



Glorious Twelfth, a century ago

THIS picture of a grouse party outside Barningham Park in August 1909, the photo below of a girl in a trap at about the same time, and the one on the front, are among thousands collected by Parkin Raine and now held in the Fitzhugh Museum in Barnard Castle.

The museum, an eclectic collection of Teesdale records invaluable to local historians, is under threat. Formerly housed in the Witham Hall, it has been moved temporarily to Wood-leigh while a new permanent home is sought:

the new-look Witham will apparently be unable to take it back, and Woodleigh's future is in doubt. It would be a great shame if the museum contents were consigned to Durham County records office basement or, worse, consigned to some inaccessible store elsewhere.

Among its other treasures are many parish magazines. Some are from Barningham, and the history group is busy making digital copies of many issues missing from its own collection.



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.

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 35

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

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INSIDE: ANCIENT RITUAL OF THE THRICE-LOCKED POT



Two maids on the staff at Barningham Park put on their Sunday best for a photographer in September 1900. See back page

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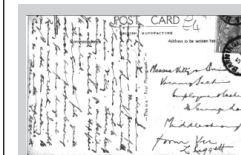
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NEXT BLHG MEETING: TUESDAY AUGUST 27th 6pm



2012 winner
Phil Hunt

Deadline for award entries

ENTRIES for this year's *Archive Awards* for the best local history projects must be in by Sunday August 25th.

The awards will be presented at the village show on September 1 and the best projects will be featured in future issues of the *Archive*.

Entries can be in any form and the only stipulations are that they are original work and have been produced during the 12 months up to the deadline. Previous winners are eligible to try again. Send entries to *Archive* editor Jon Smith at Heath House, Barningham.

Next meeting

THE BLHG meeting on August 27th will mark the end of our fourth year in operation and include the AGM.

This will be an opportunity to discuss what the future holds for the group (and who's going to run it!) and it would be good to see as many members as possible attending and making their voices heard.

Bonus: *Teesdale Mercury* historian Jenny Braddy is our guest speaker. Do come along!

Early days of education and a very old map

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday June 25th 2013:

Present: Jon Smith (Chairman), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Ann Orton (Secretary), Margaret Taylor, Neil Turner, Phil Hunt, John Hay, Linda Sherwood, Sheila Wappet, Ron Walker, Tony Orton.

Apologies: Jan Walker, Cate and Harry Collingwood, Jane Hackworth-Young, Kay Duggan, Diane Metcalf, Mark Watson, Sheila Catton, Margaret Stead, Ann Hutchinson, Janet Paterson.

Minutes of the meeting held on May 7th were approved with one alteration. Under oral history, Frank Anderson was to be recorded, not Frank Dawson.

Matters arising: The Secretary had spoken to someone at Lartington Hall who promised to contact us to arrange a visit. They make a charge of £5 per person but that includes coffee and cake. The Secretary was asked to try to arrange an evening visit and also to investigate the attractions of Corbridge and Hexham with a view to a group outing sometime in September.

Correspondence: Coles, Walkers, etc – see pages 3-6.

Heritage Forum: Jon, Phil, John and June had a very successful day.

minutes

Financial report: May/June income was £138.20, expenditure £201.45, leaving a balance of £1315.24.

House Histories: Saunders House – see Page 7.

Publications: Archive 34 was out and 35 would be ready soon.

Oral history: Tony and Janet had recorded about an hour and a half with Frank Anderson. Any volunteers willing to transcribe it?

Charity: Phil, looking into the history of the Brinec charity and the start of formal education in Barningham, gave us a short overview and hoped to bring the completed project to us in due course – See page 11.

Map: John Hay showed us a copy of a map he had found at the Rokeby exhibition at the Bowes Museum, from the 1804 Richard Garland scenic history of the Tees Valley – see centre pages.

Next meetings: August 27th when Jenny Braddy will be talking about Thomas de Rokeby, October 15th, November 19th and December 17th.

Any other business: Jon reminded everyone that the *Archive Award* entries were due in at the end of August.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

Triumphant rector leads off his prize

cuttings

AFTER 19 years as Rector of Barningham, the Rev William Fitzwilliam Wharton finally found himself a bride in 1859.

She was 22 years his junior but as the daughter of a clergyman was eminently suitable for her new position. The marriage was certainly advantageous to 48-year-old William, as his household increased from just a housekeeper and housemaid to include a cook, kitchenmaid, footman and stable boy!

The wedding took place in the bride's home village of Nether Wallop in Hampshire. Here's part of the *Teesdale Mercury*'s report, discovered by Ann Orton:

The retired village of Nether Wallop was enlivened by a scene of unusual festivity when the nuptials of the Rev. W. Fitzwilliam Wharton, of Barningham, Yorkshire, and Miss Agnes R. Blunt, of Wallop House, were celebrated in the parish church.

Long before the appointed hour, the sacred building was filled with a large assemblage of all classes anxious to pay respect to a family who has long resided among them.

