

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: Barningham, 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 1 & 2: DVDs of cine film of Barningham in the 1960/70s. £10 each + £1.50 p&p

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

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

news

Electoral lists now available

THE history group has transcribed the electoral rolls for Barningham and Hope for the years 1920, 1925, 1930, 1935, 1939 and 1950.

This gives us a fairly complete list of everyone living here between the wars – and where most of them lived, the first time we've had this information as census returns aren't available after 1911.

The list is available on our website as an Excel document, or Jon Smith can email it to you. He plans to return to the North Riding county records office to extend the list to cover Scargill and Newsham – offers of help welcome!

Romans halt spa plans

BUILDING work on a new spa at the Morritt Arms at Greta Bridge was brought to a standstill after workmen started digging up Roman pottery and other remains.

Archaeologists were brought in to survey the site before work was allowed to continue.

The Morritt stands on the site of a Roman civilian settlement that grew up beside the nearby fort. The latest finds will go on display in the inn.

Kilns latest

THE weather hasn't been kind to the lime kilns restoration project, but work has almost finished and Ed Milbank hopes they'll be ready for an opening ceremony before Christmas.

Date and time will be publicised when known.



Archive 30

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

xii
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INSIDE: THE FARMER'S LAD'S CURIOUS INHERITANCE



Landlady Ada Cole and child outside Smallways Inn around 1920, when the A66 still ran just yards from the front door. And the motorbike? See Page 3.

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HISTORY GROUP CHRISTMAS MEETING: TUESDAY DECEMBER 18th 6pm



cover story

Make and date?

THE registration number on the motorbike outside Smallways Inn in the front page picture is RM 7535, which as far as we can work out is a Cumberland registration issued some time between 1920 and 1933.

Can anybody identify the make of bike and make a more accurate guess as to date?



The Archive

THIS is a bonus *Archive*, produced in-between group meetings, to let us wrap up the year, publish the index for issues 1-30, and (sorry!) include a reminder that subs are due for 2013.

We hope you've enjoyed getting the *Archive* over the past 12 months and want to see it again next year.

The subscription remains the same as before, despite some rising costs, though the soaring cost of stamps means we have had to raise the postage charge a little for those who get their copies by mail. We hope you still think it's good value.

We're always interested to hear what you think of our newsletter, and welcome any suggestions for improvements. Meanwhile, a merry Christmas to you all and the very best wishes for the New Year.

JON SMITH

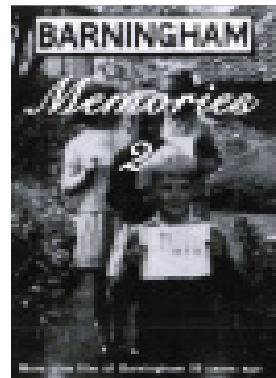
More of our memories put on disc

A SECOND DVD of cine film taken in Barningham during the 1960s and 1970s is now available from the history group.

The hour-long full-colour DVD includes local weddings, church fetes and sports days, hunt visits, WI jubilee celebrations, a young farmers' fancy dress parade, scenes of children at play, and even film of the day a glider crashed in the village.

The original cine film was taken by Mrs Millie Cuthbertson, who lived at Granville in the village 50 years ago. It was unearthed by her son Malcolm, who now lives in Darlington and offered it to us for conversation and editing.

Among the hundreds of faces from the past to be seen are those of many people still alive today. Families shown include Anderson, Atherton, Atkinson, Barker, Bellwood,



Blades, Bousfield, Brass, Bray, Carter, Clark, Cobham, Couchman, Cowell, Cuthbertson, Etherington, Kitching, Lawson, Lee, Lowes, Madrell, Maughan, Metcalf, Milbank, Moore, Nicholson, Powell, Smith, Swainston, Thompson, Turner, Walker, Walton and Watson.

Copies of *Barningham Memories 2* can be obtained from Eric Duggan at Braeside, Barningham, Richmond DL11 7DW (01833 621455), email erickayd@gmail.com, price £10 (£8 to history group members) plus £1.50 p&p.



The Archive

Barningham Local History Group, Heath House, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorks DL11 7DU
Tel: 01833 621374 email: history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk website: www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

Copies of The Archive, the BLHG newsletter, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2013). Back issues can be purchased for £2 each (see index on our website).

dalton 1945

have changed little over the centuries.

Some of them will make interesting study for Place Name Societies. High on the hills are Dousgill and Crumma, excellent sheep farms. There's Duns Bank, Dalton Grange, Browson Baks, Throstle Gill Farm, Dalton Fields, and many others.

Where the population is so small the wonder is expressed that the community can do much beyond its separate occupations; but it mostly finds things to do apart from those.

A stranger may wonder even that the farm lands are cultivated as they are; he may see the men who manage that, assembled on some occasion or another, and it will seem to him that this little group of villagers, not all of them giants or even robust and potent in appearance, keeps so many acres and so many animals in order. Besides that they find time and vigour for their cricket and sports, and then see to it that their choir and social clubs and local councils continue from generation to generation.

Glancing back as we said farewell to Dalton, we cannot help repress a sigh of happiness that we have not yet reformed our country utterly.

I am afraid the latest regulations may disenchant the scene of this and other beautiful places. What we have to do, and a new spirit will surely find the means, is to continue it, while we improve the material conditions within it.

• Next issue: the 1945 rambler visits Gayles.

Rembrandt from Rokeby is sent for auction

From the *Teesdale Mercury* of July 28 1937:

THE *Daily Telegraph* states that a very fine drawing by Rembrandt of 'Christ and the Woman of Samaria at the Well' has been found at Rokeby, and has been sent by the owner, Major H. E. Morritt, to Christie's for sale.

Rokeby will always remain famous in art chronicles, for it used to house the magnificent *Venus* by Velazquez, which was bought for the nation for £45,000 in 1906.

