

## from the parish mag

**120 YEARS AGO:** It is to be regretted that such a village as Barningham should be in absolute darkness after an early hour in the evening, means for lighting being in these days so plentiful and cheap. Anyone requiring to go out must carry a lamp or protected candle, there being only one lamp, occasionally lighted, at the lower end of the village. Not only is this the cause of great discomfort, but also is an encouragement for all sorts of mischief. This is a matter that possibly the Parish meeting will see to. Also, an abundance of water runs from the moor down the village street, and the comfort of the people would be greatly increased were pipes properly laid to each house. Few can understand how much suffering is incurred in the wintertime by the cottagers having to fetch from frozen pipes water which, when induced to run, comes only in a dribbling way.

— September 1894

**100 YEARS AGO:** It is not to be wondered at that Churches and all places of worship are filled with attentive, earnest congregations. We feel that the awful days and hours we are passing through, and the possible months and years that lie before us, must witness the ever-present God of Heaven with his Almighty help in all we do, or we shall be overwhelmed.

— September 1914

**85 YEARS AGO:** I am anxious that no public entertainments should be held in the School until October, when the children will have been back for a month, and we shall be able to see if we are free from disease. A meeting of Managers will shortly be held to come to a conclusion as to the number of

## SAMUEL B. TURNER

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14 Seater Buses.

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**BARNINGHAM**

*Ad from September 1933*  
entertainments to be allowed during the winter.

— September 1929

● *What was all that about? We can't find any other reference to disease sweeping through Barningham at the time. — Ed.*

**75 YEARS AGO:** Mrs Dobson has relinquished her tenancy of the Milbank Arms after 29 years. She is leaving Barningham to live with relatives, and we all wish her health and happiness in her retirement. She will be very much missed here, both for her quiet, decided personality and for the part she has played in the life of Church and Village.

— September 1939

**60 YEARS AGO:** The passing of Charles Brown must be recorded with much sorrow, for he was beloved by all in our community. Like more than a few who served in the Great War, he felt in later years the effects of the ordeals he underwent. He was of a class of men which is becoming rare in this machine age. He was a craftsman. The Credence Table in the chancel of our church bears testimony to his fine taste for beauty in simple lines.

— September 1954

● *Charles Brown lived at Park View. He was 72.*

Barningham  
Local  
History Group

Founded 2009

Covering Barningham and surrounding area: Newsham, Dalton, Gayles, Kirby Hill, Whashton, Kirby Ravensworth, Hutton Magna, Greta Bridge, Rokeby, Brigall and Scargill

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Member of the British Association for Local History, County Durham History & Heritage Forum, Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group



## Archive 43

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

B. A. L. H. LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 2012

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



## INSIDE: THE BODY IN THE BECK ROUND THE WORLD



George Westmarland, 83, and niece Mary Elizabeth in his garden at Newsham Grange in the early summer of 1901. We assume the churchwarden pipe in her hand belongs to him. See Page 20.

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NEXT BLHG MEETING : TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18th 7pm

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY: BLHG IS FIVE YEARS OLD THIS MONTH

**Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday September 16th 2014**

**Present:** Jon Smith (Chairman), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Mark Watson, Jane Hackworth-Young, John Hay, June Graham, Greta Carter, Neil Turner, Phil Hunt (Minutes)

**Apologies:** Linda Sherwood, Cate & Harry Collingwood, Sheila Catton, Kay Duggan, Diane Metcalf, Ann & Tony Orton.

**Minutes** of the AGM held on October 15th 2013 were approved, proposed Eric Duggan, seconded Phil Hunt.

**Chairman's Report:** Jon Smith felt that we had had a steady year, with the Lartington visit and three successful speakers at meetings during the year. Seven Archives had been circulated and an eighth was in preparation. The group had completed the house histories; oral histories were ticking over. Jane Hackworth-Young had done some work on the Rokeby Census. The Kipling family researchers have created input and added to our local knowledge. There was also a very successful and enjoyable visit from the Yorkshire Vernacular Building Study Group in June.

## Tony Marriner

WE'RE saddened to report the death on July 5th after a long illness of Tony Marriner of Poole, a BLHG member since our foundation. Our sympathy to his brother John, also a member and contributor to the *Archive*, and other members of his family.

## Steady year for history group

minutes

**Finance Report:** Eric Duggan reported October 2013 to September 2014 income of £1412, expenditure £1587, final balance £925 plus £379 in clock contingency fund. This was approved, with a vote of thanks to the Treasurer.

**Election of Officers:** Jon Smith reiterated his wish to stand down as Chairman. Phil Hunt was approved as Chairman, but suggested Jon continue to the end of the evening. Eric Duggan and Ann Orton were confirmed as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. John Hay was proposed and approved as Vice-Chair.

### Ordinary Meeting.

**Attendance** and apologies as at the AGM.

**Minutes** of the ordinary meeting of June 17th 2014 were approved.

**Correspondence:** Kiplings; Westmarland; McConnell (NZ) re Isaac Coates; Robinson; Peacocks. June Graham's aerial

photo of Newsham circa 1960s was viewed with interest.

**Finance:** July-September income £172, expenditure £428. YVBSG visit had been enjoyable and successful.

**Phone Box:** Thanks and congratulations were offered to John Hay for the WWI display and consequent publicity. John was researching the village's casualties for the Bowes Museum's commemoration. There was a debate about who had painted the box green, and when.

**Dalton & Gayles** History talks: Ann Orton had taken January date; Phil Hunt & John Hay to share February 13th.

**Archive Awards:** Phil Hunt won the Award, with John Hay and Ann Orton highly commended.

**Archive 43** in hand; Jon would appreciate further material.

**Next meetings:** Agreed to continue with a mix of speakers and local meetings. Phil would liaise with Helen Clifford about lecture topics and the possibility of a group visit to the Reeth Museum. Next dates are November 18th and January 20th.

**Any other business:** John Hay raised the prospect of transferring the 1911 Barningham Census to a spreadsheet. Jon had a copy of the Newsham enclosures map from 1837.

PHIL HUNT



## The Archive

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Back issues of The Archive are available at £2 each (£1 for members)

Full index of contents on our website

## 900-year link to Rokeby surprises Sue

JUST as we were about to go to press, we got an email from Sue McNab in Buckingham.

Her brother's middle name is Rokeby, she said, and for generations many other male members of her family have had the same middle name.

She'd discovered that she was descended from an Ann Rokeby, who married Francis Appleby of Barningham in 1753, and contacted us after visiting our website and seeing a reference to Rokeby Hall. As a result, she'd decided to come up and see where her ancestors came from: could we help?

We provided family tree details for the Applebys, told her that the Rokeby family had first lived in this area almost a thousand years ago, and put her in touch with the history group's Rokeby expert, Jane Hackworth-Young.

Jane met Sue, her brother John and her daughter Kath, on September 23rd and gave them a tour of Rokeby Hall, Mortham Tower and the surrounding area before meeting Jon Smith in the Morritt Arms, where they were staying, to pore over the group's local history records.

More in the next *Archive*.

● *Small world: Kath went to school with Alexina Milbank – Eddie's sister – but had no idea she came from this area.*

## Postcards fair

THERE'S a postcard, cigarette card and stamp fair at Durham's County Hall on Sunday November 15th. Entry is £1 (children free); free valuations.

## Tragedy of man's body found 'round the world'

MARK WATSON sent us this from the *Teesdale Mercury* of May 25th 1938:

THE North Riding Coroner held an inquiry at the Milbank Arms, Barningham, into the circumstances attending the death of Roland Nicholson, whose death occurred on Saturday evening.

William Smith Nicholson, joiner, of Prospect House, Barningham, father of the deceased, who identified the body, said the son was 26 years of age and occasionally helped with the driving of a stationary engine. He had been ill since he was seven years old, and suffered from epileptic fits, having sometimes three in a week, but in recent years these fits were rare, only once in a year or fifteen months.

