



VILLAGE VIEWS

Continued from front page

might explain the muddle over Barningham and Birmingham).

Compare it with the postcard above, also in David's collection, which was produced about 40 years later. Granville has appeared, but Fairview, so prominent in the earlier picture, is beginning to disappear behind trees.

What was the small structure at the eastern end of the school playground – the pupils' toilet?

The postcard above was posted from News-ham on August 15th 1933 to a Mrs Strange in Sunderland.

The message: 'Very many thanks for your p.c. I hope you have received the cake by now & that it is alright. What a glorious holiday you have had. The weather here is grand. Last week I went to Romaldkirk to a Garden Fete & Bridge Drive, met a lot of Sunderland people there. Hope to see you soon. Love, Nancy'

OLD RECIPES

A cure for dog bites

FROM Barningham Hall Recipe Book, 1691

To Cure the Biteing of a Mad Dogge

*TAKE of Rue picked from the stalkes 6 ounces
Garlick picked from all the coates 4 ounces.
Of Mithridate or very good treacle 4 ounces of
scrap'd tinn or penter four spoonfuls. Infuse
all these into a pottle of old ale till halfe be
consumed: strain it so that none of the tinn or
penter come through and give nine spoonfuls
to a Man or dogge, apply to the place bitten
some of the herbs you strained. If your doggs
are bitten remove them from the kennell to a
clean place.*

(Mithradite: An antidote to poison; Pottle: A drinking vessel; Penter: Carpenter's Bugle, a herb said to heal cuts; Tinn: Another herb?)

● If you have old recipes, please contact Kay Duggan who is compiling a booklet of them.



The Archive is a regular record of the activities of Barningham Local History Group, including members' research and updates on information in its publications such as the guide to churchyard memorials.

Copies are available to group members and non-members for an annual subscription of £10. Back issues can be purchased for £2 each.

Contact Jon Smith, Tel: 01833 621374, email history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk

See our website www.barninghamvillage.co.uk for more information



Archive 5

ANNALS OF THE BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk



March
MMX

CLOCKMAKER BINKS: WE REVEAL THERE WERE TWO OF THEM – Page



Greetings from... Where???

HEADS must have rolled back in the 1890s when the printer responsible for this postcard got Barningham mixed up with a city 180 miles away.

Some cards like this clearly went on sale before anyone noticed: this one, lent to us by George Alderson of Hill Top, was found in Wales. The picture was taken by the renowned Teesdale photographer Elijah Yeoman, probably around 1895 – the church appears as it was

after restoration in 1891, but there is no sign of Granville, built at the turn of the century. Notice the lake at the top of the 'henge' field, still there but now hidden by woodland.

The lettering on the card was soon amended, and copies with the right name on them exist. David Hutchinson has one, a hand-coloured version printed in Saxony (which seems a long way to send it for processing, but it

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NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY MARCH 2nd, 6pm

LOW LANE MYSTERY

Anyone figure out this stone?

OBSERVANT ramblers going Round the World (Barningham's affectionate name for the circular walk along Low Lane and back across the moor) may have noticed this stone gatepost halfway between the village end of Low Lane and the ford over Nor Beck beside the Ladysmith Plantation.

It has inscriptions on two sides. The side facing the track has the numerals 2 and 8 on it, one above the other; the eastern side carries the initials MH above the number 40. The characters are well carved: this was the work of someone who knew what he was doing and thought the stone was important enough to deserve time and care. The numbers and letters are quite clear, with little weathering, so it's unlikely they're of great antiquity. Given the style of the letter H, similar to that used on many 18th century grave-stones, we'd hazard a guess at around 1750.

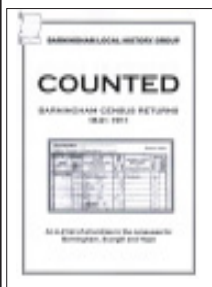
The stone's uneven shape suggests that it might once have been bigger than it is now, and that somewhere there is another piece, broken off, carrying further inscriptions.

The stone would seem to have been some kind of boundary marker, taken from its original position and converted into a gatepost, but where it originally stood and when it was moved is a mystery. Do the figures relate to distances? Who or what was MH?

We'd welcome any suggestions.



The Low Lane gatepost. Below left, the side facing you as you walk past; on the right the eastern face.



Out now – the complete census A-Z

EVERYONE from Barningham, Scargill and Hope listed in every census from 1841 to 1911, arranged alphabetically so you can trace every family through the decades. Includes a guide to the census, lists of all recorded houses and their occupants, and additional information about individuals' occupations, birthplaces and deaths. An invaluable companion to our burials lists.

Counted: BLGH Publication 4: 64 pages, photos, laminated cover. £10 (£8 to Archive subscribers). Order from Jon Smith.

HOUSE HISTORIES

Coules from South Shields and also had three boys: John, who died last year, David Ritson, and George, happily still with us and still farming at Hill Top today.



● **Right: George's father Frederick Alderson, pictured around 1940**

● *More details of the Alderson family tree were published in Archive 1.*



HILLSIDE

UNTIL 140 years ago this was at least two cottages. The earliest people we can identify who lived there were Thomas and Mary Moss, farmers from Scargill who retired to one of the cottages in the 1850s.

