during which time the school got another unfavourable inspector's report. But she did manage to achieve something many of her predecessors must have wished for: the resignation of assistant teacher Miss Margaret Alderson.

Miss Alderson had joined the staff in 1906 and seems to have been a popular infants teacher, but had survived all the troubles of the past decade and a half by simply going sick whenever things got tough: some years she was recorded absent for months on end. In 1932 she finally went, "to look after her ill sister, Mrs Robson".

Bertha followed her at the start of 1933, citing ill-health, and from the eight applicants for the job Barningham chose a Mrs Fanny Smith from Masham as its final head teacher. We're not sure of her age (Neil, who she taught from 1940, says she "seemed to be about 110 to us") and there was no sign of a husband.

"She always wore a navy blue and white spotted dress," says Neil, "with thick lisle stockings, lace-up shoes, whiskers, glasses and a hairnet all round her head like Ena Sharples."

The number of pupils continued to fall, and in 1936 one of the two assistant teachers was made redundant. The other, Miss Doris Addison, stayed on with Mrs Smith until 1944, when the school was closed and pupils transferred to other schools in the area.

In 1949 the building was formally gifted by the Milbanks to the village, and has served as

A Schoole from Henceforth for Ever

Barningham had a village school for more than 300 years. What was it like, and who were the people who ran it? We've been looking into its history, and this is what we found out...

Henry Lightfoot, the man who started it all

HENRY Lightfoot was rector of Barningham for just two years, from January 1683 to March 1685, one of the briefest incumbents in the job's 800-year history.

But he laid the foundations for something that was to last nearly three centuries and affected thousands of children born here: the village school.

It was Henry who (perhaps aware that he had very little time left before he met his maker, and anxious to make a good impression) was the driving force behind the school's establishment in 1684. With the support of his churchwardens (Richard Hardy, Thomas Appleby and Robert Hawden) he set up a charity to buy nearly seven acres of meadowland from John Pinckney for £123, and decreed that the income from it should be used for "ye use, benefit and yearly maintenance of the poore of ye Township of Barningham and of a Schoole in ye said Town of Barningham from Henceforth for Ever".

The land included High Close and Low Close, long narrow fields between Shaw Lane and Low Lane later known as School Bank and Pinkney Close. There was also a small field called Yoregreaves beside Nor Beck, and a couple of stints on the moor on what was later to become the Cow Close allotment.

The school came into being just before the Rev Lightfoot shuffled off his mortal coil. Overseeing it was the Rev Jonathan Lowe, his successor as rector, together with the lord of the manor and a handful of trustees, freeholders of the village.Whether it started off with its own premises we don't know; it may well at first have just been based in a corner of the church. We don't in fact know much at all about the school's first hundred years or so, apart from the identity of a few schoolmasters: Merryne Watson's history of Barningham names Robert Lakeland and Thomas Robinson in its early years, William Crigg in 1787. By then there

The site of the Victorian boys' school on the road to Nor Beck

barningham school

seems to have been a separate school building, situated in the corner of the field that is now the graveyard extension. It was probably nothing more than a single room, perhaps a converted barn, big enough for a dozen or so boys (girls were almost certainly not yet considered suitable for formal education) and their master – more often than not a young man embarking on a career in the church, a curate maybe.

Sometime around 1815 the school was rebuilt. Baine's *Directory* of 1823 says it was in 1820; an 1870 Education census report puts the date as 1814, which seems more likely. It was in 1814 that the ancient church next-door was demolished and construction began on a new one, and it seems reasonable to assume that the the school was upgraded at the same time.

In 1831 the National Society for Promoting Religious Education stepped in. Set up to promote the creation of Anglican schools (there was a parallel body for non-conformists), it came up with a grant of £40 towards the establishment of a National School for girls, presumably at the request of the village, which was built in the north-east corner of the churchyard. The Society then supported the schoolmaster or mistress by payments from the pupils, typically a few pence a week.

From the 1830s onwards there was gradual government intervention in local elementary education. The Factory Acts of 1833 onwards stipulated how many hours a child could work and ordered factory owners and other employers to provide so many hours of education. However, schools were totally unregulated, and could

barningham school

teach and do what they liked. The government did start giving grants by the middle of the 19th century, as the provision for schools fell far behind population growth, but this meant inspection and the dreaded school inspector came on the scene, the first time most schools met an authority who recorded their existence.

