

## Your chance to meet the Forum

COUNTY Durham History & Heritage Forum, a body set up to bring local history groups together (we're members), is meeting at Durham County Hall on Saturday March 19th, 9.30 till 1.

On the agenda is forum president John Grundy, the local historian who's become a familiar face on television with his programmes on North-east architecture; discussion of research being carried out by forum members (including Janet Whittaker, principal keeper at the Bowes Museum); and an introduction to the North-east Labour History Society's radical politics history programme. If you fancy going, it's £3 a head including refreshments. You need to book by March 7th: Jon Smith has the details.



John Grundy



### Schoolma'am Margaret and a teacher-to-be

MARK Watson of Sussex House has identified the boy in the blazer standing to the left of Barningham schoolmistress Margaret Alderson in this picture from around 1926 that we published in *Archive 13*.

He was Mark's great-uncle John Frederick Bainbridge, born in 1911, son of village butcher Johnny Bainbridge of The Terrace (now Newby House), and clearly one of Miss Alderson's star pupils. He trained as a teacher himself, eventually becoming headmaster of Shipley School.

### Evie's census

YOUNG Evie Ridgway of The Laurels is carrying out a survey of everyone in Barningham to find out where they came from. Useful info for future generations: please help when she knocks on your door.

### Barns survey

OUR photo-survey of Barningham barns will soon be underway now the weather's improving. Contact Ed Simpson (2 Park View, 621404) if you'd like to join in.

### old hints & recipes

#### Grandma's remedy to relieve a cough

TO treat a persistent, nagging nighttime cough, bring two cups of water to a boil and add two sliced lemons, 1/2 teaspoon of either mint or dried ginger, and 2 tablespoons of honey and 2 tablespoons of sugar. After mixing these ingredients and having brought them to a boil, they should soon turn into a thick syrup. Once this has occurred, add an ounce of your favorite liqueur or brandy. Is it any wonder how a couple of spoonfuls of this warm syrup can cure a cough?

● *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](mailto:history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk) website: [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)



# Archive 15

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

[www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)



## INSIDE: A SLEEPLESS NIGHT IN NEWSHAM BACK IN 1832

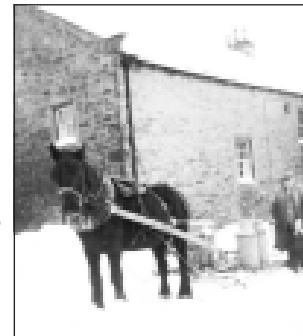


### Churning through the snow



Winter 1963: The Bayles family of Hope dig through the drifts and bring a horse-drawn sled out of retirement to deliver the milk

PICTURES FROM SHEILA BAYLES' FAMILY ALBUM



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NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY APRIL 5th 6pm

## minutes of the last meeting

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Tuesday March 1 2011:

**Present:** Jane Hackforth-Young, Neil Turner, Ann Hutchinson, Eric Duggan, Ed Simpson, Sue Prytherick, Robin Brooks, Tony Orton, Ann Orton, Jon Smith, Mark Watson, Greta Carter, Ann Rowley, Sally Ridgway, Phil Hunt.

**Apologies:** Kay Duggan, Diane Metcalf, Sheila Catton.

**Minutes** of the previous meeting were agreed.

**Matters arising** were all on the agenda.

**Correspondence:** County Durham History and Heritage Forum were meeting at County Hall on March 19. The meeting would be chaired by John Grundy and run from 9.30 to 1.00pm at a cost of £3 (see Page 20). Anyone wanting to go along should contact Jon who had application forms, as soon as possible.

We had been contacted by relatives of the Judsons (Dalton) and Dents (Scargill). The Dent contact had sent a transcript of a commonplace book (family diary) which dated from 1760 to 1860 and contained lots of interesting information and also some recipes. Jon was hoping to produce this in book form if possible.

A member of the Lee family from Seattle had contacted Jon. In response Jon had produced a family tree and Neil was able to give him some information about various members of the family. One was the village postman whose story appeared in *Archive 2* and three others had been landlords of the Black Horse Inn.

**Financial report:** Eric reported that income for 2011 so far totalled £334, with expenditure of £133.25. This gave a surplus of £200.75 which, added to the balance at the end of 2010, gave us total funds at the end of February of £823.98. Eric warned that quite a lot of this would be spent on *Archive* printing over the year but the overall position was very healthy.

## old ads

**A** Married Physician, residing in the North Riding of Yorkshire, can receive into his Home a Lady or Gentleman suffering from Nervous or Mental Illness. For reference, address X, Post-office, Greta-bridge, York.

*The Lancet, 1867*

## Brides, babies, a lost banner and a balloon trip

**House histories:** Park View: see later in this issue.

**Publications:** *Archive 14* was distributed early in February and *15* would follow soon. The booklets listing brides and baptisms from 1580 to 1800 were now available at £10 (£8 members). Jon then had us guessing various statistics he had gathered from the records, average age on marriage, number of illegitimate births, etc. We didn't do very well! See pages 3-6 for more details.

**Recipes:** Ongoing

**Field names/Barns:** Ed said that there were nine barns around Barningham, starting at Early Lodge. They mostly dated from the 18th century but there was not much information about them, and quite a few had gone. He was intending to take photos and do more research when the weather improved.

**Wartime/Oral history:** Phil and Ann H had formulated some questions for George Alderson. He had written some information for them and now they were waiting for the recording equipment to be available

**Memorial names:** Sally had not started yet but she told us that Evie was doing a census of the birth places of all residents in the village.

**Any other business:** Eric had brought a banner that had been produced for the Millennium and spent the past decade under the stairs at the Rectory. Sue is to investigate the possibility of framing it so that it can be displayed in the village hall.

**Open house:** Sally told us a fascinating story about an ancestor of Nat's and his balloon ride from the Bowes Museum in the 1870s. Look out for the full story in a forthcoming issue of the *Archive*.

**Future meetings:** Tuesdays April 5 and 17th May 17, when Eric Barnes is going to tell us about the Napoleonic invasion in Teesdale.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

## 1841 census trail

them is Thomas, a cattle dealer and now listed as unmarried, Richard, also dealing in cattle, and Mary, 40 and still a spinster.

By 1871 Eleanor has died. Jane is running a grocery and drapery shop in Osmotherley, sharing her home with Thomas, still cattle-dealing. Richard has moved to Hartlepool, where he's working as a gardener. Mary has married a local cow-keeper called Todd. Hodgson has surfaced in Stockton, where he's a cattle dealer with a wife called Frances but, apparently, no children. Ann has vanished for good.

