



John Hay, June Graham and Jon Smith answer a visitor's questions. Picture by Phil Hunt.

Barningham goes on show

FIVE history group members spent a day manning a table at the annual County Durham History & Heritage exhibition at County Hall.

We were among more than 100 exhibitors from all over the county and beyond, and our Powerpoint presentation and pile of publications attracted steady interest (few visitors could resist asking "Where exactly *is* Barningham, anyway?").

We enrolled a couple of new members, sold (and bought) some books, and made contact with several people with Barningham links. Each of us also had plenty of time away from stall-manning duties to explore what everyone else was doing. A good day out, apart from the appalling weather.

Going online

MILLIONS of birth, marriage and burial entries held at the North Yorkshire County Record Office are to be digitised for the website Find My Past.

Around 2,700 parish registers in the dioceses of York, Bradford and Ripon & Leeds will be available to the public at www.findmypast.co.uk when

news

the project is completed next year. Free access to the records will still be possible at the county record office.

Helpers needed

THE Witham Hall in Barnard Castle is looking for volunteers to work on heritage projects when the refurbished hall opens this summer.

If you're interested, contact Laura Brown, Heritage Programme Co-ordinator, on 01833 690606 (Mon/Tue) or 631107 (Wed-Fri) or email her at laura@the.witham.org.uk.

Photo exhibition

SAVING a Century, a photographic exhibition of the work of the Victorian Society, is coming to the Head of Steam museum at Darlington's North Road station.

It's open July 2-31, Tuesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm. More information at website www.head-of-steam.co.uk.

● COCKFIELD is holding a Jeremiah Dixon Celebration Day on Saturday July 27: fun and games noon-6pm. Details: www.jeremiah-dixon.co.uk.

Barningham Local History Group Publications

Where Lyeth Ye Bodies* Guide to Barningham church, graveyard map, memorial details and list of all known burials.

Barningham Baptisms* Listed by date, name and parents.

Vol 1: 1580-1800; Vol 2: 1800-1950.

Barningham Brides* All marriages 1580-1950, listed by date, groom and bride.

Counted* 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. Vol 4: Dalton, Gayles & Kirby Hill.

Jam Letch & Jingle Potts* History of Barningham farms, fields and field-names.

A Child of Hope** The 1895 diary of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847.

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.

Aback to Yuvvin** 1849 Glossary of Teesdale words & customs.

Barningham Vestry Minutes 1869-1894, Parish Minutes 1894-1931* Transcripts of meetings, with background history, index and lists of named parishioners.

The Archive*** Group newsletter. Back issues available.

Barningham Memories 1 & 2* DVDs of cine film of Barningham in the 1960/70s.

* £10 each + £1.50 p&p

** £5 each + £1 p&p

*** £2 each + £1 p&p

20% discounts for history group members

More details on our website www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



Archive 34

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



INSIDE: SISTERS' BATTLE OVER INNKEEPER'S MONEY



Barningham Church Choir and a couple of canine friends pose for an Edwardian photographer on August 27th 1901. Readers who have kept old copies of The Archive may like to compare it with a similar photo on the front of Archive 8, taken in 1904, and see how many of the same faces appear in both. The central figure, seated with hat in hand, is the rector, the Rev Spencer Gough. Can anybody identify the house in the background?

● Thanks to Mike Stow of Gainford History Group for sending us the picture.

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NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY JUNE 25th 6pm

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday May 7th 2013:

Present: Jon Smith (Chairman), Ann Orton (Secretary), Elizabeth Carrick, Neil Turner, Janet Wrigley, Cate and Harry Collingwood, Robin Brooks, June Graham, John Hay, Jane Hackworth-Young, Phil Hunt, Tony Orton, Linda Sherwood, Margaret Taylor, Ed Simpson, Beverley Peach.

Apologies: Eric and Kay Duggan, Sheila Catton, Diane Metcalf.

Minutes of the meeting held on March 26th were approved.

Matters arising: Jon was still in the process of obtaining a quote for the conversion of the storage sheds.

Correspondence: Brown: Witham Hall re volunteers; NYCC: the digitalisation of parish records; Marriner: Teesdale Mercury; Van der Pol: The Terrace; Miles: Wilson House; Otterson: Coles. See pages 4-6.

Financial report: Still looking healthy: income £79.50, expenditure £119, leaving a current balance of £1378.49.

House histories: Crooks House – see page 13.

Publications: Archive 33 had been circulated and 34 would be out shortly.

Oral histories: Janet Paterson and Ann Orton were hoping to record Frank Dawson, and Cate Collingwood and Ann were going to approach Nancy Gill.

minutes

A fresh view of the landscape around us

Any other business: Ed said that he had been approached by a Teesdale project to do a series of talks about barns. Ann reported that a group of history students were coming from Middlesbrough on July 4th to look around Barningham. There was some discussion about a group outing and the secretary agreed to do some research and to report back.

Next meetings: June 25, August 27, October 15, November 19 and December 17.

Guest speaker: Dr Graham Rogers, from Gayles, gave us a very interesting and informative talk entitled *Interpreting the Historical Landscape, Field Systems and Enclosures*. Here's a summary:

When we look out on the familiar landscape of walls and hedges it all seems to have a timeless quality. However, it contains typical features of landscape development which are an important record of our history.

The open field system had been in use for many centuries with many families farming strips of land within these fields. Ridge and furrow cul-

tivation or cultivated terraces were the commonest methods used and there is also evidence of ancient enclosures. This was very much a case of subsistence farming with each family growing enough to survive.

