

## Awards for your history projects



THE *Archive* is inviting entries for an award for original local history projects.

Projects can be written, visual, audio or any combination of the three, of any length, and don't have to be academic: they might be family histories, recordings of older residents, research into old documents or simply drawings of buildings: the choice is yours.

Entries can come from individuals, groups or families, and the judges will take youngsters' age into account. The deadline is August 28 and the award will be presented at the village show in September. There'll be something for runners-up, too.

The winning entry – and maybe others, too – will be featured in the *Archive* and on our website. Start planning now!

## Guest speaker

OUR guest speaker at the meeting on May 4th will be Neil Diment, in charge of the North Pennines Haytime project, who will be talking among other things about aural history and giving tips on how to go about making recordings. We hope there'll be a good turn-out for him.



**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](mailto:history@smithj90.fsnet.co.uk)**

**See our website [www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk) for more information**

## OLD HINTS & RECIPES

### Controlling rodents

FROM 'Notes on Fields and Cattle, the Diary of an Amateur Farmer' (1862):

- *To ascertain if there be rats in a stack, run in a hazel-stick with the peel on that has been soaked in grease, and leave it there. If there be rats, they will soon leave the marks of their teeth upon it.*
- *Stop rat-holes with wool dipped in tar.*
- *Birdlime in rat-holes, if they touch it, will make them scratch themselves to death.*
- *Sand strewed in the corn-stack prevents mice burrowing into it by falling into their*

### Making Cowslip Water

FROM Barningham Hall Recipe Book, 1691:

*Take a peck of clean pickled cowslips, lay them to steep in a quart of Brandy, put them into your still, add another quart of Brandy and a quart of white wine to them with a good handful of Balm, a quarter of an ounce of Mace & Cloves, as much Cinnamon and Nutmeg, with 4 penny worth of Saffron, distil it for use.*

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



### Read the minutes...

A transcript of the Barningham Parish Meeting minutes from 1894 to 1931 is now available as a BLHG booklet. It's £4 to Archive subscribers.



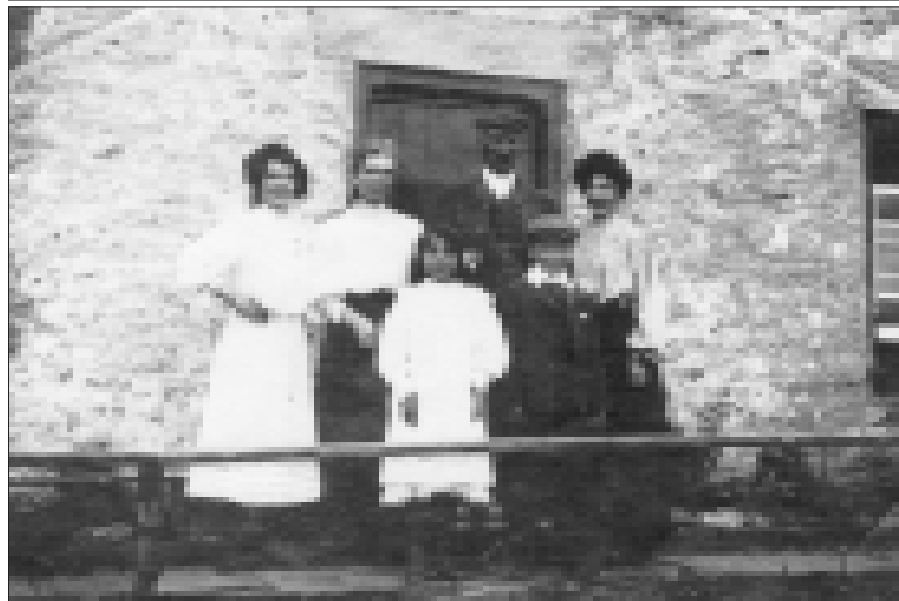
# Archive 7

ANNALS OF THE BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

[www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)



## INSIDE: WHY BARNINGHAM'S FARMERS TOOK THE PARSON TO COURT



*The Ellwood-Robinsons in 1907: Jane is on the left beside her parents Mary and William; in front is her brother Thomas and sisters Eva and Mary Emma*

## Unravelling the Ellwoods of High Barn

THE history group gets frequent requests for help from people all over the country asking for help tracing their Teesdale ancestors.

Some we can't do much about ("I think they were called Brown and lived between Richmond and Middleton") but others, arriving

with a bit more detail, offer a challenge. Michael Berry's email from Canterbury was one of these.

Michael sent us this photo of his mother, born Jane Ellwood Robinson in 1892, with her parents, brother and sister outside their home

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**NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY MAY 4th 6pm**

## ELLWOOD-ROBINSONS

*Continued from front page*

at High Barn, Scargill, in 1907. Armed with our Barningham graveyard book, Michael had confirmed that Jane's father was a gamekeeper, born somewhere near Brough, but could trace him back no further, and was baffled why every one of their children was given Ellwood as a second name.

We trawled the census records and found the family listed as Robinsons in 1891 and 1901, but as Ellwoods in 1911. William died in 1918, recorded as a Robinson. In 1927 Barningham parish magazine noted the baptism of three children called Ellwood-Robinson. Four years later William's wife Mary died and was buried under the name of Ellwood.

We turned to the 1851 census records for Brough. No Robinsons fitted the bill, but after a lot of searching we did light upon Stainmore-born farmer John Ellwood. He was unmarried but living with him at a farm called Well Head was a housekeeper, Elizabeth Robinson, born in Langwathby, Cumberland, and also unmarried. There were also two children, surnamed Robinson but listed as sons of the household head.

Ten years later there were two more Robinson boys, sons of John Ellwood, and among them was William, Michael Berry's grandfather, born in 1853.

