



Abbey Bridge.

Barnard Castle.

Moor Lea.  
Barningham.

— Dear Edie

I think you are awfully shabby, you might have written to me. I am having a lovely time. Best love  
Moor Lea.

## So awfully shabby, Edie!

THIS postcard from 1901 was spotted on eBay (£8.79 including postage: we didn't buy it).

Although the picture is of the Abbey Bridge, it was posted in Barningham by someone called May who was staying at Moor Lea. May wasn't too pleased with Edie, the person she was writing to. "I think you are awfully shabby," she complained. "You might have written to me." She was, nevertheless, "having a lovely time".

Moor Lea had been built only a few years earlier by Sunderland shipbuilder William Blumer, who in 1901 was living there with his wife and three children. None was called May, who was presumably a relative or family friend on holiday there.

from the parish mag

**100 YEARS AGO:** A Cinematographic Company have engaged the School Room for an attractive display of pictures on December 30th and the Rev G T Shettle has promised to lecture on "The Humorous Poets of the 19th Century".

— December 1913

**90 YEARS AGO:** The Girls' Athletic Club provided a delightful evening for a large attendance at their Fancy Dress Dance in the school, which also secured a welcome addition to their funds. — December 1923

**80 YEARS AGO:**

**Broadcast Records**  
(LONG-PLAYING)

1/-, 1/6 AND 2/-  
at

**JACK ASCOUGH'S**  
The Bank, Barnard Castle

— December 1933

**60 YEARS AGO:** On Christmas Day Holy Communion will be at 7.15am, 8.30am and after the morning service, which is at 10.30am, when the young people who so faithfully and well sing in the choir will be given their Christmas presents.

— December 1953

**50 YEARS AGO:** Very many thanks to those who have given such good support to the Church Whist Drives. The four drives have made a total of £80 5s 11d. — December 1963

**20 YEARS AGO:** Mrs Pamela Stephenson stepped down after four years as President of the WI and was thanked for all her stoic efforts and the fun she created. The annual silver cup for competition points was won by Mrs Mary Bayley.

— December 1993

*1956? Nell Turner, who lent us the photo*  
**Father Christmas in**



# Archive 38

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

xii  
MMXIII

INSIDE: THE EVACUEE WHO GOT LOST ON THE MOORS



**Barningham Christmas Party 1956:** there were a lot more children in the village back then! Guess who was Father Christmas? Answer on back page

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**NEXT BLHG MEETING: TUESDAY DECEMBER 17th 6pm**

## Range of suggestions for future group projects

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday November 19 2013:

**Present:** Jon Smith (chairman), Eric Duggan (treasurer), Phil Hunt (vice-chairman), Mark Watson, Jane Hackworth-Young, John Hay, June Graham, Cate and Harry Collingwood, Janet Wrigley, Greta Carter, Sheila Wappet, Neil Turner, Janet Paterson.

**Apologies:** Linda Sherwood, Margaret Stead, Sheila Catton, Kay Duggan, Diane Metcalf, Ann and Tony Orton.

**Minutes** of the meeting held on October 15 2013 were approved.

**Matters Arising:** None.

**Correspondence:** Leggets, Kiplings, Lartington, Saddler, Dorman Museum: see later in this *Archive*.

**Finance:** Eric reported a deficit of £116.50 since the last meeting, largely due to production and mailing of *Archive 37*, with a balance of £984.01.

**House Histories:** Hay-thwaite: see Page ??

**Publications:** *Archive 37* had been published; its contents were much used in a subsequent *Teesdale Mercury*.

**Transcriptions:** Plans to interview Nancy Gill as soon as she is better. Janet Paterson is

### minutes

transcribing the Frank Anderson interview.

**Future Projects:** Jon invited suggestions for projects the group might undertake in 2014. Ideas included a series of House Histories for Newsham suggested by June Graham; Poets and Artists who visited the area suggested by Jane Hackworth-Young; Ryle Hodges the photographer, whose widow is still living in Newsham; Teesdale Union Workhouse suggested by Phil Hunt; Barnard Castle Methodist Circuit suggested by Jane Hackforth-Young; Combining the trades listed in Bulmer's Directory with the houses in Barningham where they were carried out with a representation of the houses, suggested by John Hay.

