

## Teesdale Mercury goes online – at last!

TENS of thousands of Teesdale Mercury pages have gone online, offering a unique source of information for students, teachers, local historians and family history researchers.

Every copy of the paper for a hundred years from its first edition in 1854 has been electronically scanned into a gigantic data base which anyone with internet access can search free of charge.

The website, the result of five years' work by the Teesdale Mercury Archive Project, was launched on October 24.

More than 5,200 editions of the Mercury were produced in the paper's first century of publication, recording a wealth of information about the everyday lives of Teesdale people as well as chronicling the impact of national and international developments on the dale.

From local births, marriages and deaths to the horrors of two world wars, its pages are a uniquely important historical record of the dale.

The team hopes the website will be extensively used by children studying history, and an educational history consultant has been liaising with local schools to create teaching materials using the website. A travelling exhibition is also planned.

The £50,000 cost of the Teesdale Mercury Archive Project has been largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Foyle Foundation, with support from Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, The Witham, Groundwork North East and of course the *Teesdale Mercury* itself. The *Mercury*, published weekly in Barnard



how to use it

- > Go to [www.teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk](http://www.teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk)
- > Enter a name to search for
- > Enter the years you're interested in
- > You'll get a list of pages containing the name
- > Pick the one you want to look at
- > And up it comes on screen
- > You can zoom in on stories, copy and print them



Castle, is one of Britain's oldest surviving independent newspapers.

The website contains around 40,000 pages and well over a million news stories,

features, advertisements and other articles.

Old copies of the paper are held at the *Mercury* offices, the Bowes Museum and the Witham Hall in Barnard Castle, but these collections are in such poor condition that public access to them is severely limited.

## Volunteers wanted for the next step

THE project team hopes to add further editions to the website, covering the years 1955 to the present day, and is seeking volunteers to help scan pages for the data base. If you'd like to get involved in this pioneering project, or want more informa-

tion about the website and its development, contact chairman Roy Tranter, email [witham.tranter@btinternet.com](mailto:witham.tranter@btinternet.com), tel 01833 638288, or secretary Jim Sewell, email [kirkcarrion@btinternet.com](mailto:kirkcarrion@btinternet.com), tel 01833 641130.



# Archive 29

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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

xi  
MMXII

INSIDE: FARMER'S HOUSEKEEPER WHO LEFT A FORTUNE



A shooting party at Barningham in 1911. We think that's Sir Powlett Milbank on the right, beside an ill-fated gamekeeper called William Barnett. See Page 3.

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NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUES. DEC 18th 6pm



## The Archive

AUTUMN is definitely here, it's dark by five, there's nothing on the box... so there's no excuse for not exploring the hundred years' worth of *Teesdale Mercury* pages that have just gone on-line.

Pick a topic, name your year, and see what you can find on the website – it's free.

And if you're really kicking your heels this winter, you could volunteer to help get another 50 years of the paper onto the website. Details are on the back page.

WE'VE put another hours' worth of local cine film from the 1960s on DVD. It includes many faces older members will recall, and much to interest younger ones. You can see a preview and get a copy at the next meeting.

OUR previous pre-Christmas group meetings have been memorable for the intriguing and delicious history-linked food rustled up by our members (Elizabethan mincemeat, amazing pie), and we hope to see more goodies at this year's meeting, on December 18. here'll be at least one free glass of wine apiece, too – bring more if you want to make a night of it.



## The Archive

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Tel: 01833 621374 email: [history@smith90.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:history@smith90.fsnet.co.uk) website: [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)

Copies of The Archive, the BLHG newsletter, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2012).

Back issues can be purchased for £2 each (see index on our website).

### minutes of the last meeting

## Progress with the plaque, old memories from Jack

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Tuesday October 30 2012:

**Present:** Jon Smith (Chairman), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Ann Orton (Secretary), Neil Turner, Linda Sherwood, Margaret Taylor, Cate and Harry Collingwood, June Graham, Tony Orton, Elizabeth Carrick, Jack Blackburn, John Hay, Beverley Peach, Janet Pateron, Margaret Stead, Mark Watson.

**Apologies:** Phil Hunt, Jane Hackworth-Young, Sheila Catton, Ann Hutchinson, Diane Metcalf, Sue Prytherick.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on September 18 were approved.

**Matters arising:** Eric had accepted a quote from a firm in West Aukland for the clock plaque. He had received the proof for approval and it was hoped to have the plaque in place for the meeting in December.

**Correspondence:** Teesdale Mercury Archive online (see Page 20) and McCulloch family query.

**Financial report:** October income £100.50, expenditure £252.62 (included £96.60 for DVD work), leaving us with a balance of £802.22.

**House Histories:** We looked

at the history of Barningham House and Neil was in good form, though even he agreed some of his stories were not printable in the *Archive*.

**Publications:** *Archive* 28 had been circulated and 29 would be out shortly.

**Buildings:** The restoration of the Lime Kilns is well underway.

**Cine records:** The cine films are now on DVD with a total play time of approx one hour. The cost of this, including 20 copies, was £96.60. It was agreed that we all have a preview at the December meeting.

**Next meetings:** Dec 18, Feb 19 and Apr 16.

**Any other business:** Eric would bring wine for the next meeting and members were encouraged to bring nibbles. It was agreed that we discuss the New Year fund raiser in December.

The meeting was concluded by a very interesting discussion with Jack Blackburn who has lived in Dalton all of his life. We recorded his memories of childhood in the village and hope to transcribe them for a wider audience.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

### cuttings

## Sorting your roods from your perches

SEVERAL readers have asked if we could explain the land measurement system referred to in our survey of Barningham fields (see opposite).

It's complex, but here goes...

*Rods, poles and perches* were different names for the same unit of length: 5½ yards, the length of the stick a ploughman used to control his oxen. For the sake of brevity and sanity, we'll forget about rods and poles here and just talk about perches, which is what the 1838 map does.

The first problem is that they could also refer to area, so a *perch* could mean a piece of land 5½ yds long by 5½ wide (=30¼ sq yds). Let's call that a *square perch*.

Forty square perches (1,210 sq yds) made one *rood* and four roods (4,840 sq yds) made one *acre* (if you want to imagine an acre, it's a square with sides of nearly 70 yds long).

And there are 640 acres (3,097,600 sq yds) in a square mile. An acre was defined back in the 13th century as the area a yoke of oxen could plough in a day.

What else? A *chain* is four perches long (22 yds), and ten chains make a *furlong* (220 yds). If you work it out, that means an acre is a furlong long and a chain wide.

And... an *oxgang* was the Viking measure for the land an ox could plough in a season, a *bovate* or *carucate* was how much a team of eight oxen could plough, and a *hectare* is a decimal measure, about 2½ acres.

Glad you asked? There will, of course, be a test on all this at the next meeting.



We came across this daring illustration in the *Teesdale Mercury* of June 29, 1921 and couldn't resist reprinting it. Sadly it wasn't on Page Three.

## Temperance question

THE Barningham Total Abstinence Society opened its winter session on Monday in the National School.

Lady Milbank accompanied the banjo solos on the piano, and Miss Milbank accompanied the songs.

