

Don't miss our coach trip to York

THERE are still places available on the history group's coach trip to York on Sunday November 27th.

Apart from being the home of countless places of historical interest, it's an ideal place to do some pre-Christmas shopping, especially as that weekend the city is holding its St Nicholas Fayre, celebrating traditional crafts and food.

This isn't an organised tour: you're free to spend your time as you like, and if you want you can ignore all the history and go along simply for the shopping or a tour of the city's pubs. Tickets for the trip are just £5 a head for group members and their families – and children go

free. For another five we can get you 12-month passes to four major sites of historical interest, including the Jorvik centre.

The coach, provided by Burrell's, will leave Barningham at 9am, picking up at Newsham along the way. We'll be dropped off near the city centre and should be back home around 6.30pm.

If you want to go – and it's a real bargain, heavily subsidised by the history group – we must have names as soon as possible. Phone Kay Duggan on 01833 621455 or email her at erickayd@gmail.com.

Any spare places will be offered to non-group members at a non-subsidised rate.

old ads

GALGATE STREET, BARNARD CASTLE

PRIME PRIZE BLOOD PIGS,
For Sale

MR TARN begf leave to announce that he if instructed to sell by Auction, on WEDNESDAY, the following superior lot of PIGS, from the juftly celebrated flock of the Rev. W. F. WHARTON, of Barningham Rectory, comprifing from 30 to 40 head, from fix monthf to fix weekf old, including boarf, breeding fowf, and ftore pigf.

The whole of the above are of the prize winning ffrain of Blood. Pedigreef will be given at the time of Sale if required.

Mr Tarn respectfully folicitf the attention of breederf and feederf of Pigf to the above Sale, af a rare opportunity if afforded of purchafing animalf combining Blood and Bone.

Sale to commence about half-paft one oclock or immediately after the Auctioneerf Monthly Cattle Sale if concluded.

Teesdale Mercury, 1865

STOLEN or STRAYED from Sanderf Houfe Farm, Barningham, ELEVEN HALF-BRED LAMBS, under bit, near ear, a hole through the off-ear, tar mark B on near buttock, P on far buttock. -- Information to Mr GEO. BROWN, Barningham, who will pay all expenf.

Teesdale Mercury, 1869



The Archive

Copies of *The Archive*, the newsletter of Barningham Local History Group, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2012). 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



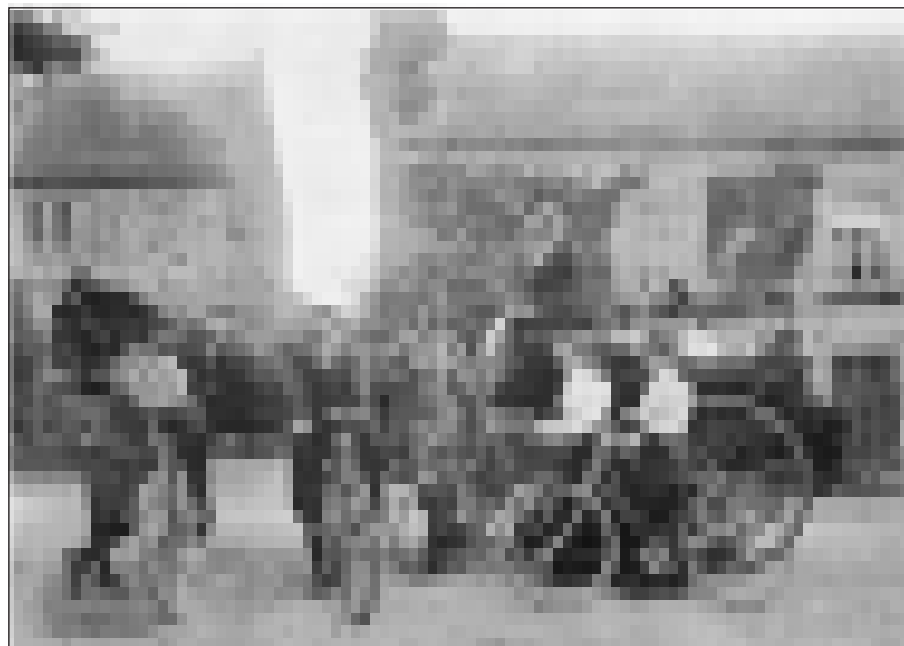
Archive 21

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



INSIDE: RICH UNCLE GEORGE AND THE FIVE GIRL FARMERS



Willy Todd of Fairview, Barningham, is second on the left in this photograph taken at least a hundred years ago (we think it's somewhere in Barnard Castle – anyone recognise the buildings?) His wife Sophia is sitting in the trap; we've no idea who the daring lady cyclists or the rest of this Edwardian group were. Picture provided by June Graham. House histories: Page 18

Archive film show at History Forum AGM

OLD film of County Durham from the BBC archives will be shown at the AGM of County Durham History and Heritage Forum on November 5.

The meeting, at Durham County Hall, kicks off at 9.30, with an hour and a quarter of old film footage from 11 introduced by Suzanna Huber of the Northern Region Film & Television Archive. As well as the usual AGM business, local history groups will have the opportunity to speak on their latest projects.

Deadline for booking places at the meeting was October 26 but there should be no problem about late applications: email David Blair, the forum's membership secretary, at blair@bda-vid071.orangehome.co.uk.

New Year date

OUR New Year get-together lunch – hopefully once again at Braeside – will be on Monday January 2nd 2012. Put it in your diary!

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NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUES. DECEMBER 6th, 6pm



The Archive

THIS is Archive number 21. Oldies among us will remember the days when 21 was a magic number, the age when we were at last deemed old enough to vote, marry regardless of our parents' opinion of chosen spouses, and generally expect to be treated as fully-fledged adults.

Now, of course, youngsters are supposed to be grown-up at 18. The *Archive* remains sceptical, and has waited until its 21st issue before celebrating its coming of age.

When I reached my majority not much short of half a century ago, I recall being regaled with a song along the lines of "21 today, 21 today, I've got the key of the door, never been 21 before!"

No key of the door for the *Archive*; quite the reverse, in fact: we're the key that opens doors for people seeking information about the past, and we look forward to helping even more now we're officially grown-up.

If you plan to spend some of the impending dark winters' nights delving into family history, a reminder that the history group can offer you free access to at least two of the major genealogical research websites.

Get in touch if you want to take advantage of this. Good luck with your research, and do let us know what you come up with.

THE EDITOR

minutes of the last meeting

Penny Readings, a DVD, and the role of women

MINUTES of the meeting held in the village hall, Barningham, on October 25th 2011:

Present: Jon Smith (chairman), Eric Duggan (treasurer), Ann Orton (secretary), Neil Turner, Phil Hunt, Cate and Harry Collingwood, Linda Sherwood (Gayles), Kay Duggan, Ann Hutchinson, Tony Orton, Diane Metcalf, Jane Hack-worth-Young, Mark Watson, Sue Prytherick, Sheila Catton.