Generally, however, the government was reluctant to get involved in local schooling, and it was not until 1868, when a Representation of the Peoples Act enlarged the franchise (slightly) and allowed householders to vote, that someone noticed 'Hey – we're letting them vote, and not all of them can read...' The 1870 Education Act followed, allowing local school boards to be formed from ratepayers who could levy money to build a school for any children not provided for. These were generally known as board schools, complimenting the voluntary schools which already existed, as here.

Attendance at all schools was voluntary and we have no evidence about how many attended in Barningham in the mid-1800s. There was general public enthusiasm for education, but cost may have been a problem for some parents. The 1870 report said the Barningham fees "rarely exceeded three pence a week", the equivelant of around £3.50 in today's money. That could add up to a sizeable sum if you had five or six youngsters of school age, which wasn't unusual.

From churchyard to the village green

SOMETIME in the mid-1800s the boys' school merged with the girls' and moved into their National School premises in the churchyard, leaving the other building empty. Then in around 1874 came the closure of the Academy, the boarding school that had been running at Newby House for almost a century.

Its headmaster Thomas Hough sold the building and accompanying land to the Milbanks, who decided to retain its schoolhouse and use it as a new home for the National School. They paid for major alterations to bring the building to the required standard, using most or all of the stone from the two existing schools (there's no trace of either of them today), and the pupils moved from the churchyard to the south side of the village green. The *Teesdale Mercury's* description of the new school and its opening on December 7th 1875 was reprinted in *Archive 11*.

The headmaster at the time was a Mr E C Spink, of whom we know nothing (he doesn't appear in any census) except that he was in charge of teaching "with the help of local clergy and others". Village schools had long been dominated by the local church – every Barningham school day began with the rector conducting prayers, and religious education took up many hours each week – and a lot of teachers were curates and the like: it's quite possible Mr Spink was one.

Who the "others" were helping him is unclear, but he would certainly have needed some assistance: there were at least 80 pupils on the books at the time, not that they all turned up (it wasn't until 1880 that schooling became compulsory, and then only up to the age of ten). Mr Spink probably relied on older pupils teaching the younger ones – a 'pupil teacher' system that was very common – and perhaps a girl in her teens to keep an eye on the infants.

By 1881 the school was in the hands of William Gray, a 23-year-old from Birstwith near Harrogate, where the rector, the Rev George Hales, had worked before coming to Barningham. It seems unlikely that Gray's appointment owed nothing to this connection.

He gave way sometime before 1888 to John Armstrong, who was recorded as headteacher that year in the school logbook, written up by an assistant called J A Shaw (who on April 16th that year noted gloomily that "owing to Minding the House, Setting Potatoes, Cleaning, Gathering Stones and Sowing Turnips, the attendance is very moderate.")

In 1889 the school leaving age was raised to 12, and two years later school fees (a penny a week) were abolished. The same year a new head teacher arrived: 29-year-old Edwin Luther Stubbs, born in Cheshire, who had been teaching at Maryport on the Cumberland coast. He arrived with his wife Mary and baby son (also christened Luther); another son, Alfred, was on the way. Stubbs stayed six years, acting as clerk to the vestry and parish councils for much of that time, before leaving to take up a post as headmaster, organist and choirmaster in Horfield, Gloucestershire. In his place came William Thomas, who was to remain for 22 years.

barningham school

"The discipline is weak," he said bluntly. "The Head Teacher must obtain a better grip of the children." His report, sent to the school in June 1920, was so bad that poor Miss Currie kept it away from Canon Gough and the managers, who didn't learn of it until six months later.

It was all becoming too much for Miss Currie. When she met a local farmer, Edward Brown, and he popped the question she didn't hesitate. On February 2nd 1921 she announced she would be leaving in the summer to get married (which she did, and lived with Edward at Eastwood Hall until her death in 1946. They don't appear to have had any children, and she probably never entered a classroom again in her life – and who can blame her?).

The managers accepted her resignation, probably with few regrets, and promptly demanded that the North Riding Education Committee find a new head teacher. A man, they said. "We feel strongly that the school needs a master."

