

BARNINGHAM BROWNS

From Page 1

thy. Thomas died in 1882. Dorothy remained unmarried until at least 1891, but disappears from the records after that.

George Edward finally got married, to a girl from Kent called Susannah Louise Knight, who was working as a maid at the hall. She gave birth to their only child, Edward John Frederick, in 1894 at the age of 40.

Within four years she was a widow. George Edward died in 1899 aged 46 after a fall from a horse – not long after the photograph on the front page of this *Archive* was taken. His widow and son stayed in Barningham, apparently on the farm, until at least 1911 and possibly through to the 1920s, when Edward John married and moved shortly afterwards into The Hollies. His mother remained in the village until she died aged 86 in 1932, and is buried here.

Edward's bride was Muriel Farrow Currie, the village schoolmistress, whose parents John and Helen Currie lived in Gilbeck House.

Edward and Muriel raised five children. The eldest, born in 1922, was a boy christened George, who lived until 2001. He was followed by four girls, Barbara (1923-1990,

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married a Peter Bowes), Nora (1924-1992), Susie (1928-1944, killed by an army vehicle) and Enid (born 1926 and still alive).

Enid married a George Alderson from Cotherstone (no relation to any of the Barningham Aldersons, as far as we know) and her son George turned up in the village just before Christmas armed with much of the information you've just read.

Meanwhile, back at Saunders House, John and Ann Brown had at least two children, a son called John George born in 1873 and a daughter Dorothy born two years later (there may have been a second daughter called Mabel born in 1890).

Dorothy married an Anthony Britton, moved away, raised four children and died in 1993. John George took over as manager at Saunders House around 1900, John and Ann moving to Mill Hill farm where they continued farming until at least 1911. We don't know much about this branch of the Browns after that: can anyone help?

● To complicate things, these weren't the only Browns living in Barningham over the past hundred years or so.

Others included Charlie Brown, a Barningham estate joiner who lived at Heath House for some time from the 1930s, and to whom

Anyone lost a body called Brown?

ALTOGETHER there are 32 people called Brown in the village graveyard, and one of them shouldn't be there. Edward and Muriel Brown moved to Eastwood, where Muriel died in 1946. She was buried in the village, in the grave of her grand-daughter Susie: room was left for Edward to join her later. He moved to Sedgefield, where he died seven years later.

Their grandson George says that when the undertakers looked for the grave earmarked for him, they discovered that the third place in it had already been mistakenly filled by another Mr Brown, and Edward had to be cremated instead. "My mother was terribly upset," says George. "We've no idea who's in there lying next to my gran."



The Archive is a regular record of the activities of Barningham Local History Group, including members' research and updates on information in its publications such as the guide to churchyard memorials.

Copies are available to group members and non-members for an annual subscription of £10. Back issues can be purchased for £2 each.

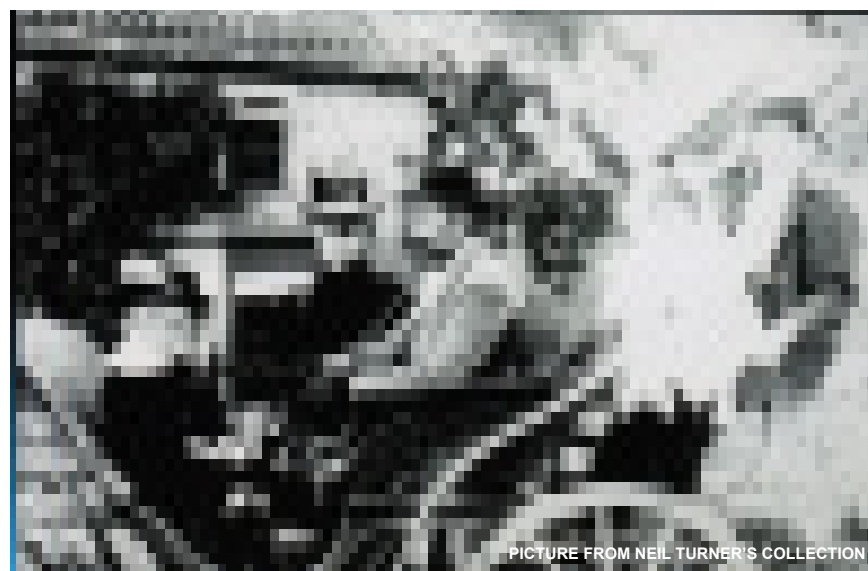
Contact Jon Smith, Tel: 01833 621374, email history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk

Our website www.barninghamvillage.co.uk is under construction



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ANNALS OF THE BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



PICTURE FROM NEIL TURNER'S COLLECTION

It's about 1898, and George and Susannah Brown set off from Barningham House with their son Edward, an unidentified baby and its nurse

Barningham's farming Browns

GEORGE Brown, born in 1799 to an unmarried Billingham girl, arrived in Barningham from Hurworth in the early 1840s and took over the tenancy of Barningham House farm.

With him was his wife Ann, born Ann Reynolds in Brompton in 1820, and their young son John. Within a decade there were four more children, Jane Ann, Thomas, George Edward and Dorothy.

It was the start of a mini-dynasty of Browns who ran two of the village's larger farms for the rest of the 19th century.

