

New: the Brignall & Rokeby census A-Z



OUR tenth history group booklet is now available, this one offering an alphabetical listing of everyone in the Brignall and Rokeby census returns from 1841 to 1911.

Counted – Volume III is a companion to our earlier publications of similar lists for the Barningham and Newsham areas, and contains more than 1,000 entries from the 70

years for which census records are available. With Brignall and Rokeby only a couple of miles away from Barningham, many people moved between the parishes over the years: we hope the latest booklet helps family history researchers to track down their movements.

It is available at £10 a copy (£8 for history group members) plus £1 p&p.

Found: more cine film from the 60s

MARK WATSON had history group members enthralled at the April meeting when he showed cine film from half a century ago that he had tracked down in Darlington.

He was prompted to search for it after seeing schoolteacher Millie Cuthbertson on Neil Turner's *Barningham Memories* DVD, and remembering that she had made cine film of village children in the 1960s. He managed to trace her only son Malcolm, who produced a pile of films, one of which Mark transferred to DVD and brought along to our meeting.

It lasts five fascinating minutes, and shows children – including six-year-old Mark – pretending to grow a giant turnip and winning the produce show. Highlights include shots of the village shop, its owners, and houses long demolished. More of Mrs Cuthbertson's films are available and the history group plans to put as many as possible on DVD for public sale.

Rokeby visit planned

WE hope to have a guided tour of Rokeby Park, led by history group member Jane Hackworth-Young, sometime in the early summer. More details in the next *Archive*.

old hints & recipes

To make Ufquebaugh

A recipe for whisky from 1691:

TAKE 2 bushell of malt, brew it af you do other strong bear, within a month draw it of.

Still it in an aqua vitae pott, when you have 8 Gallons still it in the same pott over again, putting into it 1 pound of anafeedef, half a pound of fweet fennill feedf & af much Carroway & Corriander.

When you have drawn of, for your strength of ye spiritf take one pound of Spanifh liquorifh, cleane dry & brufe it, infufe it in your aqua vitae for 8 or ten dayf with an ounce of cinnomand, half an ounce of clovef & mace bruifd & tyed in a thin clean cloth.

After the liquid if wrung out of ye Ligorifh then putt too aqua vitae two drachmf of Venice Treacle & diffolve it in ye aqua vitae with 4 Grainf of Amber greefe & 2 of mufk, keep it clofe coverd & lett it be fume time in ye houle before you ufe it, you muft add A quarter of an ounce of Englifh faffron to Cooler it.

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



The Archive

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



Archive 16

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



INSIDE: THE FALL AND RISE OF CLERGYMAN CRAUFORD



The Battle of Quiberon, 1759, when the British fleet comprehensively trounced the French. Our man was there... we think. See Page 3

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NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY MAY 17th 6pm

minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday April 6th 2011:

Present: Eric Duggan, Jane Hackworth-Young, Neil Turner, Ed Simpson, Tony Orton, Ann Orton, Jon Smith, Janet Wrigley, Sue Prytherick, Beverley Peach, Mark Watson.

Apologies: Kay Duggan, Diane Metcalf, Ann Hutchinson, Ann Rowley, Sheila Catton, Greta Carter.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising: Jon had received loads of information from the Lee family in Seattle (see Page 16). Beverley now had the Millennium Banner and would liaise with Sue P as to the best way to display it. It was thought that this was more a village hall matter than a history group one.

Correspondence: Jon had received information from Ann Neumann about Captain Joseph Hanby from Eastwood Hall and his exploits in the Royal Navy: see Page 3.

Financial report: Eric reported that income from publications, DVD sales and meeting subs in March totalled £232 and expenditure on printing and DVD production totalled £166.12, making a surplus of £65.88. The bank balance at March 31 was £889.86.

House Histories: Peartree Cottage, Sunnyside, Hawthorn Cottage and Fountain View: see Pages 18-19.

Publications: Archive 15 was out. Jon had also produced *Counted III*, containing all Brignall and Rokeby census records: see Page 20. Jon thought it would be interesting for the group to visit Rokeby Park sometime in June and Jane



Millie Cuthbertson, whose 1960s film of Barningham children was shown at the meeting

Another book, a profit, and film of a giant turnip

Hackworth-Young agreed to see if a weekend visit could be arranged, together with an evening walk around the grounds. More information later.

Recipes: Kay was making progress with her book.

Field names: Janet said she hoped to get work on this done soon.

Wartime/Memorial names/ Oral history: Researchers not present to report.

Barns: Ed had made some progress but unfortunately had to leave the meeting before he could report on it: details at the next meeting.

Cine records: Eric said the Barningham DVD was selling well. Mark Watson had brought a DVD copied from cine film taken in the 1960s by Mrs Cuthbertson, wife of the butler at the hall. It was delightful. We saw the story of a giant turnip "grown" by the village children which went on to win the cup at the produce show! What was really interesting was seeing the village shop, Sharon Cottage

which has since been demolished, and Manor Farm before the rendering was removed. It was agreed that Mark should let us have details of other films in his possession and that the history group would finance their copying to DVD. See Page 20.

Any other business: Jon showed us a lovely photograph of Sir Mark and Lady Verena Milbank sitting with ladies of the WI in front of the hall at the WI fete in 1956: see Page 10 for more.

Future meetings: Tuesday May 17th, when the speaker will be Eric Barnes on "The Napoleonic Invasion of Teesdale"! Tuesday June 28th, speaker Chris Lloyd of the *Northern Echo* on the battle of the landlords over the coming of the railway to Teesdale.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

house histories



aged 92. Their son Anthony sold Sunnyside in 1997 to Lisa Hutchinson, now Lisa Hockham, who lives there today with husband Malcolm.

Fountain View was tenanted by Freda Atkinson until the 1990s. The Purvises lived in Hawthorn Cottage until 1947, when Elizabeth died, according to Neil Turner, by jumping off Abbey Bridge. Both houses were sold, eventually ending up owned by Ken and Kitty Lowes. Hawthorn Cottage had a series of tenants, including Ray and Lilian Raine and the notorious Dr Sheldon – see below.

The houses passed from the Lowes to Nancy Gill and then to her daughter Angela Thompson. She and husband Phil lived in Fountain View before moving to Beornhow; their son Mark lives in it now.

Hawthorn Cottage was sold to David Nicholson. There were a couple of other occupants, including Alex and Mandy Rutherford, before it was sold to David and Janet Young, the current owners.

neil's note

DOCTOR Sheldon and his wife arrived in the village just after the war and set up a surgery in the Reading Room, taking on only female patients. Many women from Barningham and Newsham signed up and had appointments with him.