This Rembrandt drawing, 71 in by 11 in, is in pen and bistre, with a slight use of white, and was once in the collection of Sir Joshua Reynolds, who possessed many masterly sketches by Rembrandt.

The Malcolm collection, bought for the British Museum in 1895 for £25,000, contains a drawing of the same subject, which, however, is stated to be a copy after a Rembrandt drawing, the original being unknown.

This obviously indicates that the British Museum is the natural home for this Rokeby original, which has for many

cuttings

years helped to adorn the walls of the library at Rokeby.

• We've been unable to find any record of what the drawing made at auction. — Ed.

Adventure with an adder

From the *Teesdale Mercury* of May 30 1934:

TWO Barningham boys had an alarming experience on their way home from school.

They saw an adder on the footpath in the narrow passage to Barker's Garth, only a few yards from the village street, and it attacked the younger boy's legs, but fortunately the elder boy, Bobby Smith of Banks Farm, kicked it off before it did any injury, and it disappeared into a wall.

The boys then procured some hay and set fire to it near the wall, and soon the fumes forced it out. It was in a dazed condition, and the boys, armed with sticks, ended its career.

Miss Todd's country tale

From the *Teesdale Mercury* of May 19 1909:

COUNTRY or rural tales and stories are always the most readable and enjoyable, and *A Tale for Tails* from the pen of Miss Todd, of Barningham, which appeared in the *Sunday School Times* for May, is most attractive and interesting.

The story is partly founded upon fact, and, having pointed references to the capture of wild game, will be read with interest, not only by game-keepers but by all lovers of country life.

old ads

FOUND, a BEAST. Owner can have fame by paying expenfef. If not claimed within 14 dayf will be fold. -- Apply, The Hawfteadf, Barningham.

Teesdale Mercury, 1895

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that J. G. Brown, Sanderf Houfe, will not be anfwerable for any Debtf incurred by hif Wife, Margaret Brown, after thif date.

Teesdale Mercury, 1901

dalton 1945

who is now the oldest resident, being in her 87th year. She has just succeeded to the honour since the passing two months ago of Mr Chilton. Longevity is born of the village. George Hutchinson is well into his seventies. He is a veteran of the soil, having spent a lifetime on the land – hedging, walling, ditching and thatching. He has now retired, but methinks he will go on, for the tasks of his life are inseparably intertwined with the world around him.

The school is breaking, and for a brief time the village is thronged with its rising generation. Let us look at the school. It is a fine building of stone, and recently a cook-house has been built on to it to supply meals for the scholars. This march of progress forcibly reminds us of twenty years ago when we went to school with cold tea in tin bottle to be heated on the stove top into palatable lukewarmness.

Outside the school the yards are of clay and cobbles, leaving much to be desired. Why don't the managers try to improve things? One for the local brains trust! The school is at present the only social centre where meetings can be held, but about a year ago a fund was started to build a village hall. To date the substantial sum of £360 has been raised, and a local landowner has given a site for same.

There is a Methodist Chapel at Dalton, where services have been held for generations. There is also a shop and post office ably run by Miss Alice Hodgson. The village has one inn, The Bay Horse, kept by Mr James Coates. The Greyhound is no more, and its last

The bard of Dalton Beck

THE Mercury's rambling correspondent was much taken by a local poet called Isaac Braithwaite, and quoted one of his poems. What, he asked, was more beautiful than this?

*The murmuring beck 'neath Dalton bridge
Winds on away and down,
It curves out mony a bonnie mile
Away by Dalton Town.
It comes away by Isaac's mill,
Away from Norman's gill,
By whin and ash and willow,
It winds just as it will.
And there upon its grassy bank
You may listen to its story
And watch the whin in springtime
Break out in golden glory.
In the silent beauty of the night,
When stars gleam brightly down,
You may hear the sighing willow
By the edge of Dalton Town.
The wee bit crimson modest daisy
Loves her bed beside the stream;
For the sunshine glows upon her
As on lovers in a dream.*

ISAAC Braithwaite (1892-1953) lived in Castle Cottage, Dalton. The son of a farmer, he went to Cambridge University, fought in the first world war and became a teacher before returning home when his father died in 1934. He seems to have spent the rest of his life doing odd jobs in the area.

He was a pioneering enthusiast of organic farming and a staunch socialist (he took part in the Jarrow March) who made a name for himself as a philosopher and poet. He was described at his funeral as a man renowned for his "very strong love of social justice, his humanity, and his strong affection for the simple things of life." His daughter Hazel Hamilton lives in Jasmine Cottage, Dalton.

landlady, Mrs Merryweather, lives in a charming cottage in the village.

On the village green is a little red tiled chapel re-built in 1899. The village possesses a blacksmith's shop, but it has been closed for about 35 years. The last smith was Mr Willie Brown. In an agricultural centre like Dalton it is indeed a blow to lose the smithy, but it is the result of mechanisation on the farm. There is a strong Women's Institute in the village, with Mrs Lowes, JP, as its president, and for the young folk there is a very

active Young Farmers' Club, with Sir Frederick Milbank as its president.

Dalton village possessed a peculiar charity in which there was a garth left, the tenant thereof having to provide a grindstone for the use of the villagers to sharpen their tools (especially scythes, when they were chiefly used for hand mowing the fields). The field is known as Grindstone Garth, but unfortunately the charity has been lost to the village people. Many well-known farmers have their acres near Dalton, and the farm names

Frances and the dwindling fortune

WHO do you suppose was the richest resident sitting down for Christmas dinner in Barningham 100 years ago this month?

Discount the Milbanks. They didn't move here on a permanent basis until six or seven years later, and would have been celebrating the festive season at their main residence, Thorpe Perrow.