Witness saw his son alive at 20 minutes past 5 on Saturday afternoon, just after tea. He was quite jovial. He was fond of walking "round the world", as its name went locally, and had to cross a small stream called Norbeck. Witness was called shortly after 7 o'clock the same evening and found that the deceased had been taken out of the water.

He sent for the police and Dr Thompson, who arrived within five minutes. Everything possible was done to restore animation, but there was no life. Witness said he had often been walking with his son on this particular walk, and he had seen him walk through the stream.

Raymond Johnson, Hawsteads Farm, Barningham, gardener, said that on Saturday he

nor beck body

was walking "round the world" and on reaching Ladysmith Bridge he saw a body lying on its right side in the middle of the stream, part of the head being submerged, and the left ear and part of the skull being out of the water. Only one side of the clothes was wet.

Witness got hold of the body and pulled it out of the water and recognised it as that of Roland Nicholson, whom he knew quite well. He tried to see if there was any sign of life, but finding none, he borrowed a horse and went to Mr J. O. Nicholson, uncle of the deceased, who sent for the doctor and the police. It was about half-past seven when he found the deceased in the water. He knew of no one else who had been that way that day. There were two girls on the road, but they had not been anywhere near where the body lay.

PC W. North said he was called to the scene and found the body lying beside the stream. There were no marks on the bridge or bruises on the body to indicate that deceased had fallen from it.

Dr George Thomson, Woodside, Barningham, said he knew the young man was well nourished and that he was well looked after. There were no signs of a struggle.

The Coroner said he felt certain that the deceased had had a fit while crossing the stream and recorded a verdict that deceased died from asphyxia through drowning, probably due to an epileptic fit.



photo of George and Polly, and the photos on the previous pages, Bridget reminded us that we'd published a picture of Elizabeth Ann Coates (1811-1872) on the front of *Archive 20* – that's it above on the left. Was she Polly's husband's grandmother?

Bridget also tipped us off about the other picture here of a lady from the mid-Victorian era.

It was being offered for sale on eBay, with an opening bid of 99p, and of course we bought it.

We've no idea who the lady is, but the back of the picture carries the inscription "Kipling, Photographer, Barnard Castle" so it must be fairly local. We ran it past Mike Kipling, our Kipling family expert, who knew all about him.

The man behind the camera, says Mike, was Thomas Kipling, born to a Romalldkirk thatcher in 1827, who set up

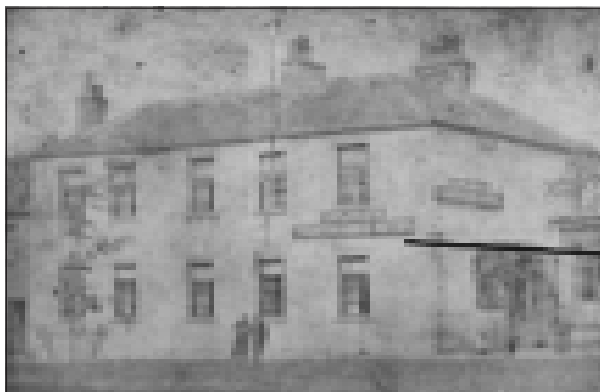
### westmarlands

a photographic business in Barnard Castle, married a local girl, had eight children, and then took the lot off to start a new life in Texas. They ended

up in Vancouver, Canada, where Thomas died in 1892. Mike's in contact with their descendants.

● *Thanks to Bridget for all the pictures and information.*

● *More Kiplings – Page 18.*



### Where was this pub?

*As well as a photography business, Thomas Kipling also ran this temperance hotel in Barnard Castle – his name's on the sign. A poor photo (it was taken about 1860!), but enough for somebody to identify the building today, if it's still here? Neil Turner suggests the former Montalbo Hotel. Any other ideas?*

## Phil's workhouse work wins award

FIRST prize in the 2014 Archive Awards went to Phil Hunt for his project on the Poor Laws and the history of Barnard Castle workhouse.

"Well researched and presented," said the judges. "A very useful contribution to our understanding of the workhouse's role in the life of Victorian paupers."

It was the second time Phil had picked up the award: he won it in 2012 for his investigation into the 'railway that never was.'

Highly commended in this year's awards were John Hay and Ann Orton. John entered a project looking at the early development of Barningham, illustrated with his own drawings of what the village might have looked like in medieval days.

Ann submitted a project based on the diaries of members of the Milbank family in Victorian days: there's an excerpt in this *Archive*.

The awards were presented by Lady Belinda Milbank at the village show on September 7th.



Phil receiving his award at the show

## Phone box shock: green paint story may be a myth

DOUBTS have been raised about the reason why Barningham's phone box is one of the few in the country to be painted green.

Legend has it that the colour was insisted upon by Sir Frederick Milbank as a condition of allowing the box to be sited in 1926 on what was then his land outside the post office.

But David Mellor of Middleton-in-Teesdale has challenged the story. He contacted history group member John Hay recently to say he was a friend of the late Vic Atherton, whose mother Sylvia ran the post office from the late 1930s until the 1960s.

According to David, Vic told him that one day during the second world war, when

he was a sailor home on leave from Russian convoy duty, his mother asked him to paint the box. The only paint to hand was green, and that's what he used. Before that, said Vic, the box was red like all the rest.

John has evidence to back up the story. "When I pulled a piece of blu-tak off the inside recently, it was red underneath, and where the paint is scratched at ground level it's the same colour."

To add to the confusion, Neil Turner thinks the box was once painted cream.

Vic and his parents are dead, so they can't help.

Can anyone else?

● *More phone box – Page 4.*

## LOCAL HISTORY TALKS

at Dalton & Gayles Village Hall

Doors open 7pm, talks start 7.30pm. Bar open before & after until 9.30pm. Tea/coffee & biscuits included in £2.50 admission.

Friday 10th October

'Keeping the Feast' – Marion Moverley. How did people manage before they kept diaries? An interactive talk covering feast days long forgotten, payments made, local fairs and festivals.

Friday 14 November

'An Infantry Man's Adventures & Experiences in the Great War' with Jim Sadler.

Friday 12 December

'Dalton Mill' – Ann Orton, of Barningham Local History Group.

Friday 9 January

Dalton House – Linda Turnbull.

Friday 13 February

To be arranged – details later





John Hay outside the phone box, converted into a memorial to those who died in the first world war. Below, the view inside.



## WW1 tribute puts our phone box back in the news

BARNINGHAM's green phone box has been in the news again.

Last year the story of how it had been converted into the world's smallest art gallery went round the world.

And this summer the media got excited when it was turned into a World War One memorial. Pictures of the box appeared in the national press and global websites, and John Hay, the man responsible for the transformation, was interviewed by numerous radio stations across the country.

There was more publicity when someone left a bunch of sunflowers in the box as a floral tribute to a WW1 soldier from Barn-ingham with a note saying "Thomas Shepherd, grandad, always remembered, always in our hearts. Elizabeth, Rosie & Dianna. Thank you for giving your life so we could be free."

Thomas enlisted in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment and was killed in action in Italy in October 1918, aged 33.

After the story appeared in the press Rosie Yates of Bishop Auckland contacted John to say she'd left the flowers. She was Thomas' grand-daughter. "I just thought it was something my mum and nana would want me to do," she said. She left the flowers in the phone box because Thomas had run

the village post office behind it. "My mum was only a little girl when he left."

John has also been contacted by history group member Val Eccles of Gainford, who is a great-niece of another Barningham WW1 victim, Edwin Atkinson, and wonders if anyone has a photo of him as she's never seen one.

John's compiling a list of all those named on the Barn-ingham war memorial – see opposite – and will welcome any more information, especially pictures.



Above, Richard and Anne Westmarland with daughters Edith, Mary, Jane and Hannah, pictured in about 1882.

Right, Mary and John Coates, possibly taken on their wedding day in 1901.

### westmarlands

returned to Barningham and married Richard Westmarland in Darlington in 1871.

Anne had two sons and five daughters by Richard. "The sad thing is, both those boys died, yet her first son lived to adulthood and served in the first world war," says Bridget.