Mary was a Todd, related to the Barningham cheese-mongering dynasty who owned the cottages and also to young Mary Martin, whose memoirs (*A Child of Hope*, available from the BLHG) recall visits to Mrs Moss. "She used to give me little pin cushions and needle books," Mary wrote in 1895. "The house she lived in is all altered now."

It was rebuilt in the 1870s after the Mosses died. James Todd knocked the two cottages into one, added some more buildings, and moved in with his wife Hannah and children John and Jane, both in their mid-thirties. Hannah died

in 1885, James six years later; John moved away but Jane stayed on, unmarried, until her death in 1916.

There's a bit of a gap in our knowledge after that, but during the 1930s Hillside was the home of a Captain Durham and his wife. He was killed in the war, his widow left Barningham, and over the next two decades the house had a series of occupants.

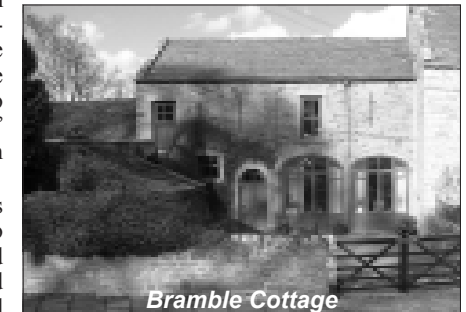
Among those recalled by Neil Turner are a commercial traveller from Sunderland called Davis ("lovely daughter called Joyce"), the Ogilvy family ("did bed and breakfast") and Mr Sayers the bogus optician. He arrived with his wife and three children just after the war, says Neil, and opened up a shop selling spectacles. "The whole village joined his panel, had their eyes tested and bought glasses from him. Then the police came and took him away. The lenses were just plain glass."

In the 1950s the house was occupied by Colonel Reginald Payne and his wife Muira: he was killed in 1983 at the age of 88 in a car crash on the A66 and his widow moved to Newsham. They were followed by Commander John and Mrs Mary Bayley (the house seems to have a special attraction for retired military people).

Early this century it was acquired by Chris Donald, who converted the adjoining stable block into a separate dwelling (see below), before selling Hillside to the current occupants, Lee, Morella and Sebastian Darvill in 2006.

BRAMBLE COTTAGE

FORMERLY the Hillside stables and coach house, converted by Chris Duncan some five years ago and the home since 2005 of Trevor and Carole Dyson.

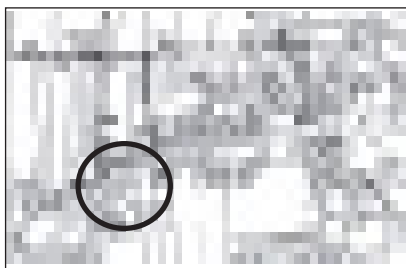


HOUSE HISTORIES

Farmers, families and a fraudster

ONE of the group projects is to create a data base of all the houses in Barningham, with details of their history and who has lived in them over the years.

Buildings we've discussed in recent meetings include Hill Top Farm and Hillside, which we look at in more detail below. If you have more information or amendments, please let us know.



HILL TOP FARM

LISTING who's lived at Hill Top for the past couple of hundred years is easy. Aldersons, five generations of them.

The first to arrive was David Alderson, who moved to Barningham from Arkengarthdale with his young bride Esther after their wedding at Grinton in 1788. Their first child, George, was born in 1790; eight more children followed over the next 20 years.

The farm wasn't all that big: it covered just 10 acres, 2 roods and 6 perches when it was surveyed in 1817, and David was paying £8 a year rent to the Milbank family who owned it.

Both he and Esther died in 1839, he aged 80, she 72, and their youngest son David took over the farm. He was 29 years old, married for three



Hill Top

years to Margaret Bainbridge and father of a baby daughter. They had five more children, one another girl who was to marry Robert Lodge of Eastwood Hall, and four boys. The youngest of these was christened David Slack Anderson, and it was he who took over the tenancy of Hill Top when his father died in 1875.

Slack was his grandmother's maiden name, and until quite recently the road going past the entrance to Hill Top was known as Slack Bank.

David married Mary Ann Brown from Cleasby in 1887 and produced three sons: David, who moved to Cotherstone; John Henry (known as Jack), killed in action in 1918; and Thomas Frederick, who took over the farm in 1926. He married Hilda Brown

● **David Slack Alderson and family in 1902: Thomas Frederick is on the left, David junior in the centre, Jack on the right.**



We search for our clockmaker – and discover there were two

AS far as we know, the only person ever to find out anything much about Barningham clock-maker Thomas Binks was the late Rev William Oliver, rector of Rokeby 60 years ago, an enthusiastic local historian who wrote about his research in the Teesdale Record Society's *Journal* in 1943.

He managed to work out when Thomas was born, who he married, and when he died. We can now add quite a lot more information. We can reveal (we think for the first time) that his eldest son followed in his father's clockmaking footsteps, taking over the business briefly before going to a very early grave, that some of their descendants remained in Barningham until the 1990s, and that their workshop was almost certainly at the back of Park View.

One of the Rev Oliver's most treasured possessions was a grandfather clock with a brass dial bearing the name 'Thos. Binks, Barningham'. His clocks are of special interest because he is generally recognised as the inventor of clock chains, the previous method of winding being by ropes. It is believed he made the chains in Barningham in the winter, and in the summer travelled round the region with a stock of clocks, selling them all the way to Newcastle.