By 1871 John had married a Startforth girl called Ann and moved to Saunders House farm. George died in 1872, but his widow carried on farming Barningham House with the help of George Edward, Thomas and Doro-

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**NEXT MEETING: VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY JANUARY 21st 6pm**

Splitting up the commons, a mystery and a fund-raiser

MINUTES of the group meeting held in Barningham Village Hall on December 1st 2009:

Present: Jon Smith, Eric Duggan, Kay Duggan, Neil Turner, Greta Carter, Phil Hunt, Sheila Catton, Ann Hutchinson, Tony Orton, Dianne Metcalf, Ted Andrews, Corrine Andrews, Ed Simpson, Janet Wrigley, Anthony Milbank, Sally Ridgeway, Louise Ferrari, Elaine McDermott plus children, sorry, we're not sure.

Apologies: Ann Orton, Sue Prytherick, Robin Brooks, Beverley Peach, Margaret Heslop.

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters arising: We will carry on covering the history of the Barningham houses from the top of the village down, we this time covering Heath Cottages to Moor Lea. Lots of information was gathered from those present, on the layout of houses and past residents.

Beverley Peach sent a message to say she was working on the history of The Hollies.

It was suggested that we may get someone out from Beamish to look at places which we are not sure about, such as the kiln/ice house at the back of Heath Cottages. It was agreed that we would leave it until we had a few more queries for the expert to solve.

Correspondence: Jon received contact from Bill Hayes from the Teesdale Records Society wanting a copy of *Where Lyeth ye Bodies*. Members were invited to attend their meetings any time.

Treasurer's Report: The forms to open a bank account on behalf of the society were ready, the signatories to be Jon Smith, Eric Duggan and Ann Orton.

It was agreed that members would pay £1 each at each meeting towards the hire of the hall. A fundraiser will be held at Braeside on Sunday January 3rd: a lunchtime wine and savouries, with tickets limited to 60. This will help any research/speaker costs.

Ed and Gaynor Simpson have generously given a £30 donation for a raffle prize for the event. Rolled-over funds from publications, have been used to fund the set-up of a website and some other costs so far.

Photo library: Can anyone with any photo-

THE MINUTES

graphs please give them to Jon or Kay to scan and include into our files.

Recipes: Ann and Greta to co-ordinate an old recipe file. A recipe book from 1691 had been found at the hall and it was agreed to transcribe and publish it to raise funds.

Milbank records: Kay has the Vestry records from 1861-1894 and is going through them and we will print anything of interest.

Aural records: Robin was not at the meeting but had obtained a contact number for Teesdale in Film which Kay will look into.

Publications: It was agreed that from January the *Archive* would be available for an annual subscription of £10, covering about eight issues during 2010. Non-subscribers could obtain individual copies for £2.

Website: Set up but nothing on it yet.

Land Girls: Margaret left a message to say she had made a start.

Travis Visit: Bert Travis, who is connected to the Aldersons, visited the village and had a meeting with Jon, Tony and Ann and left them lots of family paperwork (see later in this issue).

Guest Speaker: Sir Anthony gave us a very interesting talk on the Barningham enclosures, and how the land was divided up. He is happy for people to view the documents by prior arrangement.

Next Meeting: Thursday January 21st 2010, 6pm, in the village hall.

Speaker: Jon to contact Neil Diment of the Hay Time project, which is interviewing old farmers up the dale about hay making in the first half of the last century.

Any other business: Sally Ridgeway is looking for people who are willing to do a four-day workshop with Teesdale in Film to discuss life in Barningham. The filming would take place possibly in February and each person would talk for four minutes on their chosen subject.

KAY DUGGAN

HOUSE HISTORIES



1857 it, along with the adjoining land outside Heath House and The Nook, was enclosed as gardens, leaving just a narrow path to the top of the village.

Among the cottages' outbuildings is one whose purpose intrigues David and Ann. Behind their home is a half-sunken brick-built domed structure which they think might have been an ice-house, though it seems unlikely so modest a dwelling would have had one. It's pictured above: anyone got any ideas what it was for?

THE NOOK

SHORTLY before Barningham cheesemonger John Todd died in 1838, he appointed five trustees, gave them £1,500 to invest, and told them to use the interest to pay for the support of a methodist minister for the village.

He gave them another £100 to construct a house for the minister to live in, and the result was Wesley Cottage, now called The Nook.

It was built in the south-west corner of a field to the east of Heath House, which was undergoing major reconstruction around 1840. The project involved shifting great quantities of earth between the two plots and building sizeable retaining walls, and work on both houses may well have taken place at the same time. It was probably at this time that all the land in this area, formerly village green, was enclosed as gardens.

The Nook is bigger than it looks from the road. Like its neighbours Heath House and Moor Lea, it stands on ground sloping away



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steeply to the north and is three storeys high at the back.

The Todd trustees appointed a young resident preacher, the Rev William Jessop, who moved into lodgings in the village until the house being built for him was ready, sometime after the census of 1841.

He didn't stay long. By 1851 Wesley Cottage was occupied by 35-year-old Exeter-born George Russell, his wife Mary Ann, their three small children and a young housemaid called Mary Pearson.

