

Don't forget your entry



DEADLINE for this year's *Archive Awards* for the best local history projects will be Sunday August 28.

It sounds a long time away, but now's the time to start thinking about your entry. The awards will be presented at the village show on September 3; best projects will appear in the *Archive*.

A tour round Rokeby

WE'VE organised a guided tour of Rokeby Hall on the evening of Monday June 13. Everyone's welcome and there's no need to book – just turn up at the main car park at 6.30pm.

The history group is subsidising most of the cost, so entry will be just £2 a head. The visit, arranged with the help of group member Jane Hackworth-Young who works as a guide at the hall, is expected to last a couple of hours and may well be rounded off by an investigation of the back bar at the Morrill Arms.

Dates for your diary

OUR next history group meeting is on Tuesday June 28, when the guest speaker is Chris Lloyd, deputy editor of *The Northern Echo* and the man behind its highly popular *Echo Memories* supplement. He'll be talking, he says, "about the dastardly duke who tried to frustrate building a railway to Teesdale".

No meeting in July because of holidays, but put August 23, September 20 and October 25 in your diaries. *Archive 18* will be out early in July.

Storing back issues

BEVERLEY Peach can supply plastic strips for easy filing copies of the *Archive* in folders. They cost £1.80 for 10; let her know if you would like some (01833 621239).



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

old hints & recipes

A Receipt for Baking Lobsters

A recipe from 1691:

TAKE your lobsters, boyle them little more than halfe, take out ye tailes & claws af whole af you can, then season them with salt nutmegeg pepper & mace, lett ye seasoning tast most of nutmegeg & least of pepper

Splett ye tailes of ye lobsters & take ye thin shell out that is between ye claws and so season them according to your discretion. They will take a pretty deal of seasoning. Lay them one upon another close in a pott & baike them not to much with good pound butter.

If you would have them keep anytime you must take ye gravey out of ye bottom of ye pott as soon as they are cold & so fill them up with clarified butter, a little pott will take about 2 or 3 douzin lobsters

To Fatten Chickens

A hint from 1669:

FATTEN your Chicken the first week with Oatmeal scalded in Milk; the second with Rice and Sugar in Milk. In a fortnight they will be prodigioufsly fat.

It is good to give them sometimes a little Gravel, or powder of Glass, to cleanse their maws, and give them appetite.

If you put a little bran with their meat, it will keep their maws clean, and give them appetite.

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



Archive 17

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



INSIDE: WHY A SCARGILL FAMILY WHIPPED THEIR MAID



A small boy in a sailor suit poses uncertainly for the camera outside Fountain Cottage, Barningham, a century ago. Two more boys and a woman with a baby watch from one upstairs window while two teenage girls pose at the other. John and Greta Carter, today's owners, believe the people it shows were from the Todd family. The cottage has changed a bit since then: See Page 17

contents

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – Page 2

THE RECTOR WITH THE ALLIGATOR – Pages 3-5

LETTERS AND EMAILS – Pages 6-7

WHEN NAPOLEON CAME TO TEESDALE – Page 8

VILLAGE VOTE TO STAY IN THE DARK – Page 9

FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE – Page 9

OLD PHOTOS – Pages 10-11

AMERICAN SEARCH FOR ROSSERS – Page 12

ON THE 1841 CENSUS TRAIL – Page 14

BARNINGHAM HOUSE HISTORIES – Pages 17-18

NEWSHAM AGAINST THE WALL – Page 19

BAKING LOBSTERS IN 1691 – Page 20

NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY JUNE 28th 6pm

minutes of the last meeting

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday May 17 2011:

Present: Jon Smith (Chair), Ann Orton (Secretary), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Beverley Peach, Jane Hackworth-Young, Neil Turner, Kay Duggan, Tony Orton, Susan Prytherick, Sally Ridgeway, Robin Brooks, Greta Carter, Mark Watson, Ann Rowley.

Apologies: Ed Simpson, Elaine McDonald, Diane Metcalf, Sheila Catton.

Correspondence: Two names have been brought up this month, Canon Edwin Spencer Gough (see Page 3) and Arthur Pownall Rosser (Page 12).

Finance: Eric had prepared a financial report to April 30 2011 showing a healthy balance of £879.61. He said the figure included all the subscriptions for the *Archive* for the year and this would gradually be reduced by printing and circulation costs.

House Histories: Fountain Cottage and Curlew House (formerly Sharon Cottage): see Page 17.

Publications: *Archive 16* had been circulated and Jon hoped to produce further brides and baptisms lists before long. See Page 16.

Field names/barns: Ed was away but would hopefully report at the next meeting.

Wartime/Memorial names: Jenny Frost (who teaches art in the village hall on Wednesdays) had finished her research into women in wartime and was willing to share it with us at a future meeting.

Oral history: No progress seems to have been made. Sue offered to take this on and would liaise with Phil.

Cine records/DVD: Eric, Mark and Neil would look at the available films on Neil's projector and decide which ones were suitable to convert to DVD.

Any other business: Jane wondered if anyone had any information about the inns at Greta Bridge. Jon said there was some in the early *Archives*.

Guest speaker: Eric Barnes, Chairman of Barnard Castle Local History Society, gave us a very interesting and amusing talk on "The Napoleonic Invasion of Teesdale": see Page 8.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

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

leftovers

While researching the history of Barningham and its surrounds we've accumulated all sorts of snippets of historical interest too short to merit a complete feature but worthy of mention somewhere in *The Archive*. Here are a few of the latest...

The night the earl's walls came down

WHEN the Earl of Exeter, lord of the manor of Newsham in 1609, decided to enclose Long Green on the moor above the village, not everyone thought it was a good idea.

One dark night in May that year, opponents of the scheme went up there and destroyed 200 roods (about a mile) of wall that his workmen had built round the area.

The furious earl was convinced that the people of Newsham and other villages nearby knew who was responsible, and demanded that they name the guilty parties. There was silence, and the following October the inhabitants of Newsham, Dalton, Barningham and Hallgate were accused at the North Riding Quarter Sessions of what these days would be called obstructing the police in the course of their duties.

Still no one came forward, and eventually, in January 1611, the court ordered that "forasmuch the walles and fences to the values of 200 roods for the improvement at Newsham had been pulled downe in the night tyme by certain persons unknowen" and the four villages had not "found or arrested the persons which pulled downe the same", a levy should be imposed on all of them to pay for restoring the wall.

How much it cost each villager is unknown.

Two headmasters

THIS is from the *Darlington and Stockton Times* of December 1926:

'The last headmasters of Barningham Academy were Mr Thomas Coates, a one-armed man, and Mr Hough, who had lost one eye.

'Mr Coates was a great character, and ruled his pupils with a rod of iron. One of these told me that Coates thrashed his pupils so hard with his one arm that had he possessed two he would have knocked the life out of them. It was

merciful providence that prevented him from doing so. He also had a habit of digging offending scholars in the ribs with the stump of his amputated arm, which caused them much pain.'

