

from the parish mag

125 YEARS AGO: What a different aspect the modern Barningham presents from the Barningham of more than 800 years ago! Then there was a desert only to look upon: the Conqueror's curse was upon it. But now, look where you will, there is every sign of a happy and contented population, and some of the most beautiful scenery in Yorkshire to look upon and delight the mind.

~ June 1890

100 YEARS AGO: We heard with deep regret of the death of Lieutenant Moorhouse, of the Royal Flying Corps, a brother-in-law of Mr Harry Morriff of Rokeby. Lieutenant Moorhouse had carried out a difficult task, and although severely wounded he was able with the last residue of his strength to steer his aeroplane to headquarters and make his report before death overtook him.

~ June 1915

95 YEARS AGO: Miss Gough has been able to procure a most excellent piano from th Catterick Camp, sold to her as a worker there during the war at a specially reduced price of £15. There will be a small charge of 2s 6d when used for entertainments to keep it always in proper order.

~ June 1920

80 YEARS AGO: The village festivities to mark the king's Silver Jubilee, including sports, tea, distribution of mugs, whist drive, dance, planting of a chestnut tree on the green by Mr John Atkinson, and lighting of the beacon fire, all passed off simply and very happily, in delightful weather.

~ June 1935

70 YEARS AGO: Two Newsham boys at Richmond Grammar School distinguished

J. G. WILLEY
MUSIC WAREHOUSE
BARNARD CASTLE
For up-to-date
Pianos, Organs, Violins,
Melodeons,
Gramophones,
Phonographs, Records
and General Small Goods,
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Tuned and Repaired

Ad from 1915

themselves at the annual school sports. A H Smith won the open championship (1st in long jump, 2nd on 100 yards, 2nd in high jump) and J A Gibbon was joint second (1st in 440 yards, 1st in high jump, 2nd in half-mile). Newsham seems prolific in athletic ability.

~ June 1945

60 YEARS AGO: Under the auspices of the Women's Voluntary Service, Mrs H Powell of Shaw House has received 170 eggs from kind givers. The gifts have been conveyed to headquarters. ~ June 1955.

50 YEARS AGO: At last we are going to have a new Rectory, and the amount if money required from our Parish towards the total cost was £500. Very fortunately this sum was worked for and sent off forthwith. That was a remarkable thing to be able to do. However, it has left us with very little. A very determined effort to make the Garden Fete and Autumn Whist Drives priorities will put us back on our feet. ~ June 1965

20 YEARS AGO: The WI meeting began with a rousing recital on bagpipes by the Waldron family of Staindrop, who played pieces traditional and modern. ~ June 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



Archive 47

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



INSIDE: THE GRETA BRIDGE MAIL COACH ROBBERY



All set for a day's grouse-shooting at Barningham in the summer of 1909. Photo from the Parkin Raine collection.

contents

LEAD MINE TOUR
PLANS : Page 3

YOUNG FARMERS'
SEARCH: Page 4

NAME THE HAPPY
POSTIE: Page 5

FINDING THE MAR-
RIAGE: Page 6

WEDDING GIFTS
GALORE : Page 7

MUSEUM'S CALL
FOR HELP : Page 8

MR GIBSON'S LOST
BOX : Page 9

POSTAL JOB 'JOB-
BERY' : Page 9

UNRAVELLING MILL
HILL : Pages 10-12

OLD FAITHFUL IN
ACTION : Page 13

NEIL'S PAINFUL
FIRST JOB : Page 13

GAYLES WINDMILL
SALE : Page 13

MARRIAGES LIST
UPDATE: Page 14

BAPTISMS IN THE
HUT? : Page 14

THE ACADEMY
RIVALS : Page 15

FROM THE PARISH
MAG : Page 16

NEXT BLHG MEETINGS : SUMMER VISITS – SEE INSIDE

Barningham Local History Group

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

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

Clock money, junior award and visits in the summer

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday May 19th 2015:

Present: Phil Hunt (Chairman), John Hay (Vice-Chairman), Eric Duggan (Treasurer), Ann Orton (Secretary), Neil Turner, Linda Sherwood, Sheila Wap-pat, Margaret Stead, Jon Smith, Jane Hackworth-Young, Cate Collingwood, June Graham, Doug Anderson, Margaret and David Taylor.

Apologies: Janet Wrigley, Janet Paterson.

Mill Hill: The meeting began with a talk by John Hay on his research on Mill Hill farm, reported later in this issue.

Minutes of the meeting on March 17th were agreed.

Matters arising: On the agenda.

Correspondence: County Durham History and Heritage had written about help that was available for setting up web sites. Barningham village hall committee had asked whether, as the hall had recently lost funding from Durham County Council, the history group would be willing to donate the surplus from the clock fund to the hall. Jon had advertised this suggestion in the Flyer and had not received any objections. Eric objected strongly saying that the excess funds were being kept as a contingency in case maintenance was needed on the clock. He thought that the village hall needed to do its

minutes

own fundraising, as the history group had done when money for the clock was needed. Jon suggested that if the money was given to the hall it could take over responsibility for maintenance. It was decided to take no action for the time being.

Financial report: We had lost a few members this year, most from outside the area. We still had 85 and a healthy bank balance of £729.35.

Publications: Archive 46 was out, 47 in preparation.

WWI and II: John Hay was complimented on his display in the phone box.

