

## from the parish mag

**120 YEARS AGO:** We are still passing through the most exceptionally trying weather. The heavy falls of snow and the low temperature (the thermometer sometimes indicating over 32° of frost) have produced quite an alarming state of things. It is now many weeks since workmen have been able to earn a single day's wage, and there is a good deal of privation; fuel, food and in some cases clothing are very scarce.

— March 1895

**100 YEARS AGO:** The Sunday Schools children presented Miss Gladys Leggett, on her leaving Barningham for Post Office duties at Seaham Harbour, with a case of brushes and comb, with silver initials, as a token of their affection and appreciation of her services.

— March 1915

**70 YEARS AGO:** We mourn the death of Leslie Watson. He had recently gained his 'Wings' as a Pilot in South Africa and we were looking forward to his return to this country. Now with sorrow and with pride we number him among those heroes who have laid down the loveliness of their youth and strength in sacrifice to redeem the world from evil.

— March 1945

**65 YEARS AGO:** While quite understanding the exuberance of festive spirit that makes the guests at weddings unable to restrain themselves from throwing confetti over the bride and bridegroom as they emerge from church, we would point out quite amicably that confetti is more easily strewn than gathered, and we must, in the interests of tidiness, ask guests to refrain from showering good wishes upon happy

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*Ad from March 1935*

couples until they are outside the precincts of churchyard and church walk.

— March 1950

**55 YEARS AGO:** Last month I wrote that there had not been a double wedding in our church before, but I have since learnt that Miss Edith Lodge and Miss Adeline Lodge, daughters of Mr and Mrs Lodge of Eastwood Hall, had a double wedding on 30th April 1912. — March 1960

● *The second double wedding at Barningham, in January 1960, was that of John Carter to Greta Walker and Kendal Burt to Muriel Walker.*

**50 YEARS AGO:** I would like to thank Mr Hilton Nicholson for his gift of two new coffin stools.

— March 1965

**45 YEARS AGO:** The church has been unusually cold this winter. The fact is the present boiler is not up to the job and sooner or later we shall have to tackle the cost of improving the heating.

— March 1970

**20 YEARS AGO:** Our congratulations to Claire Willis who has recently landed a post with Reuters. Well done Claire!

— March 1995

### 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 fieldnames.

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)



# Archive 45

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP  
B. A. L. H. 2012 LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR  
[www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)



## INSIDE: VILLAGERS' BATTLE OVER GRINDSTONE GARTH



**Private Lancelot Kitchen of Barningham, splendidly turned out for a photo before setting off to fight in the Middle East in 1915. He died there a year later, a prisoner of war, and was buried in Iraq. More on Page 6.**

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**NEXT BLHG MEETING : TUESDAY MARCH 17th, 7pm**

## 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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## Social success, progress on transcriptions, speaker plans

**Minutes of the meeting held on January 20th 2015:**

**Present:** Phil Hunt (Chairman), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Ann Orton (Secretary), Jon Smith, John Hay, Sheila Wappat, Linda Sherwood, Janet Wrigley, Neil Turner, Margaret Stead, Margaret and David Taylor.

**Apologies:** Mark Watson, Elizabeth Carrick, June Graham, Greta Carter, Cate Collingwood, Tony Orton, Sheila Catton.

**Minutes** of the meeting on November 18th 2014 were agreed.

**Matters arising:** on agenda

**Correspondence:** Family History Day Harrogate, Colonial Gentleman, Wedding Party, Children's Group, Wharton Silver Salver, WI Panto, Hutchinsons. See this issue.

**Financial report:** Finances were still looking healthy with a balance of £1,051.33 and more *Archive* subscriptions to come. Eric was willing to continue as Treasurer for now but would like to be replaced by the end of the year.

**Christmas social:** A good time was had by all who attended. Thanks were given to Neil for hosting the event and providing the wine.

**Publications:** *Archive 44* had been circulated and *45* was in progress.

**Transcriptions:** Linda Sherwood is transcribing the Dalton WI records 1935 to 1942.

**Workhouse:** Phil had been

minutes

interviewed by the Teesdale Mercury about his workhouse project.

**Newsham Tithe Apportionment Schedule:** Linda has prepared a spreadsheet and is looking for someone who is prepared to turn it into a booklet.

**Future meetings:** It was agreed to carry on with the present pattern. The Secretary was asked to book a speaker for the next meeting. She will email all the members with details nearer to the event.

It was also suggested that the members would enjoy visits to local places of interest such as the Swaledale Museum and perhaps a guided tour of some of the lead mines. Another visit to Rokeby was also suggested as things had been changed since our last visit.

**Digital projector:** The Chairman thought that we ought to invest in our own projector. Jon Smith proposed and John Hay seconded that we go ahead. Carried unanimously.

Phil talked about "another missing Barningham clock" and also about "the dangerous poet and the female scientist". See later in this issue.

The next meeting will be on March 17th 2015, 7pm.

ANN ORTON  
Secretary

## 'Frail sister' and friends held on way to the fair

From the York Herald, October 25 1844:

AT Greta Bridge Police Office, Janet Peterie, one of the frail sisterhood, was charged with being an idle and disorderly person and John Simmons, Matthew Jans, John Reed, Thomas Holt (alias Mickey) and John Eggott with begging and wandering about the country.

All were committed to Northallerton Jail for one month each for hard labour.

All six persons were bound for the celebrated Brough Hill Fair to exercise their unlawful calling; and their apprehension,

cuttings

no doubt, will save poor honest persons from being plundered.

On some of them were found chisels, files, wrenches, screwdrivers, pincers, etc, and on the whole of them lucifer matches. Scarcely a prisoner was apprehended but had quantities of these dangerous articles in their possession.

● The 'frail sisterhood' was a common Victorian euphemism for prostitutes. We're not sure why owning a box of matches was evidence of unlawful intent. —Ed

## Thimble riggers on the road

York Herald, May 3rd 1845:

GRETA Bridge police have received information from the Superintendent of Police, Edinburgh, that six noted thimble riggers and chain droppers have left that city for Yorkshire. Perrin, the captain, wants one hand; the names of the others are McMally, McRinna, Thom, Cowan and another, all middle aged men, and well dressed.

● Thimble riggers were exponents of a version of the three-card trick: a pea was hidden under one of three thimbles, which were then shuffled rapidly about. Punters were then invited to bet on which one concealed the pea. It had usually vanished altogether. Chain droppers specialised in stealing pocket watches.

## Leap from runaway carriage

Durham County Advertiser, August 27th 1841:

YESTERDAY in the evening as Mr and Mrs Lightfoot of Barnard Castle were returning homewards from Barningham, with a horse and phaeton, and descending the hill near Greta Bridge, the horse took fright and ran away.

Mrs Lightfoot became alarmed and threw herself out, as did Mr L soon afterwards: the latter sustained little or no injury, but the

lady was picked up in a state of insensibility, with severe bruises on different parts of her body. She was conveyed home in a chaise and the assistance of medical advice immediately procured but remains in a lamentable state.

● A phaeton was an open four-wheeled carriage, usually hauled by two horses but in this case, it seems, only one.

## Cheese winners heading west

York Herald, May 11th 1844:

SEVERAL eminent farmers are about to emigrate from the neighbourhood of Richmond to America, amongst whom is Mr Anthony Bell, of Newsham Vale, so celebrated for its famous cheeses, which were chiefly made by Mrs Bell.

● Anthony Bell was in his early thirties with wife Margaret and seven young children. In 1841 the Bells had won first prize for their cheeses at Barnard Castle's annual agricultural show, winning £5 and the plaudits of the Teesdale Mercury, which said that their entry was so good it even beat cheeses from Cotherstone which had swept the board in previous shows.

Mr Bell tenanted his farm from the Milbanks: does anybody know where 'Newsham Vale' was? And did the Bells make it to the New World? We've tried to trace them, but in vain. —Ed.

## Foul robbery

Teesdale Mercury, October 30th 1860:

ON Saturday night last, Mr Jonathan Brunskill, of Greta Bridge, on his road home from Barnard Castle, was beset by several ruffians in militia uniform, and robbed of his watch, and 12s 6d in money.