Apologies: Ann Rowley, Beverly Peach, Robin Brooks.

Minutes of the meeting on September 20th were accepted.

Matters arising: Kay had 26 seats booked for the trip to York and it would now be opened to non-members. Ann had been trying to contact Thorpe Hall without success.

Correspondence: McDonalds, Applebys, Tweddles, Nelsons. Ravensworth School was seeking someone to talk to them about the "Old Days" at the school. If anyone is willing please contact Jon.

Finance: October income £190, expenditure (mostly one-off payments) £463, deficit £271 – but we still have a healthy balance of £1,070.

House Histories: Old Rectory, The Rectory and Glebe Farm.

Publications: Archive 20 was now out. Ann and Cate were

the war effort

OUR head teacher in 1943 got all us kids together and said too much toilet paper was being used. She held up one sheet and asked, "What's this, children?" We said, "Toilet paper, miss." "How many sides?" "Two, miss." "Well, remember: one side for the nose and the other for the bum."

– Neil Turner reminiscing at the last history group meeting

making progress with the Reading Room minute book and Newsham Parish records. Ann gave a short talk about her Archive Award Project "Penny Readings" – See Page 13.

Recipes: Kay had two really good ones which she has passed to Jon for the next *Archive*.

Wartime: Kay had researched the history of Christopher Brown Johnson who died on the Somme – See Page 3.

Cine records: We now have a DVD about two hours long, to be edited to about an hour. It includes clips of Newsham and also several weddings. It is hoped to have it ready for Christmas sales.

Next meetings: Tuesdays December 6th, January 24th, February 28th. We will be having refreshments at the December meeting from old recipes that Kay has. Members were invited to bring along suitable beverages.

Any other business: Eric and Kay would let us know at the next meeting if they are able to host the New Year get-together.

Guest: Jon welcomed Jenny Frost who gave a fascinating talk about the changing role of Women in Wartime. A full report will be included in *Archive 22*.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

death in the dark

Tragic end to a day out at the market

IT was the last Wednesday before Christmas 1869, and Haythwaite farmer Robert Todd had had a good day out at Barney market.

At around 5pm he set off home in his cart, drawn by a horse that had probably done the same trip scores of times before.

But this time was different. The night was pitch black, and as they crossed Howgill Beck on Barningham moor the cart strayed off the road and overturned.

Robert, a 65-year-old widower who had farmed 300 acres at Haythwaite for more than 20 years, was thrown into the water, pinned face-down beneath the cart. Although the beck was only a few inches deep he was unable to move an inch. In a few agonising seconds he drowned.

"The sad event has caused a feeling of great gloom in the village, the deceased being highly respected," reported the *Teesdale Mercury* under the headline 'A Melancholy Accident'.

An inquest was held at Haythwaite on Christmas Eve and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, adding a strong recommendation that all dangerous fords should be protected by posts and rails, painted white, "which might serve as a guide in the darkness."

Robert's body lies in Barningham churchyard. His only son, 16-year-old William, took over the farm.

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 recorded baptisms, listed by date, name and parents. Vol 1: 1580-1800; Vol 2: 1800-1950. £10 + £1 p&p.

Barningham Brides

All marriages 1580-1950, 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

Barningham Parish Minutes 1894-1931

Transcripts of meetings, with background history, index and lists of named parishioners. £5 each + £1p&p

Aback to Yuvvin

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

A Farmer's Boy

Life in the Gayles area in mid-Victorian days. £10 + £1 p&p

The Archive: Group newsletter. Back issues £2 + £1p&p

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

In preparation: The Diary of Newsham schoolmaster James Coates, 1784-85.

>>> 20-25% discounts for history group members <<<

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

Fairview: the house that Todd built

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.

FAIRVIEW

BUILT by James Todd in 1879, Fairview was what Victorian estate agents would have called “an imposing gentleman’s residence”. It remains one of Barningham’s most striking houses.

Perched on a man-made mound in what until then had been a two-acre field containing only a stable and bothy, the house overlooked the village and was clearly visible from every direction until the surrounding trees matured decades later.

It was a statement of wealth and power from the village’s second most influential family, who remained in it for almost a century.

James Todd brought up his family there, and after his death in 1910 and his wife Mary’s ten years later, it passed to his son William and his wife Sophia. They had been living at The Yews; but moved into Fairview in 1920.

Sophia died, childless, in 1934; William (generally referred to as Willy) remained in the house alone until after the war, when financial pressures – the Todds’ holdings in London had been flattened in the blitz – forced him to sell up. He went to live at Tutta Beck

FAIRVIEW COTTAGE

THE western wing of Fairview served as the servants’ quarters until being turned into a separate dwelling by the Carters in the 1960s.

Those who have lived there since include Dr and Lindsay Smith, Neil Turner’s uncle and aunt Bobby and Amy Etherington, and Howard and Ena Wilson, who moved in after their sale of the main Fairview house. The current owners are Michael and Diana Edwards.



house histories



Fairview



Fairview Cottage

and later Hartlepool, where he died in 1957.

Neil Turner recalls scrumping apples at Fairview when a child. “Willy Todd left every night on the dot of seven to play dominoes,” he says.

“As soon as he went we headed for his apple tree. One night he went the other way and

caught us all.”

After the Todds came the Steels from Hartlepool, who Neil says cut down several of the larger trees and kept pigs in the field outside, and then the family of a retired confectioner called Carter, also from Hartlepool.

In the 1960s Fairview was purchased by Howard and Ena Wilson, who raised two daughters and a son there. Howard, who had survived appalling treatment as a Japanese prisoner of war, was an accomplished violinist who regularly entertained visitors to the Milbank Arms.

The Wilsons sold the house in the 1980s, and it was bought by John and Sheila Hay, who live there still.



Howard Wilson enjoying a pint in the Milbank Arms, 1980

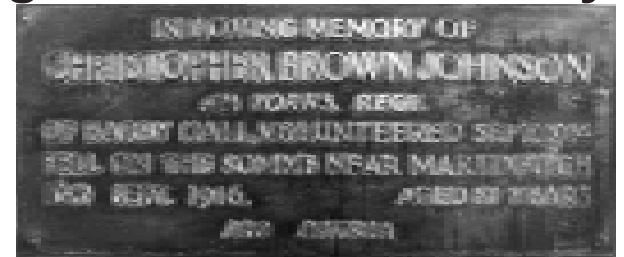
Lest you forget... one soldier's story

I KNEW as soon as war was declared on that hot August day in 1914 that I would have to go to fight the Germans.

I talked it over with my dad and mam, William and Sophia Johnson. We lived at Earby Hall in Newsham, and I was their second son, aged 20 at the time. Dad was a farmer, and me and the older children (nine of us altogether) worked for him. My parents weren’t happy about me going to war, but they didn’t stand in my way.

So a few weeks later there I was, off to Northallerton to volunteer. Private Christopher Brown Johnson 2508, 4th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, that was me. I was really keen to get to the front. All over by Christmas, they were saying, and I didn’t want to miss out on the fun.