The Rev Oliver spent a lot of time poring over the Barningham church registers and trying to trace Binks's family background. There were, he soon discovered, a great number of Binks around in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Some lived in Barningham, some at Hope, and sorting them out wasn't helped by the fact that they spelt their surname in a variety of ways, ranging from Benks to Byncks. There were more than a dozen Thomas Binks to choose from. "It is difficult to place the clockmaker with any degree of certainty," he concluded, but decided that the Thomas he sought was probably born in 1737, married a Sarah Peacock in 1777, had at least seven children, and died in 1806.

He was recorded as a 'whitesmith' when his first child was baptised, a description given to anyone who created goods from metal forged elsewhere by blacksmiths. The job required engineering skills and scientific knowledge, and would clearly encompass clockmaking.

The Rev Oliver identified Thomas's father, also called Thomas and living from 1702 to 1779, but that was about as far as he got. His task would have been much easier if he'd been able to discover, as we have done, the will of clockmaker Thomas's eldest son – who (naturally) was also



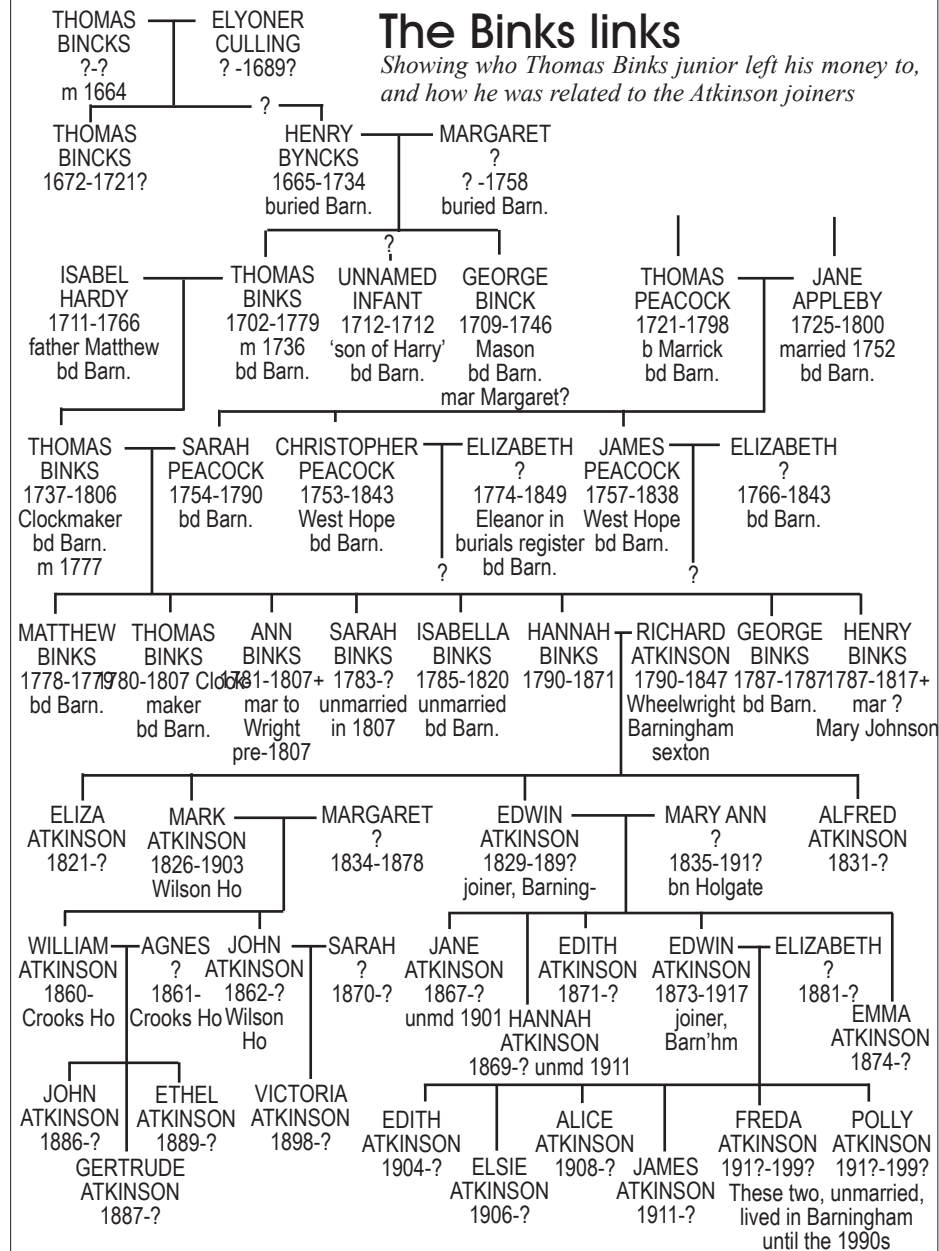
A Binks clock up for sale recently. Price? Just £1,950

called Thomas. We'll call them Thomas senior and junior.