He was followed by John Lewis, born in Anglesey and 72 by the time of the 1861 census, and his wife Mary. They in turn handed over the ministry to Gregory Renton, a 25-year-old bachelor in 1871, who was recorded living that year in a lodging house in the village: who was in Wesley House is unknown.

By 1891 it was occupied by Edward McCulloch, a 48-year-old Wesleyan preacher and former ironmaster from Newcastle, his wife and two sons (his brother Frances McCulloch was living nextdoor at Heath House). He left within a few years and at the turn of the century the cottage was shared by a 92-year-old widow, Ann Walton, her widowed daughter Mary Murray, a coachman called William Rogers, his wife Ann and 17-year-old daughter Ellen.

In 1911 the house was empty (Mrs Murray had died aged 94, Mary moved up the road to Heath Cottages, and the Rogers left the village).

There's a gap in our knowledge here, but in the early 1920s it was tenanted by Sam Turner and his bride. They stayed there until 1939, when they and their family took over the Milbank Arms – still run today by Sam's children Neil and Brenda.

We have only hazy details of tenants after that – names include Pennock, Bradley, a Wesleyan parson called Carr, and Jack and Cathy Buckland – until a Miss Hutchinson bought it from the Todd trustees and lived there until 1969.

She then sold it to Mick and Shirley Maddrell, who live in it today.

● *Next issue: Heath House & Moor Lea.*

Once there were four...

The Heath Cottages floor plan before conversion into two dwellings in the early 1960s.

You can see from the rear windows and the staggered alignment of the internal walls how there had once been five cottages, the westernmost two being merged at some time to form one three-bedroomed home.

A century ago there were families of eight and more living in these cottages.



who lived in the westernmost cottage for a year when first married, a family called Carter, and a couple called Charlie and Edith Wright.

The cottages were clearly not in good repair. In 1956 a closure order was issued against No 2, which until then had been tenanted by a Mrs Saunders, on the grounds that it was unfit for human habitation, and around this time the internal walls of the building were re-arranged to merge the two western cottages into one (see above).

William Todd, meanwhile, had spent much of his inheritance and down-sized from The Yews to The Cottage, taking his housekeeper Gladys Henderson with him. In January 1957, told that he had only a short time to live, he gifted the house to her.

When he died a couple of months later Gladys inherited what was left – Banks House, the Hillside buildings, three North View cottages and the Heath Cottages, two of which were described as derelict. She moved to Hartlepool as soon as William was in his

grave and in 1963 sold the five dwellings to Bill Lerigo for £720. Bill and his wife Joan moved in from The Hollies and converted them into two cottages, living in the western end and raising a large family noted for its cricketing prowess.

Gladys had held on to the field behind, known as Leonard's Garth and running down to Shaw Lane in front of Banks House. In 1976 Bill bought it from her for £650. Six years later he sold the eastern half of the property (No 2) to John and Jill Foster and a year later sold the other half and the field to Christine Murtagh. She married Peter Lister, and they sold it three years later to Tony and Gill Wolfe.

Both halves were sold again in the 1990s: No 1 to David and Ann Hutchinson, No 2 to Keith and Daphne Walker, who sold it later to Arron and Sam Leighton.

The land in front of the cottages was part of the village green until at least 1820. By

A snapshot of Barningham in young Victoria's day

THE 1841 CENSUS

WE have now got a complete set of census records for Barningham, Scargill and Hope for each census from 1841 to 1911, and hope before long to organise everyone mentioned in them into easily-accessible A-Z lists for members to browse through.

Here we take a look at the first censuses and begin to retrace the steps of the census recorder as he set off round the village on Monday June 7th 1841 to collect the returns.

The early days

THE first British census as we know it was in 1801, the result of years of campaigning by a young government statistician called John Rickman.

He was convinced that the country, facing the threat of Napoleonic invasion, urgently needed to know exactly how many men were available for conscription into the army or navy in the event of war, and where they were. He finally got the backing of the Prime Minister, Pitt the Younger, and in 1800 his Census Act (its full title was *An Act for taking Account of the Population of Great Britain, and of the Increase or Diminution Thereof*) passed successfully through Parliament.

Rickman was put in charge of carrying out the first census, and the three that followed in 1811, 1821 and 1831. They were very limited operations, little more than headcounts, and contained very little personal information. Sadly, none of them survive (though even if they did they wouldn't be much use to us).

Rickman died in 1840. The General Register Office took over and decided it would like to know not just how many people lived where, but also what they were called, how old they were, where they had been born, and how they made a living. (A pity that it didn't ask how people in each household were related to each other: that came a decade later).

The country was divided into registration districts and further divided into sub-districts overseen by officials known as enumerators,

often local schoolmasters who were thought best-fitted to carry out the work.

They appointed collectors whose job was to visit every dwelling the morning after census day and pick up forms that had been distributed earlier for completion by the household heads. These they returned to the enumerator, who copied the details into enumeration books which were sent to the government for compilation into the nationwide survey.

The census form asked for seven pieces of information about every dwelling and the people there that night:

- The address
- Whether the dwelling was inhabited
- If so, the names of everyone there
- Their age and sex
- Their profession, trade or employment, if any
- Whether they were born in the county in which they were recorded
- Whether they were born outside England or Wales.