## It's a quacker

Teesdale Mercury, March 26th 1861:

A DUCK, in the possession of Mr Jonathan Hunter, of Brignall, last week laid an egg weighing 5 ounces, and measuring 9 inches in the longer circumference, and 7 inches the shorter.



## 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

## VIRGINIAN GUM

HAVE YOU TRIED THE VIRGINIAN GUM? Nothing has ever been introduced into this Country which has caused such a stir, and has effected so many surprising and wonderful cures as the VIRGINIAN GUM.

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Sold Retail in Boxes at 7d and 1s each, by J. PROCTER, Chemist, Barnard Castle, and most Potent Medicine Vendors in the County.

Teesdale Mercury, October 1858

## Canon to the right

A postcard featuring this photo of Canon Edwin Spencer Gough, Rector of Barningham from 1889 to 1925, was passed on to us recently.

An odd choice of subject, but we suppose it made a change from views of the village green.



## Lunatics, imbeciles or idiots? Read on

ANYONE who's looked at census records from the Victorian days will have come across reference to people described as lunatics, idiots and imbeciles.

In 1896 members of the Teesdale Board of Guardians, which had responsibility for some of these unfortunate people in their workhouse, asked what the difference was between the various descriptions. This was the explanation they were offered:

"Lunatics means persons suffering from acute mania or other like disease, or labouring under delusions.

"Chronic lunatics means lunatics who, after treatment in an asylum, are found to be harmless and not necessarily requiring the strict supervision of an asylum, and also people suffering from senile decay, softening of the brain, or other like disease, who are harmless.

"Idiots means idiots and imbeciles from birth or early age."

We're not sure which applies to us – see below.

## Sorry, Bridget

THE Archive has developed an irritating habit of referring to history group member Mark Watson's cousin Bridget Van Der Pol as his sister. We've done it twice now. Apologies to both. – Ed.

## Mystery of the rector's 'silver' salver

*Is it all it should be? And where has it been all these years? JON SMITH has been delving into the past to find out*

RONNIE Britton was wandering idly round a car boot sale in Milton Keynes 30 years ago when he came across the tray.

Oval, two foot across with handles each side and heavier than he expected, he took a closer look and discovered a lengthy inscription in the centre.

"Presented to the Reverend William Fitzwilliam Wharton on his leaving Barningham as a testimony of the respect and regard felt for him by all classes in the neighbourhood," it read. "Purchased by subscription limited to five shillings per person. December 1873."

Ronnie, who grew up in Darlington just after the war, knew of Barningham and decided to buy the tray as a reminder of his teenage days cycling round the villages of North Yorkshire and County Durham.

"I assume that on the day he was the only person who knew where Barningham was," says Ronnie's son David. "I don't

### salver mystery

know what he paid for it, but probably not much." The tray went back to Ronnie's home in Pangbourne in Berkshire. "It spent its life under a cabinet in the dining-room, only coming out for the occasional cleaning," says David. "Dad died in



**David and Judith Britton with the tray**

the late 1990s, followed within a short time by mum. We found the tray under her bed when clearing the bungalow. We were just in the process of moving so it was a bit hectic and the tray was packed up in a box, but not before us having a good look at it and noting the inscription.

"Once settled we unpacked the tray and it went under our cupboard in our diningroom! We used it a couple of times but generally forgot about it.

"This year we had 15 for Christmas so had to move some furniture to accommodate the extended family and came upon the tray. Both my wife and I came to the realisation that it was so specific to the village of Barningham that it should return to its rightful home."

David, who lives in Toddingdon, Bedfordshire, found contact details for Barning-

## Rev William Fitzwilliam Wharton

BORN 1810 at Aske Hall, Gilling West, where his father was vicar. His mother was Charlotte Mary, daughter of Thomas, First Lord Dundas of Aske Hall. The Whartons had a long connection with Gilling and Skelton Castle in Cleveland.

William was educated at Ripon and Christ's College, Cambridge, appointed curate at Yarm in 1835 and became rector of Barningham in 1840. In 1859 he married Agnes Blunt, 26-year-old daughter of the vicar of Nether Wallop in Hampshire: they had no children.

William was a magistrate, chairman of the Teesdale Board of Guardians, and an enthusiastic inventor, who won prizes at national agricultural shows for machines he designed.

He retired in 1873 to Menton, in the south of France, where he died on March 9th 1893, leaving £4,800 in "effects" – more than £300,000 in today's money. His widow died in Switzerland in 1904.

● See Archives 4, 33, 35 and 42 for more.



## salver mystery

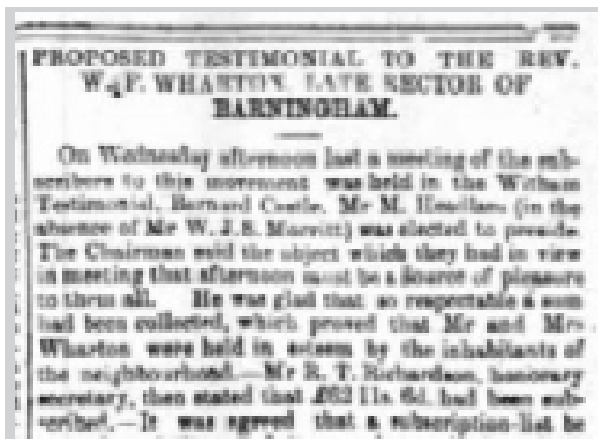
ham on the history group website and emailed parish clerk Robin Brooks to ask if the village would like to have the tray. "My wife and I both feel it should be back in the village where it came from," he explained.

Robin said we'd be delighted, and the Brittons have arranged to come up to Barningham to present the tray to the village.

We obviously wanted to find out more about it, and began searching the *Teesdale Mercury* on-line archives for anything that might help.

We found it in the issue dated November 26th 1873, which reported on a meeting of subscribers to the Wharton testimonial in the Witham Hall, Barnard Castle, the previous week.

In the chair was Morley Headlam, of Gilmonby Hall, who said the amount raised – £63 11s 6d, the equivalent of well over £3,500 in today's money – was a very respectable sum that proved how highly esteemed Mr and Mrs Wharton were in the neighbourhood. It was agreed to keep the sub-



Teesdale Mercury, November 26th 1873

scription list open for another week, and extend it to Gilling: the final amount raised was £67 7s.

The meeting went on to discuss how to spend the money, and concluded that the ideal retirement gift for the Rev Wharton and his wife would be a silver salver, engraved with the words that can be seen on the tray today.

Such a salver, said the chairman, could be obtained from the Newcastle jewellers Reid and Son, whose catalogue he had been perusing, and the meeting agreed that he should

visit them the following Saturday to purchase one.

They also decided to record all the subscribers' names in a book, "a very handsome one bound in red morocco, with the words written on vellum in the Old English character, and illuminated, and with Mr Wharton's crest, in gold, on the cover."

The subscribers agreed to meet again the following week, but there is no report of such a meeting and we can't find any record of the salver being presented to the Rev Wharton.

By the middle of December he was in the Isle of Wight, where he wrote to the Teesdale Board of Guardians thanking them for their best wishes on his retirement.

It didn't take long to buy the tray and get it inscribed: on December 10th the *Mercury* announced that the "silver salver to be presented" was on show in the window of its Barnard Castle office. The morocco-bound book took rather longer and it was July 22nd the following year before the paper told its readers



## Squeers' basin ended up in the inn

THE notice on the right appeared in the *Yorkshire Gazette* in May 1835; the inn, already well-known, was to acquire even greater fame three years later when Dickens mentioned it in *Nicholas Nickleby*.

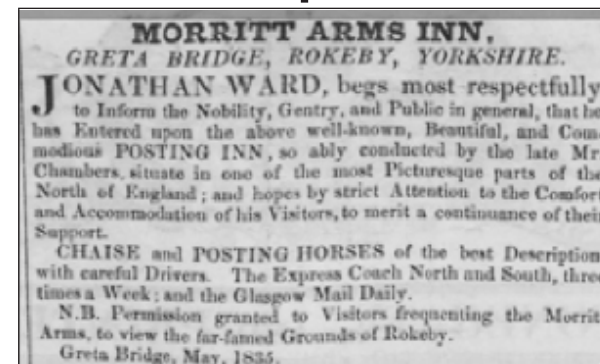
The book's publication in 1838 had a devastating (though probably thoroughly justified) effect on 'Yorkshire Schools' in the area. Within a few years many had closed down, including the one at Bowes upon which Dickens based Dotheboys Hall.