Thomas junior was born in 1780, his parents' first surviving child (a boy called Matthew, born in 1778, had died in infancy). He was followed by six more children, five of whom reached adulthood; his mother died in 1790, shortly after the birth of the last. His father brought the family up, taught his eldest son the whitesmith's trade, and left him the business when he died, age 69, in April 1806.

Thomas junior enjoyed his inheritance for only 15 months. In July 1807 he, too, was buried in Barningham churchyard, just 27 years old. His will was entered in the records of the Richmond Archdeaconry later that month, and it reveals much that has until now remained unknown about him and his family. Crucially,

BARNINGHAM'S CLOCKMAKERS



LETTERS & EMAILS

Guide helped me track them down

YOUR graveyard guide arrived safely today and I want to tell you how useful it has been.

I have done a lot of family research over the years, and as all of my father's family are from the Dales (mainly Arkengarthdale where he was born) most of the work has involved the North Yorkshire County records office.

My Gt-Gt-Gt-Grandfather Moses Binks lived at Feldom and married twice. He and his family were buried at Marske (in Swaledale) but his first wife from whom I am descended doesn't appear anywhere. Since the records for Barningham are in Durham I have never got round to following things up.

When your guide arrived I immediately opened up the burial index and there she was. A good day's work. I can't wait to follow up others and read your excellent publication.

I am a member of the Cleveland Family History Society, which covers North Yorkshire and South Durham, and I do not think I have seen any reference to your guide in their quarterly magazine. Would you like me to submit a reference for you?

BARRY HUTCHINSON
Stone, Staffordshire

● *Since Barry wrote, we've seen a very complimentary review of Where Lyeth Ye Bodies in the Cleveland Society's Journal, which says "it deserves to be a local best seller". It obviously had some effect: see the letter below.*

Barningham Berrys

I HAVE just become aware of your book from a review in the Cleveland Family History magazine. I should be extremely grateful if you would send me a copy.

Berry is my married name. I married Michael Berry on 3rd August, 1983 at Barningham Church where Michael's parents are buried. Although neither Michael nor I lived in Barningham, he wanted to be married there for sentimental reasons. His father's grave – Horace Berry – is at the back to the centre right, next to the narrow rough track. The gravestone is a

large piece of rock. Michael has not yet had his mother's name put on it because the stone would have to be taken away and no crane strong enough to do so would be able to manage on the narrow rough track. His parents are buried there because they originated from the area.

I had to live in the parish for some weeks before our wedding, not being a resident. I camped on Scargill Farm on my own which was such fun.

MARGARET BERRY
Ramsgate, Kent

Praise for website

THANKS for the link to your group's website – very impressive. I thought it was very clear and easy to follow. I'll look forward to other material appearing on it.

A few years ago there was a nationally-coordinated project, the Community Access to Archives Project, to advise groups setting up community archives. Although the project has now ended, some of the information is still very useful. You'll find all about it at www.national-archives.gov.uk/partnershipprojects/caap.

JUDITH PHILLIPS
Archivist, Bowes Museum

Wilkinson search

I WONDER if your group can help me find an ancestor?

My father went to Barningham school around 1910. I have been looking for an ancestor for 30 years called Mary Wilkinson who married John Longstaff in 1820 at Arkengarthdale by licence. No parents were mentioned. She was born in 1796 and was from Brignal when married.

It is possible she was a Catholic, related to the Annie Wilkinson featured in your graveyard book.

KENNETH LONGSTAFF
Alcester, Warwickshire

● *Longstaffs were living at Banks House in 1911, when the census records John, 45, his wife Christiana, 42, and five sons – John, Herbert, George, Ernest and Christopher, aged between two and 12. One (we don't know which yet) was the letter writer's father. Does anyone recall what happened to them? Are any relatives still in the area?*

ANNABELLA'S TRAGIC LOVE

same bed as his Governess from the age of 11.

He left Aberdeen Grammar School, the school to which he had been sent, when it was discovered that he had homosexual tendencies. He went to Harrow and played in the first Eton versus Harrow cricket match in 1805, followed by Trinity College, Cambridge. But dissatisfied with life in upper-class England, he decided to journey through Europe and see what life was like in Albania, where he travelled with his best friend Hobhouse and was befriended by the tyrannical ruler Ali Pasha.

By 1812, he had returned from his travels to Albania and his adventures along the way there, publishing his famous poem *Childe Harold*. London was soon buzzing about the intensely personal nature of the narrative and he was the object of universal attention. In his own words, "he awoke one morning and found himself famous."

The winter of 1812 passed and Annabella managed to drag her parents up to London for a third time. She failed to make any contact with Byron, who was having a high old time with all the girls and older ladies who flocked to him, charmed by his wit and his writings.

In desperation, she started up a long and fanciful correspondence with him throughout 1813 and 1814 that, aided by her Aunt Elizabeth Milbanke, the mother of Queen Victoria's first prime minister, Lord Melbourne, ended up with a proposal of marriage having been made.

The pair had hardly ever met, but surprisingly Annabella finally accepted, carried away by it all. Nothing could have been less hopeful for the future happiness of the couple. They hardly knew each other. Annabella's parents were extremely doubtful; Byron's friends were appalled. Byron's own demeanour became more and more despondent. He was however trapped by the conventions of the day and arrangements were made for the wedding at Seaham.