One morning the police turned up and raided the surgery. It turned out he was completely bogus with no qualifications. He vanished overnight.

I remember afterwards our dustbins were full of needles, poisons, and other medical stuff.

There were an awful lot of very embarrassed ladies when the news got out!

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. Volume 3: Brignall & Rokeby. £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 history group members

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

Ad ads

GENTLEMAN of Moderate Opinion if REQUIRED to TAKE CHARGE of a small parish Week from Now till the end of the week. Comfortable lodging to be had at Greta Bridge, about two milef diftant.

The Ecclesiastical Gazette, 1870

Two centuries and more of Atkinsons

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.

PEARTREE COTTAGE N-SIDE

SUN-

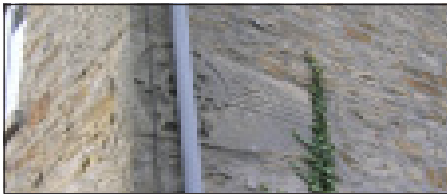
FOR generations, Atkinsons lived and worked in the complex of buildings opposite the fountain on Barningham village green.

When they arrived in the village isn't certain, but they were certainly here in the days of James the First, when Bartholomew Atkinson was among the tenant farmers who signed an agreement for the enclosure of common land in 1609.

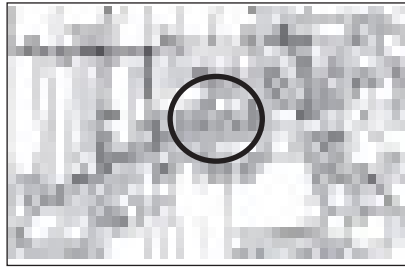
From early on a branch of the family became the village carpenters, joiners and wheelwrights, a trade that carried on until the early 20th century. They were based at Park View, which we looked at in the last *Archive*, and owned the workshops and cottages to the east now called Peartree Cottage and Sunnyside.

In 1849 they were owned by Francis Atkinson, who had recently also acquired the two nearby houses on the main street, Fountain View and Hawthorn Cottage. He made a will that year leaving all the property to his niece Jane, who inherited it in 1860 and within a few years sold it for £200 to her brother Edwin.

He was already living in Park View, where he stayed until his death in 1907. When his



Built into the south-eastern wall of Sunnyside is this ancient carved grave slab, dating from around 1400 and used as a quoinstone when the house was rebuilt, possibly not long after the old church was demolished in 1816



house histories



Peartree Cottage



wife Mary died in 1929 Peartree Cottage and Sunnyside went to her daughter Hannah and the cottages on the main road to Elizabeth Purvis, possibly another daughter.

Hannah, an unmarried dressmaker living with her niece Polly, occupied Peartree until her death in 1947, when ownership of both houses passed to another niece, Edith; on her death in 1959 they were left jointly to her sisters Freda (then living in Fountain View) and Alice, who lived in London.

Peartree was rented out for two decades after 1947. Tenants included a Mrs Yates and her sister from Glastonbury, and Marjorie Cox from Scarborough, who later moved to Banks House.

Sunnyside, meanwhile, was let to a number of tenants between 1930 and the 1960s. They included Miss Ginny Todd, Tom and Minnie Oliver, Mr and Mrs Ransom from Tyneside, and George and Ruth Bowman.

In 1968 Edith and Alice sold both cottages to retired clergyman Robert Ainsley and his wife Edith. They moved into Sunnyside and sold Peartree to Elizabeth Buxton, who moved in with her son Phillip. She sold it in 1988 to the current occupiers, Jim and Joyce Brown.

Robert Ainsley died in 1972, Edith in 1991,

Captain Hanby – our naval hero?

ANNE Naumann wrote to us from Essex in November saying she was researching her ancestors, the Holmes and Hanby families, who lived at Eastwood from the 17th to the 19th century (see *Archive 12*).

She's now been in touch again, with more details and a bit of a mystery.

The Hanbys can be traced back to Elizabethan days, when Christopher Hanby bought the manorial rights to Bowes. By the mid-1650s they were living at Eastwood, built the hall sometime in the early 1700s, and remained there until mid-Victorian days.

They intermarried with the Holmes and Dickonson families of Barnard Castle, who were prominent solicitors in the area in the 19th century and several of whom, together with Hanbys, are buried at Barningham. Others, says Anne, lie beside the Greta in the long-disused graveyard below Brignall.

The last of those buried at Barningham was Mary Holmes, laid to rest at the age of 90 in 1910. She was Anne's father's great-aunt, and she says he remembered her well: he was born in 1888 and died in Barnard Castle in 1981. (Think about that for a moment: Anne's the daughter of a man who talked to someone who was around almost two decades before Victoria became Queen.)

Now for the mystery. Among the Hanbys of Eastwood Hall was Joseph Hanby, born in 1731. He joined the Royal Navy, became a lieutenant in 1756, and fought at the famous Battle of Quiberon in 1759 when Lord Hawke's forces annihilated the French fleet. Family tradition has it that he was second in command of a ship called the *Gilmonby* when, at the height of battle, its captain (a man called Stour) was killed;



Eastwood Hall

young Hanby took over command, brought the ship safely home, and received the thanks of the House of Commons for his actions, later being made up to post captain. He came back to Eastwood eventually, married a Barnard Castle girl called Jane Edwards in 1770, and had at least seven children before dying in 1796.

We thought this was a good story, and did some delving into naval history. Like most family traditions, it may not be entirely accurate. There was no ship to be found called the *Gilmonby* (perhaps the family mixed it up with the village near Bowes), and no Captain Stour who fell at Quiberon. There was a Captain John Storr in charge of a frigate called *Revenge* during the battle, and he was injured (a leg wound), so might have had to hand over command to someone who brought the ship back home. But there is no record of this being our Joseph Hanby, and the only mention we can find of him anywhere is after his death, when his widow applied to a naval charity for financial assistance.

He'd obviously done something right, though. The application describes him as Commander Joseph Hanby, a rank rather higher than lieutenant, but how and when he was promoted doesn't appear anywhere in the most detailed lists of naval officers of the time.

It's all a bit odd, and it's curious, too, that his gravestone makes no mention of his naval career, describing him simply as 'Joseph Hanby Esq'. Was he a hero? Or did he embellish his naval activities just a bit when he came home triumphantly to Eastwood? If you've any information, do get in touch.

● The front cover picture was painted by Richard Wright in 1760; the one on the left by Richard Paton around the same date.

Carters, a mariner, and Woodtop

THE young **Carter** family of what is now called Ivy Cottage are next on our 1841 list: 28-year-old Newsham-born gardener Jonathan, his wife Mary from Staindrop and their three young sons, William, Christ-opher and George.