The enclosure acts brought changes on a massive scale. These acts were instigated by major landowners and only those who had legal title to land were included. Even then many landowners were excluded due to the high cost of expenses. This dispossessed many families of their livelihoods and led to much social unrest.

The land was divided into fields we know today and many historic enclosures were incorporated but because much was grassed it is still possible to see evidence of historic use.

There are many examples of cultivated terraces in the Dales sometimes with "newer" walls built over them. When travelling from Raven-sworth towards Kirby Hill and Whashton these terraces (or lychets) can be clearly seen in the field on the left. Ancient enclosure walls can also be found. These have a much broader base than the more modern ones and sometimes incorporate ancient hedgerows.

These features are a lasting legacy of our social history and a monument to the lives of ordinary people in times past.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

Tragedy of toddler killed by sister's good deed

cuttings

FOUR-year-old Ellen Paterson knew just what to do when her little brother Thomas Henry was thirsty.

She got a bottle off the kitchen shelf and gave it to Thomas to suck.

He was dead within five hours. In the bottle was a corrosive liquid used by her father William for treating blisters on animals, the jury was told at an inquest a few days later into the death of the 18-month-old boy.

Their mother Elizabeth told the coroner that she had left the children alone in the house at Greenbrough, near News-ham, on the afternoon of April 12th 1879 while she went to fetch a can of water.

She was only away about three minutes, but when she returned she found her son crying in the doorway, his mouth blistered.

She noticed a strong smell in the house, and recognised it as the blistering fluid she

kept on a shelf where the toddler could not have reached it. Ellen refused to say what had happened.

The village doctor, Dr James Graham, was summoned but there was nothing he could do. The boy died soon afterwards.

The jury decided that young Ellen was the cause of the boy's death, but said she was "of such a tender age that she was not capable of judging the effects of the liquid" and could not be blamed for the tragedy.

The child was buried in Barningham churchyard, the burial register recording that he had been "accidentally poisoned by sucking a bottle of foot rot (sheep) dressing."

Six months later Elizabeth gave birth to a third child. It was a boy, and he too was christened Thomas Henry.

● *The inquest report can be found in the Teesdale Mercury of April 16 1879.*

Tenants dine well at the inn

From the Teesdale Mercury of January 20th 1875:

ON Tuesday the tenantry upon the Barningham and Newsham Estate of Mr Mark Milbank dined together at the house of Mr Goldsbrough, Milbank Arms.

A first-class dinner was served by the hostess, Mrs Goldsbrough. Mr Samuel Powell of Newsham Hall presided. The health of Mr T. Lee, of Moor Cock Hall, the eldest tenant upon the estate, was given.

A very pleasant and convivial evening was spent, the company separating at a reasonable hour.

Hilltop bonfire for the Jubilee

From the Teesdale Mercury of June 6th 1877:

IT is proposed to celebrate the Jubilee of the Queen by holding a bonfire on Kylo Castle, a high hill in the occupation of Mr Robson Coates at the end of Barningham Moor.

A tea party will be given to all the children in Barningham, Newsham, Scargill and Hope. Afterwards sports and games will be held, and a medal given to each child in remembrance of the event.

Fall after fair

From the Teesdale Mercury of January 9th 1901:

Mr Anthony Coates of Barningham is lying at the Unicorn Hotel, Bowes, suffering from wounds to the head sustained in a fall from a young horse while returning from Brough Hill Fair.

old ads

To be Sold,

At a very reasonab!e Price,

THE Coach Horfe which waf advertifed the three Yearf laft paffd, af a Stallion, calld by the Name of ROOKBY, at Rookby Hall. Whoever wantf to buy the faid Horfe, may apply to Ralph Wall of Greta Bridge. He if both found, and without any Blemifh; likewife af beautiful a ftrong, fine Horfe of that Sort, af any thought to be in the North.

The Newcastle Courant, February 28th 1741

EDUCATION. -- At Mr. RALPH SIMPSONS ACADEMY, Earby Hall (late Newsham Hall), near Greta Bridge, young Gentlemen are inftructed by Mr Simpson and competent Affiftantf in the Englifh, Latin, and Greek Languagef, Writing, the Mathematicf, and Geography, at 20 Guineaf per Annum, including Board, Clothef, and Bookf. No vacationf. No extraf. In thif Eftablifhment Pupifl enjoy the comfort of a home, with the advantage of moral and ufeul inftruction.

The Morning Post, July 4th 1835



The Archive

Barningham Local History Group, Heath House, Barningham, Richmond, North Yorks DL11 7DU
Tel: 01833 621374 email: history@smith90.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).

house histories

the Greenhows came William **Atkinson**, son of Mark Atkinson of Wilson House.

He, his wife Agnes and their three young children lived at Crooks House through the 1890s, followed by Thomas **Robinson** and his wife Jane (nee Bousfield) from Newsham. It was clearly a fertile environment: they had at least ten children by the time war broke out in 1914. Thomas died five years later, Jane in 1922.

The tenancy of the farm had by then passed in 1917 to Richard and Lilian **Jackson**, who lived there for 25 years. Richard was the brother of Newby Spark Jackson at Wilson House.

Neil Turner recalls going to Crooks House as a child to bring home buckets of potatoes: "They were that heavy I use to throw one out, then another, to lighten the load. By



Richard and Audrey Gill in 1945

the time I got home there were hardly any left."

In 1942 Richard and Lilian moved to Tutta Beck, and the farm was taken over by brothers John and Richard **Gill**. Richard married a landgirl, Audrey, and they left soon afterwards (he recorded his memories of life on the farm in *No Time to Stand and Stare*, published shortly before his

death in 2009) but John remained with his wife Mary until around 1970.