He dragged his heels for as long as possible, spending time with friends along the long road north. He finally arrived before Christmas 1814. It was cold and snowing. Nobody was happy and Byron had refused any formal celebrations.

They were married in the drawing room of Seaham Hall on January 2nd 1815. Only five others were present. They left for their honeymoon at Halnaby Hall that night. They didn't speak. Byron was in a state of depression. He asked her whether she meant to sleep in the same bed with him, saying: "I hate sleeping with any woman, but you may if you choose." He added hurtfully: "Provided a woman was young, one was as good as another." He woke up in the middle of the night and seeing the flickering fire through the red material curtains of their bed exclaimed, "Good God! I am surely in Hell!"

Poor Annabella. After 20 days they returned to Seaham to live with her parents for seven weeks, after which they went south and the couple separated.

Byron's behaviour became more and more outrageous although his poems continued to pour out of him to be eagerly snapped up by the public. Society was becoming increasingly hostile towards him and reports of his cruel behaviour towards Annabella were circulating. He had already sired a child by his half-sister, Lady Caroline Lamb, and incest was an unforgivable sin. He was obliged to leave England.

His slow and mad deterioration was beautifully portrayed by Rupert Everett in a recent TV documentary. He became involved in Italy's revolutionary organisation The Carbonari and then the Greek War of Independence for which the Greeks still revere him as a national hero. He died of a fever in 1824 in Greece, at the age of only 36.

Amazingly considering the circumstances, Annabella had become pregnant during their brief relationship, and gave birth to their daughter Ada in 1816. Annabella never re-married and died in 1860, the day before her 68th birthday. Ada married the Earl of Lovelace, had two children whose descendants are alive today, inherited many of her father's rebellious qualities, and died in 1852. She was 36 years old – just as her father had been.

ANTHONY MILBANK

(Annabella's cousin 8 times removed)

● The family name was spelt Milbanke until the 18th century, when one branch of the family – Anthony's – decided to drop the final letter.

BARNINGHAM'S CLOCKMAKERS

it describes him as a clockmaker, proving that he had indeed taken on his father's mantle. Secondly, it shows that young Thomas was almost certainly unmarried. There is no hint of a wife in his will, which left everything to his only brother, his four sisters, and an aunt. 'Everything' was worth almost £300, about £10,000 today. The sisters got £35 apiece, the aunt £100, and the residue went to the brother.

The will identifies the sisters – Sarah, Hannah, Isabella (all still single) and Ann (married to someone called Wright) – and the brother, Henry. Quite where in the village the family lived is uncertain – the will merely says 'Barningham' – but in the first issue of *The Archive* Robin Brooks (himself owner of a Binks clock) put forward evidence that the clockmaker's workshop may well have been at the rear of Park View, and our research has produced plenty of information to back this up.

The aunt was Elizabeth, who was married to young Thomas's mother's brother Christopher Peacock, a farmer at West Hope. She and Christopher were executors of the will.

There had been Peacocks living there since at least the mid-1500s. We can't trace the clockmakers back quite that far (the first Binks was recorded in the area in 1608) but tracking through the burials registers we can be fairly sure that they were descended from a Thomas Bincks who married Eleanor Culling in Barningham in 1664. Their children probably included Henry Byncks (1635-1734), who was definitely the grandfather of our famous clockmaker and great-grandfather of the one who died so young.

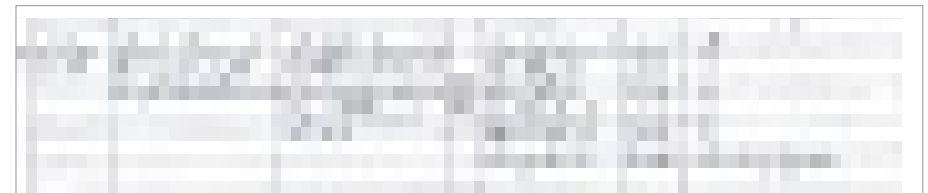
After the clockmakers' deaths the trail goes cold for a while. How long the remaining children stayed in the village is unknown. Henry, only 20 when his brother died, inherited the



The signed face of a Binks clock

residue of the estate, including the tools and whatever clocks remained (unless they had to be sold to pay off the £240 willed to the other legatees) but there is no sign that he carried on the clock-making business. There are no Binks or whitesmiths recorded in Baine's 1823 trade directory for Barningham. A Henry Binks was, however, still in the village in 1817, when a valuation of village recorded him as the tenant of 78 acres and a sizeable property. There is no mention of him after that. A Henry Binks had married a Mary Johnson at Kirby Ravensworth in April 1807, but there is no evidence that this was the same one.

His sister Isabella died, young and unmarried, at Feldom in 1820. Nothing is known of Sarah. But we do know what happened to Hannah: she married a wheelwright called Richard Atkinson in Barningham in 1818. He established a joiner's yard behind Park View and it seems very likely that he took over his brother-in-law Thomas Binks' workshop there. Between 1821



Thomas Binks junior's will, as recorded in 1807

BARNINGHAM'S CLOCKMAKERS

and 1831 he and Hannah had four children, Eliza, Mark, Edwin and Alfred. Mark farmed Wilson House from around 1870 and his sons John and William were farming there and at Crooks House at the end of the century.