By 1871 Ellwood had died and Elizabeth, now 61, had moved to Hillbeck Mill, just outside Brough, where she was housekeeper to a retired stonemason. William was still with her. Sometime afterwards he moved to Scargill and

## Archive 7

married Mary Pickering, a local girl. Their first son, John, was born in 1884; Michael's mother Jane eight years later.

We relayed all this to Michael, who was delighted. "Many thanks for the resolution of the Ellwood Robinson puzzle," he emailed back, not at all concerned to discover his grandfather's illegitimacy. His wife Margery added: "It's all very exciting!" They plan a visit to Barningham later this year to pursue their family quest.

So who were the Ellwood-Robinson children baptised in 1927? Their father was Jane's brother Thomas, born in 1895, who we think took over at High Barn when his father died in 1918 from pneumonia (reputedly after falling into a river while in pursuit of a poacher). Thomas later moved to Gutters nearby, and then to Egglestone Abbey, where descendants remain today.

Michael's parents discovered Barningham on visits to these relatives. "They became so attached to the village that both wanted to be buried here," he says, "and when I married we could think of no better place for our wedding."

Michael says his grandmother was "quite an independent and proud person, who on one occasion, when taking produce to be sold in Barnard Castle, was fined for driving her pony and trap dangerously around the Market Cross".

Among a wealth of other information he's supplied about his family is the fact that his grandfather was a champion wrestler ("I have one of the silver tankards he won") and that one of his grandmother's brother's sons became Sir Edward Pickering, editor of the *Daily Express* in the 1960s.

## Community archaeology project launched

THE North Pennines Area of Natural Beauty Partnership is launching Altogether Archaeology, a project which aims to get local people involved in research work.

It starts this summer, and includes surveys of archaeological landscapes, investigations of prehistoric rock art sites, excavations of prehistoric settlements and Roman roads, and surveys of medieval and post-medieval buildings.

Other plans include developing a photographic record of historic artefacts such as Stone Age flints and Roman coins held in mu-

seums and private hands. The project is open to all and volunteers are welcome regardless of previous experience, whether they want to spend a few hours learning about prehistoric flints or spend a week or more excavating a Roman site. Full training will be given and there will be the opportunity to join evening classes, guided walks and other events.

If you fancy joining in the project, contact Paul Frodsham on 01388 528801, email [pfrodsham@northpenninesaonb.org.uk](mailto:pfrodsham@northpenninesaonb.org.uk), or visit [www.northpennines.org.uk](http://www.northpennines.org.uk).

## Archive 7

## HOUSE HISTORIES

own house as an outbuilding. Who inherited from Mr Fryer we don't know, but not longer afterwards both remaining cottages were owned by Anthony Todd.

When he died in 1825 he left them to his daughters Mary and Hannah. Mary married Scargill farmer Thomas Moss and the couple lived in one cottage; Hannah married London-based cheesemonger William Todd (possibly a cousin) and let her house out: the tenant in 1857 was William Simpson.

That year the sisters agreed to sell the cottages as a pair to a distant cousin, another William Todd (also a London cheesemonger) for £150, though the Mosses remained as tenants of their half until their deaths in the 1870s. By then William had sold the houses (but not the coach-house to the west – now Bramble Cottage – which he held on to) to his son James and his (William's) brother (also called James) for £100. These two James seem to have done a deal, because soon afterwards the whole property was owned by James the brother, who turned it into one house and christened it Hillside.

James died in 1891, leaving the house to his daughter Jane. She also inherited four-tenths of a stint on Barningham Moor, which she promptly swapped with Sir Frederick Milbank for a right of way to Hillside across his land at the back.

Jane died, unmarried, in 1915, and left the house to her nieces Caroline, Eleanor and Elsie, who all lived in Kent. It took them five years to decide what to do with it, but in 1920 they agreed to sell it to a Sunderland widow, Mrs Helen Pumphrey, for £500.

She fell on hard times, and in 1933 was forced to sell Hillside for the same amount as she'd paid for it. The new owner was James Durham, an East Boldon builder, who lived there until war broke out. He joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps, became a captain, and was killed in action in 1940. His widow left Barningham, the house passing on her death to their daughter Margaret.

She let it out to various tenants before selling it in 1950 to Hector and Margaret Ogle from Sunderland for £1,645. They lived there until 1961 when Reginald and Moira Payne bought it for £2,500. Meanwhile, ownership of the

coach-house on the west of the house had passed down through the Barningham Todd family, the last surviving member of which gave it to his housekeeper Gladys Henderson shortly before his death in 1957.

She sold it the following year for £60 to Arthur Stanwix, who ran Ravensworth post office and made a good profit by selling the coach-house three years later to the Paynes for £500.

● See *Archive 5* for later owners.



*Beornhow*

## BEORNHOW

ONE of the newest houses in Barningham, Beornhow stands in what was an open field until the 1980s.

It was built for Deerbolt governor Rodney Nash and his wife Jackie, who lived there for around ten years before selling it to the present owners, Phil and Angela Thompson.

The picture below shows the site in 1961. In the foreground is Bob Usher and his dog Stella.



● *Next issue: How Tallon, Shaw House, Byresbron, Brantfell and Raby View.*

## HOUSE HISTORIES

when he died unmarried in 1909 he left the cottage to his nephew, Melsonby farmer William Atkinson, the son of Margaret, who had married Mark Atkinson, farmer at Wilson House.

Ivy Cottage at this time tenanted by Richard Metcalf, a coachman (at the hall?), who remained in it with his family until at least 1911.