Archive award: All entries to Phil by August 29th, the winner announced at the Produce Show on September 6th. We are offering a junior prize in the hope of encouraging young residents to take part.

Next meetings: Lead Mine Visit June 23rd, 6.30 at Langthwaite. Richmond Museum visit September 15th at 7pm with a talk by Mike Wood on the history of Richmond. AGM and next ordinary meeting on Tuesday October 20th at 6pm.

Any other business: Linda Sherwood said a series of talks at Dalton would start in October and she would welcome speakers from the group.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

Founder's death led to rival academies

MARK NEWBY founded Barningham Academy in 1780 and ran it for the best part of the next half-century.

He and his wife Ann had at least eight children. One, his third son George, helped out with the school before entering the church, becoming a vicar, and running a school of his own in Witton-le-Wear.

Another, Mark's third daughter Jane, seemed destined for a life of spinsterhood until she was married in March 1827 at the age of 35 to Peter Tabois, one of the Barningham Academy schoolmasters.

Five months later Mark died at the age of 77, and what seems to have been a major row broke out among his family about who should have the school.

Tabois lived on the premises (now called Newby House) and promptly announced in the local press that as Mark's son-in-law he would be carrying on the business.

George Newby and his brothers appear to have disagreed. In May 1828 they told Tabois he had to go and put the school and its surrounding land, cottages and outbuildings up for auction – the ad on the right appeared that month in the *Durham County Advertiser*.

It didn't sell. In July the property was advertised to let, and Thomas Granger Coates from Aldbrough decided to rent it out and run the school.

Tabois left, but he wasn't happy. Within a few months he was running a school in Dunnington, near York, and advertising it as "the establishment conducted for upwards of half a century by the late Mr Newby" of Barningham.



cuttings

How long this survived we don't know: there's no record of Tabois or his wife thereafter.

Coates (renowned for regularly thrashing his pupils despite having only one arm) was more successful. The school continued to run in Barningham, though, like all the Yorkshire Schools, its days were numbered. In 1832 the Newbys decided to have another go at selling the prop-

erty, and this time they found a buyer: Thomas Coates.

Coates' daughter Mary married one of the teachers, George Clarkson, who took over the Academy when Coates died in 1854. He remained until the 1860s, when it was bought by Thomas Hough, the man who eventually closed it down in the early 1870s.

● *More on the Academy in Archives 6, 17 and 32.*



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

Brides and grooms who married away from home

THE FindMyPast website (findmypast.co.uk) has been adding more parishes to its list of transcribed parish registers in the North Riding.

Among them are Kirby Ravensworth, Gilling, Hutton Magna, Startforth and Arkengarthdale. There are many Barningham entries, though we're not sure how comprehensive they are.

Our *Barningham Brides* book gives a full list of every bride and groom married in the village between 1580 and 1950 and thanks to the FindMyPast listings we can now add the names of some Barningham people whose weddings took place in neighbouring villages.

Here are some we've tracked down so far. The list shows the date, wedding venue, the Barningham bride or groom, spouse, and spouse's home village.

13.01.1719ST John DONALDSTON ~ Sarah Hunter ST
 19.05.1720ST Margaret MILNER ~ John Campbell KS
 29.06.1726ST Alice WHITE ~ John Hanby NC
 28.04.1729ST John THOMPSON ~ Katharine Richardson ST
 29.08.1731ST John HESLOPP ~ Jane O??ay KR
 28.05.1733ST Margaret CHAMBY ~ John Bird BO
 14.07.1742ST Elizabeth HODGON ~ William Harker ST
 22.04.1760KR George FRYAR ~ Ann Gibson KR
 26.04.1763KR Joseph SIMPSON ~ Eleanor Coates NF
 14.05.1764KR William RODHAM ~ Hannah Wilkinson NE
 13.05.1765KR John GREENHOW ~ Jane Cowl NE
 05.09.1769KR Mary GRINDAL ~ John Barwick DA
 08.04.1771KR Thomas JUDSON (NE) ~ Ann Stapylton KR
 13.05.1771WY Peter GREENHOW ~ Joanne Newton WY
 23.03.1775KR Ann NEWBY ~ Francis Hutchinson NE
 10.08.1775HM Elizabeth BLENKINSOP ~ William Neesham HM
 23.05.1779KR Matthew HARDY ~ Frances Gaskin NE
 14.01.1782 HM Bernard BOWRON ~ Mary Metcalfe HM
 01.05.1784KR Dorothy FAUCET ~ Timothy Gibbons KR
 28.02.1787KR Mary BEWICK ~ Robert Musgrave KR
 15.05.1787KR Francis DUNN ~ Jane Machel KR
 13.05.1788 WY Thomas ATKINSON ~ Jane Pickering WY
 15.12.1789KR Arthur BEWICK ~ Isabel Langstaffe KR
 19.06.1794KR William HAWDON ~ Catherine Glover KR
 29.12.1796KR George HARLAND ~ Jane Headman KR
 17.05.1802KR Henry THOMPSON ~ Mary Chilton KR
 08.06.1812KR John MARLEY ~ Isabella Steadman KR
 30.12.1821 HM Mary HOPES ~ Matthew Walker HM
 02.12.1823ST Harry COATES ~ Martha Newton ST
 05.12.1833ST Christopher COATES ~ Anne Newton Benson ST
 13.05.1837ST George CLARKSON ~ Jane Thompson ST
 08.05.1847AR Thomas ROBINSON ~ Dorothy Currie SH
 09.06.1870ST John Reynolds BROWN ~ Ann Percival Stephenson ST
 11.08.1881KR William PEARSON ~ Mary Willson DA
 31.05.1898AR John George BROWN ~ Margaret Cassy Hutchinson ES
 17.02.1922KR Samuel TURNER ~ Hannah Etherington NE

Abbreviations show where spouses came from: AR Arkengarthdale, BO Boldron, DA Dalton, ES Eskeleth, HM Hutton Magna, KR Kirkby Ravensworth, KS Kirkby Stephen, NC North Cowton, NE Newsham, NF New Forest, SH Shaw, ST Startforth, WY Wycliffe.