Sir Frederick Milbank gave some remarkable instances from his own life of endurance under very trying circumstances without the aid of stimulants.

Lady Milbank strongly advised the young, and all tempted by drink, to become abstainers.

— *Northern Echo*  
November 1, 1894

## Lady's ordeal

MISS Edith Blades, of Barningham, went out for a walk in the woods by the banks of the Greta on Saturday night and did not return. The heavy rain had loosened the soil on the high bank along which she was walking and she fell into the river 40 or 50 feet below.

She managed to crawl to the bank where she lay unable to move until the search party found her some 18 hours afterwards. Her forehead was cut and she was found to have sustained a fractured thigh. She was removed by motor to Darlington Hospital, where she remains.

— *Teesdale Mercury*  
July 28, 1926.



## field names

**THREE more Barningham fields with odd names that we've collected while researching the history of local field enclosures. We plan to produce a booklet listing them all before long. Names and acreages are from the 1838 tithe map.**

## LOW EGMARTON

**Site:** 54°50N 1°88W. SE of Crooks House Area: 12 acres 0 roods 10 perches\*.

**History:** Listed in 1726 as one of five Milbank-owned fields with Egmartin in their names, occupied by Joseph Hanbye. Meadow in 1838, occupier John Burton.

**Name:** Possibly from Old English *eg*, an island or piece of firm land in a fen or between streams, or *egg*, dialect for snowberry shrub. Merryne Watson suggested Martin as a personal name, perhaps first person to farm the land.

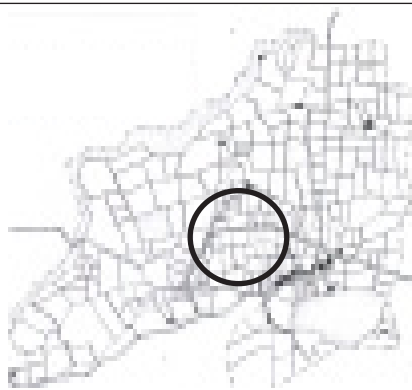


## KITHOW GILL

**Site:** 54°48N 1°88W. South side of Low Lane, east of lime kilns. Area: 5 acres 0 roods 31 perches\*.

**History:** 1800 map shows owner as 'Monckhouse'. 1838: Arable field owned by William Leighton, occupier George Walker.

**Name:** Old English *cyta*, a kite; Old Norse *haugr*, a mound, and *gil*, land in or near a narrow valley: a place frequented by kites.

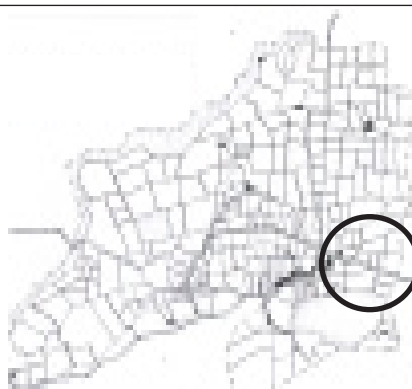


## CADDY CLOSE

**Site:** 54°50N 1°85W. East of Barningham House. Area: 4 acres 0 roods 13 perches\*.

**History:** Shown on 1800 map with cowshed on north-east boundary; owner William Gill of Constable Burton. Occupied in 1838 by Ralph Glover, used as pasture.

**Name:** Maybe from Yorkshire dialect *caddy*, *coddy* or *codgy*, meaning small. Other suggestions include derivation from *cuddy* (a donkey or small horse), *cade* (a kind of juniper), and *cadeau* (French for a gift).



\* There were 40 perches in a rood, four roods in an acre – see opposite page.

## Lest you forget... the keeper's story

I'M William Barnett, fifth name down on the war memorial in Barningham churchyard, one of fifteen men who left the village to die in the World War One trenches.

I was born in 1888 way up on the western coast of Scotland at a place called Craignish, though I don't remember anything about it because within a couple of years my family had moved to a new life on the Welsh borders.

We went to live in Elton, a village near Leintwardine in Herefordshire. My father George was a gamekeeper, and I think he worked for the Milbank family on their estate near Presteigne, just a couple of miles away. When we arrived, there was just dad, my mum Margaret, my older brother Donald and me. Two more brothers and three sisters followed over the next few years.

After leaving school I followed in my dad's footsteps, became an under-gamekeeper, and at the age of 19 moved to Barningham to work for Sir Powlett Milbank on his estate there.

I found lodgings in the village with Mrs Anne Halifax, a stone-mason's widow, and soon settled in. Head gamekeeper was Hezekiah Birtwistle, a tough old bird but fair,



Barningham head gamekeeper Hezekiah Birtwistle

## a memorial name

and we got on well enough. Those were the days when Sir Powlett lived most of the year in Wales, but came up to Barningham for the shooting season.

Our job was to make sure there was plenty of game for him and his party. On one shoot in September 1910 alone they bagged 1,939 grouse and 52 snipe – plus a score of rabbits and hares.

Then came the war. A lot of the lads in the village enlisted straight away, but I wasn't so struck on the idea and anyway they said it would all be over in a few months.

It wasn't, of course, and the papers were full of calls for the rest of us to sign up. Even the rector as good as said in the pulpit that we should be ashamed of ourselves for not going off to fight the Hun.

I was courting Bella at the time, and she didn't want me to go. But in the end I gave in. We got married in November 1915, had a few months together, and then I went off to the recruiting office.

I joined the 6th battalion of Alexandra Princess of Wales Own Yorkshire Regiment – the



Stretcher bearers bringing wounded through knee-deep mud at Passchendaele



Leintwardine war memorial, which carries the names of both Barnett brothers

Green Howards – and in 1916 arrived in Flanders.

I survived 15 months out there, eleven of them at the front, rising to acting corporal. I got one brief spell of leave early in 1917, and Bella wrote not long after to tell me she was pregnant with our first child.

It was born that summer but I never got to see it. On July 31 we were thrown into the Battle of Passchendaele. I was trudging back from the front line along a railway line with a couple of mates when a German shell landed close by and blew the three of us to bits. They never found what was left of me, and I've no



## Progress at the lime kilns

THE area round the lime kilns on Low Lane is being steadily transformed as work goes ahead on restoring them.

The kilns, disused for the best part of a century, are being rebuilt and vegetation cleared away as part of a project backed by the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership and Barningham history group.

A formal re-opening ceremony is expected later this year.

### a memorial name

grave, just my name on the war memorial. It's on the one at Leintwardine, too. The next name on that one is another Barnett, my kid brother Alexander.

Alexander was a bit of a hero, and a fortnight after I was killed he was awarded the DCM after single-handedly keeping a group of Prussian machine-gunners at bay. It didn't do him much good. He was killed in the same place as I was, just three weeks later.

It was a terrible time for my dad. My mum had died in May, and now he'd lost two sons within five weeks. He must have dreaded anything happening to my youngest brother John – we knew him by his second name, Barlow – who was also in the thick of it in France. Somehow he managed to survive the war.

I wasn't a hero, I just did my bit like thousands of others. "A steady, well-respected chap," was how the rector described me in the church mag when he added my name to the village roll of honour.