George, just nine months old, died later that year, but was replaced by another boy, also christened George, a couple of years later. Three daughters followed, Isabel, Hannah and Mary Jane.

They grew up in Barningham before the family moved away in the 1860s, and within a few years both Jonathan and Mary appear to have died. By then William had left home and can't be found in any census records.

Christopher – middle name Carlton – became a postman, married **Anne Charlton**, daughter of a local butcher, in 1862, and had four children. They moved to Barnard Castle, where Christopher worked as a joiner before dying in 1882 aged only 44.

In 1861 George was a footman at Forcett Hall; we lose track of him after that. There's no sign of the three girls, either.

Lodging with the Carters in 1841 was a young schoolmistress called **Martha Lowry**. We know nothing further about her; by 1851 she's vanished, probably married.

After the Carters we come to the **Barkers**, 55-year-old widowed farm worker Margaret, and her children John, 25, and Jane, 20. Living with them was 78-year-old Mary Garforth, quite possibly Margaret's mother, who died the following year. Margaret was born in Scorton and appears to have died sometime after 1861,

1841 census trail

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

though there's no record of her in the Barningham registers.

John disappears from the records after 1841, and there's no further sign of Jane, either.

The next person on the list was one of Barningham's more intriguing residents: **Thomas Poole Hutchinson**, a retired master mariner, 55 years old, Edinburgh-born and a bachelor.

We've no idea what he was doing here, and within a few years he had left to spend the rest of his days in a home in Whixley near Knaresborough.

This had been set up by an eccentric lord of the local manor **Christopher Tancred**, who left his entire estate for the maintenance of twelve unmarried "decayed gentlemen, clergymen, commissioned officers or sea officers" who got free board and lodging for life plus 1s.6d a day for food on condition they never stayed out at night. Thomas spent nearly 20 years there before dying sometime in the 1860s.

Back in 1841 he was sharing his home in Barningham with 20-year-old carpenter **James Hutchinson**, presumably related to him somehow, and a woman in her sixties called **Mary Chapman**. There's no further information about either of these.

The census enumerator's list hops about a bit from here on. The next family were the **Sowerbys** living well outside the village in a long-vanished cottage called Wood

Top House, on the left of the road to Scargill just before you dip down to Gill Beck.

There were nine of them there in 1841: 70-year-old farmer **William**, a former blacksmith born in Langley; his wife **Alice**, 60, from Scargill; sons **William** and **Thomas**; daughters **Sarah**, **Anne** and **Jane**; and two youngsters called **William** and **George** whose parentage is uncertain (the second **William** was 35 and it may be he was married, though there's no sign of a wife in the census).

In 1847 **Thomas** married an **Anne Jackson** from Kirklington who moved into Wood Top and had two children there (another **William** and a girl called **Emma**) before dying in 1857 aged just 30. Her sister-in-law **Sarah** died, unmarried, the same year.

William the elder had already gone to the grave in 1852, but **Alice** lived on, helping **Thomas** to bring up his two children until her death in 1869.

By then **Thomas** had brought in 41-year-old **Sarah Kirkley** from Eggleston, ostensibly as a housekeeper. She was unmarried with a seven-year-old daughter and within a decade she had six more children, almost certainly fathered by **Thomas**. We can't find any record of him marrying her, but she and all the children had adopted the surname **Sowerby** by 1891.

Sarah died in 1883, **Thomas** in 1895, and by 1901 the rest of the family had dispersed.

We suspect **Wood Top** remained empty before being demolished sometime early in the 1900s: does anybody know?

JIM JONES, great-great-grandson of Barningham-born Thomas Lee who emigrated to America in 1879, emailed us from Seattle to ask if any of Thomas's descendants were still living here. Yes, we replied – including Shirley Madrell at The Nook. Jim emailed back with the story of Thomas's early days in Nebraska. Here's some of it...

THOMAS Lee was born at Moorcock in 1822, married **Maria Jane Close** and had eight children. The family moved to farm at **Whitby** in 1870 but times got hard and in 1879 **Thomas** decided the answer was a new life in America.

He went first by himself, sailing on *The Celtic* and travelling west to work on a farm near the English settlement of **Waverly** in Lancaster County, Nebraska. Two years later he returned to **Whitby** to find his family were being forced off their land. The Lees sold everything they had and bought passages to America. The family (except for the eldest daughter **Elizabeth**, who was already married, and the eldest son, 17-year-old **Mark**, who came later to save money) left from **Liverpool** on May 16, 1881 aboard the *City of Brussels* and sailed for **New York**.

They landed 13 days later and slowly travelled to the **Mid-West**. The family had spent all the money from the sale of their possessions by the time they reached **Chicago**. Their train ticket fares were paid for, but they had no money for food. **Jim Jones's** great-grandmother **Ann** remembered as a girl of 13 walking along the train tracks and picking berries with her mother and siblings to have food for the train ride to **Nebraska**. Finally in June 1881 they arrived at the



Maria Jane Lee (with walkingstick) in about 1900 with six of her children. Back: **Mary Bingham**, **Mark Lee**, **Ann Harrison**; seated: **John Lee**, **Eliza Duck** and **Thomas Valentine Lee**.

A new life and hard times in Nebraska

train depot in **Lincoln**.

Mark, meanwhile, paid for his own passage to **Canada** (which was cheaper to sail to) and worked his way across the continent and down to **Nebraska** to reunite with his family. He was a strapping man with an intimidating face (see the picture above) and children were known to burst into tears at the sight of him.

The Lees rented a 160-acre farm in **Lancaster County** near the town of **Arbor**. Living off 160 acres with eight children was not easy. In 1886 the local tax assessors listed the Lees as possessing only \$420 worth of personal property.

The children attended a one-room school house a few miles east of their farm. In 1883 the oldest boys, **Mark** (aged 20) and **Thomas** (aged 18) were still in school, probably

learning to read and write well enough to eventually take over the management of the family farm. 14-year-old **Ann** was also attending as were nine-year-old twins **John** and **Mary**.

Their classmate was a boy named **Richard Graham**, an orphan from **England** – either a relative or family friend who was taken in by the Lees. He died in **Lincoln** in 1967 without ever marrying.

By the mid-1880s the older Lee children began to marry and have families of their own. In 1888 **Ann Lee** (aged 20) married **Joseph Harrison**, a young farmer who had emigrated to **America** about the same time and came from the same part of **Yorkshire**. They had eleven children.

Sometime between 1900 and 1903, **John Lee** bought the farm the family had lived on since 1881 and his father. Other members of the family also bought land nearby, and by 1920 the Lee family owned 560 acres.