By 1881 Jane – now in her sixties – has at last found a husband, Osmotherley flour merchant William Thompson, and her brother Thomas has moved in with them. All seem to have died within the next decade.

Richard, meanwhile, has moved to Stockton and joined his brother Hodgson, whose wife dies within the next few years. The brothers stay together and when their sister Mary's husband dies she joins them with her unmarried daughter Eleanor. They're all there in 1901, but by 1911 all have vanished except Eleanor, who's moved to Northallerton where she's living alone.

That was the end of this branch of the Muncasters, as far as we can tell. There were others, almost certainly relatives, living in Stainton in the 1850s, and more scattered about the country, mostly near Muncaster in Cumbria where the family almost certainly originated.

Next on the census list was John Coulson **Sowerby** and family, whom we've mentioned before in *Archives 7 and 8*.

## Still Riding the Stang well into Victorian days

THOSE who have read *Aback to Yuvven*, our reprint of an 1849 glossary of Teesdale dialect, will recall mention of an ancient custom called Riding the Stang, in which errant spouses were forced to sit astride a pole and be paraded around their village to the catcalls and brickbats of disapprovers. We thought it had probably died out by the time the glossary was printed, but look what we found in the *Teesdale Mercury* of March 16th 1870...

A CASE arising out of the ancient usage Riding the Stang was heard at the West Hartlepool Police Court on Monday, the person charged being John Corner, Thomas Dobbing, William Dee, John Glaff, Richard Dee, Christopher Dee, Mary Dee, Mary Harrifon, Joseph Squirt, Joseph Reay and Joseph Stephenfon.

The offence was brought under the Act dealing with breach of the peace, and was committed at a village called Greatham. Mr R Bell appeared for the complainant (Police-constable Wellman), and Mr Isaac Hopper for the defendant.

A number of persons from Greatham attended court for the purpose of enjoying a bit of fun, but were doomed to disappointment, the solicitor engaged announcing that an amicable settlement had been effected through each of the defendant's undertaking to pay 3s 6d law expenses.

## house histories

having originally been two buildings back to back though that division does not extend above the ground floor!).

All these buildings are stone built and roofed with Teesdale slabs. The barn has stone cills and jambs, and windows, suggesting it was used for more than simply storage and might, as we have suggested before (see *Archives 1, 2 and 5*), have been the workshop of Thomas Binks, the clockmaker and whitesmith. Evidence of a small hearth inside and discovery of a lead clock weight in the garden might corroborate this.

To the rear of the outbuildings is an extensive walled garden with a number of very old apple trees. This, together with the range of outbuildings, suggests that the whole property might originally have functioned as some sort of small-holding or small farming enterprise.

The house, and others nearby, were occupied by the Atkinson family from at least the early 1800s until well into the last century (again, see earlier *Archives* for details). Sometime during the 1930s it was being lived in by Robert and Alice Graham, who moved there from the post office.

Later occupants included widowed Mrs Edith Bainbridge, formerly of Newby House; George Spence and his wife; and a couple who lived there in the 1960s before going to run the Fox Hall pub (Neil Turner says he was a German, possibly called Schneider, with a disconcerting habit of saying 'Darling, I love you' to everyone, including the men).

By the 1960s it was home to John and Pam Watson, who remained there for around 20 years. After their departure it was let for about 18 months to a couple called Johnson from Aldershot before being bought by Robin and George-Anne Brooks, the current occupants.

● *Mention of the dovecot at the March history group meeting prompted discussion of others in the area, including one, now closed off, on the west side of the coach house at the hall, and other, smaller ones at Banks House and Dove Cottage. There is said to be one to the rear of a house on the south side of Newsham green. If you know of others, let us know.*

● *Thanks to Robin Brooks for providing much useful information for this feature.*

## 1841 census trail

## 140 acres, six children, and all on her own

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

HALFWAY through the list, and we come to the **Muncaster** family, tenants of the Milbank-owned Barningham Farm.

There had been Muncasters in the village for the best part of a century at least: an Elizabeth Muncaster married Charles Hardy here in 1748, and a Joseph Muncaster was buried in Barningham in 1769.

They were a fairly well-to-do farming family. In 1819 Richard Muncaster (Joseph's son?) was paying the Milbanks £200 a year for the farm tenancy, and when he died in 1826 his 35-year-old widow Eleanor kept it going, despite the fact that she had six young children to rear – seven-year-old Thomas, Jane, six, Richard, five, Mary three, and two-year-old twins Hodgson and Ann.

She must have been a tough character, because somehow she survived, and by 1838 when the village tithe map was drawn up she was farming 140 acres spread over 21 fields, mostly to the north-east of the farm. Three years later, when the census collector called, she was still there with all six children and one live-in farm servant, 36-year-old Newcastle-born Christopher Wycliffe, of whom we know nothing more except that in 1851 he was back in Barningham visiting blacksmith Ralph Goundry whose smithy was just across the road from Barningham Farm.

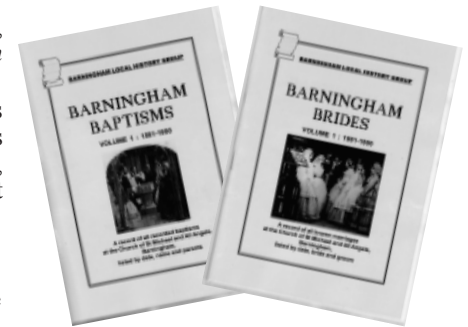
Sometime during the 1840s the Muncasters decided to move, and here the picture gets a bit blurred. Thomas is recorded in 1851 in Sunderland, a journeyman joiner married to a Wallsend girl called Dorothy. Jane, unmarried, is working as a servant for her 68-year-old aunt Ann Waite in Romaldkirk. Richard is a farm labourer in Darlington. There is no sign of their mother or the other children.

But ten years later most of them re-appear in Osmotherley. Eleanor (now recorded as Ellen) is there, a 74-year-old widow, with Jane. With

## Behind the brides and babies books

THERE'S more to our two latest booklets, *Barningham Baptisms* and *Barningham Brides*, than just lists of names.

We've been compiling a few statistics about the 2,944 baptisms and 721 weddings from 1581 to 1800 recorded in the booklets, and they reveal all sorts of information about the people involved...



### Brides' age

MATCHING names in the two booklets, we managed to identify 200 brides and 183 grooms who had been baptised in the parish, and whose ages when they were married we were able to give with reasonable certainty<sup>1</sup>.

Until 1763 the church accepted marriages of girls aged 12 and boys of 14 (with parental consent), and in some circumstances bishops could issue dispensations allowing even younger children to marry. If parents withheld consent, the couple had to reach the age of 21 before they could go ahead with a wedding.