Fun? We’d no idea what it would really be like, and it was six months before we found out. We went for training in Northumberland and it wasn’t until April 1915 that we were ordered to France. We arrived in Boulogne, first time I’d ever been on a real ship, and they



behind the name

marched us off to Belgium. We thought we’d get more training but they threw us straight into battle.

The Germans were pouring through Ypres, using chlorine gas for the first time. We stumbled towards the front, everywhere mud and chaos, buildings destroyed, bits of bodies by the roadside, and then we came under fire. A dozen of us were killed that day. And that was just the start.

Over the next two years we lost thousands of men, tens of thousands, dying as we battled over tiny patches of foreign ground, winning a few hundred yards, losing them, winning them back again. You can’t imagine what it was like. Nobody can. I survived two years of it.



The war memorial at Thiepval: 72,000 of us died near here

I managed to get home on leave a couple of times, and I was in Barningham church only a few Sundays ago. My dad’s a churchwarden there.

Then came the Battle of the Somme, summer of 1916. It started in July and was still going on in September. At 1pm on the 17th we were ordered out on a bombing raid, told to attack and capture two German-held trenches.

Thirty-seven of my group died in the attempt. Our sergeant-major, John Bainbridge from Bridge Farm in Ravensworth, was one of the first to fall. I was among the rest.

They never found what was left of me. My name’s on the war memorial at Thiepval, the village we were trying to capture on the day I died. There are 72,000 names on it, every one somebody like me who just, well, vanished.

My name’s on both the local war memorials back home, at Newsham and Barningham, and my parents paid for a brass plaque in the church.

My younger brother Lance-lot’s name is on the Newsham memorial, too. I don’t know what happened to him, he’s not recorded among those killed in the war.

Perhaps he came home wounded to die? I’ll never know.



We remember picking rosehips for pennies

KAY Duggan asked in the last *Archive* if anyone recalled picking rosehips. At least two history group members do.

"I remember picking them as a child and getting just a few pence – about 4d in old money for a pound of them if I was lucky," says Marian Lewis of Hutton Magna.

"I'm sure we must have been out of pocket by the time we took them to Mr Hunter's shop in Barnard Castle. We had to walk to Lane Head to catch Percival's bus, which ran between Richmond and Barney every day, though we could only go on a Saturday.

"Sometimes my mother took them when she went on the Wednesday Barney bus and I'm sure she got paid more than we did.

"Mr Hunter was a pleasant man who spent most of his time delivering orders round the town and villages. His shop was next-door to Woolworth's in Barney.

"He employed two ladies, one who did the orders and packed the sugar, tea, flour and so on, because everything came in sacks, and the butter in blocks.

"The other lady, Mrs Chatt, was a tall formidable lady who always wore a spotless white overall and bright red lipstick. She'd look at the rosehips and weigh them and give us what she thought they were worth. If they weren't fresh she told us so.

"We were half-frightened of her so we never disputed anything and took what she gave us and got out of the shop. Needless to say, we soon got sick of rosehip picking."

The hips were sent away to be made into rosehip syrup – "quite nice," says Marian. Her cousin made rosehip wine, "very sweet but quite pleasant."

Neil Turner remembers rosehip-picking, too. "I once collected 51 lbs of them at 3d a pound and got a badge and a certificate," he recalls proudly. "Someone came to collect them each month. By the time they were picked up they stank. We also collected nettles and dried them in nets, I think they were used to make iodine."

● *Has anyone else got similar memories, or stories of collecting/catching things to sell?* –Ed.



old hints & recipes

From Mary Norwak's Book of Jams and Sweet Preserves

Hedgerow Preserves

ROSE HIP JELLY

Ingredient: 1lb rosehip, 2lb cooking apple, 1 pint water, juice of a lemon, sugar.

Method: Simmer rosehip in half-pint of water. Cut up apple without peeling and coring and simmer in remaining water.

Strain both fruit through separate jelly bag. Mix the liquid and measure them. Allow the juice of a lemon and 1lb sugar to each pint of liquid. Stir over low heat until the sugar has dissolved. Boil hard to setting point and pour into hot jar.

SLOE JELLY

Ingredient: 2lb sloe, sugar

Method: Prick the sloe, cover with water and simmer until tender. Strain through a jelly bag and measure the juice. Allow 1lb sugar to each pint of juice. Heat the juice gently, stirring in the sugar until dissolved. Boil hard to setting point and pour into hot jar.

ROWANBERRY JELLY

Ingredient: 4lb rowanberry, 4 tbf lemon juice, one and a half pint water, sugar

Method: Use ripe rowanberry. Remove from stem and put into pan with the lemon juice and water. Simmer for 45 minutes until the fruit is soft. Strain through a jelly bag and measure the juice. Allow 1lb sugar to each pint of juice. Heat the juice gently, stirring in sugar until dissolved. Boil hard to setting point and pour into hot jar.

● *If you have old hints or recipes to share, please contact Kay Duggan (01833 621455).*

Westmarlands down the centuries

WESTMARLAND, Westmorland, Westmoreland.

However you spell it – and they never seemed quite sure themselves – there have been plenty of them in the Barningham area over the years.

In recent months we've had several contacts from people from as far away as Australia asking if we could help track down their links with the Westmarlands (we've decided to settle on that version of the surname) and we've also discovered connections between the Westmarlands and some of our history group members.

The leading figures are Pam Tomlin, who lives in Surrey; Jane Brown, whose home is in Australia; and history group members Marian Lewis of Hutton Magna and Mark Watson, of Sussex House, Barningham.

We've brought all the information we have about Westmarlands together to explain how all four of these people are related – see the family tree opposite.

All four share the same ancestor, Richard Westmarland, born about 1710, who was their great-great-great-grandfather, great-great-great-great-grandfather or great-great-great-great-great-grandfather, depending on the fecundity and longevity of the generations in-between.

Richard came from Romaldkirk, but his son Thomas moved to Barningham, married a Christian Todd, and became a prosperous farmer and butcher.

His son, another Thomas, carried on the business. In 1838 he was tenancing Wilson House from the Milbanks, farming around 200 acres to the north of the village including all the



Together: Uncle George and Hannah share this gravestone in Barningham churchyard

glebe land, and running a shop just round the corner from the Milbank Arms.

Thomas had a brother Joseph, whose four sons, inspired perhaps by the cheese-mongering enterprise of their grandmother's family, moved to London and got involved in the cheese business there.

Thomas himself had seven children, including four sons who became successful local farmers. Thomas (another one!) ran Newsham Mill; Richard farmed at Sanders House; Mark had Newsham Grange; George moved to Hutton Magna and became positively wealthy (when he died in 1908 he left more than £7,000 – quite a fortune in those days).

There were three daughters, Christiana and Ellen, who married, and Jane who died young and single.

History group member Pam Tomlin, who lives in Surrey, is descended from Thomas the Newsham miller.