In 1842 a correspondent for the *Sheffield Independent* visited the area and described the Bowes schools (there was more than one) as "ruined, absolutely ruined." Of 600 boys who had boarded in the village, "not more than 20 now remain, and these are at charity school," he reported (we suspect 600 was a bit of an exaggeration).

William Shaw, the schoolmaster portrayed in *Nicholas Nickleby* as Wackford Squeers, had survived – he'd made a small fortune out of the school, and had a profitable farm to fall back on – but the collapse of the notorious enterprise and the accompanying shame had driven his wife to an early grave.

The Sheffield correspondent visited the Morritt Arms and saw, hanging in the lobby, "a great wooden basin" which the landlord (William Harrison by this time: Jonathan Ward the advertiser had left some years earlier) claimed to be the vessel in which Squeers mixed treacle and sulphur to create a noxious medicine for pupils at Dotheboys Hall.

"When Squeers gave up his



## a dickens tale



Mrs Squeers doling out medicine from the basin

school, he sold off the furniture, and that wooden basin was bought as a curiosity," the correspondent was told, "and there it hangs, for the inspection of all who choose."

There's no sign of the basin today, of course, and we're not

sure where you'd start looking for it. The Morritt Arms of the early 1800s was the building beside the bridge on The Square, home today of the Gilbertson family.

At some point – authorities differ about the date, and even the Gilbertson's family expert, Peter Gilbertson, is unsure – it ceased to operate as an inn, and its name and licence were transferred over the river to today's Morritt Arms, which had been called The George (not to be confused with the George and New Inn half a mile away at Thorpe Grange, which is where Dickens actually stayed when he visited the area – see *Archive 8*).

In the mid-1840s Jonathan Ward was declared bankrupt, but by 1851 the licence of the Morritt Arms (the one we see today) was being held by his son John.

He remained there until his death in the 1870s, when his widow Hannah took over for a further three decades. When she died her son James became landlord.

He and his wife Frances were there well into the 20th century (she died in 1940): does anyone know who then took over the Morritt?

## judsons

tradicted by later Barningham baptismal records referring to the Judsons being of Scargill. The linkage between the two is clarified by the 1741 Poll Book records which mention Thomas and Charles Judson being freeholders in Newsham but living (farming) at Scargill.

An earlier Scargill reference appears in the Registration of Papist Lands in 1717 when a Thomas Judson is shown as a leaseholder to Marmaduke Tunstall of Scargill at an annual rent of £34.

It would appear that the family presence in Newsham was unbroken from the earliest record of a John Judson of Newsham being buried at Barn-ingham in 1629 through to their departure to Ripon and London in the 1770s and 1780s. Members of the Rowlandson family also left the area at this time to avail themselves of the commercial opportunities of the industrial revolution.

Like the Stapletons, the Judson family have now largely become a footnote in history. Thomas Rowlandson Judson, son of Henry Judson, retired soon after the Second World War with no sons to follow him.

The family name is remembered in the Ripon Millennium book for their involvement in civic matters and the provision of almshouses.

● *David welcomes any further information: contact him at family.soya@gmail.com or write to him at Leigh House, Paddock Hill, Mobberley, Cheshire WA16 7DG.*



## Sisters' links to the days of carpet mills by the Tees

WE came across this photo – poor quality, but just about good enough for faces to be recognisable, we hope – in a cutting from the *Teesdale Mercury* in 1990, and thought it might jog a few memories among our Newsham readers.

It shows four sisters born in the village just before the first world war: from the left, Mrs Jessie Storrow, 82 when the picture was taken; Mrs Greta Mary Ferguson, 84; Miss Elizabeth Bainbridge Dunn, 86; and Mrs Gertrude Annie Walton, 89. With them is their half-cousin Charles Littlefair.

All four grew up in Newsham and went to Barningham school. Two married and moved away: Jessie ended up in East Cowton, Gertrude in Eldon. Greta also married, but remained in Newsham, where she and her husband ran the post office from Southside.

Elizabeth, unmarried, lived in Silver Street. The four were daughters of farmer John Dunn and his wife Annie, of Elm Cottage.

They were featured in the *Mercury* on a visit to the Bowes Museum, which was displaying one of the last surviving carpets of the thousands woven at the mill in Bridgegate, Barnard Castle, during the 19th century.

The mill was run by the sisters' great-great-uncle Richard Dunn. It was one of several carpet factories that flourished in the town, where the river water was said to be ideal for washing and dyeing wool and making colours fast and bright.

The Bridgegate mill closed down before the Dunn girls were born, and after being used as a warehouse for many years was finally demolished in the 1950s.

## Have you paid your subs?

THE last issue of *The Archive* included a reminder that subscriptions for 2015 were due. Most people have renewed – thank you! – but there are still a handful outstanding.

If you are among them, please pay up soon. We've sent this issue of the newsletter out to everyone, but the next one will only go out to people who have paid up.

The subscription is £10 or £14 if you have *The Archive* posted to you. Payments, in cash or cheque payable to BLHG, should be sent to Jon Smith – address on Page 2. Thank you.

## salver mystery

proudly that the “beautifully illuminated” book containing subscribers' names “lately presented to the Rev Wharton” had gone on display to the public.

Sometime between Christmas 1873 and summer 1874 there clearly was a presentation, but it's very odd it didn't get any mention we can find in the *Mercury*.

Where was the tray for the best part of the next century before it turned up on a Milton Keynes car boot stall?

It's unlikely that the Rev Wharton would have taken the tray with him to France. More likely it remained in England and was inherited by one of the his relatives, either upon his death or that of his wife.

We've yet to find details of either's will, though probate was granted to a John Thomas Wharton when the former rector died in 1893. John may have been the Rev Wharton's aging brother, living in Gilling. We can't see any family link to Milton Keynes.

● *The Brittons will be handing over the tray in Barningham village hall at 11am on Friday February 20th. Please join us if you can – free coffee etc!*

## A thousand years of Whartons

RESEARCHING this story, we came across all sorts of facts about the Wharton family. For example...

- Whartons came over with William the Conqueror. They spelt it Quarton in those days.
- Henry VIII created the first Baron Wharton in 1544. He came from Kirkby Stephen.
- The fifth Baron's son was made a duke. He was outlawed in 1729, and the barony went into abeyance until 1916.
- The 11th Baron was a Baroness, better known as Ziki Robertson. She married Lord Rockingham, whose song *Hoots Mon!* topped the UK charts in 1958.
- The 12th Baron still has a place in the House of Lords.



Marks on the tray and, right, the Sissons hallmarks

## It's not even silver... so where did the money go?

THERE'S at least one more mystery about the Wharton salver.

The subscribers raised more than £67 – as we've said, at least £3,500 in today's money – to buy a silver salver.

What Mr Headlam bought from Reid and Son jewellers wasn't silver. It was silver plate – copper that had been coated with silver, a precursor of today's electro-plated silver – and much cheaper.

There are hallmarks on the tray, which history group member Robin Brooks (something of an expert in these matters, we discovered) identified as those of a firm called Sissons, who produced silver-plated items like this in Sheffield.

And it wasn't even new. Sissons produced such trays

in the first half of the 19th century, and when David Brotton asked a silver expert's advice he was told the tray was older than the inscription, probably made early in the 1800s. “I was told it was common for trays to be stripped, inscribed and re-plated for presentation purposes,” says David. “The expert's view was that the only interest in the tray was the inscription!”

You could buy electro-plated salvers in the 1870s for around £10, and presumably that's what Mr Headlam paid. (Reid and Son still exist but sadly haven't kept records of transactions so long ago, so we can't see the bill).

It looks as if there was some £50 or more left over in 1873. There was the engraving to pay for, and the morocco-bound book, but even so there must have been a surplus of perhaps £30.

