

from the parish mag

120 YEARS AGO: The Local Government Act is now law. The Vestry Meeting is not abolished, it will continue to hold its meetings with the Rector as chairman, but it will concern itself only with affairs of the Church. The new Parish Meeting, consisting of all the electors of the parish, will have the old powers of the Vestry Meeting. It will be able to deal with any matter of local interest and everyone who desires will have a direct voice in it.

— December 1894

100 YEARS AGO: A census is about to take place of all those willing to join His Majesty's forces, to each of these a card will be given to record this. It might be more useful if a small medal could be given that each recipient might wear announcing that he has offered to serve, and so would cease to be the object of remark as being one able but unwilling to go.

— December 1914

90 YEARS AGO: The Clergy of the Rural Deanery wish to offer our sincere sympathy to the Rev Canon E Spencer Gough in his continued ill-health, which has been the cause of his recent resignation. After 57 years in the Diocese, and nearly 36 years as Rural Dean and Rector of Barningham, the neighbourhood in general will be most sorry to lose him. We hope that he may find happiness, improved health and rest in his well-earned retirement.

— December 1924

80 YEARS AGO: On Sunday we shall hold our annual Toy Service in Church at 2pm. Gifts of toys, old or new, books, clothing, and anything else useful to poor children, will be welcome.

— December 1934

TEESDALE FARMERS

can procure excellent
Sulphate of Ammonia

at the

**BARNARD CASTLE
GAS WORKS.**

Apply to Secretary for Current Prices.

Ad from December 1924

70 YEARS AGO: We rejoice with Mrs Johansen and Mrs Todd that they have been able to return to their homes on the South Coast, but we will also condole with ourselves that they have gone. During their four years' sojourn at The Yews they have entered again into the life of the village so happily, so sincerely, so helpfully and so generously, that we shall miss them very much.

— December 1944

50 YEARS AGO: Poppy Day collections raised £28/2/11d. I expect you have seen in the Press letters expressing the view that Remembrance Sunday has outlived its purpose. I do not think it has. There is a continuity of life which demands that we remember how much we owe to other people.

— December 1964

20 YEARS AGO: Television's latest ecclesiastical comedy, The Vicar of Dibley, didn't get off to a good start, and if the first episode is anything to go by, we shall give the rest a miss. The characters are 'ham' and the situation comedy rather poor. The main character portrays a caricature of a lady priest relying on what we felt to be coarse and sometimes offensive material.

— December 1994

**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



Archive 44

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
B. A. L. H. LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 2012
www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

**INSIDE: MYSTERY OF THE VANISHING SQUINTER**

Barningham WI Christmas party, 1956... can anybody put names to all or any of these faces?

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Oct 2009 – Dec 2014

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NEXT BLHG MEETING : TUESDAY JANUARY 20th 6pm

Barningham Local History Group

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

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

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

Transcriptions progress, praise for the phone box

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday November 18th 2014

minutes

Present: Phil Hunt (Chairman), John Hay (Vice-Chairman), Ann Orton (Secretary), Jon Smith, Mark Watson, Linda Sherwood, June Graham.

Apologies: Sheila Catton, Eric and Kay Duggan, Ann Hutchinson, Janet Paterson, Tony Orton, Margaret Stead, Cate and Harry Collingwood.

Minutes of the meeting on September 16th were agreed.

Matters arising: none.

Correspondence: Family History Workshop, Pepper, Jeffries, Sue Mc Nab, Horner, Walker, Kipling, Johnson.

Finance: Treasurer away: report at next meeting.

Publications: Archive 43 had

been distributed and 44 would be out shortly.

Transcriptions: Cate's were finished and currently being proof read. Ann had completed about two-thirds of the Reading Room minutes.

Next meetings: January 20th, March 17th.

Any other business: John Hay was congratulated on his new display in the telephone box which commemorates World War 2. It was suggested that we had our Christmas event at the Milbank Arms. Phil would explore possible dates. The meeting concluded with a very interesting talk by Tom Hutchinson. See page 21.

ANN ORTON

George Alderson

WE'RE saddened to report the death on November 15th of George Alderson of Hill Top. He was 91, our oldest member.

