

from the parish mag

125 YEARS AGO: To meet Church expenses and to pay off the debt of £12 with which the year began, we have arranged to have collections every Sunday. This will enable our congregation to give more frequently. Of course there are people in most parishes who do not like and indeed almost resent being asked to give anything, and think it is the duty of those better off than themselves to pay everything for them. I hope no such feeling can be found in our congregation.

~ August 1890

100 YEARS AGO: A most successful Concert and Dramatic Entertainment given in the Barningham Schools resulted in the handsome sum of £10 7s for the Red Cross Society and the Young Men's Christian Association to provide reading rooms, etc, for the soldiers in camp. The national anthems of England, France, Russia and Belgium were enjoyed, and united up to the highest point of loyalty and enthusiasm those present. The Entertainment was acknowledged to have been the best Barningham people have ever attended.

~ August 1915

90 YEARS AGO: The price of admission to the Garden Fete to be held in the Park will be one shilling, and programmes will be sold at three-pence each. Cockfield Band has been engaged and there will be the usual Sports, Stalls and Sideshows.

~ August 1925

80 YEARS AGO: A memorandum which has the authority of the Bishop and of the Chancellor of the Diocese includes the following recommendations regarding tombstones: The material of

SCALA PICTURE HOUSE**CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE**

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THE HOUSE FOR QUALITY PICTURES

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Ad from August 1925

a monument should be British and executed by British workmanship, and if possible be the production of the locality. Polished stone, foreign marble, artificial flowers, granite chips should be discouraged.

~ September 1935

65 YEARS AGO: A party of scholars, parents and friends left Scargill for the annual educational outing to the Hartlepoons. There were visits to the Museum and Art Gallery, followed by half an hour for shopping. We then walked to the lighthouse. Tea was provided at Seaton Carew.

~ August 1950

25 YEARS AGO: Hearty congratulations to Mr Michael Heywood who was 90 years old on Friday. "Mr Maestro" has been playing for church services for a staggering 82 years! May he long continue.

~ September 1990

20 YEARS AGO: This summer has continued the hottest and longest for many years. Those with youngsters have been especially thankful. But it isn't possible to please everyone. The ground is parched, which means farmers aren't able to have their full quota of hay.

~ September 1995

Come along to our sixth birthday AGM

THE history group's next 'formal' meeting is on Tuesday October 13th – please note the change of date.

It will kick off at 6pm with the customary brief annual general meeting (we're six years old in October), when among other things we'll be electing group officers for the following year. We anticipate one or two changes and your input would be very welcome.

That will be followed by an ordinary meeting with the usual mixture of what's been happening and what's coming up. Hope to see you there.

History talks in the autumn

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

First off, on Friday October 9th, is a talk on 'Home Comforts', the role of North Yorkshire auxiliary hospitals in the first world war by Anne Wall and Eileen Brerton, authors of a book on the subject.

On Friday November 13th Jane Sammells and Rebecca Atkinson will be dressing up in Tudor clothes and bringing along Tudor food to illustrate daily life for housewives in Elizabethan days.

Meetings start at 7.30pm: bar open before and afterwards.

A lot too much?

AN 1857 mortgage document for Dyson House, Smallways, was put up for sale on eBay in June, with a starting price of £29.99. It hasn't sold yet.



Archive 48

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



INSIDE: DUCAL HEIR'S DRUGS AND DUELLING DOWNFALL



Summer's over for these Barningham youngsters in 1911, and it's back to school. They weren't very happy about it, and only one of the 37 children who gathered for the annual photograph -- the girl in the middle of the third row back -- managed to raise even the faintest smile for the camera.

Picture from Neil Turner's collection.

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NEXT MEETINGS : SEPT 15 TRIP / OCT 13 AGM: DETAILS INSIDE

Barningham Local History Group

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

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Don't forget your award entries

DEADLINE for this year's Archive Awards, presented by Barningham Local History Group for the best local history projects, is Saturday August 29th.

This year we've got extra prizes for young entrants and we're urging parents to get their offspring working on a project during the long summer holiday. Entries can be in any format and are judged on originality, research, local interest and readability.

Entries should be delivered to history group chairman Phil Hunt. Winners will be announced at Barningham Show on Sunday September 6th. Winning submissions may be printed in the *Archive*.



Coming up: autumn trip to Richmond's museum

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

We have arranged to visit the museum on the evening of Tuesday 15th September. It will be open from 6pm for us to have a look around, and at 7pm Mike Wood, former chairman and current honorary director, will talk about Richmond's history. The charge is £5 per person and will include refreshments.

The museum, in Ryder's Wynd, was opened in 1974. The building appears small on the outside but is a veritable 'Tardis' once entered. There is a wide range of items on display with the emphasis on local and social history. Displays include artefacts from the Stone Age to the present day, a cruck house

from Ravensworth, lead-mining in the Dales, toys through the ages, a transport gallery with a model of Richmond Station, reconstructions of Grinton Post Office, Barker's chemist shop from Catterick, the Herriot Set from the film *All Creatures Great and Small* and Fenwick's grocers and chandlers shop, a reconstruction of the original shop in Frenchgate in the town.