William Atkinson died in 1933. His will appointed his son William Heslop Atkinson and Barnard Castle solicitor Thomas Bernard Heslop (whose relationship to him is unclear – a cousin?) as executors, instructing them to divide his property equally among his five children. But there was a catch. They only got their share if they could first repay money he'd lent them during his lifetime, and the sums were considerable, almost £7,000 in all.

How many of them managed it we don't know, but William succeeded and emerged as the owner of Ivy Cottage. In 1949 he sold it for £90 to the sitting tenant, 46-year-old William Blades, whose parents had farmed Moorcock. William – known as Billy – was married to Betty and had a daughter June, who became Mrs Fullen. He died after a tractor accident in 1968 and Betty (who died in 2004, aged 93) sold the cottage to the current occupiers, Phil and Liz Hunt.

● *Buildings behind Woodbine and Ivy Cottages were once a cottage called Lime House, demolished sometime during the last century.*

● *Britannia Cottage used to be called Woodbine Cottage, too, which must have caused problems for the postman and still does for anyone trying to unravel who lived where a century ago.*

## ROSE COTTAGE

LITTLE is known about this until the middle of the last century.

Neil Turner believes it was occupied until 1934 by Mary Alderson, widowed grandmother of George Alderson who lives at Hill Top today.

In 1941 Chief Petty Officer George Harvey moved his family there after they were bombed out in London. After the war occupiers included the Seatons (related to the Ogles of Hillside), the Hunters (from Sunderland, in their seventies: the husband, known as Tab, was ex-Navy), and the Alders (from Whitley Bay). In the 1990s



it was bought as a holiday cottage by Tom and Norma Milne from Tyneside, who spent every weekend there for 17 years before selling it to Joan St Leger, the current owner, who has knocked through a dividing wall and added it to Holly Cottage.

## HOLLY COTTAGE

ANOTHER cottage whose history is largely unknown.

Neil recalls it being occupied for many years by a Miss Emmett – see *Neil's Notes* on Page 12. She was followed by Tony Thompson and his mother, who lived there until the late 1980s.

They sold it to Patrick and Siobhan Binchy, and eventually it was bought by Joan St Leger. At the time of writing it stands empty.

## HILLSIDE UPDATE

NO SOONER had we featured Hillside (*Archive 5*) than owner Lee Darvill's solicitor sent him a pile of paperwork about the house, going back to the mid-18th century.

It fills in a number of gaps in our knowledge of its owners and tenants. We thought that it had originally been two cottages, and this is confirmed by the earliest documents. In the 1750s the western half of the building was owned by Robert Fryer, the eastern half by John and Ann Hardy. Their neighbour to the east was John Marriner, and to the north was the home of Solomon Eeles.

The Hardys sold their half, together with its garth (nine yards long, eight wide) and two seats in the church, to Robert Fryer in 1758 for £30. He appears to have then let this half out, and in 1792 added to his property portfolio by buying Solomon Eeles' house for eleven guineas (£11.11s) and, it seems, adding it to his

## Houses, fields and a small profit

**Minutes** of the meeting held in Barningham Village Hall, Tuesday April 6th 2010:

**Present:** Jon Smith, Neil Turner, Tony Orton, Ann Orton, Greta Carter, Kay Duggan, Eric Duggan, Janet Wrigley, Diane Metcalf, Sue Prytherick, Phil Hunt, Beverley Peach, Sheila Catton.

**Apologies:** Sir Anthony Milbank

**Minutes:** Read and approved.

**Matters Arising:** (1) Whitby Trip on October 2nd: Sixteen people had booked so far (nine for the museums tours). Jon would book the tour soon but leave booking the bus for later. (2) Archive Awards: Jon had set aside £100 for a trophy (scroll-shaped) for a history project competition. The group are hoping for lots of entries from all ages. (3) Village Hall dedication: Phil was awaiting a reply from Peter Coverdale.

**Financial Report:** Income from sale of publications, subscriptions and meeting fees raised £148 during March. Expenditure on printing and hire of the hall totalled £132.50, leaving us with a balance of £642.01.

**House Histories:** Members delved into the history of Beornhow and Woodbine, Ivy, Rose and Holly Cottages, with the usual helpful and sometimes hilarious recollections from Neil.

**Publications:** *Archive 6* had been distributed. Parish minutes 1894-1931 were now available (£4 for members). So far 130 copies of *Where Lyeth Ye Bodies* and 30 of *A Child of Hope* had been sold.

**Website:** More pictures have gone on-line and also a copy of the monthly *Flyer*.

**Recipes:** All the pages in the 1691 recipe book had been photographed. Kay Duggan had worked through one side and was now starting on the other. The recipes could prove difficult to use as they included many unusual measurements and ingredients. Kay had lots of other old recipe books from local people which we

## THE MINUTES

would be able to use if we had a cooking session in the future.

**Land Girls:** Jenny Frost was completing a thesis on land girls for her studies. She had already one transcript from Neil Turner and would be in touch when she had sufficient information to share with the group.

**Field Names:** Robin Brooks was going to try to trace old field names. He had some information from the Rectory documents. The secretary would ask Durham and Ripon if they had further information.

**Guest Speakers:** Neil Diment was coming to the next meeting to talk about hay-making. Tony was going to speak to Lance Hodgson, a local man, about sharing his memories with us. Ann Orton had spoken to a lady at the Bowes Museum who might be able to bring objects for us to discuss and handle (dates to be arranged). Gainford History Society had had various speakers – Ann to approach to determine whether any of these would be appropriate for our group.

**Rectory Documents:** Jon had a "valuation and rents" document for the Barningham Estate, dated 1817 which he would scan and put on the website. He then gave an interesting talk regarding another document which relates to the field enclosures of 1609. He had transcribed this and would put details in the *Archive* (see Page 5).