George was the last surviving member of a family who had farmed Hill Top for almost 200 years (see *Archive 1* and others) and in 2011 we recorded his memories of life in Barningham in the last century. He will be much missed.



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

Mystery of the squinting man who never returned

From the Northern Courant, December 3rd 1791:

WHEREAS, on the 26th of October last, 1791, a Man called at the house of Thomas Davidson, in Bowes, the sign of the Rose and Crown, and ordered a grey Horse Galloway, about thirteen hands high, to be taken care of till he returned from Greta Bridge (about five miles distant) which he said would be in the afternoon of the same day;

And whereas, upon enquiry, it does not appear that the aforesaid person was at Greta

cuttings

Bridge at the time mentioned;

This is therefore to give Notice, that if the Man who left this Galloway, or the Owner thereof, does not take the Galloway away, and pay expenses, on or before the first day of January 1792, the said Galloway will then be sold for that purpose. The Man seemed to be about 40 years of age, had on a brown coat, and squinted with his eyes.

The legend of Twashtri and the creation of woman

From the Richmond Directory 1912:

ACCORDING to Hindu legend, Twashtri the God created the world, but on his commencing to create woman he discovered that in man he had exhausted all his creative materials and that not one solid element had been left. He fell into a profound meditation and then proceeded as follows:

He took the roundness of the moon; the undulating curve of the serpent; the graceful twist of the climbing plant; the light shivering of the grass-blade and the slenderness of the willow; the velvety softness of the flow-

ers; the lightness of a feather; the gentle gaze of a doe; the frolicsomeness of the dancing sunbeam; the tears of the cloud; the inconstancy of the wind; the timidity of the hare; the vanity of the peacock; the hardness of the diamond; the cruelty of the tiger; the heat of the fire; the chill of the snow; the cackling of the parrot; and the cooing of the turtle dove.

All these he mixed together and formed a woman, and he presented her to the man.

● *What this was doing in the otherwise sedate and very proper Richmond Directory is a mystery. — Ed.*

Excellent Newsham horseflesh

From the Teesdale Mercury, August 13th 1890:

THE really excellent character of the horseflesh exhibited at the Yorkshire Show is the talk of the neighbourhood, and I see that a horse belonging to Mr Jeffrey Martin of Newsham was highly commended by the judges. It is a good specimen of the Cleveland Bay breed, and is altogether a very promising entire. Moreover, it has turned out well, as our Newsham friend bought it at a very handy figure, and has refused, I believe, £100 for the horse.

Taking stock of ancient punishment

HISTORY group member June Graham is trying to find out more about the history of the stocks on Newsham village green and will welcome any information.

She believes there were stocks there since Saxon times and says an Act of 1405 required every town and village to have them. The Act lapsed about 1830.

The Newsham stocks stand at the base of the market cross at the west end of Newsham.

Originally of wood, they were replaced by iron stocks set in granite in 1828, although there is an account which says the wooden stocks were in existence as late as 1859 and were in good condition.

People convicted of swearing, drunkenness and social misbehaviour would have their legs clamped with the iron bars for a length of time determined by the local court.

June says that legend has it the last time the Newsham stocks were used was in 1820, when the occupant was a drunken stonemason. "He challenged his keepers that, given the tools of his trade, he could free himself, but when given them he made so many personal injuries that he was deprived of them and sat out his sentence."

old ads

LOST, between Middleton-in-Teesdale, Newsham & Greta Bridge, a Small, Long, OAK DRAWER. Anyone bringing the same to the Teesdale Mercury office will be rewarded.

Teesdale Mercury, 1896

A catalogue of local crime in 1895

TEESDALE prides itself on its low crime rate compared with the rest of the country, and within the dale the Barningham area must be one of the most peaceful.

It's certainly better-behaved today than at some times in the past. We found the annual report of crimes committed within the Greta Bridge magistrates' court area in 1895, and it makes interesting reading:

Number of crimes committed, four – two of larceny simple, one of assault, and one of arson; persons apprehended, four (two males and two females). Two discharged, and two convicted. Persons dealt with on summonses two, one male and one female, and two committed for trial, and

court stories

released on bail. Two of the persons convicted summarily were sentenced to one month hard labour each.