Crooks and Wilson were then merged into one farm, tenanted by Dennis **Loves** and his wife Mollie. They lived in Wilson House; Crooks House later became home to their son Colin until his father's death in 2000, and is currently occupied by his son Robert.

So that's who they were...



IN *Archive 33* we asked if anyone recognised these local haymakers.

Sheila Bayles had the answer: they were Tom Iceton (back) and John Harrison, pictured at Sheila's former home at West Hope in, she thinks, about 1949.

And Neil Turner says these two boys pictured in the last issue at the back of a Stapleton's bus were his brothers Malcolm and Trevor.

"I know because I took the picture," he told the last history group meeting, revealing that as a child Trevor was nicknamed Tapper because of



the clogs he wore. "Mother hated it, but that's what they called him."

The Walkers of Woodbine Cottage

FOLLOWING my recent telephone conversation with Ann Orton, I enclose these photographs of Thomas Peat Walker and his family.

The family photograph was taken in 1915. They lived initially in Chapel Cottage, Barningham, and for most of their married life in Woodbine Cottage next door to Beornhow House.

Thomas and Barbara were the grandparents of my wife Christine (she spent many holidays in Barningham and remembers Thomas cutting the village green with a scythe) and her father was Richard. Her Uncle Norman and his family lived in a house further up the road onto the moor on the lefthand side. They eventually moved to Newsham.

Her Auntie Nan married John Maughan, her Auntie Amy married Bobby Etherington and her Auntie Mary, now 98 years of age, married Mick Fleming from County Carlow in the Republic of Ireland. Mary lives in Darlington.

I hope your history society will find this material useful. I am quite impressed with the information you have already found and displayed on your website.

GORDON SIRRELL
Middleton St George
sirrellg@yahoo.com

● *The Walkers were at Woodbine Cottage for at least 50 years. Barbara died in 1966, aged 87; Thomas, who worked for Barningham Estate, died in 1971 at the age of 88 (the parish burials register incorrectly recorded him as Thomas Peter, not Peat). Greta Carter is among their grandchildren. See Archive 7.*



letters & emails



● *Thomas and children in 1915. Clockwise from top left: Norman, Nan, Mary, Amy and Richard.*

● *Left, Thomas and Barbara pictured in the early 1950s.*

● *Below, Thomas in army uniform during the first world war.*



Family links to local inns and Earby Hall

I'm a great-great-granddaughter of Ben Cole, landlord of Smallways Inn in late Victorian days.

One of Ben's daughters, Sarah Ann Cole (1874-1938), married Joseph Butler (1874-1955) from Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambridge, who became landlord of the Dun Cow in Newsham.

Their daughter Annie Sophia Butler (1897-1976) married William Walton (Bill) who farmed with his brother Tom (Thomas Wilson Walton) at Earby Hall, and lived at Earby Cottage at some point while Tom lived at Earby Hall.

Tom later moved to West Layton and Bill and Annie moved into Earby Hall. Bill and Tom were brothers of Harry and Jim Walton who were the grain merchants H&J Walton of Gain-ford.

Bill and Annie's daughter Annie Patricia Walton (known as Pat) was my mother. Neil Turner knew her growing up in Newsham.

I visited Barningham a few years ago and met up with Graham Walker (my cousin, formerly of the Reading Room Cottages) at the Millbank Arms. He introduced me to Neil, who I remember meeting as a child (I think at the wall-

letters & emails

paper shop in Barnard Castle). Neil very kindly showed me his photo album which includes photos of my mother and aunts, etc – a real treasure trove!

I was born in 1957 and lived at Earby Hall with my mother and grandparents until we all moved to Barnard Castle around 1962.

LYNNE OTTERSON, Ayrlynne.otterson@btinternet.com

● *While researching her family history on the Teesdale Mercury Archive website Lynne came across the court battle over Ben Cole's estate, which we feature later in this Archive.*

She also put us in touch with her cousin Eric Hardy, whose aunt Ethel Galilee married Tom Walton of Earby Hall.

He sent us photos and memories of his childhood, some of which are printed below.

Memories of my Uncle Tom

MY mother Eleanor was born in 1898 at Westholme, about a mile north of Winston on the road to Staindrop.

My grandmother (also an Eleanor) continued to live



Annie Walton, nee Butler, pictured in 1961

there until 1953 when she died at the grand old age of 97. My grandfather John George Galilee lived there until he died in 1935.

He worked at Westholme Hall and the 1901 census describes him as a coachman. The bungalow they lived in was the Lodge at the entrance to the drive to the hall.

My father, Charles Hardy, was born at Winston. His father was the village schoolmaster there and later ran the prep school at Westwick Lodge on the Whorlton road out of Barney.

My mother's sister Ethel married Thomas Walton in 1920. One of my early memories of them, which is quite vivid, must be from around 1930 or 1931 when I was four

of war were housed up there. Apparently they worked on farms. Does Neil know of this?

BRIDGET VAN DE POL
Nieuwkoop, Netherlands

● *Neil Turner recalls Italian prisoners of war being brought into Barningham to work on local farms during the war, but not any housed in the village. Does anyone know more? –Ed.*

A name from the very distant past?

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

CROOKS HOUSE

A FARMHOUSE and adjoining byre to the north-west of Barningham, dating from the late 17th or early 18th century, with later extensions.

We're not sure where its name comes from. James Johnson's authoritative *Place Names of England and Wales* says it could date back as far as the Domesday Book, which described such settlements as *croches* from the Old Norse *crokr* meaning a settlement near a bend or crook of a river. The ending *-hes*, suggests Johnson, was later turned into *house*.