Thomas died in 1906; **Maria Jane** lived on until 1917. They are buried next to each other in **Wyuka Cemetery** in **Lincoln**.

The Lees of Barningham

THOMAS LEE 1756-1844 m MARGARET ?

At least two children including:

THOMAS LEE 1789-? [Moorcock Farm]

m HANNAH MACDONALD 1796-1878 whose brother Alexander ran the Black Horse c1830-1854

Six children including THOMAS 1822-1906 who emigrated to Nebraska – see below – and:

WILLIAM LEE 1815-1898 who ran the Black Horse 1854-1898 and m ANN [HODSON?] of Westwick
Seven children including JANE (married GEORGE ARMSTRONG and ran the Black Horse 1898-1915) and:

RICHARD LEE 1856-1931: gardener, postman; lived in Lime House & North View
m (1) ANN COLEMAN 1853-1880 (2) MARY JAMES 1867-1913

Seven children by second marriage including WALTER, gamekeeper at Bragg House; ADA, now Mrs Gill living in Barnard Castle, ETHEL (ETTY) who lived unmarried at Sharon Cottage until her death in 1968, and:

RICHARD EDGAR LEE 1900-1966: stonemason, lived at Church View
m MAY WATSON 1902-1987 from Eaglescliffe

Two children:

GRETA ETHEL LEE 1925-2008
m JOHN (JACK) WALTON 1921-1997,
who farmed at Scargill. One daughter:

JOHN DENNIS LEE 1922-2003, estate
worker, unmarried, lived at Church View

SHIRLEY, married to MICHAEL MADRELL and now
living at The Nook

The ones who went to America

THOMAS LEE 1822-1906 m MARY JANE CLOSE 1836-1917 from Winston
Emigrated to America and farmed in Nebraska. Eight children:

ELIZABETH born 1856 m BROWN METCALF and stayed in UK. There are descendants today in Saltburn.

ELIZA born 1863 married THOMAS DUCK, had six children and moved to Oklahoma

MARGARET born 1864 married JOHN PETCH, had five children and moved to Montana

MARK born 1865 married CATHERINE MEHAN, had nine children and moved to Oklahoma

THOMAS VALENTINE born 1866 married REBECCA ?, took over the Nebraska farm and had 11 children

ANNE born 1868 married JOSEPH HARRISON, also farmed in Nebraska, and had eleven children. Among them was the grandmother of JIM JONES who lives in Seattle and got in contact with us

JOHN born 1872 married ELIZABETH ZILLER, remained on the farm and had four children

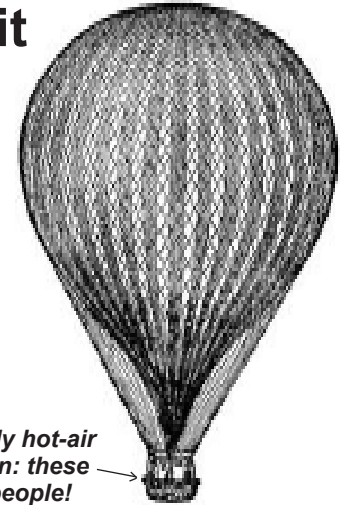
MARY born 1872 married JOHN BINGHAM, had three children and remained in Nebraska

If you'd like to know more, we have plenty of detail about these families: ask Jon to email them to you

How love for Hannah hit a clergyman's career

SALLY RIDGWAY entertained us at our March meeting with the story of how an ancestor of her husband Nat soared above Teesdale in a hot air balloon back in 1877.

Here she explains how she tracked down the story, and on Page 7 we reprint the daring aeronautist's account of his journey.



An early hot-air balloon: these are people!

WE moved to the North-East in February 2000 and chose to live in Barningham. All my family roots are in Somerset and Devon and to our knowledge Nat's link to the North was quite tenuous.

We knew that his maternal grandfather came from Todmorden and that his mother, Catherine Pamela Gledhill, was born in Middleham, North Yorkshire. She lived there until she was four years old and then her family emigrated to Kenya. She did not return to England until she joined the Wrens as a young woman.

We have visited Middleham regularly, mainly to visit the grave there of Nat's great-grandparents, Christopher and Emily Gertrude Porritt. I wrote to the vicar of the parish church there to enquire as to whether Nat's maternal grandparents had married there but I received no reply.

Then, in 2010, something quite extraordinary happened. Nat's mum now lives in Western Australia. She moved there in the late 1980s, when she re-married (Nat's father died in an aeroplane accident). She acquired three grown-up step-children and one of them is extremely keen on researching family history.

In completing her family tree she kindly included her step-mother on it and this was posted on the internet. Nat's mum was then contacted by a lady in South Africa. This lady revealed that she was a relative of Nat's mum and shared all she has discovered about their shared ancestry...so far! Such is the amazing reach of the world wide web.

What we know so far is as follows. We begin with Jeremiah Bowen who was born in Cambridge in 1801 and married Sarah Norton Cole. Our contact in South Africa believes they were somehow connected with aristocracy and is pursuing two lines of enquiry, into the Percys of Northumberland and the Dukes of Norfolk.

Jeremiah's children all had prominent spon-

sors at their baptisms. Nat's mum is visiting us in August and I hope to discover the latest findings. One of Jeremiah's children was Crauford Townshend Bowen. He was born in 1834, in Handford, Staffordshire, which I have not been able to locate on a map*.

Crauford received a privileged education in the arts, enjoying family patronage and took holy orders in 1859, ordained at York. He was sent to be curate at Skelton, in Cleveland, where the unusual church is well worth a visit.

He lodged with John Tate, a labourer and carrier, and fell madly in love with his beautiful daughter Hannah. As you can well imagine, Crauford's family was most displeased and when he chose to marry Hannah they rather cut him off and his church career after that seems a very humble one; no doubt the church took a dim view of his choice of wife, too, given attitudes at the time.

He subsequently served at Guisborough and Gainford churches and in 1870 was "preferred to a living" at Bolam Church.

By all accounts, he lived a full and happy life there, restoring the church and supervising the building of the village school. He loved music and apparently composed some music called *Bowen's Te Deum* (does anyone know it?) He

** Almost certainly Hanford, now a suburb of Stoke-on-Trent but in those days a small village a few miles to the south of the city. I lived nearby more years ago than I care to recall. –Ed)*

bowen's balloon

loved to paint and write prose and poetry. He gave lectures in astronomy and discovered a new star. He was also an ardent gardener.

In 1877, at the Barnard Castle flower show, held at the Bowes Museum, he ascended in a hot air balloon with an aeronaut called Mr E. Jackson. I telephoned the Bowes Museum to find out if there was an account of this in the copies of the *Teesdale Mercury* they keep. They put me onto a very useful chap called Jon Smith! He forwarded the account of the balloon flight, penned by Crauford, and I have produced a transcript to the best of my ability. It makes a wonderful read – see the next few pages.