Shortly after eleven the bridegroom appeared, attended by his "best man," the Hon G Fitzwilliam, and surrounded by a group of relatives and friends. Nor had he to remain long in expectation – in a few minutes the bride entered the church, leaning on the arm of her father. She was attired in a dress of white glace silk, with broad stripes of grey, fastened with pearl buttons, Honiton veil, and wreath of orange-blossom. Her bridesmaids followed—twelve in number – arrayed in the racing colours of the Earl of Zetland, a near relation of the

bridegroom, the dresses and scarfs being of white muslin, with scarlet spots, white silk bonnets, with a spray of holly and frosted leaves inside. The girls of the village, in scarlet cloaks, concluded the procession.

The holy ceremony was performed by the vicar, the Rev. A. Ashworth, the Psalm *Deus Misereatur* being chanted by the whole congregation.

After its conclusion, the bride had scarcely signed her maiden name for the last time, when the bells pealed forth a crash that shook the venerable tower to its base. At this moment, as the *cortege* passed down the nave, the church presented a most animated spectacle, crowded in all parts with a concourse of all ranks, even from the adjacent villages, while the avenue at the entrance was lined with labourers.

As the happy bridegroom led off his prize in triumph

Hard labour

From the *Yorkshire Gazette* of May 27th 1843:

James Frazer, aged 19, was charged before the Venerable Archdeacon Headlam at Greta Bridge Police Court with begging at the parish of Newsham. Mr Snowden said he was a well-known character to the police and was guilty of worse crimes than begging. Committed for one month to hard labour.

old ads

WANTED, for Fairview, Barningham, Good General Servant, alfo Younger Girl of Houfemaid. Apply Mrf Todd, Willenden Houfe, Llandudno.

Teesdale Mercury, 1900

amid the hearty and respectful farewells, it was easy to discern from the countenances of many of the villagers how deeply they felt that they were parting with a friend.

The bridal party then drove to Wallop House, where a sumptuous *dejeuner* was laid; and none who are acquainted with the customs of that hospitable mansion will need to be informed that the poor also were liberally provided for on this festive occasion – every labouring man, woman, and child in the village (one of the largest in the neighbourhood) having been supplied with the roast beef of Old England.

The brilliant display of gifts to the bride, approaching one hundred, sufficiently testified the esteem and affection which she so largely enjoys. Nor did these emanate from her wealthier friends alone, there were many of a more humble and unpretending, though equally gratifying character; and probably not one of those numerous *souvenirs* was regarded with a juster pride than the offering of a richly-appointed Holy Bible and Prayer Book, presented to her by the village choir of Nether Wallop.

The Rev Wharton and his bride arrived at Barningham on Thursday last, and were received with the most enthusiastic demonstrations of joy. On Saturday the event was further commemorated by a public tea party, followed by a Ball, and the company separated with pleasing reminiscences of their good rector's marriage, and with many good wishes for the happiness of himself and bride.

They don't write wedding reports like that any more!



The Archive

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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).

dakyn trust

stipend of seven pence a week.

The Races have been held every even year since, on August 29th, the Feast of the Decollation of St John the Baptist to whom the school and hospital were dedicated.

THE TRUST TODAY

THE Trust owns the Old School and flat above, Dakyn House (the former Almshouse for the Poor), the Schoolmaster's House, five houses in Sleggill, and land at Kirby Hill, Newsham, Sleggill and Richmond.

There are two strands to Dakyn's legacy. Firstly the John Dakyn Almshouse Charity which looks after Dakyn House, properties and land, and secondly John Dakyn's Educational Charity which in effect replaces, since its closure, the school which John Dakyn founded in Kirby Hill in 1556.

One third of the profits of the Almshouse Charity go to the Educational Charity for annual awards to be given to applicants who live in the parish who are undertaking further education. Last year five applicants each received £500 and other recipients were East Cowton Fund, Holmedale Pre-school, Holmedale Scouts and Ravensworth School. The Trust is currently looking into giving awards for apprentices.

THE TRUSTEES

THE ex-officio trustees are the vicar and the two wardens and five co-opted trustees who all come from within the benefice of Kirkby Ravensworth with Gilling. The most important position is that of the Clerk, Frances McGregor, who looks after the day to day running of



**Boys at the grammar school some 70 years ago.
Pictures from the Landmark Trust**

the Trust.

The wardens are a very important link between the residents and the trustees. It is a very interesting role involving getting to know the residents and reporting any requirements to the trustees.

Every two years the trustees and churchwardens of the parish need to find six people who are willing to allow their names to go into the Pot. The rules have changed since Dakyn's day, and women are now eligible to become wardens. If you would like to take part in continuing the work of the Trust, please contact Frances McGregor, 30 Springfield, Skeeby, Richmond, DL10 5DY.

THE BUILDINGS

THE school closed in 1957 and in 1971 was leased to the Landmark Trust for 50 years. They use the first-floor flat for holiday lets.

The Dakyn House dates from 1754. There is no indication in any existing record whether this was a new structure or a rebuild. In 1803 the house had 12 rooms and four more were added that year and the number of almspeople was 24. Men and women were

admitted provided they resided in the parish and were unmarried. There were at this time six nurses.