That's getting on for £2,000 today. Did Mr Headlam pay four or five times what the tray was worth? Were there other expenses we don't know about? Was the leftover cash given to the Rev Wharton?

We've no idea. What is clear is that the tray isn't worth a lot. But we're glad to have it back all the same.





**Left: Maud Kitchen arriving for her marriage in 1923 to Horace Hirst, right. Above, the couple at their wedding reception.**



## Couple who met working at the hall

MY husband David is the grandson of Horace Lake Hirst who lived at a house called The Laurels in Barningham in the 1920s.

According to David's mother, Horace was head gardener at Barningham Hall. In 1923 he married Maud Kitchen, who worked in the hall laundry. Maud was the daughter of Rose Kitchen who lived at Elim Cottage.

David's mother Mary also tells us she was a twin but her sister only survived for a very short time and was buried in the churchyard at Barningham in 1926.

Would you have any records of this along with any other information on the Hirst and Kitchen family whilst in Barningham?

We came to have a look at Barningham a few weeks back and saw that both cottages were still there with the same names.

### letters & emails



**Lancelot Kitchen**

The villagers were very helpful and the owner of The Laurels invited us into the garden of the house to take photos. We also looked round the churchyard to see if we could find the grave

of Maud Kitchen but could not. Also we tried to look for the grave of Jane Hirst, Horace's first wife, who died in 1922.

Maud's brother Lancelot Kitchen died in the First World War. I have a copy of his medal card which says he was a prisoner of war which would explain why he was buried in Iraq. David's mother believed Lancelot was at Gallipoli.

I have also attached photos of Horace and Maud on their wedding day, though the quality is not very good.

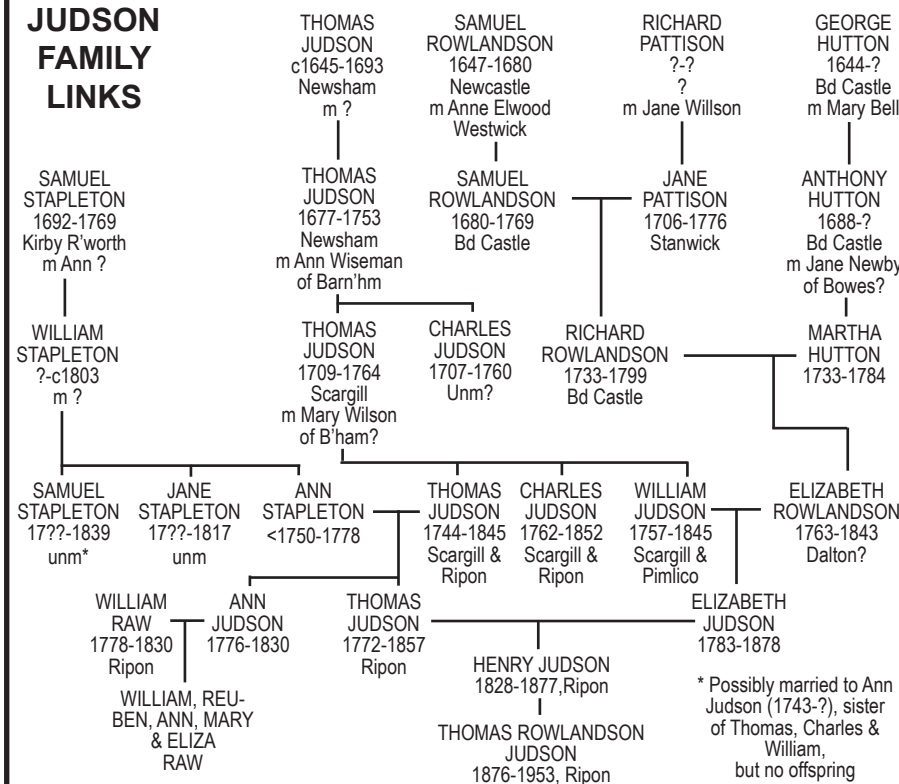
David is originally from Darlington, we are now at Haswell Plough near Durham. I look forward to hearing from you and hope you are able to help us.

JANET TOMS

Haswell Plough, Durham  
janmap@hotmail.co.uk

● *The photos of Lancelot on the front cover and this page are the first we've ever seen of him.*

### JUDSON FAMILY LINKS



of £142. Both these families were connected through marriage to the Judson family.

The Rowlandson family records show their presence in Barnard Castle and farming at West Shaws, Westwick, back to a time before the records of Gainford and Barnard Castle were commenced. Likewise the Hutton family of East Shaws, Westwick.

At Samuel Stapleton's demise in 1839 Hawsteads passed to Thomas Judson of Mallard Grange, shown in the 1851 census as the farmer of 240 acres in and around Aldfield, Ripon. A further anomaly relating to the Stapleton property was that the 1837 Tithe map of Newsham shows

### judsons

some 59 acres of land including Hawsteads and a house on the south side of the village green in the possession of William Judson of Pimlico, Thomas's cousin.

A reference to a Thomas Judson on the edge of the oldest Barningham map held by the history group led to a study of the copy of the 1781 Newsham award plan held at the NYRO. The map shows clearly the division of the village green into small allotments and also land ownership in Newsham. There are two references to a Thomas Judson in the Newsham award.

The map shows a building

and small plot on the Barningham side of Moor Lane, west of the green, and a further acre further up Moor Lane on the parish boundary. The two plots, although isolated from Hawsteads, are still shown as under Judson ownership at the time of the 1837 Tithe map. In later years Hawsteads became part of the Milbank Estate.

There was an awareness of the Judson's Newsham connection through various Judson wills and church records from the 1600s and also the Hearth Tax records for Christmas 1673 referring to a Thomas Judson of Newsham having one hearth.

This appeared to be con-

## More links to the Judsons of Newsham

*DAVID SAWYER reports on his latest research into the Judson family, prominent in our area in the 18th and 19th centuries*

HAVING exhausted the information available on the more popular family history websites and benefitted from information published through the Barningham history group, the emphasis has moved towards wills and land records.

During the summer of 2014 a trip was organized to the North Yorkshire Records Office in Northallerton, and what transpired added some interesting detail to the ownership and occupancy of various local land holdings during the 18th and 19th centuries.

At the same time Jon Smith was preparing information on the will of William Stapleton, which appeared later in *Archive 43*.

The will, dated 22nd February 1799, left all his real and personal estate to his son Samuel Stapleton subject to the payment of debts and legacies. An annuity of £12 per annum was to be paid by Samuel to William's daughter Jane Stapleton, who also inherited his "west house in Newsham" and many household items.

William, whilst not directly connected to the Judson family, was to have a considerable bearing on its future. There is no reference to a baptism of William in either the Barningham or Kirby Ravensworth parish records, but church records connected with burials and wills in the next generation demonstrate the strength of the family connection.

A Dalton Terrier of 1782 found in the NYRO shows William as the owner of Dalton Fields Farm which was leased to Thomas Lax for a period of seven years. In 1771 Thomas Judson of Newsham, yeoman, married Ann Stapylton of Dalton Fields. In 1775 Mary Stapleton of Dalton Fields was buried at Kirby Ravensworth.



**William Judson and his wife Elizabeth**

### judsons

William Stapleton's will of 1799 makes a clear reference to two other children, Samuel and Jane. The reference to his "west house" suggests that he owned or occupied more than one property.

When Jane Stapleton died in 1817 her entry in the Kirby Ravensworth burial records show her aged 61 years, of Judgeson House. While of interest from a Judson point of view, the will of her brother Samuel is more illuminating. This suggests that he died childless and passed his assets to his nearest surviving family, Thomas Judson his nephew and Ann Raw, nee Judson, his niece through marriage.

Samuel, of Hawstead House, made his will on December 1st 1834. It left Thomas and Ann "all my Messuages, Dwelling houses, Lands, Closes, Heriditaments and Premises situate at Hawsteads aforesaid and Newsham, or elsewhere

in the County of York." There were bequests of £100 each to Ann's children William, Reuben, Ann, Mary and Eliza, to be given to them when they reached the age of 21, "the interest in the meantime to be applied to their education and maintenance".