Edwin, meanwhile, became a joiner like his father. He married a Holgate-born girl called Mary Ann and between 1867 and 1874 had five children, Jane, Hannah, Edith, Edwin and Emma.

Edwin junior took over the joinery when his father died, married a girl called Elizabeth, and had six children. The first was Edith, born in 1904; there followed Elsie, Alice James, Polly and Freda.

Edwin volunteered for the army after the outbreak of war in 1914, joining the Yorkshire Regiment, and was killed in action three years later. What happened to his widow or his eldest daughter we're not sure, but the rest we know something about. Elsie moved in with an unmarried aunt called Hannah Atkinson, living at Peartree House. Alice became a matron in London, marrying and then divorcing a Pole, and came back regularly to Barningham to visit her family. James spent most of his life in a mental hospital. Freda and Polly remained single, living at Fountain View where Freda (known as 'the Stick Lady' because of her habit of wandering round the village collecting firewood) lived until her death in the mid-1990s.

It was their father, Edwin junior, who the Rev Oliver was referring to in his 1943 article, when he said that a clock made by Thomas Binks senior was owned by "a Mr Atkinson, a joiner, in Barningham, sixty years ago, whose grandmother was stated to have been a daughter of the clockmaker". The grandmother was, of course, Hannah Binks.

The family into which the first Thomas Binks married, the Peacocks, are well recorded. His brother-in-law Christopher died, aged 90, in 1843, and his wife Elizabeth, the aunt in the will, lived on for a further six years. Peacocks remained at Hope well into the 1900s, making them almost certainly the family with the longest continuous habitation in the area.

The result of all this investigation is that we now have two Thomas Binks, both clockmak-



The Rev William Oliver, pictured at a Turner family wedding in the 1950s. Picture from Neil Turner's collection

ers. Did Thomas junior actually produce any clocks under his own name during the 15 months he was in business? It's possible: he'd had the whole summer of 1806 to make them and then travel, as his father had done, up the Great North Road to sell them on Tyneside.

The only evidence that would prove he did this would be a Binks clock with either a date (1806 or 1807) that could only be his, a different signature on the brass clockface, or some documentary relic such as an invoice or receipt. However, no Binks clocks carried dates, as far as we know; it's unlikely young Thomas would have gone to the bother of altering the name; and the chances of finding one of his bills from 200 years ago are pretty thin.

On top of that, we don't know why he died. It might have been a sudden illness or an accident, but equally it could be that Thomas junior was not a well man when he inherited the business, and produced little if anything between his father's death and his own.

So, as so often at the end of these brief excursions into the past, we end up saying it's unlikely we'll ever know. But keep a look-out for Binks clocks and inspect them thoroughly, just in case. The discovery of Thomas junior's only known clock would be fascinating – and possibly very profitable.

● Merryne Watson summarised the Rev Oliver's findings in his history of Barningham *As Time Passed By*. We are grateful to the Teesdale Record Society for permission to quote from their 1943 *Journal*.



Byron and Annabella: on their wedding night he told her he hated sleeping with women



The Milbank girl who set her heart on Byron – and wished she hadn't

ANNABELLA'S TRAGIC LOVE

SHE was born in 1792 and christened Anne Isabella Milbanke, but everyone called her Annabella. Never did a girl come into the world less suited to marry a romantic poet. When she did, it was a disaster.

Annabella was the daughter of Sir Ralph Milbanke, MP for Durham County since 1790, and Lady Judith Milbanke. They were part of an influential family with extensive interests divided between Thorp Perrow Estate near Bedale, Halnaby Hall Estate near Croft and Seaham Hall Estate near Durham. They owned Barningham Estate, too, which at the time was being managed by an agent (the house was let at a rent of £50 a year) until Annabella's young cousin Mark Milbank came of age in 1817.

Annabella grew up at Seaham and Halnaby, only ten miles from Barningham, but there is no written record to show that she ever visited the village. She was a serious-minded girl with a zeal for knowledge, absorbing the teaching of her local schoolmaster wholeheartedly and

acquiring a strong taste, among other subjects, for mathematics.

In 1811, at the age of 19, she was presented to Court and was most unimpressed by London society. Shocked by the shenanigans taking place there, she returned to Seaham, declaring that she neither 'cared about flirting', or 'listening to squallings.'

A winter spent with her ageing parents soon changed her mind and her second season turned out to be a much jollier time. She was introduced to Lord Byron, declaring that "without exception, young or old, he was more agreeable in conversation, than any person I ever know". More and more curious did Annabella become about the romantic, handsome poet.

Lord Byron had grown up as a highly unusual boy, writing poems from the age of 14. He inherited Newstead Abbey, Nottingham, aged 10. He is reported to have been used to sleeping in the

THE 1841 CENSUS TRAIL Part 3

Continuing our journey up the village in the footsteps of the first census form collector

Wilkinsons, the widow Heslop and a Todd

AFTER the Rectory our census form collector came to three cottages whose occupants may all have been related.

Head of the first household was William Wilkinson, a 29-year-old agricultural worker. He was born in Boldron; his wife Susan, the same age, came from Melsonby. They had two daughters, Barbara, five, and three-year-old Jane, and a baby son Thomas.