Crauford and Hannah had several children. One, Francis John Gregory Bowen, went to live in West Bengal and is the ancestor of the lady in South Africa. His second child, Emily Annie Bowen, married a Richard Elgey in 1885. She worked as a nurse and was divisional lady superintendent for the East Cleveland branch of the St John Ambulance. They had a daughter, Emily Gertrude, who married Christopher Porritt in Gainford church, the service conducted by her grandfather Crauford. We have yet to discover how they ended up in Middleham.

A further interesting twist to the tale is that Dr Tony Nicholson, a former lecturer in history at the University of Teesside, bought a house and in its attic discovered letters written by Crauford and his daughter-in-law. He is working on a book based on these and other aspects of Skelton history and has told me of a plethora of scandal in Crauford's family, mainly involving a naughty son. No doubt the posh members of the family blamed Crauford for marrying into the lower social orders and mixing blood. It would seem Emily Annie may well have had a rushed marriage, finding herself with child. They married in Middlesbrough, a hotspot for such marriages. Fancy the daughter of a man of the cloth indulging in pre-nuptial pleasures! According to Jon's recent findings it was rather commonplace behaviour!

As I have said, Nat's mum is visiting Europe this summer and we look forward to sharing further findings. How very strange that we were drawn to this part of England and have discovered by such unlikely means a whole network of connections to the North-East. If you don't find your past it can find you!

BARNARD CASTLE FLOWER SHOW AND MUSICAL FETE.

The committee of the Barnard Castle Horticultural and Floral Society are to be congratulated on the exceptionally fine day with which they were favoured on Friday, a circumstance which, perhaps, contributed more than anything else to the success of the event.

The show of ferns, both British and exotic, was exceedingly good, and formed the chief feature of the exhibition. The blooms of geraniums were not so good as have been seen at this show, but the ornamental leaved plants from Rokeby and Raby were of a choice character. There was a slight falling off in the number of entries, although the character of the fruits, flowers, and vegetables exhibited, considering the exceptionally unfavourable season, was of an encouraging nature. In class 1, Mr Westcott, gardener to the Duke of Cleveland, Raby Castle, was a most successful exhibitor. In the cottage class great rivalry was evinced. Mr T. Dalkin, master of the Teesdale Union Workhouse, took 7 first prizes for vegetables.

The judges and committee dined at the Black Horse Hotel, the dinner being in every way worthy of the character of the house. Nearly 4,000 people entered the ground during the afternoon.

At four o'clock Mr E Jackson, the Midland Aeronaut, in company with the Rev. C. T. Bowen, Vicar of Bolam, ascended in a monster balloon. The highest point reached was about 7,000 feet, this being Mr Jackson's 28th ascent. The balloon descended at Middlesbrough, about two miles from Shildon.

The splendid band of the Royal Scots Greys, from York, discoursed an attractive programme of music. The May Pole Ribbon Dance, by twelve little girls, proved interesting to the juveniles. There was every evidence that the little maidens had been very carefully trained.

From the Teesdale Mercury's show report of August 29th 1877

letters & emails

Hope for many years. Family members go back to the 1700s.

Matthew Dent was born about 1734, lived in East Hope and died in 1795. His son Matthew, born 11 June 1771, and his family moved to Pake Hole [Peak Hole] in 1797 and was still there in 1841. He died in 1842.

His son John, born 15 February 1812 in Hope (the one who died in the quarry) was living at Thwaite Green in 1841, Garnthwaite in 1851, and back at Peak Hole in 1861. His brother Matthew, born 1814, was then living next door but later moved back to Hope after living in Forcett. In 1871 and 1881 Matthew was at Gutteres.

After John Dent's death at the quarry his wife Mary (nee Harper) moved to Crook to live with her son. By this time most of the family had moved away to Crook and Spennymoor.

John Dent's daughter Hannah, born 1832, married Thomas Bainbridge. They lived at Haythwaite in 1881, and then at Manor House, Barningham in 1891 and 1901.

My third cousin John Percy has a notebook dating back to the late 1700s which lists the family accounts, birthdates, stock numbers, etc, which may be of interest to your members, and he has said he will send you a transcription.

MARK DENT, Drighlington, Bradford
mark.r.dent@ntlworld.com

● *John has sent a transcription of the notebook, which is fascinating. We may reproduce it in booklet form for a wider audience. –Ed.*

Still Hunting

FOLLOW-UP to my letter in the last *Archive* about the Hunts of Kexwith: I've found out that Abby is a nickname for Albert.

He was born in 1902 in the Barningham area, we think in New Forest. His brother called Alfred married a Barningham woman called Jane Elizabeth Braff, known as Lilly. Have you got any information about her, where she lived and when she got married?

MIKE STOW, Gainford

● *Albert may be John Thomas Bertie Hunt, born c1904, son of William Hunt of West House. Alfred's wife was almost certainly Jane Elizabeth Brass, born in Barningham in 1897. –Ed.*

from the parish mag

120 YEARS AGO: Mr E Luther Stubbs, who is at present one of the Masters of Maryport British Schools, has been appointed Head Teacher of the Barningham Day schools. Mrs Stubbs is also a Certified Teacher, and will undertake the sewing. Mr Stubbs is coming to us with the highest testimonials and every evidence favourable of his character from boyhood to the present time, and of his abilities as a Teacher. Under such circumstances the parishioners will be prepared to give, the managers are assured, Mr and Mrs Stubbs a kind and friendly welcome, not only as teachers but as new residents to the village.
– April 1891

95 YEARS AGO: Mrs Gerald Wilson gave a most interesting address in support of War Work for Women on the Land, and invited in warm terms the co-operation of all women willing to help the farmers to release men to join his Majesty's Forces. Mr Lowes of Erly Lodge has offered to instruct at least two in ploughing. The work so far mentioned is in connection with haymaking, harvest work, gathering potatoes, milking cows and hoeing turnips. Of course, while the offer is voluntary, the work will be paid for as engaged. So far thirty women are enrolled.
– April 1916

80 YEARS AGO: Miss Goodall, looking so extremely well on her furlough from West Africa, gave a lecture in the School, illustrated by cinematograph films which she had taken herself. The collection amounted to 19s 5d, which was readily made up to £1, so that Barningham will provide four chairs for Miss Goodall's School Chapel in West Africa. Before leaving she took some films of Barningham everyday life for the instruction and amusement of the West Africans.
– April 1931

55 YEARS AGO: In Memoriam, John and Ada Brown. It was a sad concurrence of events that father and daughter should pass away within a few hours of each other, and it laid a heavy burden of care and sorrow on the home. John Brown, for all that he was well over eighty years of age, had remained an active man almost to the last, his first and last love having been farming, and in particular anything to do with sheep, of which he was a shrewd judge. Ada – we shall miss her. The shock of her father's illness was too much for her. A very large congregation from far and wide attended the funeral.
– April 1956

letters & emails

chants: tea and cheese. After a successful career, he returned to Barningham and married Mary Jane Hutchinson of Bowes in 1871. Their children were born at Park View: Minnie, who married Johan Johanson, Margaret, William and Lillian. Mary Jane (Polly) was born at the new house, Fairview, in 1880. James junior died in 1910 and Mary Jane in 1920.