There was also an annuity of £15 a year to his housekeeper Jane Parkin and one of £5 to his servant Elizabeth Parkin, who also got one bedstead bed, bedding and hangings.

Ann Stapleton, wife of Thomas Judson and Samuel's sister had died in 1778 at Aldburgh near Masham. The Judsons had long left the Tees Valley, with two branches of the family, Thomas and Charles, closely connected with the City of Ripon, and William residing in Pimlico, London.

A further record from the Dalton Terrier mentioned earlier refers to Dalton Hall Farm. In 1781, 241 acres were in the possession of George and Anthony Hutton and let to Richard Rowlandson at a yearly rental

## Greta names the WI faces

GRETA Carter had no problem identifying the WI members from 1956 who appeared in our *Archive 44* front-page cover picture.

At the back, Sylvia Atherton; centre: Ida Powell, Ethel Bulmer, Mrs Cowell, Nan Maughan, Miss Alderson; front: Enid Wright, Amy Etherington, Marjorie Smith and Amy Clark.

Thanks, Greta!



## Thanks for putting us Robinsons in touch

JUST wanted you to thank you for putting Phil Robinson in touch with me. He is a descendant of my grandmother's brother James Robinson.

Here's a photo (below) I found among my mom's things after her passing. It shows James (top right) with his brother William with his wife Fanny and children Billie and Elsie. Both

served in WWI and Phil says his grandad James was at the Somme and only survived because he was a joiner and was called back from the front lines to work on the billets.

Best wishes for 2015 to you all!

LYNDA JOHNSON, Spokane, USA [aw-caja@msn.com](mailto:aw-caja@msn.com)

### letters & emails

him, and are a very welcome addition to our WW1 Roll of Honour records.

The medal card Janet refers to shows that he was a private in the Shropshire Light Infantry, and died a prisoner of war in June 1916.

*Archive 35* told the story of Rose Kitchen, a widow with six children who arrived in Barningham in 1915.

We've provided Janet with a copy, plus all the information we have on the Hirsts and Kitchens, and put her in touch with Marie Davies of Darlington who is descended from one of Rose's other daughters.

Horace and Maud moved from Barningham to Snape, where Rose joined them in 1929. She died there not long after.—Ed.



**Robinsons, pictured about 1916. See above**

## Yes, there was typhoid – I was a victim

WE carried a letter in the last *Archive* from Lynn Otterson, saying her aunts (the Scuddaby sisters) were childhood victims of a typhoid outbreak in Barningham in 1929.

Phil Thompson read it and contacted us to say that his mother-in-law Nancy Gill and her sister Kath Dodds were also involved.

We rang Kath – maiden name Lowes, now a very sprightly 93 living in Melsonby – and asked her what she could remember.

"I'd have been about eight years old at the time," she says. "Four Scuddaby girls, Nancy and me all went down with the typhoid."

"We were taken off to the isolation hospital in Hundens Lane, Darlington, and stayed there for nine weeks till we'd recovered."

"It was awful, we were absolutely starved for weeks and weeks, I remember we were given crusts

to chew and then told to spit them out. We had porridge every day, and I can't stand porridge!"

"We were very ill, and they thought we might die, but the six of us pulled through. When they let us out I remember we had to learn how to walk again."

"My mother sent me a postcard every day, and I remember crying when I came out because they wouldn't let me keep them, they had to be burnt because they could

### letters & emails

be infected. We were lucky, though, there was another typhoid outbreak in the area and quite a lot died."

Kath says the source of the typhoid was eventually traced to the village green water fountain.

"We used to run across from school and drink from it at playtime. The water had got infected from a broken waste pipe from The Terrace [the name of Newby House at the time]."

"They shut down the foun-

tain and it stayed shut until it was done up a few years ago. The school wasn't closed but everything was fumigated."

Kath's story raised some interest at the January history group meeting. Neil Turner questioned whether it really was typhoid, saying his sister Brenda was taken ill as a schoolgirl – along with many other pupils – with what turned out to be scarlet fever.

After some debate it was established that this was a different occasion, probably some time in the mid-1930s.



**Nancy and Kath Lowes in a Barningham school photo, c1936**



**Ambulance – known as the 'Fever Van' – outside Hundens Lane Hospital in the 1920s.**

### Barningham's Stonehenge

CAN you please give me history of the standing stones in Barningham? I can't find anything mentioned about them.

MAUREEN RUSSELL  
maurus@btinternet.  
com

● This isn't the first such query. We've broken it gently to Maureen that the 'henge' dates back only to 2006, when it was created for a village theme day.

## Up on the moor? Beware the spirits of the air

IF you take the footpath from the entrance to Long Green across Newsham and Barningham Moors towards Haythwaite, you pass Frankinshaw's Well and Cairn.

Where did it get its name? History group member June Graham has found a story in the *Lanercost Priory Chronicle* of 1289 concerning one John Fraunceys of Gayles, also known as Frankish, who that year "fell into the grievous sin of turning his back upon the Church, either visiting his beasts or wandering far and wide during the hours of Sunday service."

One Sunday, the story goes, he went further

than usual to a remote spot above Newsham, where he came across "the powers of the air" who had assumed the form of dwarves dressed in monks' habits.

These powers called upon him to participate in a mock service and then fly away with them. But, "recalling the Passion of Christ he was able to remain on earth until these spirits of iniquity departed." On arriving home, says the *Chronicle*, he took to his bed "and struggled for eight days to fly, until by confession and absolution he was cured."

You have been warned.

## Village battle over Grindstone Garth

GRINDSTONE Garth is a small triangular field on the outskirts of Dalton, three-quarters of an acre at most.

Not, you'd think, something which would have villagers fighting each other through the law courts for nigh on thirty years. But it did, coming to a head in 1843 when a High Court judge in Leeds was asked to decide who owned it.

On one side of the court was a barrister called Knowles, representing villagers Mrs Mary Robinson, 57, and her 47-year-old sister Mrs Ann Henderson, who said the field was theirs.

Opposing them were officers of the Township of Dalton, who said it belonged to the village.

Mr Knowles told the court that for as long as anyone could remember, it was the custom for the field to be held by the oldest man in Dalton, on condition that he provided the village with a grindstone.

In the late 1700s it was in the possession of a John Goundry, and when he died in 1800 it passed to his widow. In 1812 she handed it over "for a small consideration" to a neighbour, William Woodward. Five years later Dalton Township tried to

### in the courts

eject him, and when he refused to go they took him to court. They lost, the Township was ordered to pay all the costs of the case, and Woodward kept the field for a further 22 years without any opposition.

When he died in 1839, he bequeathed the field to his daughters Mary Robinson and Ann Henderson. The Township decided it was time to act again, and took them before the Greta Bridge magistrates, who ruled that the field should be handed over to the village.

The sisters refused to go, but were forcibly ejected.

Though both were what Mr Knowles described as "poor people" – both their husbands were farm labourers – they decided to press on with what must have been turning into an expensive case (as well as Mr Knowles, they had to pay for two more barristers to help him at Leeds).

Their argument was simple: the township didn't own the field, but even if it once had, their father had established ownership by using it uninterrupted for two decades. Mr

Dundas, barrister for the Township, said this was nonsense. He could prove that Mr Goundry paid rent to the village in the 1790s, and it should never have been handed over to Mr Woodward.

The jury wasn't impressed. Without even leaving the court for a discussion, they found in favour of Mary and Ann and the Township was ordered to give the field back to them.

Which it presumably did. How long it took for both sides to be reconciled we don't know, but we'd guess quite some time.

● Three dwellings in the centre of Dalton called Chapel Cottages were re-named Grindstone Garth when converted into one house in the 1980s. They've no connection with the field, now owned by Ken Blackburn who bought it from pub landlady Doris Booth some 30 years ago.

● House owner Tom Hay, who's investigated the grindstone story, believes the stones were brought from a quarry at Elsie Crag above Spanham.

● The full court report can be seen in the *Leeds Intelligencer* of March 11 1843.