Marian Lewis of Hutton Magna is the great-granddaughter of Ellen, who married

Barningham stonemason John Nelson (see letters and 1841 census trail in this *Archive*).

Jane Brown in Australia and Mark Watson of Sussex House are respectively the great-granddaughter and great-great-grandson of Richard Westmarland of Sanders House.

He had married Ann Forster and had seven children. Two boys died in infancy. Five daughters – Edith, Mary, Jane, Hannah and Alice – survived, but the eldest, Edith, was only 13 when her father died in 1885.

Her mother followed him to the graveyard four years later, leaving the five girls alone to cope with the farm.

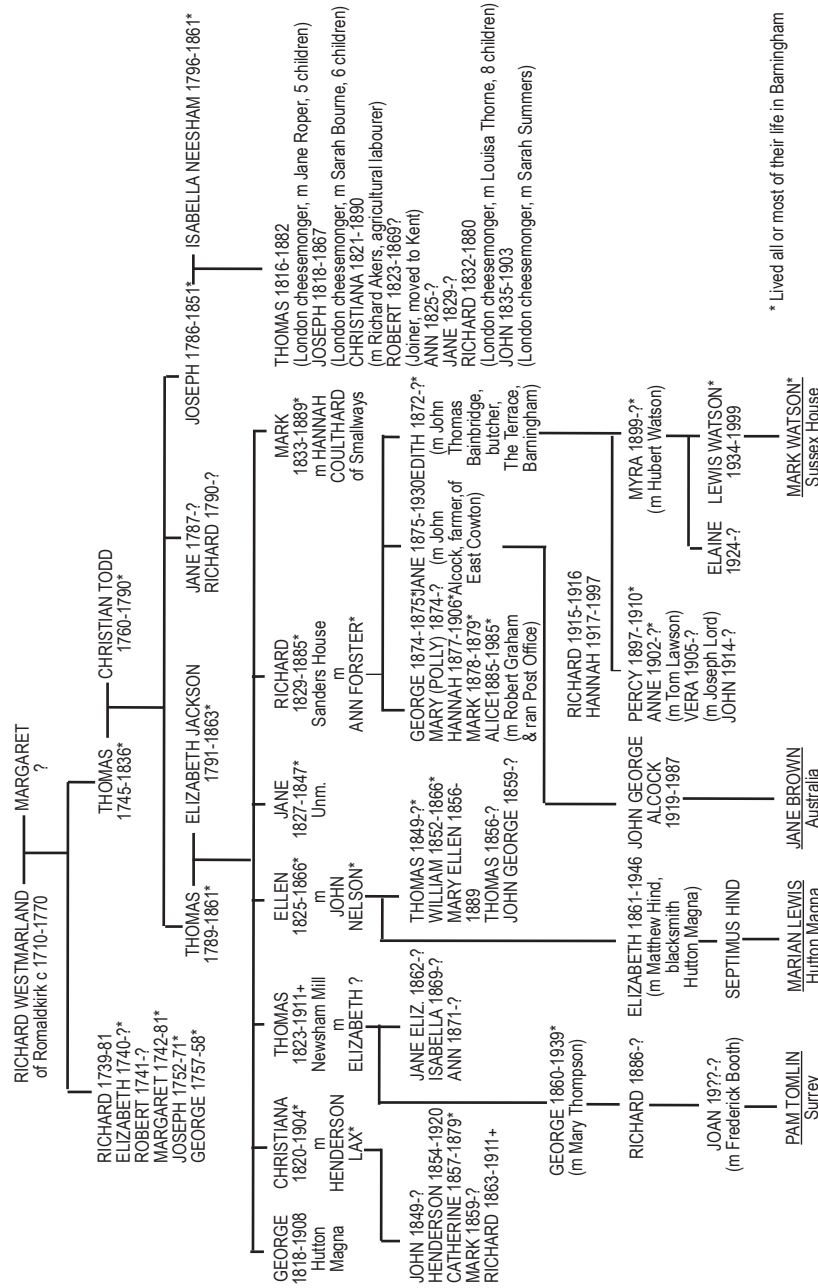
They were lucky. Rich (and unmarried) Uncle George in Hutton Magna took pity on them, and cousin Thomas Nelson, son of the Barningham stonemason, became farm manager. But it's clear the girls remained at the farm: in 1891 Edith, then 19, was recorded in the census as a farmer, helped by her sisters, and ten years later Jane, described as "a lady farmer" was in charge.

By then Edith had married John Thomas Bainbridge, butcher and farmer living at The Terrace in Barningham (now Newby House).

Mary married Jack Coates, a farmer from Great Ouseburn, and Jane married Jack Alcock, who farmed at Kirkkington and had been engaged to Hannah until she died, just short of her thirtieth birthday, in 1906.

The youngest of the five girls, Alice, married Bob Graham in 1912 and the couple ran Barningham shop and post office until the 1940s (see *Archives 2 and 5*).

THE WESTMARLAND CONNECTIONS



letters & emails
I'm trying to trace the McDonalds



DOES your group have any parish records that include an entry for Robert McDonald, born in Barmingham in 1823? Robert was my paternal grandmother's grandfather, making him my great-great-grandfather.

His marriage certificate shows he was a farm labourer. He married Jane Ann Robinson in 1853 in Teesdale Registry Office and eventually became a head gardener at Bowes Museum.

From 1861 census records show them living in and around Barnard Castle but I don't seem able to find any reference to them in the 1841 or 1851 census. I do know they at one time lived at Pittington and that Jane Ann was born in Cotherstone.

My father's mother was Jane Elizabeth McDonald and her father Thomas McDonald, who was Robert and Jane's oldest son born in 1857.

So far I have found that they had five sons, Thomas, Robert, Richard, John and James.

My grandmother married George Ferguson and hence the connection. George was my grandfather.

I still have much research to do but it is certainly going to be interesting!

KEVIN FERGUSON, USA (born in North-East England) kevinf2349@hotmail.com

● Our Barmingham Baptisms book records Robert baptised in Barmingham on Janu-

Bribery at the Barmingham church gates

MY mum (83) was delighted that you mentioned her 1949 wedding in the last *Archive*.

When I left her today she was poring over the newsletter with great interest. You have certainly given her a big boost and it is really appreciated.

I'm enclosing two photographs. The first (above) is of my father, George Richard Newstead Chapman, untying the gates of Barmingham church, having paid the youngsters to let him out. The person in the bowler hat is my maternal grandfather Robert Jackson.

The second picture (right) is my father in his Green Howards army uniform and my mother, Gwendoline May Chapman, standing in the church doorway having just been married.

My mum has details of my father's full army career from his joining the Green Howards in Richmond to being demobbed. It spanned many years, serving before the and



during the second world war and after and in many countries and campaigns.

Unfortunately my father died in 1971. My mum still has his army cap (if that's the right description). It is very battered and very old but obviously means a great deal to her.

She also has his army service book which states the countries he served in and dates etc. It is something we as a family take great pride in.