Northallerton was sympathetic, but male teachers were hard to come by: a whole generation had just died in the trenches. They advertised for a master in vain; and when they opened the appointment to teachers of either sex only one applied, Mrs E England (aged 42), and she was hard to please.

Mrs Roper, Englands, and the end of the road

ARRIVING in Barningham for an interview, she demanded to see the cottage she would be living in ("next to Woodside," say the minutes) and accepted the job only on condition that the house was fully repaired, brought up to date, and painted inside and out. The managers, grateful for anyone who would come, agreed.

Florence Roper was 42, mother of a 12-year-old daughter, and the widow of a tailor who had been killed in France in 1916. She had been headmistress at the village school at Well, near Bedale, and was a much tougher character than her predecessor. A year later, in 1922, the school inspector reported that "this school is making progress." Lessons were carefully prepared, the girls were receiving sound instruction in needlework, and "the singing is tuneful".

Attendances improved, and by 1923 Mrs Roper was awarding half-day "merit holidays" as a reward for every pupil turning up for a whole week. By 1925 the inspector was much happier.

"The Head Mistress conducts the school with much ability and the tone is excellent," he reported. "The older children continue to make good progress, particularly in Arithmetic, Singing and Physical Training. The infants are taught in a capable manner."

Mrs Roper had much to be pleased about, and it wasn't just about her success in reviving the school's fortunes. She was being wooed by a man called George Ratcliff and in November 1925 she handed in her resignation ("for health reasons," she said) and went off to get married.

The managers (who hadn't met for three years, things had been going so well) hurriedly got together with the new rector, the Rev Percy Dodd, and advertised for a new head teacher. There were four replies, all from women, and the only one deemed suitable wasn't qualified. A series of temporary heads arrived from Northallerton and it was six months before a fulltime replacement could be found.

This was Miss Margaret Alice Goodall, a 49-year-old spinster from Wakefield (who may have been prompted to apply by her predecessor, the former Miss Currie, who came from the same town). She stayed for two largely uneventful years, during which the school roll increased to 53, before leaving for reasons that weren't explained.

Her replacement was Miss Nellie Grace England. She, too, came from Wakefield, and was only 27. The managers feared the worst, and they were right.

"There is a deterioration of tone at the school," reported the government inspectors less than four months later, blaming "the weakness and inexperience of the headmistress." There was inadequate provision of books for the older scholars; the infants were kindly managed but their teaching had got worse. Only singing continued to be effectively taught.

Miss England knew what to do, and in January 1930 resigned to get married. But before the managers got round to advertising for a replacement, her mother Bertha stepped in and announced she'd be happy to take over the job. Bertha was 51 (we don't know what had hap-

Pupils, 1926

Back row: Percy Metcalf, Mary Brown, Vera Bulmer, Olga Jackson, Amy Brown & Harry Chafer.

Second row: Mary Walker, T Fitzpatrick, Ted Tyres, John Watson, unknown, Douglas Lowes, Hilton Nicholson, Hannah Brown, Alec Dryden, unknown, unknown, Walter Watson & Florrie Metcalf.

Third row: Miss Goodall, Joyce Sayer, Ena Patterson, May White, ? Brown, Annie Fitzpatrick, Maggie Glenton, Mary Watson, Kathy Simpson, Jenny Patterson, Linda Jackson, Mary Suddaby, Freda Atkinson, Phyllis Tyres, Miss Alderson & Winnie Strover.

Fourth row: Unknown, Dennis Lowes, George Brown, Peggy Sellers, John White, Leo Sayers, unknown, Barbara Brown, Annie Patterson, Nancy Lowes, Olive Suddaby, Jean Simpson, Denis Lee, Jock Anderson, John Metcalf & Sid Powell.

Front: Jean Suddaby, Flossy Fitzpatrick, unknown, Alf Walker, Leslie Watson, ? Sellars, unknown & B Anderson.

Photo from Neil Turner's collection.

before breaking into the building and "disturbing school furniture and books and disfiguring the blackboard." A few days later another boy rushed into her classroom in the middle of lessons and tried to take seize money from one of the pupils.