William married a doctor's daughter from Gainford, Sophia Homfray, in 1898. They set up house at the Yews. On the death of Mary Jane, James' unmarried daughters moved into the Yews and William and Sophia moved into Fairview House. The couple were childless and Sophia predeceased William in 1934. William lived on at Fairview until the war and the bank eventually caught up with him. Rents proved difficult to collect in Barningham and the Todd holdings in London were flattened during the Blitz.

William ended his days, first being looked after by the Lee family at Tutta Beck Farm and then in a home in Hartlepool.

By the time he left Fairview, prior to its sale in 1949, there were few contents left to bequeath to anybody, real or imagined.

JOHN HAY, Fairview

● *When we wrote the article about the will we assumed the house mentioned was Fairview and of course we should have checked the dates. Abject apologies. –Ed.*

Back to 1575

GREAT publications your Barningham baptisms, brides and burials are turning out to be. I'm amazed how many Marriner names appear, still more surprised how little we know from other publications. Well done to you all!

Using your *Barningham Baptisms Vol 1* I found a William Marriner (no data on his wife) who arrived in Barningham in time to have two daughters – Marie baptised 15 Feb 1624 and An baptised 19 March 1626 – after which date he and his family disappear from Barningham.

So I looked in surrounding parishes after 1626, and lo and behold in the parish records for Rokeby found four more children born to William – William in 1628, Elizabeth 1629, Mary 1633 and James 1635. I couldn't find any

record of William dying after that time in the Barningham/Rokeby area, but I did find a William recorded buried in Tatham (Lancs) in 1682, which prompted me to look into the births/marriages in that area and I found a William born in the Thornton/Ingleton area 1595-1600, recorded as 'Willmus – Filius Thos. Marriner de Tatham Yorks, baptised 5 July 1599'.

If this is the breakthrough I've been looking for, I'm back another generation to William's father Thomas, born around 1575.

Many thanks!

JOHN MARRINER, Middlesbrough
marriner@ntlworld.com

Merryweather link

I'D like to purchase your births, marriages and burials books, all the back issues of the *Archive* and a subscription for future issues.

My parents both attended Scargill School in the 1940s and I have ancestors (the Merryweather family) who lived in Newsham in the early 1800s and the Hurworth family who have lived in the Newsham/Dalton area for many years.

I have had a quick look at some of your publications and noticed that some of the Todd family were cheesemongers in London. There are some Boldron families associated with cheese-mongers in London – the Benson family and the Newton family (related) who had a cheese shop in Tottenham Court Road. Maybe there was a connection between them and the Todd family? Another "to do" action perhaps?

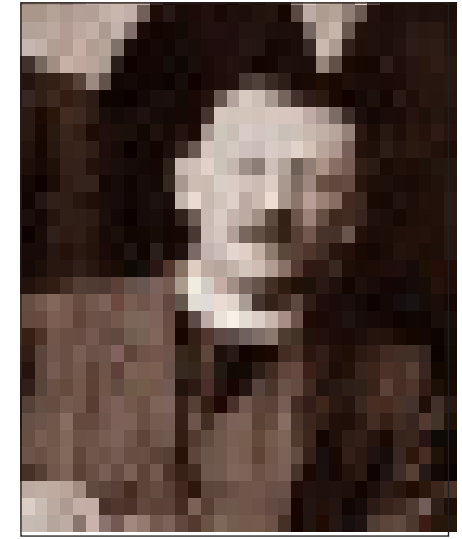
CATHARINE RYAN, Boldron
CRBoldron@aol.com

● *Catharine runs a history group in Boldron and has sent us copies of the Boldron census records for 1841, 1881, 1901 and 1911, plus family trees for the Newsham Merryweathers and Hutchinsons from Gayles, who were linked by marriage in the early 1800s. We plan to keep in touch. –Ed.*

More about Dents

I'M writing after seeing your story in *Archive 14* about John Dent, killed in a quarry accident in 1871.

I have been researching the Dent family from



Hannah and Crauford: their marriage shocked his family

Up, up and away in a flight of rapture

BEFORE starting, Mr Jackson impressed upon me the imperative necessity of abandoning the idea of accompanying him if I felt in the least degree nervous or apprehensive, "for gentlemen," he said, "who go up with me on days like this (a strong wind was blowing all the day) seldom want to go up a second time and we are nearly certain to have a rough landing."

But, having made up my mind to go if he would consent to take me, all being in readiness by 4.05 pm, we got into the car and after being hauled down twice to ascertain our lifting power, at 4.10, five minutes before the time announced in the bills, Mr. Jackson gave the word of command to "let go."

Although I had repeatedly read about the sensations I might expect to experience during the first few moments of the ascent and fancied I was prepared for them, I must own that they were overwhelm-

THIS is the Rev Bowen's account of his balloon trip, printed in the Teesdale Mercury on September 5th 1877. The balloon, said the Mercury, was "a new one called the Evening Star, with a horizontal diameter of nearly 40 feet and a lifting power of about 1,500lbs."

bowen's balloon

Carried with appalling velocity into unknown space

ing and awful. Bounding upwards as if we had been an arrow shot out of a bow, it required a strong effort of reasoning to resist the almost overpowering conviction that the earth with everything on it had suddenly slipped from its orbit and was being carried with appalling velocity into some abysmal and unknown

depths of eternal space.

This impression, to my great delight, decreased rapidly as we gained a higher altitude and I began to regard with a steadier eye, the unparalleled glory and loveliness of the scene which was unfolding to us below.

But first, where was Barnard Castle? I could hardly believe Mr. Jackson when he pointed out a little black spot which he said was the crowd among which we had only a few seconds before been moving and talking. The Bowes museum and church, which both looked like children's toy houses, and one or two of the principal streets alone were traceable and soon Barnard Castle had quite

melted into the distance; but on looking down fresh towns and villages, dotted interminably over the ever widening expanse below, appeared to glide like a vast panorama silently beneath us.