## Fruitless search for the scullery maid's baby

● WILLIAM's widow Bella was born Isabella Manson in Ross-shire, Scotland, in 1886 and became a servant for the Milbank family who had family links in the area.

In 1911 she was a scullery maid in the household of Alexina Milbank, widowed mother of Sir Powlett, in Grosvenor Square, London. When Alexina moved to Barningham a couple of years later, Bella went too, along with other servants including butler Joseph Leggett (see *Archive 12*). It was then, we think, that she met William.

Bella re-married at Kirby Hill in September 1921, her second husband Sidney Coates, who farmed at Long Green. She is believed to have died there in October 1923, aged 38, though we have been unable to trace documentary evidence of this.

● WE'VE searched in vain, too, for any information about William and Bella's child, and don't even know its sex or name. There seems to be

no record of its birth locally, or in Leintwardine, and we don't know if it survived to be brought up by the Coates family at Long Green.

● SIDNEY Coates was re-married in 1935 to Dorothy Thompson, daughter of a Captain Thompson who had lived at Moor Lea in Barningham before moving to Sunderland. Neil Turner's father Sam was best man. The *Teesdale Mercury*'s report of the wedding said the bride was "a good all-round sport" renowned locally as an enthusiastic dog breeder. In 1938 Coates sold all his farming stock at auction, after which the couple appear to have left the area.

● THE front-page picture is among family photos held by Barnett descendants in Leintwardine, which is why we think it shows William second from the right – the others look too old to be him.

● WE'RE very grateful to John Williams of the Leintwardine History Society for information and pictures. –Ed.

### newsham 1945

eyesight is not as good as it used to be. Besides making horseshoes, Mr Walker can turn out a beautiful tie-pin to be admired at York Racecourse.

A few doors down the village lives Mr R J O Graham, and we called to discuss with him the ancient Bull Charity that exists for the village. A friendly chat and soon we were in the village's historical past.

The story of this charity is worth recording. It goes back some hundreds of years and provides for a parish bull for local cowkeepers. Three fields of an acreage of 5.333, left to the village for this purpose, are still used to the present day for the purpose of the ancient charity. The rent from these fields, £5, is paid to a bullkeeper to provide a bull.

The present bullkeeper is Mr R Hind, of Silver Hill. The charity was once nearly lost to the village, but thanks to Mr Graham it became recognised again. Mr Graham spent nearly four years in re-establishing the charity, but armed with a copy of the award of 1777 he faced all rebuffs, paid visits to Northallerton, and was successful in re-establishing the village's claims.

Mr Graham looks upon these ancient charities as something of a heritage that must be looked after and properly administered. He is a trustee of the charity along with friend Charlie Walker and James Maude.

Mr Graham's family has centuries-old connections with Newsham, and he told us of the time when the County Council wanted to widen the road through the village and had to ask the freeholders of the parish for permission to



**The view down Newsham village, taken, we think, some time in the 1920s: children playing by the war memorial, a horse outside what was the smithy, ducks and hens on the green**

do so. The freeholders made a bargain with the Council that if they be allowed to widen the road by 2ft 6ins they would in return restore the village's ancient cross, under the direction of the freeholders themselves.

The bargain was agreed and the cross was restored, and a good job made of it. This was the cross's second restoration, the first being in 1828. During the latter restoration a new top stone was used and the old one offered to the Bowes Museum. It was not accepted although the trustees offered to take the whole cross. Newsham just wouldn't agree to this.

Near the cross are the village stocks. Made of iron, they are set in granite. Today they are but a relic of the past. They were last used 120 years ago and the occupant was a drunken stone mason. He challenged his keepers that he could soon free himself if given the tools of his trade, but the intoxicated man made such a mess of himself that his tools had to be withdrawn, and the man sat it out. The village

green is peculiar to most other village greens in that it belongs to the freeholders only.

The parish is fortunate in the possession of three public quarries for stone, sand and gravel. It also possesses free water, and this latter right has survived contest of the Richmond RDC who sought to make the villagers pay for its supply.

The village has one inn, The Dun Cow. Formerly there was two, but the Black Bull, which was adjoining the Dun Cow, was closed about 30 years ago.

The village has no school, and never has had one. Children used to go to Barningham or Dalton at choice. Now they go to Melsonby.

Not far from Newsham was formerly the village of Broughton, but it is no longer in existence.

One mile away is Dalton village, another delightful little place which we hope to visit in our next ramble.

● They did: see next issue of the Archive.



## Meeting the blacksmith, 67 years ago

THE war finally over, Barnard Castle's rambles set out in the summer of 1945 to explore villages south of the Tees and, just as their successors do today, sent in reports of their travels to the *Teesdale Mercury*.

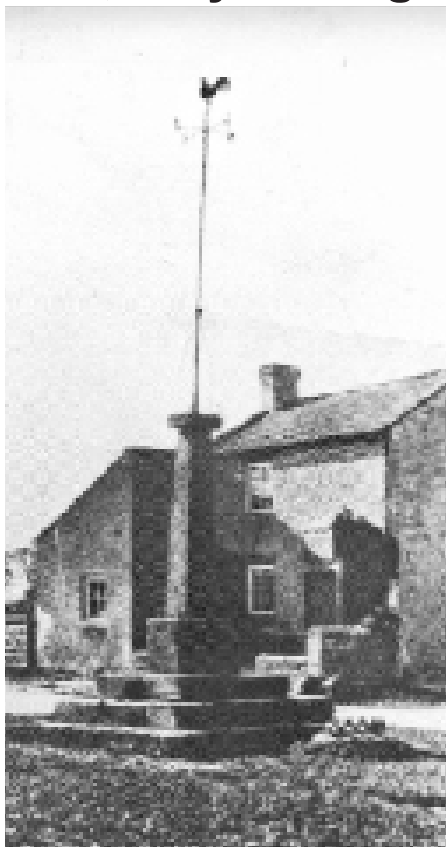
The difference then was that they didn't confine their reports to descriptions of the countryside, the views and the weather. They stopped to talk to people they met in the villages, and the result was a series of lengthy articles profiling each community.

Three of the places they visited are in our area, and the reports deserve re-publication both to enlighten younger history group members about much that has changed in the past six decades, and perhaps jog the memories of those more senior. Here is the first: a visit to Newsham.

**W**ITHIN half an hour's bus ride of Barnard Castle is the ancient village of Newsham that has much of interest for the visitor.

Straggled over a large acreage, its grey stone cottages differing from one another with only picturesqueness for symmetry, it encloses a spacious green complete with market cross and village stocks. How old the village is is not of our knowledge, but Roman pottery has been dug up in the village garden, and the place found mention in the Domesday Book. It was one of three local market towns before either Barnard Castle or Darlington existed, the other two being Cotherstone and Barton.

**Newsham cross, pictured in about 1926**



**newsham 1945**

First man to greet us was 77-year-old Charlie Walker, veteran blacksmith of the village. His friendly welcome soon dispelled the chills of a dull, cold afternoon. Charlie is a character in whom a marvelous richness of the spirit of the place is concentrated.

Eminently companionable, we were soon sharing the little world of Newsham together. There is an old English word, which has grown a little antique, but for which no good

substitute is as yet ready, occurring to our mind in this place. It is the term "yeoman", and without going into dictionaries it expresses our friend Mr Walker. He is the kind of man who keeps our villages going.

