

At last – the brides and babies books!

THERE were 2,944 infants baptised in Barningham between 1581, when the parish registers began, and 1800. And 721 couples tied the knot in the village church over that period.

Now you can look up the names of every bride and baby in the latest BLHG booklets, *Barningham Brides* and *Barningham Baptisms*.

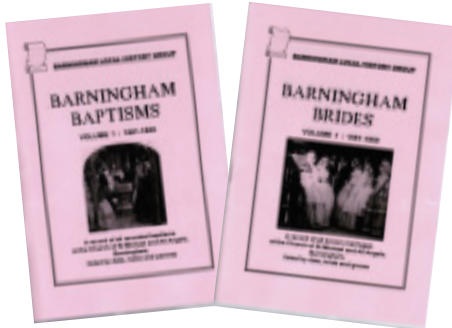
The *Brides* book lists every wedding (and every set of banns) by date, by bride's name and by groom. The *Baptism* book has lists arranged by date, baby's name, mother's name and father's. Both publications include additional detail, such as where people were living and actual dates of birth, if this information is known, and we have offered many suggestions about possible family links based on our group records. The result is that it takes only minutes to track

publications

down whole families and trace them back over the centuries. (If you've got our burials lists, *Where Lyeth Ye Bodies*, and A-Z census records *Counted*, it's even quicker). The new

booklets are available in cheerful baby-pink laminated covers at just £10 apiece (£8 to history group members). Lists of brides and baptisms from 1800 to the present day are in the pipeline.

● *How to order: see Page 18*



old hints & recipes

To Thicken the Hair, or make a bald part grow

TAKE roots of a maiden vine, roots of hemp and cores of soft cabbages, of each two handfuls; dry and burn them; afterwards make a lye with the ashes. The head is to be washed with this lye three days successively, the part having been previously well rubbed with honey.

– From history group member June Graham's copy of *Domestic Economy or a Complete System of English Housekeeping, Containing the Most Approved Receipts of the time, also the Complete Brewer; Likewise the Family Physician*, published in Newcastle in 1782.

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

Who were the kids?



The worried pair on the front page are Neil Turner's mother and uncle, Hannah and Bobby Etherington. Hannah ran the Milbank Arms for four decades; Bobby drove the village bus and ran a haulage and coal delivery service.



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



Archive 14

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



MEET LARRY, THE GUY WITH LINKS TO THE GODS – Page 19

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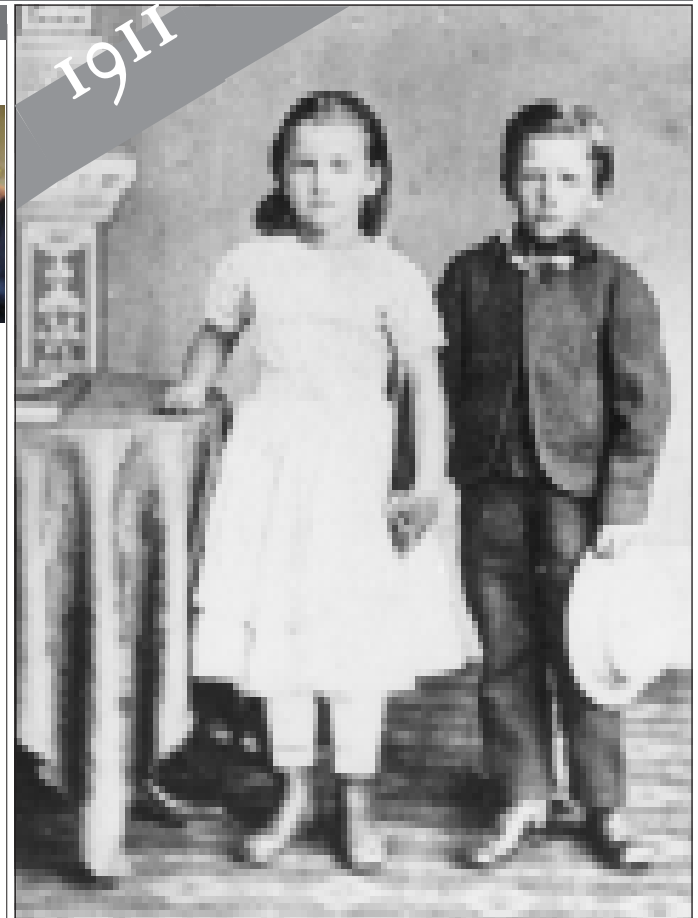
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Just hold my hand, be brave, and it'll soon be over

A hundred years ago, and these two rather worried Barningham kids have put on their Sunday Best to pose for the photographer. Both spent the rest of their lives in the village. Who were they? See the back page.

NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY MARCH 1st 6pm

Help us record the barns of Barningham

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday January 18 2011:

Present: Jon Smith, Ann Hutchinson, Jane Hackworth-Young, Phil Hunt, Diane Metcalf, Neil Turner, Ann Rowley, Tony Orton, Mark Watson, Kay Duggan, Eric Duggan, Ed Simpson, Ann Orton, Beverley Peach, Sally and Evie Ridgway, Sue Prytherick.

Apologies: Louise Ferrari, June and Michael Graham, Greta Carter.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising: The tithe map was now hung in the village hall, and all agreed that it looked good. The cost was £105, much cheaper than originally thought. The fund-raiser was a very enjoyable occasion: many thanks to Eric and Kay for all their hard work (see centre pages).

Correspondence: There had been plenty of emails asking for help with family histories. Details will appear in the *Archive* but if anyone can help with the following families, please contact Jon: Monkhouse; Coates; Langstaffes; Camerons; Judsons; Westmarlands.

Financial report: Eric Duggan, treasurer, gave a summary of the group's accounts since its inception in September 2009. Up to the end of 2010 income had totalled £2,424 with expenditure of £1,801, leaving a current balance of £623. Another £212 had since been raised at the fund-raising event and further money was due from *Archive* subscriptions. Eric said he would seek advice on the best place to deposit

competition

IN Archive 11 we challenged you to identify the link between Barningham and a Texas wrestler. Nobody succeeded, and we held it over until now. Still no answer, so we'll let you off your tenterhooks: see page 19 for the story of Lanny Bryant, descendant of the gods.

Better luck with this one: If a horse was two and ten geese one, how many were fourteen half-bred sheep? Answer next time.

minutes of the last meeting

House histories: Britannia Cottage, 1 and 2 Park View, Old Smithy and Smithy Cottage.

Publications: Archive 13 had been distributed. Some subscriptions were now well overdue. Jon was transcribing all the births and marriages in Barningham from 1581 to 1800 and hope to put them into booklet form soon (see back page).

Recipes: Kay had finished studying Brenda Turner's recipe book. June Graham had lent her *The Complete System of English Housekeeping* from 1781, which contained sermons and remedies as well as recipes (see back page).

Field names: Janet Wrigley had taken this on. It was suggested that we should also list the current names for the fields. Arnold Kipling has details of field names from Scargill and would let us have them to copy.