**Next Meeting:** December 17 to include Christmas food and drinks (bring a bottle as well if you wish).

**Meetings for 2014 and plans for further Archives:** See next column.

**New Year Social:** Agreed January 5 at Barningham Village Hall; members to bring a bottle and food contribution. Publications and research to be on display.

PHIL HUNT, Vice-chairman

## Group agrees new plan for meetings

THE history group agreed at its last meeting that it was time to have a new look at how and when we meet.

Members agreed that with the completion of the house histories and other major projects there was unlikely to be enough fresh material to justify monthly meetings.

It was decided to meet bi-monthly, with a gap over the summer holiday period. The format will be a mix of open meetings as now, with local members' input, and external speakers. A possible timetable could be February: speaker; April: open meeting; June: speaker; September: open meeting; November: speaker.

It was also agreed that some meetings might start at a later time – 7pm rather than 6pm – to make it easier for members in fulltime work to attend.

It was felt that publication sales would continue to decline, as most people who wanted to buy our booklets had heard of us by now and done so, and this would have an effect on our income. The group decided that the membership subscription should remain the same for 2014. There would be fewer issues of the *Archive* but each would contain more pages than in the past, making them still good value.



## The Archive

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Tel: 01833 621374 email: [history@smith90.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:history@smith90.fsnet.co.uk) website: [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)  
Copies of The Archive, the BLHG newsletter, are available on annual subscription (£12 for 2013).  
Back issues can be purchased for £2 each (see index on our website).

## Evacuee went to feed the hens – and vanished

From the *Teesdale Mercury* of January 21st 1942:

QUITE a sensation was caused at Barningham on Wednesday night when it became known that a little eight-year-old evacuee girl was missing from Brag House Farm.

It appears she returned from school with her two elder sisters, as usual, quite well and happy, and after tea went to feed the poultry and fasten

### snippets

them up for the night a field from the farmstead.

Nothing was thought of her absence until the family were settling down by the fireside for the evening, when she was missed from the circle. A search of the buildings and the fields nearby was made without success.

A message was sent to Barningham and soon search parties were sent out. One party went straight to the poultry-house and with the aid of a torchlight discovered her footprints in the snow on to Barningham Moor and down towards Barningham, but after crossing Moor Beck Bridge they turned to the left and took to fields down to Low Lane, where all traces were lost owing to traffic on the road and cattle and sheep in fields nearby.

Hereabouts two search parties met and in a short time she was discovered crouching behind a tree, exhausted and in a dazed condition and almost stiff with cold. It was about 8.30 o'clock.

Strong men carried her quickly to Barningham, where she was attended by Mrs J Brown and the District Nurse. She had little to say of what had happened except that she had lost the poultry-house key.

1833: George Nicholson of Newsham, Butcher... laying his Dunghill in the town street & throwing Blood & Filth thereon thereby making a nauseous and unwholesome smell... Let him be amerced One Guinea for each Offence.

To do justice to Mr and Mrs Chilton, it should be mentioned that all the three girls are well clothed and fed, and are considered to be the healthiest looking children who attend Barningham School.

## 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 fieldnames.

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

## house histories

place came James and Eva Maude White. James came from Swaledale; Eva was the daughter of Barningham farmer John Coates. They had a son John and two daughters, Martha and Enid May. John died in July 1941, Enid May in 1942 aged only 26, but it appears that John took over and remained at Haythwaite until after the war, when Eva moved to Heather Cottage: she died there in 1962.

By 1950 Haythwaite was the home of the Usher family: gamekeeper Bob, his wife Martha and two-year-old daughter Mary Margaret. They later moved to Heather Cottage; Bob died there, aged 68, in 1971. Martha went to live in Reading Room Cottage and remained there until her death in 1999, aged 88.

Tenants since the late 1950s have included a family called Dent, Arthur and Norma Earnshaw, Bill and Roma Dinsdale, John Wright (an ex-Coldstream Guardsman turned shepherd, we're told) and John and Pam Stephenson who lived at Haythwaite from the early 1990s until about 2000.

The current occupiers are Gordon and Vienna Bayles.

● Neil Turner recalls the moors around Haythwaite being taken over by the army during WW2. "It was a range like Feldom, out of bounds with red flags and targets everywhere," he says. "They used to set off smokescreens and for years afterwards small bombs were found up there—an area to keep clear of."

● In our last issue we mentioned Roy Burrows but gave his surname as Bulmer. Sorry!