Was anyone baptised in the MissionHut?

PLOUGHING through documents in the North Riding County Record Office, history group member June Graham came across paperwork from 1937, when Newsham got its own Mission Hut.

The agreement, between Sir Frederick Milbank and Newsham Parochial Church Council, was for a hut in the field behind Oak House to be converted for church use.

We told the history of the hut back in *Archive 24*, but one thing we didn't know until now was that the building could be used for christenings.

According to the papers found by June, permission was granted by the Bishop of Ripon in October 1947 for the Rev Cyril Kennedy, vicar of Kirby Ravensworth, to perform baptisms there.

Did he (or his curate, also licensed to carry out such ceremonies) ever do so? If so, what served as the font?

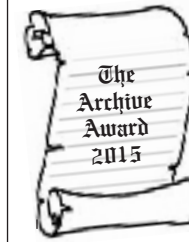
If there's anyone in Newsham today whose infant head was watered in the hut, do let us know.

Autumn trip to town museum

THE first history group outing of the autumn will be a tour of Richmond Museum and a talk about the town's history.

The visit will be on the evening of Tuesday September 15th. Contact Ann Orton (01833 621024 or email ann.orton@hotmail.co.uk) if you'd like to go.

Extra prize to encourage the youngsters



A TROPHY, cash prizes and glory await the winners of this year's Archive Award, presented by Barningham Local History Group for the best local history project.

Entries can be in any format and are judged on originality, research, local interest and readability, and there is a separate prize for entrants

under 18. Winning submissions may be printed in the *Archive*.

Entries should be delivered by Saturday August 29th to history group chairman Phil Hunt, who's organising the judging.

Winners will be announced at Barningham Show on Sunday September 6th.

Join us for an evening tour of the lead mines

INSPIRED by Jim McTaggart's recent talk about lead miners in the Dales, the history group has organised an evening visit to a local lead mining area on Tuesday June 23rd.

Robert White of the National Park will be our guide and will be taking us to Sleil Gill in Arkengarthdale for the tour, which will last about two hours and be just under 5km in distance.

The cost is £3 for group members, £5 for non-members, the money going to the Park's conservation budget.

Places are limited so it will be first come first served. If you'd like to go, contact Ann Orton, 01833 621024 or ann.orton@hotmail.co.uk.

Cars will leave Barningham green at 6pm – we can probably sort out lifts for those without transport – or meet at the car park in Langthwaite at 6.30pm.

The tour will reveal some very impressive landscape where mining took place, including levels, trackways, tunnels and abandoned buildings. Those taking part are advised to wear stout walking footwear and suitable clothing.



John Hay did a splendid job turning Barningham's 'art box' phone kiosk into a miniature museum to mark VE Day.

Websites offering DNA testing

HARD on the heels of Mike Kipling's explanation in the last *Archive* of how to explore your DNA come cut-price offers of DNA testing from some of the genealogical websites.

Ancestry and Findmypast have both linked up with DNA testing organisations and offering the service at prices starting around £60. Visit their websites ancestry.co.uk or findmypast.co.uk for more information.

More history talks

THE popular history talks at Dalton and Gayles village hall will resume in the autumn.

Barningham history group has again been invited to provide speakers for at least one session. Details next *Archive*.



Have you got the YF minutes book?

THIS photograph of Dalton & District Young Farmers in 1951 was taken at John Gill's at Leeming Bar.

It came to light during research for Dalton and Gayles Village Hall's 60th birthday celebrations and everyone has been successfully identified.

However, there's no sign of the group's minute books and Dalton's history group members are keen to find them if they still exist.

"Can anyone recall writing minutes of the club's meetings, at any point in time, or happen to have the books in their attic?" asks Sheila Wappat. If so, please contact her (01833 621490) or Linda Sherwood (621307).

Pictured are: Front Row : 1 Tot Wappat (Low Fields, Gayles), 2 Jim Stanwix (Whashton), 3 Harry Raine (Whashton Springs), 4 Harry Firby.

Second Row: 1 John Stanwix (Thorsgill, Startforth), 2 Arthur Stanwix (Village Farm, Caldwell), 3 John Anderson (Layton Fields), 4 Student at Stanwix's Farm, 5 Frank Anderson (Dalton Grange), 6 Joan Harker, 7 John Raine, 8 Baden Powell (Whashton), 9 Bob Bainbridge (Browson), 10 George Blackburn.

Third Row: 1 Brian Fenwick, 2 Nathan Wardle, 3 Ruby Cox, 4 Jean Teasdale (Dalton), 5 Mary Powell (Whashton), 6 Jean Powell (Whashton, now Mrs Foster of B/Castle), 7 Betty Harker, 8 May Powell (Whashton), 9 Stan Bainbridge (Browson), 10 John Marwood, 11 George Dobbinson, 12 Jackie Astwood, 13 Wally Stanwix (Whashton).