A new Discovery Centre is an interactive educational resource which includes a public gallery exploring life in Richmond Market Place in 1870.

● If you are interested in coming please contact Ann Orton on 01833 621024 or email her at ann.orton@hotmail.co.uk.



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

Full index of contents on our website

So whatever happened to Whale?

ARCHIVE 35 featured an 1804 map of our area which was remarkable for its inaccuracies, not the least of which, we said, was showing a place called Whale between Scargill and Rutherford Bridge.

We thought it was a misspelling of Thwaite (which wasn't shown) but it seems we were wrong.

John Hay (well in the running for the title of most prolific contributor to this issue of the *Archive*) recently came across an earlier map at the Northallerton records office, and that one, dating from 1771 and drawn up by royal cartographer Thomas Jeffries, shows both Whale and Thwaite.

Whale is marked as a small collection of buildings on Moor Lane, a track running



John Hay's sketch of the 1771 map showing Whale

south of and parallel to the road from Scargill to Thwaite, at the junction with the track

leading to High Swinston and Gutters farms. There's no sign of Whale on even the earliest Ordnance Survey map and certainly there's no hint of former buildings at the site today, so it looks as if it vanished sometime early in the 19th century.

John is intrigued. "How can a hamlet like that just disappear?" he asks. "And why was it called Whale?"

James Johnson's *Place Names of England and Wales*, our bible on these matters, suggests Whale could derive from the Old Norse *hwall*, a hill, or the name of a Viking settler.

There's a Whale village and a Whale Moor near Lowther in Cumbria, but nothing round here.

Anyone got any ideas about this Whale of a mystery?

Free drinks all round to celebrate royal visit

From the Leeds Mercury, September 21st 1822:

HIS Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, accompanied by the Earl of Darlington and family in two carriages, took an airing from Raby Castle over Winstone Bridge, through Wickliffe, to Greta Bridge, and over Rokeby Bridge to Barnard Castle, where the inhabitants honoured his Royal Highness with every token of approbation and welcome.

The bells were rung, and the Earl gave £50 to the publicans of the town to regale the populace, and the evening was spent with great conviviality.

Greys at the Morritt

From the York Herald, May 11th 1844:

THAT fine and noble-looking regiment the Scots' Greys passed through Greta Bridge en-route to Glasgow. Fifty

Wife's vain battle to stop man cutting his throat

From the Teesdale Mercury, May 24th 1911:

YESTERDAY afternoon, about two o'clock, a tragic affair was enacted at the unusually quiet village of Barningham, when William Blades, a labourer working on the estate, cut his throat in his own house. Deceased had previously been

in an asylum, but had been working fairly regularly of late.

His wife tried to prevent him, but he had evidently overpowered her, and succeeded in committing the rash and fatal act. The poor fellow's wounds received prompt attention, but he succumbed on the way to the Barnard Castle Workmen's Infirmary.

Deceased was a man of about fifty years of age, and was esteemed by the inhabitants of the village as, when in his usual health, he was of a kindly and inoffensive disposition.

cuttings

soldiers, with their horses, were accommodated a night at Mr Harrison's, the Morritt's Arms Inn.

Visitors to village

From the Teesdale Mercury, July 25th 1883:

THE beautiful village of Barningham is becoming quite a health resort, which it well deserves to be. Only its distance from a railway line prevents it being fully crowded with visitors during the season.



Over the hills to the Sleil Gill mine

THIRTEEN members and guests set forth on a warm and sunny evening with our guide Robert White, a Senior Historic Environment Officer with the Yorkshire Dales National Parks Authority.

We met at Langthwaite and our first stop was at the old wagon which has been placed opposite the CB Inn as a memorial to the miners.

We then set off along Arkle Beck, where Robert pointed out the old wagon rails that are now sometimes used as fence posts. According to a tract written in about 1820 "The inhabitants of Arkengarthdale are principally miners, and Arkengarthdale possesses one of the most productive fields of lead ore, worked at the present day, and a smelting mill the most complete and extensive in the country. Population, 1512."

This became apparent as Robert took us up Sleil Gill and on to Sleil House. He showed us the "hushes" and explained

History group members spent a sunny summer evening touring local lead mines.
ANN ORTON reports.

lead mining

how rocks and soil would be used to block the becks. When enough water was collected the dam would be burst and the water would race down the hillside, taking away all the loose rocks and vegetation. This would reveal the lead vein which could then be mined from the surface.

These hushes are very much a feature of the landscape in the dales. Mining took place underground as well, and we saw many levels where tunnels had been dug to find the deeper ore.