## letter from india

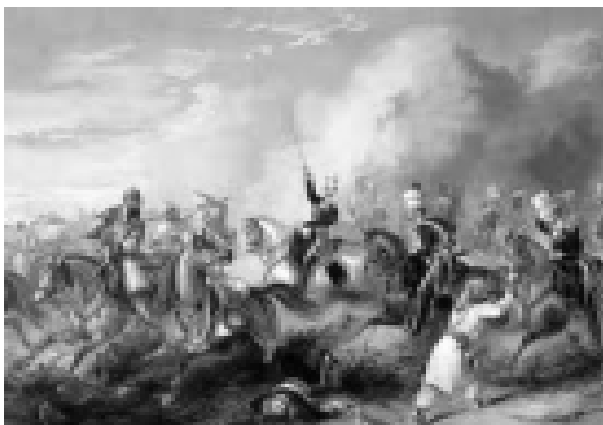
sand miles where scarcely a blade of grass was to be seen – nothing but a bare sandy plain, or high rocky mountains or Ghats. But this war will have an end soon. I am tired of it, and so is everyone; but still we can fight and conquer too.

“I hope you will read Sir Hugh Rose’s despatches. He is our General, and speaks very highly of his brigade.

“I often think of old times by the Greta and the Tees. I should like to have but a chance of taking a few more trout from their streams.

“I hope all the children are quite well. Give my love to all enquiring friends. I hope I shall meet them all again, but time makes great changes, and I might go out and lose the number of my mess before I am an hour older.

“I will be able to give you a few yarns when I get round the old fireside once more; as soon as we have settled this score here. We have lost almost all our officers (they have gone home, either on sick leave or wounded). We nearly lost



**Light Dragoons in action during the India Mutiny**

our captain; he was wounded in three places at Coonah. Four of my draft-mates have been killed by the sun, and we have some that have lost their reason.”

John stopped writing at that point, but we know he survived the onslaught on Gwalior because he resumed his letter four days later:

“The fortress and city of Gwalior were stormed on the 21st, by 2,500 British troops. Four of the head Rajahs are

prisoners, and the Rana of Jhansi, who murdered all the Europeans of that city, was killed in the gardens, when the 8th Hussars charged. She was shot in three places. We took 2,000 prisoners and 25 guns; and part of our brigade are in pursuit of the fugitives. Still the loss on our side was heavy.

“I hope this will be the last encounter for some time, for it is not pleasant to be moving about in a shower of bullets and cannon-shot. I have to thank God that I am still spared. If it should please Him to take me away, may His will be done.

“Bidding you farewell, I close my letter; and I remain, my dear parents, your affectionate son, John Alderson.”

John’s letter reached his parents, and it was reproduced in the *Teesdale Mercury* on September 15th 1858.

Whether he survived to return home we don’t know: we can find no further record of him in the Army.

But there is a John Alderson, born in Middlesex (as our John was) at about the right date, who was a Chelsea Pensioner in the early 20th century. We’d like to think it was him.

## The family he left behind

JOHN’s father was a Startforth-born coachman working in Rokeby – for the Morritts, perhaps? The family appears only in the 1851 Rokeby census, which lists John, his parents, and sisters Harriet, Emma, Elizabeth and Mary.

His parents had earlier lived in Clerkenwell, Middlesex, where John was born, and Egglestone, where the two elder girls were born, before moving to Greta Bridge by 1846 when Elizabeth was born. Their mother came from Wiltshire.

Three more children – William, Eleanor and Jane – were born there before the family moved to High Coniscliffe. By 1871 they were in Staindrop; John snr died sometime in the next decade, and in 1881 Emma is listed as the household head, running the Kings Arms Inn in the village. In 1891 she’s still in Staindrop, but retired, living with an eight-year-old grandson called... John.

There’s no record of her in 1901.

## Photo prompts evacuee’s memories

I WAS evacuated to Barningham Hall during the war along with my mother and brother Terry.

I recently came across a postcard of the hall at home, decided to look up Barningham on the internet, and found your website.

There I came across your photo of staff from the hall off to a Milbank wedding in 1970. The lady in the front row, identified only as ‘Edith?’ was Edith Dunn, a maid at the hall who kept in touch with my mother long after we returned to London.

My own memories of Barningham are fragmentary because I was only about 18 months old when we went there after our house in London suffered bomb damage.

My father was based in Catterick camp and we were sent to Barningham on compassionate grounds.

My brother’s memories were much more vivid than mine because he was 17 months older than me. Sadly he died this year but we did talk about the things we remembered and kept the link with Barningham through Edith, who used to visit us about once a year en route to her sister in Kent.

As evacuees we lived in the servants’ quarters of the house and my mother said we were treated very well by everyone. My mother mentioned a Mr Burton as being very kind, and I believe he was a butler.

Both Terry, my brother, and I have been back to Barningham to look at the village and peer at the hall!

The memories of a child are



**Off to London, 1970: Edith sits between Nan Maughan and Mrs Preston**

## letters & emails

so different to the reality. I remembered climbing a very high hill with Terry to get a view of Scotland. The high hill turned out to be a gentle slope by the side of the house, and disappointingly no view of Scotland!

Terry remembered giant icicles hanging from the windows in winter and ice on the inside of the windows.

As far as I remember Major and Mrs Mark Milbank lived on the estate and Terry used to play with their two boys Anthony and John.

One of my own memories was of Sir Frederick coming down some steps with a gun and getting into a green van. I didn’t recognise Sir Frederick or Barningham in this memory but when I asked my mother about it she said that it was Sir Frederick going off shooting.

Terry won an Exhibition scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge and Lady Millbank sent congratulations via Edith. I left grammar school after doing my A Levels and after a spell working in media research I

finally settled to working as an education social worker once my children had gone to secondary school. We were very blessed having the parents we did. My father was a bus driver and my mother a seamstress and they supported us in all we did.

I have continued to live in London with my husband of 50 years. I live in Dulwich which is a very leafy part of London. We have two large parks and even woods and yet we are only about four miles from the centre of London.

Terry also lived mostly in London, and had just moved to Thames Ditton shortly before he died of cancer.

I don’t know what happened to Edith. My parents suddenly stopped hearing from her, and they didn’t get a reply when they sent a letter to Barningham. Eventually they presumed she must have died. I think she’d retired to Kent where her sister lived.

A Happy New Year to you.  
MARGUERITE WEEDY  
(nee O’Connell)  
mmweedy@gmail.com

## New Zealander hunting captain's descendants

AN email arrived from Rob McNaughton, a New Zealander who's trying to find out more about his British ancestors.

"I'm trying to find the children of William and Anne Hutchinson, who lived at Earby Hall near Barningham in the 1800s," he told us.

"They had a daughter Anne, who married a James Douglas Hamilton of Fintra Hall in Donegal, Ireland.

"I'm researching this on behalf of my mother, a Hutchinson descended from William and Anne, who came to New Zealand via the United States."

We've emailed back, saying there are Hutchinson memorials in Barningham church. One is an inscription in a stained glass window reading "in affectionate memory of William & Ann Hutchinson of Earby, erected by their children AD 1872".

There is also a plaque in the church which lists ten people, who we think are William and Anne's children. It reads: "In memory of William Hutchinson b 28 Sep 1801 d 28 Sep 1875. Ann Hamilton b 14 Feb 1803 d 29 Oct 1881. Francis Hutchinson b 26 Jan 1804 d 4 Aug 1887. Isabella Moores b 6



**The Steadman headstone**

### letters & emails

Feb 1807 d 16 Feb 1885. Jane Spiller b 23 Feb 1809 d 18 Jan 1892. John Hutchinson b 26 Jul 1810 d 28 May 1882. Thomas Hutchinson b 3 Jan 1812 d 25 Apr 1877. Mark Hutchinson b 9 Sep 1813 d 28 Jan 1892. Richard Hutchinson b 18 May 1816 d 7 Nov 1887. Newby Hutchinson b 9 Oct 1818 d 14 May 1857".

The Ann Hamilton referred to here would seem to be the one mentioned in Rob's email.

There is also a headstone in the churchyard marking the grave of Isabella Steadman c1754-1808 and her husband John Steadman c1750-1816. On the reverse is the inscription:

"Likewise to preserve the memory of Ann Hutchinson wife of Capt William Hutchinson of Newsham & daughter of the above John & Isabella Steadman who departed this life 25 Feb 1821 aged 42".