Dr P H Reaney, another well-respected authority and author of *The Origin of English Place Names*, offers an alternative, the ancient British words *crouco* or *crugo*, meaning a hill, mound or barrow.

Or perhaps, like Wilson and Sanders Houses, it simply came from the surname of the first family to live there. We prefer to think it's older than that, and that there were people living on the Crooks House site a millenium and more ago.

Whatever its origins, in 1726 it was listed as being farmed by a Joseph **Hanby**. Joseph was born in 1665, early in the reign of Charles II, to a family who had owned the manorial rights to Bowes since Elizabethan times.

When the local farmers were in dispute with Barningham's rector about his tithes in 1689 (see *Archive 7*), Joseph is mentioned as a farmer "who doth farm a Parcell of Land of Mr Wilkinson containing by Estimacion 300 acres, ye far greatest part whereof he depastures with unprofitable



house histories



Crooks House

Cattle viz Beasts or Horses taken in from other Parishes, refusing to pay Tiths Agistment for them."

Within a few years some or all of Mr Wilkinson's 'Parcell of Land' had passed into the ownership of the Milbank family. A list of farms belonging to Mark Milbank in 1726 includes 'Joseph Hanbye's Farme', some 54 acres including Crooks and the Egmartin fields around it.

Joseph's wife Julia died that year and became the first of the family to occupy a fairly impressive table tomb that can be seen today in Barningham churchyard.

Joseph joined her in 1743, by which time he had moved into the family home, Eastwood Hall (he may actually have built it). His descendants included a son whose exploits as a naval captain we featured in *Archive 16*, and granddaughters Sarah (1727-1759),

who married Barningham curate William **Dockeray**, and Mary (1787-1852) who married Thomas **Wheldon**, a prosperous Barnard Castle gentleman who bought Eastwood from the Hanby family sometime around 1820.

After Joseph Hanby left Crooks House there's a long gap in our knowledge of occupiers until 1838, when the Milbanks were renting it out to John **Burton**.

Three years later it was being farmed by Tunstall-born Robert **Harrison**, who remained there with his wife Dorothy until shortly before his death at the age of 88 in 1863.

By then George **White** had moved in from Dalton with his wife Elizabeth and two unmarried daughters – the house seems to have regularly housed more than one family at a time.

He farmed the land for some years, followed by Thomas **Greenhow**, Richmond-born and married to Elizabeth, daughter of Barningham joiner George **Nicholson**. They raised at least eleven children there: *Archive 23* told the story of Elizabeth boxing a truancy officer's ears in a row over her son's school attendance. After

Were there PoWs living in the village?

THANKS for the copy of the *Archive 33*. Now we've got the family history bug we've had another "reunion" in Barningham and met Doreen Watson (*Bridget's aunt, mother of history group member Mark Watson. –Ed.*)

She confirmed there were six rooms in the attics at The Terrace. She also mentioned something we knew but had forgotten, that prisoners

napoleon gala

spirit so far pervaded the assembly, that sundry jocular remarks were elicited by the supposed Russian antipathy to razors displayed by several of the gentlemen present.

“Should the patriotism of Englishmen slacken, and should they tire of the war, the malcontents will certainly not be found among those who assembled in Barningham Park on Napoleon’s fete day.”

Why were the good people of Barningham and the surrounding area celebrating the fete day of Napoleon III, whose uncle had from 1799 to 1815 been our mortal enemy?

Why did they hate the “Rooshians” and what had it got to do with Gladstone and Cobden?

Although we had previously been at war with France, at this time they were our allies in the fight against the Russians in the Crimean War. Russia had gone to war with the Turks over possession of the Holy Lands

at a time when the Ottoman Empire was weakening. France and Britain were anxious to stop Russian expansion and to keep the trade routes open, in particular for Britain the ones to India.

As part of his drive for free trade Cobden had been the chief instigator in the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846. This law had protected the price of wheat from cheap imports and was very unpopular with the big manufacturers as it kept the price of bread high and affected the amount of wages they needed to pay their workers.

It is easy to see that the reform of this law would not be popular with people living in a farming community. Gladstone had not only supported the repeal of the Corn Laws but in 1855 as Chancellor of the Exchequer he increased income tax from 7d in the pound to 10½d in order to finance the war, even though he had previously promised to phase it out.

As we are all too well aware this promise was never kept!

Galas were a regular feature of summer at Barningham Park: this notice was for one in 1865 attended by the great and the good and featuring sports, games and an efficient brass band

GRAND GALA
AT
BARNINGHAM,
ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17th, 1865.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE of Mark Milbank, Esq., Lady Augusta Milbank, M. V. Milbank, Esq., F. A. Milbank, Esq., M.P., A. S. Milbank, Esq., the Rev. W. F. and Mrs. Wharston.—The Marquis and Marchioness of Normandy, the Marquis and Marchioness of Caermarthen, the Earl of Suffolk, Colonel and Mrs. Core, and others of the nobility and gentry are expected to be present.

THE PARK AND GROUNDS will be thrown open.

SPORTS AND ATHLETIC GAMES.
An efficient BRASS BAND will entertain the proceedings.

A large MARQUEE will be erected.

TICKETS, 1s. each, an early application for which is respectfully requested, as only a limited number can be issued.