"I wonder, did any of the Westmarlands know there was an elder half-brother? Did Anne ever go back to see him, or did he visit her in Barningham?"

John was listed in the 1881 census as a coal miner, still living on Wearside.

As well as sending the



## Farmer George: 'a grand old Yorkshire yeoman'

HISTORY group member Bridget Van De Pol (daughter of former Barningham farmer Lewis Watson, sister of Mark) lives in Holland these days but it doesn't seem to hinder her family history research.

She's been investigating her links to the Westmarlands and came up with the 1901 photo on the front of this *Archive*. The elderly gentleman with the walking-stick, newspaper and splendid top hat is George Westmarland, born in 1818.

westmarlands



He was a well-to-do farmer and cattle dealer, "a familiar figure in a tall white hat and long waterproof coat at Newcastle, York, Manchester and all the principal markets in the North" according to the *Teesdale Mercury's* tribute to him on his death in 1908. "It was no uncommon thing for him, in his high-day, to have one hundred prime cattle in Wakefield market, drawn from all parts of Scotland."

George lived for many years at Hutton Fields before moving to Dyson House and then Newsham Grange, where the photo was taken. His latter years were spent in Barningham, where he is buried.

A passionate cricketer and excellent shot, he was, said the *Mercury*, "a thorough type

of old English yeoman" whose diligence, probity, hard work and perseverance were a lesson to future generations.

He was one of seven children of Barningham farmer and butcher Thomas Westmoreland (spelling of the surname varied over the years) and his wife Anne. George was unmarried, but took care of five nieces when his younger brother Richard and his wife (also an Anne) both died young.

Among them was the girl in the photo, 28-year-old Mary Elizabeth, known to family and friends as Polly. She married Caldwell farmer John William Coates in 1901 and moved to Great Ouseburn near York, where descendants still live: Bridget went to see them on a recent visit

to England. Among Polly's sisters was Edith, Bridget's great-grandmother. She married Barningham butcher John Bainbridge in 1896.

Bridget has unravelled links to various local families, including Clarksons, Hildreths and Goldsbroughs.

She's also discovered that before marrying Richard, Polly and Edith's mother Anne (nee Clarkson) had been married in 1867 to a Sunderland coalminer called John Forster, who died very shortly after their wedding.

Anne was pregnant (it looks very much as if it was a shotgun wedding) and later gave birth to a boy, James, who was brought up by his paternal grandparents while his mother

## The donkey race winner

OUR mention in the last *Archive* of donkey races in 1865 prompted Bridget to send us this picture of a brass plaque which, she says, "was always on gran's mantlepiece".

It was the Donkey Prize, awarded to a Mr Westmarland (we're not sure which one) at Barningham Park gala in 1868. How odd they couldn't spell Barningham...



## Barningham's WW1 Roll of Honour

**ALDERSON** Henry, 20555, Pte Leicestershire Regt 2nd Batt. Born 1893 in Romaldkirk, son of Margaret Bennett of Hawthorn Cottage, Barningham, and late John Alderson. Died of wounds 8.10.1917, aged 37. Buried British Cemetery at Godevaersvelde, France.

**ALDERSON** John Henry, 12329, Sgt 18th Batt Durham Light Infantry. Son of David S Alderson of Hill Top, Barningham. Died 12.4.1918, aged 28, buried Bailleul. Plaque in Barningham church.

**ALLISON** William Cook, 199968, Gunner, Royal Field Artillery. Son of Mr & Mrs Allison, married to Ada (nee Poole). Died 6.8.1917, memorial Menin Gate, Ypres.

**ATKINSON** Edwin, 101244, Pte 9th Field Company Royal Engineers. Son of Edwin & Mary Atkinson, married to Elizabeth Ann, Barningham. Died 10.7.1916, aged 45. Buried Couin British Cemetery.

**BARNETT** William, 28133, Cpl, Yorkshire Hussars, Alexandra's 6th Batt. Gamekeeper at Barningham, married to Isabella, one child born after his death. Died at Passchendaele 15.8.1917, aged 29, body never found. See *Archive* 29.

**COLE** Thomas, 28271, Pte 9th Batt Yorkshire Regt, Alexandra's Princess of Wales' Own. Born 1881, son of Benjamin & Jane Cole, married to Margaret (nee Watson) of Barningham, six children, living at High Dalton Hall in 1915. Died 23.6.1917, aged 35, buried Dickebusch. On Kirby Hill Roll of Honour.



See family tree in *Archive* 27.

**DOBSON** Christopher Henry, 49806, Pte 2nd Batt Lincolnshire Regt. Son of R H & M A Dobson, Barningham. Died at Passchendaele 17.4.1918, aged 18, buried Tyne Cot cemetery, Belgium.

**GOLDSBOROUGH** John Ralph, 3/31325, Pte 13th Batt, East Surrey Regt. Grandson of Ralph & Ann Goldsbrough, who ran Milbank Arms 1860-1906. Died 6.12.1917, aged 19, buried Cambrai, Rouen. Plaque in Barningham church.

**JOHNSON** Christopher Brown, 2508, Pte 4th Batt, Yorkshire Regt. Son of William & Sophia Johnson, Earby Hall. Died 6.9.1916, aged 22, on Somme. Body never found. Named on Thiepval Memorial.



Thomas Shepherd

plaque in Barningham church, on Kirby Hill Roll of Honour. See *Archive* 21.

**KITCHEN** Lancelot C B, 9537, Pte King's Regt Shropshire Light Infantry. Son of Charles & Rose Kitchen, Elim Cottage, Barningham. Died 30.6.1916, aged 23, buried North Gate, Baghdad.

**MARTIN** Jeffrey Victor, Pte, Number & Regt u/k. Born Newsham 1888, married to Maria (nee Charlton), lived Middle Herrington. Died of wounds in Sunderland War Hospital 25/11/1918 aged 30.

**PINKNEY** John William, 26696, Pte Loyal North Lancashire Regt. Husband of E A Burrell, Rose Cottage, Barningham. Died 9.2.1918 aged 20. Buried Buffs Road.

**SAYER** Robert, 3/10872, Pte Durham Light Infantry. Step-son of Hezekiah Birtwistle, Barningham gamekeeper. Wounded at Battle of Somme, died at Grouse Cottage, Barningham, 17.5.1917, aged 37. Buried Barningham. See *Archive* 37.

**SHEPHERD**, Thomas, 22066, Pte Duke of Wellington's 10th Batt. Born 1885, married Florence 1909, two children Leslie & Gladys. Lived at Post Office, Barningham. Died 27.10.1918, aged 33, Italy. See *Archives* 2, 10.

**TAYLOR** J B. Possibly John Brown Taylor, a Barnard Castle butcher's lad listed in the 1911 census who became a lance corporal in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was killed in France in 1918. But no known Barningham link.

## Grandmother died of the Spanish flu

LOVED looking at your website!

My mother, Catherine, lived in Barningham from approximately 1910 to 1920. The house was called South View and her parents were John and Mary Macfadyen.

Mary died there in 1919 of the Spanish Flu. Mom told me many stories of her time there. She said that when there was a shoot some of the guests would stay at the Milbank Arms. Pheasants were hung in the woods to ripen but no one would dream of taking one!

Any chance you have come across any photos or reference to this family whilst they stayed in Barningham?

JEAN BINGLE, Australia  
bintan@stg.net.au

● *There's not much in our records. The birth of Arthur and Neil (twins) appears in the births register in 1916, their parents listed as John and Mary (John is said to be 'of independent means').*

## Discovery on the website

JUST a quick message. I've been spending an hour or two re-searching my family on my dad's side.

My grandfather (James Robinson) was born in Barningham, his father (my great grandfather George Robinson) was a coachman at the "big house", and you have a photo of my grandad's sisters and mother on your history group's website, namely Mary, Anne and Agnes Robinson.

Absolutely amazed! I must call in to see the village.