These were constructed to go uphill so that water could drain away: a tunnel could quickly flood. This also helped with the removal of the lead and the spoil as the wagons would be travelling downhill on their

way out. He also showed us sites that had been used as dressing floors where the lead ore was separated from the other minerals.

The following details how the ore was recovered from the "bouse" and prepared ready for smelting:

"The bouse was sorted by hand by boys, often as young as 10 years old, women and older men. This involved sorting out the lumps of pure galena (ore), which was separated, and dead rock containing no ore, which was discarded on a nearby spoil heap. The remainder of the material contained some ore but needed to be cleaned up before smelting by knocking off lumps with a spalling hammer.

"Once a pile of pure galena was produced the lumps needed to be reduced in size to about the size of peas. Initially this was done by hand using a heavy flat hammer called a Bucker, but was later mecha-

STOLEN,
From Bowes, near Harrogate,
A Scotch, grey MARE, about 14
Hands high, full aged, a Silver Mane and Tail,
a chancy face, rather long in the snout, dappled on
her shoulders and buttocks, goes wide before, and
throws out her feet, her Tail tick'd, and when the
motes carries it in the far side. She was taken out of
the Stable on Wednesday Night, the 30th ult. Who-
ever can give an Account of her, so as the may be find-
ing in, to Mr William Kipling of Bowes, shall receive
a Generous Reward.

From the Newcastle Chronicle of January 16th 1768

Kay Jackson of Lartington, gentleman, to pay their share of costs in a suit concerning Bowes tithes against Cornelius Harrison and others.

Richard, of Under Kilmond farm, died in 1773. In his will he left the property called Watson's Ground, which he had inherited from his father, to his nephew William as well as small legacies to his female relatives.

William had four sons: William (date and place of birth unknown), Thomas (1745), Robert (1748) and Richard (1756). William and Richard were cattle drovers like their father and grandfather; Thomas went to Sedburgh School and then to St John's College, Cambridge; Robert was apprenticed in London.

In 1774, William and his sons William and Thomas bought property in Lartington from Thomas Kay Jackson, master and mariner, whom William's daughter Margaret had married in 1771.

In 1776, son William married Mary Brunsell, the second daughter of Philip Brunsell Esq of Bowes Hall.

William died in 1777 and widow Margaret in 1779. Both were recorded as 'Mr' or 'Mrs' indicating their high stand-

kiplings

ing in the parish. In his will, William bequeathed land and property in Bowes to his four sons and to unmarried daughter Hannah.

Following widow Margaret's death, the family house was rapidly put up for sale.

This appears to have been because sons William and Richard had been declared bankrupt earlier that year. They were at the time living at Brompton-upon-Swale. Other property William and Richard had inherited was also put up for sale around the same time. The properties did not sell immediately and were still being advertised for sale in 1784.

Richard Kipling then married Mary Barnett at Kirby Stephen in 1784 and they had a son Thomas there in 1787. They moved to Hartlepool where further children were born. In a trade directory of 1791, Richard is shown as a Custom-house Officer.

All four of Richard's sons became London haberdashers, one becoming master of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers in 1856.

William's fate is unknown. His wife Mary's sister, Anne Brunsell, had married Cor-

nelius Harrison Esq of Stub House, Winston, Co Durham in 1766. According to great-nephew Plantagenet Harrison, the author of *The History of Richmondshire*, Mary Kipling became the mistress of Cornelius after her sister's death in 1784 and was one of the main benefactors in Cornelius' will when he died in 1806, having largely disinherited Plantagenet Harrison's father. The author may of course not be unbiased in his comments!

Mary Kipling, widow, died in 1809 and was buried at Bowes, dividing her estate between her nephews and nieces on the Harrison side.

Third brother Thomas was First Wrangler in the mathematical tripos (the top mathematics student of his year) at Cambridge in 1768, was elected as a fellow of St John's College in 1769, and awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1784.

In 1784 he became vicar of Holme-on-Spalding-Moor. He additionally became Dean of Peterborough in 1798, allegedly as a reward for support for the Tories, having earlier failed to be elected to the Lady Margaret professorship at Cambridge due to his orthodox religious and political views.

His main publication was the *Codex Theodori Bezae Cantabrigiensis* (1793), a facsimile version of a 5th century Greek and Latin text of the New Testament.

The book was unfortunately marred by some basic linguistic errors in the Latin preface which led to his enemies calling it a "disgrace to a literary society" and coining the term "a Kiplingism" to mean a grammatical error. Richard Porson of Trinity College wrote "To

Drovers, chandlers and a wrangler

THE main Kipling family in Bowes for much of the 18th century was that founded by Thomas Kipling, son of William Kipling and Margaret Layd-man, baptised at Bowes in 1682.

Thomas married Hannah Wharton at Bowes in 1703 and they had at least eleven children, from Ann in 1704 to Elizabeth in 1727.

Thomas was a prosperous cattle drover and was one of the prominent Bowes citizens who in 1744 paid for a gallery and staircase to be built in Bowes church to provide additional pews for themselves.