DOROTHY HARRISON Newton Aycliffe dotandken@aol.com

● Has anybody any idea who the other people in the top picture might be? -Ed.

letters & emails

ary 24 1823, one of at least five children of Robert and Annas Macdonald (that's the way they spelt the surname). Our Barningham Brides book records Robert snr & Annas' marriage in 1810 (her maiden name was Alderson). There are no records of any of these three being buried in the village.

Our census records don't mention them, though there are several other Macdonalds around in the mid-1800s who might well be related. – Ed.



FOLLOWING up my email in the last *Archive*, here's a photo of William Harrison, a pupil at Barningham Academy in the 1860s, and his London taxi cab, perhaps taken between about 1903 - 1910. He looks like quite a stern old chap!

BRENDA KING, Bournemouth
bjking29@hotmail.co.uk

Would anyone like to talk to pupils?

I'D like to order a copy of the book *A Farmer's Boy*. It sounds really interesting and I am keen to find out a bit more about the history of the villages.

We moved into Gayles seven years ago and I teach History at Richmond School, so am always interested to find out about the local history. Unfortunately, I have not had much time with three young children and a part time job but when I read about the book in *The Flyer* I thought it was time I got reading a bit more. My three children are now at Ravensworth

Primary School and this term they are doing a topic about the history of their school. As a newcomer to the area I don't know much information to pass on but wondered if you know of anything or anyone who could help them with their work.

I know they are very keen to have ex-pupils and teachers etc who could talk to the children about what it was like. Thank you for your help.

SOPHIA MAWER, Gayles
01833 621242 sophiaandtim@tsicali.co.uk

Looking for Applebys from 300 years ago

THANK you for getting in touch with us after our meeting with Tony and Ann Orton when we visited Barningham recently.

We are researching the Appleby family and numerous members of this family lived in Barningham.

Richard Appleby was born April 30th 1696 in Barningham and had several sons all born in the village, namely William

(born November 16th 1729), John (April 11th 1733), Henry (May 10th 1737), Ralph (March 28th 1720) and Richard (May 13th 1723). Of this number, our direct ancestor was William who was married in Barnard Castle and the direct line of our family carries on from there.

William married Martha Lonsdale at St. Mary's Church on April 25th 1754 and farmed in Westwick. However, many Applebys stayed in Barningham including Ralph, who became parish clerk, and we wondered if they were people of some substance and where they lived.

As we started to do this research, we discovered George Appleby who has produced a book called *The Appleby Family History*. George's great-great-grandfather and my great-great-grandfather were the same man, another Richard Appleby, living at Manfield near Darlington. Any help you can give us, particularly as to where they might have lived, would be helpful.

SUSAN & EDGAR APPLEBY
applebys@northlakes.wanadoo.co.uk

penny readings

from the response to the readings at The New Music Hall in Barnard Castle: "Miss Emily Cook's pianoforte solos, and Miss Alice Cook's songs were given with so much taste and expression as to call forth enthusiastic encores, which, however, could not be complied with, as being contrary to the regulations of these entertainments."

Barningham Penny Readings

ON January 25th 1868 the *Darlington and Stockton Times* reported on the first of a series of penny readings in the village.

"This took place in the Girl's School-room, on Tuesday evening, the Rev Gowland in the chair. The readers were Mr Kershaw, Mr Thomas Dalston, and Mr Simms, and they gave greatest satisfaction.

"Mr Kershaw's style is admirably adapted for humorous readings, and he did full justice to the piece selected. Mr Dalston, in the course of the evening, read three selections which met with loud and hearty applause. Mr W S Lee's two comic songs were exceedingly well rendered, and he was deservedly encored in both of them. Mr Wm Clarkson sang two songs, which were well received. A glee, by a party of glee singers, won the applause of the audience. A small brass band assisted in a very satisfactory manner, and concluded the entertainment with *God Save the Queen*."

There must have been a wonderful atmosphere in the School-room, situated at that time in the churchyard, lit only by oil lamps. It is not easy identifying the performers. The rector in Barningham at the time was the Rev Wharton; perhaps the Rev Gowling was from a nearby parish. There was a William Lee who ran the Black Horse public house, but would they want him singing comic songs? In 1861, George Clarkson was listed as headmaster of the academy. He had a nephew at the school who could possibly have been William Clarkson.

The final Penny Reading of the season took place on March 14th 1868, with Mr Hough in the chair. "The readers were the Chairman, Mr Rosser, and Mr Thos Dalston, who all gave the greatest satisfaction. Mr and Miss Brown rendered two duets in a very pleasing manner.

"Mr Brown also gave a song to the applause

of the audience. Mr Lee gave two comic songs, meeting with loud applause and an encore for the second song. The proceedings closed with *God Save the Queen* from the Barningham Brass Band". It seems that the rule against encores didn't apply in Barningham!

Mr Hough was listed as headmaster of the Academy in 1871, but it is not known when he took up this post. Mr Rosser could be one of two people: James Rosser who was the Wesleyan Minister living at Wesley House (now The Nook), or his son John Bakewell Rosser, who was a tutor at the academy.

It seems likely that most of the performers would come from the Academy or elsewhere in the dale, as most of the ordinary people in Barningham would not have had sufficient education. Mr Brown could possibly have been a farmer from Saunders House performing with his daughter Miss Jane Brown. It would be interesting to find out more about the Barningham Brass Band, but so far research has been unsuccessful.

Penny Readings today

SURPRISINGLY, there are still Penny Readings today. The seventh annual Penny Readings were held at St George's Hall in Liverpool on December 5th 2010.

Even more surprising, they still only cost a penny. Tickets are distributed by Birkenhead Library and Waterstone's in Liverpool and limited to two per person. They sell out very quickly. The doors are opened at 5.30pm and the audience are able to get refreshments and browse Christmas market stalls. The programme starts at 5.30pm and finishes at 8pm.

The Penny Readings are named after the events Charles Dickens himself used to deliver in the Hall's Small Concert Room. They always boast a variety of entertainment from lively poetry and Dickensian readings, musical performances and even belly dancing. 2010 also saw the launch of the Ha'penny Readings, aimed specifically at children and young people.

One wonders what the audiences from the 1860s would think of today's version of Penny Readings. The good folk of Gainford wouldn't approve of belly dancing and pantomime cows!

Today's Penny Readings offer much more sophisticated entertainment than the original ones, but they still serve the original purpose of bringing great writing to ordinary people.

penny readings

all sold for the same price and could not be reserved. Due to their popularity, people often had to be turned away. But it was noted that when different prices were allowed, the numbers attending would fall dramatically.

Penny Readings in the Dales

THE Penny Readings were as popular in the villages as they were in the towns and cities. There are many reports of them being held all over the Dales.

The season started in about October and ran through to April, presumably as the working men would not be as busy in those months and everyone would be glad of something to brighten up the dark nights.