PHILIP ROBINSON  
philip.robinson353@outlook.com

● *We've featured the Robinsons a number of times in The Archive, including pictures/background to the Ellwood/Robinsons (Archive 7), the picture Philip refers to (which went with the story of Agnes' lost love in Archive 11) and stories of Agnes' descendants in the USA (Archive 28). – Ed.*

### letters & emails

*There's no mention of any other children. Mary's death isn't mentioned anywhere, and she isn't in the village churchyard. Perhaps she was a Methodist or Catholic, who wouldn't be buried here. John is recorded at South View in the 1920 electoral roll, but not in the 1924 one. South View is still here, but re-named Gillbeck House sometime around 1970. We've sent Jean a photo. Can anyone tell us more of this family? – Ed.*

## New clue in Albert hunt

FOLLOW-UP to our story in the last *Archive* about the hunt for Albert West, killed in WW1, whose memorial plaque had ended up on John Hay's mantelpiece:

Anne Hughes emailed to say she'd found Albert's WW1 records, which include addresses for his brothers and sisters.

John is now following this up in the hope of finding a descendant to whom he can return the plaque.

## New Zealand relative plans Coates book

GREETINGS from a direct descendant of Isaac Coates of Gayles (who emigrated to New Zealand and whose memoirs feature in the history group's publication 'A Farmer's Boy' – Ed.)

I am writing the biography of Isaac (born at Gayles 1840 and died at Auckland, New Zealand, 1932). He is my great-grandfather. My mother's mother, Ethel Alberta Coates (1878-1932), was the daughter of Isaac and his wife Alice.

I would very much appreciate and information that your members and readers have on the Coates and associated families. Names in the Isaac Coates family tree include Fenwick, Bainbridge, Parlour, Dinsdale, Shaw, Ingram and Tyson. His mother, Margaret Fenwick, has names in her family tree of Weighell, Wood, Alcock, Dennis, I'Anson/Lanson/Ianson, Deacon, Munford, Horseman, Moore, and De Forbin. Places noted include East Layton, Gayles, Kirkby Ravensworth, Sedgfield, Vince Moor, East Cowton, Kirkling-ton, Hauxwell, Ashin, Ilton, Howgrave, Danby Wiske and Bedale.

It has been very helpful having your publications as I have been able to establish contact with members of the extended family! I will advise when the book is completed and trust that some of your readers can assist me.

Dr ROBIN MCCONNELL  
Kerikeri, New Zealand  
robin.mcconnell.nz@gmail.com

### kiplings

ham Diocese Consistory Court in 1736 by one Ruth Milburn of "defamation – drunkenness and fornication". I haven't yet been able to find out more about the circumstances of this case.

Another Robert of this line, born in 1752, has a most unusual military history, joining first the Durham militia and then the 43rd Regiment of Foot and rising, exceptionally, from private to captain in the days when commissions were usually purchased.

He was allowed to sell his captaincy on leaving service in 1806, enabling him to set himself up as Postmaster at Barnard Castle. He died in 1830 and his gravestone, now barely legible, can also be seen in the church.

Other Kipling families moved into and out of Barnard Castle over the years. One which also had military connections was that of John Kipling, appointed quartermaster of the Royal Horse Guards in 1788.

He was the eldest son of John and Christian Kipling (nee Stuart), baptised at Barnard Castle in 1766. John senior was born in Startforth, his father being originally from Cleatlam. Both he and his father were described as 'gardeners', quite possibly they were commercial fruit and vegetable growers.

John (the grandson) was killed at the Battle of Cateau in 1794, during the French Revolutionary War. Although I don't know if it is still here today, at one time there was a memorial to him in Startforth churchyard which said he "advanced himself by his own exemplary conduct" and had been "interred on the field

Last week a young woman was found murdered behind the cattle wall, at Barnard Castle; and, on Saturday, one John Kipling was committed to Durham gaol on suspicion of the murder.

Newcastle Courant, June 29th 1771

of battle".

A contemporary report tells of him "receiving a ball through the heart" at the beginning of the charge.

Also, a John Kipling ran a school in Barnard Castle. He taught surveying to Jeremiah Dixon, who later surveyed the boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland, known as the Mason-Dixon line, and much later the boundary between the slave-owning and slave-free states (probably hence 'Dixie' for the former). He also surveyed a tithe apportionment for Barnard Castle.

A John Kipling became news for a different reason in 1771 when he was accused of murder (see cutting above). Was this John the gardener, John the mathematician or a different John again? Whichever it was, he was fortunately

acquitted when the case came before Durham Assizes that August.

On board *HMS Africa* during the Battle of Trafalgar was boatswain's mate, John Kipling (yet another!) from Barnard Castle aged 29.

He later served on *Woodlark*, where he was reduced in 1811 to the ranks for drunkenness and disobedience, but seems to have been restored by 1815 when he was commended for assisting in extinguishing a fire in the magazine of the *Inconstant* at anchor in Rio de Janeiro.

Sgt Thomas Kipling served for 22 years in the Durham Militia, being awarded a pension by the Royal Hospital, Chelsea in 1779 for being "rheumatick". The Durham militia had been formed in the 1750s in Barnard Castle.

Serving alongside him was Corporal John Kipling who served 36 years before retiring at age 63 in 1797, "worn out in the service".

Sgt Philip Kipling of the 25th Foot was pensioned in 1794 after being wounded at the Siege of Toulon in 1793.

We end this ramble through pre-19th century 'Barney' with a second Barningham connection.

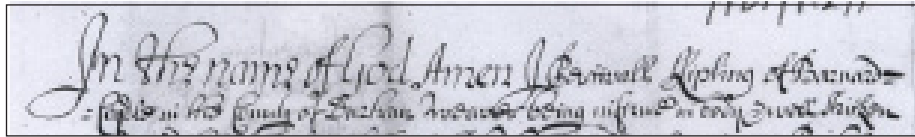
George Kipling, another weaver, married Ann Webster in Barnard Castle in 1792. He was the grandson of the Francis Kipling born in Barningham in 1681 (*Archive 39*).

Ann died the following year and George moved to Darlington where he died in 1795.

**CAPTAIN KIPLING.**  
Dec. 5. At Barnard Castle, Captain Robert Kipling, late of the 43rd Light Infantry.  
He enlisted into that regiment as a private in 1778, having previously served three years in the Durham militia. He was with the regiment at the battle of Beaker's Hill, and through the whole of the ten years' American War. Having by his merits raised himself to the rank of Captain, he was allowed to sell his commission; but was appointed, at his wish, extra recruiting officer, which service he performed for many years.  
On his retirement, he received a sword with the following inscription on the blade and on the scabbard—"To Capt. Robert Kipling; this sword is presented by his brother officers as a small token of their sincere regard, and of the high sense they entertain of his meritorious services during a period of thirty-five years, in the different ranks of Private, Corporal, Sergeant, Sergeant-Major, Adjutant, Ensign, Lieutenant, and Captain, in His Majesty's 43rd Light Infantry regiment."

Tribute in the United Services Magazine to Capt Robert Kipling after his death in 1830





Will of Percival Kipling, who died in 1727

## The early Kiplings of Barnard Castle

THE earliest record I have found of Kiplings in Barnard Castle dates back to 1577, when Leonard Kipling is named as a churchwarden. Although I have no evidence of this, I wonder if he might be the Leonard Kipling who was buried in Barningham in 1587 (*Archive 38*)?

In 1618, there was a dispute over the will of Nicholas Kipling, with it being alleged that Nicholas had made his will “to please his wife [Margaret], being an angry woman, while privately stating that it should not stand, for he knew it would overthrow and undermine his son George so as he would ne’er be his own man”.

In the same year, probate was granted on the will of Michael Kipling. He was a shoemaker and must have been quite wealthy as his sons Anthony and Leonard were apprenticed in London in 1615 and 1642 as wax chandler and clothworker respectively. His daughter Cecily married a London chandler, Christopher Rowbotham, around 1620.