War time and oral history: Ann Hutchinson and Phil were making progress, Ann Orton would ask Jenny Frost about details she has recorded on Brenda Turner's time as a lumberjill! Sally Ridgway thought we should research the history of the men recorded on the war memorial and volunteered to investigate.

Barns: Sir Anthony Milbank was planning to develop one of the local barns and it was thought a good idea to record and research as many of them as we could in the locality. Jon said it was an ideal project (once the weather picked up!) for members who liked getting out and about and using their cameras to record buildings. Ed Simpson said he was willing to co-ordinate this together with researching the names of local woods. Anyone interested in helping with the barns survey should contact him (2 Park View: tel 01833 621404).

Village hall clock: Tony Orton had spoken to a clock mender in Ripon and was going to see if it is possible to access their records for any trace of our clock.

Next meeting: Tuesday March 1 at 6pm.

Old photos: Several people had brought old photographs of their families and we heard some very interesting stories of their ancestors' lives, which hopefully it will spur them on to record the stories for future generations. If you have any interesting photos, do bring them along to future meetings: they don't need to be local.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

Lanny the Texas wrestler, Barningham and the gods

GO into Google, summon up the website of *Wrestling USA* magazine, and you'll find Lanny Bryant's life story.

Born in Amarillo, Texas, he's the magazine editor, a wrestling coach, a former professor of physical education and a member of America's National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He has a wife, five children called LanAnn, LaMonte, Cody, Lady and Shannon, and they're all descended from Alfred the Great.

Well, that's what it says on the website, and there's a 73-generation family tree to back it up. The Bryants claim to have traced their family back to "practically every royal house of Europe" and their list of forbears dating back to 6 AD includes Charlemagne, Ethelred the Unready, Louis XIII, monarchs from Italy and Spain, any number of Dukes of Normandy, the Scandinavian kings Frithuwald, Frithogar and Freothelaf, and several Norsemen who thought they were gods.

Coming a bit more down to earth, there are connections, too, with the Cliffords of Ravensworth in the 1350s, and with the Bowes family of Streatlam in the early 1600s when various members were among the early settlers in Virginia.

And (which is why you're reading this) there's a link with the Vincents who lived in Barningham 700 years ago. This is how we came across Lanny's website in the first place, during a casual internet browse for the village, and we're telling you about it because this bit, at least, seems to have some foothold in reality.

Merryne Watson, in *As Time Passed By*, his history of Barningham, says Vincents held land in the village as early as the reign of Henry II (1154-1189). A William Vincent was a curate here around 1300, and a John Vincent was at the battle of Agincourt in 1415.

Our friend Lanny the wrestler offers a list of Barningham Vincents that he claims to have tracked down. The earliest is Peter Vincent, born around 1290 and father of William (c1325) who had a son, also William, born c1346, who married Isabella Percival and had a son called



footnote

COPIES of the 'Barningham Memories' DVD, created from Neil Turner's cine films from the 1960s and 1970s, are available from Eric Duggan, history group treasurer. They're £8 each: contact Eric on 01833 621455 or you can email him at: ericduggan@kayduggan.fsnet.co.uk



Lanny Bryant

medieval vincents

(you guessed) William, born c1373. He married someone called Alicia and fathered Roger (c1401-1492).

Roger married into the Layton family from Cleveland, moved to Smeaton, and ended the Barningham connection. His great-great-grand-daughter Eleanor married a Thomas Beverley of Selby in about 1575 and their grandson Peter Beverley sailed to America, became a big noise among the early settlers, and eleven generations later along came Lanny Bryant.

We wondered how Lanny had traced all these Vincents, and sent him emails congratulating him on his achievement and asking if he'd mind telling us what his sources were.

There's been no reply. But maybe, if you're related to just about all the blue blood in Europe and can list your ancestors back to wannabe gods at the time of Christ, talking to mere descendants of Barningham peasants probably does seem a bit beneath you.

The lost legacy of Miss McCulloch

MISS FRANCES McCulloch died in Barningham in June 1935, aged 80, the last survivor of a well-to-do family who had lived at Heath House for the previous 70 years or so.

A few weeks later the Rev Percy Dodd, the village rector, was delighted to get a letter from her solicitor saying she'd left £80 to his church.

But his happiness at the news of the legacy was short-lived. In her will Frances had stipulated that the money was to pay for a brass lectern, inscribed in her family's memory – and the Rev Dodds didn't need one: the church already had a lectern, a splendid carved oak affair that had been given to the church back in 1891 (see *120 Years Ago* on Page 9).

After consulting his churchwardens, he wrote back to the solicitor, James Watson of Barnard Castle, saying he'd be happy to take the money and spend it on something else of benefit to the church. Sorry, said Mr Watson. It was an inscribed brass lectern or nothing. "If you do not propose to purchase this, I cannot see my way clear to hand over the sum."

The Rev Dodd wrote back saying he really couldn't use another lectern, and Mr Watson replied sadly that in that case nothing could be done. "I am indeed sorry the legacy is one that cannot be utilised for any other purpose."

So the church forfeited its £80 – worth perhaps £4,000 in today's money. Mr Watson's decision must have seemed rather harsh to the Rev Dodd, and it raises two questions which we're never likely to have answered.

Why on earth didn't Miss McCulloch ask the church if it wanted a new lectern (she must have known it already had a perfectly good one)?

And what happened to the £80?

● *We found the correspondence between the Rev Dodds and Mr Watson among a bundle of old papers at Durham County Record Office.*



footnote

ERIC Barnes, whose appearance as guest speaker at the last history group meeting had to be abandoned because of the snow, says he can make it to our meeting on May 17th – weather permitting!

Barningham Local History Group Publications



Where Lyeth Ye Bodies

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

Barningham Baptisms

All baptisms 1580-1800, listed by date, name and parents. £10 + £1 p&p

Barningham Brides

All marriages 1580-1800, listed by date, groom and bride. £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. £10 each + £1 p&p

A Child of Hope

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

Aback to Yuvvin

An 1849 Glossary of Teesdale words & customs. £5 + £1 p&p

The Archive: Group newsletter.

Back issues £2 + £1 p&p

Barningham Memories: DVD of cine film from 1960/70s. £8 + £1 p&p

* *Discounts on all publications for group members*

More details:

see our website www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

Let us pray... but let it be comfortable

IF you walked into Barningham Church for Sunday morning service five hundred years ago, you wouldn't have got a seat.

Not because the place was packed (though congregations were certainly bigger than they are today) but because there simply wasn't anywhere to sit.

Not a pew in sight. The odd stone bench along the side wall, perhaps, for the old and frail to perch on (hence the expression 'the weakest go to the wall'), and maybe a few stools at the front for the lord of the manor and his family. But for almost everyone else the options were standing up throughout the proceedings or sitting on the floor.

Nobody minded. It had always been that way. Services were different in those days, less formal and less demanding, with the audience expected to do little more than watch rituals that only the priest and a handful of others familiar with Latin could understand. Wandering about the church and chatting to friends as it all went on was quite acceptable, and if you'd brought along the dog, a bite to eat and a few vegetables to sell to a neighbour, nobody was going to make much of a fuss.