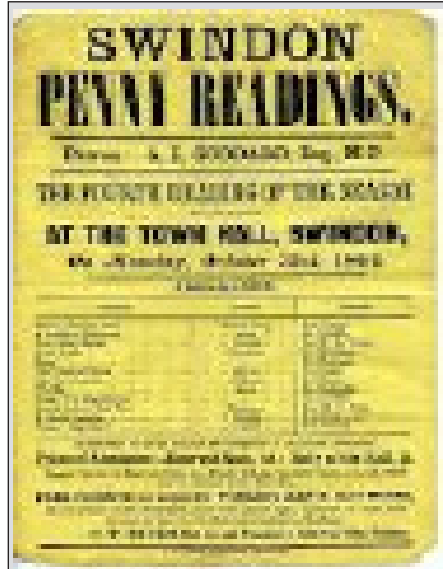
At Middleton-in-Teesdale, Penny Readings took place in the London Lead Mining Company's school rooms. Mr R W Bainbridge presided and in his opening speech he explained that the object for which these readings were established was "the recreation and instruction of the labouring classes, and the cultivation of a taste for a higher order of literature than at present prevailed".

He hoped to hear of the young men spending their evenings at home reading to their mothers and sisters while engaged in their household duties, instead of wasting their time standing at the street corners. In conclusion, he assured them that nothing of an objectionable character should be presented to them and he hoped "that the audience would by their attention show their appreciation of the efforts of the performers".

One wonders if the mothers and sisters would appreciate the young men's efforts!

Performances were always carried out by amateurs and consequently often didn't meet with the audience's approval. If the reader was bad or the piece too "dry", the audience would cough or stamp their feet! In December 1867, the first of a season of readings was held in the New Music Hall in Barnard Castle. Following the event, an article in the *Darlington and Stockton Times* dated December 14th read: "It is hoped that the readers will select shorter pieces for future readings. Ten minutes is reasonable, but twenty-five minutes is unbearable."

Examples of readings can be seen on the internet; even the short ones are pretty long. Sometimes individual performers were singled



A penny reading poster from Swindon showing reserved seats were available and indeed it was possible to buy season tickets. However, there were 'Free tickets (as usual) for Working Men & their Wives'.

out for criticism. "Mr R Taylor is a very good reader, and is well appreciated, but he should remember that his reading, like that of most non-professionals, is not perfection, and his depreciating smile at the other readers will not improve his own in the eyes of the public," said another review.

And sometimes it was the content that came under scrutiny. "The hall was crowded and many could not gain admittance. The entertainment was concluded by Mr Watson's imitations of wild animals, &c. Though good, we think this class of thing is likely to lower the tone of the readings," said a report on a Penny Reading at Gainford.

The Gainford organisers were reported to be disappointed by the almost total absence of ladies to take part in the vocal or instrumental parts of the programme, "which it is hoped will be duly weighed and acted upon by those whom it may concern". It seems that ladies were not thought suitable to do readings.

The performances could sometimes be too successful, an example of which can be seen

Does anyone remember the Tweddles?

EARLIER this year I started an email to you trying to comfort whoever posted me the *Archive* without enough stamps on it (*my fault!* –Ed) but I went down with a bad bout of flu and have only now got round to contacting you.

The email said the newsletter was worth every penny of the excess postage. I had just been seen walking into lamp-posts having collected it from

letters & emails

the post office, opened it immediately and read it walking through the town, smiling.

Very little of the information is relevant to me – but I can take such pleasure in other people finding the information that they want.

People are so generous with their time and research. It is very rewarding to catch

Three brothers who never came back from the war

WITH reference to Henry Nelson (*Archive 20*, 1841 census trail):

Henry's son John and his wife Eleanor had three children, Mary Ellen, John George and Elizabeth, who was just three months old at the time of the 1861 census. She was my grandmother.

Elizabeth left Barningham to go and live with her uncle George Westmorland (spelt Westmarland in some documents) at Hutton Fields, and in 1881 is listed as a domestic servant.

In 1886 she married Matthew Hind at Hutton Magna church by special licence which cost ten shillings (I've got the licence). Their home was Plum Tree Cottage where I now live. She died in 1946 and

Great-aunt Ethel left us a field

WHILE surfing the net for info on Barningham I came across your website... very interesting! I would like to become a member and order some of your publications. A great-aunt, Ethel Westmarland, lived in Lees House and left it to my mother, and I and three cousins inherited a field!

PAM TOMLIN, Sutton, Surrey pjt2.alt2@btinternet.com

● *The Westmarland Connections* – See Page 16

is buried in Hutton churchyard.

She had eleven children, seven boys and four girls. She lost one baby boy at birth and another boy at nine years old, then lost the three eldest sons in the first world war. My father was her seventh son and tenth child, called Septimus which means seventh.

Elizabeth's husband was the village blacksmith and churchwarden for 20 years. He had an accident with a horse and died aged 45. My grandmother really did have a hard life.

Her brother John became first postmaster at Hutton in November 1898.

MARIAN LEWIS
Hutton Magna

● *More on Nelsons* – Page 9

glimpses of the lives of ancestors through the stories of their neighbours. Once again – thanks for all the hours that your group contribute to the magazine.

My father (one of the Camerons farming in Barningham in 1916 – see *Archive 13*) used to say his best friend was George Tweddle.

Apparently in school they would sing the tonic-solfa scale and George would always sing "Toe" instead of "Doe". My dad said that the teacher would yell "I'll give you my big toe, George Tweddle!"

I see on my grandfather's funeral report in the 1960s that there is a J. G Tweddle of Cross Lanes and I wondered if it was by any chance THE George Tweddle?

Was J G known as George? This would be 1922. Are there Tweddles still around? Where did he go to school? There are no Tweddles or similar in the school register at my dad's later schools (1923 onwards) so I wondered if this related to his brief time in Barningham.

Is Cross Lanes near enough to Barningham for anyone to know the family of J G Tweddle?

Thanks again.

DANI MILES, Hampshire
wrynose47@yahoo.co.uk

● *Several members at the last history group meeting recalled George Tweddall (that's how he spelt it) and said his brother Stan's son Brian was still running a blacksmith's shop in Eppleby. We've contacted Brian who says he'd be happy to make contact with Dani to talk about her father.* – Ed.

What's afoot? The case for clogs

ONE of my old photographs I particularly enjoy shows a group of boys and girls in a Dales village indulging in some form of street game, a rare sight in these days of fast-moving traffic.

All the children are wearing clogs. Although Isaac Coates (*the Victorian farmer's son on whose memoirs these notes are based*) makes no mention of this type of footwear I suspect that he and all his school mates would have worn them.

I have spoken to a number of people who wore clogs while attending Dalton school in the early twentieth century and all stress their warmth, airiness and general comfort. They did not pick up the mud and were excellent on slippery surfaces.

According to Mr Isaac Rutter, there appear to have been two schools of thought as to whether clogs were good for corns, some believing that they kept them at bay while others asserted that they encouraged their development.