During the second half of the 19th century the number of admissions reduced and thus the number of nurses reduced to three. In 1959 there were only three almspeople and one part-time nurse. Between 1959 and 1960, six self-contained flats were made within the almshouse, each with a separate kitchen and bathroom. The almspeople lived free of rent, heating, water and laundry costs.

In 2006 a substantial restoration was undertaken so that all the flats now have a separate living room, bedroom, fully fitted kitchen including white goods and a bathroom with a walk in shower. There is a common-room, also used as a meeting place for the trustees.

The residents now pay rent, currently £245 a month, but have heating and water free.

As a result of the restoration the Trust won The Prince of Wales award for restoration. With the award came a very fine bronze plaque with Prince of Wales feathers on it which is on the front of the Dakyn House.

More links to the Coles of Smallways

letters & emails

MY great-great-great-grandfather was Ben Cole (1850-1929), his daughter Sarah Ann Cole was my great-great-grandmother, and her daughter Mary Jane Cole (married Robert Edward Tye) was my great-grandmother.

My father was born in the Archives I requested, they are very interesting. I think I should point out that you

Whorlton, revisiting my father's childhood, when he would happily tell us about the miles he walked through fields visiting relatives in neighbouring villages.

Thank you for sending me the Archives I requested, they are very interesting. I think I should point out that you



Ben's shop and cottage in Gainford, pictured in 1893

Where Ben made his boots before he took over the inn

AFTER looking through *Archive 34*, the article that interested me most was the one on Smallways publican Ben Cole (*Sisters' battle over landlord's will*).

Ben had lived with his young family at Gainford for at least 12 years.

The family were on the 1881 and 1891 censuses in Gainford and his children went to Gainford school.

I have a photograph and a painting of the photo dated 1893 of a long cottage on High Row, Gainford, showing his

business to be 'Ben Cole boot and shoemaker.'

The effects from Ben Cole's estate when he died at News-ham Villa on 24th February 1929 were £5548/6s/7d while the administration at Wakefield on 9th May 1929 went to Sarah Ann Butler, wife of Joseph Butler, and Alice Houlden, wife of Ben Houlden.

Ben Cole's life was one of rags to riches ending in a terrible fight over his estate on his death. You couldn't make it up!!

MIKE STOW, Gainford

have Mary Jane Cole wrong in *Archive 34*. Her parents were not Ben Cole junior and his wife, her mother was Sarah Ann Cole but we do not know who her father was.

Sarah Ann married when Mary Jane was about three and a half, but Mary Jane remained with her grandparents, which is why she is seen in the same household as her uncle Ben and aunt Ada Sylvia in 1901. In the previous census (1891) both Sarah Ann and the three-month-old Mary Jane are listed in Ben Cole's household.

By 1911 Mary Jane was a domestic servant for the Johnson family in Thorpe, and Robert Tye was a farm labourer boarding with her mother Sarah Ann and Joseph. The address is listed as Newsham Grange; Mary Jane and Robert were married the same year.

Mary Jane was known as Aunt Polly to many of the family and Robert was known as Teddy. They moved into a small cottage in Hutton Magna when they married, then to Mortham Towers and finally Whorlton.

They had two children, Sylvia Jane Tye (my grandmother) and Charlie, who died within a month. Sylvia went on to have a daughter who was born out of wedlock (my auntie Sheila) and Mary Jane and Teddy raised her as their own, while Sylvia went on to marry my grandfather Ernie Coates and have three more children.

Sheila is now 79 and remembers a lot about her childhood, including visiting her great grandmother Sarah Ann at Earby Cottage.

Teddy served in the first

letters & emails

world war and lost a leg, so was sent home, but was unable to work so Mary Jane went out to work while he looked after Sheila until he died of cancer aged just 56.

Sheila remained with her grandmother in Whorlton until she married.

Having visited the Barningham area last month I am keen to find out more about members of our family who lived there, not just the Coles but also the Coates.

CHRISSEY WOODCOCK

Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston
cwoodcock@uclan.ac.uk

● *Chrissy's joined the history group and we've sent her copies of the Archive with information about these families.*

Hunting for a Hutchinson

I AM wondering if you have anything on Ester Ann who married James Hutchinson in the Reeth district in 1848?

An article appeared in the Yorkshire Gazette 5/7/1834 about a Miss Ann Hutchinson of Hellwith who was robbed. I did not find her but I came across Ester Ann, married to James Hutchinson in 1851.

She is a very complicated person who was born at Bangalor, East Indies. We think her maiden name was Stewart. James was a merchant in Richmond in 1861 and 1871.

KEN LONGSTAFF
Stratford-on-Avon

● *Ken's ancestors farmed at Kersey Green and Bank House, Barningham. Our records show Ester and James living at Helwith in 1851: their son was called James Stuart Hutchinson. There's no further mention of them. – Ed.*

FIRE AT BARNINGHAM

Little Boy Playing With Matches

At Barningham yesterday morning a fire occurred at the cottage of Mr T Walker and but for the prompt assistance of neighbours it might easily have resulted in loss of life.