It all changed with the Reformation. English replaced Latin, the focus moved from the altar to the pulpit, and the role of the clergyman changed from master of ceremonies to teacher and preacher, the first item on his new job description to read from and expound the Bible to a flock who, for the first time, at least understood what he was saying even if they couldn't read the Good Book for themselves. The sermon had arrived, and with it the need to be well-behaved and attentive for an hour or so, much longer if the vicar was possessed of evangelical fervour. And you couldn't give him your full attention if your feet were killing you.

So in came seating. Stools and benches to begin with, then simple pews, and then box pews: elaborate stalls containing seats for several people, solidly constructed of wood to keep out draughts, high-sided for privacy, furnished with cushions and mats and tables and even small fireplaces. Going to church was never going to be the same again.

It cost you money, to start with. Churches charged members of their congregation to build box pews, or built them themselves and rented



Box pews in Barningham church before the renovation of 1891

them out. Ownership of a pew was a prized asset, and could be bought or sold (the going rate for a seat in Barningham in 1748 was three shillings – at least £150 today) or passed on to your children in your will. If you didn't have a pew – paid for, recorded by the churchwardens and numbered so everyone knew it was taken – you stood at the back, shivering as the wind whistled through the door behind you and wondering whether bronchitis or deep-vein thrombosis was going to get you first.

Allocation of pews must have been one of the most stressful things the churchwardens had to cope with. Everyone wanted to be near the front, mostly so they could see and hear what was going on, of course, but also to avoid those wintry draughts. There was no difficulty in deciding who got the front row: the lord of the manor, the schoolmaster, the richest of the local landowners. After that it seems to have been something of a lottery.

There is no record of how Barningham distributed its seats, but all the evidence suggests that every male head of a family was given one seat and then invited to fight over the ones that remained. In 1655, probably not all that long after seating was introduced – it was mid-way through Cromwell's rule, at the height of Puritanism and interminable sermons – there were 46 boxes in Barningham church, each containing between two and six seats (most had four or five: those with only two were probably beside pillars and consequently not very popular – it's a great pity we haven't a floor plan for the church

Who owned the pews in 1655

William Dent's list in the parish register (original spelling!)

The south side.

1. Anthony Barnes. Richard Slater. James Scott.
2. Willm Peacock. Henry Collin. John Thompson.
3. Joan Ridd. Henry Lonesdale. Robt Foggerthwaite.
4. John Thompson. Henry Lonesdale. Widdow Pingnee.
5. Anthony Hutchinson. Henry Appleby. Bartholomew Hardee.
6. Raph Johnson. John Atkinson. Widdow Marrih.
7. Edward Freer 2. Francis Wetherell.
8. Francis Maddison. Michael Hutchinson. Bryan Pingnee.
9. Michael Hutchinson. Francis Tonstall. Raph Johnson. John Thompson
10. Widdow Thompson. Edward Loadman 2. Widdow Marrih.
11. Widdow Parkin. Willm Peacock. Roger Foggerthwaite. John Thompson.
12. Trinian Eeeles. George Hitton. Widdow Harris. Richard Ling.
13. John Nelson 2 . James Scott. Thomas Rayleton.
14. Widdow Hawden 2. Bartholomew Hawden 2.
15. Willm Appleton 2. Thomas Judgson 2.
16. Francis Kiplin. Wm Collin. Edward Presse. Anthony Hutchinson.
17. Francis Kiplin. Ray Thompson 2. Edward Johnson.
18. John Simson. Chr. Pingnee. John Dent & their wives.

Middle Row.

1. George Pingnee 2. Wlm Johnson 2. Charls Judgson 2.
2. Richd Mariner. Thomas Barns. Anthony Moore . Edward Thompson.
3. John Robson. Thomas Appleby. John Atkinson. Thomas Raylton.
4. John Coates. Bryan Kiplin.
5. Widdow Blackburne. Chr. Peacock. John Robson. Wido Pingnee.
6. John Kiplin. James Scot. ? Pingnee 2. James Fryer 2.

an. Bartholomew Hardy. Bry: Pingnee. John Ridd. Henry Collin.

8. Willm Dent. James Fryer. Francis Fryer. James Clerkson.
9. Chr. Binkes. Michael: Best. Widdow Pingnee. Richard Slater. Willm Collin. Willm Dent
10. Geo: Scott 2. Francis Wetherell. Widdow Steward 2

North side.

1. John Harris. Chr. Pingnee. Chr. Bradley. Richard Ling. Will Harrison.
2. Thomas Eeles. John Theakston. Chr. Ousnet. Thomas Eles.
3. Raph Shaw. Thomas Brignell. John Shaw. Thomas Appleby.
4. James Fryer. John Bincks. Chr: Binkes. Michael Best.
5. Francis Steel. Thomas Parcivell. John Mariner. Raph Nelson.
6. Geo. Witton. Lans Pele. Raph Pingnee. Thomas Eeles.
7. Thomas Appleby. John Burse. John Sander 2.
8. Georg Atkinson. Stephen Hardy 2. John Mariner 2. Bernard Morton.

Right north Row.

9. Geo: Wadburne 2. Thomas Eeles. Widdow Johnson.
10. Anthony Hutcheson. Wilm Morton. Thomas Parcivell. Chr. Peacocke.
11. Francis Maddison. John Burse. Raph Pingnee. James Bland.
12. Thomas Brignell. Roger Scott. Ra. Shaw. Henry Lanesdale.
13. Thomas Eeles 2. Geo. Steel. Raph Nelson. Raph Pingnee.
14. Thomas Appleby. Bartholomew Morton. John Theakston. Leonard Reed. Thomas Ousnett.
15. Anthony Dent. Widdow Harris. Richard Nelson. Michael Shaw.
16. Chr. Bradley. John Gamble.
17. Chr. Pingnee. John Shaw. Edward Presse.
18. 'The cros stale of the north side of the Church belonging to the Stone close huse belonging to Mr Tunstall of Wicklay'

house histories

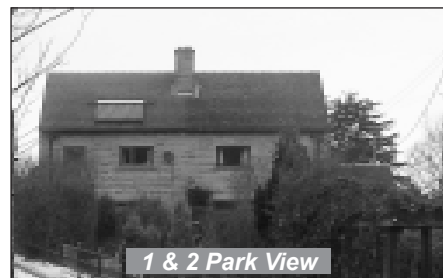
SMITHY COTTAGE THE OLD SMITHY

CONVERTED into houses by Barningham Estate in 1995 from buildings that were once the home and workplace of a village blacksmith.

Tenants of Smithy Cottage, which was formerly the stables and byres, have included Mark Watson, Wayne Green, and Tim and Julie Eaglen. It's now the home of Mark and Jenny McSparrow.

The Old Smithy used to be exactly that, and remained for many years as it was when the last blacksmith finally laid down his hammer, cold ashes in the fire and bellows in place.