William Wise, who was a boy at Richmond in the 1820s, tells how the scholars at the Richmond National School marched to church on Sundays through the paved rectory yard and to make sure that everybody heard them coming, fell into step and thereby made a tremendous clatter, for "more than half the lads wore clogs".

The wood of a number of tree species made excellent clog soles: beech, silver birch and alder, the latter being particularly prized as it produced a quiet clog. I have not been able to trace the existence of a master clogger – that is, a craftsman who not only fashioned the wooden soles but attached the leather uppers to them – in this neighbourhood, and I assume that the local boot and shoe makers purchased ready-made clog soles from outside.

For many years clog soles



By MERRYNE WATSON

From his book A Farmer's Boy, about life in the Gayles area in the 1860s, published by BLHG

were manufactured at Keverstone near Staindrop. Mr Rutter tells me that he made his own clogs by attaching to ready-made soles uppers cut from old boots.

It was not a very difficult task to insert the edges of the upper into the channel cut along the side of the clog sole and then nail on a welt to hold it in position. He purchased the caulkers – the sole and heel irons – for a few pence a packet. Men and boys wore clogs with laces while women and girls favoured those which fastened with clasps.

Clogs had some disadvantages. Snow tended to ball up under them and this could easily result in a sprained ankle. Some children, I am told, deliberately competed in building up snow stils. Snow balling could be reduced to a certain extent by greasing the soles.

The caulkers undoubtedly scarred wooden floors and I understand that the last headmaster at the Dakyn Grammar School in Kirby Hill threat-

ened dire penalties on any boy wearing clogs who dared to enter the wooden-floored classroom.

Hardly anyone wears clogs nowadays. I suppose rubber wellingtons have taken their place. But a week or so ago (*this was written in the 1970s – Ed*) I had occasion to visit Holgate Farm where Mr Jack Lynas proudly showed me an excellent pair of clogs he was wearing.

He finds them of great value round the farm and serviceable when riding his motorcycle which he uses as a help in his shepherding.

He must be one of the few sheep farmers in this district who has adopted this New Zealand practice. My cousin's son, who farms in that country, not only uses a motorcycle but has a kind of wooden 'flapper bracket' attached behind the saddle on which ride two sheepdogs, one an eyer and the other a huntaway (a huntaway is a type of sheepdog which controls the flock by barking rather than by silently crouching low and eyeing the sheep).

Mr Lynas, whose cycle is not fitted for dogs to ride behind him, has one dog which will sit on the tank in front of

In for a penny, in for a good night out

PENNY READINGS: Entertainments consisting of readings with music, &c, the price of admission being a penny. – *Dictionary*

PENNY Readings were instituted in the mid-19th century, mostly promoted by the churches, both traditional and Wesleyan Methodist.

At the time the Wesleyans in particular were becoming more popular. The chapel in Barningham was considerably extended and extra services were being held. The Penny Readings were a unique opportunity for the clergy to woo people away from the public houses.

Their cheapness made them affordable for the working classes. Their aim was to attract people from all stations of life and to entertain them, but at the same time introduce them to a higher form of literature than they would normally enjoy. It was hoped that it would keep them out of "the pot houses" and take the young men off the street corners.

"Their cheapness puts them within the reach of every work-



A crowded Penny Reading, from a Victorian engraving

ANN ORTON was highly commended in this year's Archive Awards for her project on Penny Readings. Here are excerpts.

ing man," explained the *Darlington & Stockton Times* in the 1860s, "and in their variety, working men of almost every taste find something to suit them, and large numbers of working boys now attend them; who, were they not at the readings, would probably be at some disreputable 'penny

gaff,' or roaming about the streets, getting into mischief, or perhaps, thanks to the pernicious 'thieves' literature' which is at present ruining hundreds of boys, planning some scheme for becoming 'boy house-breakers' or 'boy highwaymen'."

The programmes were varied, with readings from Dickens or Shakespeare, comic songs and the playing of musical instruments. They were also a great leveller of the classes as usually seats were

FOR YOUR DELECTATION & DELIGHT...

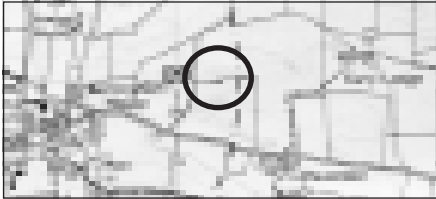
A typical evening's entertainment at an early Penny Reading might read as follows:

Pianoforte Solo.....	Mr Crochet	Reading: 'Mr Pickwick and the Lady with Yellow Curl Papers' (Dickens).....	Mr Smith
Reading: The Trial Scene from the Merchant of Venice (Shakespeare).....	Mr O. Rater	Recitation: 'Lord Tom Noddy' (Barham)	Mr Brown
Song: 'The Gleaner'	Mr D. Robinson	Song: 'Madoline'	Miss Arline Crotchet
Recitation: 'The Combat' from The Lady of the Lake (Sir Walter Scott)	Mr S. Poulter	Reading: 'The Rioters at the Maypole' (Dickens)	Mr Tomkins
Flute Solo/Airs from 'The Rose of Castile'	Mr Potts	Part Song: 'The Red Cross Knight'	Boughtborough Glee Union
Glee: 'Hail, Smiling Mona'	Boughtborough Glee Union		

How many of us could sit through that today?

best of the barns

OVER the next few issues we'll be featuring some of the field barns investigated by Ed Simpson as part of his Archive Award project. Here are the first two...



Triple Arch Barn in field east of Barningham House



Position: 54°29.406N, 1°51.620W
Faces south, aligned east/west
Altitude: 186m

Dimensions: Length 14.0m Width 5.3m Height 4m
Date: Unknown

Construction: Triple archway barn with single door barn at eastern end. Dressed stone quoins on southern face, much rougher at rear (northern) edge. Dressed archways. Pegged beams

Roof: Gabled. Slates removed
Note: Understood to be awaiting renovation



Norbeck Bridge Barn

Position: 54°26.615N, 1°52.274W Facing east on north/south alignment

Altitude: 183m

Dimensions: Length 4.9m Width 3.8m Height 5m (est.)

Date: On 1860-1866 map

Construction: Small stone barn. One door, no window. Dressed quoins, lintels and jambs in doorway

Roof: Gabled. East roof has stone tiles, west corrugated iron sheets



Widows, dolls and a schoolmaster

WE ended last month introducing Henry **Mason**, a stonemason living in Virginia Cottage.

One of his grand-daughters (as you've probably already read – see letter on Page 7) was the grandmother of history group member Marian Lewis.

By 1851 Henry was 62, widowed and living with his daughter Elizabeth and her three children. Elizabeth was already widowed, too: she had married a cartwright called John **Sowerby** who died aged only 29 in 1849, leaving her destitute.

The children were all girls, Mary Ann, 8, Elizabeth, 7, and five-year-old Sarah. Henry died in 1862, after which we lose track of the three girls and their mother.

Henry's son William by his first marriage became a stone mason like his father and married Harriet **Richardson**, a Gilling-born servant girl. They had two sons before he, too, died aged 29, leaving her a pauper.