Michael’s will (of which only part survives) mentions beneficiaries Cecill, Anthone, Anne, Marie, John and Leonard Kipling. The accompanying bond appears to be given by George and Margaret Kipling. Could he have been Nicholas, or possibly a brother?

Barnard Castle parish re-

### kiplings

*MIKE KIPLING continues the story of his family, in our area for more than 400 years.*

cords date from 1609, the birth of Phillis, daughter of Percival Kipling in 1611 being the earliest record. A later Percival Kipling, a weaver, died in 1727, leaving his property, including a burgrave in Thorngate Wynd, to his widow Dorothy.

In the first half of the 17th century, other family heads were Edward, John, George and Robert Kipling. These four, plus Percival, Thomas and Leonard Kipling, together with Robert’s sons Robert and Bryan, make up the nine Kiplings who signed the 1641 protestation returns, a commitment to uphold the Protestant faith and abjure Rome.

In 1666, only Robert and John Kipling paid the Hearth Tax at Barnard Castle.

A list survives of infringements brought before the Archdeacon’s Court in Durham in the 1670s, the Kiplings of Barnard Castle being well represented:

July 1673: Robert Kipling and Ann Grainger; fornication.

July 1673: Philip Kiplin and Thomas Shelley; for not receiving the Communion and standing excommunicate.

October 1673: John Kip-

lin, Philip Kiplin and others; neglect of the Church and Sacrament.

October 1675: Robert Kiplin; non-payment of Church cess.

June 1677: Robert Kiplin, jun.; for being a Papist.

June 1677: Robert Kiplin, John Kiplin and Robert Kiplin sen.; not receiving the Communion.

Robert senior and Robert junior were uncle and nephew. The habit of different branches of the family calling a son Robert led on several occasions to the need to distinguish between them in this way.

In 1675, Robert Kipling jun was a voter in the General Election, as in 1679 was John Kipling.

In 1714, a later Robert married a Jane Headspother\* in Darlington and by 1727 they had four children. Robert senior was a weaver and he must have been reasonably successful, as his name was associated with several property transactions and a gravestone can be found in the parish churchyard for a daughter, Ann, who died age 6 in 1722 and his wife Jane who died in 1747.

His son (Robert, of course!) was later listed as a freeholder in the 1762 election records.

Intriguingly, his wife Jane was accused before the Dur-

*SPANHAM Farm, high on the moors beside the Stang, hit the headlines last year when it was destroyed by fire.*

*It was home to generations of the Peacock family in the 19th and early 20th centuries.*

*Mark Lawrence, whose mother was born there, has been tracking down his family ties with the farm and sent us this report*



Spanham Farm before it was burned down last year

## Memories of Spanham and West Hope

### spanham peacocks

MY great-grandfather James Peacock was born at Lower Seal House in Upper Arken-garthdale, just above Whaw.

His mother was Mary Ann (nee Wilson) whose family farmed – not sure if they were owners or tenants – at Spanham in the early/mid-19th century.

I have traced the Wilson family through census returns to Sleightholme to the west of Bowes, and there is a memorial to Joseph and Mary in St Mary’s parish church, Langthwaite.

I assume that James was gifted the Spanham farm outright or just granted the tenancy (though I think it was the former) from his mother, as she outlived her husband. The property included both the farm at Spanham and the one at Farewell to the east of Gilmonby.

In addition to being a successful farmer, James Peacock was a magistrate and a county councillor.

He retired from farming in the late 1920s, and handed the farm over to his youngest son Albert. James moved to Barnard Castle and took up residence at Beaconsfield House, which he occupied until the

when I called at West Hope.

There are some amusing anecdotes my mother used to tell about her life at West Hope and Spanham. Most of the stories are third-hand or worse, picked up by my mother from her parents, aunts and uncles: as with all tales they may have been embellished slightly at every telling.

In about 1905 my mother’s father William James Peacock had his tonsils removed without anaesthetic on the kitchen table at Spanham farmhouse. Although anaesthetic had been discovered in the 19th century and was available at a price in the pre-NHS era, on this occasion every non-vital expense was, indeed, spared.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, from the ages of 5 to 8, my mother Elizabeth and her twin sister Mary used to attend what was called Scargill School though it was located, I believe, in the building at Thwaite in what now doubles as a chapel and community hall.

The two girls used to make their way on foot across the moorland from West Hope Farm to the school and back, unaccompanied and in all weathers. Today’s parents and

late 1940s. By this stage Albert had moved to another farm outside the immediate area (can’t recall the name), and James lived with him until his death in about 1952. His house was turned into the pub/hotel of the same name, unoccupied for a couple of years recently, and now an Italian restaurant.

My maternal grandfather was another of James’ sons, William James Peacock. He married Gertrude Isabella Allison from Baldersdale and Quarry Grange Farm outside Barnard Castle.

They had West Hope farm until about 1933, when the moorland used for grazing sheep was sold to the Forestry Commission to plant the Stang Forest. They moved to Bank Hall Farm, near Temple Sowerby in Cumbria.

My grandmother died in 1975, my grandfather in 1979 aged 79: they are interred in Barnard Castle cemetery. They had twin daughters, born in 1925: my mother Elizabeth Eleanor and my aunt Mary.

West Hope farm was taken over by Dick Iceton, whose grandson now farms there. I met him about 18 months ago

\*Headspother – a wonderful surname, so rare that not even Google can find any record of it ever being recorded in print (until now!) We’ve no idea where it comes from or what it means. –Ed.

## spanham peacocks

children would look askance at such a prospect, and the parents would be investigated by social services for child cruelty and endangering their health: my aunt reached the age of 80 until her death in 2005, and my mother has reached 89 without any harm from the experience.

In the later 1920s my mother's uncle Albert Peacock was lucky enough to own a car. One Sunday afternoon he was driving from Spanham to Barnard Castle, with my grandfather, William as one of the passengers.

When the car engine overheated on what is now Rutherford Lane (just past the turn-off to Thwaite), the driver and other male passengers had to fill the radiator with water carried from the River Greta



Stang Foot Farm, formerly an inn in their bowler hats.

I don't know the date of the next tale (possibly it was in the 1920s), but apparently the landlady of Stang Foot Inn (now Stang Foot Farm) dropped down dead while serving after-hours drinkers (made up of local farmers and shepherds).

Despite the fact that it would have taken the police and a doctor some time to get to the inn at about one in the morning, the late night revellers bolted into the dark. Maybe someone else in the Barningham area has heard this tale and can add

a date? Another drink-related story! At an undisclosed public house (it may have been the Stang Foot Inn again) pranksters unhitched a horse from the shafts of a trap, fed the shafts through the bars of a nearby gate, and then hitched the horse to the shafts on the other side of the gate.

When the inebriated owner of the trap and his companions emerged from the pub and had climbed on board, they could not understand why they were not making any progress homeward.

## Eight-year-old's 18-mile walk – for a shilling

DURING my family research I came across the following three tales, either in the *Teesdale Mercury* or the *Darlington & Stockton Times*:

1. At some time in the 1860s a man had been told by his employer in Middleham to collect a horse from the landlady of the Stang Foot Inn, but as he preferred to spend his day in a pub drinking beer, he gave an eight-year-old local lad a shilling to collect the animal.

The boy walked the 18 miles from Middleham to Stang Foot (I'm not sure if that was before or after his shift cleaning up a chimney!). Some of the farmers, blacksmiths and householders whom he passed on the road took pity on him and gave him food and drink.

The story was related to the local newspaper in the 1930s by the boy, then an 80-year-old man, who still seemed quite bitter about the boyhood experience some 70 years after the event.

2. Sometime in the 1890s, a maid employed at Spanham by my great-grandfather, James Peacock, tried (and fortunately failed) to kill herself with some chloroform. Her absence from

the farmhouse was noticed when she failed to appear to start her domestic duties, and after a search she was found unconscious in a shepherd's hut some distance away.