The cheese-mongering Todds, builders of Fairview? Already in decline, in numbers and fortune. The rector? Well-enough off to spend months at a time wandering round the world on hunting and shooting expeditions, but not really what you'd call rich.

Step forward Frances Mary McCulloch, a 55-year-old spinster living alone (but for a servant or two) at Heath House. Tucked away in her bank account was the equivalent of about £3,500,000 in today's money.

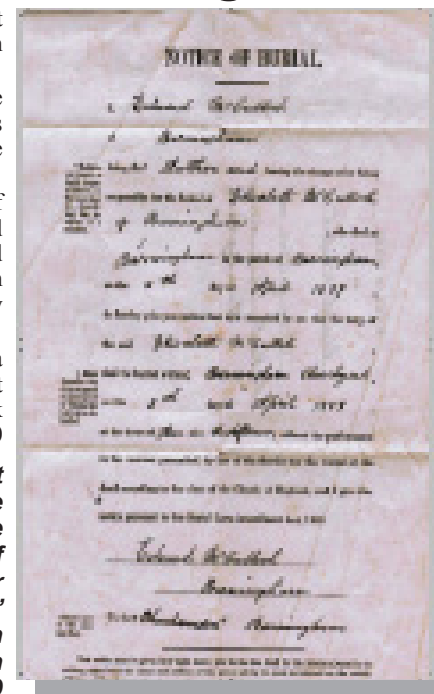
She'd inherited it the previous May upon the death of her father Francis, and by the time she followed him into Barningham churchyard 23 years later she'd managed to spend about £3,000,000 of it. That works out at about £130,000 a year, which suggests she was either very fond of the good life or made some very bad investments.

We know about her thanks to Ian Beckwith of Church Stretton in Shropshire, who wrote to the history group asking if we knew anything about the McCullochs (or McCullochs – they spelt it both ways).

"In 1911 Miss McCulloch owned a house, 75 Pulteney Road, Wanstead in Essex," he explained. "Twenty-four years later my newly-married parents moved into this house and a year later, in April 1936, I was born there. I'd like to know more about her."

In 1851 Frances' father Francis was one of two young McCulloch brothers in their early twenties lodging at the Barningham Academy. Whether they'd previously been at

Fragment from the past: the notice of burial for Frances' cousin Elisabeth in 1889



letters & emails

the school as pupils we don't know. They came from London, and both were described as annuitants – ie, they had private means – and came from a family with extensive interests in the iron-building business in Cumbria and on Teesside.

Within a few months Francis had married a girl from East Layton called Anne – it could be that the impending marriage was the reason for the brothers staying in Barningham – and the couple returned to London where their only child, Frances, was born in 1853.

They came back to Barningham in the 1860s, and by 1871 were living in Heath House,

rented, we think, from the Milbanks who had probably owned it since the 1850s (see *Archive 4*). Frances' mother died in 1899, her father in 1912, when she, unmarried, inherited his fortune.

Meanwhile, in the 1880s Francis' brother Edward, an ironmaster from Tyneside and a Methodist preacher, had moved into the house next door (now The Nook) which was owned by the Wesleyans and used by them to house their local minister. He had married a girl from Workington and they raised a family here. One daughter, Elisabeth, died in 1889: her burial notice is among ephemera held by the history group.

Edward's family seems to

letters & emails

have left Barningham by the 1920s and it's unclear how much time Frances spent here after her father's death. She doesn't appear on any of the electoral rolls we've seen thereafter. From the 1920s Heath House was divided and let out to other tenants. But she was still linked with the village: her name crops up from time to time in the *Teesdale Mercury*, usually among lists of people who gave presents at prominent local weddings (she gave an ashtray when Mark Milbank was married in 1930, for example). In January 1928 the paper recorded that Frances, "who is much respected in Barningham, especially among the old inhabitants, has generously distributed packets of tea to the aged people, a custom she and her family have observed for over half a century."

She died, aged 82, in 1935 in a plush hotel in Hyde Park, London: whether she had gone to live there permanently in her old age we don't know, but her body was brought back for burial in Barningham.

How and when Frances came to have the Wanstead property we don't know: she certainly owned it before her father died.

"I reckon that Pulteney Road was a development of the mid-1880s, when Miss McC was in her teens, so she's unlikely to



You may not believe this...

WE used the photo above in the last *Archive* to illustrate our 'Lest We Forget' feature on World War One victims.

We chose it at random from thousands available – and were astonished when history goup member John Marriner of Middlesbrough sent us an email asking: "Do you realise the photo links back to Barningham?"

The arrowed soldier, he says, is Charles Marriner, who lived in Scarborough but could trace his ancestry back to the Marriner family who arrived in Barningham around

have invested in a bit of speculative building on the outskirts of London," says Ian.

"The electoral registers for the period my parents lived there show that the house was always in multiple occupancy, with a quite rapid turnover of tenants. My parents moved out

1620 and stayed here until the early 1800s. His great-great-great-grandfather was John Marriner, buried at Barningham in 1795.

Charles was a gunner with the Royal Garrison Artillery and survived the war. He went on to run a garage and haulage company and became mayor of Scarborough shortly before he died in the 1960s.

The town's local paper quoted him saying in 1948: "Do you know where I was 30 years ago, lad? Running like hell from the Jerries!"

about 18 months after I was born, in December 1937."

Ian says he plans to get hold of a copy of Frances' will to see who inherited what was left of her fortune. His email is ian.beckwith@uwclub.net

● *While researching the McCullochs, we came across this newspaper item from 1925 which, although as far as we know has got nothing to do with the Barningham families, we couldn't resist reprinting: "Edward James McCulloch of Highbury, London, has died in hospital after swallowing his false teeth while bathing at Ramsgate."*

Name lived on – in a song

NEIL Turner recalls a children's skipping song recited in Barningham for years after Frances' death. It began:

*Miss McCulloch and Miss McDale
Went for a walk down Wensleydale
Now Miss McCulloch said to Miss McDale
By, you're looking very pale...*

Sadly he can't remember any more of it.