The outbreak originated in a bedroom occupied by Mr Walker's youngest son aged 6 years who at the time was in bed. It is conjectured that the little fellow had been playing with matches and accidentally set the bedclothes on fire.

His mother heard him calling and upon going up stairs found the bedroom in flames. The boy could not

be seen at first but when she pulled back the clothes she found him in a state of exhaustion.

She shouted for help and neighbours were quickly on the scene. Fortunately there was a supply of water in the house, it being washing day. In a very short time the fire was extinguished.

It was found that the little boy was burnt about the face and his mother was suffering from shock, she having fallen down the stairs in her excitement. The bedclothes were destroyed.

The day Christine's Uncle Alf set his bed on fire

JUST after reading Gordon Sirrell's letter in *Archive 34* about the Walker family of Woodbine Cottage, Barningham, history group member John Marriner of Middlesbrough came "by pure chance" across the above story in the *Teesdale Mercury* of July 31 1929.

He sent us a copy, and one to Gordon, who replied:

"Thank you for the information about the little boy playing with the matches. My wife Christine, thinks the boy might have been her Uncle Alfred (Alf). Our record of Alf's birth indicate that he would have

been six at the time of the fire. Alf was a person who suffered from what we now call learning difficulties.

"He did however, work on a farm and on Sundays pumped up the organ in the church.

"We wish you the best of luck in your research. History is a fascinating subject!"

● *Alfred Cecil Walker was baptised at Barningham on October 6 1922. He was the youngest child of Barbara and Thomas Peat Walker, and was buried at Barningham, aged 47, in January 1970. Barbara had died in 1966; Thomas in 1971.*

Ancient ritual of the thrice-locked Pot

EVERY other August, Kirby Hill celebrates a unique ritual dating back more than 450 years.

It's called the Kirby Hill Races, and it decides who will be the two new wardens of the Dakyn Trust for the next two years.

After a brief service in the parish church the vicar supervises the opening of the ancient Dakyn Chest. He holds the key to one of the three padlocks that secure it; the two retiring wardens have the keys to the others, one apiece so that all three officials are needed to open the chest.

Inside is a stone urn known simply as the Pot, which is taken reverently into the nearby schoolroom. The Pot is full of water; beneath the surface are four wax balls, inside each of which is a slip of waterproof paper on which is written the name of a parishioner.

The balls are opened, the names read out, and then discarded. They were put there two years previously, and no one whose name is read out is eligible to take part again until the next time round.

Fresh water goes into the Pot, the names of six new parishioners (chosen from "the gravest and most honest" available) are written on slips of paper, sealed in wax balls by an official called the Waxman, and dropped inside.

The vicar gives the Pot a stir and then, eyes averted, picks out two of the balls. The Waxman opens them, reads out the names within, and these become the new wardens. They swear an oath upon the Bible to carry out their duties truly, the Pot (still containing the



dakyn trust

Based on an information sheet prepared by LINDA SHERWOOD for a recent Dakyn Trust open day

names of the four unsuccessful candidates, whose names will be read out in two years' time to prove there was no cheating) is returned to the chest, and the three padlocks are locked.

The chest remains sealed until the next Race, unless a warden dies or leaves the area, in which case another wax ball is ceremoniously withdrawn to choose his replacement.

This extraordinary ritual was laid down by the Rev John Dakyn, rector of Kirby Ravensworth, when he set up the Dakyn Trust in 1556.

Dakyn, who began his career as a monk at St Mary's Abbey in York, was the executor of his friend and patron William Knight, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who had died nine years earlier. Dakyn decided to put Knight's money to good use and obtained a licence to build a grammar school and alms house at Kirby Hill "for the instruction of boys and youths, also for the maintenance of the

poor and needy".

The Statutes outlining his plans reveal Dakyn's reasons for the foundation: "having been long and often tossed hither and thither on the waves of this uncertain life, observing there is nothing stable in its vanities, knowing rather that death assuredly threatens all equally and that my end must come; wishing to lament sincerely my errors, ignorances and most grievous sins, wishing now at last to draw tight the lax reins of my youth and put into the harbour of life eternal, I have decided that these sins of mine must be expiated by gifts of alms from my goods, those bestowed upon me by God, and those entrusted by others to my stewardship."

The ceremony of the foundation of the school and hospital took place on May 11th 1556, when the first Kirby Hill Race was held. John Bignall and William Smithson were the first names from the Pot. William Barthram (an old and decrepit servant of Dakyn), William Ramshaw, Agnes Molton and Margaret Tuckler were the first alms-people of the hospital, each with a



Queen's Hall Arts Centre

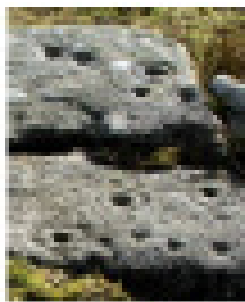
BEAUMONT STREET, HEXHAM, NE46 5LS



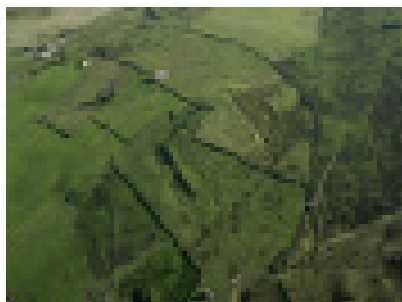
Saturday 14th September 2013. 10am – 4pm.