The total number of persons proceeded against was 79. One for aggravated assault was committed for three months; three for common assault; 15 for offences against the Fishery Laws, four against the game laws, three for cattle straying, four for offences involving a locomotive (powered vehicle) and one for a bicycle, all under the Highway Act.

There were 17 offences involving for drunkenness, one for being drunk and refusing to quit; one for the illegal sale of drink; two for offences

against the closing regulations. Malicious damage, seven; revenue laws, two; vagrancy, begging, eight; sleeping out one; and found on enclosed premises, one.

The total number apprehended was 18, 17 males and one female, and the number of prisoners dealt with on summonses was 57, 54 males and three females. Of that number 61 were convicted, ten discharged on payment of costs, three withdrawn, and only one dismissed clearly on the evidence.

The total number sent to prison without the option of a fine were 15; one for three months, one for two months, five for one month, and eight for fourteen days. 46 were fined.

There was one application to find sureties; in bastardy one order made; one separation order after conviction for aggravated assault. There was one application for an order under the Education Act, 1886, and one under the Employers and Workman's Act.

The figures were reported in the *Teesdale Mercury* of January 15th 1896.

● *The police court at Greta Bridge operated until at least the 1960s – does anyone know exactly when it closed?*

Up in the air

SANDRA Walker of Newsham says she has an aerial photo of the village very similar to the one we published in the last *Archive*, and hers has the date June 20th 1964 written on the back.

locked up the bar at 10pm and gone to bed. Sgt Slack left but hung around outside, and ten minutes later saw Brunskill leave the inn and go to his home nearby.

The sergeant said the inn had been in the Ward family for 50 or 60 years and this was the first complaint ever made.

The magistrates said they had a lot of sympathy with the defendant, but had to find her guilty. She was fined two shillings, with costs.

A similar penalty was imposed on Brunskill for drink-ing after hours.

● *Hannah Ward died a few years later. Her son James continued to run the Morritt Arms well into the 20th century.*

Late-night drink ended landlady's clean record

AMONG the cases heard by the Greta Bridge court during 1895 was one in which Mrs Hannah Ward, landlady of the Morritt Arms, was charged with selling spirits to one of her neighbours during prohibited hours.

Acting Police Sergeant Slack gave evidence that he passed the inn's kitchen window at 11.20pm on the night of Saturday February 2nd and heard two people talking.

He rapped on the front door and found two men inside: Robert Brunskill, a shoemaker who claimed to be staying overnight at the inn, and James Ward, the landlady's son, with glasses of whisky on the table. They said Mrs Ward had

Family search has taken us back to the Normans

Archive 43 mentioned the McNab family from Buckingham, who were travelling north in search of their Rokeby ancestors

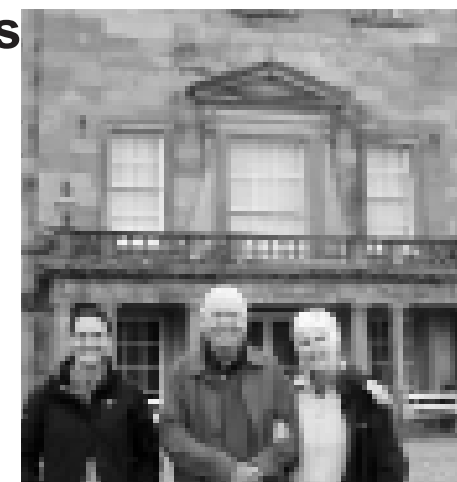
JOHN, Kathryn and I cannot thank you enough for the kindness your members showed to us during our flying visit to your area.

We did not expect to be so lucky in meeting you, learning more about your beautiful surroundings and its history, and special thanks to Jane Hackforth-Young for her lovely trip around Rokeby Hall.

Before we came up to Yorkshire, we had very little idea about our Rokeby connection and all the history of the family.

It was very exciting to see some of the key places where our ancestors may have trod – we only wish that we had a month to walk in the stunning countryside.