Fourth Row: 1 Winnie Marwood, 2 Cliff Parker (Mill Farm, Ravensworth), 3 Ernest Anderson, 4 Brian Edmondson, 5 James Stanwix (Whashton), 6 Colin Metcalfe (Foxberry?), 7 Evelyn Marwood (Whashton) 8 Jack Powell (Whashton), 9 Malcolm Firby, 10 George Powell.



Harold Hugill and his 'Old Faithful' steam engine in the 1950s. Photo from Neil Turner's collection

Painful times: Neil recalls working at Mill Hill

NEIL Turner worked at Mill Hill from 1949 to 1956, when he was called up for national service, cutting the sheave bands for processing of corn stooks on threshing days.

As it was only just post-war there were also turnips, mangle wurzels, oats, barley and wheat, grown to meet the food shortage. Willow baskets were woven by the Nor Beck for storing the vegetables.

Neil remembers the pain of carrying heavy sacks up to the milling floor. He worked for Harold Hugill, who owned a horse-drawn engine providing power for threshing and also an old Ford tractor belt driving an oil cake crusher and the grinding mill.

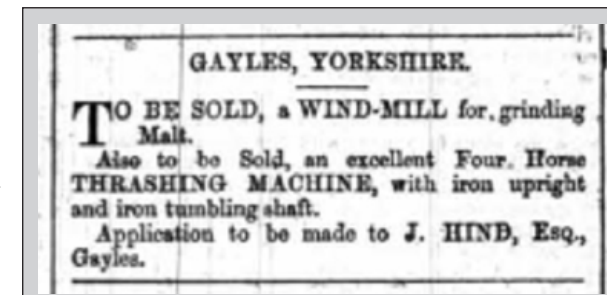
Neil was paid a £1 per day, but when the threshing work finished he was on 12 shillings per week and working at both

mill hill

Mill Hill and Park House farm. Neil remembers the accommodation room being used as a byres, which it still is, and says

the wallpaper and the plaster, both red, yellow and blue, were still visible in 1949.

● *Have you memories or information about Mill Hill? If so, please let us know.*



Where was *this* windmill?

I CAME across this advertisement on the front page of the *Teesdale Mercury* for 18th February 1857. John Hind had a brewery at Gayles House. Does anyone know where this clearly movable structure was sited?

LINDA SHERWOOD, Gayles
alanlindasherwood@hotmail.com



Mill Hill from the air with Nor Beck to the north: note the strip furrows in the field. Right, impressive stonework on an arch inside the buildings

nothing but a yard on its south side. There is a later construction, on its south side, of a housing for wagons. The inner wall has evidence of three arches leading into the yard, of a 17th century design.

Contingent with the byre on the east end is a single storey extension which, from contemporary accounts, still had plastered and papered walls in the late 1940s. This was the agricultural labourer's living quarters, although the records of occupation are sparse.

By the 1840s the introduction of horse-drawn engines to belt-drive threshing machines had all but obviated the need for horse-driven systems and eventually the days of employing large numbers of people in threshing operations were over.

By this time Mill Hill was part of the Barningham House farm. From the census records it is impossible to determine who, in 1841, was located at Mill Hill as the dwellings are rarely identified.

But we know the building was occupied in 1851 by an

mill hill

agricultural labourer, James Gott Nelson, which suggests that the milling business had grown to the extent that it was worth employing someone full time, rather than using spare labour from Barningham House or the other farm with which it was then linked, Park House.

In 1861 Mill Hill was the home of farm labourer George



Old machine at Mill Hill: ready for Beamish?

Flower, his wife and four children (all living in what was probably just a two-room dwelling).

In 1901 the occupants were farm hand Joseph Ward, his wife and two children; in 1911 it housed an elderly couple, John and Anne Reynolds Brown, a servant girl and two farm labourers. Within a few years the buildings were uninhabited, and as far as we know that's been the case ever since.

Barningham House farm was taken over from John's brother John George Brown by the Metcalfe family in 1912. After the death of William Metcalfe in the early 1940s, his widow Ethel took over the three farms: Neil Turner remembers her as an exacting taskmaster in terms of both hours and salary.

She had sons William, John and Percy and a daughter Florence. Percy moved to Kirkby Stephen; John married Betty Bousefield and moved to Park House in 1952.

William married Connie Foster and took over Barningham House. Their son Bill now runs it and Mill Hill.

letters & emails

Can anyone name this cheerful postie?

I SAW in the last issue of *The Archive* that Dave Charlesworth has a quest to find all photographic records of Teesdale postal activities.

When my mother married my father and went to live at the farm at East Hope near Barningham, she had with her a box brownie camera and took quite a few photos of what was, for her, a very different life.

Until her father decided to retire from the police and return to Barnard Castle, she had begun a career as a piano teacher in Newcastle.

In addition to the photos of farming activities and family, there were in her album some additional photos, including this one labelled 'Hope Postman'.

He has a satchel over his shoulder, so I expect he may just have delivered the farm post, and he certainly looks a cheerful character. Who he was was not recorded, but the photo would have been taken between 1933 and 1936.

Hope this is of some interest, and maybe some other *Archive* readers may know who he was.