## We cud be so verri appi if yow wil excepp of me

My Dere Miss,

I now take hup my pen tow rite yow opin fulines will find yow well as it leaves me at present thank God for it.

Yow will praps be suprised that i should maik soa bolde as tow rite to yow who is sutch a ladi and I hop that yow will not bee vex at mee for it. I hardly dare say wat i want i ham so timid about ladis and mi and trimmels like a hespin lefe. I once seed in a book that faint art nevvor won fare ladi so here goaz.

I am a farmar in a small wai and mi age is rayther more than 40 yere and mi mother lives with me and keeps mi ouse and shee as been very pourley laity and cannot stur about mutch and i think i shud be more comfortabler with a wife. I have had mi hi on yow a long time and i think that yow are a very nice young wumman and one that wud make me appi if only yow think soa.

We keep a survant girl to milk 3 kye and dow the work in the ouse and she goes out a bit in the sumer to gadder wickins and shee snags a fu of turnips in the backhend and we keep a gai strang lad to go with the draft and setterha. I dow a good piece of work on the farm miself and attends market and i sum times show a fu of sheep and i feeds between 3 and 4 pigs againe cristmas and the same is very youseful in the ouse to maik pize and keakes and soaforth and i sels the hams to help pai for the barley meal.

I ave about 73 pund in the

*We came across this proposal of marriage by a Yorkshire farmer in 1866 in the Swaledale Museum at Reeth.*

bank and we ave a nice parlor down stares with a blu carpet and a huven on one side of the fire plaice and the old woman on the uther smoaking.

The golden rules claimed up on the walls abuv the long settle and yow cud sit awl the day in the ezy chare and nit and mend my kirtles and leggings and yow cud maik the tee reddi again i cum in and you cud make the butter for market and i would drive you to church every sunday in the spring cart and i would dow all that lays in my power to make you happy.

So i hop to hear from yow as i am in desprit and yurnist and will marrie yow at mai day or if my mother dees afore Ise want yow afore if only yow will excepp of mi. And mi dere we cud be verri appi to gedder and i oap you will let me now your mind by retern of poast and iff yow are faverable i wil cum up to the scratch. Soa noa moor at preasant from your wel wisher and tru luvve.

Pea hes, i hop yow will sai nothing about this if yow will not excepp of mi as I have another very nice wumman in mind and i think i shall marrie her if you do no excepp of mi but i thought you wud suite mi mother better — the same venerable specimen of the feamale biped (excuse me but this is our skule masters remark and hes a clever man) being very crusty at times, so I tell yow before yow cum She will be maister.

## Rackhams' invaluable work on hall

IN the article about Lartington Hall in *Archive 37*, I was disappointed that little reference was made to Robin and Claire Rackham's significant contribution to the work on the hall.

They did far more than 'step in' to Lartington Hall. They both had imagination and drive and through their own efforts brought the hall back from a state of disrepair to a venue with a number of very elegant rooms.

In addition, they provided some quality apartments in adjacent buildings. Robin, who was himself a keen squash player, installed two squash courts (one in the chapel and another in the ballroom), designed so that they could be removed without any damage to the fabric of the building.

These provided a well used local facility long before Teesdale Sports Centre was built.

### Update on Cockfield children

MORE details of the Cockfield family (see *Archive 25*).

Children born to Philip Cockfield & Dorothy Storrale, (married March 1804 Marske): Tamar christened 5 February 1824 Barningham; Margaret christened 29 April 1821 Barningham; Alice christened 7 June 1818, married 17 Oct 1840 Barningham; Elisabeth christened 20 June 1813 Barningham; Theophilus born 30 December 1810 Kirkby-Ravensworth; John born 1 March 1809 Kirkby-Ravensworth; Jane born 4 February 1807 Marske; Ann born 18 Nov 1804, christened 26 Nov 1805, Marske.

JOHN THOMPSON, Norfolk

### Lecture on housing history

WE would be grateful if you could draw your members' attention to the 2013 Elgee Memorial Lecture, organised by the Cleveland & Teesside Local History Society.

The speaker is Barry Harrison, who will be talking about Gentry and Peasant Housing in the North Riding and County Durham 1300-1750. The lecture takes place at the Dorman Museum in Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, from 10am on Saturday December 7. Admission is free and all are welcome.

GEOFF BRADY, CTLHS



*Pantomime in Lartington Hall, 1980s*

### letters & emails

My husband and I played in the squash ladder there for many years.