Tickets may be had at Mrs. Wilkinson’s, the Black Horse Inn, Barnard Castle; of any of the Committee; and at the Office of this Paper.

from the parish mag

115 YEARS AGO: A mournful announcement occupies our sole attention this month. The death of Sir Frederick Milbank, struck down suddenly on his birthday, has been alas! the topic of sorrowful conversation amongst the large circle of friends and acquaintances lamenting his loss. — June 1898

100 YEARS AGO: We have reason indeed to be pleased with the results of the Jumble Sale, which raised the handsome sum of £25 8s 6d, of which £7 will go towards the cost of repairs to the church following the storm last year and £6 6s will go towards a Choir Excursion Fund. — June 1913

80 YEARS AGO: We deeply regret to record the death at sea of Herbert John Lowes, aged 17 years. The cutting short of a promising young earthly life is one of the baffling problems of humanity. May God give comfort to Mr and Mrs Lowes and their family. — June 1933

60 YEARS AGO: It is rather disappointing to see that despite a most adequate refuse disposal service for the village, people persist in dumping rubbish in the lane below the church. Inside the churchyard paper wrappings and dead flowers have been stuffed behind the nearest bush or tree. — June 1953

20 YEARS AGO: There will be a bring and buy sale on June 13th organised by the Village Hall Committee. There will be a table for church funds and if anyone has any saleable items they would like to donate please let the Rector know. — June 1993

letters & emails

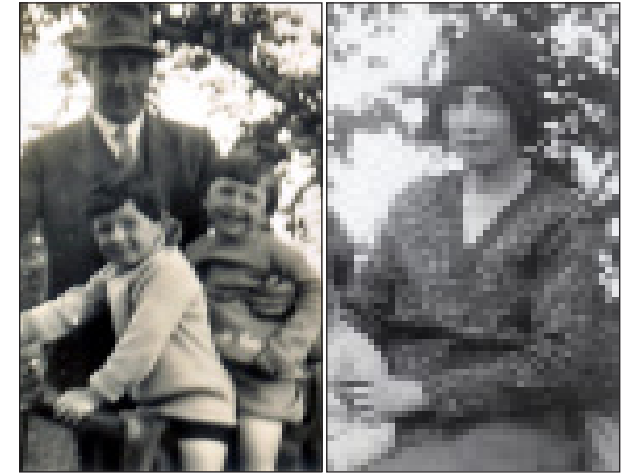
or five. I was at Westholme with my grandparents when Tom and Ethel came visiting in their horse and trap. I was given a ride to their farm, Primrose Hill Farm, which was about a mile or two away on the Winston to Gainford road, and, after a short visit, taken back to Westholme.

It was a lovely sunny day (childhood memories usually are on sunny days) and I can remember putting my foot on the little oval metal step that hung down and climbing through the little door at the back of the trap.

I can recall the clip-clop of the hooves and, strangely, I can still remember vividly the strong smell of horse – after



Charles, eldest son of Dun Cow landlord Joseph Butler. Born in 1899, he died fighting with the Royal Field Artillery only weeks before the end of the first world war in 1918.



Tom Walton, cousins Graham Galilee and Eric Hardy, and, right, Ethel Walton. Photo taken around 1930

all, we were sitting just behind its tail! Later memories are from the time they lived in Earby Hall at Newsham where they farmed. I was a bit older by then, perhaps 10 or 11, and was the proud owner of a bike. I biked everywhere, to visit my grandparents and to visit Tom and Ethel too.

Sometimes I stayed on the farm for a night or two. An exciting time to be there was when they were threshing the harvest with a large traction engine. It is strange how you remember smells but the smell of the smoke stays with me.

Tom’s brother William helped out on the farm and lived in a separate cottage. I used to watch him milking the cows, his cap back to front, sitting on a wooden stool with his head pressed against the cow’s side. Sometimes he would, very wickedly, without looking at me or moving his head, point a cow’s teat in my direction and give me a squirt of milk!

Earby Hall was a lovely house. I remember the south-facing garden with high stone

walls and fruit trees. Auntie Ethel kept the pears to ripen among the clothes and linen in the chests of drawers in the bedrooms. I remember particularly the three-seater earth closet, two circular holes at high level and a smaller one for children at low level. It was approached by a flight of external stone steps from the walled garden. The floor was of flagstones and the wooden seats scrubbed white.

The dining room seemed huge to me and I recall the three of us sitting at the large table eating Yorkshire pudding, the proper way as a first course, followed by roast beef. Then there was the dairy where I was allowed to help churn the milk and help Auntie Ethel pat the butter into shape and impress a pattern on the top with a wooden roller.

Every Wednesday Ethel would come to Barnard Castle to the market to sell eggs and butter. Sometimes when she came to market she would come to see my mother too. She would come by bus with

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her basket of wares covered with a cloth, Percivals, I seem to remember the bus service was called.

It was one of these trips that led to her early death in 1940. My mother always told me that Auntie Ethel had bought some plums and had eaten them unwashed on the way home in the bus. This had poisoned her. I don't know whether they sprayed fruit in those days.

I cycled over to see her and remember her lying in bed, looking very pale, saying to me "Well this is a right carry on, Eric, isn't it?" or words to that effect. That, sadly, is the last I saw of her. I remember the day of her funeral well (20 August 1940) because the Battle of Britain was on and at one point the air was full of the throb of aeroplane engines. I couldn't see them but Spitfires kept shooting past overhead at low level.

A Messerschmitt was shot down in a farmer's field less than half a mile from our house, the pilot had already baled out

I'll put Jane and Mavis in touch

THE Mavis Ford that Jane Brown wanted to contact (letters, *Archive 33*) is now Mavis Marwood, married to Peter and living near Richmond.

She supplied me with much of the information about the Atkinson family published in *Archive 13*. I can supply her postal and email addresses if Jane gets in touch.