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday May 4th, 6pm in the village hall.

**Any Other Business:** Kay asked if any progress had been made on the WI archive. Sue reported that the information was available but no-one was able to put it together at the moment. Sheila would like another member to shadow Jon's role in the group so that they were able to deputise for him in his absence.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

## MEETING DATES

DATES for future meetings of the BLHG have been provisionally fixed as May 4, June 29, August 3, September 7, October 19, November 30 and January 18. All on Tuesdays, 6pm in the village hall. Put them in your diary now!

## Last wills and testaments

TRAWLING through the National Archives in search of Thomas Binks' will (see *Archive 5*) we came across a handful of others from Barningham granted probate in the early years of the 19th Century:

**Margaret Atkinson of Barningham, April 29th 1801:** Under £300. All left to her sister Catherine Atkinson.

**Thomas Wilkinson of Wilson House, June 5th 1806:** Under £450. £80 and half of his household goods to his daughter Miss Ann Wilkinson; £50 and his silver tankard to his daughter Mrs Elizabeth Heslop; £50 each to his son William Wilkinson and daughter Mrs Jane Roberts; £25 to his son Richard Wilkinson; and the rest to his son Thomas Wilkinson.

[*What had Richard done to deserve only half the amount left to the others? Did Jane resent not getting a share of the household goods? Was a silver tankard worth as much as half the goods, or did Elizabeth feel she'd been cheated?*]

**Thomas Chapman of Crooks House, October 18th 1806:** Under £100. All to his daughter Ann, wife of John Lamb, also of Crooks House.

**Ralph Heslop of Saunders House, March 16th 1807:** Under £200. £55 to his daughter Mrs Ann Wilkinson; £50 to his daughter Mrs Margaret Wilkinson; and the residue, after payment of debts and "other legacies not herein mentioned" to his son Thomas Ralph Heslop of Saunders House.

[*There seem to have been two Ann Wilkinsons around at this time: why was this one left £5 more than her sister?*]

**John Lamb of Crooks House, October 26th 1811:** Under £600. To his wife Ann "all his personal Estate whatsoever Stock Crops etc... for the Benefit of Herself and Children" and, upon her death, what remains to be divided "equally amongst them, share & share alike".

● *To give you some idea how much these sums were worth in today's money, in 1800 a sheep was worth about 80p and the Barningham Hall caretaker earned £1 a week. That seems to make a legacy of £50 in 1800 worth somewhere between £10,000 and £15,000 today.*

## FROM THE PARISH MAG

**120 YEARS AGO:** We have much pleasure in stating that Mr Powlett Milbank has very kindly promised to give prizes to the Barningham and Newsham Sunday Schools to those who most regularly attend the Church and Schools. We hope this will be an incentive to more regular attendance at Barningham, where with a few praiseworthy exceptions, the attendance has been very unsatisfactory, both of the boys and of the girls. – *April 1890*

**75 YEARS AGO:** At a meeting of the School Managers, held at Barningham Park, attended by Lady Milbank, Sir F. Milbank, Mr J. Atkinson, Mr Edward Brown and the Rector, it was proposed by Sir F. Milbank and unanimously agreed, that if the non-smoking rule in the school was not strictly kept at all dances, the Managers will seriously consider the question of refusing to let the school for dances at all. – *April 1935*

**55 YEARS AGO:** We congratulate David Powell on winning the Cup as being the best shot at the Annual Meeting of Gamekeepers. He is now at Catterick, in the Royal Tanks Regiment. Kenneth Powell, Green Howards, is in Germany. They were both regular Church attenders. – *April 1955*

## Bowes opening

THE new library in the cupola of the Bowes Museum will be officially opened on May 11th, offering visitors the chance to access many books of local interest hitherto locked away. They're hoping to have it open to the public at least one day a week.

## Bit of a Pymystery

BERT Travis, distantly related to George Alderson of Hilltop, has an extract from the Arkengarthdale parish register recording the birth of George's ancestor David Alderson in 1759. It says he lived in 'the Pym-hill': does this mean anything to anyone?

## Recipe repeat

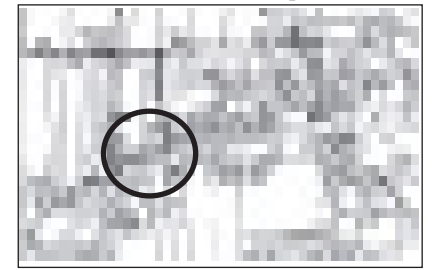
OUR 1691 recipe for Pickled Pigeons (*Archive 6*) found a wider audience when Jim McTaggart reprinted it in his Teesdale Notes column in the *Northern Echo*.

## HOUSE HISTORIES

### Flowery four, one new house and an update

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 Woodbine, Ivy, Rose and Holly Cottages and Beornhow, which we look at in more detail below. If you have more information or amendments, please let us know.



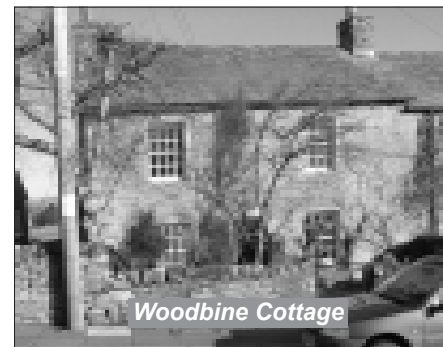
They were followed by Peter and Val Sutton. When they moved over the road to Brantfell in the 1990s gardener Chris Crow and his wife Janet lived in Woodbine Cottage for a few years before the tenancy passed to the current

#### IVY COTTAGE

THE earliest owner of Ivy Cottage we can be absolutely certain about was Thomas Ralph Heslop, born at Park House, Newsham, in 1833.