Another gravestone records Hutchinson ancestors, including Thomas Johnson of Earby (d 1789 aged 79), his brother William (d 1809 a 91); their nephews Jonathan and Francis Hutchinson (d 1785 and 1812 respectively); Francis's wife Ann (d 1818) and son William (d 1826).

There are many other Hutchinsons in our baptism, marriage and burial records, dated from the 1700s to the present day.

We can't find any Hutchinsons of Earby listed in the 1841-1911 census records, which is odd.

However, history group member Linda Sherwood checked the Newsham tithe apportionment documents of 1840 and found William Hutchinson listed as the owner of Earby Lodge, three houses, some woodland and 26 fields – 121 acres in all, mostly let out to a John Atkinson.

Are there any descendants of William and Ann around today? Let us know and we'll pass information on to Rob.

## Not ours!

COULD you let me have any information or records you may have of my great grandfather, Rev Hamilton Brand, who was rector at Barningham in the early 1900s?

ROBIN COMLEY  
robcom@africa.com

● No Rev Bland here – we've suggested to Robin that he tries the Barningham in Suffolk. –Ed.

## Letter home from a distant battlefield

*WE'VE been almost overwhelmed by stories from World War One in the past six months. But there have been many other conflicts in which our young men fought and died. The Indian Mutiny was one.*

ON June 20th 1858, a young soldier from Greta Bridge sat down to write a letter to his parents 4,000 miles away.

John Alderson was 22, a private in the 14th Regiment of Light Dragoons, and he was about to take part in the last great battle of the Indian Mutiny.

John was among the thousands of British troops who later that day would storm the rebel-held city of Gwalior, south of Delhi, in a desperate attempt to wipe out its defenders.

"I hope we should soon have it over," he wrote to his parents, John and Emma Alderson, "for I have not been in bed for four nights past."

It was six weeks since John had last had the chance to write home. Since then, he wrote, "we have done a good deal of hard and sharp work. We gave the rebels a good drubbing at Coonah, but we lost many men with sunstrokes. My regiment alone has lost upwards of 50 men (sun-strokes and killed in action).

"We commenced the siege of Calpee on the 19th of May, and by the 24th we were in possession, and fired a royal salute from the walls. They retired on Gwalior, where we arrived on the 17th of June, and the prettiest little action came off that I have seen yet. We completely took them by surprise and killed a great number, and drove the remainder out of their cantonments into the fort.

"We have surrounded the fort on every side. We are on the alert all day, and our lives



**Soldier of the 14th Light Dragoons**

### letter from india

are not worth two pice\* each. We shall stand a better chance when the cold weather sets in.

"I hope I shall live to see Old England again, but there are ten to one against it; for you see men struck down by the sun, and dead and buried almost before you can look around.

"We took a great deal of treasure at Calpee and Jhansi, amounting to about 13 lacs\*\* of rupees, but I expect the private soldiers will not get much of that.

"Some of the men got money from the Pandies killed, but I have never dismounted yet to strip any. The infantry have the best chance, but they earn it; for after a 14 or 15 miles' march they have to fight under a burning sun, 120 to 130 degrees. The 95th Regiment

had 40 men dead of sunstrokes in one day. We go into action in our shirts and overalls. We expect to be sent to quarters, for the wet months, as soon as we have captured Gwalior.

"I hope it will turn out so, for it is now ten months since we were in quarters. Our tents would be of little use in the wet season.

"Dear Mother, you will be sorrowful to hear of all this wretched work, but we are quite used to it now, and I take it a great deal cooler than I did.

"At first I used to bow my head when a cannonshot was ringing over us, but now that is altered. We must meet death when it comes, and a kind unerring Providence guides all for the best.

"I expect Rokeby looks splendid now – it will compare with this land; for we have come now over a thou-

\* Indian coin worth one-sixty-fourth of a rupee – a tiny amount

\*\* 1 lac = 100,000

## Was this the same Lodge?

I LOOK forward to getting *The Archive* even more now it's every other month. I was wondering if you could tell me anything about Robert Lodge, who married Margaret Alderson who was related to George who sadly passed away recently. I know a Robert Lodge moved to Melsonby, is he the same one?

MARY JEFFERSON, Low Green, Eppleby

● Robert, born in Bowes 1841, and Margaret, born in Barningham 1840, married in 1864 and farmed at Eastwood until Robert died in 1915. Margaret died three years later. They had at least eleven children, one called Robert who died (unmarried, we think) at Melsonby in 1949, aged 80. Margaret and George shared a grandfather, David Alderson (1810-1875). Can anyone tell us more? And see the Parish Mag mention on the back page. – Ed.





## Cheers! It's 2015

History group members held their New Year social in the Milbank Arms – thanks, Neil!

Pictured above are Liz Hunt, June Graham, Sheila Hay, Margaret Stead, Phil Hunt and Jon Smith. Left is June Johnson; right, Eric Duggan with John Prytherick in the background.

Photos: Phil and John.



### County Durham History & Heritage Forum

## YESTERDAY BELONGS TO YOU

### Local & Family History Fair

*"Where our History Comes Home"*

**Saturday 9 May 2015**

New College, Durham City DH1 5ES

E: [yb2u15@gmail.com](mailto:yb2u15@gmail.com)

W: [www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum](http://www.durhamweb.org.uk/historyforum)

## Archaeology Day at Durham

THIS year's County Durham Archaeology Day will take place on Saturday 21st March.

The event will take place at County Hall and include a series of talks about recent archaeological discoveries and heritage issues. There'll also be a range of stalls to browse throughout the day.

More details will be available at [www.durham.gov.uk/article/5406/Archaeology-Day-2015](http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/5406/Archaeology-Day-2015).

## Another missing clock? Phil gets us wound up

WE got plenty of publicity a couple of years ago when we launched a quest for Barningham's Missing Clock.

We never found it, but we do think we know what happened to Barningham's Other Missing Clock.

History group chairman Phil Hunt learnt of this one when he visited a watch and clock repair shop in Darlington.

It was run by a Mr Bowron, who, prompted by Phil's mention of Barningham, said that in the mid-1960s he became an apprentice clock-maker with a Barnard Castle jeweller called Mr Allen (still in business, but now called Hoppers).

Mr Bowron recalled that there was a very old clock in the shop, pending collection after being brought in for repair. Made by Edward East, it had very ornate engraving and even young apprentice Mr Bowron thought it was valuable.

And he was right. Edward East (1602-1696), was watchmaker and clockmaker to Charles I, a notable horologist whose works can be found in the British Museum and the Science Museum.

The auctioneers Bonhams sold an Edward East longcase clock for £116,500 only a couple of months ago.

Mr Bowron said that the clock in Darlington stayed in store for some time before

Mr Allen eventually took it upstairs to his office, perhaps thinking that as it was unclaimed he might as well use it himself.

However, someone eventually came into the shop, produced a receipt for the clock, and reclaimed it on behalf of the village church.

"This story raised the prospect of Barningham Church possessing a valuable and historic clock," says Phil.

His vision of a new Barningham Clock Mystery soon evaporated.

The clock, it transpires, almost certainly belonged not to the church but to the rector at the time, the Rev John Cobham.

"According to Neil Turner, the rector owned a lot of antiques," says Phil.

"It was during his rectorship that the present rectory was built,

so he would at some point have moved from the old building into the new.

"This might well have led to his leaving a clock with the repairers for some time, as the building of the new rectory was protracted."

No great Missing Clock Mystery Part Two, then.

But it made an entertaining story at the last history group meeting.

## Wanted: an editor for Newsham files

HISTORY group member Linda Sherwood has done a great job transcribing the 1840 Newsham tithe apportionment records.

They list every landowner and tenant, showing who owned or occupied each field or property in the parish, its size, use and value.

The next step is to put it all together in easy-to-read booklet form – something along the lines of our *Jam Letch and Jingle Potts* field guide to Barningham. "It really needs to be done by someone from Newsham who knows the area well," says Linda.

Jon Smith, who produced the Barningham booklet, is willing to help production.

Volunteers, please!

## Author sought for tribute to the WI

BARNINGHAM WI has folded after more than 80 years instructing and entertaining the ladies of the village.