There were other 'Yorkshire Schools' in the area, too, among them one at Kirby Hill. In 1830 it advertised for pupils in *The Times*, promising that 'the system of instruction comprehends all the usual branches of Liberal Education, comprising the Greek and Latin classics, Mathematics, etc at 22 guineas per annum. No extra charges. No vacations. French language and drawing at the usual terms.'

Kids today don't know they're born.

School log

TODAY's pupils do, however, seem to be less accident-prone than in the past. Entries from the Barningham School headmistress' logbook for 1904-05 include:

December 16 1904: During the dinner hour two boys were quarrelling. Alderson threw down Victor Hind and I fear the latter's leg is broken. The Rector bound it in splints and took him to Newsham in the wagonette.

February 23 1905: During dinner hour today Ethel Lee, whilst playing, fell, and I fear her leg is broken.

October 6 1905: Jane Robinson of Coates House has had her thumb taken off with the Cream Separator.

October 25 1905: Thomas Brass has been bitten by a dog and is absent.

The wild man

FROM the *Teesdale Mercury* of August 1864:

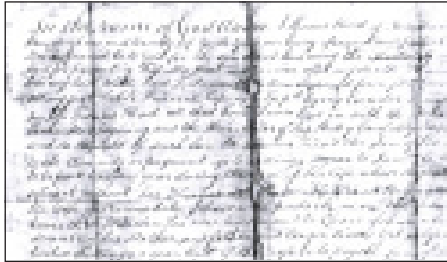
'It is rumoured that a 'wild man' has recently been seen in this vicinity. He is described as being but scantily clothed, his almost naked body being in some degree protected by a strong natural growth of hair.

'When last seen he was devouring a rabbit which he had caught. He runs with surprising swiftness. It is said that he has been observed near Spital on Stainmore and also as far down the country as Newsham and Barningham.

'We can scarcely doubt all the accounts that have reached us. It is presumed that he is an escaped lunatic; and it would be but an act of humanity to detain the poor creature, and hand him back to the authorities.'

I, Thomas Head, being of sound & perfect mind...

THIS is Thomas Head's will, written just two months before he died in 1760, bequeathing Fountain Cottage to his grand-daughter



The opening lines of Thomas Head's will

IN the Name of God Amen I *Thomas Head* of Newsham in the parish of Barningham and County of York Yeoman being of sound & perfect mind and disposing Memory praised be to God for the same and knowing the uncertainty of this Life upon Earth and for preventing Disputes that may arise after my death Do make and declare this to be my last Will and Testament in the Manners and form following:

First I will that all my just Debts & Funeral Expenses be pd by my Executor the afternamed.

I Give to my son *Thomas Head* all that house I now live in with the Houses and Garth on the backside adjoining and the Heir Males of his Body lawfully begotten or to be begotten and in default of such heir to *Thomas Head* the Son of *John Head* Yet Subject to the Annuity or payment of six shillings a year to *Jane* the Wife of *George Nelson* to be paid her every year during the term of her life whose Acquittance shall be sufficient without her Husband.

I Give and Bequeath to *Alice Johnson* the Wife of *Marmaduke Johnson* the padock near the Schoolhouse and that house that *William Lee* now lives in and to *Edward Johnson* her Son after the decease of his Mother and father and longer lives Yet subject to the payment of twelve shillings a year but if they refuse to pay the Sum of twelve shillings a year the first payment to begin twelve Month after my decease as anuity to be paid to the said *Jane Nelson* but if they refuse or neglect to pay such Annuity after a lawfull demand it shall be lawful for the said *Jane Nelson* to reenter into the premises And

to hold the same until such time as she is paid the sum of twelve shillings above bequeathed to her the said *Jane Nelson*. But if she offers to sell the said Annuity or does sell it but take it herself yearly then I will that such Annuity to cease and be no longer paid.

I give and bequeath to my son Mr *William Head* of Wanlass and to my brother *William Head* of Street house in the parish of Barningham both in the County of York All that my House in Barningham that *William Eles* lived in now *Moses Walker* lives in at present Together with one Beast Gate or Cattel Gate and half a Beast Gate or Cattel Gate in Barningham In trust for my Granddaughter *Mary Cowland* and that they let the same at the improved Rent till she cum to the Age of twenty five years, I allowing the said *William Head* of Wanlass and *William Head* of Street house Each of them One Guinea for their trouble and all other reasonable expensess as they shall be put to for their trouble.

I give to *Bettrice Walker* the Sum of twenty shillings a year for five years the first payment to be made twelve months after my decease .

And all the Rest Remainder Residue of my Goods and Chattels of what kind soever they be my just Debts and Funeral Expences being first paid I Give Bequeath the same to my dear and loving Wife *Mary Head* and do hereby appoint her sole Executrix of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this thirteenth day of October One thousand seven hundred and sixty.

Thos Head

Signed Sealed published by the said Testator as for his last Will and Testamt Attested by us at his Request and in his presence and in the Sight of each other.

Ann Johnson James Wade Adam Lodge

footnote

Our House Histories in Archive 14 said the Powell family moved into 1 Park View in 1979. Doreen Powell contacted us to put the record straight: it was in 1963, as we should have known.

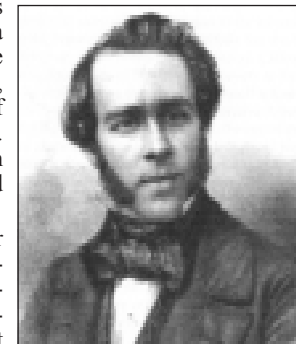
The rector who brought an alligator home

AIDAN Bucknall of Stockport emailed asking if we knew anything about his great-great-grandfather, Barningham rector Edwin Spencer Gough. Quite a lot, we discovered...

THE Rev Edwin Spencer Gough was the kind of clergyman beloved of Victorian England: a muscular Christian, a renowned sportsman, a man of absolute conviction, good humour and boundless energy who threw himself into his community and dominated its religious and social life for decades.

Gough – he always signed himself *E. Spencer Gough*, and we think Spencer was the first name he preferred – was born in London in 1845, the son of a headmaster whose family originated in Ireland. He won a Greek scholarship from Godolphin Grammar School in Hammersmith to ~~Erinity College, Dublin~~ the age of 17. At ~~Erinity College, Dublin~~ College, London, he graduated in 1867 and the following year moved to Leeds, where he became a curate at St Pauls Church and was ordained as a priest in 1870.