A public conference to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the
NORTH PENNINES AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

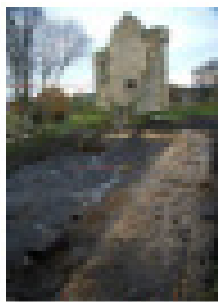
THE NORTH PENNINES FROM PREHISTORY TO PRESENT



Prehistoric rock art (petroglyphs)



Aerial view of the North Pennines landscape



A stone building, likely a castle or church tower

Speakers: Stewart Alsop, Ian Forbes, Paul Frodsham, Tom Gledhill, Jacqui Huntley,
David Mason, David Potts, Nick Young.

This conference is about the people of the North Pennines, from the earliest times to the twentieth century. It will focus largely on exciting recent research, including work undertaken by the Altogether Archaeology project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Everyone welcome! Refreshments (including Birthday Cake!) provided.

Tickets £20 (£15 for Altogether Archaeology volunteers and Friends of the North Pennines) direct from the Queen's Hall box office.

Book online at www.queenshall.co.uk or telephone 01434 652477.

For more information about this event email Paul Frodsham at pfrodsham@northpenninesaonb.org.uk.
For further information about the venue please see www.queenshall.co.uk

Tithe map help for university researcher

I READ on your very interesting website that you have a digital copy of the Barningham tithe map from 1838. I am doing some research on a Barningham family and have having difficulty identifying the property that they owned.

Is it possible to obtain a copy of the map and do you have the associated documents, ie the schedules of landowners? I'd be very happy

to pass on my results to the history group and do a talk at one of your meetings if you wish.

Dr JOAN HEGGIE

Research Fellow, Teesside University

● Joan is researching women's property rights in Victorian days. We've sent her a digital copy of the tithe map, and may take her up on her offer to talk to us. – Ed.

Was my great-grandad a Barningham Brass?

I WONDER if you could help? I'm looking for records of a gentleman named Fred Brass, born in 1900, died we think in either 1963 or 1976.

We believe he lived in Barningham with his wife anytime from 1925 onwards. We just today discovered he was my grandfather's father and would love to know more.

It's going to be a hard one to solve as we know this gentleman had two illegitimate children in 1920 and 1923 to an Edith Ratchford from Piercebridge, who then went on to marry, becoming Edith Todd and having several more children.

Fred also married. The first child born in 1920 was my grandad Lawrence Ratchford, my mother's father. The second child was Rene who went with her mother when she got married and she took the Todd's surname.

My grandad remained a Ratchford and was left to be brought up by his grandad in Piercebridge. Neither of them met their father. Fred would have been my great-grandad, and I think he lived in Barningham as a child, from 1900 onwards.

If you know of the family or have any records, we would love your help. This is a long

shot I know, but any details would be gratefully received.

CLARE SKINNER
clareskinner@fsmail.net

● There were Brasses living in Barningham from around 1900 until recently. The 1911 census shows a family of George and Elizabeth Brass with children Thomas, Jane, George Herbert, Arthur and Herbert. George, Elizabeth, George Herbert and Arthur lived in the village all their lives.

George died in 1939, Elizabeth in 1957, Arthur unmarried in 1993. All are buried in the local churchyard. So is George Herbert who died in 1973 and his wife Nancy (Nana Brass, well-known to older residents) who died in 1997. They had six children, we think, of whom at least two, Robert and Irene, are alive and living in Barnard Castle.

There's no sign of a Fred Brass in Barningham, and Irene – a history group member – doesn't recall anyone of that name. But there is a Fred Brass born 1900 in the Barnard Castle census records for 1911, son of Thomas (b 1864) and Hannah (b 1866), living in Bridgegate, and had a brother George born 1859 who might be the Barningham George, though the ages don't match very well. – Ed.

letters & emails

The Kitchen who did the hall laundry

MARIE Davies of Darlington wrote asking if we knew anything about a family called Kichen who lived in Barningham almost a century ago.

We've pieced together the following from her email, our records, and research on the internet:

Her grandparents were Charles and Rose Kitchen, who were living in Caldicott in Oxfordshire when Charles, a coachman and gardener, died in 1915 and the family lost their tied house. Rose had three of their six children living with her, including Marie's mother Violet, then 15 years old.

"This was a worrying time and Rose spent all her time when she wasn't working sitting in the cemetery," says Marie. "The local vicar had friends in Barningham and found Rose a job in the laundry at Sir Frederick Milbank's, with a house nearby.