Problem areas

IT worked reasonably well, but there were some difficulties. Ages of people up to 15 were supposed to be recorded precisely, but those older than that had their age rounded down to the nearest five years, so anyone aged 49 was listed as 45, 64-year-olds were said to be 60, and so on.

Quite a few people were missed off the lists. Some were simply not at home, some were on night work, some were travelling, some on holiday. Crews on ships and inland waterway vessels were omitted. There was a common misbelief that unbaptised infants need not be recorded.

Some parents with large families kept children secret to avoid accusations of overcrowding, and other children were said to be

CENSUS DATES

1841: June 6 1881: April 3
 1851: March 30 1891: April 5
 1861: April 7 1901: March 31
 1871: April 2

A census has been held every ten years since 1801 apart from the one due in 1941, cancelled because of the war. There was, however, a population count in September 1939.

Census records are kept secret for 100 years. Some 1911 details are already available, and the rest will be released next

older than they were to escape investigation into under-age employment.

The age of consent in 1841 was 21, and there must have been some people under that age who pretended to be older than they were so that they could enter into legal contracts, such as renting a home. And some women must have been tempted, then as now, to knock a few years off their public age.

The truth about some relationships was hidden, too. There were couples living together but unmarried (though it was not anything like as common as today) and this was sometimes disguised by describing the female partner as a servant of housekeeper.

Illegitimate children were not unknown, and although the 1841 census did not ask about parenthood, the 1851 one did and then such children were sometimes described as the offspring of the unmarried mother's parents, skipping a generation.

By no means all householders could fill in the form, truthfully or otherwise, for the simple reason that they could not read or write.

Some did their best, but caused enumerators great problems when they tried to decipher what had been written. Others passed the task to a child who went to school and was more literate than its parents, but not always able to fully understand what was required of them. And others left it to the collector to fill in, which led to misunderstandings, mishearings, mis-spellings and other errors. And after all those problems, not everyone knew

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the answers to what they were being asked, especially their place or exact year of birth, and made the best guess they could.

Even if the form was properly completed, mistakes arose when it came to be copied into the official lists by the enumerators. Not all of these were as conscientious as they should have been, and some cut corners – for example, by entering a birthplace for the first entry on a page and then simply writing 'ditto' for all other entries below.

Third on the left?

FEW enumerators tried to identify individual houses, merely recording them as 'village' and listing them in whatever order they came to hand, which makes it very difficult today to trace their footsteps round a village. It wasn't entirely their fault.

Although house numbering had been introduced in some areas in the 18th century, it had yet to reach places like Barningham (it still hasn't), and in 1841 only a handful of dwellings, usually the grander houses, had names. The only ones recorded that year were The Hall, The Rectory and 'Hayforth' – presumably the farm now known as Haythwaite. All the rest were just noted as being 'village'.

It was not until the back end of the 19th century that ordinary people started to christen the places in which they lived, and even in 1901 32 of the village's 52 recorded dwellings were still anonymous. The 20 named were The Hall, The Rectory, Bragg House, Crooks House, East Wood, Fair View, Heath House, Heathwaite, Hill Side, Mill Hill, Moor Cock, Moor Lea, Park View, Manor House, Sanders House, South View, Wesley Cottage, Wilson House, the Black Horse Inn and the Milbank Arms.

He's a J. C. – and I.

THE first page of the enumerator's notebook carried lengthy directions for how the census should be carried out.

Much of it is straightforward, and it explains some of the mysterious abbreviations you might come across when searching through the records. MS, for example, means manservant, FS female servant. Oth-

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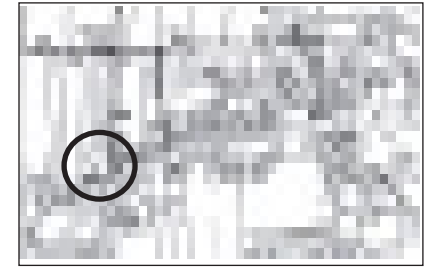
HOUSE HISTORIES

Heath Cottages: from five to two

ONE of the group projects is to create a data base of all the houses in Barningham, with details of their history and who has lived in them over the years.

Buildings we discussed at the last meeting included Heath Cottages and The Nook.

Below is a summary of what we've learned about these properties so far. If you have amendments to this or any further information, please let us know and we'll update our files.



HEATH COTTAGES

THERE are just two of these today, but until the middle of the last century there were five of them, each with a front door opening onto a livingroom, with a small kitchen to the rear and two bedrooms.

They were probably built in the 1700s (though one map of 1820 shows the site an open field), possibly as one-up, one-down dwellings to which kitchens and extra bedrooms were added later: the kitchens were originally slightly lower than the front rooms.

The first record we have of them is in the mid-19th century when they were owned by John Todd, one of Barningham's cheese-mongering magnates. He bequeathed them to his nephew Anthony, who was living in Kent, and upon his death in 1874 they passed to his nephews William and James Todd.

Both lived at Fairview. William, unmarried, died at the age of 63 in 1894; James reached his forties before marrying Mary Jane, a Barnard Castle girl 15 years his junior, and fathering one son called William. When James died in 1910, William (then living at

The Yews) inherited the cottages, plus Banks House, four empty cottages at North View, various outbuildings at Hillside and 12 stints on the moor.