The same year he met and married an American girl, Elsie (1879), Agnes (1880) and Francis (born during a visit to Pennsylvania in 1885). In 1877 Gough became vicar of the parish of Burley in Leeds, and held the position until 1889 when he was offered the rector-



Augustus Morand in 1851: he's buried in Barningham

How and where his daughter met the young curate is uncertain, but the most likely explanation is that Caroline was visiting England with her father at the time. They were married in Leeds, where Gough got a new job as chaplain to the city's General Infirmary, and their

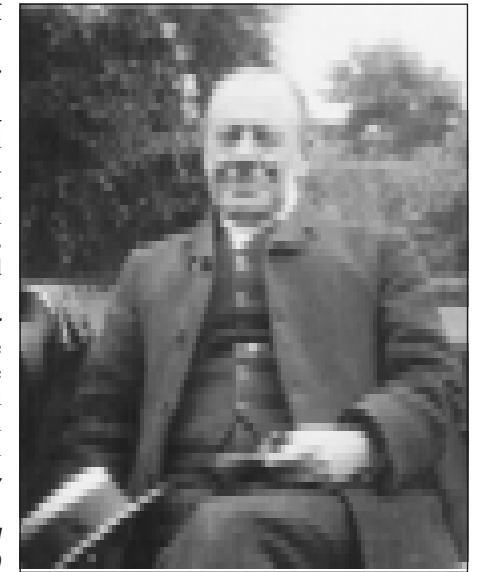
first child, George, was born in 1871. Five more followed – Henry (1873), Mary (1876), Elsie (1879), Agnes (1880) and Francis (born during a visit to Pennsylvania in 1885).

In 1877 Gough became vicar of the parish of Burley in Leeds, and held the position until 1889 when he was offered the rector-

ship of Barningham. He arrived here full of enthusiasm and new ideas. Within months he had launched a massive fund-raising campaign to restore the church (in little more than a year it made over £1,500 – an enormous sum in those days) and a complete renovation of the building, inside and out, was completed by the end of 1891.

He started a parish magazine, chaired the vestry meeting, set up committees, organised the reading room, presided over concerts, oversaw the day and Sunday schools, and generally got involved in every aspect of village life – as well, of course, as carrying out his day-to-day ecclesiastical duties of preaching to, baptising, marrying and burying his parishioners.

He became Rural Dean of Richmond North in 1899 and an honorary canon of Ripon in 1911.



The Rev Gough, pictured c.1910

the Rev Gough

It was a busy life, but it didn't stop him pursuing his lifelong passion for fishing – he became chairman of the Yorkshire Anglers' Society in 1885 and in 1892 news of a salmon he caught in Ireland made *The Times* (see right). He had the fish stuffed, brought it back to Barningham in a handsome display case, and when he retired in 1925 presented it to the village school, now the village hall.

It remained on show there for almost 80 years, quietly rotting away, together with a copy of the *Times* report and a note from Gough saying the fish was 45.4 inches long with a 13.4-inch tail fin. It disappeared mysteriously some years ago and is still mourned by some (see *Archives 2 & 3*).

Gough was a keen all-round sportsman, a regular on the grouse moor and an enthusiastic billiards player. He also found plenty of time to travel. In the first 20 years of his marriage he crossed the Atlantic on average once a year (he became known to ships' crews as the 'Bishop of the White Star Line'), visiting his wife's family, preaching in Philadelphia and exploring the United States.

Gough was an ardent naturalist, and on one occasion delighted his children by bringing home a live alligator from South America, which lived out its days in an aquarium at the Rectory. "It is curiously interesting to observe the movements of this strange creature and watch the lazy and languid evolutions of the monster when tempted onto the dry rock by the warmth of the sun," said

Salmon Fishing in 1892

By Mr. Henry Ffennell

At Ballinahinch a remarkable capture, for that district, was made by the Rev. E. Spencer Gough. Fishing with a 14 ft rod and with sea trout gut and a small fly he landed, after one-and-a-half hour's play, a male salmon, which, when weighed in Dublin two days after it was killed, scaled 37½lb. No doubt had the fish been weighed immediately after capture it would have been found to have considerably exceeded the above weight. So far as my researches go this fish is the largest taken at Ballinahinch of which we have reliable information. Some twenty years ago a salmon of 30lb, was captured in the nets. Since then the heaviest salmon landed in the district was one of 26lb, which was caught with the fly. The salmon taken by Mr. Gough, though not bright in colour, was a handsome shaped fish.

From *The Times* of April 7 1893.

a profile of Gough published in the *Teesdale Mercury* in October 1894. It went on to describe how "skins of serpents and rattlesnakes, together with a magnificent and fearful-looking owl and an exquisite little oriole and nest adorn the walls of the house." In later life Gough visited India and Ceylon among other places.

His wife Caroline died in 1902, her funeral packing the village church. Her eldest son George was by then a captain in the South African police and unable to attend, but Francis, Mary, Elsie and Agnes were there and other mourners included Caroline's aged mother and two of her sisters (one travelled from India, suggesting that Caroline had been ill for a long time and her death was not unexpected).

Gough remained Rector of Barningham until 1924, when increasing ill-health forced him to retire to Littlehampton in Sussex. He spent the next

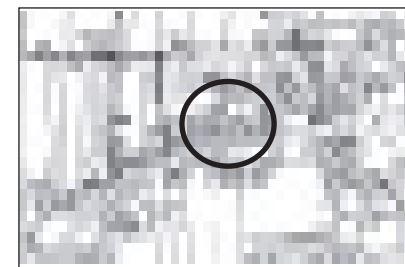
few months trying to reclaim money he said he had put into the church accounts over the years. "I must have advanced some £300 or £400 out of my (overdrawn) banking account", he said in a plaintive letter to the churchwardens. Whether he got it back we don't know.

He died in 1927, four days before his 82nd birthday, and his body was brought back to Barningham to be buried beside that of his wife.

The church was full for the funeral on a chilly February afternoon. Lady Milbank was there to play the organ; the Rev Arthur Close, vicar of Hutton Magna, read the service, supported by a host of assorted clergymen from all over the area. There were hundreds of mourners including, said the *Teesdale Mercury*, Hannah Smith, "an old and trusted retainer of the family." She had joined the Gough household as a housemaid in her teens more than 35 years earlier and

Head to Carter: 250 years of owners

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



FOUNTAIN COTTAGE

THIS is something of a rarity: a house whose ownership we can trace back for more than 250 years.

Today's owners, John and Greta Carter, have deeds, conveyances and other documents showing how it has changed hands over the past two and a half centuries.

The earliest is a will drawn up in 1760 by owner Thomas Head of Newsham just before he died (see next page). Thomas was born in 1685, and quite possibly saw the cottage being built in the early 1700s.

He bequeathed the house, "that William Eles lived in and Moses Walker lives in at present" to his ten-year-old granddaughter Mary Cowland. She eventually married a Thomas Greenhow and it seems that the couple moved into Fountain Cottage and remained there all their lives.

Mary died in 1811, Thomas in 1832, and the cottage passed successively to their son, also called Thomas; to his sister Ann; and then to his nephew, another Thomas. He was a publican in Leeds, and in 1877



sold the property to a Richard Reay from Newcastle for £70. (Richard was related to the Blumers, the Sunderland shipbuilding family who built Moor Lea in 1894).

After he and his wife died Fountain Cottage passed to their unmarried daughters Jane and Margaret, who in 1917 sold it to the sitting tenants, gardener Thomas Pearson and his wife Mary. Both died in 1929 and it was bought for

£270 by a "retired gentleman's servant" called John Robson.

On his death in 1944 it passed to relatives Frances Alderson and his spinster sister Margaret, who let it out until 1951 when it was sold to Herbert Warne, a retired postmaster from Richmond, and his wife Ann.