3. In the 1890s or early 20th century James Peacock was the victim of a crime: he sent a casual worker on his farm at Spanham to Darlington with a completed cheque to collect some wood from a timber merchant.

The actual cost of the timber was less than the value of the cheque, so the employee was given the difference in cash to repay his employer... except he failed to return to the farm: he absconded with the change and sold the timber.

His description was circulated to surrounding police stations and he was stopped a few weeks later by a diligent police officer who spotted him as he travelled on foot as a vagrant, and arrested him for theft. He appeared at Greta Bridge Police Court and was, I recall, sentenced to hard labour.

● Mark Lawrence lives in Finchley, North London: [jrmlawrence@hotmail.com](mailto:jrmlawrence@hotmail.com)

## milbank diaries

Saturday, 12 April: 'Fred gave me a beautiful diamond ring...' Monday, 12 May: 'Fred gave me a beautiful emerald bracelet...' Thursday, 26 June: 'The new butler arrived today. Fred gave me a very pretty set of turquoise studs...' Wednesday, 2 July: 'Fred gave me Lockhart's Spanish Ballads, a beautiful book...' Monday, 22 September: 'Fred gave me a beautiful ruby ring...' Wednesday, 24 September: 'The Duke (of Cleveland) gave me a beautiful emerald diamond brooch...'

There were more: Saturday, 4 October: 'Finished Fred's slippers in scarlet and sent them to be made up. Another day of incessant rain so that I could not go out at all. Henry gave me a very pretty purse...' Thursday, 6 November: 'Fred went to York and got baby's hair set in a locket for me...' Thursday, 20 November: 'Fred went to York and brought some very pretty books back with him...' Tuesday, 9 December: 'Fred went to York and brought me back a beautiful watch and some new books...'

Saturday 7 February 1846 was Aline's 20th birthday. 'Fred gave me Cinderella, the horse I rode at Harewood, whose name I shall change to Birthday. Sussex and Mary came to luncheon. The former gave me a mother of pearl and gold needle case, Mary a gold pencil case. Lady Augusta and Henry came by afterwards. She brought me as a present from her and Mr Milbank a quantity of beautiful old pointed lace.'

Tuesday, 17 February: 'Birthday dead lame unfortu-



Aline Milbank in 1863, aged 37

nately so she is to be returned.'

Tuesday, 4 August: 'Fred gave me a beautiful bracelet with his miniature in it.'

Friday, 18 September: 'The anniversary of our marriage. Fred gave me a beautiful

bracelet, a gold snake with a jewelled head.'

Sunday, 7 February (1847): 'My 21st birthday. Lady Augusta gave me an emerald diamond ring, Mary an ivory pocket compass, Barbarina a purse worked by herself and Sussex an Anstey cheese.'

Tuesday, 9 February: 'Had my final sitting for Martin. (an artist?) The Duchess Dowager called and sat some time. We engaged ourselves to go there on the 20th. Martin dined with us. Fred gave me a beautiful gold carriage clock and a malachite gold taper. Martin gave me 2 French carved medallions intended as birthday presents although they arrived too late to be given on the day.'

● Next Archive: Parenthood and old age.

## Traditional Farm Buildings Survey Project

Seeking volunteers to record historically significant buildings. No previous experience required. All training provided!

### Information Days

Tuesday 7th October, 10am–1pm

St Mary's Parish Hall, Barnard Castle

Saturday 11th October, 10am–1pm

The Witham, Barnard Castle

\*\*\*\*\*

### Training Days

Saturday 25th October, 9.30am–4pm

Reading Rooms, Romaldkirk

Sunday 26th October, 9.30am–4pm

Reading Rooms, Romaldkirk

To book please contact:

Honla.Davlin@durham.gov.uk or 01900 260110



## milbank diaries

Other house parties were spent at the various big houses of the area such as Aske, Ripley Castle, Harewood and of course Thorpe Perrow, the home of Fred's parents. When they were at Thorpe Aline hosted a party for the school-children of Snape:

*'Fred out fishing almost the whole day. All the school children came to tea at 4 o'clock. They were driven into the house by a shower. They ate and drank immensely.'*

In the evenings there would be music and sometimes dancing or they would play backgammon, cards or cockamaroo (an early form of bagatelle)

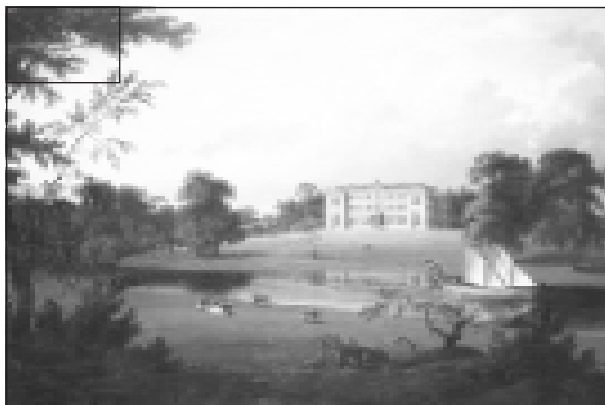
Of course Fred and Aline would attend balls and this was not always without incident. On one occasion they set off for a ball at 9 o'clock: *'The post boy lost the road and drove us into a ditch which made us late arriving.'*

This didn't stop them having a good time and they didn't go home until 5am.

It wasn't the only mishap. After a visit to a steeplechase at Wetherby at the beginning of March *'Our coachman very tipsy – nearly upset us coming home ...'* The following day she simply said: *'The coachman left us today.'*

In the middle of March 1845 the family travelled to London for the marriage of Fred's eldest brother Mark to Barbarina Farquhar, daughter of Sir Thomas Harvie Farquhar. They certainly managed to make the most of the day.

Monday, 24th March: *'Beautiful day. We went to Mark's marriage. The bride looked lovely and was very composed. There was a large*



Painting of Thorpe Perrow in 1810 by Alfred George Cuitt

*party at the breakfast afterwards when the strangers were all gone. Barbarina came down in her travelling dress looking beautiful and they set off in their new carriage. Walked out with Fred and shopped. Dined at Sir W. Farquhar's. (Sir Walter Farquhar was Barbarina's brother) Afterwards went to the play at Drury Lane. Saw the ballet but came too late for the opera.'*

They did, however manage to go to the opera the next day and the following day they journeyed home.

Wednesday, 26 March: *'Set off from London at 9 o'clock. Arrived at York at about a quarter to 5. Reached Goldsboro, a little before 8.'*

They of course had house parties at Goldsborough and a fairly frequent visitor was Alexina's brother Billy, Sir William Henry Don.

Alexina was very fond of him but unfortunately he had to sell his estates at Newton Don to pay off the bulk of his gaming debts. The estate was sold to Mr Balfour for £80,000 – the equivalent of about three and a half million today. The debts were run up during his time in

the 5th Dragoon Guards but it was said to still have left him about £7,000 in debt.

He rather bizarrely became a touring actor in Tasmania and died in 1862.

Alexina wrote *'He who has been my idol ever since I can recollect is gone from us for ever. Never to hear his dear voice or see his beautiful face again! It seems impossible.'*

### Diamonds, emeralds, rubies – and a horse

FRED appears to have been a very generous husband and Alexina noted in her diary the many gifts she received both from Fred and others. The list is extensive:

Friday, 7 February (1845): *'My 19th birthday. Fred gave me a beautiful diamond ornament. I had letters from Lady Augusta enclosing a very pretty seal and one from Mary with a pocket book. Mr Reynard gave me a Neapolitan charm.'* [Mary was Mary Milbank, Fred's younger sister.]

Saturday, 8 February: *'Letter from Sussex enclosing a silver pencil case as a birthday present.'*

## Plenty to see on village walkabout

*Members of the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group came to Barningham for a day in June. Their leader DAVID COOK sent this report.*

THIS was a successful event, attended by about 20 people in the village hall.

Phil Hunt of the Barningham Local History Group gave a presentation on the history of the village based on J. Merryne Watson's *'As Time Passed By: A History of Barningham'*, 1997, a book drawn from a series of Merryne's articles in the parish magazine.