Later one of the squash courts was removed when

Robin and Claire painstakingly restored the ballroom along with the hallway and a number of other rooms to provide a stylish venue used for weddings and other functions.

The ballroom served as a theatre where the Teesdale Players and Sentian Tap Dancers (of which my daughter and I were members) put on shows there in the 1980s.

Sadly, Robin died in 2006 and eventually I understand his son John converted part of the Hall as a recording studio which was then used by Paul Rodgers amongst others.

So in the relatively recent history of Lartington Hall, it is important that Robin and Claire Rackham are recognised for the invaluable work they did.

Without them there may well have been no Lartington Hall for the local history group to visit.

ANN HEYS  
Westoe, Barningham



## Mystery of the two Victor Leggetts

I AM the granddaughter of Joseph Fergus Leggett, former butler to the Milbank family at Barningham Park.

Recently I received a phone call from Jean Ashley, who contacted you in September, I believe (see letters in *Archive* 37). I have never met Jean or heard of a possible family connection but it is strange that we each have an Uncle Victor born in Barningham within a few years of each other.

The 1936 postcard you published in *Archive* 35 was from my uncle Frederick Victor Leggett, who was staying with his father, Joseph Fergus Leggett at Gladysville (now Granville). He was the brother of Lance Hodgson's mother, Aline Hodgson nee Leggett (see *Archive* 12). He was known as Fred in the family but to some friends and acquaintances as Victor or Vic. He was a keen angler. I recognise his lovely handwriting on the postcard.

My father was his younger brother Alfred, who died when I was very young. He worked on the railway, at Darlington I think, training to be a signalman. He became ill and it was thought that he had flu, then jaundice, but it is now believed that he had contracted Weils Disease from the rats that lived near the railway. I believe it was not readily diagnosed at that time, and very little the medical world could do.

Sadly, I do not remember him at all. I have no brothers or sisters. My mother was born Beatrice Alice Craggs in 1900. She had first married Leonard Dawes from Hurworth. He was awarded the Military Medal in the First World War.



Joseph Leggett,  
pictured c1925

### letters & emails

They had a baby girl who died from whooping cough and then he died of TB. What a lot of sadness. My mother married my father some years later.

I am researching my family tree and can't find any link to Jean's father, George Daniel Leggett, born in Barningham on in 1895 or his brother Victor born the year after. I agree with Jean that it is unusual to have two Victor Leggetts born in Barningham, so near in time. I would be grateful for any Leggett details from your local history archives.

ELEANOR SMITH (78)

Sowerby

● *We replied to Eleanor, passing on what we knew about the Leggetts. Below is part of our reply. – Ed.*

JOSEPH Fergus Leggett (1870-1954) married Eleanor Boddy (1873-1931). They moved from Thorpe Perrow to Barningham in around 1899, and had five children: Gladys (1897-1944, married David Sharp); Frederick Victor (1891-1984, unmarried), Aline (1900-1972, married Michael Hodgson), and twins John (1905, died day after birth) and Alfred (1905-1937, Eleanor's father). Also in

Barningham in the mid-1890s were George Daniel Leggett and his wife Jane, who had children born there: George Daniel born 1895 and Ernest Victor born 1896. This family were not recorded in the 1891 or 1901 Barningham censuses.

However... we've discovered that the 1901 census does record Jane living at 10 St Helens Place, Hartlepool, and reverting to her maiden name of Thompson (that's assuming she had been married to George Daniel snr). She is said to be a 39-year-old widow and with her are seven children aged between 4 months and 11 (including the Barningham-born two) – which suggests that GD had died fairly recently.

They had been in Hartlepool for at least a year (there's a one-year-old son born there). The eldest child Henry also has the surname Thompson.

In 1911 Jane was living at 171 Alma Street West in Hartlepool. She was now calling herself Leggett and was described as married – a note on the census form says 'husband away'. This is very odd! Henry Thompson is still there and so are six other children.

It looks as if the George Daniel family were in Barningham first, certainly in 1895-96, followed by Joseph Fergus between 1898 and 1900.

We've no idea what the relationship was between the two Leggett families – it seems too much of a coincidence to have two with such an unusual surname in Barningham at the same time – and would be delighted to sort it out!