Bowes was at that time on two important cattle driving routes from Scotland; one following the Roman road over Stainmore and the other traversing from north to south across God's Bridge.

Thomas had acquired various properties in Bowes, including the Low Closes as early as 1704. In his will of 1753, he left these properties to his sons Richard and William. He also left his unmarried daughter Elizabeth £140 (a large sum in those days) and gave £20 to each of his married daughters Margaret Thompson, Mary Thompson, Hannah Richardson and Sarah Thompson.

A chest tomb in Bowes churchyard records not only

kiplings

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

the death of Thomas and Hannah but also those of four sons:

"Here lies the body of Thomas KIPLING who died 9 July 1753 aged 73. Charles son of Thomas Kipling died 6 July 1735 aged 19. John son of Thomas KIPLING died 19 March 1747 aged 20. Hannah wife of Thomas KIPLING died 20 July 1754 aged 72. Richard KIPLING died ye 28 April 1773 aged 62. William KIPLING died ye 26 Sep 1777 aged 69. Margaret wife of William KIPLING died ye 13 May 1779 aged 75."

Son William was also a drover and was described as a gentleman at the time of his marriage to Margaret Carter of Brompton at Easby in 1743. Son Richard appears never to have wed.

At the North Riding quarter session at Guisborough in 1750, William and two other jointly placed £100 surety, to be forfeit if they did not "in all things observe and obey the several Acts of Parliament relating to the distemper amongst the horned cattle".

Richard was a churchwarden at Bowes in 1754-55. In



Silhouette of Dr Thomas Kipling

1757, William was one of the trustees in bankruptcy of John Raylton, innkeeper of the George Inn at Bowes. In 1768, he was the victim of horse theft – see the cutting on the opposite page.

In 1774, William lost a long-running legal case against the Corporation of Carlisle who had imposed a toll on cattle bought in Cumberland and transported outside the county.

In 1775, William, along with 22 others, placed a bond with Henry Bourne and Thomas

In the Name of God Amen I Thomas Kipling of Bowes in the County of York Esq. do make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following (vizt) I give bequeath and devise unto my son Richard Kipling all my freehold lands and tenements which I bought of Mr Christopher Wilkinson called Wolfen Arfo-

Thomas Kipling's will, drawn up in 1753.

lead mining

nised by the use of crushing wheels (essentially a giant mangle), powered by water.

Finally the small lumps of ore were sieved in water. This allowed the heavy particles to settle to the bottom and lighter waste particles to remain at the top to be scraped away and discarded.

Later this was done more efficiently using Hotching Tubs – a large tub effectively sieving larger quantities of ore by jiggling the sieve up and down using a lever.

Once the pure ore was reduced to a suitable size it was transported to the nearest Smelt Mill which served a number of mines in the area.

The view from Sleil Gill over Arkengarthdale and Swaledale is amazing. Today we enjoy the wonderful vistas but back in the 19th century the whole of the dale would have been an industrial landscape, very different to what we see now and, of course, much of what we see is a result of the lead mining. Very few plants grow on the old spoil heaps and the becks are still heavily polluted with metals.

Robert showed us the tracks made in an area which the trial bikers use each year and explained the difficulties that the park authority has in balancing the preservation of the landscape with modern living. They are also giving more thought to the possibility of converting some of the field barns for housing in order to preserve them.

We returned to Langthwaite via Booze Low Moor having enjoyed a fascinating walk, the only fly in the ointment being the midges which had attempted to eat us alive!



Above: the view up Fell End Hush.

Right: tour leader Robert White explains the lead mining landscape.

Below: Anthony Milbank investigates the wagon memorial.

Photos by Phil Hunt



lead mining

Exhibition of photos shows mines impact

THE impact of lead mining on the Yorkshire Dales and the work needed to conserve the remains of the industry are being highlighted in a new exhibition of photographs.

The Yoredale offices of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in Bainbridge are playing host to the exhibition, *The Hills Afford Great Store of Lead*, until September 25.

The photos form part of the Yorkshire Dales Historic Environment Record, which records all known archaeological and historical sites and buildings in the area, and they were originally taken as part of conservation work.

The name of the exhibition comes from a quotation by William Camden, one of the first tourists to visit the Dales over 300 years ago in 1695.

Environment officer Robert White, who led the history group lead mining trip, said: "The industry is as important now to landscape as it was then, although perhaps for different reasons. In those days the mines were vital sources of the raw material as well as being centres of employment.

"Lead mining in the Dales virtually stopped in the late 19th century and when the National Park was designated in 1954 the industry was considered an eye-sore that disfigured the natural beauty of the area."

The exhibition is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

There was definitely a mill here... somewhere

JOHN HAY updates his research into local mills

MERRYNE Watson in his book *As Time Passed By* mentions the existence of a water mill in Barningham, although he could not find any record of a mill west of the Nor Beck Bridge despite the existence of fields with the mill reference in their name.