DICK ALDERSON, Dalgety Bay, Fife



We know who this one is – it's Frank Little

RE the old photo in the last *Archive* (below), asking whether it showed the village butcher or a postman.

I published the same photograph in my 'Wish you were here' project for the *Archive*



Awards. I took it from a 1905 postcard.

I discussed the picture about five years ago with a former Fairview housekeeper (now regrettably deceased) and received the following rather terse note:

"This is not Johnny Bainbridge with his butcher's cart. It is Frank Little, the postman, turning his cart to return to Barnard Castle after delivering his sack of mail to Barningham post office. The postman cap and badge are very clear to see. Grandson Frank lives in the town."

JOHN HAY
Fairview, Barningham

● Confirmation of this has come from Dave Charles-



worth, Teesdale's postal historian, who sent us the above picture of Frank, taken in Barnard Castle in 1902. – Ed.

Data base tracks down a wedding 100 years ago

I WAS delighted to read the article in the last *Archive* about Doug Anderson.

I came across his entertaining book and charming illustrations whilst on a visit to Greta Bridge in 2007, and wrote to him. Now I can understand that he did not reply – my genealogy was totally confused.

I have now managed to unpick some of the Anderson family tree. Doug's great uncle Mark (1848-1911) had eight children and was married to Mary Alsop.

I'm also researching Watson families and have sent you an entertaining and informative report in the *Teesdale Mercury* of the marriage in 1914 of Helen Watson, eldest daughter of Richard Watson and Emily Clara Barker, of Greta Bridge Farm.

I am struggling with the descendants of Richard's brother Henry, who married Emily's sister Hannah Barker. One of her twins, William, born at Winston in 1881, was a farm manager in 1911 at Stone Cross, Marwood Farm, working for a widow called Margaret Turnbull. He was 29 and single at the time.

He was married by 1936, when he was at his brother Roy's wedding. (Roy and his wife Greta Down were well known in the area – Roy was mayor of Barnard Castle more than once).

My problem is tracking down William's wedding. You may well imagine how difficult it is to find the marriage between 1911 and 1936 and his

letters & emails

death between 1939 and say 1981 – there are so many with the name William Watson in the area.

He was still "of Marwood" in 1939. Would any reader know anything about this William?

DANI MILES
Havant, Hampshire

● *The history group has an extensive data base of weddings in Teesdale between 1837 and 1938, from which we were able to identify three bridegrooms called William Watson between 1911 and 1936.*

One, in 1915, married a Margaret Turnbull, which suggests that he's the one Dani is searching for and that he married his employer. We told Dani, who's chasing it up ("Thank you for breaking down a brick wall," she replied).

She also suggested we print the 1914 wedding report "which I suggest will be of use to quite a few of your readers". We agreed: see opposite. – Ed.

Lottery may fund web aid

THE County Durham History and Heritage Forum is very aware that many local history groups face problems with membership, finance and attendance at meetings and are holding a series of regional meetings to try and find out how we can help.

One possible solution may be a website, and we are considering a lottery funding bid to provide history groups with a template for their website, plus help to set it up and training to maintain it. If you already have a website, it can all be uploaded into the new one, which would give links to the Forum website and to other members of the group, providing a mutual support network.

SARAH HILLIER, History & Heritage Forum

● *We've told the Forum we're interested. – Ed.*

I come from a long line of Englands

I'VE just picked up *Archive 46* and seen the article about Janet Baker searching for information about the England family.

I am descended from a long line of Englands who originate from the Bolton Abbey/ Addingham area. My great-great grandfather John England married a local girl, Phoebe Widdop.

It may only be coincidence as each England had a large family but I wonder if Janet Barker knows her grandfather's ancestors.

I have contributed to the Wharfegeen website run by Nic Wilson from Sheffield University which tracks families with Wharfedale origins. I haven't used it for a while but will check it to see if Tom England from Wakefield features.

If you'd like to pass my email address on to Janet I would be happy to discuss England/Widdops with her.

LINDA SHERWOOD
Gayles.

● *We've put Janet and Linda in touch. – Ed.*



to drive the grinding operation.

The farm stands some 30 feet above and more than 300 feet from Nor Beck on its north side, and there is no evidence of a mill race on its south side.

Windmills are not that common in the North-East and tend to be recorded as they require a specific structure. This led me to consider that the ruined area of the Mill Hill yard had once been a gin gang (from gin, short for engine, and gang for going).

Also known as a wheel-house, roundhouse or horse-engine house, a gin gang was a structure built to enclose a horse mill, usually circular but sometimes square or octagonal, attached to a threshing barn. Most were built in England in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The threshing barn held a small threshing machine which was connected to the gin gang via wooden gears and drive shafts, powered by a horse which walked round and round inside the gin gang.

Why a mill should be located at Mill Hill, rather than being attached to an existing established farm to be able to share services, is debatable.

The fold yard is on the north side of the buildings and on the ground plan I have included a gin gang in the west corner. Whilst no building actually

Mill Hill today

exists today, the shape and outline of a square building with an entrance arch is discernible.

High on the wall of the barn is an opening which would allow a drive shaft to enter the barn to drive a threshing machine. The shaft would be connected to a cog gear sitting on the crown wheel which was turned by two or three ponies.

The buildings looking from west to east show a single storey A-frame roofed barn with a two-storey building attached.

The beams in the west barn suggest that this is the earliest building: they are composed of hedgerow timber and not dressed in any way. The construction is simple A-frame.