The Rokeby family go back to the Norman Conquest and their name may have been given because of the plentiful



The McNabs outside Rokeby Hall

letters & emails

rooks on their estate – three appear on the family arms.

They supported Charles 1 in the Civil War, became indebted and had to sell the estate to the Robinson family and move into a humbler abode at Mortham.

Sir Thomas Robinson knocked down their house and between 1720 and 1731 built the house that stands today. The Robinson family also got into debt and in 1769 had to sell it to the Morritt family who still own it. The house and estate have retained their name of Rokeby Park.

Our family is connected to the Rokebys through two marriages: Anne Rokeby, daughter of William Rokeby (1699-1783) married Francis Appleby of Barningham in 1754 and their grand-daughter, Jane Appleby, married William Bilborough Stephenson (1801-1866), probably about 1825.

William was a Wesleyan minister. Their eldest son

William Stephenson (1831-1880) became a priest in 1856. He seems to have been a very colourful character and may have been the inspiration for the short story, *The Invincible Curate*, written by the Victorian novelist, George Gissing.

While tracking down the Rokeby family we stayed at the Morritt Arms hotel and Jane Hackworth-Young and Jon Smith were kind enough to meet us there to fill us in on more local information.

They also put us in touch with Jenny Braddy, a local historian who gave us some valuable information about the earliest Sir Thomas Rokeby living in the 14th Century.

We also visited Egglestone Abbey where we were told a Thomas Rokeby, possibly Thomas Rokeby of Mortham (1639-1722), was buried. We thought we may have found his grave.

With many thanks and warm wishes to you all.

SUE McNAB, Buckingham
sue@mcnab.plus.com

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 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

Happy memories of village in the 1960s

I LIVED for a short while in the 1960s in Barningham at Heath Cottage, living with the lovely Lerigo family.

My dad was in the army, based in Catterick, and I was a pupil at the girls' High School in Richmond. Sandra Lerigo was my best friend in school, and at the crucial time that I was due to take my O levels, my dad was posted to Sussex. Joan and Bill very kindly took me in for nearly a year so that I could take my exams, even although they had their hands full with all the boys!

I had a great time living with the family, and during the holidays whilst Sandra worked in the village shop, which think was owned by Mr and Mrs Richmond, I helped out at the farm across the road ... George, John and Ritson Alderson, even shearing sheep!!! Happy times. Meanwhile, our



Sandra Lerigo and brothers Peter, Michael, James, Gordon and David, pictured c1970

letters & emails

Saturdays consisted of a trip to Barnard Castle to get some shopping, and the highlight was the WI meeting in the village hall. I can't remember the name of the lady who played the piano, but I believe she lived in the farm behind Heath Cottage.

Sandra and I managed to get a job waiting at the A66

Motel, which was owned by a lady called Vera Pegg – I think she owned some ladies' clothes shops in Middlesbrough.

Sandra and I are still in touch. I heard about Bill's death, he was my second father, and he and Joan were so kind to me, especially as I was so far away from my mum and dad and my brothers and sisters. I was very sad too when Joan died, she was such a kind lady.

I am now living on the south coast, midway between Chichester and Portsmouth, a retired school finance officer, and have been married to Jon for over 40 years. We have two sons, one in Edinburgh and one in Los Angeles. Jon is a retired maths teacher, and he also knew Joan and Bill and the family.

I visited Barningham in the last 10 years, and checked the green telephone box was still there!

Loved the village, and especially loved the winters, when Percival's bus couldn't get through to take us to school! Although, I did love my time at Richmond High School... fond memories.

SHEENA JEFFERIS
(nee Finlay)
sheena.jeffers@gmail.com

Sorting out my family of Coates, Whites and Ushers

I WAS looking at the electoral rolls for Barningham, and noted my grandparents and parents and aunt and uncle both mentioned.

My grandparents were James (Jim) and Maude White. My mother was Martha Evelyn White, she was born at Heathwaite in 1910 and married Robert Usher in 1936.