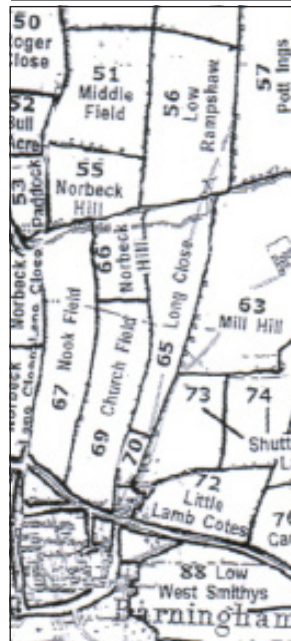
A note in the *Victoria History of the York North Riding* (1904) that there "was a mill in Barningham at the close of the 13th Century" led me to talk to British History Online and then to the Keeper of Muniments at the Library of the Dean & Chapter at Westminster and they do indeed have a document regarding Barningham Mill.

It's the deed of a grant made around 1290, and in Latin, but with their help and the records office in Northallerton, who maintain a complete record of the 1932 *Yorkshire Deeds* by C T Clay, the truncated translation is below:

"Grant by William son of Stephen de Berningham to John Lenvaise and Juliana his wife of all his meadow in Berningham called Northebecleyes, and two marks to be taken yearly for a moiety of his mill of the same, also the services of Hugh the reeve in respect of two bovates of land..."

"In return for the above the grantees grant to William all the lands, tenements, rents and possessions with appurtenances in the village of Sageberge by Gilling. Witnessed by William de Skargille Knt,

barningham mill



Mill site? Fields by Nor Beck

Hugh de Ask Knt, Robertt de Wiclif Knt, John de Herteford, Peter Greuede, Harquill de Clesby, John de Coutona in Caldewelle."

Northebecleyes translates as *Northe Bec leyes* or the meadow by the Nor Beck.

The only two fields that are mentioned in the history group's fields book *Jam Letch and Jingle Pots* as Norbeck are numbers 55 and 66, both Norbeck Hill, to the east of Norbeck Bridge.

These fields span the river and perhaps that is where we should be searching for the mill remains. They are a field away from Mill Hill and I doubt had anything to do with it.



A busy day in Barnard Castle in 1913, and, below, an even busier one in 1962. You can see both scenes come alive by logging on to the new website.



a 1949 vision of small school education in Bishop Auckland; a 1970s documentary about Durham Police cadets; a 1960 Tyne Tees Television documentary *Darlington Railway* featuring folk music and scenes from the industry and the people employed in it;

and Second World War scenes of soldiers barracked in North Yorkshire.

The institute aims to have 10,000 film and TV titles from 1895 to the present day digitised by 2017. The institute's head curator, Robin Baker, said: "Britain on Film is trans-

forming access to films from the UK's archives and giving new life to them."

● To watch the films and relive moving history, log in to player.bfi.org.uk/britain-on-film.

Century-old footage goes online



From the 1913 film: a fisherman tries his luck below the Dairy Bridge at Rokeby



Barnard Castle in 1913: the Buttermarket and, below, thatched houses: whereabouts were they?



A £15m film project has revealed fascinating stories of Yorkshire and North-East communities by digitising movies shot since the start of the last century.

Hundreds of films by professional and amateur footage of vanished landscapes have been made available free online as part of the British Film Institute's *Britain on Film* scheme.

The initiative includes newsreels, advertisements, home movies, forgotten TV shows, and films by government departments dating back to the early 20th century, just a decade after Louis Le Prince filmed the world's first moving images in Yorkshire in 1888.

Among the films released on the institute's website to launch the project is one featuring a tour of Barnard Castle and Greta Bridge, made by pioneering Anglo-American film producer Charles Urban in 1913.

There's also a documentary of the Tees showing Barnard Castle market and life inside the Glaxo factory in 1962 (presented by a very youthful Mike Neville, later the face of BBC North for many years), and footage of an early game fair at Raby Castle in 1971.

Other films include a 1913 silent movie called *A Visit to Whitby*, which shows a man herding a wayward sheep in the old marketplace and traditional fishing cobbles in the harbour; a 1957 movie of acrobatic gymnastics displays and training at ICI Billingham and summer campsites in North Yorkshire;

The rise and fall of duelling Harry

JON SMITH charts the life of Harry Milbank, a dare-devil, duellist and drug addict who threw away the promise of a dukedom

FEW people have been born with a more solid silver spoon in their mouth than William Harry Vane Milbank.

The eldest son of Frederick Acclom Milbank and heir presumptive to the fabulously wealthy Duke of Cleveland, he came into this world on December 29th 1848, "a very fine boy" according to his uncle Augustus Sussex in a diary entry a few days later.

His early life was mapped out appropriately: Eton and then a commission as a cornet (second lieutenant) in the Royal Horse Guards. But once he reached adulthood he veered wildly from the conventional path his father and grand-uncle the duke intended for him.