We found one bride who seems to have been just 14 when she went to the altar in 1612, and a handful of others married in their later teens, but the vast majority were in their twenties or older before they tied the knot. The most popular age throughout the 220 years covered by the booklets was 24, and almost a third of all brides were married at the age of 23, 24 or 25, with an average age over the period remaining fairly constant at around 25.

Brides over the age of 35 were rare: we found only ten – 5% of the total. There were hardly any brides over 30 in the first half of the 17th century, and few after 1740: most of the late marriages took place between 1681 and 1720.

### Grooms' age

MEN waited longer to get married, and a good number of them left it until they were well into their thirties.

We found only six who became bridegrooms before they reached their 21st birthday, and half

### AGE AT MARRIAGE

(Number and % of all weddings)

	BRIDES	GROOMS
Under 16	1 – 0.5%	0 – 0%
16	2 – 1%	0 – 0%
17	1 – 0.5%	0 – 0%
18	3 – 1.5%	0 – 0%
19	2 – 1%	2 – 1%
20	7 – 3.5%	4 – 2%
21	12 – 6%	4 – 2%
22	13 – 7.5%	5 – 3%
23	17 – 8.5%	9 – 5.5%
24	29 – 14.5%	19 – 10%
25	16 – 8%	14 – 7.5%
26	14 – 7%	20 – 11%
27	13 – 6.5%	7 – 4%
28	13 – 6.5%	9 – 5.5%
29	15 – 7.5%	8 – 4%
30	10 – 5%	9 – 5.5%
31	4 – 2%	8 – 4%
32	5 – 2.5%	7 – 4%
33	5 – 2.5%	8 – 4%
34	4 – 2%	8 – 4%
35	4 – 2%	7 – 4%
36	3 – 1.5%	5 – 3%
37	1 – 0.5%	3 – 1.5%
38	2 – 1%	7 – 4%
39	1 – 0.5%	3 – 1.5%
40 +	3 – 1.5%	17 – 9%
All	200 – 100%	183 – 100%
Average age	25.7	28.7

<sup>1</sup> Most baptisms appear to have taken place within a relatively short time after birth, usually within a few weeks and sometimes even on the same day. Christenings of babies born in remote areas might be delayed until circumstances permitted – after harvest was over, for example – or left until following Christmas or Easter. This may mean that the ages we've given here are a little on the low side, but we've no reason to think many are more than a few months out.



## brides and babies

of these were marrying girls who were at least one month pregnant at the time. At least a third of the 18 marrying at the ages of 22 and 23 were in the same position, and the proportion is probably higher.

Most, however, evaded paternity and reached at least their mid-twenties before entering wedlock. Almost a third went to the altar aged 24-26, and the average age for a groom over the two centuries was 28.7. If they got beyond that, they took their time, and only 61% were married by the time they were 30 – compared with 86% of the women.

None of this is very surprising, of course. Most men were in no position to easily support a wife and family until they were well into their twenties, and when they did decide to settle down they sought wives young enough to breed plenty of sons to look after them in old age. Women wanted husbands they knew could provide for them, and that often meant someone years older than they were. There are plenty of examples of men in their late thirties and forties marrying girls ten or even 20 years their junior.

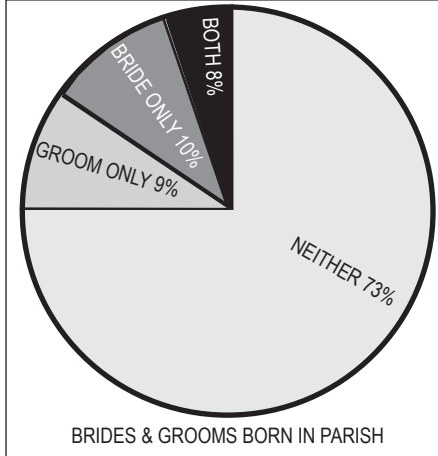
Barningham seems to have followed the national trend as far as brides' and grooms' ages go: there's been some similar research elsewhere in the country, and from what we've seen the age patterns have been pretty much the same as ours.

## Moving around

THERE are 1,422 brides and bridegrooms listed in the booklets as being married in Barningham. Only 383 of them, as far as we can tell, were baptised in the parish. That surprised us, because there's a general belief that people didn't move around much in those days.

By no means everyone got baptised, of course (see later) and there are doubtless some we've missed (surname spellings often changed dramatically over a couple of decades – Eles became Isles, for example, and sorting out all the Thompsons from the Tompsons, Tomsons and Thomsons was a nightmare). But even so we think around three-quarters of Barningham's brides and grooms weren't born in the village.

We found just 52 couples who were both baptised in Barningham – about one in fourteen.



Of these, 29 were married in the 17th century, 14 in the first half of the 18th century and just nine between 1750 and 1800.

All this suggests a fairly high turnover of families moving in and out of the village within fairly short periods, with the result that many young people were finding and choosing partners from outside their immediate area.

This fits in with recent research carried out into social mobility in the 17th and 18th centuries that demonstrates it was quite common for people to move from parish to parish in search of work or better jobs. One study we've seen says this diminished in the second half of the 18th century, but the figures from Barningham don't show this.

## Jumping the gun

OF the 711 women married in the village between 1581 and 1800, we've managed to identify 254 of them who were subsequently recorded as having children baptised within the next 18 months.

The chart opposite shows the gap between marriages and baptisms and it seems fairly clear that at least half the brides making their way up the aisle in Barningham were already expecting their first child.

A third of them gave birth within eight months of their wedding day and well over another third had a child baptised before a year was out. Given that many baptisms took place a few weeks after birth, it seems reasonable to

## Clocks, quoins, doves and a German

*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.*

## PARK VIEW

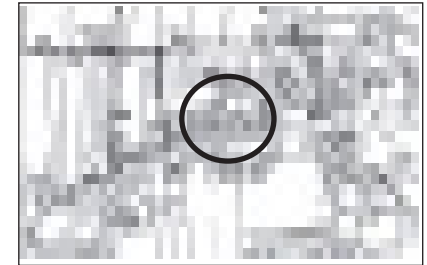
THE property is essentially in two parts: a cottage to the rear on a north-south alignment, and originally two-up/two-down, possibly built in the mid to late 18th century, and a somewhat "grander" house to the front, running east-west and probably dating from the early 19th century.

The earlier part has a double-vaulted cellar, originally accessed via a stone staircase from the kitchen of the later house so the exact relationship between the two buildings is unclear. It may be that part of an earlier structure on the site of the "new" house was incorporated into that building when constructed.