People who live in Barningham may remember her as Mattie Usher, she died in 1999 and lived most of her life in Barningham. We lived in Heather Cottage, when my father died mum moved to 1 Reading Room Cottages.

I am at the moment compiling my family tree and

wondered if you would be interested in any information I have. My great-grandparents were John Thomas and Mary Hannah Coates, and they farmed at Long Green Farm, a farm rented from The Milbank Estate.

I think your website is wonderful. Also when perusing the electoral roll I found an entry for Stanley Gjertson from East Hope, I remember Stanley, he visited Heathwaite by walking from East Hope through our allotment.

As I now live in Devon it is great to keep up with my roots.

MARY PEPPER
mary.pepper61@google-mail.com

A 70-year search for soldier's grave

Guest speaker at our last meeting was Tom Hutchinson. ANN ORTON reports.

TOM Hutchinson gave a very interesting talk about his quest for the grave of his uncle John Thomas Saunders and his battle to have it acknowledged by the War Graves Commission.

John Thomas, known to everyone as either Tommy or Sandy, joined the army on the outbreak of war in September 1939 and was enlisted in the Tyneside Scottish Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry.

He was a territorial, probably not fully trained, and was sent to Arras in 1940 to help in the preparation of temporary airfields. However, his bat-



Tommy Saunders

alion was then sent to fight a troop of German Panzers who they managed to hold for five hours. On May 21st 1940 his family were told that he had been posted missing and a month later they received a postcard from him to say that he was a prisoner of war.

After being in a transit camp followed by a long march he ended up in Lamsdorf POW camp at Stalag VIII B. The prisoners were sent out in working parties to work in the mines, agriculture and also forestry.

They could be working up to 50 miles from the camp and conditions could be better than those back in camp.

Tommy and two of his fellow prisoners were working in forestry when, on August 21st 1944, they got into an argument with the guard and a civilian worker over the amount of time they were expected to work. The guard, who was known to be brutal with prisoners, fired three shots, killing

Tommy and another prisoner but missing the third one. The family were informed of his death and that he had been buried in a cemetery in Poppelau, south western Poland.

Tommy's name was put on the Memorial at Dunkirk as the War Graves Commission had him listed as having no known grave. Tom Hutchinson soon realised that if he wanted them to acknowledge that his uncle was buried at Poppelau then he was the one who would have to prove it.

It took many years of research coming to lots of dead ends where records had been destroyed etc but eventually he was able to prove where his uncle had been laid to rest.

In October 2013 the headstones were erected and a rededication service was performed with families, military personnel and locals present.

Among those at the ceremony was Tom Hutchinson's 91-year-old mother Norah, Tommy's younger sister, his niece Linda Campbell and her husband George, from Bishop Auckland. Also there was Renata Przybyla, a local woman who had tended the graves for many years.

Tom said it was emotional to see a British Union Jack fly over the small Polish village on the day of the service and to see the entire community witness the occasion.

He said: "The Polish media were there and so many people from the village turned out to pay their respects, that was really touching.

"It was very special, the closest the family would get to a funeral for Tommy."



Tom Hutchinson with a book he's written about his search for the grave.

kiplings

moved to Gilling and is the 'founder' of that branch of the family.

George junior stayed in Kirby Ravensworth as did his brother William. Sister Ann married a John Hart at Kirby in 1754. Although the register entry states that John was of Kirby parish, in fact he was a Loftus man and their first child was baptised in Loftus two years later, as were subsequent children over the next twenty years.

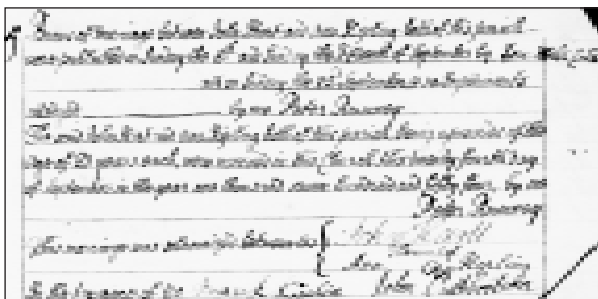
The witness "Frank Kiplin" is presumably her brother Francis.