A rambler's glimpse of Dalton in 1945

The second of our excerpts from the Teesdale Mercury, reporting the travels of a local rambler round the villages of North Yorkshire in December 1945.

A SINGLE robin's fluting from the top of a cobbled wall, smoke curling lazily from grey stone cottages, two ducks waddling their way over the village green, a red-tiled church, and a farmer busy upon his daily toils. That was how we first saw Dalton village, chosen for our ramble amongst Yorkshire's villages this week.

We had just descended from George Maude's Barnard Castle – Richmond bus, and there to greet us was Robert Thompson. We were happy to meet Robert, because his love of the village and the country has made him a man beloved of the community.

His energy in village affairs had reached our ears, and we invited him to tell us something of the history and beauty of this little triangle of cottages that dated back to Anglo-Saxon times. He did.

Dalton, or Dalton Travers as it used to be called, nestles at the foot of elevated moorland. The township has an acreage of 2,648 acres. Some is woodland, but most of it is cultivated land. The village itself has beautiful surroundings, and Thros-tle Gill, one of its favourite walks, is in spring the children's delight with its bluebell carpet.

Children's voices in the cool hushed woodland; cowslips tasselling the dyke in their multitude; the tinkling Dalton beck; these things give us spring in December. These are the things that town dwellers remember when the tinsel of their own world is soiled.

Tell us a bit about the village, we urged our friend, and we were taken back fifty years to examine the village commu-



The Church of St James in Dalton, built in 1897

dalton 1945

nity then. How self-contained it was, relying for so little from the outside world.

First there was Thomas Alinson and William Cuthbertson, bootmakers, men who turned out the strong gamekeepers and farmers boots that today, except in rare instances, come from the town factory.

Then there was William Ridley and John Spencer, joiners, craftsmen of the old leaven, the makers of gate and fence and the majestic farm wagon.

No luxury automobiles of the present day are more richly dight than our rural farm gear, in their kingfisher dyes, and how well they fit into the quieter yellows of the haystack, and the faded rose and greys of the cottages and buildings.

Ralph Chilton, who just died recently after 90 summers, was the village flour dealer those 50 years ago. William Darwin was the corn miller, and served his farmer customers in grinding their corn. Jane Bousfield was shopkeeper, as also was Eliza-

beth Cleminson, but Elizabeth also did dressmaking, and we can well imagine that she would be a much sought after woman. Many Dalton brides will have seen their bridal ensemble take on beauty at the hands of this seamstress.

Miss Isabella White also kept a shop. Thompson Gargett kept the Bay Horse Inn and James Ellwood the Greyhound. Add the curate, the Rev. John Milner Walton (who looked after things spiritual), and Robert Wellbourne Arnott, village schoolmaster (who saw that the children learnt well their books), and you have the independent community that then existed.

Today times have changed in many respects; new faces replace loved ones who have gone on, but still there is much about the village to bring worshippers from the towns.

But enough of the past. Robert Thompson has much to tell us of the future. Coming down the village is Miss M. Bainbridge, of The Poplars,

From 1 to 621201: the telephone trail

ALEXANDER Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1875, and 50 years later there were more than a million and a half phones in Britain.

Only two of them were in Barningham.

There had been a telephone exchange in Barnard Castle since 1904, and five years later it had been linked to post offices in the dale, including the one in Barningham. It cost threepence to have a three-minute conversation with someone linked to the exchange in Barnard Castle, or you could send an 'express letter' – a form of telegram – to a non-subscriber at the rate of fivepence for 30 words.

It remained the only telephone in the village until after the first world war, when the Milbanks moved fulltime to the hall and decided to install a phone. The post office was Barningham 1; the Milbanks became Barningham 2.

Anyone else wanting to make a call did so from inside the post office, based in the village shop. It meant that conversations could be overheard by the postmistress and anyone else in the building, and eventually so many people protested at this invasion of their privacy that a phone box was installed outside. Permission to put it there was granted by Sir Frederick Milbank, on condition that it was forever painted green (see *Archive 2*).

By 1929 the total number of phones in use in the UK had risen to 1,643,000 (almost 24,000 of them in phone boxes), but only one more person in Barningham had decided to make the great technological leap forward.

Into the Middlesbrough and district phone directory, which covered most of County Durham and North Yorkshire, went the name of Dr George Thomson, 'physician and surgeon', who became Barningham 3.

However, the Barningham exchange covered more than just the village, and a further



the first phones

IF Barningham had had its own directory in 1939, this is what it would have listed:

BLACKLOCK Mrs A Gen dlr, Greta Br	206
COLE BROS Haulage Cntrs, Newsham	208
DALTON PO	216
DARWIN M & Sons Corn mchnts, Dalton	210
GRAHAM R H Gror & PO, B'ham	201
MAUDE James Haulage Cntr, Eastholme, Newsham	205
METCALFE T W Dalton Fields	207
MILBANK Sir F Barningham Park	202
NEWSHAM PO	204
NICHOLSON H Cattle Dlr, Arch Ho, N'm	209
RAMSDEN William Chick specialist, Broughton Ho Poultry Fm, Newsham	203
STAPLETON J W Bus Proptr, South View, Newsham	212
TELFORD T T The Anchorage, Dalton	215
THOMSON Geo Physcn, Surgn, Woodside, Barningham	200
TURNER S B The Milbank Arms, B'ham	213

four numbers were taken up during the 1920s. Barningham 4 went to George Ogden, who ran a grocery store in Newsham; Barningham 5 was the number for the Morritt Arms; Barningham 7 went to the Teesdale Car Company, who had a garage at Greta Bridge. There must have been a Barn-



ingham 6, and we searched high and low through old phone directories and the *Teesdale Mercury* archive before it dawned on us it was almost certainly the number allocated to the green phone box.