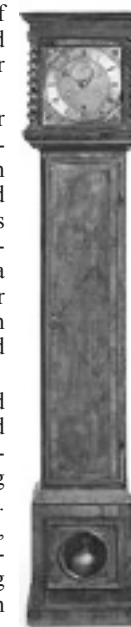
Is there anyone who would like to write a brief history of the organisation? The minutes are available for research.

## Guest speaker

JIM McTaggart, ex-editor of the *Teesdale Mercury*, will be talking about leadmining in the area at our next history group meeting on March 17th, 7pm.

## Projector project

THE history group has decided to buy a projector of its own after being warned that Jon Smith's machine, which we've used so far, is nearing its bin-by date.



# Ada, the first computer programmer

IN *Archive 5*, Barningham's lord of the manor Anthony Milbank told the story of his ancestor Annabella Milbanke, who married Lord Byron and lived to regret it.

Byron deserted Annabella within a year of their marriage, but not before she had become pregnant with Byron's only legitimate child, Ada (he had several offspring born out of wedlock, including one, it's believed, by his sister).

Ada was born in December 1815 and showed an early aptitude for mathematics, which her mother encouraged in an effort to prevent her from developing the insanity increasingly shown by her father.

As a young adult, her talents led her to a working relationship and friendship with fellow British mathematician Charles Babbage, and in particular Babbage's work on the Analytical Engine – widely regarded as the world's first computer.

Babbage was impressed by Ada's intellect and analytic skills, and called her 'The Enchantress of Numbers'. She developed a vision of the capability of computers to go beyond mere calculating or number-crunching, and translated an article on the engine which she supplemented with an elaborate set of notes containing what many consider to be the first computer program – that is, an algorithm designed to be carried out by a machine.

Throughout her life, Ada was strongly interested in scientific developments and fads of the day, including phrenology and mesmerism.

Even after her famous work with Babbage, Ada continued to work on other projects and in 1844 was trying to create a mathematical model for how the brain gives rise to thoughts and nerves to feelings. Her interest in the brain came in part from a long-running preoccupation, inherited from her mother, about her 'potential' madness.

Her acquaintances included Charles Dickens and Michael Faraday, and she became a regular at Court. Described as 'dainty', she danced often and was able to charm many people. In 1835 she

## ada lovelace

married William King, 8th Baron King, and went to live on his large estate at Ockham Park in Surrey. She had three children: Byron, born 1836; Anne (1837); and Ralph Gordon (1839).

In 1838, her husband became Earl of Lovelace and she was styled 'The Right Honourable the Countess of Lovelace' for the rest of her married life.

In the 1840s, Ada flirted with scandal: firstly from a relaxed relationship with men who were not her husband, which led to rumours of affairs, and secondly, her love of gambling. This led to her forming a syndicate with male friends, and an ambitious attempt to create a mathematical model for successful large bets. This went disastrously wrong, leaving her thousands of pounds in debt, forcing her to admit it all to her husband.

Ada Lovelace died in November 1852 at the age of 36 – the same age that her father had died



Ada – the countess computer pioneer

at – from uterine cancer probably exacerbated by bloodletting by her physicians.

She was buried, at her request, next to Byron in Hucknall, Nottingham.

Her name is revered today in scientific circles, and she is widely hailed as the world's first computer programmer.

The British Computer Society awards an annual medal in her name, the US Defence Department named its computer language Ada in her honour, and one of the tunnel-boring machines excavating London's Crossrail project is called after her.

Ada Lovelace Day is an annual event, celebrated world-wide in mid-October, whose goal is to raise the profile of women in science, technology, engineering and maths.

● *Research by Phil Hunt. There's plenty on the internet about Ada if you want to find out more.*

## old ads

### CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC

TWO Persons were apprehended by the Greta Bridge Police and committed to Northallerton gaol, as idle and disorderly persons.

They represent themselves as shipwrecked sailors and natives of America.

One is dressed in old trowsers and coarse blue-flannelled shirt: he is about twenty-one years of age, 5 feet 4 inches high, brown hair, blue eyes, has a blue scar on his forehead, the sun and seven stars on his right hand, and a crucifix on the same arm, a mermaid, union jack, half-moon, and a figure-head on his breast; the other is about twenty-nine, 5 feet 5 inches, light brown or sandy hair, grey eyes and a flattish nose, has on a red flannel shirt, rings in his ears, figures of men and women on his left arm.

These men are vile imposters.

Yorkshire Gazette, 1843

TO BE LET, for a term of years, the HOUSE lately occupied by Mrs Littelfair, deceased, consisting of, on ground floor, two good sitting rooms, water closet, kitchen, back kitchen, and store room and outbuildings; on the second floor, two best bedrooms, and two servants rooms. A pretty FLOWER GARDEN and good KITCHEN GARDEN, well stocked with fruit trees. All the premises are walled in. The Post arrives and departs every day. Apply Mr GEORGE SIGSWORTH, Barningham Park, who will show the premises.

Teesdale Mercury, 1874

BANKER HANDS Wanted, Barningham Church. -- Apply by letter or at the job. George Scott, Marbell Street, Barnard Castle.

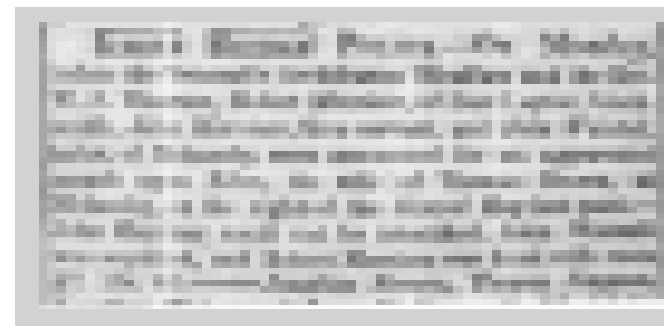
Northern Echo, 1890

WANTED, GENERAL SERV-  
ANT, able to do Plain Cooking.  
Housemaid kept. Apply Miss Todd,  
Fairview, Barningham.

Teesdale Mercury, 1895

LOST, from Barningham Rectory, the property of the Rev. E. S. Gough, a Brown and White Spaniel Bitch. Answers to the name of Jess.

Teesdale Mercury, 1904



## In court for assault, but he ended up running inns

WE came across this brief report of a court case in the *Yorkshire Gazette* of July 11 1845.

It records three men being brought before the magistrates at Greta Bridge Police Court, accused of assaulting a Mrs Eden Brown in Melsonby.

They were Robert Marriner, a blacksmith of East Layton; his brother John, a farm servant; and a tailor called John Waistell.

Mrs Brown failed to identify John Marriner as an assailant, and he was acquitted. So was Waistell. Robert Marriner, however, was found guilty and ordered to pay £2 11s 6d in fines and costs – about £150 in today's money.

We forwarded the report to history group member John Marriner of Middlesbrough, who's researching ancestors from Barningham, and asked if he was related to the

brothers. He was. "John (born 1819) and Robert (born 1815) were the brothers of my great-grandmother Margaret," he replied. "Robert was fined for what is now the very serious offence of aggravated assault on a woman aged 24 who in 1845 was married with two children.

"In 1851, just six years after the offence, Robert was the landlord of the Fox Hall Inn and the farmer of the Fox Well Farm (just over the road), a farm of 100 acres. By 1871 he had moved back into Melsonby as the landlord of the World's End public house (now the large house on the corner of Church Row and Aldbrough Road).

"How was Robert, after being fined for what would now carry a prison sentence, allowed to become landlord of a major watering hole on a major road?"

## Awful death of a four-year-old

THE Fox Hall Inn figures in a number of stories in the Victorian press. Here's a terrible tale from the *York Herald* of January 28th, 1837:

"A distressing and fatal accident took place at Fox Hall, the residence of Mr Scaife, innkeeper, on the evening of the 18th. Mrs Scaife put her daughter, about four years of age, into a let-down bed in a room which was seldom used. A gentleman wanting a room to dress in was conducted to the same room, and immediately put up the bed, not knowing the child was there, and closed the doors.

"It was not discovered until an hour afterwards, when dreadful to relate the infant was found a corpse."