They owned it only briefly: Herbert died the following year, and Ann sold it to Mrs Constance Pick for £1,250. She lived in it until her death in 1954, when it was bought by the Rev Richard Alderson, retired vicar from Hutton Magna, and his wife Louise.

She died in 1957; Richard remained in Fountain Cottage until shortly before his death at the age of 95 in 1973. John and Greta bought it, and have lived there ever since.

neil's notes

THE Rev Alderson loved his pipe and grew his own tobacco. There were tobacco plants everywhere in his house, all these funny leaves in the airing cupboards and shed. It was like a kipper house.

He used to ask people all over the village to plant a row or two of tobacco for him in their gardens. He gave me some to plant and they grew bigger and bigger, but they didn't have the wide leaves I expected. It turned out he'd given me a load of godetia plants by mistake. He soaked the tobacco leaves in black treacle. He'd smoked a pipe since he was 14 and he was 95 when he died.

His wife was born Louise Suckling and was supposed to be descended from Lord Nelson. He was forever telling people about it.



The Rev Richard Alderson in 1965

servant whipped

Dawson in disbelief. He showed it to Margaret: she denied ever seeing it before. The one they had used on her was a proper horse whip, with a cane top.

Annie's brother David was called as a defence witness. He had been there when the matter of the brooch was raised, he said, and Annie had acted only in self-defence after Margaret threw the coalrake and then grabbed a brush, threatening "to split her — head".

It took the bench only a few minutes to reach their verdict: father and daughter both guilty. John Alderson was fined £2, Annie £5; they would also pay the costs of the case.

The decision, said the *Mercury*, "was greeted with loud applause, which was promptly suppressed by the officers of the court."

Margaret did not return to Garnthwaite.

court shorts

BEN COLE, license-holder, Smallways, was charged by Inspector Enoch at Greta Bridge Police Court with selling rum 17 per cent beyond the limit allowed by law. Mr J A York, defending, said his client had kept the inn for over 17 years without previous complaint. Fined £1 and costs. Robert Brown, Dun Cow Inn, Newsham, was charged with selling rum 9 per cent beyond the limit. Mr J I Dawson, for the defence, attributed the deficiency to a purely accidental mistake in mixing. Fined £1 and costs.

— *Teesdale Mercury*, December 1910

WILLIAM NICHOLSON of Barningham appeared before Greta Bridge Petty Sessions, the Rev W F Wharton and John Michel Esq presiding, charged with being the father of Hannah Carter's illegitimate child. Ordered to pay 1s 6d per week, and costs.

— *Teesdale Mercury*, February 1858

WILLIAM THRESH of Newsham, yeoman: sent for trial for keeping an unlawful house where men and women "remain drinking tippling whoring gameing & misbehaving themselves."

RICHARD YOUNGMAN of Barningham, labourer, found drunk in charge of a horse and cart, was fined 7s 6d at Greta Bridge Police Court.

— *Teesdale Mercury*, September 1896

Weddings search snag, but books are on their way

WE'VE finally transcribed all the Barningham baptism and marriage registers at Durham County Records Office, and all the lists should be available in booklet form before long.

Earlier this year we brought out *Barningham Baptisms Volume 1* and *Barningham Brides Volume 1*, each covering the years 1581 to 1800. Volume 2 of each, listing entries from 1801 to 1950, will be next.

They will be as complete as we can make them, but although all records of church weddings are readily available, we can't get full details of civil marriages. These became a legal alternative to church ceremonies in 1837, and the records of them are held with extraordinary secrecy by local registrars.

There are brief indexes available, alphabetically listing all people married in Teesdale civil ceremonies in each three-month period, but it's almost impossible to tell from these exactly where brides and grooms came from, or who married who. The registrar's office says the full details are copyright and confidential, even though the Marriage Act of 1949 says registrars "shall at all reasonable hours allow searches to be made", and registrars will very happily sell you copies of individual certificates at a hefty price.

Not much use to local historians interested in general trends rather than single weddings, and we're thinking of taking it up at a higher level. It won't delay plans for the next booklets, though, and if we do get details of civil marriages in the future we'll update them.



footnote

THANKS to all of you (June Graham and Neil Turner among others) who pointed out that we got the Newsham pubs mixed up in the last issue. The Pipes Tavern was formerly called the Dun Cow; the Black Bull was next-door, where Michael Graham remembers the pub sign stood in a recess between the upper windows. "It showed a big bull's head with horns and seemed to be looking at you as you passed. Frightening!"

A DOLEFUL DITTY OF RICHMONDSHIRE

Among the many documents we've accumulated about the Rev Gough is this poem penned by the Rev S. G. Beal, rector of Romaldkirk, a century ago. He sent it to Gough after the Barningham rector had stayed with him during a preaching trip around upper Teesdale and accidentally left wearing the wrong hat...

Sir Rural Dean called out his hack
To trot around the Deanery
And perched high on his monster's back
He much admired the scenery.

For towards Teesdale moors he steered
And turned his Rural Dignity
And soon at Romaldkirk appeared
With gracious benignity.

He preached, he supped, he smoked, he snoozed
Within the ancient rectory
Remained next day — again he used
Church, bedroom and refectory.

The morn arrived — ah, fateful day!
His Reverend Rurality
Had much enjoyed, he deigned to say,
His neighbour's hospitality.

The parting came, he mounted high
Upon his nag gigantic
His head did not quite touch the sky
(This is a *truthful* canticle!)

Along the road, upon that head
Men gazed with reverence dutiful
'Twas not the head, the people said,
But the hat which was so beautiful.

'Twas new, 'twas glossy, gave a mien
Of reverend sobriety.
Men ne'er had seen the Rural Dean
Arrayed with such propriety

But had they known his treacherous deed —
Though planned with much ability —

The Rev Gough was clearly much amused by this: he kept it all his life and it was among documents passed on to his children after his death.

They would not greet him on his steed
With such profound civility.

For sooth to say, this Rural Dean
Had yielded to temptation
The hat was not his own, I ween,
Which won their admiration.

His neighbour's hat the night before
Attracted his attention
(Its beauty and its charms galore
I had just now to mention).

His own was poor, and soiled, and old
And battered out of knowing.
"What gain to turn brass into gold!
And just as he was going!"

None would observe the fateful change
He was above suspicion
No-one would deem it very strange
That a man in his position

Should have two hats, one old and torn,
Quite fit to come and stay in,
The other new, scarce ever worn,
Just right to go away in!"

Thus argued he — no sooner said
Than done — no scruples bind him.
He clapped the new hat on his head
And left the old behind him!

'Tis very sad I am that I
Such tales should have to dish up.
Nought now remains except to fly
For help unto the Bishop!

stayed with them, unmarried, to the end.

We know a little about what happened to some of Gough's children. George died before his father, though we don't know how. Francis married Frances Atkins and lived in Kuala Lumpur, where their son Michael, the well-known actor who died a couple of months ago, was born (see *Archive 11*). Henry was at his father's

the Rev Gough

funeral, but we know no more about him. Elsie married someone called Elliott in 1920.

Agnes remained unmarried, living in Barningham with her father and serving for many years as the village district nurse before moving to Sussex with him when he retired. What happened to her after his death we don't know.