It's had several occupants since its conversion; the current tenant is Frances Alexander.



1 & 2 Park View

by David and Doreen Powell, who stayed for 25 years, raising four daughters called Diane, Davina, Dawn and Denise.

The Powells bought the house and when they left for Barnard Castle in 2004 sold it to Chris and Liz Causer, who live there today.

2 PARK VIEW

FIRST tenants when this was built in 1947 were John Maughan and his wife Annie (born Annie Adeline Walker and known universally as Nan), who moved there from Woodbine Cottage.

Nan remained there after her husband's death until she too died in 1992, aged 84, when the tenancy was taken over by her daughter.

Geoff and Margaret Young lived there for some years with their two sons and daughter, followed briefly by a John Lee. It is now privately owned by Ed and Gaynor Simpson.



Smithy Cottage & The Old Smithy

neil's notes

WHEN Sally Armstrong opened up a shop in her livingroom at Britannia Cottage she used to serve you in the righthand-side room and then go into the back to get your change. Well, of course us kids used to wait till she did this and then try to nick sweets when she wasn't looking. She eventually got wise to this and after that she made us stand in the passage while she locked the shop door and then went for change.

My gran, Elizabeth Etherington, in 1920. She lived in Britannia Cottage



THE Park View council houses were built by Bains of Darlington in 1947, which was an awful year for weather. The builders got Number One half

finished with the gable ends up and the first main beam across when there came this terrible storm. Both the gable ends and chimneys and main beam were knocked down and the cavity walls were filled with rubbish. They never got properly cleaned out and there were problems for years because of it.

I CAN remember being at school one day, I'd be about eight or so, and I was standing on the foot-scraper during playtime one day hanging onto the downpipe on the wall when it came away and hit me on the head. There was lots of blood but the teacher, Fanny Smith, just took a chair leg to leather me for doing it. And then they made my dad pay for a new pipe. He wasn't best pleased.

WE kept tadpoles in a tank on top of the school piano. One day there was so many kids hanging on that it fell and smashed onto the keyboard. Our parents had to pay to get it dried out.

One old, two new and a conversion

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.

BRITANNIA COTTAGE

KNOWN as Woodbine Cottage in the days when The Yews was called Britannia and the other Woodbine Cottage in Barningham was called... Woodbine Cottage. Postmen loved it.

It's a typical 18th century cottage, probably enlarged in Victorian days when changes included the addition of bay windows.

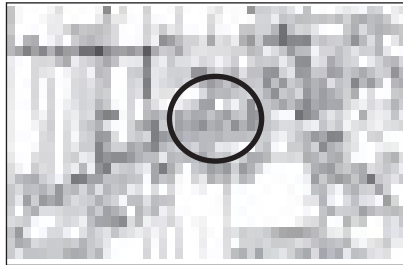
It was owned at that time by the Todds, and it remained in the family until the middle of the last century, rented out to a variety of tenants. The last Todds to own it were Lilian and Mary of The Yews, and when Lilian died in 1954 her sister gave it to her nephew Johan Johanson. It passed to his son Alan, whose family used it largely as a holiday cottage, and although the ownership has since changed that is what it remains, empty much of the year.

Neil Turner recalls it being tenanted in the late 1930s by Sally Armstrong, unmarried daughter of the family who had run the Black Horse Inn until its closure in 1916. Sally (born in 1878, real name Sarah) had a good singing voice, performed from time to time at what is now the Civic Theatre in Darlington, and made a number of recordings which she would play on Neil's record-player at the Milbank Arms ("The one I remember best was called *Why Am I Always the Bridesmaid?*," says Neil. "It used to drive me up the wall.")

While living at Britannia Cottage, Sally apparently fell out with the Grahams, her neighbours in the post office next door, and converted the livingroom of her house into a shop to steal their custom. "She sold everything – butter, sweets, paraffin, and pies and peas every Saturday lunchtime," says Neil. "She did very well at it."

During the war a nurse lodged in the cottage, and in later years Sally shared her home with her niece, a Mrs Hodgson, and her husband and son.

After Sally the tenancy was taken over by Neil's grandmother, Elizabeth Etherington, who had been widowed on VE Day, and for the next 25 years she lived in the cottage, latterly with



Britannia Cottage

house histories

her sister Hannah Bowe after she retired as Raby Castle cook.

When they left to live in Whorlton there were further tenants, including Mike and Diane Edwards, before the Johansons decided to keep it for their own use. These days it is rarely occupied, though a group arrive each Christmas and are enthusiastic participants in the Boxing

1 PARK VIEW

THIS and the adjoining No 2 were built as council houses in 1947 on what until then was an empty field ("We used to sledge from the top of the green by Newby House right across the road and up the other side almost to Fairview," recalls Neil).

The first tenants were Ernie and Amy Clark and their daughter Alison (now Mrs Parkinson and living in Barnard Castle). Amy was the daughter of Barningham Estate joiner Charlie and Blanche Brown, who had lived in part of Heath House before moving into a flat at the hall. After Charlie's death Blanche moved into 1 Park View to live with her daughter's family.

The Clarks left in 1979, and were followed

church seating

at the time).

These 46 boxes were arranged in three rows facing the pulpit, 18 boxes on the north side of the church, 18 boxes on the south and 11 in the middle. They probably all lined up at the front: the space behind the middle row would have been the site of the baptism font, traditionally near the door as a symbol of it being the doorway to eternal life. In front of the boxes was the pulpit, and in it was the rector, breathing fire, brimstone and anything else he thought was guaranteed to bring you back next week.

Owning your own seat was an important indication of your social status, and jealously guarded. Inevitably, disputes arose. In his history of Barningham *As Time Goes By* Merryne Watson highlights one in 1655 when two parishioners, Richard Slater and Anthony Moore, battled over who had the right to a seat in the third stall in the middle row. The parish register records that it was given to Richard Slater after the intervention of Francis Tunstall, Scargill Castle owner, Barningham lord of the manor and a staunch Catholic who had no intention of ever setting foot in the village's Protestant Church. Andrew Moore was presumably a Tunstall tenant with little option but to obey his landlord's decision. Richard Slater's desire for the seat, incidentally, wasn't driven entirely by religious passion: he promptly sold it, and another one he owned as well.

It was this dispute that appears to have prompted William Dent, Barningham's church registrar in 1655 and probably the village curate, to decide it was time to record exactly who owned which pews and where they were.

His list is tucked into the parish register, between the marriage of Ralfe and Mary Peacock of Scargill and a host of Barningham baptisms. It seems to have been overlooked by Merryne, whose only detailed reference to pew arrangements is about their allocation half a century later, when the number of stalls on the north and south had been reduced to 16 each side, and the sale and exchange of seats had led to some families – notably the Milbanks – acquiring whole boxes for themselves.

The 1665 list – see opposite – shows 101 people owning the 184 seats available. All the owners, apart from a handful of widows, are men. Most have one or two seats, largely reflect-



Pews in Barningham church today

ing their marital status – one for themselves, one for their wife if they have one. A few have more: the highest number is in the hands of Thomas Eeles, who has six.