The family had moved around quite a bit – the eldest girl had been born in Melsonby, the second in Croft – and had only been in Barningham for a couple of years at most, just long enough for Thomas to have been born in the village.

They stayed for at least another decade, during which time four more children arrived: John in 1843, Margaret in 1845, George in 1847 and finally (as far as we know) Robert in 1850. They are recorded in the 1851 census (when Barbara was working as a house servant for local farmer George Brown), but they are missing in 1861. They probably stayed in the area, for at least one of the children was still in the village in 1871 – Robert, then 21, a labourer on Thomas Harrison's farm. After that the family vanishes.

Living next-door to them in 1841 was retired farmer Thomas Wilkinson, 75, his 60-year-old wife Ann and daughter Jane, 25. It is tempting to guess that Thomas and Ann were William's parents too, though Thomas was recorded in the village in 1817, only a few years after William's birth in Boldron, which makes it a bit less likely. Thomas died in 1844; Ann is not mentioned in the 1851 census. The couple had a second daughter, named Ann after her mother, who was living in the next house along in 1841. She was 30, a widow with two young children, and apparently fairly well off – she's described

as living on independent means and employed a young servant called Margaret Ewbank to look after her and the youngsters, Margaret, 11, and seven-year-old Thomas. Ann's late husband was Ralph Heslop, who died in 1835 aged 35, the son of a village farmer, also called Ralph, who out-lived him. Ralph junior was living at Park House, Newsham, when he died and it seems that Ann moved to Barningham after his death to be nearer her parents.

Ten years later she is described as a landed proprietor. Margaret is still at home, and her sister Jane, still unmarried, has moved in with them. Thomas has left the village.

In 1861 Ann was living alone. Then William Todd, a middle-aged bachelor and retired cheesemonger from London, set up a second home in Barningham. Within a few years he and Ann were married. They aren't recorded here in 1871 – they were probably spending quite a lot of time in the capital – and by the time Ann resurfaces in the village records, in 1881, she's a widow again. She died in 1885. Her gravestone in Barningham mentions both her husbands.

● *Next issue: Thomas Coates and the Barningham Academy.*

FROM THE VESTRY MINUTES

Jubilee: tea and a tree

Special Parish Meeting held in Barningham School 10th May 1897:

Chairman Mr Thomas Pearson. Present: Sir Frederick Milbank, Lady & Miss Milbank, Rev Gough, Messrs Todd, Chilton, Birtwhistle, Luck, Morrell, Lodge, Bloomer, Hayes, Bainbridge, Goldsbrough, Brown, Taylor, & W Coates.

It was proposed by Sir Frederick seconded by Mr Todd that a substantial tea should be provided for the Diamond jubilee, and that a tree be planted, and a bonfire made about 200 yards from the moor gate. The committee should consist of those present who are willing to act, with power to add to their number. The committee to arrange for sports & prizes by means of sub committees.

Sir F.A. Milbank spoke of the necessity of a better water supply for the village, and promised to give one half of the cost should the matter be adopted.

Rescued from the Rectory attic

BOXES of old documents found by builders working on Barningham Rectory have been saved from the skip.

They include original papers from two centuries ago, the 1831 census form – very rare – and hundreds of copies of the parish magazine dating back to the first issue in 1890.

We'll bring you more information about these finds in future issues of *The Archive*. For the moment, we've collated one set of the magazines, including a copy of every surviving issue. We have complete or almost complete sets for 1890, 1891, 1894-6, 1898-99, 1913-1918, 1920, 1922-1929 and 1932-1970 which history group members are welcome to inspect and copy. Among much else they contain records of everyone baptised, married or buried in the month before they were published.

Many of the magazines are duplicated, and they are available to anyone who wants one or more – the issue recording a family birth or wedding, perhaps? Let us know if you want to take some off our hands, because we're very reluctant to return them to the skip. Be warned: you'll have to search through them all to find the ones you want – if they're there.

We're also anxious to fill in gaps in our basic set. If you have old parish magazines, please check the list below to see if they're among those we need. If so, we'd be very grateful if you could donate them to us or at least let us see and copy them.

Meanwhile, on the right we start a new *Archive* feature, offering glimpses of the past from our collection of parish mags.

PARISH MAGAZINES NEEDED

1892 and 1893 (all), 1897 (all), 1900-1905 (all), 1906 and 1907 (Jan-Apr, May-Dec), 1908-1912 (all), 1913 (Dec), 1916 (July), 1917 (July, Dec), 1918 (Jan-Mar, May, Jul, Aug-Sep), 1919 (Jan-Oct), 1920 (Jan-Feb, July-Aug), 1921 Feb-Dec), 1923 (Apr), 1924 (Jan-Mar), 1930 (all), 1931 (May-Dec), 1940 (Aug-Dec), 1943 (Jan-May, Oct), 1945 (Jun, Aug, Oct), 1946 (Mar, May-Jun, Sep-Nov), 1947 (Jan-Feb), 1955 (Jul-Aug, Nov), 1959 (Mar, Nov), 1961 (Jan-Feb, Apr, Jun-Jul, Oct), 1963 (Feb), 1966 (Apr) 1967 (Jun), 1968 (Jan, Mar),



Cover of the first Barningham Parish Magazine, January 1890

FROM THE PARISH MAG

120 YEARS AGO: "The Sewing Meetings have been exceedingly well attended. We have to thank Mrs Wintersgill for allowing teas to be held at her home, and Mrs Goldsbrough also, who superintended. The Parishioners will be glad to learn that Lady Milbank has written to the Rector to say she will give a tea in May. The Spring months will not be more welcome than will be the return of Sir Frederick, Lady Milbank and Miss Milbank to Barningham."