Mary married a newspaper proprietor from Leeds called Alexander Talbot Baines. Their great-grandchildren include Aiden Bucknall, whose email prompted this profile of a memorable and evidently much-loved rector whose legacy can be seen every time we visit Barningham church.

Blacksmith was my great-uncle

RALPH Hind, the Newsham blacksmith whose photo you printed in the last *Archive*, was my grandfather's brother and the older of the two young men on the photo was my father's eldest brother John Hind.

John was working for his own father Matthew Hind who was blacksmith at Hutton till his father was kicked by a horse and died at the age of 45. John then went to work for his uncle Ralph at Newsham. John later went off to the first world war, serving in the RFA and became a corporal, but sadly died in France on the October 17th 1918.

He was one of the three Hind brothers who died in the war and whose names are on the war memorial at Hutton. I don't know who the other young man is on the photo is but Ralph did have two sons of his own, Victor and Len. The George Alderson pictured on

letters & emails

his grass cutter was not the one from Barningham but my other grandfather, who was born at Hope but lived at Pear Tree Farm in Hutton from 1932. The photo was taken in the field next to our house at Hutton. He died at Hutton in February 1966 and is buried in Hutton churchyard.

The bus in the other photo was built by Jack Stapleton who lived at Hutton but later moved to Newsham where he had a garage and buses and I think his business would be taken over by Jim Maude.

I used to travel on Maude's bus to Darlington when first going out to work. The service was later taken over by Burrells. My grandmother Elizabeth Nelson, who married Matthew Hind, was born at Barningham and was three months old in the 1861 census.

Thanks for helping me track down my great-grandparents

THANK you for all the information you've given me and for the birth, deaths, marriages and census books.

I now know that both my great-grandparents are buried in Barningham! My great-grandfather was Francis Alsop, born at Hurst in 1825, who married Jane Sowerby (born in Scargill in 1826) at Barningham in 1848.

In 1871 they were farming 195 acres at Brignall and later farmed at Barforth and Killerby. In later years Francis lived with his daughter Mary at Brignall. Her brother Francis, born in Brignall in 1869, was my

grandfather; his son Thomas, born at Killerby in 1897, was my father.

So far I have traced my family history back to the late 1700s, when they were in the Hurst/Marrick area with links to lead mining prior to farming. I have my own memories of the area from the 1940s, when I used to spend part of my school holidays at Newsham Grange where my auntie, Ethel Jane Alsop, was housekeeper. My best wishes to your history group and thank you again.

DAVID ALSOP
North Shields



Ralph Hind

She was the youngest child of Eleanor and John Nelson, a stonemason.

She was related to the Westmarland family and for a time lived with them at Hutton Fields Farm till she married at Hutton in 1886 by special licence which cost ten shillings.

MARIAN LEWIS nee Hind
Hutton Magna

Ancestor with a chequered past

I'VE visited Barningham a couple of times and now found the grave of a couple I believe to be my great-great-great-great grandparents, Deborah Ann and George Heslop.

The grave is alongside the church and I was so excited to find it! Deborah Ann (possibly known as just Ann, as she is referred to lower down on the headstone) died in 1836, and George followed her in 1841.

George was a schoolmaster and they lived, I believe, in Newsham. For a long time I've been trying to establish exactly which school he was master of.

My research has concluded that he probably was master at Earby Hall, and was succeeded by Ralph Simpson. George had

Whipped – for not making her bed

Life as a domestic servant in Victorian days wasn't much fun – and could be positively brutal, as this court case goes to show...

GAMEKEEPER'S wife Jane Ellwood was walking back through the rain to her home at Rutherford on October 3rd 1892 when she saw a girl running across the fields towards her, crying and bleeding.

She recognised her as Margaret Anderson, a 19-year-old servant girl who worked at John Alderson's farm at Garthwaite, two miles up the road at West Hope. Margaret was soaked through, her frock and apron shredded and open, and she appeared in a very wild state.

The reason soon became clear: she had, she sobbed, run away after being repeatedly thrashed with a riding whip by both her employer and his daughter Annie for not making her bed. Now she was heading for the river Greta to end it all.

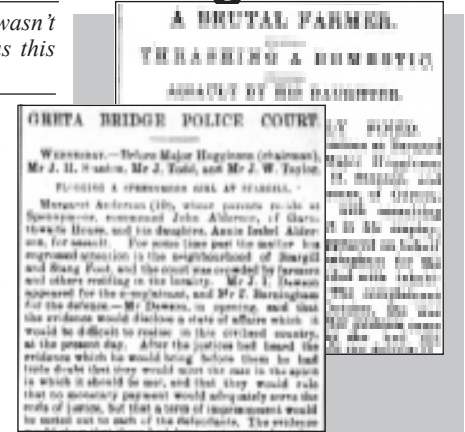
Mrs Ellwood took Margaret to the local land agent, Robert Weatherill, who sent her back to her mother's home in Spennymoor and then contacted the constabulary.

The following Wednesday Greta Bridge Police Court was packed when John and Annie Alderson appeared charged with assault. Both denied ever laying a finger on the girl.

Prosecuting, Mr Ingram Dawson said the evidence "would disclose a state of affairs which it would be difficult to realise in this civilised country". There had been systematic brutality for a considerable time which had driven Margaret to the brink of suicide. The defendants should be put behind bars.

Margaret appeared in court "respectably-attired", according to the *Teesdale Mercury* report, and told the magistrates she had worked for the Aldersons since she was 15. "On Sunday October 2nd I was washing the milk bowls when my mistress came down and said I had not made my bed. My master took up a riding whip and beat me across the head several times. I have suffered a great deal in my head ever since. I have been just like a woman going out of her mind."

She said she usually made up her bed, but admitted that sometimes she just pulled the quilt over it. After the attack she did nothing: "There



How The Northern Echo (top) and Teesdale Mercury reported the case

was no-one to complain to, I went on with my work as usual."

The next morning, she said, Annie came in and demanded to know if she had been talking to a Mrs James Holiday at Stang Foot. When she denied it, Annie took up the whip and struck her some 30 times across the head, back and arms, saying "By rights my father ought to take a rope and hang you and then you would not be a torment to anyone."

Then, said Margaret, she was "told to kneel down and take up my clothes so she could do more" – a claim, said the *Mercury*, that caused a sensation in court.

Margaret refused, and when Annie threatened to fetch her father to carry out more punishment the servant girl ran away into the rain.

The Aldersons stoutly rejected the accusations, saying they had always been on friendly terms with Margaret and had even given her stockings as a present. The current problem had arisen after a brooch went missing in the house. When Margaret was asked whether she had taken it she had furiously denied being a thief and then thrown a coal-rake at Annie, who hit her twice with the whip to defend herself.

The court erupted in laughter when they produced a toy riding whip and claimed it was the one involved. "A formidable weapon," said Mr

Farmers, widows and servants

WE'VE reached Crook's House, the home of farmer Robert **Harrison** and his wife Dorothy.