The managers were appalled, and outraged even further when a group of misbehaving pupils who had been ordered by Miss Currie to stay behind after lessons refused to obey her and simply "bolted out of school". The only way to deal with such "gross disobedience and defiance of the mistress," said the managers, was the cane, and lots of it. They told her to find a stick and use it, and if that didn't solve problems with discipline she was to call for the nearest muscular manager and let him sort it out.

It didn't seem to do much good. More than a year later Miss Currie was still reporting problems. "On arrival at school this morning I found the desk broken open and the stick missing," she wrote on November 22nd 1920. A few weeks later a group of children using the school in the evening to practice for a Christmas concert ran riot, scattering library books around, walking over pupils' paintings with muddy feet and smashing their cardboard models.

Meanwhile, a government inspector had been round and his report didn't make good reading.

barningham school

Top marks all round for Mr Thomas

NOBODY argued with Mr Thomas. From the day he arrived to take over as Barningham's headmaster in 1897 the village school boasted an exemplary record, praised every year by government inspectors for its organisation, discipline and academic achievement.

He was, by all accounts, a strong, fair and dedicated teacher, highly respected by pupils and parents alike. A generation of Barningham villagers passed through his hands before he finally hung up his mortarboard in 1919 and handed the job over to someone else. That, as we shall see, was when things started to go wrong..

Mr Thomas was 38 when he came to Barningham. Born the eldest son of a machine-maker in Wellingore, Lincolnshire, he studied to be a teacher at Leeds and started work as an assistant teacher in Loftus before becoming head of a school at Easington, near Guisborough, where he met and married his wife Louisa in 1887.

By the time they moved to Teesdale they had four children: Mary, eight, Harry, seven, six-year-old Florence and newborn baby Laurence. Their new home was The Schoolhouse, now known as Gillbeck House.

Mr Thomas soon made his mark. He had inherited an assistant teacher, 52-year-old spinster Margaret Scott, but within 18 months she had been given notice on the grounds that she was insufficiently qualified and her place was taken by Thomas's wife Louisa.

There's no evidence that she had any teaching qualifications, either, but she held onto the job until 1902 when a new Education Act came into force radically changing the organisation of schools and laying down new rules on who could teach.

Barningham's school was taken over by North Riding County Council, and a new management board was set up to supervise its running. One of the first things it did was appoint

School discipline, Victorian style

a suitably-qualified young assistant mistress, Miss Edith Clark from Gainford.

She was the first of many assistants to come and go over the next 40 years – see the list on the next page. Most were women in their early twenties who had gone to teacher training colleges and were happy to spend a year or two in a small rural school until they found a better job or a husband (several left to marry local men). Their salary depended on experience, which was usually very little: Edith was paid just £1 a week. She stayed less than 12 months.

Thomas, meanwhile, was on £132 a year, a salary that rose steadily over the years, reaching £240 by the time he retired in 1919. The school managers and their county council paymasters obviously thought he was worth it, and all the evidence suggests that they were probably right.

"The children are beautifully taught and showed a very pleasing interest," said a church inspector of scripture lessons in 1902. "The school is ably conducted and intelligently

barningham school

taught and trained," reported the Board of Education inspectors the year after. "Quite excellent," was their verdict in 1910, and "the whole tone is admirable" in 1916.

Year after year there were similarly laudatory reports as the school's results were repeatedly well above average. Pupils' behaviour was good, too. In all Thomas's years as headmaster there were only two complaints, both about boys using "profane and disgusting language" in public. They had picked it up, the school managers claimed, from men they overheard in the village reading room, and the solution was simple: a hearty dose of the cane.

They were a hard lot, the managers. In 1910 the rector came before them with a heartfelt plea on behalf of Mrs Alderson, a widow trying to bring up a family on her own, who wanted permission to hold a dance in the school "in order that she might raise by that means some money for the winter." They decided the building was a most unsuitable venue for such frivolity, and turned her down.

They weren't all that keen on spending money, either. The school inspector ended his otherwise highly-complimentary report in 1910 with the gentle suggestion that "the provision of a more suitable material than slates for writing and drawing should be considered." Three years later he wondered whether the managers might stump up for the school windows to be repaired. "Only one small window can be opened, and to keep the air anything like fresh the door leading to the yard has to be left open," they said. This was in March, the weather was appalling, and the district was in the grip of a whooping cough epidemic: two young children died.