It is possible that Ann met John Hart because her brother John was already working in Loftus. Or possibly John heard of work in Loftus from Ann and followed her there. Whichever, John was in Loftus by 1764 where he married an Anne Sanderson.

The fourth brother, William, married Mary Story in Kirby in 1748 and soon after had a son William. William's age was given as 24 and his place of birth "Dalton in Gales" in the report on his escape from Durham Gaol in 1774 (*Archive 25*), although no record exists of his baptism at Kirby.

This hypothesis make George junior William junior's uncle and Ann Hart his aunt, exactly as per the 1772 assizes papers (*Archive 41*) – and allows John to be Rudyard's great-great-grandfather. Of course we have to accept that two successive William Kiplings avoided having a registered baptism and that George Kipling senior managed likewise.

Fortunately, as well as the hole in the KR registers, the



Certificate of Ann Kipling's wedding at Kirby Ravensworth, 1754

Barningham registers (or at least the transcripts) have no baptisms between August 1685 and May 1866. George senior might have been born then. If so, his marriage in 1714 would have been at age 24, which would be credible.

This would 'allow' him to be the son of John and Elizabeth Kipling of Barningham, my ancestors, whose last recorded child was William in 1684. He could alternatively be the son of John's cousin, Francis, who had children in 1683 and 1687 (*Archive 39*).

However, there is still one awkward fact remaining. John of the Hudson's Bay Company died in Canada in 1794 but his will was only finally administered in 1847 by a Robert Kipling, with the beneficiary being a Jane Featham of Gilling, allegedly cousin german (first cousin) of Thomas, the son of John of the HBC.

Now Jane, born 1760 at Gilling, was the daughter of a George and Margaret Kipling. Had this George been brother to John of the HBC, it would indeed make Jane and Thomas cousins. The John and George born in Barningham seemed to fit the bill nicely until the DNA results came along. Under this hypothesis, Robert would

have been Jane's cousin once removed.

How can we explain this away? Well, in 1836, the *Berkshire Chronicle* published a list of long-unclaimed government 3% Consols, listing John Kipling of the HBC as one such owner.

Perhaps Robert, who at the time was a clerk in London, saw an advertisement like this and being aware that his elderly relative once had an uncle John who had left Teesdale, made a sufficiently convincing case for the administration to be erroneously granted.

Also, as I mentioned in *Archive 41*, it seems likely that George junior married a Grace Allison in 1750. There is no evidence of her death and a remarriage to a Margaret before 1760, so making Jane Featham nee Kipling's ancestry a little uncertain.

A considerable amount of information has come to light since I started researching the Kiplings of Barningham five years ago, and in five years' time I expect that more pieces of the jigsaw will have been discovered, hopefully strengthening my belief that Rudyard's origins were Barningham.

Incidentally, 2015 is both the 150th anniversary of Rudyard's birth and the centenary of his son John's death at the Battle of Loos.

Group brings Robinson relations together

letters & emails

WE printed a brief letter in the last *Archive* from Philip Robinson of Leeds, whose grandfather James and great-aunt Agnes were born in Barningham in the late 19th century.

We'd mentioned Agnes before (*Archive 11*): her granddaughter Lynda Johnson lives in America, and visited Barningham in 2012.

We emailed her with Philip's email address, thinking she might like to contact him. She did, and the pair are now involved in avid exchanges of information about their family history.

Philip copied us in on some of their emails: here's an extract from the first he sent across the Atlantic:

MY grandfather was James Robinson, born in Barningham. I never knew nor met my dad's dad, he died in the 50s. I understand he had a blackout on his way to his work, and fell off his bike, and was run over.

I haven't dug deep, however I do know that he left Barningham before the start of WW1 to work as a joiner at Ripley castle near Harrogate. He joined up at the start of the war, joined the West Yorkshire regiment and saw action on

the Somme amongst other battlefields.

His trade saved him, in that he was called by an officer to sort out his billet to the rear of front line whilst his pals went over the top at the Somme and were substantially wiped out.

Dad used to tell stories of granddad being out on patrol and getting caught in machine-gun cross fire, and felt bullets passing through his tunic and equipment. Fascinating to me as a young man! Very proud of his bravery.