There are also other puzzles, highlighted by a survey by Merryne Watson's Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group in 1988. For example, there are quoins to the west end of the south elevation, facing the road, but only random stones at the east end, suggesting that there was originally a building attached to that end. Evidence of a door in the east elevation, and of a gable lean-to roof (now obscured), would corroborate this.



The derelict dovecot, now vanished



Park View

## house histories

However, if this was the case it would have stood on what is now the access to Pear Tree Cottage and Sunnyside (as well as to the rear of Park View), begging the question of how those properties might have been reached. One possibility is that the first floor once extended across the access, with an archway entrance to the yard below.

The older, rear building originally had a two-storey dovecot/cart shed attached to at the north end with stone nest boxes, essentially of dry stone construction, extending from floor to roof. Presumably the birds would have been used for food, with manure as a by-product. Attached in turn to the dovecot was a single storey, lean-to cart shed, roofed with pantiles. The envelope of the dovecot/cart shed was incorporated into the house in 1989-90 and the single storey shed rebuilt as a garage.

There are further outbuildings to the rear including a barn, earth closet and lean-to shed attached to the end gable of Pear Tree Cottage (again the relationship between this shed and the adjoining house is problematic as there is clear evidence inside the shed of Pear Tree Cottage

Again, I reclined on the pillow, when my ears were saluted with a repetition of the harlequinade accompanied by gnashing of teeth; and in a very short time, I received the most unequivocal proofs of my vicinity to a numerous colony of rats.

As I had never before listened to the gnashing, gnawing, music of these vermin, under similar circumstances, I was very much astonished, not only at their *boisterous* vocality, but at the strange sounds which proceeded from them, and with which they continued to *amuse* me during the whole night.

I am also free to confess that I was not without some degree of alarm on this occasion, as I really expected from their daring approaches, that they would ultimately perform their midnight revels on my bed.

I coughed occasionally, and made all the noises I conveniently could, and for some time this had the effect of producing a temporary silence; but I could easily perceive the pauses of quiet which I thus obtained grew shorter, till at length the gnawing, rattling, and squeaking were almost incessant, in defiance of my utmost efforts.

I had no immediate remedy; and therefore I expected the return of day with all the patience I could summon to my assistance; and when at length, the grey light of morn began to peep into the room, the rats became less boisterous, and their noises gradually subsided as the light increased, till at length they died away altogether.

I now fell fast asleep, and thus continued till seven o'clock, when I was awake by my friend, who, it seems, had slept so soundly as to be quite

among the rats

**I was much astonished at their boisterous vocality**

unconscious of those tormenting concerts just mentioned.

We breakfasted, the morning was dull, and rain continued to descend till past eleven o'clock, when we mounted our ponies and proceeded to the moors of Newsham, which are situated immediately above the village.

We had not been on the moors above two hours, when we were compelled to relinquish our diversion by the return of the rain.

We took shelter at a farm house. On entering, we found two sportsmen had already fled to it, and in one of them I recognised the good tempered fellow who the evening before had so rallied his friend upon his lack of dexterity in the use of the fowling piece.

The other was a very tall, powerful, athletic man, with black hair, and a dark complexion; and although he was what at first sight might pass for a well looking man, yet I never recollect a countenance on which was more indelibly engraven the genuine impression of the most sterling stupidity.

This man had stripped himself almost naked, and sat before a large fire drying his clothes. He did not move on our approach, but continued in the same situation for an hour or more without uttering

a single word. The person, on the contrary, with whom we had become acquainted the night before, offered to share his spirit flask with us. We accepted his kindness; and when we had drained his flask, we produced our own, and shared it with him in like manner.

It still continued to rain; and by the time we finished our brandy the approach of evening warned us that it was time to depart. We therefore mounted our ponies, and, in company with our new friend, rode down to the village as fast as we could.

As bed time approached, I thought of the rats – to be again tormented, in the manner already described, was a circumstance which I could not contemplate without the most irksome sensations.

The landlord and his wife were extremely obliging, and aware that they had allotted me the best room in the house for the purpose of repose, and knowing they had no immediate remedy, I felt somewhat reluctant to complain to persons whom I was perfectly convinced were doing their utmost to render my situation agreeable and pleasant.

The matter, after all, was very easy. When I went to bed, I took one of the pointers into the room, and though this did not altogether remedy the evil, it prevented the rats from drawing my shoes about the floor, as they had done the preceding night, and also from approaching the bed; but still they kept up a continual noise during the whole night.



## Barningham's brides and babies

Gap between marriage and baptism (months)

721 brides were married in Barningham between 1581 and 1800, and we have been able to identify 254 of them whose first child was baptised within the next 18 months. The table below shows how many months elapsed between weddings and baptisms in each 20-year period.

	1581-1600	1601-1620	1621-1640	1641-1660	1661-1680	1681-1700	1701-1720	1721-1740	1741-1760	1761-1780	1781-1800	Totals for 1581-
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
2	1	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	11
3	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	8
4	0	1	0	1	2	2	2	0	2	0	3	13
5	0	2	3	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	2	14
6	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	9
7	0	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	2	13
8	0	0	4	0	2	2	1	2	2	1	0	14
9	0	7	4	5	5	2	4	0	2	5	3	37
10	0	4	5	3	6	3	3	3	5	1	2	35
11	1	4	2	3	1	1	0	2	7	2	2	25
12	0	2	5	1	2	0	1	2	2	3	4	22
13-18	1	10	7	4	2	5	6	1	6	2	4	48
All 0-18	4	38	38	17	24	22	20	13	32	21	25	254

## Was the bride pregnant on her wedding day?

0-8 Yes	2	11	15	1	8	11	6	5	10	8	10	87
% of all	50%	29%	40%	6%	33%	50%	30%	39%	31%	38%	40%	34%
9-12 ??	1	17	16	12	14	6	8	7	16	11	11	119
% of all	25%	45%	42%	71%	58%	27%	40%	54%	50%	52%	44%	47%
13-18 No?	1	10	7	4	2	5	6	1	6	2	4	48
% of all	25%	26%	18%	23%	9%	23%	30%	7%	19%	10%	16%	19%

## And if so, did they speed up the wedding?

Gap between wedding & baptism:	0-8 months	9-18 months	All 0-18 months
Banns read:	26	48	74
Marriage by licence:	12	9	21
Total marriages:	38	57	95

suppose that at least half of these babies were conceived out of wedlock.

The percentages go up and down over the decades, and the figures for period 1640-1660 are somewhat dubious as this was a time of much civil conflict when church records were poorly kept, if at all, but overall it looks as if around two-thirds of our brides had demonstrated their fertility before securing a ring on their finger.