– March 1890

80 YEARS AGO: "On Tuesday, March 19th, at 7pm, there will be a public meeting in the Barningham School, at which Mr Arthur Riddle, Secretary of the Darlington Memorial Hospital, will explain the new Hospital Scheme. People who do not join the new scheme of regular contributions will have to pay full fees for treatment if they use the services of the Hospital."

– March 1935

50 YEARS AGO: "We wish every happiness to Brenda Turner and John Lawson, who were married at Richmond on 30th January."

– March 1960

RESOURCES

More help for researchers

THE history group has access to various books and other sources of information that members can borrow. In the past few weeks, encouraged by our healthy bank balance, we have acquired several new publications to help our research. Some we've bought, others have come free with our membership of the British Association for Local History. New acquisitions include:

Reading Tudor and Stuart Handwriting: Urgently needed by Kay Duggan as she battles her way through our 1691 recipe book!

The Local Studies Library: A guide to what you might find there and how to make the best of it.

Dates and Time: A booklet explaining historical dating systems.

Directing the Past: A guide to using local directories.

The Union Workhouse: A study guide to Victorian workhouses.

How Much is that Worth? How to work out the value of money centuries ago.

From Chantry to Oxfam: A history of charities and charity legislation.

Tithes: A guide to tithe legislation and records.

Researching and Writing History: Advice for local history writers, from choosing a subject to getting the words right.

Unlocking the Past: Index and Abstracts of the *Amateur Historian* and *Local Historian* journals 1952-99, with searchable CD.

Confirmation records

AMONG the documents rescued from the Rectory skip is a ledger listing the names of everyone confirmed at Barningham church between 1926 and 1938.

There were 108 of them over the period, and it's a useful guide to families living in the village at the time. Being confirmed was obviously something of an ordeal. The Rector, the Rev Percy Dodd, noted in the margin that two children fainted in front of the Bishop of Ripon.

PICTURE GALLERY

The view down the village, c.1890

Hillside on the left, with an unknown man in a tallish hat outside. Beyond him, trees where Beornhow now stands. Note the young monkey puzzle tree (taken down a century later) outside The Yews, and the gap now occupied by



Lovely lass, our Trev
We challenged you in the last Archive to identify the lady pushing the pram during Barningham's Jubilee celebrations in 1977.

It was, of course, Trevor Turner, dragged up for the fancy dress parade. In the pram was Graham Lowes; waving at the camera was Ken Powell, following behind was Les Ridley and in the background was Ronnie Gill.

Date this...

Clue: they're on a Barningham farm, and they're celebrating the end of a long task.

Answer and full picture next issue.



● *If you can add details about pictures in the Archive, please let us know. And if you have old photographs of Barningham and its people in the past, we'll be happy to feature them. Contact Jon Smith or Kay Duggan. You can view pictures at our website www.barninghamvillage.co.uk*

FRAGMENTS

PAULINE JACKSON: Remember the girl we mentioned in the last *Archive* who had written in the old vestry minutes book during the war? Neil Turner's identified her (is there anyone he hasn't heard of?). She was the youngest of four daughters of Newby Jackson, who farmed at Wilson House from 1920.

The others were Heather (married a farmer in Bedfordshire), Doreen (unmarried, went to work as a housekeeper at Balmoral) and Olga (mother of Caroline Robson, nee Guy, of Barnard Castle, who gave us more information about the family). Pauline didn't marry, worked for Glaxo, and died three years ago. Newby moved to Barningham from Tutta Beck: he had several brothers who farmed in Teesdale, including one, we believe, at Crooks House. He was married to Mary and died in 1963, says Caroline, after being trampled by a bull at Barnard Castle auction mart.

ATKINSONS: The Richard Atkinson who married Hannah Binks (see the clockmakers story in this issue) was the brother of Robert Atkinson (1789-1870), schoolmaster at Barningham and Newsham for 60 years. Their parents were Thomas (1761-1849, village shopkeeper in 1823) and Eleanor (1750-1811, nee Wood, married 1778). Thomas's parents were George (1754?-1815?) and Elizabeth (?-?, nee Westmarland).

HUTCHINSONS: Doreen Railton (Moor Lea) recalls two Hutchinson sisters who lived at The Nook in the 1950s, one a musical lady who played with the Northern Sinfonia. Doreen found her dead in bed one day. She can't remember the name of the other, or what happened to her: anyone help?

FAWCETT: Neil Turner recalls the Olive Fawcett who lived at Moor Lea before the Railtons. She won prizes with her goats, which grazed the green, and had a blind brother with whom she used to walk to Gilling and back along the A66 – it must have been a lot safer in those days!

NORTH VIEW: Neil's family moved in the 1930s from The Nook to North View, which he says at that time was also called The Nook. It meant his father, who ran the village garage, bus and taxi business on what is now the site of Byersbron and next-door houses, didn't have to change his letterheads.