His father was farmer Ralph Heslop, who had married Ann Wilkinson, daughter of a neighbouring farmer, and then died in 1835 aged only 35. He left his widow well enough off for her to be recorded as 'a landed proprietor' living on independent means in 1841.

By then she had moved with Thomas and her other child, Margaret, to Barningham, almost certainly to Ivy Cottage next door to her parents' home. Whether she already owned the cottage or bought it then is unclear, but when she died in 1885 (after re-marrying one of the Todds – see *Archive 5*) ownership of it passed to Thomas. He was a railway clerk, living in London, and



Woodbine Cottage

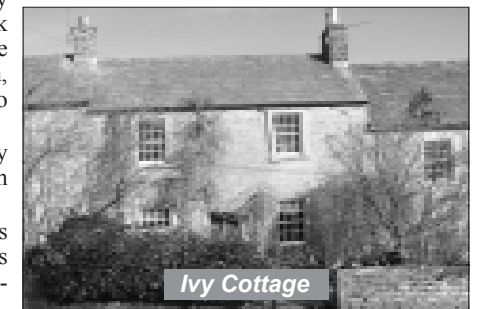
#### WOODBINE COTTAGE

OWNED by the Milbank family, probably ever since they acquired the Barningham estate more than three centuries ago.

We've no records of tenants before the 1920s, when Greta Carter's grandparents, Tommy and Isobel Walker, moved in. They stayed for nearly half a century, raising six children: Nancy, Norman (Greta's father), Richard, Mary, Amy and Alf. In the 1950s they were joined by Isobel's brother Jack Storey, who came back from Canada where he'd been working on the railways. He took over as Barningham postman, walking daily to Hope and back until well into his seventies.

He died in 1958, Isobel in 1966, and Tommy stayed at Woodbine Cottage until his death in 1971.

For a short while after that the cottage was tenanted by Colin and Angela Clark. Colin was a nephew of estate gamekeeper Cyril Blenkinsop, and worked with him as under-keeper.



Ivy Cottage

## NEIL'S NOTES

## Mary, poor Ada and cows on the green

THE last *Archive* asked what happened to Mary and Ada Brown, two of the daughters of John Brown at Park House at the time of the 1928 fire.

When the Browns moved to South View in 1939 the girls went with them. Mary looked after them all. They had a byre behind where How Tallon is now and kept six or seven cows, they used to deliver milk around the village. Ada helped to look after the cows. They used to graze the village green in summer and I remember one time they went into the hall grounds where the game larder had a yew hedge around it, three cows ate it and died.

The Browns took in three brothers as lodgers, Arthur, Bob and Sid England, who were timbermen. Sid married Miss Seymour, a teacher at Barningham school. Bob married Mary and took on the small farm when her parents died in the 1950s; they later moved to Richmond.

Poor Ada. She was a bit... well, everyone was sorry for her. She never received any money from her father but she smoked and used to come to the back door of the Milbank Arms almost every evening and ask for my mum. She'd say: "Av you got-a-wan?" meaning a cigarette. Mum would say yes, and Ada used to say: "I think I'll have a two." She died in 1956.

Ivy Brass, the Browns' granddaughter, married Martin Wilson and lives at Gilling West.

● *Sarah Brown died in 1946 aged 72, John in March 1956, aged 80. Ada, 50, died just a few hours later. "The shock of her father's illness was too much for her," said the parish magazine after their joint funeral at Barningham church. "It laid a heavy burden of care and sorrow on the home, especially on Mrs England, for whom much sympathy was felt."*— Ed.

## The errant nurse

MISS Emmett, who lived at Holly Cottage for many years, worked in the shop and post office for half a century, since Victorian days.

She used to knit blue or pink booties for all new babies born in Barningham. She took in

paying guests and one of them in the early 1930s was a district nurse and her husband who stayed for two years. Then one Sunday they came out of church and two men came up and bundled her into a car and drove her away. They were her father and her real husband.

In her place came Nurse Henderson, and I was the first baby she delivered in 1934.

## Bobbie's red pig

MY father, Sam Turner, built his garage where Byresbron now stands in 1919-1920. We had a 14-seater bus and open and closed cars for hire and were advertised as haulage contractors, live stock carriers, coal and coke merchants.

My uncle Bobbie Etherington worked for my dad all his life. In 1928 he was painting the garage roof with red lead when this nosy pig in the field behind kept poking its nose into the back of his legs, so he kept slapping his brush at it. It ended up with so much paint on it that Bobbie finished it off and painted the whole pig red. My father had to pay quite a lot of money to clean the pig.

Another time Bobbie was painting the windows when a horse kept coming to him for sweets and he made it into a zebra. Yes, my father had to pay to have it cleaned too.

NEIL TURNER

## 'His wish fulfilled'

THE last *Archive* mentioned Joseph Birtwhistle, who died in South Africa in 1900, aged 26. Neil has a cutting from the *Teesdale Mercury* of the time, recording his death. It says Joseph was "a sprightly, honest and brave young fellow" who had given up his job as under-butler at Barningham Hall to enlist in the Scots Guards at the outbreak of the Boer War.

He was in five engagements and a number of skirmishes, and in his last letter he wrote: "I think I shall stay here. I have nothing to come back to England for." It was posted in October 1900 from a hospital in Harrismith, where he died of fever the following month.

"His wish has been fulfilled," commented the *Mercury*. "He does not come back to England, but lies in a soldier's grave... he adds one more to the roll of the gallant who have fought for the Empire and now sleep their eternal sleep on the veldt of South Africa."

# The year Barningham's farmers took their new parson to court

IT'S 1689, and the Rev Jonathan Lowe is young, wealthy and very, very cross.