It could well be more: we have no idea how many other babies were born soon after their parents tied the knot, but were not baptised at

all (perhaps twice as many: see below).

Many entries in the marriage registers indicate whether weddings followed banns being read in church, or by special licence. Licences were more expensive, but quicker, and there's some evidence that pregnant brides chose them to speed things up.

A third of brides whose first child was born within eight months of her wedding were married by licence, compared with less than a sixth of those who gave birth later.

brides and babies

### Baptism problems

THERE were almost 3,000 baptisms recorded in the Barningham registers between 1581 and 1800. The number of children actually born was probably a great deal higher.

Most burial register entries of children dying in infancy (which we've taken as aged under 10) are identified by the name of one or both of the parents, and armed with the baptisms list we thought it would be fairly straightforward to work out how many infant deaths there were and the infant mortality rate. It wasn't.

We traced 292 children who died within ten years of being baptised. There were 2,944 baptisms altogether, so that meant about one in ten died young.

But we also found another 314 infant burials of children who *hadn't* been baptised in Barningham, and these are a mystery. Some will be children who had moved into the parish after being born (and perhaps baptised) elsewhere, but it would seem reasonable to suppose that this number would be balanced by unbaptised Barningham children who moved out.

It seems that we have a situation in which only half the children were being baptised. That would give us a total number of births of around 6,000, far more than is suggested by calculations based on the baptism registers alone.

We'd be very interested to know if there's been any similar analysis elsewhere in the country and whether it shows similar results.

The infant mortality rate of around 10% seems very low compared to figures found in other studies elsewhere in Britain, and may be because there were a large number of infant deaths not recorded as such in the burials register and therefore overlooked as we drew up our lists. Perhaps there were some children who were never given a proper burial and never

### Infant mortality

Burials of baptised children					
Age:	1600-1650	1651-1700	1701-1750	1751-1800	All
0-1 month	12	8	6	11	37
1-12 months	68	42	16	37	163
1-2 years	11	12	5	6	34
2-3 years	8	7	3	1	19
3-4 years	3	1	1	1	9
4-5 years	0	0	1	2	3
5-10 years	8	9	8	5	30
All	110	79	40	63	292
% of all baptisms	10.6	10.8	7.5	10.0	9.9
Burials of unbaptised children					
	81	79	91	63	314
Total of all deaths	191	158	131	126	606

made it to the burials register. But we haven't found any evidence of this, and for the moment we can only presume that Barningham infants were tougher than the average.

### Illegitimacy

THE table below shows the number of illegitimate children (usually identified in the registers as 'bastard' or 'base child') buried at Barningham.

The numbers remained fairly small for the 150 years from 1581, with an average of about 1.8% of all baptisms, but rocketed in the second half of the 18th century (nothing special about Barningham – it happened all over the country).

The figures should be treated with caution: it is likely that a lower percentage of illegitimate babies were baptised than legitimate ones, and the total of bastard births was probably quite a lot higher.

### Baptisms of illegitimate children

	1581-1600	1601-1620	1621-1640	1641-1660	1661-1680	1681-1700	1701-1720	1721-1740	1741-1760	1761-1780	1781-1800	Totals for 1581-1800
All bap.	165	348	408	300	281	276	195	235	228	222	276	2944
Illegit.	0	5	14	3	4	8	4	5	5	11	27	86
% illegit.	0.0%	1.4%	3.5%	1.0%	1.4%	2.9%	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	5.0%	9.8%	2.9%

## My night among the Newsham rats

*In the summer of 1832 a pair of sporting gentlemen from London set off on "An Excursion to the Grouse Mountains of the North of England" for a month of hunting, shooting and fishing. One of them kept a diary of the trip, and it was printed anonymously in the Sportsman's Cabinet and Town and Country Magazine the following December. Here's an extract.*



WE arrived in the evening in the village of Newsham, in Yorkshire, on the moors of which we intended to shoot a day or two.

The village is small, and therefore the accommodations are not of the first order. We put up at one of the small public houses (for the village contains two, if I was correctly informed)

and if we were not received in style, and ushered into the most commodious and the most splendid apartments in the world, we experienced civility, were treated with attention, and very moderately charged for our entertainment.

About eight o'clock in the evening, two plainly dressed men came in, who appeared familiar with the house and family, and seated themselves without ceremony. They were both somewhat beyond the meridian of life, and their countenances exhibited marks of ease and good living, and tinged with the rosy hue of Bacchus, yet they appeared something worse for wear, though they were cheerful, and, as it afterwards appeared, extremely good-tempered.

Seeing we were shooters, they asked us a number of questions very unceremoniously, but with good-natured frankness of manner that could not be otherwise than pleasing. In the course of a very short time, we found that they were sportsmen.

One of them was very jocular in his remarks, and rallied his friend upon his awkwardness as

One of my shoes was moving across the room

a marksman. We learned that though, during the course of his life, he never arrived at that skill as to be able to bring down the fairest shot with any degree of certainty, yet he would frequently boast of his dexterity, and if in company where he was a stranger, it might have been concluded that he was one of the most expert shots in the kingdom.

His friend accused him of shutting his eyes when he pulled the trigger, though when in company, he would, if possible, fire at the same moment as his friend, and never failed to claim the bird if one happened to fall.

On one occasion, it seems, when the two gentlemen present were shooting together, at partridges, the covey happening to pass through a gap in the hedge, at the moment

of firing, four birds were thus brought down at one shot: they were claimed by the person who was accused of shutting both eyes at the moment of drawing, though it was strongly and unequivocally asserted that the game was falling when he fired. Nothing could induce him to surrender this darling honour of having killed four birds at one discharge.

About half past ten these cheerful, good-tempered souls took their leave, and we retired to rest – or rather to bed. I was shewn into a sort of parlour, which appeared to be the best room in the house, while my sporting companion was elevated attically to a parlour near the sky, as I could hear him directly over my head.

My room was decently furnished, every thing was very clean, the bed in particular, and I therefore naturally enough calculated upon comfortable repose. But I had no sooner fallen asleep, than I was awoken by a strange noise, and on listening, was clearly of opinion, that one of my shoes was moving across the room.

I sprung from my couch, and all was immediately still.



## letters &amp; emails

could possibly buy in a supermarket! She was also friendly with the owner of the cottage to the left which had previously been a pub, I think her name was Bulmer. After my grandmother died, her sister Elsie, who had been living in the U.S., lived there for a short time prior to it being sold in 1963.