He needed money, and wasted no time in raising a mortgage of £600 on the properties from a Barnard Castle solicitor called John Ingram Dawson, who held on to them until his death in 1951.

At the time the mortgage was taken out, all five cottages were tenanted. Living there were:

- Richard Lee, the village postman (see *Archive 2*), his wife and three children;
- Mary Robinson, 83-year-old widow of a coal carter called Henry;
- Mary's 57-year-old widowed daughter Elizabeth, a washerwoman, and her 17-year-old daughter Mary;
- Mary Ann Murray, another widow, aged 71; and
- A mysterious 34-year-old bachelor called Adolphus John Gregory.

We know little about their occupancy over the next 40 years, apart from one tenant called Hugh Malsberry who Neil Turner recalls as having "a giant nansberry [blemish] on his neck". William Todd moved from The Yews to Fairview.

Dawson died in 1951 and the mortgage passed to an Anthony Cleasby, who promptly died and left it to his son, also called Anthony. In 1955 he transferred it to a retired farmer called Frederick Tarn. Among tenants Neil remembers in the 1950s were Mrs Ord ("she had 20 cats"), her sister and brother-in-law who lived next-door, Neil's brother Lloyd,

LETTERS & EMAILS (cont)

ily, in particular Edwin Atkinson junior, my grandmother's brother. I know a little about the family but cannot find any information about him apart from his birth.

VALERIE ECCLES
Gainford

(Our census records include Edwin from 1873 to 1901 and a host of other Atkinsons who lived, among other places, at Wilson House, Crooks House and Eastwood. We've sent Valerie the details. - Ed)

School link

I'VE had another look at the 1901 census in my quest for information about Jonathan and Mary Watson (letter, *Archive 2*) and it seems they moved from Barningham to Newsham.

I also noticed that their son John was a schoolmaster. Does anyone know if he was at the local school?

SUSAN GRAVES, Carlisle
sg229@hotmail.com

SNIPPETS

LEONARDS: In the same post that we got a letter asking for a copy of our graveyard book from Joan Foster of Stockton, whose grandfather Thomas Leonard was born in Barningham in 1837 and wanted to trace his family, another arrived from James Leonard of Richmond, seeking the same family links. We've put them in touch.

CASTLE TRIP: The owner of Scargill Castle has offered to show a group of us round: Ed Simpson hopes to organise an outing in the spring.

FINANCES: Our bank account is up and running (cheques payable to Barningham Local History Group, please!). Our balance includes £104 profit so far from sales of the graveyard and Mary Martin books.

GUEST: Still waiting for confirmation of our next guest speaker. Suggestions for future ones are welcome.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: All 2010 issues of the *Archive* for £10. Treasurer Eric Duggan will be happy to take your money now.

ENCLOSURES

The 1807 land share-out

A MAP showing the Cow Close enclosures in 1807 was produced by Sir Anthony Milbank at our last meeting.

The list of people who were awarded shares is one of the earliest records we have of householders living in Barningham at the time. It included:

William & Phillis Appleby, John & George Atkinson, Robert Barwick, Thomas Binks, Rev E Bowerbank, Ann Breaks, William Crawford, Rev Dockrey, Christopher, Ann & Robert Fryer, William Gill, Thomas Greenhow, John Goundry, Jane Hanby, Matthew Hardy, G Harland, L Hartley, George Hawdon, Samuel Head, John Hind, James & Francis Hutchinson, George Jackson, William & Ann Johnson, William Law, George Marley, Mark Milbank, Mark Newby, Richard Nixon, Richard Peacock, James Pinkney, Edward Poole, Sarah Simpson, Samuel Stapleton., Rev Samuel Swire, John Thompson, Jeremiah Tinkler and Thomas Wood.

NEIL'S NOTES

Random recollections by Neil Turner, recorded at our last meeting

HEATH COTTAGES: These were often let out for short periods during the 1940s to people who were victims of the war.

MOOR LEA: A Mrs Fawcett and her brother lived here for many years. They came from Gilling and kept prize goats which they used to show all over the country. They sold the milk as well.

THE NOOK: I was born there. My brother Lloyd took one look at me and told Captain Thompson who lived at Moor Lea next-door that I was "a redfaced little bugger".

HEATH HOUSE: A hind [farm worker] for the Metcalfs at Barningham House and his wife lived here in the late 1940s. I forget their names, but they had at least nine kids. She was about 20 stone and he was a weed of a man. Every Saturday she was outside Barningham House at 12 noon to collect his pay!

How the village shrank in 70 years

THERE were 84 households in the Barningham census area in 1841, occupying 77 separate buildings, and the village had a total population of 337.

Seventy years later, in 1911, the number of homes had shrunk to 52 and the population had dropped by a third to 234.

Most of the decline in the number of dwellings took place in the 1870s, when a dozen homes vanished, many of them merged to make bigger houses but some – including a couple of outlying farmsteads – falling into permanent disuse.

The biggest drop in the population also took place in the mid-Victorian years. The number of males fell from 141 in 1861 to 99 in 1911, reflecting, perhaps, the need for fewer farm workers as agricultural machinery was introduced and the parallel lure of factory work in the towns. The number of

females in the village went down, too: there were 173 in 1851, 106 in 1891. The trend reversed at the start of the 20th century, which could have been the result of an increasing demand for domestic servants.