He had taken over the Barningham parish four years earlier and almost straight away come into conflict with most of his flock.

The row was over his tithes, the tenth portion of every farmer's annual produce that was supposed to be handed over to the church.

Until the early 1600s this had been fairly straightforward. Most of the village land was under the plough, and a tenth of all the hay, corn or whatever was produced was easily identified and collected. But arable farming, then as now, was not the most profitable way of making money on Barningham land. Villagers knew they could get a better return from cattle and sheep, and in 1609 they won permission to enclose much of the land they cultivated – almost 1,000 acres.

Up to then it had consisted of three enormous fields, in which each farmer had areas clearly defined by grass strips, earth banks or other low boundaries. Under the new arrangement the land was broken up into much smaller fields separated by walls or hawthorn hedges.

The only opposition to the change came from the then parson, the Rev Thomas Hutton. He was worried about access to his Glebe lands (areas owned by the church), how he would

## TITHES & ENCLOSURES

work out his tithes, and how he was going to collect them if everyone's fields were enclosed.

He was mollified when the farmers agreed to swap outlying Glebe land for fields of equal or better value near the church, and to pay for them to be walled or hedged.

They also promised to keep at least a third of their land under the plough, to let him travel with a cart or carriage anywhere he needed to go to collect his tithes, and to pay "a sufficient & reasonable consideration in money" in lieu of crops if necessary. No field would be turned over to pasture unless the farmer and parson had agreed the amount to be paid in advance.

This seemed a good deal to the Rev Hutton, who obviously thought collecting tithes in cash would be a lot easier than hauling hay around, and the system worked to the apparent satisfaction of everyone until the parson died in 1846.

His successor, Thomas Richardson, consolidated the position by coming to an agreement with the farmers that they should pay tithes based on the rental value of their land, at a rate of two shillings (10p) in the pound.

All went well until the Rev Lowe arrived. He was a bright young man and soon worked out that so many farmers were ignoring the

## FROM THE VESTRY MINUTES

### Mr Lee goes mole catching at a penny an acre a year

*Letter to Mark Milbank Esq, March 18 1874: Sir, At a Township meeting of the Ratepayers of Barningham in the Institute last night the following resolution was carried unanimously:*

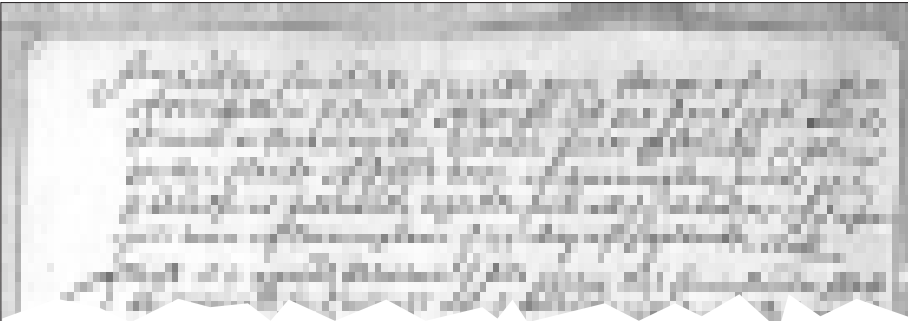
*That Mark Milbank Esq be written to requesting him to appoint a mole catcher for the woods and moors; and on receipt of his answer the Freeholders and tenants meet to take the necessary steps to clear the inland by appointing a suitable person to catch the moles in land in their respective occupations.*

*I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your Obedient Servant, W. T. Gadie, Clerk*

*Minutes of Vestry Meeting, March 23 1874: Resolved that according to the suggestion of Mark Milbank Esq, William Lee be appointed Mole catcher for one year and be paid at the rate of one penny per acre per annum.*

*Resolved that the thanks of the meeting be given to Mark Milbank Esq for his kind and prompt reply to the request of the meeting held on the 17th inst and that this meeting begs to inform him that his suggestion to appoint the same person for the inland is carried out, William Lee being unanimously elected.*

*Thomas Haugh, Chairman*



**Opening page of the 1609 agreement:** 'Articles concluded & agreed upon between Fras. Tunstall of Scargill in y<sup>e</sup> County of York Esq on y<sup>e</sup> one part and his tenants in Barningham on their partes & behalvs & Thomas Hutton Clarke of y<sup>e</sup> said town of Barningham on his part & behalf as followeth together with all of y<sup>e</sup> freeholders of y<sup>e</sup> aforesaid town of Barningham y<sup>e</sup> 27th Day of September 1609...'

**TITHES & ENCLOSURES**

1609 agreement and gone completely over to pasture, feeding cattle on ground that might otherwise produce hay or corn and refusing to pay any tithes at all, that "ye Profit of this benifice may be reduced to less than a 3rd part of its tithe value".

He decided he would get a lot more in tithes if he demanded payment in kind rather than cash, and that is what he did. The farmers were aghast. Nobody had been asked to stump up hay or corn for almost half a century and almost all the fields were at pasture. "Not a fiftieth part of their Lands is plowed," they protested.

The Rev Lowe was determined and set out to collect what he could. The farmers blocked his way across their fields, and when he persisted they accused him of trespass, brought a case before the local court, and had him fined.

The parson was just about to take the matter to a higher court when Francis Tunstall, whose family had been at the forefront of the enclosures and become Barningham's biggest land-owners by far, discovered that he was

deeply in debt. Pressed by his creditors, early in 1690 he decided to sell everything he owned in the village – the hall, park and gardens, houses, shops, tenanted farms and fields – to Acclom, second son of Sir Mark Milbanke, baronet and sheriff of Northumberland.