## Isolated farmstead far across the moors

*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.*

### HAYTHWAITE

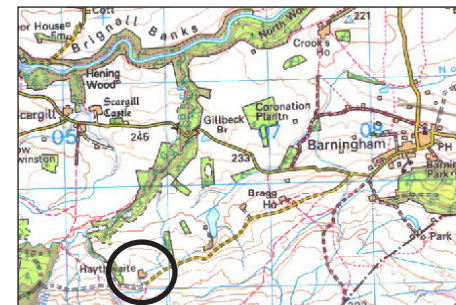
OR Haithwaite, Heathwaite, Heathwit, Haithwhit, Hay Thwaites... it's been spelt many different ways over the years, and even now the electoral rolls seem uncertain. For the moment, though, it's Haythwaite.

It's the most westerly farmstead in Barningham, nudging the boundary with Hope and open to everything the weather can throw at it. Pity the Victorian children who walked daily from here to the village school and back: it must have been a very miserable trek on a bleak winter's evening.

The farm has been Milbank-owned for as long as our records go back. In 1819 the tenant was James Metcalfe, who rented almost 400 acres of land at £109 a year, one of the highest rentals paid by local farmers. Much of the land was the Scale Knowle moorland to the south, but he also had land in Cow Close and along Low Lane, and rented the the Bull Acre.

There were Metcalfs in Barningham in the 1600s – a Margaret Metecalf married William Freer in the village church in 1634, a Mr Metcalf paid hearth tax in 1683, and a family of that name held pews in the church in 1700 – but there's a long gap after that and no evidence that James was descended from them.

In 1841 Haythwaite was being run by another James (almost certainly son of the 1819 man) and his wife Margaret, but within ten years had passed to Robert Todd. *Archive*



### house histories



Haythwaite

readers will be well acquainted with the complexities of the various Barningham and Scargill Todd families (an Archive Award awaits whoever finally manages to produce a definitive family tree for them all!). Robert, born in 1804, was one of four sons of William Todd (1753-1830), whose brother Edward appears to have been one of the founders of the Todd cheese-mongering dynasty.

Robert's wife Jane died young in 1843, leaving him with two small sons, and his unmarried sister Elizabeth moved with him to Haythwaite while they grew up.

She later moved into Barningham post office, run by her widowed sister Jane Bainbridge, and ended up running an inn and lodging-house in the village – probably the Black Horse, now Westoe cottage – until her death in 1888). Robert died in 1869 (drowned

on his way home from a pre-Christmas trip to town – see *Archive* 21) and his eldest boy, William, took over the tenancy. He'd recently married Dorothy Harrison from Hornby, and between 1868 and 1877 they had five children; three survived infancy.

Sometime in the 1860s Haythwaite appears to have been enlarged, because in 1871 a second family was recorded living there: 36-year-old gamekeeper and rabbit-catcher Thomas Chilton, his wife Elizabeth (nee Blades) and their seven children.

Five more were to follow by 1886, by which time the Chiltons had moved to Bragg House and been replaced at Haythwaite by shepherd Thomas Bainbridge (son of Jane, the postmistress), his wife Elizabeth (nee Dent) and family.

They left late in the 1880s, moving to the Manor House in Barningham, and by 1891 Haythwaite's only recorded tenant was 28-year-old unmarried farmer William Coates, born in Kirby Hill.

He remained there for at least a decade, but by 1911 had moved to Barningham to live at Heatherlands. In his



Cockfield Fell. Below, mining the coal: bell pits sunk beneath the Fell

## A tale of Pits, Pockmarks and Haggerleases

CHRIS LLOYD entertained us with the fascinating story of Cockfield Fell.

The Fell is England's largest scheduled ancient monument. It takes its name from Cocca – Cocca's field, after its one-time owner.

From above it is possible to see evidence of two iron age farmsteads circa 500 BC and then from about a thousand years later a Romano-British farmstead. Near this are "pillow mounds", artificial mounds for use as rabbit burrows – a valuable source of food.

In the 14th century "bell pits" were used to mine coal and there are the pockmarks of about 400 of these on the fell. Later on coal was also mined in drift mines.

The biggest problem with the Fell was its inaccessibility. There was plenty of coal but it was difficult to transport it to where it was needed.

Originally the coal was sent out on pack horses to the lead mines and, in order to avoid the horses coming back empty, lead was sent back to the fell to be smelted in Copley chimney.