The question arises: where did all the children sit? Did they squeeze in with their parents, sitting on their knees or crouched below? Were they relegated to the back of the church, standing or seated on benches, to be seen but not heard? Or did they stay at home, excluded from services intended only for (and probably only bearable by) adults capable of sitting through sermons of long duration – in which case, how did they receive any religious instruction? Sunday schools for youngsters were unknown until around 1750, and few of them went to day school where they might come into contact with the Bible. Perhaps parents stepped in, relaying in simple fashion what they had heard in church. Perhaps they remained unenlightened.

Private pews survived into the 19th century, when most disappeared as populations soared and churches reorganised seating arrangements to cope with larger congregations. Some still survive, but Barningham's boxes, replaced in two rows each side of a central aisle when the church was rebuilt in 1816, were torn out and turned into wall panelling when it was renovated in 1891.

"To think," one local vicar told us, "that people once fought to get a seat in church. I'd have counted it a miracle if it had happened in my time."

Who lived in your house 80 years ago?

IT'S an odd thing, but it's sometimes easier to find information about people who lived in Barningham in the mid-1800s than about those who were here only 70 or so years ago.

We have access to census records detailing exactly who lived where and when between 1841 and 1911. From 1912 it's a different matter. No census information, as each set of returns stays secret for a hundred years: it will be 2021 before we can access the details from 1921.

And as reliable living memory doesn't stretch much further back than the late 1930s (even in Barningham, famed for its longevity), the result is something of a gap between the first and second world wars.

To find out much about the people who were around in that period we often have to rely upon local newspapers, church magazines, telephone books and electoral rolls – not always that easy to come by.

So we were fairly pleased, while delving through a heap of documents at Durham County Record Office, to come across the Barningham Church Electoral Roll for 1931-32. It's a list of every adult who was regarded as part of the congregation, with the right to vote in church elections, and it probably includes someone from most households in the village (and those parts of Newsham in the parish) apart from Catholics, methodists or other minority religions.

There are 97 names on the list, some of whom we've heard about but many we haven't, and it could prove very useful as we pursue our house histories. We asked Neil Turner and Greta Carter which names they recognised, who they were and where they lived. The list is below: if you can add information to it, do let us know.

ALDERSON Annie: Assistant schoolmistress.

ALDERSON Jane & Margaret: ?

ALLEN John: ?

ARMSTRONG Sarah: Britannia Cottage

ATKINSON Alice, Elsie, Hannah, Jane & John:

Park View and Pear Tree Cottage

BAINBRIDGE Edith and John: Newby House

BRASS George: Heath Cottages

BRIGHAM Emily: ?

BROWN Blanche & Charles: Estate joiner, Heath House

BROWN Edward, Muriel & Susan: Barningham

church roll, 1932

Farm

BULMER Ethel & Vera: Church View, later Elim Cottage

CAMERON Ada: formerly Wilson House

CARTER Margaret: ?

CHILTON Beatrice, Henry & Ralph: Banks House

CROWTHER John & Gertrude: Village roadman.

Chapel Cottage

DALES Mary: ?

DENT Ena, Gladys, Mary & William: Newsham?

DIAGREE Catherine: Head cook at the hall

DIXON Hilda & Winifred: ?

DODD Evelyn, Helena, Mary & Percy: Rectory

DUNN Elizabeth: Elm Cottage, Newsham

DUNN Jessie: Newsham?

ENGLAND Bertha & Tom: She was headmistress.

Gill Beck House?

FAIRLEY Eveline & Miriam: Spinster sisters,

Heatherlands

HODGSON Aline: Lilac Cottage?

HOLMES Ernest & Gertrude: Chauffeur at the hall.

Heath House, later Virginia Cottage

JACKSON Elsie: Crooks House

JOHNSON Ada, David, Dorothy, Jane, Jessie,

John, Lancelot, Laura, William & William G:

Peel House? Newsham?

KITCHEN Percy: East View

LEGGETT Joseph: Butler at the hall

LOWES Agnes & Robert: The Hollies

MAUDE James & Mary: Newsham?

METCALFE Thomas: ?

MILBANK Dorothy & Frederick: The hall

MILBANK John: Dalton?

MONK Letitia: Nurse, Reading Room Cottages

NICHOLSON Ethel, John & Mabel: West End

ORD Ada: Heath Cottages

POWELL Agnes & William: Shaw House, later

Westoe

ROBSON Annie & John: Fountain Cottage

TEMPLE Ruth: Newsham

THOMSON Bella & George: He was the doctor.

Woodside (now The Gatehouse)

TODD Lillian & Margaret: The Yews

TODD Sophia & William: Fairview

TURNER Hannah: Milbank Arms

WATSON Florence, Jane, John & Walter: Victoria

House, Newsham

barningham's gjertsens

Mandal on the south coast of Norway just west of Kristiansand and directly north of the Jutland peninsula of Denmark.

This Stanley Gjertsen had a brother, Stabel, who in 1901 is listed as an apprentice mariner, and their uncle, William Levitt of Robin Hood's Bay, with whom they were staying in 1891, is also listed as a master mariner, so Stanley too has a connection to a seafaring life. My sister remembered that Stanley had a brother connected to the sea and also, unprompted, remembered that his name was Stabel, so it is clear that our 'Uncle Stanley' was the one born in Mandal.

Stabel went on to become a first officer in the merchant marine, and some recorded voyages showed him going to Canada, USA and Chile. When he retired he too came to live in Danby, not far from his brother Stanley. After we left the farm on the death of my father in 1950, some contact was maintained for a while, but eventually fell away.

Why did we think of him as Danish when he was born in what is now Norway? To answer this we need to look a little at Scandinavian history. Denmark-Norway was a combined country from 1536 to 1814; it was after all a combined force of Norwegians and Danes who disastrously fought the British in the Battle of Copenhagen in 1807. When Lars Stang was born, Norway was still under the control of neighbouring Sweden, a consequence of siding with the French in the Napoleonic wars, and did not achieve full independence until 1905.

His family had connections with the sea, as do many of the other Gjertsen families, and with the long history of being joined with Norway, and speaking a language so similar that even today Norwegians and Danes can understand each other when they speak their own languages in conversation, it is very possible that his family had historical connections with Denmark.

Certainly, when 'Uncle Stanley' gave me a traditional silver spoon with my initials engraved on it for my christening, it came from H. Villadsen Nielsen, silversmiths of Copenhagen, so he had some contact with Denmark, either directly or through one of his relatives, even in the 1940s.

Returning to the 1911 census record for

John Coate's farm, their Gjertsen is recorded as Stanley rather than Lars S as appears on other censuses of Lars Stang's family, so this record is most probably also of the Stanley Gjertsen who eventually worked on our farm.

It thus appears that both the S Gjertsens had connections with Barningham, but only the one recorded, and known as Stanley, stayed on and worked in farming, and it is this one who appears in the photos in *Archive 7*, and these other ones shown with this article.