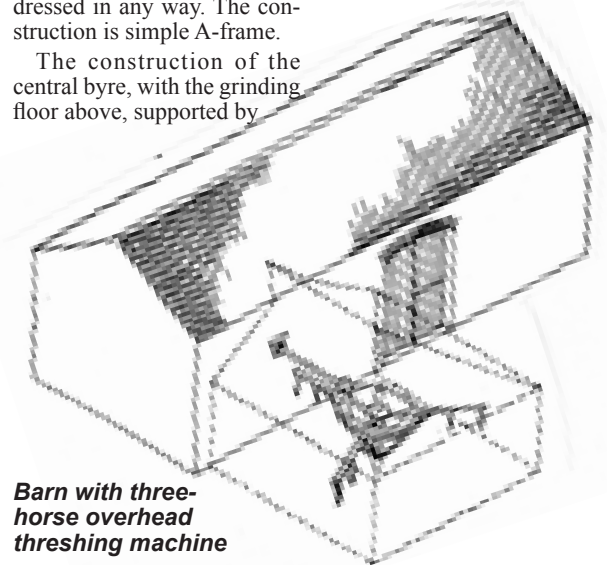
The construction of the central byre, with the grinding floor above, supported by

tree trunks and cross beams, suggests that it was built later than the west barn, as it has semi-dressed king post beams. Dressed king post beams appear in the living accommodation.

The upper floor of the two-storey building has been constructed over the byre, and was used a milling floor: there still remain a winnowing machine and a large butter churn for coating seeds with mercury dust.

The lower floor retains its mangers and feeding troughs.

Both walls of the west barn have narrow ventilation windows suggesting there was



Barn with three-horse overhead threshing machine

Unravelling the mysteries of Mill Hill

JOHN HAY intrigued us at the last history group meeting with his research into a long-deserted homestead with a confusing name.

MILL Hill lies north-east of Barningham and is reached by footpath through Barningham House Farm. Both are Milbank Estate farms.

Mill Hill today is a sorry cluster of ruined stone buildings and modern sheds and used only for storage, but in the 19th century it was a separate dwelling occupied by farm workers, and from long before that it seems to have been the site of some kind of mill or another.

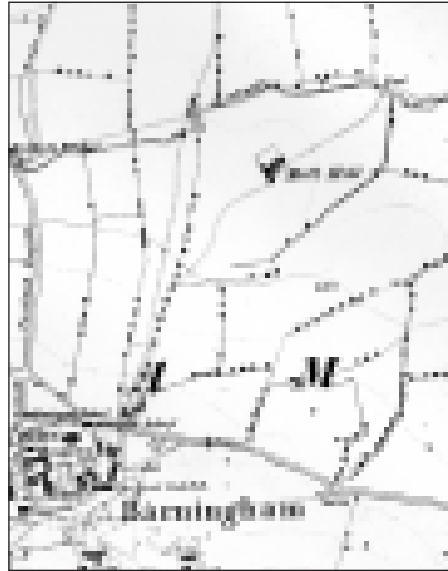
Merryne Watson, author of the history of Barningham *As Time Passed By*, was convinced that there was "a mill at Barningham in operation as far back as the beginning of the 14th century", though he didn't explain his evidence for this, and suggested that it ceased operating around 1690 when the first major enclosures took place.

He believed there was a water mill on the Nor Beck, north of Mill Hill. Its tail race – the man-made stream leading diverted water from the mill back to the beck – was, he said, still "very clear", though there appears to be no sign of it today.

As far back as 1690 fields were recorded with the names Mill Mire and Mill Paddock, and in 1726 a survey of the Barningham, carried out by John Nesham for Mark Milbank, listed Mill Hill, tenanted by John Fryer of Hawsteads. There was, however, no mention of any actual mill or farm buildings.

In 1800, a map of Milbank land recorded that the field was tenanted by John Marley and shows Mill Hill as one building (a barn?) with an adjoining foldyard to the north.

The tithe map of 1830, when Eleanor Muncaster was the tenant, shows a building outline similar to that of the Ordnance Survey map of 1892 on which I have based the ground plan shown on this page. None



Mill Hill as it appears on the 1857 Ordnance Survey map and, below, the layout of the buildings in 1892



of the 19th century trade directories mention a farm at Mill Hill, though they list all the others in the area.

This leads me to the conclusion that for about a century

after 1700 there was no mill at Mill Hill.

However, I believe milling there was revived in the late 18th or early 19th century, using either wind or horse power

Oh, no – not another silver cruet set!

IT seems to be the norm these days for wedding guests to be asked for donations of gift vouchers, cheques or just hard cash towards the cost of the honeymoon.

The days when bride and groom welcomed sensible wedding presents of household items for their new home appear to be vanishing fast.

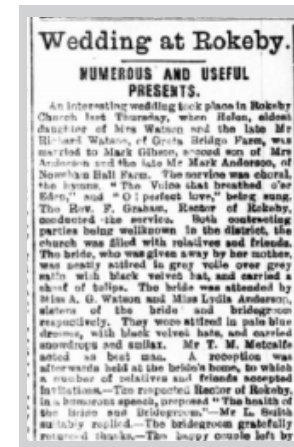
One reason is probably that most couples who make their way up the aisle these days have already lived together, bought all the domestic goods they need and even started a family before getting round to tying the knot.