"They set off from Caldicott to go to Barnard Castle, a long dreary journey with only what they could carry with them. When they arrived at Barnard Castle a horse and trap was waiting for them and took them

letters & emails

to Barningham. Mother said it was heaven when they arrived at the cottage which had been prepared for them with a lovely fire burning."

The house was Elim Cottage, which was the Black Horse pub until 1916 when it was closed by the local Methodist minister and sold to the Milbanks.

In June that year, not long after they arrived, Rose learned that the eldest of her two sons, Lancelot, had been killed in action in Mesopotamia. His name's on the Barningham war memorial.

"The eldest daughter Maud came to Barningham, pregnant. Her boyfriend had been killed, so she stayed at Elim Cottage – the shame in those days!" says Marie. Maud later married Horace Hirst, whose parents lived next-door at The Laurels, and moved to Snape.

Rose's second son Percy survived the war, came home to Barningham and in 1924 married Alice Blades, daughter of William and Jane Blades who farmed at Moorcock ("not a good match, thought mother," says Marie).

Rose's daughter Daisy had various jobs in the area, including, Marie thinks, a spell working in the Milbank Arms.

Marie's mother Violet found work in Darlington, where she met and married her father, James Lister. They had four children, the youngest Marie, born in 1939.

Rose is recorded living at Elim Cottage at the time of the 1920 and 1924 censuses, but in 1929 became ill and went to live with her daughter Maud in Snape, where she died. The house tenancy passed to her son Percy and Alice. They later



Percival Ernest Kitchen

moved to Catterick, where, says Marie, Percy was killed crossing the road.

In the early 1920s Rose shared Elim Cottage with a Percival Ernest Kitchen, born 1871 and killed in Sheffield in 1940. We don't know what their relationship was: Marie thinks he might have been a brother-in-law. We found the above photograph of him on the ancestry.co.uk website.

"My mother spoke very highly of the Milbanks," Marie recalls. "I think people had such a hard life in the early part of the century. My mother lived through two world wars and was a wonderful person. She lived until she was 95.

"I did visit Barningham in the eighties but now I find it difficult getting about as I have two new hips and can't walk far.

"I'm a member of Genes Reunited and have quite a large family tree. I am working my way backwards and trying to find out what I can about each ancestor."

● *If anyone can add to the Kitchen story, please get in touch with us. Marie's email is marie.davies12@hotmail.co.uk*

from the parish mag

90 YEARS AGO: At the Teesdale Musical Tournament our Barningham Church of England School children, under the training of Lady Milbank and Mrs Roper, quite distinguished themselves, being awarded the Jackson Shield for the best elementary school competing with under 100 children on the books.

– August 1923

60 YEARS AGO: The following were confirmed by the Lord Bishop of Ripon: Catherine Wren, Jillian Mary Patterson, Elizabeth Bray, Cynthia Maughan, Anne Cowell, Dorothy Maude, Doreen Alsop, Pamela Alsop, and Kenneth Powell. Lewis Watson and Neil Turner acted as ushers and did it with quiet efficiency. There was a tea party of confirmees and friends in the village hall afterwards.

– August 1953

50 YEARS AGO: After so anxious and prolonged unsettled weather for our farming community, at last things have turned for the better and haymaking has been in full swing. Occupation with the hay undoubtedly affected the attendance at the Garden Fete, but not the goodwill. I understand we should clear about £120, which is extraordinarily good. What we have accumulated through these garden fetes and whist drives should go a long way to meet any expense in keeping our church in good repair. There is also the question of the Rectory, which must be faced before long.

– August 1963

20 YEARS AGO: Congratulations to Trevor and Jennifer Turner who in July celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Here's to the golden one!

– August 1993

The village school in the early 1800s

THE book – item EP/Ba12/1 in the county records office – opens with an entry dated January 1st 1817, and lists the "Surviving Trustees of Barningham School & Poor Endowment: Mark Milbank Esqre, Matthew Hardy.

"N.B. The Deeds relating to the said Endowment are deposited in the Iron Chest belonging to the Parish.

"The lands of the Endowment are let to Mr. Mark Newby of Barningham at the yearly rent of £21.10; twenty pounds of which are assigned to the schoolmaster for his salary, subject to deductions for the repairs of the school and the remaining thirty shillings are distributed annually to the poor.

"In June last the schoolmaster Robert Atkinson was instructed at the Barrington school in Bishop Auckland in the Madras system of education, the adoption of which in this school took place in July, shortly after this the school was admitted upon the list of schools to which the Richmond District National School Society affords its protection; school thereby is supplied gratuitously with all elementary books of instruction. The number of scholars at the examination in December was Boys 23, Girls 14, Total 37.

"Twelve children receive their education gratis; the rest pay 4/6 per quarter.

"Hours of attendance are from 9 to 12 and from 2 to 5; in winter from 2 to 4. The children are assembled also on Sundays and taken to Church morning and evening."

There follow ten sides of

PHIL HUNT found the Barningham School Record Book for 1817-1834 while researching the history of village charities at Durham County Records Office.

notes, the last dated October 1834. Extracts follow.

"July 1st 1817. June exam had 32 boys and 22 girls, total 54."