The last *Archive* mentioned John and Sarah Atkinson who lived at Wilson House a century ago. John was Mavis' great-great-uncle. My grandmother, Ethel Cameron, was their niece and she and her sister Ada were taken in by them when they were orphaned in 1913. My father Norman Cameron was born to Ethel in 1917.

John and Sarah had a daughter Victoria May, known as May, who married Ralph Fenwick.

DANI MILES, Havant, Hampshire
wrynose47@gmail.com

● See Archives 8, 13 and 30 for more Atkinson links.

and surrendered to the farmer. By then I was almost 14 and of course my friends and I were there in a jiffy collecting souvenirs. My parents had left me at home while they went to the funeral. This enlivened what would have been a very boring day for me.

I continued going to see Uncle Tom, I helped with the haymaking and remember large enamel jugs of weak beer being brought out into the fields at lunchtime. I must have been about 18 by then because he took me to the pub at Newsham for a beer.

I remember one very enjoyable experience of the two of us on horseback riding up onto the moor and rounding up the sheep. I am not sure of dates now. I remember my mother telling me that Tom had retired from farming and remarried so I rather lost touch. I never learned his new wife's name nor where he had gone to live.

ERIC HARDY

High Wycombe, Bucks

● *Eric was a cousin of Graham Galilee, who ran Barningham post office with his wife Judith in the 1990s.*

Will you help memorials site project?

I'M secretary of the North East War Memorials Project (see us at www.newmp.org.uk) which until quite recently researched between the Tweed and the Tees but now intends to add the villages in the old Startforth Rural District Council area on to the site. I am busy putting together a bid to Heart of Teesdale for a project *Every Name a Story Teesdale*.

NEWMP wants to expand the interest and knowledge of the Teesdale communities about their war memorials and the people commemorated on them in the run-up to the centenary of the start of World War 1 in August 2014; extend NEWMP coverage to include the area over the Tees which was in Yorkshire but is now in County Durham; and offer the communities in Teesdale the opportunity to place their research into their war memorials and names on our established and well-used website.

Has your group researched the names on the Barningham memorial and/or be interested in taking part in this project? I do hope you will consider the idea. The website has been established for over five years and we now have over 4,500 memorials recorded. It is well used and well respected by those who are supposed to know these things!

DOROTHY HALL
DAHALL52@aol.com

● *Is there a history group member who would like to follow this up? We do already have a list of our memorial names and some details. -Ed.*

wings for victory



The reporter went on to praise the WI members who "in their usual unselfish way were administering creature comforts". Among those identified were a number whose names will be familiar to older Barningham residents: "Mesdames N Walker, Bulmer, Goodall, Maughan, Adamson, Brass, Watson, Etherington, Lawson and Brown, and the Misses Alderson and Adamson." The report ended with a deferential flourish: "Lady Milbank is the Institute's President, and she has been working as hard as the rest."

There were more fund-raising events. The Rector "sought divine blessing on the effort" at his Sunday service; a concert, "with all local talent" on the Monday was so successful that it was repeated on the Friday; and in-between were a whist drive and a social evening of games and dancing at the rectory.

Newsham, meanwhile, held a fancy dress parade followed by a dance in the Cole brothers' garage. No doubt Dalton, Gayles and other villages around did their bit too, but they lay outside the *Mercury's* area and we've no record of what went on there.

● *Thanks to John Marriner for sending us the Mercury cuttings.*

Napoleon: from hated to feted in 40 years

THE advent of the online Teesdale Mercury Archive has proved invaluable to researchers but it can, at times, be very puzzling!

I came across a report on August 22 1855 of a Gala at Barningham Park to celebrate the fete day of Napoleon Bonaparte. It reads:

"On Wednesday evening last, the 15th inst, a display of Fireworks took place on the lawn in front of Barningham Hall, the seat of Mark Milbank, Esq., in honour of the fete day of the Emperor Napoleon.

"A large concourse of the inhabitants of Barningham, Newsham and the adjoining villages, assembled in front of the Hall, and at 9 o'clock the exhibition commenced, under the direction of Henry and Sussex Milbank, Esqs.

"Brilliant rockets, ending in a shower of stars (or what the juveniles denominated "fiery fish") wheels, and other choice products of the pyrotechnist's art, were successively ignited, amid the "oh's" and "ee's" of the children, and the huzzas of the older spectators.

"The militia band from Barnard Castle, were stationed on the lawn, and awoke the echoes with their lively tunes while all were earnestly watching the ascent of some rockets, imagining themselves in perfect security from the sparks and fizzings of the combustibles, a series of shrieks and laughs, mingled with cracks and rap-rappings, discovered the fact that their safety was only fancied, and that indeed some fun-loving wight had distributed a bountiful supply of "crackers," and other old-women frightening contriv-

Barningham celebrated Napoleon Day in 1855. ANN ORTON wondered why.

napoleon gala



Napoleon III

ances, among the crowd. No harm ensued from the trick, beyond the singeing of the hem of a young female's gown, and the total destruction of the postman's pocket, into which a "cracker" unfortunately found its way.

The bills announced that all "Rooshians" found on the premises would be immediately ejected, but we are happy to state that no disciple of Gladstone or Cobden appeared, at least we may judge so from the hearty cheers that resounded far and near when a worthy Newsham butcher proposed three cheers for "the Emperor Napoleon!"

In fact, the anti-Russian

Earning our 'Wings' 70 years ago

SEVENTY years ago this month Teesdale was celebrating the success of its contribution to Wings For Victory Week.