Birth rates fell in Barningham during this period, as elsewhere: families of ten or twelve were not uncommon in the mid-1800s; by 1911 only two families were recorded with more than six children.

● The census area, based on the parish boundaries, comprised Barningham village itself and outlying farms including Crooks House, Wilson House, Saunders House, Eastwood, Moorcock, Haythwaite, Bragg House and the now-vanished Cow Close, Wood Top and Goodall Gill House.

● The figures below exclude scholars at the Academy boarding school, almost all of whom were boys (as many as 24 in 1871).

| | 1841 | 1851 | 1861 | 1871 | 1881 | 1891 | 1901 | 1911 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| HOUSEHOLDS | 84 | 76 | 79 | 67 | 55 | 51 | | |
| 52 | 52 | | | | | | | |
| EMPTY HOUSES | n/a | 8 | n/a | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | |
| MALES | 150 | 149 | 141 | 122 | 122 | 112 | | |

CENSUS 1841

ers include Ag Lab - Agricultural labourer, Ap - Apprentice, C - Clerk, F - Foreigner, I - Irish, Ind - Living on independent means, J - Journeyman, M - Manufacturer, m - maker (as in shoe-m.), P - pensioner (army or navy), S - Scots and Sh - Shopman.

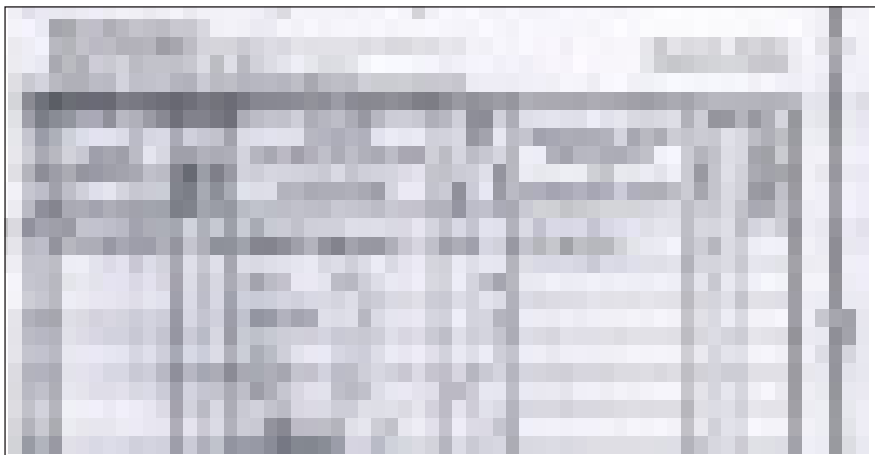
No titles were to be recorded – "Rank, or any such term as 'Esq' or 'Gentleman' must not be entered", say the directions sternly – except those of the upper classes: "Where the person is a Peer or Peeress the title may be written instead of the name. The words 'Lord', 'Lady', 'Sir', 'Rt Hon' and 'Hon' may be put before the names of those to whom they belong."



The Milbank Arms today – it was called the Royal Oak back in 1841

First stop – the pub

THE first entry in the 1841 Barningham enumeration list is a pub. It doesn't say which one. Only two inns are recorded in the village, and it wasn't the Black Horse (*how do we know? see later on*). So this first port of call has to be either the Boot and Shoe (now The Hollies) or the Royal Oak (now the Milbank Arms). We're



First page in the 1841 census record, showing the Spenceley entry

CENSUS 1841

pretty sure the Royal Oak was around at that time, whereas the Boot and Shoe's existence is uncertain, so it's reasonable to assume we're looking at the Royal Oak.

The landlord was 32-year-old Robert Spenceley (1808-1878), married to Ann (1811-1883) and a father of five: Martha (10), Mary (7), John (5), Betsy (3) and one-year-old Margaret. There was also a 16-year-old servant called Mary Collinson.

Ann, who hailed from Longtown in Cumbria, was pregnant again, and would give birth the following year to another boy, called Robert after his father. Another daughter, Hannah, would be born in 1845, and a sixth, Anna, in 1854.

Robert senior was born in Langthwaite and had been in Barningham for at least ten years (all his children are recorded as being born here). The year after the census he became parish clerk and sexton, jobs which he continued to do for the rest of his life.

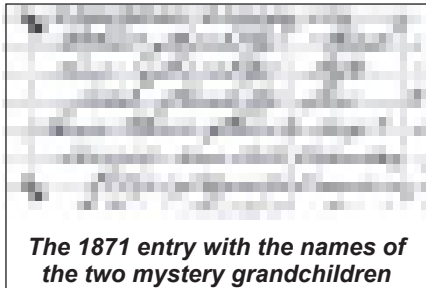
He seems to have given up as an innkeeper within the next few years: by 1851 he and his wife are recorded as tailors, with Robert junior their apprentice. John was working as a farm labourer. Martha, Mary and Betsy were not at home; neither was their mother. By 1861 the Royal Oak was being run by the

Goldsbrough family. Where the Spenceleys moved to is uncertain, but by then Martha, Mary, Betsy and Margaret had left home.