I vaguely recall that there had been a shooting or some sort of atrocity in the village, presumably in the 1950s, although I cannot recall the details. I'll ask my mother when I next see her. Another event I remember was the installation of sewerage into the village around the same time, 1960: previously there had been a septic tank at the top of the village. A large digger drove the pipeline through the rear gardens, I can recall them taking down and re-building the stone garden walls.

I now live in Birmingham, very different from Barningham! Around 1998 I detoured from the A1M on my way to Newcastle and drove into the village. Heatherlands had just been bought by a lady who was in the process of refurbishing the house. Amazingly the place was still very much as my grandmother had left it, except that the rear garden was overgrown.

The new owner had also removed the grey painted external rendering, exposing the stonework of the building which looked absolutely wonderful. I've no idea why it had been covered up in the first place, I think the rendering had been applied before my grandmother bought the house. I assume the new owner must have added a damp course too, there was terrible rising damp in the front room on the left side of the building, Grace was forever sticking the wallpaper back.

It was a very strange experience seeing the place after all those years!

JOHN GLAHOLM, Birmingham

## Stateside contact

I JUST stumbled on your website yesterday and was very pleased to see you have books available with baptisms, burials, and marriage records from Barningham – please let me know how I can order these.

I am a descendent of the Lees of Barningham and have been working on a family history. I'm hoping these records might help me clear

up a few gaps and connect a few dots. My direct ancestor is Thomas Lee, son of Thomas Lee and Hannah Macdonald, who was born in Barningham in 1823. He married Mary Jane Close from Winston in 1854 in Whitby and they emigrated to Nebraska in 1879. I grew up in Nebraska and have many Lee cousins there. I have lived in Seattle for the last 25 years or so and have somehow become the unofficial family historian.

The Lees spread out from Nebraska and I know of Lees in Arkansas, Minnesota, Oklahoma. I will send your our family history once I get it polished up.

I would be interested to know if there are any Lees left in Barningham, since we are planning a big Lee reunion in Nebraska next summer and it would have been wonderful to invite Lees from "the old country" to attend. We are still in contact with some cousins that live in Saltburn-by-the-Sea and are hoping they can come.

JIM JONES, Seattle, USA  
jjjones39@hotmail.com

● *The last person named Lee in the village was Dennis, who died a couple of years ago. But there are quite a few relatives of the emigrant Thomas Lee hereabouts, including Shirley Madrell at The Nook in Barningham, whose great-great-grandfather was Thomas' brother. We're collecting details and sending them back to Jim in Seattle. Shirley says she'd love to attend the reunion – if her rich American relatives foot the bill! –Ed.*

## Hunting for Hunts

MY brother-in-law is trying to find out more about his grandfather and great-grandfather, who were farm hands and shepherds in either Helwith or Kexwith.

His grandfather's name was Aby Hunt and he was one of at least six brothers and one sister. Two of these came in the 1930s to live in Barforth and Gainford and both brothers were farm hands locally.

I'm afraid that my brother-in-law doesn't know his great grandfather's Christian name which makes things difficult, plus the fact that they were shepherds and were likely to move around a great deal working for local landowners living in out-of-the-way shelters and shacks and being very much on the breadline.

MIKE STOW, Gainford

## from the parish mag

**115 YEARS AGO:** We have been passing through most exceptionally trying weather. The heavy falls of snow and the low temperature (the thermometer sometimes indicating over 32° of frost) have produced quite an alarming state of things. It is now many weeks since workmen have been able to earn a single day's wage, and there is a good deal of privation in consequence; fuel, food and in some cases clothing are very scarce. It is a time to exercise generous sympathy towards others, and, if need be, to deprive ourselves for the sake of those about us. – *March 1896*

**95 YEARS AGO:** 49 articles have been sent to the Scottish Horse Regiments, and Lady Tullibardine has written to "acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of 25 pairs of socks, 12 pairs mittens, 12 scarves, kindly sent by Miss Gough and her working party". Some articles have been given to our local men who are in training. – *March 1916*

**85 YEARS AGO:** I do not usually see the local weekly papers but I am told various things have appeared in print about a Village Hall for Barningham. I would suggest that nothing definite be done without careful consultation with Sir Frederick Milbank, who, as I know from conversations which he and I have had, is keenly interested in the matter. A thing like this cannot be done in a hurry. The future must be thought of and all the various interests of the community must be provided for. The first requirement is a strong influential committee representing all sections of our village life. – *March 1926*

**70 YEARS AGO:** Burial: Thomas Arthur Delaney, aged 67 years. Who was there who did not like Tom Delaney? What a courage and determination, what a jolly and friendly spirit were composite in that little man! Quiet and God-fearing, he could not only do a heavy day's farm work, but those who had formerly employed him called him friend. His widow and family are assured of the sincere sympathy of all who know him. – *March 1941*

**45 YEARS AGO:** This has been a long and tiresome winter for all of us, and I hope by the time this reaches you those who have been laid low by flu will have recovered. We have missed you in Church. – *March 1966*

## How Sir Frederick brought 6,000 trout to the village

*THE trout fishing season starts later this month, which is as good a reason as we can think of for reprinting this letter to the Northern Echo in February 1889...*

DEAR SIRS, – It so happened on Friday afternoon there came from Barnard Castle Station two farmers' long carts through the market-place, with three large tin cans in each cart.

The six cans each contained 1,000 live Loch Leven trout from Scotland for the fishponds at Barningham Park, the beautiful shooting box of Sir Frederick Milbank. No one had ever seen anything like them before. When they got to Barningham both young and old were on the look-out for the live fish coming so far. First one and then another was making the remark that "there will sure to be some dead, and we will go and see them turn out of the tins".

When the first can was given to Birtwhistle, the keeper, he was most careful in letting the trout nicely out, so that everyone could see them swim away. It was a grand sight. Then the other five cans were brought out of the carts. All the fish were lively, and jumping into the pond. Not one dead among them after coming so far!

Health to Sir Frederick for many years to come to use his rod and line, and may he have good sport. Sir Frederick is one of the best fly fishers, and can handle his line in grand style, having practiced for many years in the Scottish Highlands.

A word for the beautiful village of Barningham. I do not know where it can be beaten. It stands 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. The walks all around the village are beautiful. Sir Frederick has improved all the walks in the beautiful park woods, and put seats every two or three hundred yards for those who want to sit down.

Some pleasant ladies and gentlemen come from Darlington every summer and it will be a great treat for the young ladies when they are out walking, and see the trout jumping and laying at the flies on the top of the pond.