The number of subscribers rose during the 1930s to a total of 15 at the outbreak of war in 1939. By then numbers had been changed by adding 20 to the original figure, so Barningham 1 became 201, 2 became 202, and so on.

Numbers got bigger with the introduction of direct dialling during the 1970s, when Barningham numbers added the prefix 21 (so that 201 became 21201) and were absorbed into the Teesdale exchange.

A decade or so later they added a further prefix 6, making the post office's original Barningham 1 today's Teesdale 621201.

Mercury web link had me crying over my laptop

I JUST want to say a huge "thank you" for the link to the Teesdale Mercury website. Within an hour of the arrival of the *Archive*, the tears were falling into my laptop.

I found many references to my great-grandfather John Cameron – which was not surprising as he was superintendant of police in Barney and a councillor, which I did not know. It was heartwarming to read that he was a great father as I had assumed he was very severe, being an older father and then a widower with little girls.

After his death one of his fellow councillors was reported as saying that he was a very caring father. The girls were left orphans and went to live at Wilson House in Barningham with their Atkinson cousins (see *Archives 13 & 14*).

My daughter was a very gifted musician from an early age. My husband and I can't play a note, though we both love music. The photo of the Cameron girls you printed revealed that she was very like my grandmother to look at – and now in the *Mercury* archive I find that grandma was a brilliant musician from an early age.

I also noted that as teenagers

letters & emails

she and her older sister Ada Cameron used to teach the little ones at their church in about 1912. This reinforces what an ex-Barningham resident told me – that all the children loved going to Ada Cameron's cottage in the village (*She lived at Park View in the 1930s* – Ed.)

She married Robert Kellett of Langleydale at the age of 40. A year later she produced a son, William Cameron Kellett who died at Copley this February. We went to the funeral and as a result became friends with his paternal Kellett cousins.

I had always thought that I had no close relatives in England. I knew of a cousin from my grandmother Ethel's



John Cameron in 1910 with daughters Ada and Ethel

marriage in 1922, but it turned out that I have seven or eight cousins from her son and two daughters. Sadly they are not sharing information so you can see how very delighted I am to learn about my great-grandmother as a young woman. The best 65th birthday present I could have wished for!

I would appreciate some help to untangle the Lee families in Teesdale. To make a start, I wonder if you could help me find the father of John Lee born in Barningham in 1829, father of Emily Dent Lee, William Kellett's grandmother.

I would like to appeal for a male Cameron with a Teesdale pedigree to take a DNA test which I would pay for. It is our only hope of finding where in Scotland they came from. The last Camerons were driven out of Teesdale with the flooding of the reservoirs, as I understand it, and would also appreciate any thoughts on this.

DANI MILES, Havant, Hampshire
wrynose47@gmail.com

Another Marriner gets in touch

I WAS most pleased to come across your society on the internet when seeking information on Barningham. I was most impressed by the family history publications you sent me and all the hard work which has obviously gone into their compilation.

I was very pleased to find the entry for the banns of marriage relating to Thomas Douglass of Arkengarthdale and Margery Marriner of Barningham (my 5x gt-grandparents) who married at Arkengarthdale on 25th August 1764.

I will be most grateful if you can put me in touch with others who have Marriner/ Marriner family connections.

ELAINE QUESTA, Burnholme, York

● We've put Elaine in contact with our two Marriner members.

Academy schoolmaster fought in the US Civil War

WOW!! What a treasure trove of information you put me onto with the *Teesdale Mercury* archive. So exciting to see family history breaking open like this.

I found the most amazing stuff in the archives: that my great-great-grandfather, John Bakewell Rosser, advertised in the paper as an architect and surveyor, and was also assistant master of Barningham Academy under Mr Gough, who was the principal.

He was also quite artistic. There's a wonderful piece on him in the February 9 1870 issue and in a report of penny readings in the December 7 issue that year he was complimented for the "heartiness of Mr Rosser in the song of *My Old Wife and I*."

I also discovered that his sister Jane Eliza opened a boarding and day school for "young ladies" in Barningham.

A memorial to his father James, appeared in the paper after his death in 1870.

I've been doing more re-

letters & emails

search on John Bakewell Rosser, and have found that he was here in America in 1860 and fought in the Civil War under the alias Thomas Fisher. He enlisted in the Maine 15th Volunteer regiment, taking Fisher's place, and saw combat in Florida and New Orleans.

Then he went back to England, probably around 1864, ending up in Barningham with his wife and two daughters, staying with his father the Rev. James Rosser.

John Bakewell was a real runaway kind of guy, as he came back to the States in 1883 and then left again for England in about 1900, leaving his wife again. She is buried in York, Pennsylvania, and he is buried in Macclesfield.

Can't wait to spend more time in Barningham and the area!

ANNE HAGEN
Connecticut, USA

● Anne visited us in 2011 – see Archive 25.

Gt-grandfather's pig problems

WHAT a fantastic resource the *Mercury* online archive is. So far, I have found various references to my great-grandfather Peter Gill, who lived in King Street, Barnard Castle, keeping pigs, which were the source of nuisance and came to the notice of the Board of Health.

In fact I see that the Board of Health take up many column inches in the *Teesdale Mercury*. There are wonderful descriptions of the houses, their yards, sewers, etc in Queen Street and King Street, and some cases of typhoid in the several editions between 1875 and 1884 all mention my pig-keeping great-grandfather.

I wonder if he was made to leave, because shortly after this he took a farm on the Raby estate at Staindrop. Thanks for helping to get this online. I have much, much more to discover, I know.