"Oct 1 Atkinson Hart (?) left the school & Elliott (???) Was nominated in his place."

"Dec 20. Exam this day 45 boys, 16 girls total 51"

"Monkhouse James (?) was dismissed from the school for misbehaviour & Donald nominated in his place."

"June 26 1818. Exam this day 31 boys 18 girls, total 49"

"May 1819 The lands are let at the reduced rent of £20"

June 26. 1819 Exam this day 30 boys, 25 girls, total 55"

The numbers enrolled remain around the mid-fifties to 1823, the final entry.

The date for the following entry, about the building of a new school is not clear, but it follows an entry for 1823. (*Archive 13* suggested the school was rebuilt around 1815 and quoted *Baine's Directory* dating it as 1820.)

"The Trustees having thought it necessary to rebuild the school, the foundation stone of the new school was laid on the 24th September and the building was finished so as to be opened on November 19th. The following contributions were made to assist in defraying the expense of the work.

"Mark Milbank Esq. gave

all the wood required. Richmond Soc. for Education of the Poor £25. Revd. J Collins, Rector £10. Revd. E Monkhouse, curate £1. Mr Mark Newby £1. Mrs Collins £2 2s. Mr John Todd £3 3s. Mr & Mrs Hardy £1. Mr Wm Todd 10s. George Hartley Esq £5. Totalling £49 5s. Wood cut down on the estate & sold £5 10s. Gt [grand total] £54 16s 6d.

"The total expense of this building amounted to £61 17s 8d which was defrayed by the above contributions in part, and the remainder out of the funds of the [Poor?] estate.

"The following table breaks down the expenditure:

"J Bowman 2.5 days digging groundwork 5s. [*unreadable*] 5s. J Ewbank, mason £23 6s. [*unreadable*] Bills 12s 2d. For lime £2 13s 9d. For hair 14s 2d. R Ewbank for leading (*carting*) 10s 6d. M Sawyer carpenter £17 14s. E Messingham (?) Blacksmith 18s 7d. Green & Barker (?) for slates £10. Ware (*iron?*) for grate 12s 6d. Raine for glazing £4 6s. Gt £61 17s 8d. Amount content £54 16s 6d. From rents of estates £2 19s 2d. Dr £2 12s. Dr £1 10s. Gt £61 17s.8d."

Remaining entries are notes of receipt of rent from Thomas Wilkinson, at nine guineas per half year up to October 1834.

The remaining pages (possibly 100) are blank, but the back of the book, in reverse, has been used as a receipt book.

Payments to the poor, mostly of 1, 2 or 3 shillings each, are recorded, the last in 1832.

Master's salary, mostly the 9 guineas rental income per half year.



Holiday postcard to the lads back at work

MORE from a busy John Hay. He found this postcard while manning our history group stall at the History and Heritage Forum in Durham last month.

It was posted from Barningham on August 5th 1932, addressed to 'Messrs Vilty and Barnes' at the Employment Exchange in Middlesbrough.

The sender was Victor Leggett, who was on holiday in the village and staying at the house he'd marked with a cross – then called Gladysville, now Granville – the home of Barningham Park butler Joseph Leggett.

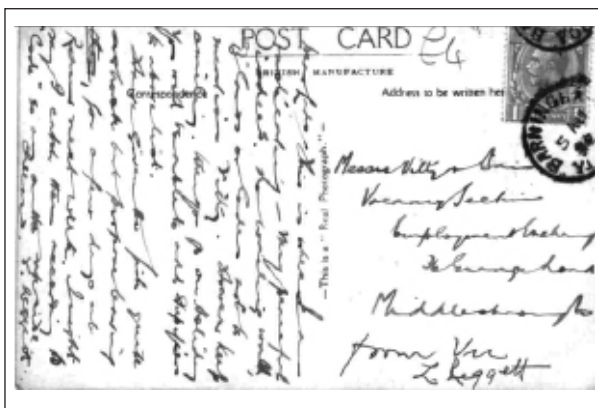
Victor, 36 when the postcard was sent, was the Barningham-born son of George Leggett,

Silk makes link across the globe

THE *Northern Echo* recently reported how a home-made silk postcard posted in Teesdale in 1919 had ended up on exhibition in New Zealand.

It had been sent to a Miss G Kellett of Langleydale, and we recalled that the Kelletts were related to history group member and regular *Archive* correspondent Dani Miles of Hampshire. We passed the story on to her and another bit of the family tree jigsaw fell into place. "A lovely souvenir," she says.

Nobody has any idea how the card ended up in New Zealand.



who we think was probably Joseph's brother. Victor was obviously enjoying his visit. "Dear Lads," he wrote on the card to his workmates back on Teesside, "This is where I

am rustivating – very peaceful indeed. No working with B! Lords or Ladies..."

He spent much of his time angling – "Have given the fish quite a shock," he said proudly.

The photograph on the card shows children playing outside the school (now the village hall, of course), the boy's earth closet toilets in the corner of the yard, and, parked on the green, a curious vehicle which we think was probably the portable kitchen wagon which visited the village from time to time to give pupils the chance to do cooking lessons.