Robert junior remained, but died in 1863, aged only 21. (He is buried in Barningham, Memorial No.89 – the surname on the gravestone is spelt Spensley – with his parents and John, who died in 1880, aged 48).

By 1871 Hannah had moved out. John was still living with his parents, unmarried and described as a news agent; Anna was there too, now 18 and calling herself Anne Marie. And there were two newcomers: grandchildren called Louisa Ann and Robert.

Who their parents are is a mystery. Louisa Ann was seven; her surname was Dods and she was born in Plumstead, London. Robert was a baby, just ten months old, and his surname is recorded as Spensley, which suggests



The 1871 entry with the names of the two mystery grandchildren

LETTERS & EMAILS

Has anyone got a churches guide?

THANKS for the copies of the *Archive*. I've been browsing through them and in so doing realised that there is quite a lot of information on the Brignall/Barningham area in the Teesdale Record Society (TRS) Journals from the 1930s and 1940s. For example, there is a piece on Thomas Binks.

I'm not sure if your group was aware of these pieces, many written by the Rev William Oliver who was a founder member of the TRS.

I tried to find a photograph of him to include in the new TRS book but was unsuccessful. If any member of your group has any information on the Rev Oliver's publications, perhaps they might solve the mystery of whether the short guides to the local churches (such as Brignall) published during the war years were ever published in a fuller account after the war as the reverend gentleman promised.

With regard to the early TRS journals, many are out of print, but we still have some of the last issues around 1943 in stock. For any others, I can provide photocopies or digital scans of the appropriate pages.

For the contents list, see the TRS website www.teesdalerecordssociety.org.uk/journals.

BILL HEYES

Hon Treasurer, Teesdale Record Society
(The book Bill refers to is A Teesdale Directory, just published by the TRS. It's an excellent list of all known publications relevant to Teesdale historical research, and we've got a copy which BLHG members can borrow. If you want one of your own, it costs £20 and can be ordered from Bill or via the website. – Ed)

Search for Jameses

SHOULD the History Group unearth any connections with the James family, I'd be very interested to know.

The names Wa & Cl James are on our date plaque, but my brief and untutored investigations haven't revealed anything – however

I wonder if there is a village connection to the James family of Richmond (St. Nicholas/Easby and all that). Just a thought.

LIS AIREY

Virginia Cottage, Barningham

(There are a couple of Jameses in the churchyard, buried in the 1790s, which Lis is investigating. And there are Jameses today in Newsham. – Ed)

The fish was Irish

IN response to the note on 'the fish in the glass case' (*Archive 2*), this was caught by Canon Gough (Rector of Barningham 1889-1925) whilst on holiday in Ireland (not Scotland).

ROBIN BROOKS

Park View, Barningham

Leonards connect

THANK you for sending the booklet and other useful info.

My great grandfather Thomas Leonard, was born at Barningham about 1837 and appeared on later census at West Layton.

The letter you received on the same day as mine is from my brother James Leonard! He gave me the info about the booklets.

We were born at Newsham at the home of our grandparents William and Elizabeth Fletcher, they are buried at Barningham.

Our aunt Mary also lies in the churchyard. Our parents, John and Caroline Leonard lived at Gayles from 1938 until 1953 when we all moved to Wensley.

Once again, Thank you. Happy Christmas and the best of New Year wishes to you and your group.

JOAN FOSTER

Norton-on-Tees

Wheelwright hunt

MY maternal grandmother was an Atkinson of Barningham. Her father was a wheelwright and carpenter and I believe had a workshop in the village at the end of the 19th century.

I would be very interested to know if your group has any information about the fam-

FAMILY TREES

Why did Bert's mum have Hawsteads will?

WHEN Bert Travis went through his mother's papers after she died in 1948 he found a copy of a will made by William Coates of Hawsteads before he died in 1883 and the fly-leaf of the Coates' family Bible.

"I'd love to know what the family connection was," says Bert, whose mother Mary was an Alderson distantly **Bert's grandfather John Alderson, born 1845** to those who have farmed at Hilltop, Barningham, since the early 1800s.

Bert, from Northallerton, has tracked the family link back to Christopher Alderson, born in the mid-1700s. His son David was born in Bowes in 1777 and among his four children was another David who married Margaret Bainbridge in 1838 and moved to Barningham.

They too had four children. The eldest, Margaret (1841-1918), married Robert Lodge of Eastwood House farm and raised ten children there.

Second was John (1845-1925) who married Elizabeth Holliday of Newsham and was Bert's grandfather. Third was Thomas (1849-1923), who died unmarried. Last came David Slack Alderson (1852-1926) who took over at Hilltop and was the grandfather of George, who lives there today. (More details were in *Archive 1*).

The will Bert found shows William Coates left all his estate – £2,530, a hefty sum in those days – to his wife Sarah, who had been born Sarah Jobson in London in 1845. She died in 1903.

The page from the family Bible lists the Coates' children and unravels family links not found in the Barningham census (Hawsteads seems to have been dealt with as part of Newsham).

William and Sarah, who lived at Earby Lodge before moving across to Hawsteads in 1878, had four children, three of whom died very young and a fourth, Ella, who died unmarried of double pneumonia at the age of 34. All are buried together in Barningham churchyard. What had they to do with the Aldersons? Do tell us if you find out.