To the north, were Stainton and Broomielaw, Cleatlam immediately under us. To our right, we saw the windings of the Tees flashing and glinting in the sunshine, as far as the eye could reach and melting away on both sides into the blue haze of the horizon.

I had no means of ascertaining what the radius of our vision was. Cotherstone, Barn-ingham and Wolsingham Moor seemed quite close to us. A long ridge running north and south near Egglestone Common. We could see the Aucklands, Darlington, Sedgfield, in the far distance, and what I took in the hazy horizon for Stockton and Middlesbrough and though Mr Jackson insisted that I was wrong, I feel confident that by an effort of refraction, mirage like, the sea and long reaches of sand at the mouth of the Tees were “brought up” to view.

The concave appearance of the earth was quite apparent, but not so strikingly so as I had been led to expect; no doubt had we gone a mile or so higher, we should have seen it to much better advantage.

In about a quarter of an hour from starting, we had Staindrop a little to our left, which with its ivy-mantled church and stately castle looked exceedingly lovely. To identify places was no easy matter; objects with which one is quite familiar present a totally different appearance to the eye when viewed from the car of a

bowen's balloon

balloon.

Of human beings I could see none, only here and there long backs of cattle. Everything had a flattened and map-like appearance and from causes well known to the scientific aeronaut, the distinctness and sharpness of outline increased with the increasing altitude attained, as also the brilliancy of the colouring which seen at this time of the year under the full blaze of an August sun gave an appearance to the whole scene of surpassing glory and beauty beyond all description enchanting.

A fairy land beyond the fairest dreams of fancy

The earth stretched out in every direction like one vast garden, in the highest state of ornamental cultivation, a fairy land beyond the fairest dreams of fancy, all glowing and rejoicing in the fervent sunshine, except where here and there a moving awning of cloud threw a cooling and refreshing shadow upon the fields beneath it and looking down now from a height of nearly a thousand feet, it seemed an impossibility that a world so passing fair could be the abode of sin and sorrow and with an incontrollable and spontaneous emotion of joy I could not refrain from singing a hymn of praise to the Great Creator of it all, enthroned above us. Indeed, to

a contemplative mind religious emotions are inseparable from a balloon voyage when a great elevation is attained, nor did I at all wish to shake them off.

Poised at this height, apparently immovably fixed, large tracts of cloud our close companions, the scene below steadily, slowly and silently moving along, an additional degree of solemnity is imparted to one's feelings by the unearthly silence which prevails; I never knew what absolute silence was till then, nor shall I ever forget it, the only sounds the occasional creaking of the little basket in which we had just room to pack the beating of our hearts and the ticking of our watches; it was a rapture, a marvel, a new experience never to be forgotten.

At this point of our voyage the diminished supply of oxygen and the decrease in the pressure of the atmosphere was sensibly felt by a sensation of languor and a tightening of the muscles about the jaws and peculiar kind of deafness.

Mr Jackson's voice seemed to come from a distance. Looking up right through the neck of the balloon, we could see the valve upon the four slender steel springs of which our lives literally depended.

It is a very difficult matter, in a high wind, to attach the car to the neck hoop in a perfectly horizontal position and although there is not the slightest danger when it hangs somewhat askew, its appearance is apt to awaken fears in the mind of the novice in ballooning, who can hardly be persuaded that all is right and for the first and only time, I felt my nerves a little tried, but my kind friend Mr Jackson soon

letters & emails

May 1st 1808 and I think these may have been the parents of Henry three years later. He is not listed as being born in Barningham, but the 1841 census shows him living at Providence Lodge in nearby Newsham, and both the 1851 and 1861 censuses give his birthplace as Bowes. It looks as if the Sayer/Ewbank couple moved out of Barningham shortly after their marriage, and Henry was born elsewhere. – Ed.

Milbanks' maid

I SAW the article about the Milbanks in the *Echo*. My grandparents moved to Barningham with the Milbanks in about 1918 and my mother Margaret Davies worked as a lady's maid for Sir Frederick. She later moved to Tyneside.

When I saw the article I thought I must come to Barningham again, she used to talk about the Milbanks so much and had many good memories of the village.

ALF MANNERS, Coundon

Searching Allisons

I AM researching the Allison family. In the 1841 census my great-great-grandfather Henry Allison and his family lived at the Mill at Grassholm, Lunedale. His birth works out at 1800, born in Birkdale.

A Henry Allinson was baptised at Barningham on 28 June 1800 and a John Allinson of West Hope was buried at Dufton in 1802. I'm trying to connect them all: can anyone help?

PAT SMITH
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● *There are several Allisons/Allinsons recorded in the parish births, deaths and marriages records, but no sign of a Henry baptised in 1800 or indeed any other date. The nearest is a Joseph Allison baptised in 1804. – Ed.*

Mark proves that he's no mug

RE your challenge in the last *Archive* to explain what a 'mug ewe' is: In 1666 Samuel Pepys referred to 'full mug sheep', explained as 'a breed of sheep having the face completely covered with wool'.

MARK WATSON, Sussex House

● *Mark wins our February competition. We've since seen other definitions, and it seems clear that 'mug' was simply another name for the Teeswater breed, pictured right. Now you know.*



The facts about Fairview's history

TOO many Todds and far too much cheese? With reference to your article 'William Todd: A man of property' (*Archive 15*), this gentleman seems to have possessed a great deal of foresight, having died in 1857 and bequeathed to his widow Elizabeth the contents of Fairview – which was built by James Todd 22 years later in 1879.

The land upon which Fairview was built is shown in the 1857 map of the village as having only a stable and the bothy in place on about two acres of the Lady Garth.

The Todd family tree, featured in *Archive 1*, shows a William and Elizabeth who died in 1857 and 1876 respectively, living in Barningham and Clerkenwell. I suggest this is the couple to which the will refers.

There is no mention in the family tree of brother Anthony or his son William. Brother Joseph is mentioned and to him the 'house' is left, but again it is not the 1879 Fairview, unless there was an earlier Fairview. Evidently a more complete and in-depth analysis of the will is needed.

James Todd senior married Hannah and moved north from London in the 1830s to live in Galgate, Barnard Castle. He purchased two houses in Barningham and combined them to form Hillside.

Their children were James, Margaret, Anthony, John and William. William died in Cape Colony in 1894. The children were educated at Barningham Academy. James senior died in 1891 and Hannah in 1885.

James junior had been born in London in 1833 and, having lived in the village until he was 18, returned to London with brother Anthony, to enter the family business as provision mer

letters & emails

Newsham's pubs

FASCINATED to read about the 19th century Newsham rats in *Archive 15* – a few of their descendants are still around, but we manage to keep them out of our bedrooms and shoes, unlike the unfortunate visitor in your article.