It is certainly quite a coincidence to have two men with the Gjertsen surname visiting and staying in Barningham in the early decades of the 20th century, which leads to the question of whether there was a connection between them, or their families, and perhaps mutual friends in the Barningham area?

I have no documentary evidence of such a connection, but my mother's address book, which dates back to the farm at Danby, lists, in addition to various addresses for Stanley after we all split up, addresses for a Mrs Gjertsen and a Mr & Mrs Gjertsen, so the family had contact with other Gjertsens in the 30s and 40s. The Mr & Mrs could well have been Stabel and his wife, but the address for Mrs Gjertsen is in Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, and this is the area where the family of Lars Stang Gjertsen were living back in 1901.

Was this one of the other Gjertsen family members?

● *The Lars Stang Gjertsen who volunteered to act as parish clerk in 1919 remained in Barningham for at least four more years.*

His wife was recorded in the parish magazine of March 1923 as a member of the Waifs and Strays Committee and a member of the District Nursing Association. At the same time Mr Gjertsen was mentioned as secretary of the Parochial Church Council, and Denis Gjertsen (their son?) was commended by the rector for raising more than five shillings for the waifs and strays.

However, the following September Mr Gjertsen resigned from the PCC, and there is no further mention of the family that we can find. – Ed.

barningham's gjertsens

surprising that others made the same mistake.

He finally received his naturalisation in 1917 and became a British subject, and the papers relating to this process lodged at Kew provide much further information on his background.

He was born in Norway in 1882, at Tjøme on an island now joined to the mainland by a bridge and located just beyond the mouth of the Oslo Fjord near the main shipping route from Oslo to Denmark and beyond, and it is in shipping that the family were involved. They came to England in 1895 when Lars Stang was around 13 years old, so he had many years to pick up English before he applied to become parish clerk, but at that age he would not have lost his ability to speak Norwegian, enabling him to go back to that country to recuperate in 1916.

In the 1901 census his father, Lars L. Gjertsen, is listed as a master mariner, and when he was not full time in the Yorkshire Hussars, Lars Stang worked some of the time for his uncle, Herman Gjertsen, who had a ships chandlers business in Middlesbrough, before setting up on his own account in 1904. In 1917 he was still a partner in the business of Gjertsen & Wernstrom in Dock Street, Middlesbrough, and there is a record of the firm through to 1926, though it had by then moved to premises in nearby Bridge Street.

The 1901 census indicates that he was part of quite a large family with three brothers and three sisters, one each of these being born in Middlesbrough, the others in Norway. The support letter from the chief constable says that the family was well known to him, and one of those who wrote in support of Lars Stang's application was a Middlesbrough councillor. One of his brothers, Thomas Ahasverus, had been granted naturalisation in 1915, and he is the only one of the family that I can find in the 1911 census. Did the others move away for a



Stanley with Dick Alderson's Aunt Annie, stacking oats in 1936

time? Was it to be with his family that he went to Norway to recuperate in 1916?

If they did move away for a period it also appears that they returned. A Thomas A Gjertsen, almost certainly his brother, served in the Army Service Corps and received the 'Victory' and 'British' Medals. There is also a T. A. Gjertsen, most probably the same man, who appears frequently in telephone directories, running a ships chandlers business, firstly in West Hartlepool and then, after 1928, in Hull where another of his possible brothers, E.B. Gjertsen is also listed. In addition there is a record of a Lars Gjertsen dying in 1943 at 88, which would agree with his father's age as indicated by the 1901 census.

The naturalisation papers state that in 1912 Lars Stang married Lillian Elizabeth Wilson and they had a son, Lars Stanley John Gjertsen, in 1913. So, when he presented himself as a candidate for Barningham parish clerk, he had lots of family connections in England and a business in Middlesbrough. Perhaps he was seeking to move to Barningham to benefit from the much cleaner air that he would have found there.

The key question for me now is: is he the same 'Stanley' Gjertsen who joined our faming family?

It is possible that he did adopt the anglicised form 'Stanley' as he settled into life here, and used it in 1911 when he was at the Coates' farm, but the census records reveal that there is another Gjertsen who actually appears as Stanley in the returns for 1891 and 1901. It can be hard to distinguish the two, as they were both listed as born in the same year, 1883, and both were 'Norway - foreign subject', but while Lars Stang was born in Tjøme, Stanley was born in

letters & emails

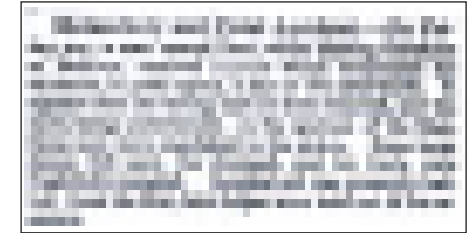
Gruesome report of a Melancholy Accident

I BELIEVE my great-great-grandfather is buried in Barningham churchyard. He was called John Dent and died as a result of a quarry accident in 1871.

We have done loads of research on the Dent family going back to 1767 when Matthew Dent married Isabella Frier in Barningham. He died in 1795 and his wife in 1826, aged 92.

They had a son, another Matthew, born 1771 in Barningham, who married Mary Head in Bowes in 1801. She died in 1815 and in 1826 Matthew married a second time, to Mary Denham. He died in Barningham in 1842.

He had five children: Isabella (born 1802), Ester (1803), Mary (1809), Matthew (1814) and John (1812), who died in the accident. His son, another John, was my great-grandfather,



From the Teesdale Mercury, June 14 1871: see first letter

who eventually moved to Haworth and married three times.

Please send me a copy of *Where Lyeth Ye Bodies* so we can find out more.

JOAN WHITE, Yelverton, Devon
joan.white@mypostoffice.co.uk

● We found John Dent recorded in the book, buried in Barningham on June 8 1871. We also found a report on his death in the *Teesdale Mercury* a week later and sent it to Joan: she was delighted. -Ed.

Barningham schoolmaster's pay in 1819

FOLLOWING your research into Barningham School in the last *Archive*, I have just found this, which may be of interest. It's a *Digest of Parochial Returns* made to a House of Commons select committee appointed to inquire into the education of the poor in 1819:

'Barningham: An endowment of land let at present for £21 10s p.a. is apportioned by the trustees to the relief of the poor, and the maintenance of a school as specified in the deed of gift; £1 10s is given to the former and £20 to the latter, which a master receives for the education of 12 children, and he likewise instructs about 38 other scholars who pay 18s p.a.; the numbers have increased within these two years in consequence of the introduction of the national system.

There is also a commercial school of 50 or 60 boys. A school at Scargill containing from 15 to 20 children who pay the master £1 p.a.'

MARION MOVERLY, Richmond. moverley.lyons@virgin.net

That's my 'aunty'!

YOUR report on Barningham School mentioned Florence Roper, who became the headmistress in the 1920s. She was a friend of my mother's and I knew her as Aunty Florrie.