He left the army at the end of the war, without having suffered as much as a scratch.

Granddad married Annie Elizabeth, my grandmother, and both lived and worked in Leeds. He worked on the railways fitting out the rolling stock. They had my father, another James Robinson, who passed away in December 2010. He was a gentleman, very quiet and gentle, an excellent sportsman who loved classical music. He was a commercial artist, and his art work is collected and much in demand in his native Yorkshire.

Dad married Anne (my mum, and very much still with



Agnes Robinson, pictured in about 1910

us!), and had two children, my sister Helen and I, a chartered surveyor.

Please tell me all about you and your family, characteristics etc, it'd be really fascinating to spot family traits!

The Robinsons are a gentle lot, music, art, and sport run deep in the genes!

PHILIP ROBINSON
philip.robinson353@outlook.com

Did typhoid close the village school?

RE *Archive 43* 'From the parish mag 85 years ago' about Barningham School being closed in 1929: the disease referred to may have been typhoid. My grandmother and aunts were ill with typhoid around this time. My aunts went to school in Barningham and apparently the water fountain at Barningham was blamed for the typhoid outbreak.

My aunts were Mary, Olive and Jean Suddaby. Mary (the eldest) might have already left the vil-

lage school at this point. We are all descended from Ben Cole (1850-1929) of Newsham – he was my great-great-grandfather, and therefore their great-grandfather. Olive Suddaby (married name Walker) was Greta Carter's step-mother. LYNN OTTERSON lynne.otterson@btinternet.com

● WE can find no mention in the *Teesdale Mercury* of typhoid or any other serious disease in the area at the time, which is odd if it's true. –Ed.

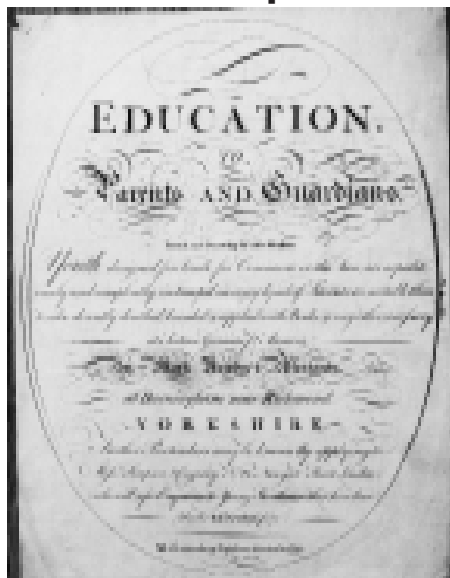
An Expeditious Education for 32p a week

THIS plaque, advertising Barningham Academy to the parents of potential pupils, was spotted recently on eBay.

It dates back to the early 1800s, when the Yorkshire boarding school was run by Mark Newby in what is today Newby House. It reads:

Education to Parents and Guardians. French & Drawing by Able Masters. Youth designed for Trade, for Commerce or the Law, are expeditiously and completely instructed in every kind of Literature suitable thereto, also decently clothed, boarded and supplied with Books and every other Necessary at Sixteen Guineas per annum by Mark Newby & Assistants at Barningham, near Richmond, Yorkshire. Further particulars may be known by applying to Messrs Simpson & Company, No 21, Newgate Street, London, who will refer Enquirers to Young Gentlemen that have been under Mr Newby's care. NB The number of Pupils are limited to Fifty.

Sixteen guineas a year works out at 6/6½d (32p) a week. The eBay seller wanted £50 for the plaque. We didn't buy it.



'Little cousin' Ben Cole

SOMEONE (sorry, can't remember who) sent us this photo of Ben Cole, pictured in uniform in 1943.

Scribbled on the back is 'Little cousin Ben Cole, buried in Barningham Churchyard'.

His family ran Smallways Inn for many years. He died in 1981, aged 68.

Smallways Inn

Now available for
LUNCHEON and DINNER

LUNCH 12/6
DINNER 12/6

Full A la Carte Menu now available under the personal supervision of Mr. McGee, late Chef de Cuisine of Scotch Corner Hotel.