What I would like to know more about are Newsham's lost pubs; the article states that there were two in the village in 1832. The Pipes Tavern (now Tavern House) closed in the 1990s. I think this was renamed in the 1950s or 1960s because of its fine collection of pipes. What was it called before? Was it the Black Bull?

I understand that the second pub was next door in what is now an unoccupied house and was called the Dun Cow. The name may be something to do with Newsham's ancient past as a market town. The market cross on the green used to be in the middle of the crossroads. The date 1935 inscribed on the top was presumably when it was moved.

RICHARD DAVIES, Newsham
rrtkdavies@btinternet.com

● *Early censuses (1841-1871) identify only one inn, unnamed, in Newsham; the 1891 census names the Black Bull and Dun Cow and there were still two up to the 1930s, plus Smallways of course. The Pipes was formerly the Black Bull, and the two village pubs were adjacent. Which one had rats is unknown. Probably both. –Ed.*

Sayers uncertainty

THE story about the row over tenants' rights between William Todd and the Milbanks in 1880 (*Archive 11*, repeated in the *Northern Echo* on March 3rd) was of particular interest to me as some years ago I visited Barningham churchyard and one of the headstones had been erected by the Milbank family in remembrance of Henry Sayer, their late gamekeeper, who died in 1869.

My great-great-grandfather was Matthew Sayer, who married Elizabeth Dodds on February 17th 1801 at Barningham, and I believe that the above Henry, born in 1811, was his son. As the gamekeeper he would be involved in the controversy described in the paper and I must add my sympathy is with



Newsham village cross, circa 1925, before it was moved?

the tenant. The marriage details regarding my ancestors Matthew and Elizabeth Sayer were obtained from the Durham County Records Office where the Barningham parish register is held on microfiche.

I am now in my 79th year. My grandfather who died in 1968 aged 94 owned a grandfather clock which had belonged to his grandmother Mary Sayer and was made in Barningham. He had great affection for this clock which sadly my uncle gave away.

I mention this as I understand that there was only one clockmaker in that village and the movements were made in house rather than bought in and encased. There were few such clocks and perhaps this information may be of interest to your local history group.

JOHN GRAY, East Riding

● *A Matthew Sayers did indeed marry Elizabeth Dodds in 1801 and had at least ten children, but none of them was baptised Henry.*

However, another Matthew Sayer (also of Barningham) married an Elizabeth Ewbank on

laughed away my groundless fears.

Several times during the voyage, we saw the shadow of our balloon cast by the sun's rays upon the earth and as it rose and fell, now advancing towards us, now receding from us, it seemed like some phantom shade beckoning us forward and compelling us to follow its capricious and fitful motions. All birds gave us a wide berth: I saw none, perhaps they take the balloon for a kite or hawk of a very large kind.

Soon after this, we began to descend; we were now passing over Langton and the descent became so very rapid that a suspicion arose in my mind that our beautiful evening star was fast becoming a falling star – a Lucifer never to rise with us again, producing a whirling, throbbing sensation in the ears and a slight degree of nausea in the pit of the stomach.

To check the extreme rapidity our balloon was acquiring Mr Jackson threw out ballast, which, pattering among the leaves of the trees at Ingleton, alarmed (I afterwards learnt) a labourer who fled in consternation.

We had just before this liberated two beautiful blue and white parachutes and it was by watching their slowly diminishing forms and noting the great length of time which they took to reach the earth, where they vanished out of sight entirely, that an idea was formed of the immense height from which we were looking down.

Once we saw a train coming on towards us at full speed. It looked like a caterpillar dragging its slow length along. Our grapnel was by this time

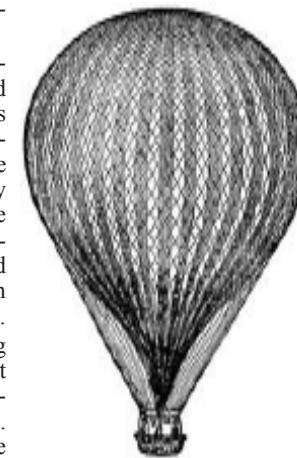
Bowen's balloon

Doomed again to this work-a-day world

lowered and looked like a spider hanging from the car by its thread.

Passing over Morton, Tintmouth, Bolam and Houghton Bank, we left Heighington a little to the south and in a few seconds more the grapnel buried itself in the ground and we lay sprawling and bouncing about in Nimpasture, near Midridge Colliery at Shildon, and a little amused at the sudden and unceremonious termination to our visit to fairy land; time 4.36.

Although somewhat pleased at being once more on terra firma, one felt a feeling of intense regret such as Adam must have felt when expelled from Paradise, at being compelled to leave the glorious scenes



among which we had been roaming and doomed again to this work-a-day, matter of fact world, a feeling that it might be very long before one would have the chance of such enjoyment again.

But regrets were useless, the spell was broken, the bubble burst, the balloon writhing, heaving and surging in the wind, could rise no more now. It was like some huge monster wounded and slowly dying as little by little its breath was departing from it and at last it lay along the grass like the skin of a huge serpent. It was the work of a few moments to roll it up and put it to bed in the car.

We were at Shildon and returning by train to Barnard Castle received the congratulations mingled with many enquiries of "what was it like?" of those who had seen us go up.

It is impossible to speak too highly of Mr Jackson as an accomplished aeronaut; in addition to his long experience, courage, caution and skill, he possesses in an eminent degree that which is by no means the least valuable qualification of a balloonist who takes passengers with him, namely tact.

During the continuance of those perils from which no aeronaut, however skilled, can ever be exempt when the loss of a single moment's presence of mind would be fatal, he wears a smiling face, conversing the whole time apparently as unconcerned and as free from anxiety as if he were sitting talking to you in his armchair by his own fireside. I hope it will not be long before I have another opportunity of ascending with him again.

● *As far as we know, the Rev Bowen never got the chance to*

photo gallery



Fete time for the WI, 55 years ago

Best frocks and hats all round in 1956 as Lady Milbank opens the WI fete and then joins the ladies among the stalls, below. Can anyone put names to all the faces?



Outside the forge

Ralph Hind, Newsham blacksmith, outside his forge a century ago. The sign above the door reads (we think) 'Hinds Saddlers Farriers and General Blacksmiths'. The two lads may be his sons



Wheels from the past

On the left, the 'Pride of the Road' motor omnibus, built by Stapleton's of Hutton Magna and believed to be the first bus to offer a regular service between Barningham and Darlington back in the 1920s. On the right, George Alderson in the 1950s with a grasscutting machine he made himself from an old lorry. He's probably still got it somewhere.