Acclom seems to have managed to bring the two sides in the tithes dispute to their senses, because there is no record of further litigation by either side. Whether the farmers decided to abide by the 1609 rules and offered a better deal or the Rev Lowe decided a third of a loaf was better than none we don't know.

He wasn't in urgent need of the money. He was wealthy enough without the tithes to buy a cottage and 80 acres of farmland when he arrived in Barningham, employed a curate, and left "a large fortune" to a niece when he died in 1729, widowed and childless.

● *Much of the above information comes from documents held at Barningham Park, including copies of the 1609 enclosure agreement, the Reverend Lowe's legal protests of 1689 and the transfer of Barningham Park from the Tunstalls to the Milbankes the following year. We're grateful to Sir Anthony Milbank for his assistance.*

THE documents covering the sale of Barningham Park in 1690 include a list of all the properties owned by Francis Tunstall. They included 'both the Hawsteds', Eastwood, Wilson close, Crooks, 'Haithwait', Sander's House, the village mill, a quarry and 'Jingle pothole'. Many fields are named, too, among them the Little Long Close, Ramson, Little Ramson, Egmartin, Apleby Pasture and Robson Low Close. Robin Brooks is researching local field names and will welcome information about these or any others. Contact him on 01833 621203.

**LETTERS & EMAILS**

**Scargill connections**

I'M compiling my family history of the Scargills (of Scargill Castle) and would welcome any information that may be of help.

My grandmother is a Scargill from Barnsley. We are from the Thornhill branch of the family.

The first reference to Scargill is in 1086 in the Domesday Book. Warin de Scargill, Lord of Scargill, was one of King Henry II's inspectors and oversaw the re-building of Bowes Castle (in approximately 1187).

Over the years they fought at the Crusades, Agincourt, Flodden, etc. Sir Robert Scargill was the last of the male direct line. In 1530 his daughter Maria married Sir Marmaduke Tunstall who then inherited Scargill Castle. I think that Sir Marmaduke was buried at Barningham.

GRAHAM SYRES  
syres@btinternet.com

● *There are seven Tunstalls listed in the Barningham burials book, though this Sir Marmaduke isn't among them. His descendant Francis Tunstall sold Barningham Park to the Milbanks – see Pages 5 and 6 of this Archive. We hope to give more details of Graham's Scargill links (which include Arthur, of NUM fame) in a future Archive. – Ed.*

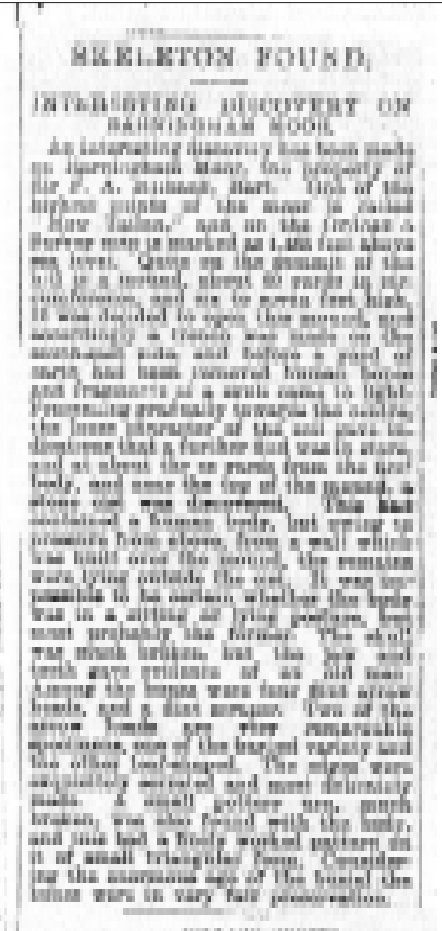
**Women in wartime**

I'M doing a dissertation on 'the changing role of women during 1939-1945' and briefly looking at how women were viewed just before the war 1938 and just after 1946.

Some the research I will be undertaking will involve oral testimony of women, ideally those who worked for one of the organisations during the war years or women who can talk about what they wore, i.e. with the 'make do and mend' policy: did they go to sewing/knitting classes to learn how to remake garments, etc?

At this stage I am gathering information and would be happy for any input from your members. I hope what I'm doing can be of use to Barningham's history group in the future and will be happy to share any research I collect.

JENNY FROST  
frostjennifer@ymail.com



**From the Teesdale Mercury, 1896.** Where did the bones and other finds end up?

**Free access**

A REMINDER that Barnard Castle library, like the rest in County Durham, offers free computer use including access to Britain's biggest family history website [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) (normal cost at least £84 a year).

You can book sessions in advance by phone (638001), email ([bdcaslibrary@durham.gov.uk](mailto:bdcaslibrary@durham.gov.uk)) or just call in.

## Farming families: Sowerbys and Scraftons, Lamberts and Ewbanks

NEXT on the 1841 census enumerator's list was a row of five dwellings occupied by farm workers, the first the home of 25-year-old George Sowerby.

George had married Frances Monkhouse in March the year before, only just in time: their son William was baptised in June. Her parents Jonathan and Margaret Monkhouse, both in their seventies, lived ten doors up the street, and within a few years were to move in with George and Frances. Jonathan, who'd been born in Eggleston, died there in 1851 aged 83; Margaret remained until her death nine years later at the ripe old age of 93.

By then Frances (called Fanny by her family) had had another child, a daughter named Margaret after her grandmother. She inherited the family trait of getting pregnant before ensuring there was a ring on her finger and gave birth to a daughter at the age of 17, but was still at home, unmarried, six years later. The little girl was christened Frances.