WEDDING RECEPTIONS AND PRIVATE PARTIES CATERED FOR

Book for your Office Party.
Christmas and New Year Dinners.
taken NOW.

Telephone: WILKINGTON 333

old ad

THIS 1960s ad for Smallways Inn was reproduced in a recent issue of the *Darlington & Stockton Times*.

Luncheon was 10/6d (52½p), dinner 17/6d (87½p), and there was a full a la carte menu produced 'under the personal supervision of Mr McGee, late Chef de Cuisine at Scotch Corner Hotel'.

Anyone remember him?

Was Rudyard's ancestor a Barningham lad?

IN *Archives 39* and *41*, I wrote that John Kipling, born in Barningham in 1724, later worked for the Hudson's Bay Company.

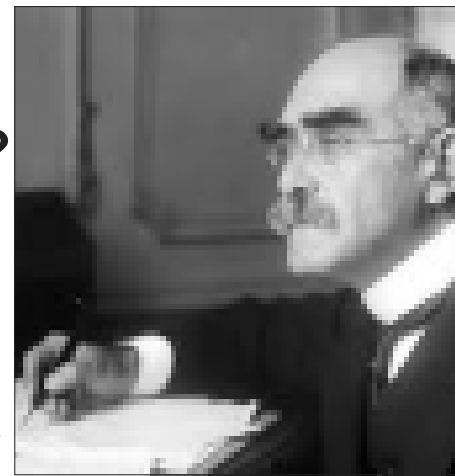
This was the conclusion a number of Kipling researchers in the UK and Canada had come to around 20 years ago and I had no particular reason to challenge it – until now.

The first seeds of doubt began earlier this year when I came across a John Kipling baptised at Bishopton, County Durham, in 1743, the son of a Thomas Kipling. He seemed of a more likely age than John of Barningham to have married in 1762 and to have signed up with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1766.

This John also named his only English son Thomas, as he did one of his natural sons with a native Canadian woman, whereas the name Thomas is not common amongst the Barningham Kiplings. There were a number of other pieces of circumstantial evidence also supporting this new hypothesis.

Further evidence came at the end of October, when I saw the result of a DNA test taken by a Canadian called Kyplain, descended from one of John's natural sons.

The DNA did not match that of the Barningham or Gilling Kiplings but was a close match to the Baldersdale Kiplings, to whom John Kipling of Bishopton can tenuously be



Rudyard Kipling

kiplings

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

linked to latter by documentary evidence.

This new hypothesis frees up the John of Barningham to have some other fate – and that could well be to be the great-great-grandfather of Rudyard Kipling.

Rudyard's grandfather, the Rev Joseph Kipling, was born in Lythe near Whitby in 1805. His father, John Kipling, was born nearby at Loftus in 1773.

John's father, also John Kipling(g), was buried at Lythe in 1795 at the reported age of 65. If this age was correct, it would place his birth around 1729-30. But in those days a widow might not have known her late husband's age with

much certainty as there may not have been any written record, so a discrepancy between this and John of Barningham's 1724 is not necessarily significant.

By itself, it is not strong enough evidence to confirm Rudyard's Barningham origins. But as I mentioned in *Archive 41*, DNA tests have shown that known relatives of Rudyard (including a descendant of his grandfather's brother) have recent common ancestors to the Kiplings of Barningham and Gilling.

A hypothesis consistent with all the evidence is that a George Kipling originally of Barningham married Anne Sigsworth at Kirby Ravensworth in 1714 and had sons Francis (Bowes, 1719), George (Barningham, 1721) and John (Barningham 1724). George and Anne then moved to Kirby Ravensworth where they had further children William and Anne whose baptisms were unrecorded due to the 1718-1734 gap in the parish registers.

Of the sons, Francis later

His father's evidence

"Kipling was of the clan whose home was in the valleys of the Tees and the Swale" – John Lockwood Kipling (Rudyard's father) quoted in *History of the Church and Parish of Romald-kirk* by K.S. Dickinson, 1936.

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The full index, regularly updated,
 can be found on our website
www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



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