It was all very different a century ago, when no wedding was complete without a mountain of donated dinner services, cutlery sets, silver cruets, embroidered cushions, barometers, inkstands, ashtrays, rose bowls, ornamental vases and everything else that the guests thought the bridal pair couldn't possibly live without.

Dani Miles, a history group member living in Hampshire (see her letter opposite), sent us an example: a wedding report from the *Teesdale Mercury* of February 25th 1914.

"Entertaining and informative," she told us. "There were nearly 100 numerous and useful presents described with the appropriate guest. I suggest you print it in full as the local names are of interest. The description of the bride's outfit is also worth reading!"

We agreed. Here's the report – count how many cruets, candlesticks, dinner services and barometers they ended up with!



AN interesting wedding took place in Rokeby Church last Thursday, when Helen, eldest daughter of Mrs Watson and the late Mr Richard Watson, of Greta Bridge Farm, was married to Mark Gibson, second son of Mrs Anderson and the late Mr Mark Anderson, of Newsham Hall Farm. The service was choral, the hymns, 'The Voice that breathed o'er Eden,' and 'O! perfect love,' being sung. The Rev. F. Graham, Rector of Rokeby, conducted the service. Both outstanding parties being wellknown in the district, the church was filled with relatives and friends. The bride, who was given away by her mother, was neatly attired in grey voile over grey satin with black velvet hat, and carried a sheaf of tulips. The bride was attended by Miss A. G. Watson and Miss Lydia Anderson, sisters of the bride and bridegroom respectively. They were attired in pale blue dresses, with black velvet hats, and carried snowdrops and smilax. Mr T. M. Metcalfe acted as best man. A reception was afterwards held at the bride's home, to which a number of relatives and friends accepted invitations. The respected Rector of Rokeby, in a humorous speech, proposed "The health of the bride and bridegroom". Mr L. Smith suitably replied.

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The happy couple left by motor-car for Darlington, en route for York, where the honeymoon is being spent. The bride's going-away dress was a navy blue costume, with black hat and furs. The motor-cars were supplied by Mr Louis Smith, of the garage, Barnard Castle.

In the evening a large number of young people accepted invitations to a dance, and the festivities were carried on till the small hours of Friday morning.

Presents included: Bride to bridegroom: easy chair. Bridegroom to bride: oak clock. Bridegroom to bridesmaids: gold bangle and silver tea spoons. Bride's mother: household linen. Bridegroom's mother: cheque.

Mrs Watson: household utensils. Miss C Watson: dinner knives. Mr Watson: silver candlesticks. Mr H Watson: brushes. Miss Olive and Winnie Watson: chamber service.

Mr and Mrs J Anderson, Barningham: silver tea service. Miss L and A Anderson: brass coal vase. Mr A Anderson: pan and steamer. Mr F Anderson: tumblers and jig. Mr and Mrs Bell-Irving: silver cruet and Witch in the Moon [what on earth was that? -Ed]. Mrs Bentham: handbag and pin cushion.

Mr and Mrs H Watson and family: china tea service. Mr and Mrs Dowson: dinner service. Mr and Mrs J Errington: silver hot water jug. Mr F Errington: silver cruet. Misses Jenny, Barbara and Alice Errington: worked

Museum seeks Roll of Honour help

WE are writing to you as part of the team working on 'To Serve King and Country' – the Bowes Museum's First World War Commemoration Project. You will find more information on the website thebowesmuseumww1.org.uk.

One of the aims of the project is to create a Roll of Honour, honouring the men and women from the dales who served their country during the Great War.

Through the project, we aim to encourage members of communities throughout Teesdale to give us information about family members who served in the war and

letters & emails

about how the war affected their families and communities. We want to bring information about the project into the community and offer people an opportunity to volunteer memories, artefacts and photographs (to be copied).

Please be assured that we will not collect items but only want to record them; all artefacts and photographs will be returned to their owners.

We would like to attend as many community events as possible over this summer, so as to promote the project and the opportunities available to

members of your community in participating. We would be grateful if you would pass on our details to anyone you think would be interested.

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions or would like more information.

RUPERT PHILBRICK
Community Co-ordinator
JUDITH PHILLIPS
Research Advisor
Bowes Museum

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wedding gifts

cushion. Miss Mary Dowson: worked bag. Mr B Watson: inlaid tray. Mr and Mrs R Watson: flower stand. Mrs Buckle: blankets. Mr and Mrs G Barker: copper kettle. Mr and Mrs S Barker: brass coal vase. Mrs Barker and family, Scruton: silver salts. Miss P Barker: water colour picture. Mr W P Barker: brass brush.

Mr and Mrs Sowerby: curtains. Miss A Watson: silver pickle fork. Mr and Mrs J Anderson, Brignal: table cover and pipe rack. Miss R Morton: cushion. Mrs I Ward: bandworked duchess set. Mr Harwood: silver tea knives. Mr H Atkinson: pipe rack. Mrs G Atkinson: silver egg stand.

Miss W Errington: vase. Mr W Errington jr: inkstand. Mr and Mrs F Clitheroe: table cloth. Mr and Mrs A Nicholson: oak table. Miss Sherwood: silver salts. Nurse Ingle: half-dozen tea spoons. Mr and Mrs Bowzler: half-dozen dessert spoons. Mr and Mrs Metcalfe and family, Foxberry: black curb and fire irons. Mr and Mrs Leatherbarrow: half-dozen dessert spoons and forks. Mr and Mrs Pearson: tea

knives. Mr and Mrs Raine: dinner mats. Mrs Martin and niece: jam dish. Mr and Mrs Bulmer: vases. Miss Bulmer: cushion cover. Mr J Dowson: brass plant vase. Mr H Dowson: pair of pictures. Mr and Mrs Catterall: pictures. Mr and Mrs Jackson: cake stand. Miss Wilkinson: tray cloths. Miss Amos: pictures. Mrs Johnson: bread board and knife.