Born at Newsham, and his mother before him was of the same village, he has served the community in many ways besides that of his profession. He was registrar of births and deaths for 20 years, and his wife was deputy; he has

served on the Richmond Rural District Council and is still a member; he is also a trustee of Newsham's ancient Bull Charity. As a blacksmith Mr Walker has a long record of service to the community, having served in that capacity for about 30 years. He was away from Newsham for 20 years at East Cowton, and worked at the same trade there. The smithy at that place employed four smiths; now because there is no trade it has been sold.

Mr Walker can still shoe horses, but complains that his

## Kexwith Hannah, a very shrewd lady

*Hannah Bell spent much of her life as a housekeeper at the isolated farm of Kexwith, high upon Holgate Moor. When she died in 1899, her will made headlines. JON SMITH tells the story of a remarkable woman...*

IT started, like so many of these stories, with the chance discovery of a story in the *Teesdale Mercury*, this one from December 1902.

Aldermen and councillors of Newcastle upon Tyne, it said, were meeting to sort out the distribution to the city's poor of a small fortune left to them by someone called Kexwith Hannah.

Kexwith? The remote farmstead high on the moors above Newsham?

Armed with the history group's records, Google, Genes Reunited, Ancestry and a host of other websites (including of course the *Mercury* online) the hunt for Hannah began.

She was born in Kirkby Stephen in 1837, daughter of a farmer called Thomas Davis and his wife Jane.

Thomas, popularly known in the town as 'Captain' for reasons we can't unravel, had four other daughters and one son, all of whom were still at home in the late 1850s when their mother died. Some remained with their father, who was to live another ten years, but in 1863 Hannah left to marry Matthew Bell, a young lead miner in Swaledale.

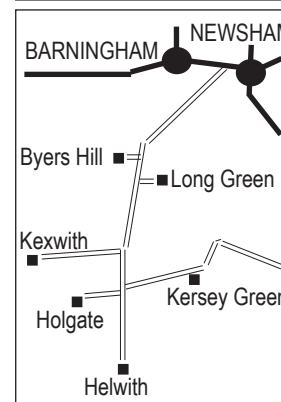
It was a shortlived marriage. Within a couple of years Hannah had left him and moved to the remote farmstead of Kexwith, where she got a job as housekeeper to John Alderson.

John, born and raised in Hope, was a bachelor in his early forties who had taken over Kexwith in 1860 from brothers John and William Shaw and was farming its 140 acres on his own. Hannah was

**Isolated: Kexwith today**



**kexwith hannah**



clearly expected to do more than just look after the house, and she was soon performing all the work of a farmer's wife (though there's no evidence she shared John's bed).

She soon became known as Kexwith Hannah, "a stoutly-built, hardy woman – a daughter of the soil," said the *Teesdale Mercury* in her obituary four decades later.

"She came pretty regularly to Barnard Castle market, at least once a fortnight with a

quantity of butter and eggs and on her return took a supply of coals and market goods of all kinds. On those days she must have been up very early to milk the cows and do other work, travel some 12 miles over moor roads by Barningham, and be at Barnard Castle by nine o'clock, and after returning at night, the same milking and other duties to perform."

Another correspondent described her as "a frugal, economical, hardworking and industrious" woman.

"Cradled in incessant toil, and early accustomed to the hardships associated with moorside farming, she possessed all the hardihood of the sterner sex and could yoke a draught and drive a cart as well as any man skilled in husbandry.

"Of robust constitution and great determination, she was in all respects a 'fell' woman and, although quite illiterate, she had very shrewd ideas of usury, was a successful money-spinner and had really practical notions as to advantageous

## kexwith hannah

money-lending.”

They clearly worked. Hannah had the working arrangement common in farm-houses at the time, whereby in place of wages she was given the farm's butter and eggs to sell, and allowed to keep any profit after the everyday household expenses had been met.

By the time John Alderson decided to retire, in November 1886, she had accumulated enough savings to decide that she could do the same.

She moved first to Reeth and then to Hudswell, where she bought four fields which she let out while living in a small cottage costing her less than 7d a week in rent.

She continued to live frugally, and for a decade and more the money mounted (in a bank? under her mattress? We don't know, but suspect she was wise enough to invest it at the best possible rates of interest.)

Then, in the late 1890s, she had an accident at home, went to the Cottage Hospital in Richmond, and was transferred to the hospital in Darlington. There they diagnosed inoperable cancer. She took lodgings in the town in Chestnut

**HISTORICAL.**—John Alderson of Kexwith, in the township of New Forest, charged by Mary Dent with being the father of her illegitimate child.—Ordered to pay 4s per week for the first 6 weeks, and 2s afterwards.

From the Teesdale Mercury of October 30, 1861

## Two shillings-a-week son

*AROUND the time John Alderson moved to Kexwith he had a dalliance with 19-year-old Mary Dent, daughter of farm worker Matthew Dent of Peake Hole, Hope.*

*Mary became pregnant and claimed John was the father. He contested paternity but in October 1861 was ordered by Greta Bridge magistrates to pay her four shillings a week maintenance for six weeks, and two shillings thereafter. The baby was christened John Thompson Dent.*

*The two Johns don't appear to have had any contact in later life. The boy, known as Thompson to his family, was brought up by his grandparents – Mary appears to have left the area – and in 1881 was working for farmer Robert Brown at Hall Green, Scargill.*

*During the next ten years he moved to the Skipton area, where he was married and, not long afterwards, widowed.*

*He remarried in around 1892 and in 1911 was recorded working as a fitter in a steel plate mill in Consett, where he was living with his wife Ann and four children.*

Street where she could be seen regularly by her doctor, and in her dying days asked solicitor James Watson and chemist Christopher Martin, both of Barnard Castle, to be her trustees to help sort out her affairs. She wanted to make a will, she told them, and she

knew exactly what she wanted to do with her money. There were four small legacies “in acknowledgement of kindness received”; the rest was to be distributed among the poor of Newcastle.

Why Newcastle? they asked. Why not Teesdale, Richmond or Reeth, where she had spent most of her life? “Newcastle is the biggest place I was ever in,” she explained, “and it follows that there are most poor folks there.”

And how much money was involved? Messrs Watson and Martin probably didn't expect her to have much, perhaps £50 or so. They must have been astonished when she announced that she'd got more than £2,000 in savings – worth between £200,000 and £500,000 in to-

## 'A grand lot' under the hammer

*JOHN Alderson clearly worked hard at Kexwith and developed the farm considerably during his 25 years there.*

*When his predecessors, the Shaw brothers, sold up in 1860 they put all their stock up for auction. It consisted of eleven cattle, three horses, 566 sheep and “a quantity” of eatage on rented meadow land.*

*When John sold off his stock in 1886 it included 51 cattle, two horses, 721 sheep and more than 1,200 acres of eatage – “as grand a lot as has ever been brought for public competition for some time, and sure to give every satisfaction to the purchasers,” proclaimed Barnard Castle auctioneer Sidney Tvery. We'd love to know how much it all made.*

## Members of my family lived at The Hollies

I UNDERSTAND that you're interested in people who lived in The Hollies in Barningham.