She had been a teacher in Well, near Bedale, near the Milbanks' place at Thorp Perrow, and I think it was the Milbanks who offered her the job up here. She was called Willison before she was married, and came from Masham. She had two children, Gladys and Stan. She gave up the job to marry George Rattcliff, a bald-headed chap with round spectacles. She moved with him to Worksop and I used to visit her there.

DOROTHY STORROW, Newsham

The Squance link

YOUR report about the 1894 Christmas wax-works show in the last *Archive* mentioned one of the people taking part - "the wonderfully-surnamed Dora Squance".

I'm 99 percent certain this was Doratheia Henrietta Squance - the name Squance is rare and Dora Squances are even rarer. She was born in Liverpool in 1838, the youngest daughter of a Wesleyan minister, the Rev Thomas Hall Squance and his wife Doratheia Diederika Frederika Conradi (who was the daughter of the Governor of Dutch Java).

The Rev Squance died in 1868, and his wife ended up in Darlington, where she died in 1877,

footnote



THE November issue of *The Local Historian*, journal of the British Association for Local History (who laid on our Whitby trip), mentions our group and says it's "to be congratulated on the quality and quantity of their publications". Contact me if you'd like to see a copy. -Ed.

letters & emails

so I assume there was some family connection to your area. A religious connection seems most likely.

Dora was for some while a governess and by 1891, was a teacher of music in Bishopwearmouth. She died in July 1915, aged 76.

There were few surviving members of Dorathea's 11 siblings – her brother Thomas Coke Squance was the only one to marry. As far as I can tell his children never settled in Yorkshire.

Dora's father Thomas Hall Squance was born in Exeter in 1790. He was converted at the age of 15 and two years later became a local preacher. He entered the Methodist ministry in 1812 and a year later was appointed to travel to India with Dr Thomas Coke.

The Rev Squance was a great scholar and a diligent student of Portuguese and Tamil, even writing a Tamil grammar book. He preached the first Methodist sermon in Asia, an occasion which saw the conversion of the commander of the British garrison in Ceylon. He worked in India and Ceylon until 1822 when he was compelled to return home on account of his health.

After his return to England, Squance laboured as a circuit minister in the south of England until poor health forced him to become a supernumerary in 1862.

DEBORAH O'BRIEN, Devon
Devon Family History Society

● *We've found a further mention of Dora Squance, in the parish magazine for April 1898 which records 'Miss D Squance of Sunderland' subscribing five shillings to the Barningham Church Jubilee Fund. It looks as if she visited the village regularly, perhaps to stay with a local family – was she a schoolfriend of one of the rector's children, perhaps? The name Squance originated in the far south-west of England, and there are very few of them around today. –Ed.*

Canada calling: Where did my surname come from?

I LIKE how interested in history you people are. I live in Canada and most people lost all of their family history when they crossed the ocean. I'd like to know if you have any ideas where the name barningham/burningham/berningham came from?

KENNETH BURNINGHAM, Canada. ramaduk@gmail.com

● *Our first Canadian correspondent! We've pointed Kenneth in the direction of Merryne Watson's explanation – 'The village of the people of the Bear' – in his book As Time Passed By. –Ed.*

Searching for Coates

MY great-great-grandfather James Monkhouse was born at Spanham in 1809, baptized at Barningham 6/4/09; he died in Manchester 1869. His father Jonathan 1767-1851 was born in Eggleston (and was distantly related to the Barningham curate Edward Monkhouse).

Does anyone know about the family of his wife, Margaret (nee Coates)? She claimed on the 1861 census to be a Barningham native, but was not baptized at St Michael's. Also, where did she disappear to in 1851?

Margaret was mother to James and nine other children of Jonathan (one died in infancy); she died in 1862 'aged 92', so I have 1770 as an approximate birth date.

I did wonder whether James could have been Margaret's father's name, as it hadn't been used by this branch of the Monkhouses since they moved from Castle Sowerby to Warcop, about 1700.

I noticed there was a schoolmaster called James Coates at Newsham circa 1780. I find the phenomenon of the 'London Schools' fascinating: one of my wife's great-great-grandfathers was a boarder at Whashton in 1851.

Incidentally, I'm Rector of Norton, in Sheffield, and am used to helping folk with family history enquiries, so would much appreciate any assistance you can offer. Good website!

GEOFFREY WHITE, Norton, Sheffield
geoffreywhite_333@hotmail.com

● *Margaret Monkhouse's grave is in Barningham churchyard, the gravestone giving her age when she died as 93. Her husband Edward gets a mention elsewhere, though there's no record of his death here. We've passed this and other information on to Geoffrey, and told him a bit about Newsham's schoolmaster James Coates, the one whose diaries we hope to produce in booklet form before too long. –Ed.*

Tracing Barningham's Gjertsens

Archive 7 featured a Dane called Stanley Gjertsen who was working in the Barningham area after the first world war. His godson Dick Alderson, a history group member living in Fife, has been investigating and discovered Stanley wasn't our only Gjertsen. This is his report.



ARCHIVE 7 revealed that a certain 'Lass Strang Gjertson' who could speak good English, had applied for the post of parish clerk in 1919 and it was suggested that this could have been my godfather who lived with, and became part of, my family, firstly at East Hope, and then at Danby when the family moved there in 1936.

The Archive had tracked down a Lars Stang Gjertsen who had served with the Yorkshire Hussars in the first world war, and also identified a 28-year-old Stanley Gjertsen assisting with farm work, but listed as a pupil, on John T Coates' farm at Long Green. The question is: are these all the same person?

Early in January I was able to spend a couple of days at the National Archives in Kew and I had an opportunity to find more information on this much-loved individual from the "farming family" of my sister and I.

I already knew that Lars Stang's term with the Yorkshire Hussars had been from 1906 to 1916 and that he had been invalided out of the army. What I learned at Kew was that his unit had been the 2/1st Yorkshire Hussars (Territorials). The Territorial units were formed out of various volunteer units in 1908 and were, as today, units of part time soldiers, but then with the role of 'home defence'. They undertook to serve full time in the event of general mobilisation and Lars Stang did serve nearly two years full time, or embodied, as it was termed, following the outbreak of war in 1914. He attained the rank of staff quartermaster sergeant and was awarded the Territorial Forces Efficiency Medal, but he had been rejected for active service in France because of tuberculosis of the larynx.

TB is a very serious illness even today, when antibiotics are available to treat it; then it could be a sentence of death, though this was not inevitable and some treatments, such as cauterisation



Stanley Gjertsen, pictured in the 1930s

of the infected area in the throat, were available.

In February 1916 he entered a sanatorium in Middlesborough, and it was two months after this that he was discharged from army service. After a further month in the sanatorium he left and, after filing an application to become a British citizen, he went to Norway and spent a year there to help in his recovery. He had previously applied for naturalisation in 1906 and the documents contain an apology for not having followed it up with the required forms, etc.