The family name, four centuries ago

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.

SAUNDERS HOUSE

THERE were people called Sanders in Barningham when Elizabeth 1 was on the throne, and by the time of the Civil War they were a well-established farming family.

They tenanted the fields around the site of the house that bears their name. A George Sanders, born around 1590, married Denys Allan in 1617 and had at least eight children baptised in Barningham church.

In 1655 John Sanders (his son?) occupied two pews in the church; in 1661 Robert Sanders (a grandson?) married Frances Fenton there. Twelve years later he was listed in the local hearth tax records.

When the Tunstall family sold their land in the village to the Milbank family in 1689, a list of their tenants included Robert and George Sandry (the spelling varied from time to time: for the record, the surname *Sanders* is a diminutive of *Alexander's* son).

Quite when the existing house was built we're not sure, but we'd guess it originated around 1700, when the first enclosures were made and farmers who had previously lived in the village began moving out to new homes on the land they farmed. It was probably a simple longhouse to begin with, much extended later.

The last Sanders on record was Isobel, who married a George Scott in 1699; a quarter



house histories



of a century later a survey of Milbank-owned land in the manor showed George as the Sanders Farm tenant.

There's a lengthy gap after this until 1817, when the tenancy was held by Ralph Heslop (born 1769) who passed it to his son, also called Ralph.

Ralph junior died young in 1835 and when the tithe map was drawn up in 1838 the tenant was his 30-year-old widow Ann. She moved before long to Park House, and was eventually remarried to William Todd, the cheesemonger who founded the Fairview dynasty.

Saunders House, meanwhile, was occupied in the 1850s by Richard Haswell and

then for half a century by the Brown family – George Brown from around 1860, his brother (?) John Reynolds Brown from the 1870s into the new century, and his son John George in the early 1900s. By 1911 the farm was occupied by George and Kate Hutchinson. Kate died in 1923, George thirteen years later.

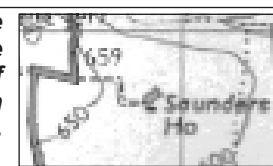
They had at least four children, one of whom, Charles, carried on farming at Saunders House into the 1950s. His wife Nanny (that's how it appears in the electoral roles and on a memorial to her in the church, so it seems to have been her real name) lived on in the village until her death in 1982.

We've got a bit of a gap in the 1960s (anybody help?) but in the late 1970s the farm was occupied by Sandra Bradley.

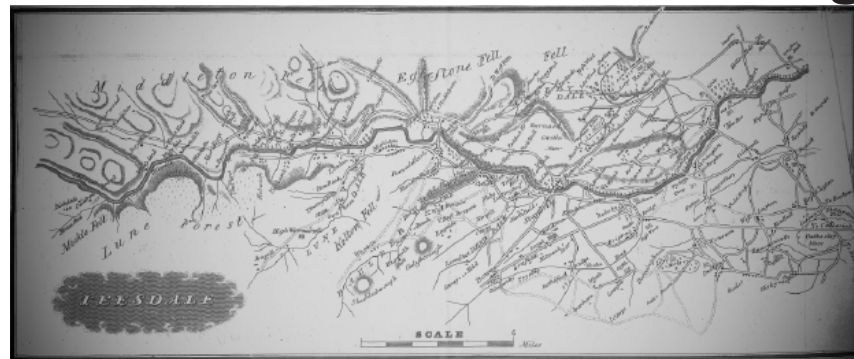
Gerry and May Archer took over in the 1990s, followed a decade or so ago by Giles and Emma Percival; it's now the home of Richard and Moira Percival.



Now U see it... The house name was changed sometime between the publication of Ordnance Survey maps in 1925 (left) and 1956 (right). Who changed it – and why?



No road north to Greta Bridge – but you might see Whale and Herby



JOHN Hay came across this map of the Barningham area at the Rokeby exhibition at the Bowes Museum.

It's from Richard Garland's 1804 scenic history of the Tees Valley, and full of fascinating (though by no means always accurate) information. Below is the bottom righthand corner of the map, blown up so detail can be seen. Barningham, Newsham and Dalton are more or less in the middle.

The first thing that strikes you is that the mapmaker, although clear enough about what lay along the main road from Scotch Corner to Bowes, seems to have been guessing at times about what was on either side.

He ignored the road north out of Barningham to Greta Bridge, leaving Eastwood quite isolated. Newsham's

roads are all over the place, Gayles has no streets on the southern side, and the track from Scargill over the Greta to the west of Brignal gives no hint of the problems to be encountered trying to ford the river. Smallways doesn't exist.

Some place names haven't changed a lot in 200 years: Newsham is Newsam, Gayles is Gailes, and Dalton is Dutton. But Earby appears as Herby and is placed in the middle of Barningham Park, apparently indicating the name of the hall. And where Thwaite should be there's a place called Whale.

It was probably the best map available to the 1804 traveller, but we can't help but wonder how many got a bit lost when they strayed off the old Roman road.