MARION MOVERLEY, Richmond
moverley.lyons@virgin.net

Cup and ring stones part of film project

YOUR members might be interested in a film project I am working on, based on the cup and ring marked stones on Barningham Moor.

This would be a fine art film, which could involve archaeologists, dancers, musicians and story-tellers. In the film I hope to establish a sense of connection with our shared heritage, considering the humanity of the makers of the stones and their connection with the landscape we now inhabit. If anyone is interested, please get in touch.

BRIGHID MULLEY

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Poet's link to the balloonist

THE online *Teesdale Mercury* archive has re-ignited my interest in Crauford Townshend Bowen (the Victorian balloonist from Teesdale featured in Archive 16).

I found some interesting bits about him, including a lecture he gave on 'the moon'.

I then went off in search of more information about his father, Jeremiah Bowen, and it appears that the Townshend originates from his friendship with Chauncey Hare Townshend, a 19th century poet and clergyman, who was very probably Crauford's godfather.

He withdrew his patronage when Crauford decided to marry Hannah Tate, a labourer's daughter, a marriage which Chauncey actively opposed.

SALLY RIDGWAY
The Laurels, Barningham

mystery bequest

in Barningham churchyard. We wonder whether she had any idea what was in Sussex's will, not published until the following December.

We wonder, too, whether her husband Robson got wind of the legacy and foresaw gossip about whether he'd been cuckolded by Sussex, because six months later, in November 1887, he suddenly decided to leave Park House and put everything up for auction – all the household contents, farming stock, hay and equipment.

The following March he was in court for stealing the keys to Barnard Castle town hall, opening its gates and "performing antics" inside. It sounds as if he was drunk at the time, and it wasn't the first time he'd been before the magistrates.

In 1882 he was involved in a fight in the Blue Bell inn in Barnard Castle, when he and a drinking companion Richard Pearson were plying a woman with drink and decided to take on three soldiers who wanted to join in (Pearson ended up being hit over the head with an iron spittoon: his assailant got four months' hard labour).

On other occasions Robson was before the magistrates for stealing a sheepdog and failing to send his children to school.

Six months after he left Park House, Robson was summoned before the Greta Bridge magistrates to explain why he hadn't paid £2 3s 10d rates still ow-

ing on the farm. His solicitor (confusingly called Mr Barningham) said his client "had neither stick nor stone" with which to pay, but in any case it was ultimately the responsibility of the landlord, Sir Frederick Milbank. The magistrates disagreed and ordered Robson to pay up.

Sir Frederick was much embarrassed by all this, so much so that he wrote to the *Teesdale Mercury* saying that normally he would have paid the rates. However, as Robson had been seen spending "considerable sums of money in Barningham and other places" after the farm sale, he, Sir Frederick, assumed the rates had been paid. He was prepared to pay them himself, even though Robson still owed him a large sum in rent.

We're not sure who paid up in the end. Robson appears to have left the area, ending up in Sunderland where he died a year later, in July 1889, aged 45.

His younger children were taken in by their uncle James Coates, who farmed at Caldwell. Thomas, his fortune by then a matter of public knowledge, had started work as a footman at Thorpe Perrow.

We think he must have eventually claimed his inheritance: there's certainly no record of Barningham's schoolchildren getting it instead.

from the parish mag

90 YEARS AGO: There has passed away a beloved parishioner, Mrs Hind of Newsham, at the advanced age of 89. She was the widow of Robert Hind, a churchwarden for about 30 years, of whom there will always be an attractive reminder in the very pretty iron gates at the entrance to the Church walk, which were made by him. – December 1922

80 YEARS AGO: Our annual Toy Service will be on December 18. All kinds of gifts suitable for children, such as toys, clothes, books, sweets, etc, will be welcome. This year we are sending things to a poor parish in Leeds.

– December 1932

70 YEARS AGO: We rang a bell, flew the flag and had a special service to mark the Battle of Egypt. The victory had a tonic effect and we are grateful to our excellent leaders and men who provided us with this opportunity to lift up our hearts after so many grey days. – December 1942

20 YEARS AGO: The WI annual meeting was opened by members singing Jerusalem. Mrs Pam Stephenson was voted President. The Rose Bowl for most competition points was won by Mrs Felicity Thompson, the runner-up being Mrs Betty Clayton, who won the mystery prize. – December 1992

Tracked down: Landlords at the Dun Cow

TRAWLING through electoral rolls for the inter-war years, we've identified landlords at the Dun Cow, then Newsham's only pub, and answered questions raised in previous *Archives*.

Running the inn in 1920 were John and Alice Allen, who were there until at least 1925. They were followed by Matthew George Carter and

his wife Margaret Jane, whose names appear on the 1930 roll. In 1935 the pub was in the hands of Joseph Butler, who lived there with his wife Sarah and daughter Sylvia, and at the outbreak of war in 1939 the landlord and landlady were George William and Edith Margaret Patterson.

Sussex's legacy: a fortune, a watch, and a mystery

JON SMITH tries to unravel the secrets of Sussex Milbank's will

SUSSEX Milbank left £12,167 in his will – about £1 million in today's money – and some intriguing questions.

Among his legacies was one to the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, to whom he bequeathed “a Royal watch of curious make and with revolving face,” given to Sussex by his godfather, the late Duke of Sussex. Only two of these, made in Germany by Bushman in about 1710, are known to exist. One – presumably the one Sussex owned – is in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The other was sold at auction earlier this year for £8,000.

The Prince also inherited a long turquoise chain, given by Queen Marie Antoinette in 1786 to Sussex's grandfather, the late Duke of Cleveland.

Other bequests included Sussex's military albums, including one that had belonged to the Austrian Emperor, which were left to the officers of the 2nd Life Guards. The rest of Sussex's estate went to his nephew Powlett – apart from one bequest that raised eyebrows among all who read it.