Over the next two decades he forged an international reputation as an adventurer, womaniser, horseman, gambler, duellist and drug addict, spending his way through a vast fortune. His addiction to morphine wrecked his health, and he died of a haemorrhage in Switzerland at the age of 42.

Friends and admirers described Harry (as he was always known) as a chivalrous man "of great abilities and of a most winning and attrac-

Harry Milbank, pictured in 1876



harry milbank

tive character... brave to a fault." Others decried him as a spendthrift playboy who threw away what could have been a useful life.

Among the latter was his grand-uncle the Duke, who was so exasperated and concerned by his potential heir's profligance and scandalous behaviour that he spent a reputed £1 million in legal fees to ensure that Harry did not inherit his fortune and estates.

Money was a problem for Harry from an early age. Confidently expecting to inherit what friends called "pots of money" when his father and the Duke died, he just couldn't spend it fast enough. In his youth he hosted lavish parties at Barningham, when he would hide £5 notes in the gar-

dens for children to find, and then forget where he'd hidden them. By the time he turned 21 four days after Christmas in 1869 he was in debt to the tune of £30,000 – a colossal amount at the time. Two years later he owed more than £76,000 to creditors including milliners, money-lenders, jewellers and solicitors. Out of patience with his refusal to pay any bills, they forced him into voluntary bankruptcy.

Harry reluctantly paid up, explaining that he had plenty of money, and the promise of much, much more – an income of well over £100,000 a year when his ageing father and grand-uncle died. The judge called it "a case of a young man with splendid expectations".

Harry's second problem was women. Among his many



Exasperated: the Duke of Cleveland

Harry Milbank's family tree



Life and times of a pioneer loco builder

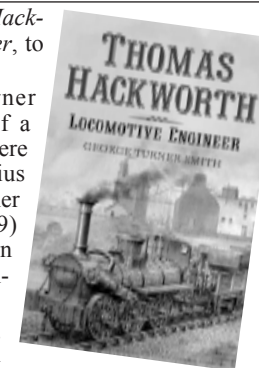
HISTORY group member Jane Hackworth-Young has spent most of the past couple of years researching her ancestor Thomas Hackworth, who built some of the first locomotives to run on the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

The result of her labours can

be seen in a book, *Thomas Hackworth – Locomotive Engineer*, to be published next month.

Written by George Turner Smith, it tells the story of a man whose achievements were largely eclipsed by the genius and fame of his older brother Timothy. The book (£16.99) will be launched at Shildon Railway Museum on September 19th.

If you'd like a signed copy, turn up after 11am or email gsmithbooks@outlook.com.



Archive helps the Echo – and stirs memories

THE *Northern Echo*'s weekly local history supplement, *Echo Memories*, devoted two pages of its July 18th edition to the life and times of Augustus Sussex Milbank.

Much of its information was supplied by *The Archive*, which has featured Sussex on many occasions, notably in Ann Orton's 2012 Archive Award entry (*Archives* 28-30).

Echo historian Chris Lloyd, who's been among our favourite guest speakers, paid tribute to the history group in the article.

A couple of days after its publication, we got a phone call from Loretta Taylor in Darlington. She's a lively 92.

"I saw the mention of the history group and thought I'd get in touch," she said.

"My grandmother had cousins at East Hope and I remember visiting them in the 1930s. My gran was called Binks and the cousins were Anna and Rebecca Alderson.

"I don't suppose anyone remembers them?"

Village lads who answered rector's poetic call to arms

ON the evening of June 21st 1877, Captain Mason of the 15th North Riding of Yorkshire Volunteers rode into Newsham and summoned the youth of the area to a meeting in the infant schoolroom.

"Join us!" urged the soldier. "Every Englishman should know something of soldiering, though he may never be called upon to fight.

"Drill teaches a man to walk and carry himself well. It is very good for health, and teaches precision, obedience, endurance, self-denial, self-

respect, and many other things conducive to manliness and good character. We shall have many a happy hour, while perhaps others are idling, or drinking, or getting into mischief."

Fifteen lads in the audience were inspired to enrol "and we hear of more being about to do so," wrote the Rev George Hales, rector of Barningham, in his parochial magazine report of the captain's visit.

To encourage them, he printed a poem (author unknown) extolling the virtues of being a volunteer. Here it is:

*Come join us, my hearties, and shoulder the rifle
Whate'er it entails, that is but a trifle
In return for the knowledge which drilling will give
To make us defend the dear land where we live.
Then rattle the drums and march all along
Put shoulder to shoulder and ring out the song
Quick step, and the double, firm front and no fear
Is seen on the face of the brave volunteer.*

*There's Barningham, Dalton, Newsham and Gayles
To find us the men for Mason and Hales
We've lasses in plenty to weave us our banners
And lovingly praise us for having the manners
To fight for their sweethearts, should that day appear
When the bugle shall summon our brave volunteer.
Then rally, my boys, to our brave captain's call
We've hearths to defend: a good God for us all.*



Mortal combat with swords, pistols... and sausages

DUELLING – “arranged combats between two individuals with matched weapons in accordance with agreed rules” – emerged in Europe in the late Middle Ages, a spin-off from the medieval code of chivalry.