NOTES FROM THE VES-

The inadequate bull

WE'VE been going through the old Vestry minutes and found some intriguing items that we'll publish over the coming months. Here's the first, a letter to Barningham farmer George Sowerby in March 1878:

Sir;

At the Vestry Meeting held on Saturday the 9th inst, the Committee appointed to inspect the Parish Property being requested to examine the Parish Bull and report thereon, have desired me to inform you that the said Bull is not up to the standard required; they therefore require a bull of a larger size, & superior breed, and upon such a bull being obtained and passed by the said committee, the charge in future, will be 3 shillings per cow, instead of 2 shillings as at present.

A reply will oblige.

Yours truly,

JOHN SPENSLEY, Assistant Overseer

In March 1881 they were still arguing about the price of the bull's services. They took a vote, which ended up split, seven on each side. The chairman gave the casting vote but then there was an objection that two of the voters were not actually ratepayers at the time. So the price of the bull's services remained at two shillings, provided that the money was paid at the time.

KAY DUGGAN

CENSUS 1841

he might well have been illegitimate.

On February 18 1878 Robert senior died (a note in the burials register says simply that "he dropped down dead on Monday"). His wife survived for the 1881 census, when she was living with Anne, still unmarried and described as a tea dealer. Young Robert was there, too, which adds to the theory that he was Anne's child.

Ann died two years later and by the time the 1891 census took place the remaining Spensleys had disappeared. We've no record of what happened to the girls. None are recorded in the burials register, though they may well have been buried under married names. Baby Robert lived to be 77, dying in the alms houses at Kirby Hill on March 19, 1948, 140 years after the birth of his grandfather, the first person on our 1841 census list.

Next – the other pub

THE second entry is Barningham's other inn, the Black Horse, halfway up the village. That's it pictured above right, just before it was closed in 1916.

The landlord here was Alexander Macdonald, one of no fewer than five people of that name who were buried in Barningham in the first half of the 19th century. One, age unknown, died in 1816 and another, a baby, died two years later. A third died aged 79 in 1837, and may well have been the 1841 landlord's father. The other one was the landlord's only child we know of, a boy of 14 in 1841.

There had been Macdonalds in the Black Horse for at least 18 years: one of the Alexanders was listed as a 'victualler' at the inn in Baine's Directory of 1823. We don't know whether this was the one who died in 1837 or



his son, the current landlord, who was born in Manfield in 1789, and living at the time of the census with his 53-year-old wife Eleanor and young Alexander.

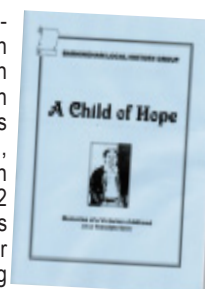
He was on his own within three years: Eleanor died in 1843 (recorded in the burials register as Ellen) and his son a year later. The widower was still running the pub in 1851, living alone but for a servant, his 19-year-old niece Hannah Lee. He died on January 3 1854.

Several other Macdonalds (and three McDonalds) are listed among those in Barningham churchyard. One, Margaret, who died aged 69 in 1835, might well be his mother.

Next issue: who's next on the list: a cordwainer, a schoolmaster, the rector, a lot of Wilkinsons and some Heslops.

Growing up in Victorian Tees-

The childhood memories of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847. It includes much detail about families living in Barningham, Scargill and Hope in mid-Victorian days. 32 pages, family tree. £2 (or more if you're feeling generous) towards group



Barningham draws an Old Bailey blank

THE Old Bailey has put every trial ever held there on its website, and the temptation to search for references to people from Barningham was irresistible. But in vain: not once has the village earned the briefest mention. The Milbank family, on the other hand, appears many times. Not, we hasten to add, to face criminal trials but because they spent a lot of their time in the nineteenth century battling over wills and property in the civil courts. If you want to know more, the website is www.oldbaileyonline.org.



Delivering the Sunday joint Johnny Bainbridge with his butcher's cart outside The Yews, pictured around 1900. He lived at The Terrace; his father Thomas had Manor House Farm. Their slaughterhouse was in what is now the garden at Braeside.



Now that's what we call being snowed in!

Barningham House corner early in 1979 after the worst blizzards for years. Neil Turner and Phillip Buxton battle their way back to the pub.

● If you can add details about any of the pictures in the Archive, please let us know.

And if you have old photographs of Barningham and its people in the past, we'll be happy to feature them here.

Contact
Jon Smith
or Kay
Duggan



Off to meet the Queen Mum

*It's the big Millbank wedding in 1970 and waiting at Darlington station for their train to London are Barningham Hall staff and estate workers who have been invited along. The wedding was at St Margaret's, Westminster, with a reception at St James Palace where guests met the Queen Mother.
Back: Mr and Mrs Coutes, L Wardle, Raymond Johnson, George Goodall, Les Ridley, Ethel Bulmer. Front: Tom Gill, Mrs Cuthbertson, Nan Maughan, Edith ? (housekeeper), Mr and Mrs Preston.*



Maidens to bowl you over

Barningham's Ladies Cricket Team, 1929. Jenny Lowes and Mrs Lowes are back row, centre; Annie Bainbridge (daughter of butcher John) is the second girl on the left. Anyone name the rest?