A fifth of the money, £2,000 (about £200,000 today), was placed in a trust, the income from which was to be spent “for the benefit of Thomas Coates, of Barningham, until he shall attain the age of 38 years”, whereupon he would inherit the whole amount on condition that he had enlisted at the age of 18 in the 2nd Life Guards, the Royal Horse Artillery or the North Yorkshire Regiment. If he failed to do this, he would sacrifice his inheritance, and the money would go towards



mystery bequest



The £8,000 pocket watch

the higher education of Barningham schoolchildren instead.

Who was Thomas Coates? The only person who fits the bill was a boy aged 13 at the time of Sussex's death, the son of George Robson Coates whose family had tenanted Park House from the Milbanks for at least 40 years.

Thomas was the fifth child of Robson – he always went by his second name – and his wife Margaret: he had two sisters, Rebecca and Juliet, and five brothers, John, James, Isaac, George and Herbert. What they all made of this astonishing bequest to young Thomas is unknown, but speculation must have been rife among not only the Coates family but the rest of the village as well.

It must have raised a few questions, too, among the Milbanks, not least from Powlett who as his late uncle's executor had to supervise the boy's

The 5th Lancers in action in 1900: was Thomas Coates among them?

future. It's hard to believe he didn't make a few discreet inquiries about what relationship might have existed between Sussex and the child who inherited so much of his estate.

Powlett took Thomas under his wing, and in 1891 the boy was working as a footman at the Milbanks' main residence, Thorpe Perrow. The year after that he reached the age of 18.

Did he enlist in the army, as the bequest demanded? We're not certain, but we've found evidence of a Thomas Coates of about the same age belonging to the 17th Lancers in South Africa during the Boer War, and in 1914 a Thomas Coates, recorded as a 38-year-old Barningham-born farmer who had served with the 5th Lancers for a period up to 1902, went to Leeds to enlist as a special reservist in the army.

If that was him, that would have been the year he collected his fortune. We've no idea whether he did.

We do, however, know something about what happened to the Coates family after Sussex's death on April 10 1887. Only 16 days later Thomas's mother Margaret died at Park House, aged 45 and was buried

From model farm to Monte Carlo

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

SUSSEX Milbank's later diaries have unfortunately not survived, but there are numerous newspaper articles giving an insight into his later life.

He became an enthusiastic agriculturalist whose ideas and opinions on farming were much respected, and threw himself into a project to build a model farm at Hawsteads.

It was opened on Saturday May 1st 1863, and earned a lengthy report in the *York Herald* a week later.

The buildings, it said, “consist of a range of stabling, cow house, loose boxes, boxes for cattle, fodder house, cattle sheds, cart house, with granary above; two covered folds, each about 50 feet by 35 feet, all covered with Welsh slate.

“In the latter is a platform on which various kinds of machinery stand, driven by a portable steam-engine. The doors of the barn are sufficiently large to admit of a cart laden with grain to enter.

“These buildings are admirably adapted to the purpose for which they are intended, and the whole are Mr. Sussex Milbank's own design. They have been built by Messrs. Adamson and Tennick of Gainford, in a very substantial and workmanlike manner.”

The opening – which coincided with the birthday of Sussex' brother Mark – was celebrated by a party at which nearly 100 people dined in the barn, which was profusely

sussex milbank



**Plaque on the deer park wall:
'This wall built, deer park formed, trees planted 1857-58-59
Model farm erected 1863
The whole designed and executed by Augustus Sussex Milbank'**

decorated with evergreens and flags. Barningham brass band was in attendance the whole of the day.

The diners were addressed by Mark, who said the new buildings were devoted “to the most noble of purposes. Those covered in folds were a great benefit to cattle in winter, and the manure was far superior to that exposed to the air of which the ammonia was mostly swept away.”

He remembered seeing in a newspaper a letter signed A S M talking about the use of artificial manure and guano in particular, in which the writer had said it merely was like giving a glass of spirits to a delicate human frame – it propped for the moment but eventually

did no good. The improvements during the last few years in agricultural machinery had been very great, he added, and what the future might be no man could prophesy.

Sussex responded, saying he was anxious to know whether high farming was remunerative or not, and he thought that by bringing the best made machinery into the neighbourhood new ideas would strike people, and that gradually they would be brought out of the old jog-trot way.

Until experiments were tried it was impossible to say whether this or that would succeed. If his trials were failures he hoped to profit by them and improve upon those failures, and likewise he hoped to receive hints from his neighbours, as he was not above being told. When he introduced new notions and ideas it was not that he wished to call his neighbours stupid. He thanked them most cordially for their visit to his premises.

Sussex' reputation grew. In January 1865 the *York Herald* published his paper on ‘The Advantages of High Farming,’ saying that Sussex had more right to speak on this subject “from actual experience as an agriculturist” than the Prime Minister, Disraeli. By ‘High Farming’, it explained, Sussex meant “the good and successful cultivation of the land, assisted by the increased scientific knowledge and the improved appliances of the present age.”

In October the same year he addressed the Barnard Castle Agricultural Society on the subject of agriculture as a science. He understood that

Irish 'loiterers' blamed for disastrous blaze

From The Northern Echo, August 22nd, 1873:

Yesterday morning a destructive fire broke out on the Barningham Park Farm, known as "Hawsteads" the property of Mr. Sussex Milbank.

It appears that at about three o'clock in the morning, Mr. Frederick Milbank, MP, was looking out of his bedroom window when he observed smoke and flames issuing from the roof of the building. He immediately gave the alarm, and the servants of the hall ran down to the farm and aroused the inmates. The machine shed was discovered to be on fire, and the roof of the building had fallen in.