In 1767, in a bid to make transportation easier, George Dixon dug a small stretch of canal on the fell and sailed up and down it in a flat-bottomed boat. He tried to get the Duke

### guest speakers 2

of Cleveland to back his canal plan to the tune of £3.3 million but unfortunately he only invested £50. Plans for a Winston to Stockton canal failed due to lack of funds and the difficult terrain.

However, in 1825 the Darlington to Stockton railway was built, followed later by the Darlington to Barnard Castle line. A branch line was built to Haggerleases, the result of blackmail by the local vicar!

The line's primary purpose was to serve the pits at the head of the Gaunless Valley (these, owned by the Rev Luke Prattman, employed 700 men and boys by 1894) and in this way the collieries at Butter-knowle, Cockfield, Copley Bent, and Norwood were able to gain access to the Stockton and

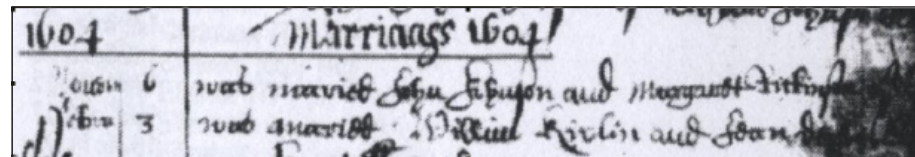
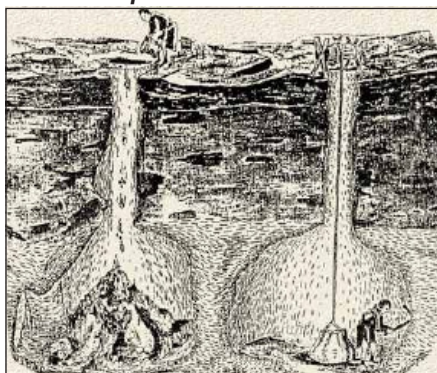
Darlington network. The railway was opened on October 1st 1830, primarily to serve the complex of collieries and coke ovens that had sprung up along the edge of Cockfield Fell, at the head of the valley.

This was, in fact, the last line in the North-east to use horse power, but from 1856 steam power took over and, in 1858, a passenger service was introduced.

This was withdrawn in 1872 and the whole line was closed in 1963 when eventually the coal became exhausted.

The horses would pull the trucks up the slopes and would then be put into 'Dandy carts' to be lowered by a cable down the slope. This could be quite a disastrous practice if the cable broke as the early carts had no brakes!

ANN ORTON



Ellin Kiplin's baptism entry, 1604. Below, William Kipling's inventory of 1632

## The Kiplings: one of Barningham's oldest families

MIKE KIPLING has been researching his family, which has Barningham links going back more than 400 years.

Here is the first of his reports.

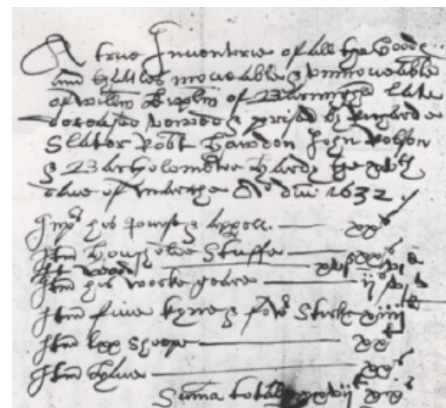
THE earliest reference to the Kipling family in Barningham is a record of the baptism of Ellin Kiplin on 4 September 1585. However, as the parish registers themselves only go back to April 1581, the Kiplings were almost certainly present in the parish before that date.

The next entry is the burial of Leonard Kiplin on 20 July 1587.

The first wedding is not until 1604 when William Kiplin married Jean Dent of Barningham on 3 February.

There is a further Kiplin baptism in 1590 where no name is given in the transcription and the next is not until 1 September 1605 when Christopher, the son of William Kiplin "of Barningham" (township or village as opposed to Scargill, Hope, etc), appears eight months after his parents' wedding.

The final 16th century entry is that of the burial of Izabell Kiplin, widow, of Scargill, on 17 November 1599. Was she the widow of Leonard? Was Ellin their daughter? Whose was the child baptised in 1590,



### kiplings

THE surname almost certainly derives from the village of Kiplin (previously Kipling) on the Swale east of Catterick and in early documents is spelled in a variety of ways including Kiplin, Kyplynge and even Cipling on the odd occasions.