Wings For Victory was a national fund-raising scheme to encourage civilians to raise millions of pounds for the war effort, specifically towards the cost of building aircraft, by investing in Government accounts such as War Bonds, Savings Bonds, Defence Bonds and Savings Certificates.

The third week in May 1943 was chosen for the event, and every area of the country set itself a target and organised parades, rallies, exhibitions and other money-making activities.

The Startforth area, which included Barningham and Newsham, aimed to raise £25,000 and excelled itself: the final total was a magnificent £41,000. In the country as a whole, almost £616 million was pledged to the fund.

Sir Frederick Milbank threw open the park for an evening of fund-raising events, and urged those who attended – just about everyone in the village by the sound of it – to save a 'Wings' £1 for every mile the Germans had been chased out of Tunisia. The *Teesdale Mercury's* reporter was quite lyrical in his report (or her's,

wings for victory

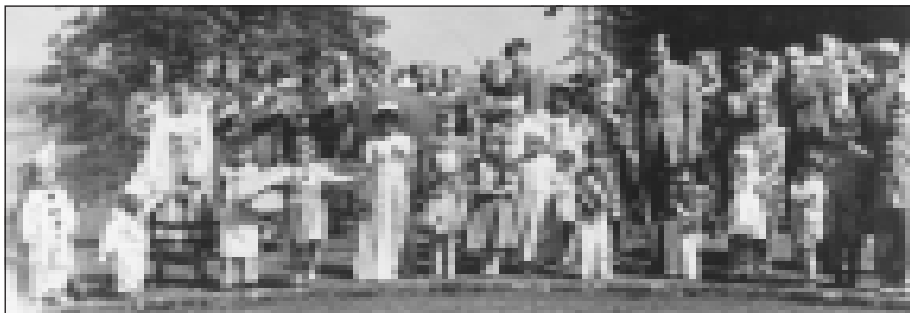
but we don't think they had any female reporters until much later).

"Picture it, dear readers," it began. "The lovely grounds of Barningham Park; the popular band of the 54th Training Regiment; all the children in their fancy dress; the Rev D K Cook, Rector of Barningham, moving around in his usual quiet and friendly way; the ladies of the Women's Institute serving tea – all these being made perfectly at home by Sir Frederick and Lady Milbank, Major T L Dugdale MP and Mrs Dugdale,

Captain the Hon Mark Milbank; also the Misses Peat of Wycliffe Hall, and Mrs Usher.

"A more delightfully informal gathering it would be impossible to imagine, and as for the children's costumes, the judges – Mrs Cook, Mrs Jack Milbank and Capt Milbank – must have had a hard job. They were lovely.

"Indeed, with all else that there was, they provided what must be considered the best picture of the afternoon, because with the utmost willingness the hosts and their friends consented to pose with the children in front of the band."



THE photo taken at Barningham Park in 1943. The *Mercury's* editor obviously didn't agree with his reporter about its merit, as it didn't appear in the paper. Neil Turner has a copy, though, and if you think you've seen it before, you're right: it was in *Archive 23*, when we incorrectly captioned it as being taken during the 1945 victory celebrations.

Sisters' battle over publican's will

A court battle over who should inherit after former Smallways innkeeper Ben Cole died in 1929 divided his children... or were they?

IN 1926 Parliament passed the Legitimacy Act, making it possible for the first time in English law for children born out of wedlock to claim legitimacy if their parents later married.

Among the first cases brought under the Act was one in Teesdale, an acrimonious court battle between brothers and sisters over who should inherit the worldly goods of a Smallways innkeeper.

At the heart of the case was 60-year-old Hannah Elgie. Born at Cold Kirby near Rievaulx Abbey in August 1871, she was the daughter of a 20-year-old unmarried servant girl called Jane Metcalfe who registered the father as unknown on the birth certificate.

Despite that, Jane had a pretty good idea who it was: Ben Cole, a young farm labourer from the same village. They had met at the North-allerton hirings in 1870 and had been "walking out together" ever since.

After Hannah's birth the relationship continued, and when Ben discovered in 1872 that Jane was pregnant again the couple moved with baby Hannah to Wycliffe, where they got married.

A second girl, Sarah, was born soon afterwards; a third, Alice, followed two years later; and then came two sons, the first named Ben after his father and the youngest Thomas.

The family moved around as the children grew up, living among other places at Shildon, Evenwood, Gainford and Piercebridge, until Ben finally ended up as landlord of the Smallways Inn.

All the children, Hannah included, were recorded in censuses and school rolls with the surname Cole, and it was under this name in 1896, when Hannah became engaged to a Newsham farm labourer called Thomas Elgie (or Elgey: it varies in the records), that she published the banns of marriage in Barningham and Wycliffe churches. She was

ben's legacy

much taken aback when, after the banns had twice been read out unchallenged, her father suddenly called on the Rector, the Rev Spencer Gough, and said that they were invalid because her surname was Metcalfe, not Cole. Why he did this is uncertain, but there is evidence that he didn't wholly approve of Hannah's choice of a husband: he didn't attend the wedding, for a start. Whatever the reason, he was adamant that Hannah was not to be married under the name Cole, and after talking to the groom she



Ben Cole, pictured around 1920

signed the marriage register as "H Metcalfe, lately known as Cole".