My mother Enid Brown was born there on May 12 1926, the daughter of Edward John Frederick (Teddy) Brown (1894-1958) and Muriel Farrow Brown, nee Currie (1890-1946), headmistress of Barningham school. Her parents, John A. Currie (1856-1928) and Helen Currie nee Moore lived at Gillbeck House.

Also born at The Hollies

### letters & emails

Email us at  
[history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk)

were my aunts Nora (1924-1992) who became a school-teacher and lived in Switzerland, and Susie (1928-1944) who was killed by a US army lorry on my mother's birthday in 1944.

I had another aunt, Barbara (1923-1990) who was a nurse, and an uncle, George Edward (1922-2001). My mother mar-

ried George C. Alderson of Cotherstone.

Granddad was born at Barningham House and was a churchwarden in Barningham. His father, George Edward Brown (1853-1899) was also born in Barningham House, together with numerous siblings, some of whom went on and lived at Sanders House before it burned down.

His wife was Susannah Louisa Brown nee Knight (1854-1932) from Kent. She was lady's maid to Sir Frederick Milbank's aunt.

My mother told me that, as a tiny child, she talked to St Michael during the service at Barningham church, and later she and her sister Susie pumped the organ there whilst Lady Dorothy Milbank played. Auntie Susie sat next to Geoffrey Smith (the TV gardener) at school and suffered the indignity of having an ice cream squashed into her face when Geoffrey was asked to kiss her during a school presentation!

Uncle George did his apprenticeship with Charlie Brown, (no relation) the estate joiner. Great-granddad fell off his horse in 1899 whilst gathering sheep on the moor and died as a result. Granddad's pony dropped down dead when he was going to Kirby Hill grammar school.

GEORGE ALDERSON  
Brompton-on-Swale  
01748 823838

● We featured the Browns in Archive 3 and Muriel in our history of the school in Archive 13. The Hollies are the subject of this issue's House History on Page 13. Sanders House was badly damaged by fire at least twice, in 1902 and 1932.

## Dialect gives some clues to those odd field names

I'VE been looking for Northern dialect words that might explain some of the Barningham field names featured in recent Archives and come up with a few suggestions:

**Starkey:** Land that is stiff and will not break easily under agricultural operations.

**Letch or Lache:** Northumberland dialect for pond/water swamp with slow drainage or ridge over swamp. *Jam* can be extension or large.

**Jingle Potts:** Gravel or shingle holes or pits.

**Rift:** A fissure; thorny fence; land ploughed from grass. *Does the land rift?* ie plough without forming hard lumps?

**Rampshaw:** In North Yorkshire dialect, Ramps means

wild garlic or mountain leek.

**Shaw:** Plantation dividing two fields or space between woods. **Haw:** Depression in land or a small piece of land.

**Pott Ings:** In West Yorkshire dialect Ings is a meadow, low lying, possibly wet.

**Caddy:** Also Coddy or Codgy, meaning small.

**Nook Field:** Bleak shoulder or edge, sharp feature at edge of dale, ridge; legal term for 12 acres. *Nook* is out of square.

**Kiolie Castle:** Kylee and Kiliy are Durham & Northumberland names for long horn highland cattle. I'd suggest a field of Kylee cattle.

JOHN HAY

Fairview, Barningham

● More field names – Page 18.

## Update on Virginia Cottage

IN the Virginia Cottage article that you have John and Julia Barker as previous tenants. They are actually the children of Bobby and Margaret Barker. They moved up to Castle Farm, Scargill, to live with Bobby's father. The headkeepers were Walter Coutes and Cyril Blenkinsop and not Alan who was the son.

MARK WATSON, Sussex House, Barningham



## house histories

weekends, all home-made scones and teas, and lots of it," recalls Neil Turner. "You never finished it." Greta Carter remembers Agnes providing teas for the village cricket club: "It was lovely," she says – though even then there were occasional complaints about parked cars blocking the road outside.

Agnes moved out after a few years, letting the cottage to her son Denis and his wife Molly (her other children included Nancy Gill of Newsham – mother of Angela Thompson of Beornhow – and Kathleen Dodds of Melsonby).

Denis and Molly moved on in the late 1950s, eventually ending up at Wilson House, and were followed by the Lerigo family, later to live in the Old Rectory and Heath Cottages.

In 1961 Agnes sold the cottage to Barnard Castle schoolmaster Michael Heywood, organist at Barningham church for many years, and his wife Marjorie, who brought up their family there. Michael died in 1990, aged 90, and ownership passed to his son David.

Marjorie died, also aged 90, in 2008, two years after The Hollies was sold to Mike and Beverley Peach who live there today.

## old ads

MRS LOWES,  
THE HOLLIES,  
BARNINGHAM

begf to announce the above TEA ROOM will be open from EAST-ER onwardf to ferve Afternoon Tea and Light Refreshmentf.

**The Teesdale Mercury**  
April 13 1949

## 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 + £1.50 p&p

**Barningham Baptisms**

All recorded baptisms, listed by date, name and parents. Vol 1: 1580-1800; Vol 2: 1800-1950. £10 + £1.50 p&p.

**Barningham Brides**

All marriages 1580-1950, listed by date, groom and bride. £10 + £1.50 p&p.

**Counted**

An A-Z of census returns 1841-1911, arranged so that families can be tracked through 70 years.

Vol 1: Barnham, Scargill, Hope; Vol 2: Newsham, New Forest. Vol 3: Brignall, Rokeby. £10 each + £1.50 p&p

**A Child of Hope**

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

**A Fleeting Shadow**

The Diaries of young Newsham schoolmaster James Coates, 1784-85. £10 + £1.50 p&p.

**A Farmer's Boy**

Memoirs of life in the Gayles area in mid-Victorian days. £10 + £1.50 p&p

**Aback to Yuvvin**

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

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

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

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

More details: see our website [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)

## kexwith hannah

day's money, depending on whether you compare prices or earnings. You could buy a three-bedroom terraced house for £250 in 1900; the average wage for a farm worker was under £1 a week, and even teachers earned less than £150 a year. It was an enormous sum and it's hard to believe Hannah saved it all herself.

Had she inherited a small fortune from someone? Did John Alderson show his appreciation for 20 years' loyal service by giving her a sizeable share of the profits when he sold his farm stock? Did she buy land towards the end of her life that increased enormously in value? Had she invested in some wildly successful enterprises? We don't know.

Anyway, there it was, £2,000 to be handed out to the poor of Tyneside. The recipients were to be chosen by the trustees, the only stipulation being that no single person was to get more than £5.

Hannah died in November 1899, aged 62, and was buried beside her mother under a marble tombstone in Kirkby Stephen.

It took a year to sort out the

will, but in January 1901 the trustees met the mayor and deputy mayor of Newcastle, Aldermen Beattie and Ellis, to work out how the money was to be distributed.

They called in representatives of the city's Women's Benevolent Society, Charity Organisation Society and Poor Law Relief Organisation and asked them to draw up a list of 500 people, "the neediest and deserving poor, irrespective of creed or no creed."