Yours truly, A GREAT ENEMY TO TROUT

● *Barningham seems to have sunk some 1,400 feet since this was written! – Ed.*

## William Todd: A Man of Property

*ANN ORTON delves into the bequests of one of Barningham's richest men in the age of Victoria, and discovers he didn't forget the servants.*

WHILST researching the history of Barningham Chapel at North Yorkshire Archives, I came across a copy of the will of William Todd who died, aged 65, in January 1857. It is very easy to get distracted when looking through old documents and I couldn't resist making some notes.

Today women expect to inherit at least the house that they live in, but William's widow Elizabeth was only left the contents of their two houses: Fairview at Barningham and Minerva House in Sussex.

She was also left an annuity of £400, the leasehold of The Duke of Richmond pub in Caledonian Road, Islington, three leaseholds in Charrington Street, St Pancras, five leasehold houses in Warrington Road, St Pancras, £100, and 100 North Staffordshire Railway shares – so she wasn't left destitute!

The couple were childless, and the house in Barningham was left to his brother Joseph, together with farm land of about 52 acres at Barnard Castle moor, freehold land at Newsham and North Beck paddock at Barningham. In a codicil he also left the blacksmith's shop, various parcels of land and a cowhouse, all at Newsham, to Joseph, which were then to be passed on to his nephew William, son of his brother Anthony.

Several other members of his family benefitted from annuities. His sister Mary had an annuity of £50, his nephew Joseph £35 and his nieces Mary Jackson, Margaret Todd and Elizabeth Todd £35 each.

The female servants who had been living with the Todds for at least six months were left £19 19s 0d in addition to their wages. Why not £20? Was there a tax of some kind on bequests of that amount? Even so it was very generous and would provide a nice little nest-egg for them.

The more important servants were left annuities but these seemed to favour the men rather than the women. Annuities of £20 were left to Sarah Dobson and Mary Law of Barningham aged 63 (an old servant?) but the manservant was left £30 per annum.



**Fairview: Todd's widow got the contents, but not the house**

Everything else was left to his trustees: copyhold, leasehold rents, etc, to pay the annuities. Any surplus of rents and annuities was to be shared equally between the children of his late brother Anthony; they were Elizabeth Ann, Anthony, Margaret Lane, William and Mary Hannah.

This is not a complete list of the bequests. The will is a very complicated legal document and I don't pretend to have understood it all. But it serves to illustrate not only the wealth of William Todd but also his sense of duty to his family and servants.

By the way, I did find some information in the will referring to the chapel: "I give and devise to my said Trustees my freehold field at Barningham late of Mrs Barker (except which part thereof and of the front garden occupied therewith as I sometime gave to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Society)." (*This field is almost certainly the one in which The Nook and Moor Lea now stand – Ed.*)

I am really puzzled by this land. Why did William Todd give it to the methodists and then rent it back for a peppercorn rent? I have copies of two receipts for the payment of this rent.

The first is dated February 21 1902 and signed by William Todd for James Todd. At the time the ground was "in the occupation of Ralph I Leach (Lack?). The second one is dated October 26 1910 and is signed by Mary Todd and witnessed by T H Burnett. It says on this one "the garden belonging to the Trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel at Barningham and in the occupation of Alfred Hauxwell". It is

### letters & emails

being sold for the first time in its history.

Michael and I bought the cottage in 1988 and used it until we sold it to the Gilberts from Gilling in 1997. We added a new rear kitchen extension and re-roofed the whole building.

DIANA EDWARDS, Fairview Cottage

### Welcome addition

THANK you very much for donating copies of *Barningham Brides* and *Barningham Baptisms*. They will be welcome additions to the Record Office library.

Once they have been catalogued and loaded onto the database, they will appear on our website [www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk](http://www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk).

LIZ BREGAZZI

County Archivist, Durham County Hall

### New Marriners

ARCHIVE 14 was another great edition with good reading.

The list in the article *Who owned the pews in 1665* has two Marriners (spelt Mariner), John and Richard, both new to our records, and we're now looking to take our family research back another generation. Can't wait to get copies of the births and marriages books!

JOHN MARRINER, Middlesbrough

### Newsham Johnsons

A LONG shot, but I wonder if anyone has any information about my ancestor, William Johnson, who held land in Newsham and Hudswell (according to tithe, land tax and enclosure records) from about 1770 to 1812.

His children were all born in Hudswell between 1774 and 1786, but in the Hudswell enclosure awards of 1812 he is recorded as William Johnson Esquire of Newsham. I can't find his birth (1740s/1750s?), or his marriage to Mary (1770-ish?).

Has anyone come across him, or any Johnsons in Newsham in the eighteenth century? If so I should be very grateful if you would point me in the right direction.

KEVIN JOHNSON, Bury St Edmunds  
[k@johnson92.plus.com](mailto:k@johnson92.plus.com)



**Grace Seymour, John and his mother outside Heatherlands: see below**

### Heatherlands memories

I WAS just surfing the internet and came across your website. What a find!

My grandmother was Grace Seymour who as you said in *Archive 12* lived at Heatherlands during the 1950s up until her death in 1961. The house continued under my family's ownership until 1963 when it was sold. I recall her close friends were the Alderson family who owned the farm at the top of the village.

The photo above was taken outside the cottage by my father and shows my grandmother, myself aged around four or five, and my mother (Grace) Claire Glaholm, who's still living in Newcastle and now aged 90.

My grandmother had been a farmer's wife and moved from their farm in Tunstall Village, Sunderland, after my grandfather had died in the mid-1940s. From what my mother tells me she'd found it difficult to integrate into the local society which at that time was apparently very insular. Presumably the farming link affiliated her with the Alderson family.

I can remember the wonderful taste of their home-made butter, far superior to anything you



letters &amp; emails

## Where's the logic in two bridges?

CAN the vast research resources of *The Archive* help with this local topographical puzzle?

Where the Greta Bridge road crosses Nor Beck north of Barningham (GR 085109) there is a second bridge over the beck immediately to the east on the line of the footpath that runs north to rejoin the road by the access to Saunders House Farm.

There is no logic to this bridge as a field access as it would be possible to get into the fields on the north side of the Beck off the highway.

However, it would make sense if it was part of an earlier road along the line of present footpath, and which would have a more straightforward alignment than the present road with its marked dog leg on the hill top at Wilson House (possibly following enclosure boundaries?).

Is there anything in your old maps that would suggest this might have been the original road into the village? Certainly the footpath bridge looks older than that on the highway though the latter might well have been rebuilt.