Hannah became Hannah Elgie, and it may be that, like her mother before her, she'd left marriage a bit late. When the 1901 census was taken five years later the Elgies were recorded in Newsham as having two young sons, John, aged three, and one-year-old Thomas... and a ten-year-old daughter called Edith Cole who'd been born in Gainford when Hannah, presumably her mother, was just 16. Who

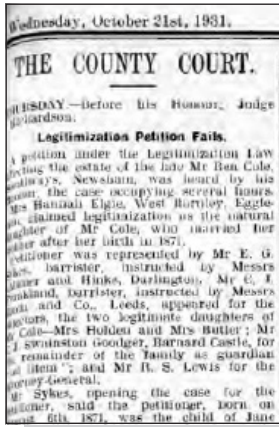
her father was we don't know. Ben and Jane left Smallways around 1905 and went to live in Gainford, handing the pub over to their son Ben. He died in 1915, and it passed to his widow Ada who ran it until her death in 1960.

Hannah's sister Sarah married a Joseph Butler and they ran the Dun Cow pub in Newsham. The second sister, Alice, also married and went to live in Leeds. Their brother Thomas was killed fighting in the first world war.

The family rift erupted after Ben died in 1929 and was buried in Barningham churchyard.

His wife had died 18 years earlier and he hadn't left a will, and Hannah's sisters Sarah and Alice decided that his estate – worth £5,000, about £500,000 in today's money – should be divided four ways between themselves and the children of their brothers Ben and Tom, leaving Hannah nothing on the grounds that she wasn't one of Ben's legitimate children. Han-

ben's legacy



The Teesdale Mercury's report of the court case

nah was horrified, took legal advice, and raised a petition under the new Legitimacy Act.

Sarah and Alice filed an objection and the case finally came before His Honour Judge Richardson at the County Court in Barnard Castle on October 21st 1931. Four barristers were in attendance – one represent-

ing Hannah, one for her sisters, one for the grandchildren and one from the attorney-general's office who presumably was there to keep an eye on what must have been one of the first cases brought under the new law.

Hannah's barrister, Mr E G Sykes, told the judge that the strongest evidence that Hannah was really Ben's daughter was the family Bible, in which Ben had listed all his children with Hannah top of the list.

Hannah herself gave evidence, saying Ben had never denied being her father. He had always called her "Our Hannah".

She was backed up her mother's sister Elizabeth, who confirmed that Ben and Jane had been courting when Hannah was conceived and that Ben had always acknowledged paternity of her. "He married her mother to father the child," she said. Other witnesses included Ada Cole, widow of Ben junior, who gave evidence

Shrewd investor Ben owned three pubs

BEN Cole's estate was worth the equivalent of half a million pounds – a tidy sum for a man who started off life as a farm labourer.

Not only did he own Smallways Inn and its adjoining 52-acre farm, but he had acquired both the Dun Cow and Black Bull Inns at Newsham, the Shoulder of Mutton and 19 acres at Kirby Hill, and an eight-acre smallholding between Newsham and Barningham.

"He may just have been very canny and gradually built up his investments," says his great-great-granddaughter Lynne

ben's legacy

Otterson. "There are reports in the *Teesdale Mercury* referring to Ben renting land, farming, being a licensee, a hawker, and a carrier – he was one of the last of the old market carriers whose horse-drawn conveyances so regularly visited Barney market each Wednesday with his load of passengers and their wares.

"There is another reference to him running a wagonette to Barnard Castle – I imagine this would be a fore-runner to a motorised bus service.

"I expect he would also

be paid rent by his daughters-in-law who were in the Smallways Inn and Black Bull house, and by the tenants of the other properties."

She was intrigued by our story of the sisters' court battle over who should inherit.

"From my point of view (and that of my sister) as a great-great-grandchild of Ben and descendant of Sarah Cole/Butler who seems to have been one of the prime movers in the case, it reflects badly on our side of the family

"But I'd like to think that it was two or three generations ago and no-one will hold it against us personally!"

ben's legacy

know it existed as her mother kept it locked in a drawer. Her sister Alice also gave evidence, describing how her father had refused to allow Hannah be married under the name Cole.

Summing up, the judge said it was a very serious case. He didn't think the Bible was very important, and it was quite natural that Ben should have treated Hannah as one of the family.

The critical event was Ben's attitude to Hannah's wedding. He could not understand why Ben insisted on her being married with the name Metcalfe. "It seems more than the pique

of a man whose daughter was marrying against his wishes, and points rather against Ben Cole being her father," he said. "She was really married as not being the daughter of Ben Cole."

As a result, he was not satisfied that Hannah had made out her case, and the petition was refused.

Hannah died in 1940. Whether she and her sisters ever made their peace we don't know.

- Thanks to Lynne Otterson and Barbara Mattley for their help in compiling this story.
- Read the court case on the *Mercury Archive* website, teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk



Close the curtains, we're off to town!

ANOTHER old Stapleton bus, this one photographed opposite Burrell's garage in Newsham. The date's unknown – 1940s, perhaps?

Rob Green, grandson of the bus company's owner Jack Stapleton, thinks the driver was his Aunt Millie, who regularly took the wheel while her sister, Rob's mother, collected the tickets.

It's remarkable not least for the fact that it has curtains. Our veteran bus expert Reuben Frankau says this suggests it was used for coach trips – "note the luggage rack, which doesn't extend the full length of the bus because there was probably a sunshine roof. It probably had upholstered seats rather than wooden benches, possibly a carpet, possibly even a saloon wire-

less. Probably even a heater (gasp!) in the passenger saloon – the driver got all the heat he wanted, and then some, from the engine."

The vehicle, he thinks, is a late 1920s/early 1930s coach of about 25-seat capacity, possibly the 1928 Gilford coach Stapletons acquired second-hand in 1939. "Note the pneumatic tyres, the disc wheels (as opposed to spoked), the elegant front wings: we are well out of the clumsy agricultural Edwardian period here.

"It was no longer merely a question of building something that worked, it had become a question of something that looked good."