Robert, born in Tunstall, was in his mid-sixties; Dorothy, 49, came from Melsnby. They had arrived in Barningham quite recently, taking over the tenancy of the Milbanks-owned farm from John Burton who had held it when the 1838 tithe map records were made.

Also living at Crook's House were five servants: Ann **Longstaff**, 25; William **Pearson**, 20; Edward **Gates** and Margaret **Husfield**, both 15; and 14-year-old Thomas **Brunskill** from Rokeby. All had moved on by the time the 1851 census was taken.

Robert and Dorothy remained, with a new set of young servants, until the 1860s. Robert died in 1863, aged 88; Dorothy followed him into Barningham graveyard six months later.

Next on the 1841 list is 70-year-old agricultural worker Mary **Spooner**, living alone in a cottage in the village since her husband Henry died in 1838. They had had ten children between 1791 and 1817, only half of whom survived to adulthood. All had moved out of Barningham by 1841 and the only one we can trace is Jane, then 25, unmarried, and working as a dressmaker at Holgate. Her mother died in 1842.

Now we come to **Metcalfe**, 30-year-old farmer James and his wife Margaret, living in a cottage beside Hill Top farm. They have no children, and leave the village within a decade. They may be related in some way to today's Met-

1841 census trail

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

calfes, but we've found no links. Working for them were three servants: 20-year-old Anthony **Robinson**, Mary **Atkinson**, 23, and James **Scrafton**, 13-year-old son of local stonemason Cornelius Scrafton (see *Archive 7*).

We don't know what happened to Mary and James, but 20 years later an Anthony Robinson was farming 259 acres in Newsham.

The next entry shows how uncertain people were about spellings of places and names back in 1841. Although the census recorder was a local man (probably the village schoolmaster, though we don't know for certain), he listed Hayth-waite as Hayforth, and said it was occupied by 33-year-old agricultural worker James **Thexton** and his wife Esther. She was six months pregnant at the time and when she gave birth to twins (George and Agnes) the following August she was recorded in Barningham's baptism register as Elizabeth Theckston.

Esther or Elizabeth, Thexton or Theckston, the family had left Haythwaite by 1851.

Our next visit is to another outlying farmstead, Wilson House. In 1841 it was occupied by 31-year-old George **Moss** and his sisters Hannah and Margaret. George, the unmarried second son of Scargill farmer Robert and Emma Moss (maiden name

Ewbank), was evidently a man of some substance, describing himself as "of independant means".

Margaret soon found herself a husband, a farmer from Houghton-le-Skerne called George **Johnson**, and he moved into Wilson House. The couple farmed there until the late 1800s, raising three children. George became a local methodist preacher and died in 1906; Margaret predeceased him in 1889.

George Moss and sister Hannah lived with them until 1862, when George decided it was about time he got married and proposed to a 47-year-old local shoemaker's spinster daughter called Mary **Wise-man**. She accepted, and they moved out of Wilson House (we don't know where to). Hannah, unmarried, stayed on until her death in 1882.

Back in the village, our last name on the 1841 list for this issue is that of Mrs Betsy **Swire**, 68-year-old widow of the Rev Samuel Swire, Rector of Barningham from 1805 until his death in 1816 at the age of 76. Betsy (proper name Elizabeth, sometimes called Bessy) was 30 years younger – he was well into his fifties when they married, possibly older – and there is no sign of them having any offspring.

When Samuel died Betsy moved into what is now the Gatehouse (she rented it from the Milbanks for 2s 6d a year) and lived there for the next four decades.

In 1841 she was being looked after by a couple of servants, Ann **Hopps** and

letters & emails

a chequered past because I believe he was previously some sort of merchant, going down to London, and came home because in 1785 he was declared bankrupt!

As I have not been able to find a definite marriage for him to Deborah Ann in the Kirkby Ravensworth area, the next most likely marriage I've found is one of a George Heslop to an Ann Turner in St Marylebone in 1782 – ten months later a child was born and baptised in October 1783 to a George and Deborah Ann Heslop in St Olave, Southwark.

There seems to have been another child born in London, but the rest of their children were born, or at least baptised, in the Kirkby Ravensworth area.

I do have some information that has kindly been supplied to me by another Heslop descendant who lives in Australia and who has transcribed lots of baptisms, marriages and deaths in the Kirkby Ravensworth area from microfilm at his local Family History Centre. This has helped me enormously, but there are always records that I would love to have and can't find in his transcriptions! I had great fun

sorting out possible family groups from his transcriptions though. I hope that someone may be interested in helping me to research this family even further? Any information that would be of help to me would be very gratefully received. As to my line of descent from George and Ann, it goes like this:

George and Ann Heslop (5xg grandparents); daughter Ann Heslop b 1784 at Dalton (4xg grandmother); her illegitimate son William Whipby Heslop b 1810 at Newcastle (3xg grandfather); his daughter Alice Heslop b 1836 Stockton (2xg grandmother); her son Alexander Reddie b 1874 at Middlesbrough (great-grandfather); his son Robert Reddie b 1901 d 1970 (my grandad); my dad – and me!

JANICE GIBSON
j.gibson2401@hotmail.com

● *There have been Heslops in both Newsham and Barningham from at least the mid-1600s — the BLHG records of marriages at Barningham include a Christofer Helsop marrying Dorithye Lademan in 1648 — and there*

The role of women in wartime

I'VE finally finished my dissertation on 'the changing role of women during 1939-1945' after interviews with, among other people, Brenda Lawson from the Milbank Arms and Anne Marchbank's mum Alice.

Their life during the war was fascinating and I could have written a book just on each one's experiences. I'll be happy to come to a history group meeting and show some slides and talk about my research, which leans very much on the role of women during WW2 as well as the 'Beauty before Duty' stuff.

JENNY FROST frostjennifer@ymail.com

● *We hope Jenny can talk to us in the autumn. —Ed*

is still, of course, one family of the name here today.

George was quite possibly a schoolmaster at Earby Hall. The 1861 census recorded a Christopher Heslop as a classics and mathematics teacher there, aged 50 and widowed. He was born in Gayles, and could have been the son of George and Deborah Ann.

The diaries of the Newsham schoolmaster James Coates dated 1784-1786 (which we hope to make available in book form before too long) include many references to Heslops, including one which seems to confirm Janice's suspicions.

Dated March 18 1785, it says: "Got the newspaper and find that Geo. Heslop of Dalton Turner is bankrupt." —Ed.

Treasure trove of information

THANKS for sending me the article on the Nebraska Lee family (*Archive 16*) and picture of the Black Horse! I will be sure to include it in the family history.

The article was great. The books you sent (*Where Lyeth Ye Bodies, Barningham Baptisms and Barningham Brides*) have allowed me to track the Lees back to Anthonie and Abigal Lee on one side and the Eeles, Hawdons, and Hardyes on the other.

I've now got the family all the way back to around 1600! What a treasure trove!

Hopefully we'll be up in your area this summer – we're planning a trip to see our cousins in Saltburn and would love to swing by Barningham!

JIM JONES, Seattle, USA
jjjones39@hotmail.com

How Teesdale prepared to fight Napoleon

GUEST speaker Eric Barnes greatly entertained our May history group meeting. His topic: The Day Napoleon invaded Teesdale...