Based on a code of honour, with the aim not so much of killing one’s opponent as demonstrating a willingness to risk one’s own life to gain satisfaction, duels became especially popular among military officers.

Opponents agreed beforehand what outcome would give satisfaction: it ranged from merely drawing blood, however little, to serious injury or death. Deliberately aiming to miss (to suggest an opponent wasn’t worth killing) was frowned upon and not always a good idea.

Swords and pistols were the most popular weapons, though in 1843 two Frenchmen fought a duel by throwing billiard balls at each other, and in the 1860s a German duellist

chose two pork sausages, one infected with roundworms, and challenged his opponent to eat one.

It’s impossible to know how many duels were fought in Britain, but at least 1,000 were recorded between 1785 and 1845 alone, with at least one in six ending in death. Duelling was declared illegal in Britain in the 1840s and the last known duel in England was fought in 1852, though others involving Englishmen took place abroad until well into the 20th century. The last known duel in France was as recently as 1967.

Famous duellists include Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain and the Russian poet Alexander Pushkin. A handful of women are recorded as having fought what became known as ‘petticoat duels’.

Pistol duelling was an associate event at the 1908 London Olympics. Contestants used wax bullets, protective clothing and a shield.

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

debts was one of £1,000 to a Piccadilly dress shop for clothes supplied to a lady calling herself Mabel Gray. Tall, beautiful and refined, she was actually Annie King, a former West End shopgirl who in the 1860s became a notorious high-class prostitute (the *Times* delicately described her as a “celebrity”) with a succession of wealthy lovers who presented her with what was reputedly the best collection of diamonds in London.

Harry wanted to marry her, and it took strenuous efforts by his horrified father and the Duke – together with a large sum of their money – to buy her off. She died shortly afterwards of TB.

Harry promptly married someone else. His choice was Alice Sidone Bellroche, nee Vandenberg, a woman of unclear origins but “almost legendary beauty” who had become a prominent member of society on both sides of the Channel. The downside was that she had previously been married to the Marquis de Bellroche and was the mother of his two young children. Harry became their stepfather



**Notorious ‘celebrity’:
Mabel Gray**



Harry Vane, pictured in 1861 at the age of 13

harry milbank

and the family set up home in the plush part of Paris.

The marriage horrified Harry’s parents (“a terrible calamity – misery and disgrace for ever” his mother recorded in her diary) and confirmed the Duke of Cleveland’s fear that Harry was not a suitable person to inherit his vast estates in England (among them Raby Castle – his titles included that of Baron Raby – and more than 100,000 acres scattered across ten counties, plus property in London).

In June 1872 the Duke spent more than £1million on legal fees and compensation payments to change his inheritance arrangements; Harry’s father received at least £400,000 as part of the deal, and Harry himself came out of it some £120,000 richer.

The new heir was the Duke’s third cousin once removed, Henry de Vere Vane, who in time became the 9th Baron Barnard and moved into Raby Castle, his descendants’ home ever since.

Harry, meanwhile, devoted himself to the lavish life of



**Legendary beauty:
Alice Bellroche**

an adventurous playboy. His marriage did little to quench his taste for dangerous inter-prise, and his exploits were frequently recorded in the press. The Washington *National Tribune*, for example, described him as a Don Juan whose principle occupation was “to spend money, fight duels and gamble.”

Early on he spent a month in a Russian prison after being shot, captured and accused of spying for Poland; only the intervention of “a very highly-placed personage” saved him from transportation to a Siberian death camp.

On another occasion he

narrowly escaped with his life after being set upon by a band of knife-wielding Lascars at an opium den in Hamburg: he shot two and the rest fled. Harry claimed later that he was trying to defend a girl being dragged into the den “and did what any man would have done” to protect her.

But it was his duels that made the most headlines. He fought at least 20 – some estimates make it as many as 28 – and won every time. Nearly all of them involved women, often other men’s wives.

He fought three duels with pistols in Germany over his relationship with a young Russian countess, successively killing her husband, her brother and her brother-in-law, and being badly wounded himself.

In Austria he fought a duel with daggers; in Paris he mortally wounded Baron Diechstein with a pistol shot; and in 1892, only months before his death, he was facing an opponent on a deserted beach near Ostend.

If he wasn’t duelling himself, he was happy to assist others who were, and on one occasion travelled as far as New York to act as a second for a friend challenged to a duel after being accused of adultery with Mrs Charlotte Drayton, a member of the fabulously wealthy Astor family.