The list was prepared, those whose names upon it were interviewed, and those who were deemed to be needy and deserving enough began to collect their legacies in February. Half the money was paid out then, the other £1,000 over the next two years.

There is no doubt the money was well received in Newcastle. "There is very great distress in the city at this time," reported the *Mercury* in December 1902, "and it is likely to become worse before the winter is over."

By the end of that year Hannah's last request had been fulfilled. The beneficiaries, said the *Mercury*, "will have just cause to remember industrious Kexwith Hannah."



## How Hannah lost nine years

IT seems that Hannah was a little economical with the truth when she went to Kexwith, because the 1871 census (above) records her age as just 26 (it was actually 35) and her surname Davis (her maiden name). In 1881 her surname was correct but her age was given as 35. Did she tell John Alderson, who probably filled in the forms as she was illiterate, that she was almost a decade younger than she really was? Shrewd, frugal, hard-working... but not above a little womanly deception, perhaps.

## from the parish mag

**85 YEARS AGO:** At a meeting representing all the sections of social life in the village, a Welfare Committee was appointed. Chairman: the Rev P Dodd; secretary: Mr Tyers; treasurer: Lady Milbank. The Committee has taken charge of the Village Crockery, and application for the use of it must be made to Mr Tyers. The charge is 2s 6d, and all breakages must be replaced. The crockery must always be returned absolutely clean. The two hanging lamps in the School belong to the Ladies' Cricket Club, and the piano is the property of the School Managers.

– November 1927

**70 YEARS AGO:** Men at the Front: News has been received by Mrs Kirtley, of Tutta Beck, who is organist at Rokeby Church, that her eldest son, Gunner Charles Clifford Macdonald, is a prisoner of war in Italy. Mrs and Mrs Dale, of Dairy Bridge, have had no news of their son George, serving in the East, since June. Each Sunday we remember them at our services.

– November 1942

**60 YEARS AGO:** Whist Drives will be held on Nov 5, 12, 19 and 26. There will also be short Bring and Buy Sales. We hope for excellent attendances to make the money needed to make the Church's accounts balance at the end of the year. – November 1952

**20 YEARS AGO:** Barningham has won the Trophy for best small village in the Durham County Tidy Villages Competition. We won an award in 1980 and a commendation in 1990 so with a little more effort maybe next year we could qualify for the premium class. – November 1992

## Wells, buckets and cesspools – but they kept on living!

A CENTURY ago this month, Startforth Rural District Council met to discuss complaints that Barningham's water supply and drainage system were highly unsatisfactory.

The claims came from a Mr J Blumer of Reeth, who was almost certainly the 79-year-old John Blumer who until the previous year had lived at Moor Lea in Barningham.

In November 1912 he wrote to the medical officer of health for the North Riding County Council, saying the lid was missing off the drinking water tank and it was almost empty. Worse, he said, none of the three cesspools in the village had a drain, so they overflowed onto the road.

Members agreed that the medical officer and the council health inspector should lead a committee to visit Barningham to investigate.

The village was outraged when it read all this in the *Teesdale Mercury*. In a report the following week, the paper's local correspondent said the criticism was quite uncalled for. "Anybody taking the trouble to visit this beautiful moorland hamlet will find sufficient water flowing to supply a whole town; also an ancient fountain which supplies some of the purest drinking water in England," he wrote.

They would also discover, he added, that among the 234 villagers there was one aged over 90, three over 80 and six over 70. "Surely the water and sanitary arrangements seem to agree very well with these venerable people."

Despite this, the district council delegation set off to inspect Barningham's facilities. When they got there they were baffled, as they explained to the council when it next met.

"I don't think that in the whole of our area we will find a better, neater, nicer village

### water supplies

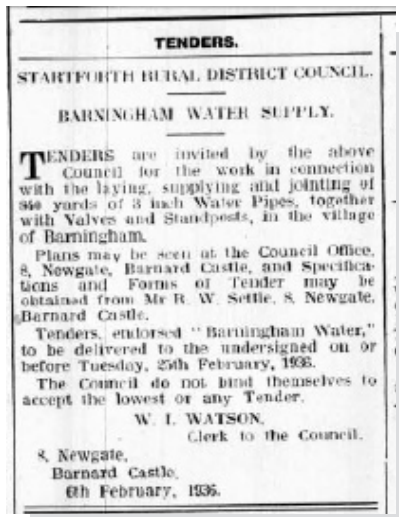
than Barningham," said John Walton, chairman and local JP.

The medical officer, Dr Neligan, agreed. The water came from a spring on the moor and there was no possibility of contamination, he reported. It flowed to the village through three-inch sanitary pipes to a number of dip-wells, cement-lined and covered with iron lids.

The water was clean, "admirably suited to all domestic purposes", and kept flowing even in the driest of seasons.

About a third of the villagers got their water from these dip-wells. Others used the fountain, and people living in the Milbank-owned houses at the bottom of the village got their supply from a 6,000-gallon tank on the estate.

As far as drainage was concerned, there was a good main sewer taking rain and water thrown out after household use. Only a handful of houses had WCs, and these emptied into private cesspools well away from the drain: indeed, the council visitors had been unable



From the *Teesdale Mercury*, February 1936

to find any and certainly none near the road. The rest of the homes had earth closets.

All in all, the council decided, Barningham had nothing to worry about, and they were mystified by Mr Blumer's complaints. They told him so, and two months later he wrote saying he wished to "respectfully withdraw" his comments, adding that he was "now in doubt about some matters."

It was 20 years before the question of Barningham's water was raised again. In 1930 the fountain was sealed off after its water was declared dangerously contaminated, and three years later plans were drawn up for a new pipeline from the moor to the village. It was laid through solid rock to feed a 10,000-gallon reservoir, and took until 1940 to complete at a cost of £951 9s 11d.

One by one houses were connected to the supply, but the use of buckets to collect water went on for many years: it was the mid-1960s before Banks House, for example, finally got its own supply.

## Home brews and home-made teas

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

### THE HOLLIES

ONE of Barningham's oldest and most intriguing houses, The Hollies was once a public house called The Boot and Shoe Inn and was known a century ago as Rose Cottage.

It was built in the late 1600s as a single south-facing cottage with walls a yard thick and a cruck roof – the only one we know of in the village. A steeply sloping roof suggests that it was originally thatched.

Alterations and extensions in the 18th century and later included the addition of an internal staircase and the incorporation of a single-storey building to the south which has a cellar and is thought to have been a brewhouse in its days as an inn.

Among its many interesting features are the exposed cruck beams, an inn signboard dated 1751 carrying the initials GMB and long ago turned into a cupboard door, and what is almost certainly the tiniest external window in the area, measuring a mere eight by four inches.

The earliest record we have of ownership is the tithe map



*The Hollies today and, right, as Rose Cottage c1920*  
house histories

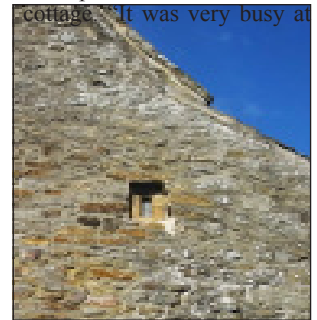
of 1838, when the cottage belonged to the Milbank family and was occupied by 45-year-old farmer James Brown, his wife Mary, and her aging parents William and Jane Gibson.