ROBIN BROOKS, Park View

● *The earliest OS map we have, from 1856, clearly shows both bridges. The eastern one doesn't look as if it ever linked with the main road, but merely provided access to the footpath/bridleway (presumably then well-used) leading across towards Sanders House corner.*

*The 1838 tithe map doesn't show any bridges, just a wide stream crossing.*

*The eastern bridge is very narrow and you can see why anyone wanting to use even an average*

## Do you know the origins of Scargill School?

READING your interesting article about Barningham School in *Archive 13* I wondered what, if anything, was thrown up about Scargill School, which is of course in the same parish, and whether its establishment was part of or paralleled by what happened in Barningham in the 19th century.

Was Scargill School founded by the National Society or was it just possibly a board school?



**The eastern – and older? – bridge**

*cart over it would have problems. It may well be that this was built first, and there was a ford across the beck to its west, later replaced by a second bridge.*

*Robin suggests that the pathway to Sanders House corner would be easily accessible from the road north of the bridges, but that assumes a right of way across the fields on the east, which perhaps was denied in the past? The path runs to the right of these fields today.*

*What do other group members think? – Ed.*

## Britannia background

BRITANNIA Cottage was, as you rightly stated (House Histories, *Archive 14*) owned by the Johansons – Alan (known as Jo) and his wife Barbara.

Barbara was very fond of Barningham and for many years used Britannia Cottage as a retreat from life in Whorlton, where they lived, right up until her death as a result of a car crash. She and Jo are buried in Barningham churchyard.

Following Barbara's death, Jo decided to sell up and move south and, as a result of our friendship with he and Barbara, we were offered the cottage, thus resulting in Britannia Cottage

And did the Methodist Church (which I understand used the school for services) have any responsibility for its foundation and upkeep? What were its dates and numbers?

If anyone has any information, I'd be interested to receive it.

MICHAEL BERRY, Monkton, Kent

● *We hope to look into the history of Scargill School before long. – Ed.*

## william todd's will

also annotated on the side edge: "This ackmt is effective for 12 years". What advantage to the methodists was there in this arrangement apart from the actual ownership of the land? If it was the land used for The Nook, why did this arrangement carry on until 1922?

I have checked my lists and as far as I can see the occupiers of the garden were not preachers, in fact the witness in 1910 T H Burnett was a preacher presumably living at The Nook. All very puzzling! If I could be sure which garden is involved it might be possible to trace it through the Land Registry records. I must go back to Northallerton some time and look through the

● *William Todd's widow Elizabeth lived on until 1876, by which time Fairview was occupied by James, a relative from another branch of the family.*

*Mary Law, the servant mentioned in the will, died June 3 1868 aged 77. She was the daughter of a William Law, who had died in 1844 aged 91, and been a dressmaker in the village before working for the Todds. Sarah Dobson was a housekeeper and still around in 1871 when she was recorded in the census as aged 66. She died in 1875. Neither of these appeared to have lived in the Todds' home – both had their own dwellings according to the censuses.*

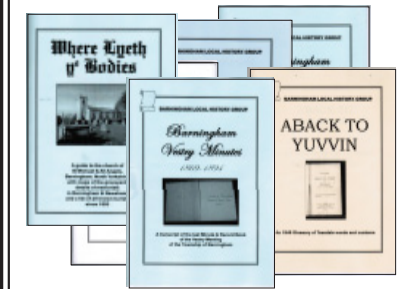
*Part of the field referred to – known as Barker's Garth – had been given in the 1830s by the Todds to the methodists, who used a corner of it to build The Nook as a home for their ministers (it was called Wesley House for many years). It looks as if William Todd later gave the rest of it to the methodists, but his family rented it back until the 1920s. In the 1890s some more was sold to the builder of Moor Lea. – Ed.*

## Yesterday's news

WE had some good publicity for the history group in February, with articles about us in both the *Northern Echo* (it loves our old recipes) and the *Teesdale Mercury*.

A pity, though, that the *Mercury* repeated our tale in *Archive 14* about Miss Frances McCulloch's lost legacy to the church but baffled many a reader by forgetting to mention that it all happened 80 years ago. The editor has written to apologise. He's only just taken over, so we've forgiven him.

## 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 + £1p&p

### Aback to Yuvvin

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

### The Archive: Group newsletter.

Back issues £2 + £1p&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](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)*

stints



# Two mug ewes, ten geese or half a horse

THEY all equalled one stint on Barningham Moor in 1843. And apparently still do.

You won't find this meaning of the word *stint* in Collins English Dictionary, nor in the Concise Oxford. You have to dig deep into the full 20-volume Complete Oxford to find it, and even then it's the sixth definition: "The limited number of cattle allotted to each portion into which pasture or common land is divided."

Barningham Moor was divided into stints long ago, at the time of the enclosures, and when the notice on the left was published in 1843 there were 300 of them, many sub-divided into tenths after being handed down generations, split up between children and sold off in bits. Stints were valuable, and if they went on the market they were soon snapped up.

Owning one stint gave you the right to graze one two-year-old beast, two rams, up to four and a half sheep (depending on age and sex), one ass or mule, ten geese, or any of the other listed combinations.

By 1877, when the list on the right was compiled, 261 and two-tenths of the 300 stints had been acquired by the Milbanks. The rest were spread between 19 owners, some proud possessors of no more than three-tenths of a stint each – just enough to keep three geese.

There were strict rules about using stints, rigorously enforced by a herdsman appointed by all or the main stint-owner (we think he was a Milbank employee in the 1870s). Use of the moor was limited to certain times of the year; anyone putting an unauthorised, unmarked or infectious animal on the land faced hefty fines; dogs were banned.

The 1877 list makes interesting reading. The second biggest owners were the Todds – James senior, James junior, William and John, the man who five years later was to leave the village in disgrace after becoming vestry clerk, purporting to be an overseer and pocketing taxes he had no right to collect (see *Archive 4*). He's listed here as the owner of one and six-tenths stints which he had acquired from 'the Overseers of the Poor of Nixon'. We've no idea what this means but it all sounds a bit dubious. What was he doing taking over the overseers' stints, which presumably had been held on behalf of the villagers? And who or what was Nixon?

Owner number 26 on the list was Benjamin Morrell, whose stints had previously belonged to a man called Carter. This solves

a question raised in *Archive 13*. Morrell, we know, ran the post office: it's clear from this that he took it over from Thomas Carter, not George Sowerby. And you might notice, just above, the name of Hannah Sowerby: for more on her, see Page 12.

Today Barningham Estate still owns most of the stints though a few remain in the hands of others, among them the Barningham charities. Sadly, their trustees haven't been seen grazing so much as a single goose on the moor for a long time.

● *This month's competition: What's a mug sheep? We asked Sir Anthony and he admits he's no idea.*