This was followed by a presentation by David Cook based on the findings of the 11 surveys done in the village by the former Tees and Greta section of the Group led by Merryne from the late 1970s to the early 1990s.

After lunch in the village hall those attending split into two groups for the walkabout the village.

The 11 houses surveyed are distributed evenly along the length of the village which lies between Richmond and Barnard Castle on the north facing slopes of the Yorkshire Dales.

The earliest houses (three examples from the late 17th century) seem to have had a direct entry into a housebody plan form. Later examples were of central entry with gable stacks, often with service rooms at the rear.

Most of the houses are situated on the north side of the village road, and some take advantage of the fall of the land to the rear by having service



YVBSG members studying an external chimneystack at Prospect House

### yvbsg tour

rooms in basements at the rear.

Walling materials are predominantly coursed or uneven coursed sandstone. A handful of roofs were drawn for the reports. One house has two type 'A' cruck pairs, scarf-jointed purlins resting on collar ends. Another is said to have two upper cruck type 'A' apex with 'v' notch for ridge later collars, threaded through purlins.

After this excitement, most of the rest of the roofs recorded have, from the late 17th century, principal rafter trusses with king posts, the later and larger examples with wide spans for double piles have purlin posts and struts. Purlins are threaded through or 'clasp' the principal rafters.

External features in the reports and seen include outshuts, datestones, 'polite' arched headed windows, a stair turret, and external stack,

blocked windows, kneelers and string courses. We saw two large stone fire surrounds with massive lintels, both on what have now become external walls. One is well-known and visible from the street, but the other is not and was a new revelation. Neither have been recorded in a report.

The same applies to a cottage elevation, not visible from the street, with mullions still in place. It seems that all the other mullioned windows in the village have either been blocked or replaced.

So, there is more to discover and more to record in Barningham should the opportunity arise. Thanks to the Barningham Local History Group for co-organising this event.

● *This report appears in the latest issue of the YVBSG's newsheet. It can be seen, with other details of the group's activities, at its website, [www.yvbsg.org.uk](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk).*

## Where there's a will, there's a lot to be discovered

If you ever have to draw up an inventory of everything you own – for insurance purposes, perhaps – you'll discover that the list is a very long one.

By the time you'd recorded all your belongings, from the humblest teaspoon to the unloved but just-might-be-worth-something junk in the attic, you'd have catalogued hundreds, probably thousands of items.

The list would be a snapshot of your everyday life. It wouldn't be of much interest to anyone else right now, but it would be a source of fascinating detail for historians of the future – just as wills drawn up centuries ago are to us today.

Most people didn't own so much in those days, though. A few pieces of furniture, some bedding, a bit of prized pewter and a pair of fire irons might be the sum total of many a man's possessions.

William Stapleton of Hawsteads, the farmstead between Barningham and Newsham, was a bit better off. When he sat down to draw up his will in 1799 he had quite a list of things to ponder as he decided who should get what when he died.

Disposing of his land and buildings wasn't a problem. Hawsteads (he spelt it Harsted) went to his son Samuel; his daughter Jane inherited his cottage in Newsham. It's referred to as West House, later replaced in about 1820 by a new dwelling called Judgeson House and now –? We don't know, though we think it was somewhere on the south side of the green – can anyone help?

Jane, who remained unmar-

### william's will

ried until her death in 1817, also received £12 a year for life, to be paid by her brother as a condition of the will, and a large proportion of William's household goods.

"I give and bequeath to my daughter Jane Stapleton," wrote William, "one chest of drawers, one dressing table and glass upon it in the East Chamber; one turnup bedstead with bedding in the West Chamber; one clock in the stair case, one half dozen chairs, one arm chair, one dining table, one tea table with tea board, one cornere cupboard with the china therein, one turnup bedstead and bedding being in the parlour; one half of my pewter both dishes and plaates, one set of fire irons."

It doesn't seem to have left Samuel with anything much to sleep on, but as he inherited Hawsteads could probably afford a new bed.

The will was witnessed by John Steadman, Peter Dent and Margaret Jackson.

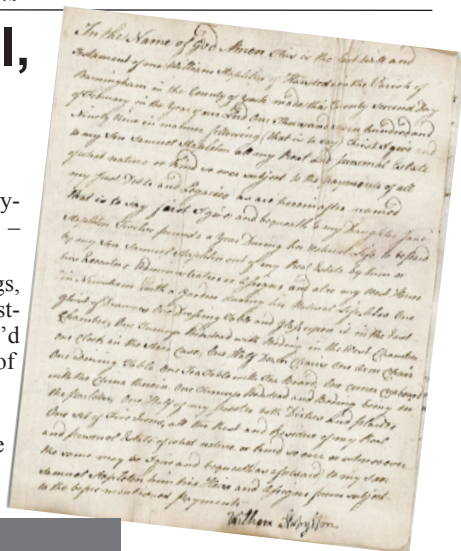
William died in 1803, by

which time he'd moved to Dalton Fields, owned by the Judson family who were linked to the Stapletons by marriage.

Samuel took over Hawsteads. There's no record of him marrying or having children, and when he drew up his will in 1834 he left everything to his nephew Thomas Judson and niece Ann (nee Judson, who had married a William Raw of Ripon and been widowed in 1830).

Samuel seems to have done fairly well for himself. Among the possessions bequeathed to Ann were "my best four post bedstead bed, bedding and hangings, washstand, seven best mahogany chairs, chest of drawers, wash stand, two mahogany tables, one large gilt framed looking glass, corner cupboard, corner cupboard, my china, silver teaspoons, and silver cream jug." There was a silver tankard for Thomas, too.

Samuel died in 1839 and his farming implements and stock (including 21 sheep, four



### milbank diaries

to carry on doing so, sporadically, for the rest of his life. He was not one to let this curtail his sport and was known to shoot grouse whilst mounted on a pony.

He was described as 'a crack shot who rarely missed – standing or running' and Aline records that during one of his periods of inactivity 'Fred practised at a target with his rifle and shot beautifully at 900 yards.'

He was a skilled angler too but unfortunately had a habit of poaching. 'There was a nice little loch about four miles from Aline [Lodge], good for sea-trout and an occasional salmon, but very sulky. We caught him one day coming home in his cart with his net and some fish, having taken a haul in this our little sanctum and looking as pleased as a schoolboy that had successfully pillaged an orchard.'

### Socialising, parties – and learning Swedish

IN her diaries Aline gave details of her many activities but we rarely learn anything about what she was feeling. She was a very accomplished pianist who could speak French, Italian and German and learned to read eleven languages including Hungarian, Swedish and Icelandic. In 1846 she 'began to learn Swedish which does not seem difficult.'

She was deeply religious and always attended church when she could. She instituted the practice of reading prayers on Sunday evenings and would do this herself unless a clergyman was visiting.

Whilst Fred was occupied with sport, Aline's days were



Goldsborough Hall, Aline and Frederick's first home

spent doing the things that were expected of a young lady. This mostly entailed socialising with her family and friends. She was the one responsible for extending or accepting invitations.

They would spend a lot of their time at various house parties where Fred would take part in his sporting pursuits.

Raby Castle, the home of his maternal grandparents, was one of the most visited places. Fred and Aline were regarded as important visitors there as, since 1836, Fred had been named as the heir to the Duke of Cleveland if his three sons were to die without producing a son.

Aline would spend the days with the other ladies riding, walking and sewing. They would ride out in their carriages and visit other ladies for luncheon. She records that on one occasion at Raby she practiced the polka with Henry (Fred's brother).

This social life was not without its down side. On Saturday 5th January 1845 whilst on a visit to Hornby Castle, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Leeds, she wrote 'Did not

go to church as I have a bad cold. Neither did Fred, as he has a bad cough. The Duchess is very odd and so is the Duke. I don't much like either of them, although they are certainly very kind.'