THE story begins in France in 1793 when Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette were executed on the guillotine. Six years later Napoleon seized power and was poised at the French Channel ports, ready to invade England.

There was a climate of fear throughout the country. All over Britain preparations were made to counter such an invasion. In Barnard Castle the volunteer infantry was formed and at Staindrop the volunteer cavalry. Throughout the dale similar volunteers were being organised (including Barningham) under the command of Sir John Morritt of Rokeby.

There were certain advantages to being a volunteer: you were exempt from joining the militia and also did not have to pay Hair Powder Duty! All volunteers were required to have at all times in their bedrooms their uniform, musket, three days' supply of cooked bread, 60 rounds of cartridges, a shirt, a pair of shoes, comb and brush, a blanket and a water bottle. Discipline was strict – a W. Dent was fined twenty shillings for not returning his arms in good condition. Horses and carts were kept ready to evacuate women, children and the sick.

At that time there were very few newspapers and not many people could read. News was spread by word of mouth and was often distorted as it passed from one person to another.

On Thursday February 6 1804, a cold and frosty night, many residents had retired to bed early but there were quite a few late night drinkers in the town (apparently at one time there



Napoleon ready to invade... Teesdale?

were steps down The Bank but these had to be removed as drunks kept falling down them!)

One drinker returning home saw what he thought was a warning beacon on the hills and he quickly roused the residents. Colonel Morritt galloped there within the hour and by 9am about 700 volunteers had mustered in the marketplace from all corners of the dale. The sound of bugles and drums filled the air together with the clatter of belts and bayonets and the jingle of harnesses. The band had assembled and was playing some favourite tunes, one of them *The Rosy Cheeked Girls on the Banks of the Tees!*

Among those assembled was Isaac Nicholson, later to become the first trustee of the Barningham Wesleyan Methodist Chapel when it opened in 1815. Everyone was ready to fight and the carts with the women and children were ready to leave after the volunteers.

Just after 9 o'clock, as they began to march east to face the French, two riders arrived to say that it was all a mistake: the "beacon" was just a fire in the distance. The women were overjoyed but the men professed to be disappointed, an easy boast to make when they knew they were safe! Colonel Morritt told them he was proud to be their commander and that they needed to stay disciplined as they might still be needed.

Then the celebrations began. They carried on till late into the night.

Report by ANN ORTON

old ads

WANTED, in a Clergyman's family, a trustworthy and experienced HOUSEMAID, who can wait well. Help daily till twelve. -- Ad-dreff, Mr GEORGE HALES, Barningham Rectory, Barnard Caftle.

The Northern Echo, 1876

letters & emails

at it so long and now this wonderful breakthrough. And the photos!! Wow! Thanks for those.

The "pilot" description I got from TheGenealogist.uk.co website. When I looked at the original census image, it seemed to me that it said "tu-

Jon to Ann Hagen

THE Rossers had left Barningham by 1881, almost certainly because the Academy closed down in 1875 and John would have lost his job. I can't trace him anywhere in 1881: did he go the States?

I have traced Jane Eliza and the youngsters. In 1881 Jane Eliza was living as a companion to a 62-year-old widow called Jane Mordle in Taunton. Arthur and Annie were both in a children's home in Bethnal Green, London; Elizabeth was unmarried, working as a governess in Hartlepool.

Ann Hagen to Jon

THANKS so much for your follow up. I have Arthur and Annie at the orphanage in London. It was run by the Wesleyans, so John Bakewell Rosser had his two youngest children placed there.

I have a feeling that he was a bit of a ne'er-do-well. Anyway, his oldest brother Samuel was an architect and civil engineer in Kent and John Bakewell Rosser may have gone to stay with him when the Barningham Academy closed. What's obvious is that he fell on hard times.

Arthur sailed to Canada, made his way to New York and later became a successful architect in York, Pennsylvania. His father, John Bakewell Rosser,



The grave in America

sailed for the U.S. to join him in 1883, and Hannah joined him a few months later.

In 1888 Arthur married Emma Symser, the first-born daughter of one of York's oldest families – they had emigrated from Bavaria, in 1731 – and their first child, Edna Elizabeth Rosser, was born five months later. Their third was my grandfather, Charles Bakewell Rosser, born in 1893.

Charles never knew his father, who died from what I believe was typhoid fever in 1894. Although Emma remarried in 1910, her heart was always with Arthur and she was buried beside him 67 years later.

Elizabeth Rosser, Arthur's sister, married David Newton in 1886 in Darlington. They had two children before he was lost at sea off Portugal in 1888. She came to the States with the children to live with her mother.

Annie Louise and Jane Eliza came to the States in 1889 and the family seems to have lived together in York until Arthur's death in about 1898. It appears John Bakewell Rosser then returned to England: he died in Macclesfield around 1913. Annie moved to New York, where she worked as a mil-

linery buyer. She died in 1945.

Charles Bakewell Rosser, my grandfather, married his high-school sweetheart Julia Martha Bush at 17 years of age. She was 16. They had two children: Charles and Katherine, my mother. I was born in Pennsylvania and have a brother, Howard.

There is no issue for any of us, so, alas, the Rosser family in America from Barningham

Ann Orton to Ann Hagen

I HAVE several items of information about James Rosser, the first something I found in the *Darlington and Stockton Times* in the early 1860s which reported that the Wesleyan Society had appointed James Rosser, supernumerary, to the Barningham station.

James would be supernumerary because of a trust set up in 1838 by James Todd of Barningham who left £1,600 to the Wesleyans, £100 for a house (now The Nook) and the interest of the remainder to support of the minister.

Mr Todd was not a member of the Society of Wesleyans but the paper said "the desire of his heart was to perpetuate Methodist preaching in the place and its vicinity... a bequest so noble, may, through the blessing of God, become of essential service to the neighbourhood."

At Durham County record Office I have seen the Sabbath Plans which show all the services and preachers in the Barnard Castle circuit. These show that James Rosser was resident in Barningham from 1861 to 1871.

● *The Ortons have invited Ann to stay with them when she comes to England in July.*

Letters from America: the Rosser connection

WE'VE been swapping emails with Ann Hathaway Hagen in Ridgefield, Connecticut, whose great-grandfather was born in Barningham. Here's a

Ann Hagen to BLHG

HELLO. I'm so pleased to have found your website.

I'm researching my ancestors. I live in the U.S. and my great-grandfather Arthur Pown-all Rosser was born in Barningham and came to the States in about 1881.

He is listed in the 1871 Durham census at six years of age as living with his aunt, Jane Eliza Rosser, who was the sister of John Bakewell Rosser. John, Arthur's father, was living elsewhere in Barningham with his wife, Hannah Pownall, born in Stockport, and first-born daughter.

According to the genealogy website I consulted, John's occupation was "pilot in Barningham." Was there water transport on the River Tees then?

Arthur's grandfather was the Rev. James Rosser, a Wesleyan minister. I believe he may be buried in Barningham. His grandfather was Rev. John Bakewell, one of the first Wesleyan ministers.