Mrs Brunskill: hem-stitched sheets. Mrs Bulmer: towels. Mr and Mrs Dobbin: jam dish. Mr and Mrs Plews: table cloth. Miss Wood: pen-painted table centre. Mr Scarth: barometer. Mr and Mrs T Anderson: eiderdown. Mr F M Metcalfe: barometer.

Mr and Mrs Alsop and family: pictures. Mrs Anderson: table cloth. Mr and Mrs Lodge: breakfast cruet. Mr and Mrs Allen: cart ropes (?). Mr and Mrs Ogden: fruit deluxe. Mr and Mrs G Ogden: carved oak table. Mr J W Watson: biscuit barrel. Mr and Mrs R Green: tango vases. Miss K Johnson: photo

frame. Mrs Hutchinson: rose bowl. Rob and Jim: work basket. Mr Howard: counterpane. Rev F Graham: fruit salad bowl.

Mr and Mrs J Atkinson: double jam dish. Dr and Mrs Piercy: teapot and stand and silver vases. Mr and Mrs Swinbank, Barnard Castle: blankets. Mr and Mrs James Ward: lamp. Miss R and M Ward: handkerchiefs. Miss Hind: photo frame. Miss Rowe: silver candlesticks.

Mr and Mrs Martin: table cloth. Mrs Jamieson: glass jug and tumblers and dish. Mrs Gay: brass candlesticks. Messrs J and C Ward: set of carvers. Richard and James: satin pin cushion. Mrs and Mrs Wilkinson and family: silver cake dish. Mrs Weston: hot water can. Mr and Mrs Walker: copper kettle. Mr and Mrs Nicholson, Barningham: breakfast cruet. Miss Raitlon: towels. Mr and Mrs J Swinbank: chair back covers. Mrs J Metcalfe: table cover. Mr and Mrs Lowes: serviettes and walking stick. Mrs Fryer: butter dish.

Mystery of the missing money box

in the courts

JOHN Gibson and George Martin were two very worried men when they arrived in Leeds for the Summer Assizes on Monday July 26th 1819.

Gibson, a Barnard Castle shopkeeper, was worried because a few months earlier he'd filled a box with bank tokens worth £66 (at least £3,000 in today's money), sealed it securely, and sent it off to his family's store in London.

It got as far as the coach office at Greta Bridge, where it was due to be transferred to the Glasgow to London mail coach. And then it vanished.

Martin was worried because not only was he landlord of the Morritt's Arms at Greta Bridge where the transfer was supposed to take place, but he was also one of the coach proprietors – and he was being sued by Gibson, who wanted compensation for the missing money.

Barnard Castle postman Robert Davies gave evidence that he had taken the box to Greta Bridge, and Martin did not dispute this: indeed, he admitted receiving it and putting it on the list of items to go to London.

Miss Raynor, book-keeper at the Greta Bridge office, said she had booked the parcel and it was put into the coach, on an inside seat.

After that its whereabouts were a mystery. Nobody knew whether it was stolen from the coach before it set off, whether it was taken from the coach during its journey south, or whether it disappeared when it reached the capital. The only thing certain was that it never arrived the shop in London. Gibson argued that the coach company in general and Martin

this, but Gibson declined to pay extra.

Martin's counsel said the case should be dismissed, and the jury agreed. Gibson went home to lick his wounds, Martin back to his inn to celebrate.

No trace was ever found of the box or its contents.

There was no local police force in those days, so no one bothered to find the coach driver, passengers or visitors to the Morritt Arms to ask what they saw, if anything, on the day the box vanished.

Who took it? The case is still open.

Outrage when innkeeper was given the postmaster's job

GEORGE Martin was in the news again in 1837 when he was appointed postmaster for Greta Bridge.

He had left the Morritt Arms in 1826 after 12 years as its landlord, and set up a new inn called the New George half a mile away at what is now Thorpe Farm. He took with him the Glasgow to London coach service (and as a result, it's almost certainly there that Dickens spent his only night in the area when researching for *Nicholas Nickleby*).

Martin's appointment as postmaster eleven years later provoked local protests backed by the *Durham Advertiser*, which was outraged by what it claimed to be politically-motivated "jobbery".

The Whig government, it said, had ignored a petition "most numerous and respectfully signed by all persons

most interested in the delivery of letters at Greta Bridge" and "moved the office from that hamlet, where the Post-Office had been kept since posts were first established, to a lone house, inconveniently situated for the public, and in another parish."

Martin got the job, it claimed, because his inn was owned by a Whig-supporting colonel who "through his influence with a certain noble duke" had become MP for "one of his rotten boroughs".

We think the colonel was Col Sheldon Cradock of Hartforth, a political opponent of the pro-Tory Morritt family; we're not certain about the identity of the "noble duke". It does make us wonder whether politics was also behind Martin's decision (and resources) to set up a rival inn to the Morritt Arms in 1826.

His New George lasted only until the 1840s.