And again on January 22nd: 'Fred went out shooting. Mr and Mrs Attwood, Mr Mrs and Miss Collins dined with us – the latter more dreadful than it is possible to conceive. Miss Collins' singing beat all I ever heard or dreamt of. I like Mr and Mrs Attwood. They are nice people.'

The comment about Miss Collins singing is a bit ambiguous but the mystery is solved on January 27th when 'Snow on the ground. Did not rise to breakfast. Capt. Pryse came to stay. Mr and the two Miss Collins and Mr and Mrs Dent came for dinner. The Miss Collins sang atrociously.'

The Misses Collins were not the only visitors that she disliked. Mr Reid, a friend of Fred's visiting for the shooting, she described as obnoxious and this was not helped when he shot Fred near his eye. Fortunately it was not a serious injury.



# Diary revelations of a Victorian lady

A first extract from ANN ORTON's research project on the diaries of Alexina Milbank, highly commended in this year's Archive Awards

THE Milbank archives and the North Yorkshire Records Office contain a treasure trove of information about the Milbank family.

These are mostly from the 19th century and give us a unique insight into their lives. Mark Milbank and his daughter-in-law Alexina kept diaries and it is from these that a picture of their lives emerges.

Alexina, known as Aline, was the daughter of Sir Alexander Don Bt. of Newton Don near Kelso in Berwickshire. She married Frederick Acclom Milbank, second son of Mark Milbank, on 18th September 1844: she was 18 at the time and he was 24.

After the marriage they lived at Goldsborough Hall near Knaresborough but then moved to Leases Hall, near Bedale, to be nearer Mark's family and visited Wemmergill and Barningham Park for the shooting season.

Later they lived in Edinburgh and spent a few months of each year on the Scottish island of Lewis at Aline Lodge.

Alexina kept a series of diaries from 1845 to 1881 and it is from these that we learn details of their day-to-day life.

Fred's days were filled with hunting, shooting, fishing and occasionally cricket. Aline assiduously recorded each day what he had been doing together with details of what had been shot, caught or killed. He wasn't worried about getting wet or dirty:

*'Fred went out hunting and got bogged. He came home awfully muddy.'*

Anything seemed to be fair game. On various occasions she recorded that he shot plovers, wild ducks, rooks and a

Alexina  
Milbank,  
1846

## milbank diaries



Frederick Milbank, 1863

"rara avis", though what kind of rare bird is not mentioned! She seemed unaffected by this but when he shot a chaffinch she was clearly distressed:

*'Saw him kill a poor wee chaffinch. Beautiful shot but I was wae for the poor birdie.'*

A rainy day meant that Fred would be out fishing for trout.

All this sport was not without its consequences and Fred suffered many injuries.

Friday, 12 December 1845: *'Fred went out hunting got a bad fall and cut his head severely. Buckle came and sewed it up.'* Buckle was Dr John Bentley Buckle, surgeon, of Bedale.

Monday, 29 December 1845: *'Fred went out hunting and had a fall. The horse fell on him but he was luckily not hurt, only bruised.'*

A much more serious ankle injury occurred in the next year although it is not clear how this was caused, possibly playing cricket. In late September he was suffering a lot of pain and stayed in bed.

Benning, the doctor, visited but the ankle was still bothering him a month later and was fortunately it was not a serious injury.



## william's will



Hawsteads today

cows, four calves, a pony, one old mare and a pig) were valued at £152; the residue of his household furniture was worth a mere ten shillings.

Thomas and Ann appear to have sold Hawsteads shortly afterwards to the Milbanks. It was to become the home of Augustus Sussex Milbank and turned into a model farm (see Archive 30).

David Sawyer, of Mobberley in Cheshire, sent us a copy of the will. His mother was the last of this line of Judsons and he's been tracking down the family tree (see Archive 13).

While researching the files at the North Yorkshire records office in Northallerton he came across several old maps and other documents relating to Newsham and Dalton.

They include the 1781 terrier (land register) above right, recording fields making up Dalton Fields Farm, "in the possession of William Stapleton" and rented to William Lax.

We've also got the Newsham 1781 enclosure map (part shown on the right) and 1837 Newsham tithe map: copies are available to any history group members who would like one.

If you have information about Judsons or Stapletons, please get in touch.

*Dalton Filds Farm in the Possession of Wm. Stapleton. 13 Cows 1st to 10th Dec for seven years to enter at May Day at the neat Rent of 150 a year.*

	a	s	d	
Smith's Close...	3	1	54	3 1 54
Low Hill Field...	9	0	0	9 0 0
Little Hill (Bao)	3	3	31	3 3 31
Square Close...	3	3	5	3 3 5
Middle Hill Field	12	3	10	12 3 10
High Hill (Bao)	8	2	6	8 2 6
Long Hill (Bao)	6	1	0	6 1 0
High Wellands	14	0	0	14 0 0
Woods (Bao)	5	1	26	5 1 26
Far (Bao)	5	1	0	5 1 0
Low...	7	3	33	7 3 33
Orpoad Bush	1	0	11	1 0 11
High Greens	5	0	0	5 0 0
Low Greens	14	0	9	14 0 9
Intack	12	1	23	12 1 23
Gabriel Pasture	15	0	26	15 0 26
Gabriel Close	5	3	9	5 3 9
Low Wood	18	3	30	18 3 30
High Wood	13	2	14	13 2 14
Wood Head	3	0	11	3 0 11
High West Intack	14	1	3	14 1 3
High East Intack	23	3	31	23 3 31
Low East Intack	27	1	9	27 1 9
Low West Intack	11	3	0	11 3 0
	782	1	32	782 1 32





## Newsham from the air 50 years ago

MUCH has changed in Newsham since this aerial photograph was taken.

The Coles' garage and workshops behind Century House was doing a thriving trade – there must be well over twenty vehicles parked up there. Cows graze in fields to the west of Westgarth's farm buildings.

The Pipes Tavern has yet to expand, with just one lone caravan on the site nextdoor, and the methodist chapel, little more than a shed, stands where Wesley House is today.

June Graham came across a copy of the photo (the original's in colour) and thought it would be of interest.

Judging from the cars on view, the picture was taken sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s: can anyone offer a more precise date?



## History courses from Marion

LOCAL historian Marion Moverley, one of our guest speakers last year, is offering a couple of courses this autumn which might interest group members.

One is Delving Into Archives, looking at unusual historical sources and including an introduction to reading old handwriting. The second course is called Dear Diary – With a Yorkshire Accent, and will explore history through some of the diaries and journals held by the North Yorkshire County Records Office.

Both eight-week courses will run at the Friends' Meeting House in Leyburn from Friday October 3rd, the Archives from 11am-1pm, the Diary 1.30-3.30pm. The Diary course is also available at Northallerton on Monday mornings from September 29th. Cost for each is £55. For details and bookings, contact Marion at moverley.lyons@virgin.net.

## Spotlight on Greta Bridge fort

IF you've been wondering how they've been getting on with recent exploration of the Roman fort and vicus at Greta Bridge, a report on recent work there will be given at Thornton le Street village hall on Saturday November 8th, 2pm.

The speaker is Dr David Mason, principal archaeologist of Durham County Council.

Admission will be £2.

## Grundy to open Forum AGM

NORTH-EAST author and television presenter John Grundy – the man who fronted the TV series *Northern Pride* – will open the Durham History and Heritage Forum annual general meeting at County Hall, Durham, on Saturday November 22nd, 10am-1pm.

The meeting also includes a session on 'Collection, Conservation and Preservation' which will be looking, among other things, at recording and preserving material relating to the First World War. Jenny Halling, conservator from the Durham County Records Office, will give a presentation on aspects of restoration and how best to store documents and other materials.

All are welcome to come along (the history group is a member of the Forum), and it's free. More details from the Forum website, [www.durhamweb.org.uk/history](http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/history).

## Barningham 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\*\* Journal of Mary Martin, born on a local 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 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

Discounts for history group members

We can also supply copies of *As Time Passed By*, a history of Barningham by Merryne Watson. Contact us for details.

More information on our website [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)