Most authorities on the origin of surnames think Kiplin means the home of someone bearing the Old English personal name *Cyppel*.

Others suggest it means 'one who cures salmon or herring', from the Middle English *kypre* for salmon.

as Leonard had been dead over two years by then?

I have not been able to discover any earlier references to the Kiplings of Barningham in other documentary sources, although the family is well recorded in neighbouring parishes. The earliest known re-

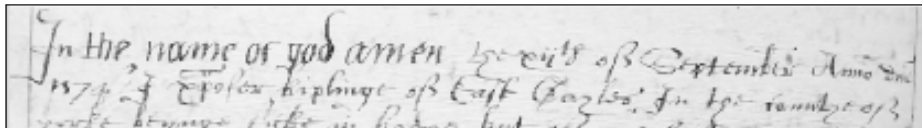
cord is of a William de Kipling who was involved in dispute over property in Lartington and Cotherstone in 1330, and many other records exist from Romaldkirk parish before the commencement of the registers in 1579.

There are records of a Christopher Kipling of East Gayles from the 1539 muster rolls onwards, including his will from 1574. In 1547, a complaint to Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton and Lord Chancellor, relating to lands of the dissolved Egglestone Abbey (including mills at Barnard Castle and Startforth) mentions one Robert Kyplyng as being a tenant on the lands in question.

And the earliest record I have found so far of the family in London dates to 1577, when a Robert Kiplyn was married at St Botolph, Aldgate.

From the Barningham registers, it seems clear that in the early 17th century, there were four Kipling families in





**The opening lines of Christopher Kipling's will, dated 1574**

Barningham:

1. William and Jean, who in addition to Christopher had children Ann (1606) and Henry (1610). The burial of a son William is also recorded in November 1605 although no baptism. There is no subsequent mention of Christopher.

2. Peter and Catherine (nee Coots, married 1607), who had children George (1607), Elinor (1609), Mary (1611, died 1620) and Charles (1616, died 1617).

3. Leonard and Mabel (nee Bussell, married 1616), who had children James (1617), Elizabeth (1619), Christopher (1621), Francis (1624), Margaret (1626), Isabelle (1630) and Ellen (1634). Leonard is recorded as being 'of Scargill' for the first four.

4. Gyles and Elizabeth, whose burials are recorded in 1626 and 1614 respectively. Elizabeth is noted as being 'of Scargill', the earliest reference to Kiplings in this township.

Who are these families and are they related? The Scargill link might suggest that Leonard was the son of Gyles, although both could also be the sons of

## kiplings

the elder Leonard. I have not been able to find any earlier records which name either a Gyles or a Leonard Kipling.

Peter is a rare Kipling name and he is likely to be Peter Kipling, the son of William Kipling of Fryerhouse in Baldersdale, in whose will he is mentioned in 1615. Peter died in 1617 but his son George is mentioned in the 1655 will of Peter's brother Charles Kipling of Merebeck, Baldersdale.

Peter's son George married Ann Rayne in 1638 and they had children Beatrix (1640, died 1640) and Katheran (1641, died 1642). I do not definitely know what happened to George and Ann nor to Peter's surviving daughter Elinor, although George could later have been the George Kipling of Baldersdale, a Quaker who was imprisoned in 1659, 1667 and 1674 for his beliefs (I can find no records of this George's antecedece in Romalldkirk).

William may also have hailed from Baldersdale, as the name appears several times in 16th century Kipling wills, as does

that of William Kipling of Da[l]ton in the will of Christopher Kipling of East Gayles.

William served on a quarter session jury at Richmond in 1624. He died in 1632, a "yeoman", and in his will left property (or £10 cash in lieu) to Matthias Johnson, the son of Michael Johnson and his daughter Ann.

They had married in 1627, Matthias had been born the following year, and Michael had died a month before William. His main heir is son Henry but he leaves his house and garth to his widow Jean for her life.

There was an inventory of his estate and his assets, excluding property, totalled £37 19s, although he had net debts of around £25. The inventory shows William to have been predominantly a sheep farmer, his most valuable possession being 70 sheep valued at £20, although he also left five kyne and four stirk (young cows) worth £14.

I have not been able to trace the subsequent fate of son Henry or widow Jean.

Leonard Kipling died in 1642 but there is no record of what happened to his wife Mabel. Of their children, Elizabeth Kipling may have married George Foggathwhait at Barningham in 1658 and James and Francis had families at Barningham.