She eked out a living as a charwoman in Barningham, bringing up the two boys and in 1864 gave birth to a daughter, Dorothy, father unrecorded. Dorothy grew up and followed her mother's example; at the age of nineteen she had an illegitimate son James who was living with his grandmother in 1891.

There's no sign of his mother, and both Harriet and James disappear from the records after that.

There had been Nelsons in Barningham since at least 1585, when a Dorothe Nellson was buried in the churchyard. The name Dorothy Nelson runs through the centuries, with women of that name appearing regularly in the records. The name means 'gift of God' and

1841 census trail

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



The Greenhow/Page memorial in Barningham churchyard

its diminutive form, Dolly, was so popular in the 18th century that it gave its name to girls' favourite playthings – dolls.

Next on the 1841 census trail were the **Johnson** family, 50-year-old farm worker Joseph, his wife Grace, and children Eleanor, ten, and Thomas, seven.

That's all we know about them: by 1851 they had left the parish.

After the Johnsons came George **Alderson**, a 45-year-old butcher unmarried and living alone.

He was the brother of David Alderson of Hilltop Farm (see *Archive 5* house histories and *Archive 15* census trail). George died in February 1864.

Also living alone in 1841 was our next entry, a young dressmaker called Mary **Spence-ley**. Born in Kinninvie in 1823, she was one of eight children of George Spenceley,

an agricultural worker, and his wife Ruth. At the age of 30 she married a local labourer Richard **Copeland** and the couple left the area within the next few years.

Now we come to Christ-opher **Page**, the village schoolmaster in 1841. Born in Newsham, he was in his early fifties, married to Sarah (nee **Greenhow**) and clearly a man of some ability, as he'd started off his working life as a shoemaker and later served as parish clerk for more than two decades.

The Pages were familiar with tragic death. They had eight children, of whom at least five died before reaching adulthood.

By 1851 there is only one we know for certain was still alive: 32-year-old Mary, unmarried and living with her parents.

There was also a seven-year-old grand-daughter, Rosanna, whose parentage is uncertain and who remained with them until the death of Sarah in 1859 and Christopher two years later.

She was then just 14, recorded as her grandfather's housekeeper. We don't know what happened to her: she left the village and we can't find any trace of her thereafter.

Lastly this month, we reach the **Lawsons** of Eastwood. Head of the family was John, a 30-year-old land agent, married to Mary, 25. Living with them were two young women called Lawson we suppose were John's sisters, 25-year-old Hannah, and Mary, aged 20.

The family had gone by 1851, but a John and Mary Lawson of Early Lodge had a son Edward in 1858, so perhaps that's where they went.

Haytime project book goes on sale

OUR history group guest back in June 2010 was Neil Diment, project leader for the Teesdale Haytime Project which was recording memories of farming in the first half of the last century.

Neil's work has culminated in the publication of a fascinating book *No Five O'clock on our Calendars*, and he's sent us a copy as a thank-you for our help.

It's full of pictures and anecdotes

haytime

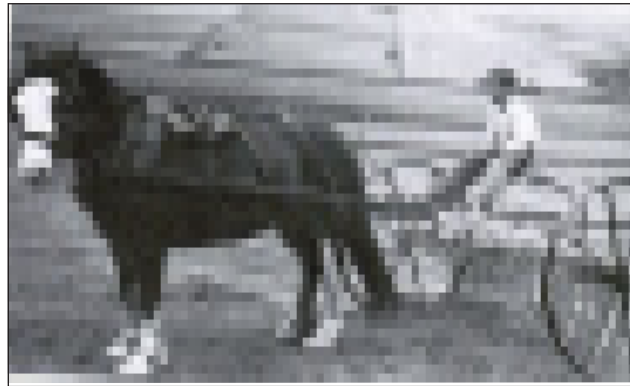
from the past, telling the story of the farming year in the days before tractors, combine harvesters and all the rest of the machinery revolutionised haymaking.

Hand-manuring, harrowing, mowing and scything, turning and strewing, snigging and sledging, raking and rowing and sweeping are all in there, with sections on hay ricks (do

you know your hay cock and half rucks from your kyles and pikes?) and harvest suppers.

Here are a handful of pictures from the book, all taken in Teesdale.

No Five O'clock on our Calendars, published by the North Pennines AONB Partnership, is on sale now in bookshops or from the AONB offices in Stanhope (details at www.northpennines.org.uk). It costs £6.99.



Above: Mowing and raking the hay in the 1930s (the boy was just 12, no health and safety inspectors back then!) Below: family, friends and farmworkers gather for a haytime tea in 1915. Right: A haymaking group from the 1940s.



from the parish mag

115 YEARS AGO: Mr Stubbs, the Schoolmaster, has received his diploma from the College of Preceptors, strongly recommended by the Royal Commission on Education. The School Managers, having received a warning from His Majesty's Inspector that the desks and school furniture should be at once renewed, are taking steps to do so. The Inspector also recommended that pictures, &c, should be hung upon the walls. If any friends desire to make a gift in this way we hope they will do so.

— November 1896

95 YEARS AGO: We have to grieve over the names of two men from here who have been killed in action. Edwin Atkinson, Royal Engineers, previous to going to the Front had weekend leaves several times and his family and friends have comforting thoughts as they remember him occupying his seat in Church, accompanied by one of his little children. Christopher Johnson, Yorks Regiment, a son of our churchwarden, was well known to us, and it is but a few Sundays since he knelt at the Holy Table with those so dear to him to receive the Holy Sacrament. The dear boy was amongst the first to enrol on the outbreak of the great War.

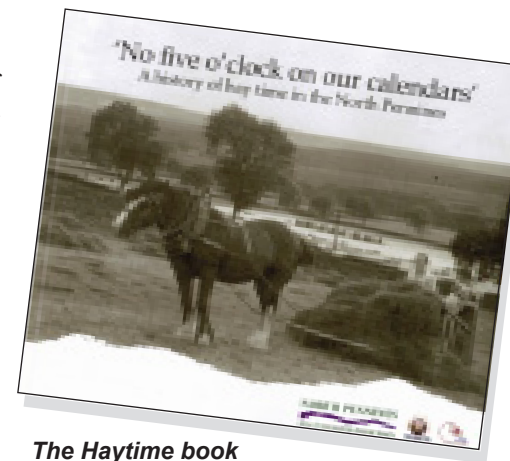
— November 1916

75 YEARS AGO: The British Legion Poppies will be brought round on November 7th. The need for money grows no less as the years go by. If you hear any people saying that it is time the Poppy Day business was stopped, remind them that the suffering of the disabled men still goes on.

— November 1936

55 YEARS AGO: Scientists aver that their experimental bomb explosions have no effect on the weather. But we mere lay people are not blind to the effect of local electric disturbances in the heavens... if they told us all, they might confess they are meddling with forces beyond their ultimate control.

— November 1956



The Haytime book