The whole of the machinery was completely destroyed, including a steam threshing machine, a steam-engine, several mowing machines, and a large quantity of agricultural implements, all of which were nearly new. Mr Sussex Milbank's valuable carriage, and a dog cart belonging to Supt. Gregory of the North Riding Constabulary, Richmond, which had only been put there for the night. Mr. Gregory's horse also narrowly escaped suffocation, owing to the roof having fallen in a few yards off.

Upwards of 90 head of poultry and a number of pigeons were also destroyed, and a young bull that had been placed in a loose box adjoining the cow shed, had broken loose, and was running about in the Park with its back badly burnt. With the assistance of a number of people from Barningham the fire was shortly afterwards extinguished, but not before the building had been almost totally destroyed.

The fire is thought to have originated through four Irishmen who have made it a practice to sleep and smoke on the farm, and a pipe has been found among the debris. The Irishmen, who were obviously loitering about the building on the previous night, had disappeared on the following morning. The Police have obtained a description of the men, and will, no doubt, succeed in capturing them before long.

The damage is estimated at about £1,500, a great part of which is covered by insurance.

sussex milbank

many farmers couldn't afford the expense of sending their sons to a college but that public and grammar schools could make provision for an agricultural education together with knowledge of chemistry and geology.

He thought that if farmers knew more about the grasses they grew they would be much more successful in the rearing of stock, and went on to talk about the status of farmers and how they could improve it.

He foresaw that with the help of steam the country had great prospects but that the government would only help farmers if they helped themselves. He certainly had decided opinions on things!

In 1871 Sussex was writing to the *Gardeners Chronicle* in reply to an article on how to make cheap manure. He maintained that this could not be done but that it was possible to buy cheap manure without it "being nasty."

"I have used for some time a turnip manure, supplied by Messrs. Stickney and Tiffen, of Hull, guaranteed 26 per cent of soluble phosphate, price £4 2s 6d, which Dr. Augustus Voelcker has analysed for me, and given me the opinion it is well worth the money." It saved him, he said, from buying manure at £7 10s a ton which fell well below the claims made for it.

Two years later *The Northern Echo* reproduced a letter Sussex had sent to *The Times* about the importance of good drainage. He followed Mr Bailey Denton's system "assisted by a previous deep stirring of the land by Fowler's double steam engine apparatus." It is



Model farm today: Sussex House on the left, Hawsteads to the right

interesting to note that in Barningham in 1872 farm workers were paid from £1 1s down to 18s a week according to the season. Sussex was obviously determined to be in the forefront of the technological changes that drove the agricultural revolution in a similar way to his involvement in the French Revolution in his youth.

Life was not always about work. When the annual galas were held at Barningham Park, it was noted that Sussex took a lively interest in the management. Horses raced for the Barningham Park Cup and the Hawsteads Silver Cup and there were foot races and a Velocipedist's Silver Cup.

His name could be found in the reports of agricultural shows all over Teesdale, mainly for his horses.

Sussex was also responsible for the creation of the village reading room (see *Archive 19*) – a report from October 1870 spoke of "the Barningham Institute, which has recently been erected under the auspices of A. Sussex Milbank, Esq., and by whose additional liberality has been still more recently decorated in a most elegant manner." Sussex held a strong regard for the people of Barn-

ingham. When in 1874 a tramp threatened to kill a Mrs Coates when she refused to serve him, Sussex offered a reward of £5 for the man's capture.

Sussex lived for some time at Hawsteads but his address was usually given as Barningham Park. During the winter months he would move to Monte Carlo, presumably partly because he was still suffering from asthma and the climate there would be better for his health.

He was there when, in February and March 1887, a series of earthquakes struck the south of France. 2,000 people were killed and thousands made homeless in the worst affected



Sussex's tomb

areas. The air was thick with dust. Sussex was busy helping the people he knew and also tending to the needs of others. He developed a cough and then a fever and died on Easter Sunday, April 10th 1887, aged 59.

It was reported that his death was much regretted by the inhabitants of Barningham and Newsham "amongst whom he had so long lived and to whom he ever rendered most liberal support in every way in his power for the alleviation of want and suffering, for the advancement of education and recreation."

It was first thought that he would be buried at Well, near Thorpe Perrow, but it was his own wish to be buried at Barningham, "in the midst of those amongst whom I lived so long and whom I have learned to love so well."

His body was escorted back to England by Powlett Milbank, his nephew, and on April 19th his remains were interred in Barningham churchyard, "amid many manifestations of regret and respect," according to the report in the next day's *Northern Echo*.

Through the various records still available to us we have seen that Sussex was a remarkable man who during his life strived to make a difference to the lives of his fellow men (and women!) He was never afraid to help by deeds or words in any way that he could. He made the most of a life that was blighted by asthma and never let it stop him doing what he wanted to.

He travelled the world, witnessed some momentous occasions and made the world a richer place.

Deer battled to stay in Barningham

AMONG Sussex's legacies was the deer park, whose walls remain today although the deer have long gone.

They were sold to a Captain Ormrod of Garstang in Lancashire in 1889, when the *Yorkshire Herald* reported that between three and four hundred people assembled to watch the herd being caught and crated for transportation.

"The deer were driven into enclosures, and the first attempt at herding them was so far successful as to result in the whole batch being cornered. In coming to close quarters, however, five of the deer eluded the vigilance of their captors, and triumphantly broke away.

"The remainder were at once secured, and placed in specially constructed wooden cages, which were in turn placed in long carts, and thus conveyed to Barnard Castle railway station, a distance by road of over six miles.

"Attention was then directed to capturing the five animals still at large in the park. These, after a most exciting chase, were lassoed by horsemen and were encased and forwarded to the train as a supplementary contingent. In escaping from the enclosure one deer leaped a very lofty barrier, and another deer as nearly as possible cleared the park wall when hotly pursued, but was finally secured by means of a dog. The sport was enjoyed immensely by the inhabitants of Newsham, Barningham, and the surrounding district."

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