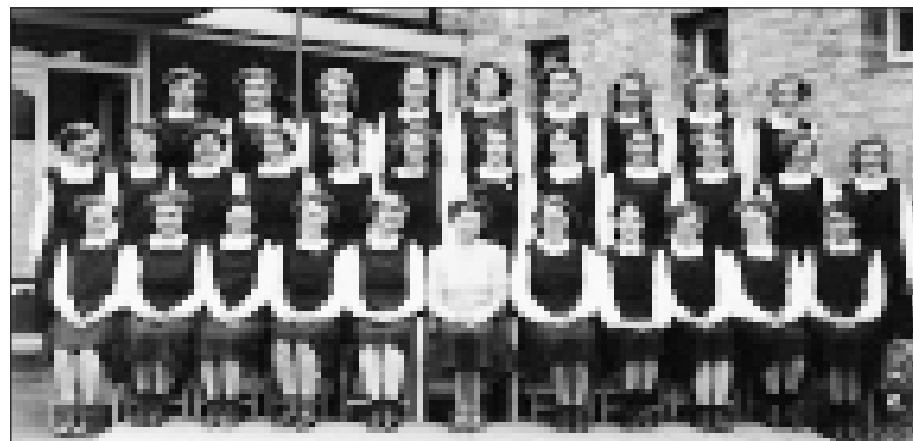
I will tell the story of those families in a future article.

## Diaries of a WW1 survivor

JIM SADLER of Dalton has transcribed and annotated two fascinating diaries kept by his father during the First World War, and is hoping to get them published for a wider audience.

James Saddler was born in Christchurch, Hampshire, in 1890 and enlisted as soon as war was declared in 1914. He spent four years fighting on the Western Front, including front-line duty at the Battle of the Somme, before being severely wounded in August 1918. He survived and lived on until 1951.

The diaries are a unique record of life in the trenches. Jim has lent us a copy: if you'd like to see it, contact Jon Smith.



## The class of 1950

HISTORY group member Mark Watson thought readers might like to see this 1950 Richmond High School for Girls photo. Anne Couchman (nee Lawson, daughter of Tom and Annie Lawson of Barningham and mother of Mark's cousin and Netherlands-based *Archive* correspondent Bridget Van Der Pol) is in the back row, fourth from the right. Cath Alsop of Newsham (nee Atkinson, wife of the late Denis) is in the back, third from the left; Mary Powell from Whashton is first left in the front row.

## Rokeby soldier who rose to the top

JENNY BRADDY told us the story of Sir Thomas de Rokeby's rise to fame.

Born circa 1300, Thomas married Juliana de Maunsell, the heiress to Mortham Tower. (It's surprising to learn that there were villages at Rokeby, Mortham and three Daltons at that time).

He was a soldier and by 1322 his name started appearing in state papers. He was knighted in 1327 and in 1331 left for France with Henry Percy: Edward III was also there in-cognito at the time.

In 1336 Thomas became Sheriff of York; a year later he acted as escort when the king went to Perth; and he then became governor of Sterling and Edinburgh Castles.

Well into middle age he led a hard physical life virtually living on horseback and his

## guest speakers 1



**Mortham Tower**

marriage to Juliana lasted for 25 years, a rarity in those days.

In October 1343 Thomas was appointed Sheriff and coroner of York Castle and escheator of Yorkshire. Men who held these posts were open to charges of extortion and usually only held the post for a year. It is a measure of the integrity and ability of Thomas that he kept these jobs for six years.

As escheator he looked after the king's interests in York-

shire. In particular he was responsible for taking into the king's hands the lands of royal tenants who had died and organised the management of their estates. He also took for the king the temporalities of bishops and clergy when their posts were in interregnum and also acted on behalf of the king in monasteries.

In 1349 he went to Ireland and led a campaign against the Leinster Irish. He asked to return home in 1354 but returned to Ireland in 1356 at the request of the citizens of Cork. He died at Kilkea Castle on 23rd April 1357.

The following quote gives us some insight into his character: "I will eat and drink only from wooden vessels and spend gold and silver on provisions and equipments and troops."

ANN ORTON

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The full index, regularly updated, can be found on our website [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)

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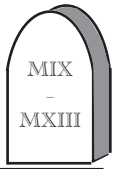
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