Absence because of illness was commonplace. There were frequent epidemics of measles, whooping-cough, mumps and scarlet fever that kept children at home; on several occasions the local medical officer of health closed the school down for weeks at a time to prevent diseases spreading yet further.

Not all sick claims were genuine, of course. Many parents preferred to have their offspring, especially the older boys, working on the land at busy times – harvest and grouse-beating in the summer, potato-picking in the autumn. If mother fell ill or died, older girls abandoned school to look after the family.

Bad weather was another reason for absence. Children were expected to walk to school and back, some of them travelling up to six or seven miles a day. When the snow came, they stayed at home. And on top of that, of course, some pupils simply played truant. Try as he might, Thomas found it difficult to persuade more than three-quarters of his pupils to turn up each day.

In October 1917, for example, he noted in his daily log that "attendance is shocking – just 35 present – I cannot account for this." Every month he sent attendance registers off to the education board at Northallerton, and most of the time they reported attendances of around 70% each day, with around 15% of pupils not turning up at all during the previous four weeks.

BARNINGHAM NATIONAL SCHOOL

HEAD TEACHERS

1875-1881	Mr E C Spink
1881-1888	Mr William Gray
1888-1891	Mr John Armstrong
1891-1897	Mr Edward Luther Stubbs
1897-1919	Mr William Thomas
1919-1921	Miss Muriel Farrow Currie
1921-1925	Mrs Florence E Roper
1926-1926	Miss Sarah B Forster (temp)
1926-1926	Miss Hilda Johnson (temp)
1926-1928	Miss Margaret A Goodall
1928-1930	Miss Nellie Grace England
1930-1933	Mrs Bertha England
1933-1944	Mrs Fanny Smith

ASSISTANT TEACHERS

1888-18??	Mr J A Shaw
18??-1899	Miss Scott
1899-1902	Mrs Thomas
1903-1904	Miss Edith Clark
1904-1904	Miss Margaret Wood
1904-1905	Miss Edith Walker
1905-1909	Miss B H Steel
1906-1908	Miss Maud Bing
1906-1932	Miss Margaret Alderson
1909-1910	Miss Dora Jane Gregory
1910-1916	Miss Evelyn May Cocker
1916-?	Miss Kathleen Clark
1924-1925	Miss Norah Walker
1925-1925	Miss Mary E Unthank
1930-1933	Miss Eva Seymour
1932-1944	Miss Doris Annie Addison
1933-1933	Miss Margaret Kidd
1933-1933	Miss Hick
1934-1934	Miss M A Cranwick
1934-1936	Mrs Leyburn
1936-?	Miss Rigby

Mr Thomas's first class: Barningham's boy pupils pose (not all of them very happily, from their expressions) for a photo in September 1897

barningham school

The short-lived hopes of Miss Muriel Currie

As his headmastership stretched into a second decade, Thomas found himself with fewer and fewer youngsters in his care. Barningham's population was dwindling and families were getting smaller. From a total of 66 pupils in 1903 the number had fallen to just 36 when he left his desk for the last time in 1919.

"I finish my work as a teacher today," he wrote sadly in the school log on Friday May 30th that year. "I wish to acknowledge here the many kindnesses and the great help I have received from the managers and from the parents of the children."

His pupils presented him with pipes and a pouchful of tobacco; their parents gave him a solid silver teapot and cream jug. Canon Gough, watching as Thomas said his farewells, noted that "the children were all very much affected and manifested evidence of real sorrow at the saying of goodbye."

THOMAS's departure was the end of an era and the start of real problems for Barningham school.

In his place the managers appointed the school's first-ever headmistress, Miss Muriel Farrow Currie. She was just 28 years old, the daughter of a teacher in Wakefield, and she had probably never held a cane in her life, let alone wielded one. Her starting salary was £130 a year, little over half the amount Thomas had been paid.

Miss Currie arrived with high hopes, and they lasted about a week. The pupils took one look at this slip of a girl who was replacing Mr Thomas and decided the days of strict obedience and good behaviour were over.

Attendances dropped to a third, and the problems began. Only a month after Miss Currie arrived the school managers reported that the police had to be called to deal with two boys (not her pupils) who had "occasioned much trouble ringing the bell out of school hours"