On his return in 1917 there was some concern that his application was not proceeding fast enough and a letter was written by the chief constable of Middlebrough in his support, mentioning that he was at that time residing in Barningham. So there were already connections with the village and makes it very likely that this is indeed the person who, in 1919, applied for the position of parish clerk, even though his name is recorded as Gjertson. Regarding this spelling of Gjertsen; this was a confusion mentioned in the naturalisation application papers, so it is hardy

Jane Smithson's unlucky brood

NEXT on the 1841 list are one of the three **Clarkson** families living in Barningham at the time.

Head of the household was John, a 56-year-old farm worker born in the village who had married a local girl, Ann, probably a **Monk-house**. They had three daughters, ten-year-old Jane, Anne, aged five, and Mary, two; a fourth child, John, would be born in 1845.

Their mother died in 1854, aged 53. John senior lived on until at least 1861, when he was curiously recorded in the census of that year as being married with a 22-year-old wife called Mary, who must surely have really been his daughter (mistakes like this are not uncommon in census returns).

John's death isn't recorded in the Barningham registers and there's no sign of what happened to the four children.

Next in the list was Jane **Smithson**, a 46-year-old widow "of independent means" and not much luck. Born in Barningham, she had married a John Smithson and had four children between 1819 and 1826 – Richard, William, Mary Ann and James. Then, while she was pregnant for the fifth time, tragedy struck. Two of her children died – William, aged six, and four-year-old Mary Ann – and her husband John went to the grave the following year aged just 38.

The new baby, Christopher, survived, as did the other two boys. In 1841 Richard, now 23 and a coal-fitter's clerk, and James, a 16-year-old draper, were living with their mother. There's no mention of Christopher, but he is still alive somewhere and re-appears in 1851 in Lowther Street, Scarborough, where he, his mother and James were now living. And there's another member of the household: a five-year-old boy called George Smithson, recorded as Jane's son. Jane is by now well into her fifties and it seems much more likely that she's looking after the off-spring of one of the other sons, though none of them appear to have yet married.

Ten years later only Jane and James – still unmarried and working as a commercial traveller and linen manufacturer – remain at Lowther Street. Both Richard and Christopher have died young, like their father. Christopher was buried at Barningham in 1857 at the age of 31; his

1841 census trail

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

brother followed him four years later, aged 42. Their mother outlived him by only three years, moving into the family burial plot in 1864.

By 1871 the only one left (apart from the mysterious George) was James. He's finally married a girl called Sarah Ann from London and they've moved to Halifax, where he's running a drapery and millinery business. But it looks as if he, like his brothers, was not destined to reach a ripe old age: there is no record of him in 1881 and it seems that he died before reaching 50. Sarah Ann lived on, and in 1901 is in Southport, aged 72. She, too, is gone by 1911.

There are a couple of clues in the Smithson boys' names to possible links with other Barningham families. James was christened James Marriner Smithson, and Richard's full name was Richard Peacock Smithson. Either **Marriner** or **Peacock** may well have been their mother's maiden name, though we can find no evidence to back that up.

Sorting out the Smithson family story wasn't helped, incidentally, by the 1841 census form collector recording James as 'Marina', which we assumed was the name of a girl for whom we searched long hours in vain before realising it was his middle name. Maybe that's what he called himself: Marriner Smithson, the Millinery Man.

The rest of this issue's subjects are less problematical. Next is Margaret **Metcalf**, 77 years old and living alone. She was the widow of John Metcalfe, who had died aged 75 only a few months before. She was buried beside him in 1848.

Finally we come to Alex **Anderson**, still the village postman at the age of 69 (or so he said on his census return). He shared his home with a maid servant, another **Clarkson**. This one's called Ann. She's 38, and may be related to other Clarksons nearby, but we know nothing more at all about her.

We don't know much about Alex, either, apart from the fact that he was born in Scotland and he died in 1844. The burials register has him down as 75 years old by then, so maybe he'd not been wholly truthful with the census man.

● *Next issue: the last of the Muncasters*

letters & emails



Cameron girls

FOLLOWING my email in the last *Archive*, here's a photo taken in 1910 of my great-grandfather John Cameron with his daughters Ada and Ethel. They lived at Wilson House after his death three years later.

DANI MILES, Havant, Hampshire
wrynose47@gmail.com

Witnesses wanted

I WOULD appreciate it if your group could look for details of Mary Wilkinson who was married to John Longstaff by licence in 1820 in Arkengarthdale.

She was living in Brignall. Witnesses were Handby Waistell and Thomas Liddell. I cannot find a Handby Waistell. I have found the deaths of Thomas Waistell (1887) and Margaret (1903) but haven't found a marriage which could be useful.

In return I can look for births, marriages and deaths for Arkengarthdale. I have many on spread sheets in alphabetical order and date order.

KENNETH LONGSTAFF, Warwickshire
member@klongstaff.freemove.co.uk

● *We found Hanby Waistell listed among Brignall marriages for 1813-1830 as having married Jane Wilkinson at Brignall on November 20 1813. Jane appears to have been Mary's sister and thus Hanby her brother-in-law. We've sent Kenneth details and also information about Waistells recorded in our booklet A Child of*

from the parish mag

120 YEARS AGO: It is with considerable pleasure we make the announcement that a gift of an oak pulpit has been promised for the Church Restoration Fund by Miss Collins, a lady residing in Leeds where, for a good many years, she has been well and affectionately known as Sister Katherine, and as having devoted herself to the work of God. She is a daughter of a late Rector of Barningham, and it was while the Rev Thomas Collins was Rector that the present Church was built in 1816. There are now only two things we have not yet received promises for – Surplices for the choir boys, and Lamps for lighting the Church.

– February 1891

95 YEARS AGO: The war drags on its weary length, and alas! demands its toll in wounds and loss of life. There is hardly a house that has not one of its members or relatives either at the front or in training in some branch of the king's service. In one Rokeby family we have to record with sincere regret the death of two brothers. They both fell almost at the same moment, meeting an instantaneous and painless fate. They sacrificed their young life for England. Who could desire a more glorious death?

– February 1916

75 YEARS AGO: As I write these words, at the hour when the body of our beloved King George V is being drawn through London to Westminster Hall, the hearts of all thinking people are being wrung with a personal grief. We all know the example set by His Majesty as a devoted Servant of God and a real Father to his own family. Let us set to work and copy that example in our own lives. It means effort and self-control. If the King could do it, so can you.

– February 1936

60 YEARS AGO: *In Memoriam:* Another of the old school has passed on. William Nicholson, a retiring man who, living on the mood-edge, mixed little in village life. He had a talent for painting and a taste for reading. He will be missed by his friends. Our sympathy is given to Mrs Nicholson and the family. *In Memoriam:* Christopher Smith lived most of his life in Barningham, and his interest harked back to the old place always. He too was of an artistic bent, which found expression in his work as a stone-mason. His family are assured of our sympathy.

– February 1951

photospread

Our New Year fundraiser

HISTORY group members turned out in force for our New Year get-together at Braeside, had a lot of fun, and raised a magnificent £212 for group funds.

Many thanks to all who supported the event, to the ladies who provided such a wonderful spread, and, of course, to Eric and Kay Duggan for their excellent hospitality.

Pictures by Sue Prytherick.