I will be in England in July and hope to visit you. Best regards,

ANN HAGEN
Ridgefield, USA

Jon Smith to Ann Hagen

I'M delighted you've made contact. Much of what you've told me fits in with our records of the Rossers: James and

letters & emails

Elizabeth are buried in Barningham churchyard.

Their gravestone carries the inscription: "In memory of Elizabeth Arnott Payne wife of James Rosser Wesleyan minister who departed this life on 28 November 1867 aged 80. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Also in memory of James Rosser Wesleyan minister who departed this life on 19 December 1870 in the 80th year of his age and 58th of his ministry."

The Rossers arrived in Barningham sometime after 1861 (there is no mention of them in the census of that year) and lived, we believe, in Wesleyan Cottage, built c 1835 to house the local methodist minister. It is now called The Nook.

I think they may well have come to Barningham because their son John Bakewell had got a job as a tutor (not pilot – your genealogy website has seriously mis-transcribed the 1871 census records!) at Barningham Academy, a boarding school in the village.

Where he was living in 1871 (with wife Hannah and daughter Elizabeth, a scholar at the Academy) is uncertain.

He may have been in what was then Wesleyan Cottage, but I think his unmarried sister Jane Eliza had moved into that house with her parents and stayed on there after their death.

At the time of the 1871



Arthur Rosser

census she was looking after John's younger children Arthur Pownall and Annie Louise. The 1871 census says young Arthur and Annie were born in Barningham. There is no record of their baptism in the church here, perhaps not surprisingly if they were staunch methodists. We have records of Wesleyan baptisms but only from 1872, so I can't tell you whether these two were baptised or not here.

One of our history group members, Ann Orton, lives in what used to be the Wesleyan chapel in the village and has been researching the history of the building and methodism in the area. She might know more about the Rossers. I'll copy her in on this email and perhaps you may get in touch.

I've attached photos of the Rosser gravestone and The Nook.

Ann Hagen to Jon

MANY thanks for your detailed response to my inquiry. I am absolutely breathless with excitement over the information you've sent me: I've been

The night we voted to stay in the dark

LAST month's Barningham Parish Meeting heard calls, not for the first time, for the street lights to be turned off late at night as an eco-friendly economy. But 115 years ago villagers were arguing for more lighting, not less...

TWENTY people turned up for a parish meeting at the village schoolroom one dark evening in 1896 to hear the Rector, the Rev Edwin Spencer Gough, propose that at least part of the parish adopt the new Lighting Act and install street lights in Barningham.

Hezekiah Birtwhistle, gamekeeper and village postmaster, seconded the proposal and a considerable discussion took place. "Several remarked upon the inconvenience and danger of allowing the village to be in absolute darkness during the long winter evenings," reported the *Teesdale Mercury* in its next edition. "The inhabitants, when compelled in the winter evening to go outside, crawl about searching for something to guide them in danger of some serious accident, or carry candles or lamps."

The plan was warmly supported by all the largest ratepayers present, but there was strong opposition from farmers living outside the village, who could see no benefit for them in the scheme. Why should they pay more rates, they demanded, for lights they would never need?

The Rev Gough suggested that the best course would be to adopt the Act and then limit the rate to a penny, which would mean just one penny on house property, and only a third of a penny on land. "If the village then wanted more lights than that rate could pay for, they would no doubt see what could be done by voluntary subscriptions," he argued.

But his resolution was lost. Ten voted for it, ten against, and the Act required a two-thirds majority. "The principal inhabitants greatly regret this result," said the *Mercury*. "Barningham certainly is a long way behind its neighbours, some of which have not nearly the advantages nor the ability one would have thought that Barningham has, and they are now all well lighted. In these days of public improvement, it is hardly creditable that such a large village should be in darkness." The parish chairman, Thomas Pearson, was furious. "There is a great

want of proper public spirit, when men would vote against such a resolution to save a rate which in most cases would not amount to more than a few pence," he told the *Mercury*.

The Rector wasn't happy either. "We all know, and I suppose many of us are also ashamed of the fact, that the village is in total darkness from early hours in the evening," he wrote in his next parish magazine. "It is a dangerous thing going out in the dark in our village, and one meets people groping their way, feeling the walls and fences as they go to guide them; besides that, there are other reasons, which will suggest themselves to a well-constituted mind, why a village of some 60 houses and over 200 people should not be left in darkness from about 5.30 pm."

Threepence a year was all it would have cost those who voted against the lights, he said mournfully. But for hard-headed Barningham farmers, threepence was threepence, and that was that.

It wasn't until almost half a century later that Barningham finally got any proper street lights.

from the parish mag

105 YEARS AGO: It was very unfortunate that just as we had met the heavy expense of colouring the walls, painting, etc., of our Church, we found ourselves obliged to face the still heavier expense of a new boiler. Opportunity was taken to lay cold water on from the main in the adjoining road, which is of the greatest convenience. The cost is about £40. We earnestly invite subscriptions towards meeting it and trust the congregation, whose comfort and health are immediately concerned, will assist. – *May 1906*

95 YEARS AGO: Mr Philips, the Organist of the Church, having joined the forces, the Rector will be glad to hear of an Organist to take his place. – *May 1916*

85 YEARS AGO: The Concert and Dance were in every way a success. The amusement caused in *The Darkey Melodies* by the sight of about 40 serious people, all well-known and all with black faces, was not allowed to interfere with the due appreciation of good old songs carefully sung. This was especially noticeable in the pathetic *Poor Old Joe* when the chorus was taken up by two little piccanninies with a humming obligato. The concert raised £13 14s 6d. – *May 1926*

photo gallery



A fancy collection at the church fete

It's 1927, and Barningham has delved deep into its fancy dress wardrobe for the church fete held (we think) in the grounds of the Old Rectory.

On the left we've got someone we thought was the White Rabbit from Alice in Wonderland until we noticed the long tail tucked under his arm, so perhaps it's a cat?

Then there's a black-and-white minstrel, a schoolmistress complete with mortarboard and cane, Punch and Judy with Toby the dog, a man masquerading as a domestic maid (how did he get those shoes on?), Pierrot the clown and a splendidly-costumed Indian maharajah.

The girl on the left at the front is dressed as Britannia, with a placard promoting Empire Goods, and beside her sits someone in stripes and an enormous bow tie: Uncle Sam, maybe?

● If you've got old photos we could print in the Archive, please let us see them.



In the last Archive we asked if anyone could name these faces at Barningham garden fete in 1955. Neil Turner offers this list. Back row: Edith Wright, Nan Maughan, Mrs Blades, Alf Walker, Polly Atkinson, May Lee, Mrs Bulmer, Mrs Cowell, Mrs Anderson, Nanny Hutchinson; second row: Mrs Bayley, Mrs Etherington, Mrs Lawson, Mrs R Etherington, Mrs Cowell's mum; front: Shirley Walton, Joan Smith



All set for a good day's shooting

Edwardian ladies and gentlemen pose for the camera before setting out from Barningham Park for a day on the moors. The picture above was taken in 1905, the one below the following year.