“I was dragged into almost all of the duels against my will,” Harry told a reporter for the Middlesbrough *Daily Gazette* in 1892. “I very deeply regret that three or four of them have resulted fatally. I was dragged into so many affairs which I would much rather have avoided could I have done so honourably.”



Cause of a duel:
Charlotte Drayton

harry milbank

An example, he said, was when he escorted a lady home from a ball and after she had retired to her apartment received a message that she wanted to see him. “I went to what I supposed was her boudoir but found it to be her bedroom, much to my surprise. She at once went into hysterics and of course I had a duel on my hands.” Not everyone believed his version of events.

When he wasn’t duelling, Harry spent most of his time in France. But there were regular visits to his racing stables in England and Germany, trips to Thorp Perrow and Barningham during the hunting and shoot-

ing seasons, and occasional forays further afield. He appears to have retained his position in the army for some time, though rarely being called upon to fulfill any military duties, and there is one report of him having played a part in General Gordon’s Sudan campaigns of the 1880s.

And there were the duels – more than one a year throughout his adult life. “I have a pistol ball in my body, another in my thigh, a sword thrust in my arm, another in my hand, and so on,” he told the *Gazette*. “Yet I have never been killed.”

What did kill him was his drug addiction. He had long experimented with morphia, cocaine and other narcotics, and by 1892 he was seriously ill.

“His health was shattered,” said the *New York Times* in its report of his death on October 24th at the Swiss resort of Davos, where he had gone in a vain attempt to get better. “When, several months ago, he left England it was known to his intimate friends that his case was hopeless.”

Harry’s body was brought back for burial in the churchyard at Well near Thorp Perrow. The stained glass east window of Barningham church was erected in his memory by his father Frederick and brother Powlett.

The death created a new crisis in the Milbank family. Harry had made a will in 1883

Artist stepson found fame

ONE of Harry Milbank’s stepsons, Albert de Belleruche, was an accomplished artist whose friends included Renoir and Toulouse-Lautrec. His works can be seen in museums and galleries across Europe, and there are several in the Bowes Museum, including portraits of Harry Milbank and other Milbank family members. He died in London in 1944.

harry milbank

leaving everything to his wife Alice (he had no children by her), and to his parents’ horror that included the Thorp Perrow estate. This had not been the family’s intention, but came about, as far as anyone could fathom, as a result of a series of solicitors’ errors during complicated negotiations between Sir Frederick and his son back in the 1880s which should have left Thorp to Powlett.

Early in 1893 Harry’s mother Aline wrote to Alice from Barningham, saying that “we are all most deeply grieved to hear that Thorp is left to you and away from Powlett and Freddie” (Powlett’s 11-year-old son, the future third baronet and grandfather of Anthony, the fifth).

It was, wrote Aline, a “bitter grief to Fred in his old age to think that the old family place we all love must pass to strangers.” Perhaps, she suggested gently, Alice might want to forego the inheritance, as the Thorp estate was heavily mortgaged, the house was empty and the property brought in no income. “How would you live there?” she asked. “The price you would get for it would scarcely cover the mortgages and would leave you penniless.”

Alice was invited to Barningham for a family conference to discuss the situation, and eventually she agreed a settlement which restored Thorp to Sir Powlett in 1901.

The estate was subsequently sold and the family moved to Barningham. Alice spent the rest of her life in London, dying there in 1916.

The last duel: pistols at 12 paces on a Belgian beach

HARRY fought his final duel on April 28th 1892, six months before his death.

It took place in Belgium, among sand-dunes on a beach near Ostend to avoid the risk of being seen and arrested (duelling was illegal there, as in most other countries).

Harry’s opponent was a Frenchman, widely reported to be the Duc de Morny, son of one of Napoleon III’s half-brothers, though there were widespread rumours that it was in fact an English aristocrat who wanted to keep his identity secret.

Whoever it was, he had made what the *Yorkshire Gazette* reported to have been “insulting remarks concerning the English” in a public dining-room, which were overheard by Harry.

“He deemed them too offensive to be passed over, and resented them,” said the *Gazette*. The two parties and their seconds agreed that the duel should be fought with pistols, at a distance of twelve paces,

and that both Harry and his opponent could shoot as soon as the order “Fire!” was given.

“Both fired sharply on the word,” the *Gazette* reported. “Mr Milbank was unharmed, but the Frenchman staggered and fell to the ground.

“The surgeon went up to him, and found he had been shot in the thigh, the wound being a dangerous one. It was bandaged by the surgeon, the flow of blood being arrested as well as possible, and he was then carried by his seconds to a boat and taken aboard a small yacht lying in-shore, which set sail and has not since been heard from.

“Mr Milbank returned to Ostend with his friends.”

The duel made headlines across the world, and there was much speculation for weeks afterwards about who Harry’s opponent really was. “One of England’s greatest dukes,” one London columnist announced excitedly, but as far as we can tell his identity was never revealed.



Davos: Harry went there for his health in 1892, but died a few months later.