By 1851 the Browns had left to live in Darlington, and there's a long gap in our knowledge until the 1920s, when it was called Rose Cottage and occupied by another family called Brown – see the letter on Page 15. A decade later it was occupied by the

butler at the hall, a Mr Burton (anyone any idea of his first name?) and his family, one of whom, Leonard, was to die in 1944 while serving in the armed forces.

Towards the end of the war The Hollies was tenanted by a farm worker called Moore, who worked at Hawsteads, and his wife, a teacher in Richmond.

They left in 1946, when the Milbanks sold The Hollies to Agnes Lowes for £450. She retired there from Early Lodge and opened tea rooms in the cottage. It was very busy at



*One of the cruck beams in The Hollies; the old inn sign, now a cupboard door; and the tiny window.*



## sussex milbank

lings to get drunk with. He is 85 years old but very convivial."

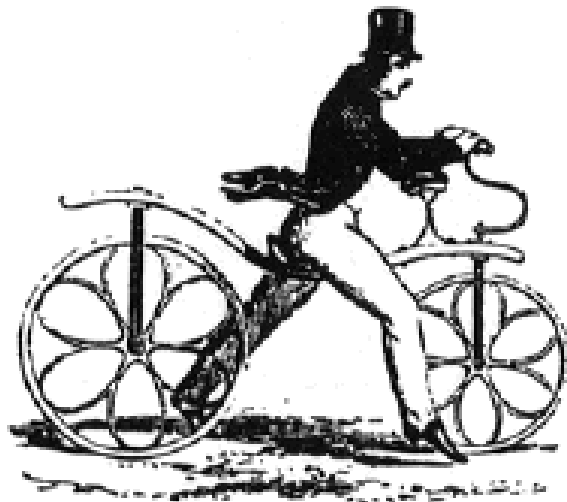
On February 17 he met HRH the Prince of Orange at Hornby Castle. He thought him a "good fellow but did not admire his singing." The next day, when hunting at Newton House "I rode Palmyre Annato. His Royal Highness, the Prince of Orange was out. The orange nearly got a pip. I was much amused with him, I thought him very good natured."

At the end of February Sussex acquired a new toy. "I went out on my velocipede," he recorded on February 26. "I got a rope to it and Mary mounted her pony and dragged me. I went along famously. We started at half past 3 in the afternoon. We went round by Bedale and the Mile House, up and down Snape and then home."

The velocipede was the forerunner of the bicycle but had no pedals. This would have been a very early model as the more popular "bone shakers" were not developed until the 1860s.

On February 27 he rode the machine to Leases, the home of his brother Frederick near Bedale. "The Bedale people were much astonished to see me go through their town on such an engine," he wrote.

Sussex and Mary had several happy days with the velocipede harnessed to her pony, (called Roast Beef), visiting the family. The children at Scruton, their sister Augusta's home, were "much pleased at the novelty." They then went up and down the town twice at Bedale "much to the amusement of the beholders."



**Sussex' new toy: an early velocipede**

On March 15 Sussex received a letter from Palmyre Annato. "The dear creature's epistle was opened by the Governor," he recorded. "Nothing chagrined, I returned my answer by the day's post."

It was enough to take him back to Paris. On April 2 he left England and reached Paris on April 5, but saw very little of Palmyre. However, he consorted with a number of other young women.

After one assignation that proved to be more expensive than Sussex had anticipated, a Mr Taylor, who seemed to be his mentor in Paris, "gave me a lesson in morality" to which Sussex added in his diary, "I hope I did not turn a deaf ear."

On his return to England he went to Barningham in August. Cholera was raging in Paris, London and generally. On August 15 he wrote: "The whole household ill with English Cholera" and on September 7 "The Cholera still rages fearfully at Barnard Castle. Three or four persons die in a day."

The family came through safely, although Sussex was much troubled by asthma. He spent much of his time trapping rabbits and was also rather proud of a six-barrel pistol which he used quite well. However, at Raby on September 25, "Core shot himself in the face by handling it."

The diary ends on Tuesday October 2 as Sussex leaves Barningham and catches the 2.30 train from Darlington on to new adventures. Sadly, his later diaries have not survived. But we know plenty about his later life from other sources: more in the next *Archive*.

## footnote

*THE French composer Louis Antoine Jullien (1812-1860) was so impressed by Palmyre Annato that he wrote and published The Palmyre Quadrille in her honour in 1850.*

## The circus rider who won Sussex's heart

*ANN ORTON continues her profile of Augustus Sussex Milbank (1827-1887)*

BEFORE Sussex returned to England from Paris in 1848 his attention was drawn away from the Revolution and focused on a certain young lady.

He met her on Tuesday May 30, when his diary entry reads: "I amused myself in the evening at the Cirque. I sat by Mademoiselle Palmyre Annato and fell violently in love with her. I never saw a more elegant nor a more lovely girl – age 17 years."

Palmyre was a famous French equestrienne, star of the Cirque National de Paris. A print from the time – above – shows her inside the circus pavilion, surrounded by a rapt audience, landing en pointe on the back of a galloping horse having jumped through floral hoops held by four men.

Three days later, on June 2, Sussex wrote: "Showery day. I have a little cold. I translated into French and read Thiers the whole afternoon! I went to the circus in the evening. I was much enamoured of Mademoiselle Palmyre Anatto!"

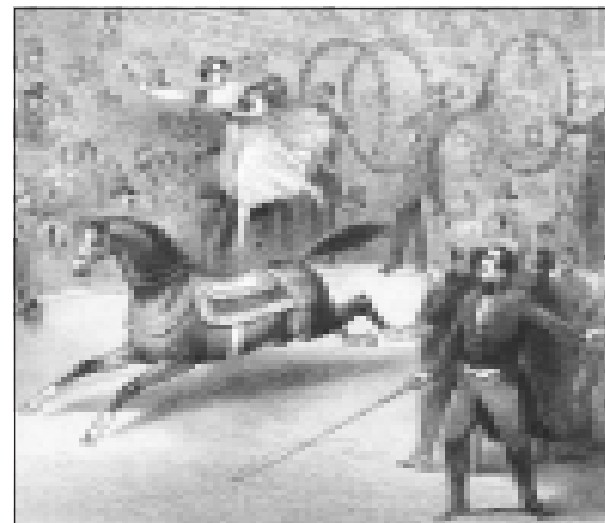
On the afternoon of June 6 he walked with "the dear Palmyre Anatto," received a "pretty present<sup>2</sup>" and in the evening went again to see her perform.

"Tis Love, tis Love, tis Love that makes the world go round," he wrote afterwards.

<sup>1</sup> Marie Joseph Louis Adolphe Thiers, French politician and historian. Sussex was reading his second major work, on the rise of Napoleon

<sup>2</sup> A kiss?

<sup>3</sup> By this time he was achieving rather more than a kiss from the sound of it. One hopes that his approach to Palmyre was a little more romantic.



**Palmyre performing in a Paris circus in the 1840s**

## sussex milbank



He was still wooing her a month later. On July 8 his diary recorded that "in the evening I went to the circus. I sat with the pretty Palmyre some time. I got on flourishing and secured the citadel and detached posts. I can now bombard the town<sup>3</sup>."

His passion seems to have

been unrequited. By August 4 he was on his way home to Barningham, but as we shall see he didn't forget Palmyre.

On his return he was very unwell from asthma and his time was spent resting at home. He did manage to go to "Divine Service", to shoot rabbits and shoot bows and arrows with his youngest sister, 14-year-old Mary.

The "Glorious Twelfth" started the grouse season and Sussex was out shooting with his family, his father killing 20 and a half brace and Sussex seven brace on the first day. When not shooting his time was spent riding out to visit friends and family. His three brothers and older sister all lived within riding distance and there were relatives at Raby.

On Saturday August 19 he left Barningham to go to New-

## sussex milbank

ton House, the home of the Dowager Duchess of Cleveland. The widow of the 1st Duke, she would be 71 at this time. He seemed to be fond of her company and was to be found at Newton House quite regularly. He stayed there until September 4 and went on various jaunts with the Duchess as well as riding to see friends and family.

It didn't stop him keeping an eye out for pretty girls. On August 22 he recorded riding out to Thorpe, where "my appearance made a sensation among the women. In the evening I made the Duchess die laughing."

A week later "the Duchess and I went in the chariot and four over to Ripon... We had an excellent luncheon. We were home by half past 5. We walked for an hour in the grounds. Coore and Augusta dined here (his sister and brother-in-law). I did not get drunk."

The last sentence is intriguing. Did he make a habit of getting drunk?

Back in Barningham he didn't forget the common



**Thorpe Perrow in late Victorian days**

folk. On September 10 he visited "poor Robert Orton, the mole catcher, who was as usual dreadfully ill with the asthma" and on September 11 "I had a long talk with Nellie Etherington."

More mysteriously, on September 14 "my father and I set up a balloon in Mrs Swire's garden for her edification."

He moved in some exalted company. On September 21, at the horticultural show at Darlington, "Lady Londonderry arrived in her coach and six. She brought with her Lord Hardinge and Benjamin Disraeli. Hardinge and Disraeli spoke admirably well. The Duke spoke but not bril-

liantly. I was not called upon to speak." A couple of days later he went with his father to Barnard Castle to look at two houses with a view to buying one for himself but apparently they "did not suit".

At the beginning of October the family left Barningham to join a house party at Raby for the start of the hunting season. First, though, Sussex attended an agricultural show at Darlington with the Duke and Lord Harry Vane, the beginning perhaps of his interest in farming?

Whilst at Raby he bought a bay mare for £65. On October 9 he moved on to Newton House and tells us that he hunted there on his new horse

## 'Invincible courage, ravishing dexterity'

THE Annatos were a circus family famed throughout Europe in the mid-1800s, consisting of François Annato and his sisters Catherine, Maria, and Palmyre. Palmyre was the undisputed star of the group, described as "the most elegant *panneau* equestrienne that ever was".

The core of circus performances at the time were equestrian acts – trick-riding, bareback acrobatics, dressage and even comedy on horseback – interspersed with acrobatic, balancing, and juggling acts. The Annatos spent many years with the Cirque National de Paris, which visited London on several occasions,

appearing at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane and in the Vauxhall pleasure gardens in 1848 and again in 1851. The *London Standard* of March 8 1848 described Palmyre's appearance in glowing terms: "her feats were extraordinary, vaulting over radiating scarfs and plunging through garlanded hoops with invincible courage and ravishing dexterity," it reported. The *Morning Post* a month later marvelled at her performing "54 leaps running at the full speed of her horse."

Palmyre, born around 1830, married the Russian tenor Ivan Setov in 1853, became pregnant, and left the company.

## sussex milbank

"Palmyre". It seems that a certain young lady was still on his mind. He then moved on to Scruton, the home of his sister Augusta Coore and her family. Again he was hunting but also spent two days at the races at Northallerton.

By the middle of October his principal residence was Thorpe Perrow. On October 15 he wrote rather intriguingly, "The £3000 which is to be paid to my father's account at Coutts' is for me."

The hunting continued but was then interrupted by the weather. October 24 was "a very wet day... the country is much flooded" and the day after "a pouring wet day. I did not go out of the house. The weather is more wretched than can possibly be imagined. I have a most dreadfully bad cold. I put on a strong mustard poultice at night."

On Sunday October 29 he came of age. "My mother gave me a gold key with a seal to it, Mary a pin, Barbarina (his brother Mark's wife) a pin and studs and Mark a magnificent edition of Shakespeare's works. I will have untold philosophical discussion on the day but it is a comfort to be a man."

The following day "The Duchess sent me a jewelled stick. Fred and Aline, (his brother and sister-in-law), Coore and Augusta and Lord Hinton dined here in commemoration of my natal day. The Governor made a good speech on proposing my health. I answered on returning thanks. The servants had a ball. Punch was allowed them."

On November 7 he visited Newby Hall with his father



**Billiards partner: George Hudson**

and met Miss Anne Hudson. (Newby was owned by her father, the 'Railway King' George Hudson).

"I was much struck by Miss Hudson and I went at her manfully and was not repulsed," he confided to his diary. "We had music in the evening."

The next day, "after having a sumptuous dejeuner (with Miss Hudson), went out hunting... We killed two foxes. I gave the brush of one to Miss Hudson. I played chess with that young lady in the evening. It was great fun."

Hunting continued in many locations from Staindrop, Raby, Streatlam to Newby. He paid another visit to Newby on December 19 when "Miss Hudson was very pretty and charming. We danced in the evening. I played at billiards with Mr Hudson till 2 o'clock. I slept in Mr Hudson's sitting room."

Christmas brought some curious entertainment. On December 23, Sussex recorded, "I was dressed by the young ladies in women's attire as a bride, Lady Seaham lent me

a dress of hers of Spitalfield lace. Miss Hudson contributed her petticoats.

"I took a walk with Mrs Hudson in the afternoon... We, that is Seaham, self, Lumley and Lee, acted charades. The dressing up was the best fun."

Nothing came of his relationship with Miss Hudson. She subsequently married a Polish nobleman and went to live in Warsaw.

Christmas didn't seem to be a family celebration. Christmas day itself was spent at the meet at Lipscombe and with a walk to Scarth Farm. He spent the evening smoking with his cousin Henry Forester who had come over to dine. Boxing Day he had an unsuccessful day's hunting at Selaby. December 29 saw him back at Barningham Park

"I saw Mrs Swire. I gave old Harry 5 shillings and Nanny Dent half a crown. I sat with the beesom maker's granddaughter... it froze hard all day."

His time in Paris was obviously still very much on his mind. On January 1 1849 he wrote: "A new year I enter upon today! How pregnant with events has been the last. I have seen a King run away—I have seen thousands fall in battle, all with my own eyes!!!"

But by January 2 he had other things on his mind. "We had a servants' ball night. I danced with the stillroom maid four times and kissed her often on the sly..."

The hunting season continued throughout January, interspersed with many social events. On January 21 he walked with Henry Forester to the Firby Hospital and "gave old Tommy Harrison 5 shil-