George prospered. He was a founder member of the Barningham Cow Club in 1850, and by 1861 was a farmer in his own right with 115 acres. He was one of several Sowerbys working on farms in the area: others included John and Jeremiah in Barningham and William at Wood Top. They were probably all related in some way, but quite how is unclear.

The elder Frances died in 1874, but George lived on for another 20 years. By then their son, daughter and granddaughter had all left the village.

Living next-door to the Sowerbys in 1841 were 50-year-old agricultural labourer Margaret Lambert and her daughters Mary and Jane. Margaret (a widow?) appears to have died not long afterwards; Mary became a dressmaker and died a spinster in 1853; Jane was listed in 1861 as an unmarried farm worker and then disappears from the records.

Next up the village were a couple in their late seventies, John and Sarah Richardson, and their son Christopher who, like his father, was an agricultural labourer. John died at the age of

### THE 1841 CENSUS TRAIL Part 5

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

81 in 1843, Sarah in 1858 aged 92. Christopher was by then 43 and still unmarried: there is no further mention of him.

The next house was occupied by Scraftons, one of the oldest recorded names in the village: it dates back to at least the 1730s when a couple of that name were buried here.

The Scraftons of 1841 were 47-year-old farm worker Isabella (nee Peacock), a widow whose husband Cornelius had died two years earlier, and her four children.

The eldest, George, was 23 and working as a stonemason; then came Mary, ten, and Christopher, eight. The youngest was Hannah, only six years old and destined to die just a few months later. There may have been a fifth child: a James Scrafton, aged 13, was working on a nearby farm. Their mother died in 1859.

George married and had three children by his wife Jane – Cornelius, Mary and Frederick. A fourth, Thomas, died aged three in 1858. George himself died four years later, aged 45. His widow and daughter tried to eke out a living as dressmakers, but Mary died in 1875, aged just 24, and her mother followed her into Barningham churchyard three years later. The other children had by then left the village.

Beyond the Scraftons in 1841 lived Anne Ewbank (nee Miller), the middle-aged widow of a stone-mason, Richard, who had died in 1836. She was recorded as a farmer, and two of her children were living with her when the census was taken: Thomas, 25, and Margaret, 20. None of these appear in later census returns, but the church register records her being buried in Barningham in 1871 after her death in Barnard Castle.

It may be that Anne was also the mother of John Ewbank, who appears in the 1851 census as a 27-year-old Barningham machine-maker. What exactly he made is unknown.

● *Next issue: Bigwigs and a blacksmith*

## The double disaster that left a milne wreet facing jail

THE magistrates presiding over the North Riding Quarter Sessions at Richmond in July 1663 listened sympathetically when James Wild appeared before them and begged for help.

James, listed as “a milner and milne wreet” (miller and millwright), lived beside the river Greta in the woods between Eastwood Hall and Greta Bridge. He had spent his life, he told the magistrates, “in good and credible manner” and had contributed to the relief of the poor “to his utmost proportion” until 1660, when disaster struck.

His corn mill “was by a sudden accident of fire wholly burnt down and consumed”. He battled on for another three years, but in April 1663, fire struck again. “At about two of the clock in the morning, fire consumed and burnt down a kilne, stable, woodhouse, and bakehouse, with two horses standing in the stable, some corn, and all his work geare, and much considerable house stuff as bedding, tables, and timbers.”

The two fires cost him more than £140, and left him “in a sad and necessitous condition, having little or nothing whereby to maintain himself, his wife and six little children, but is in much debt and like to be cast into prison.”

His plea clearly went down well with the magistrates. They granted him permission to seek “the gratuities and charitable benevolence of all well-disposed people” in the area, recommended that all parsons should give details of James’ plight from their pulpits the following Sunday, and ordered churchwardens to collect donations from the congregations.

It worked. Among the churches that raised money was Manfield, which raised three shillings and ninepence – enough to buy nine sheep in those days. If other parishes raised similar amounts, James would have been able to feed his wife and children and start anew.

Whether he returned to what was left of his mill and house and started rebuilding them we don’t know, but evidence of buildings on the site can still be seen today. The place where they stood is still known as Mill Wood.

### FIRE!

*Our story in Archive 6 about the 1928 Park House blaze prompted research into two more local fires*



*Front page of The Northern Echo*

## 1930: The battle to save Rokeby Hall

THE dance at the Morritt Arms was in full swing, despite the gale blowing outside, when Grace Morritt arrived, breathless from running the half-mile from Rokeby Hall, to announce that her home was on fire.

Dancers piled into cars and sped up the long driveway to help. “Flames were coming out of the chimney-stack and sparks were blowing all over the outbuildings,” the inn’s manageress, Mrs Fontana, told *The Northern Echo* later. “Inside the hall the flames were making a roaring sound which was most alarming.”

The Rokeby bailiff, a Mr Tomlinson, climbed on the roof with several other hall employees and guests, and battled the blaze with a hose-pipe and extinguishers. More helpers arrived

## THE ROKEBY FIRE

from Barningham Park, led by John Milbank bearing more extinguishers. All the phone lines had been brought down by the gale, and someone had to drive to Barnard Castle to get a message through to the nearest fire brigade at Darlington. They took an hour to get there, arriving at 9.30, and only just in time: the last of the extinguishers had just run out. The Caterick brigade arrived shortly afterwards, and by 9.50 the blaze was under control.

The fire had started in a chimney beam in the drawing-room, where the Rokeby Venus had once hung and which was still the home of many valuable paintings. Remarkably, none suffered much damage, and only two people – Mr Tomlinson and a chauffeur – were hurt, both suffering minor burns to arms and face.

“All my men worked splendidly,” said Mrs Morritt, American-born wife of Major Henry Morritt who was away in London at the time. “They kept the fire in check at the critical time. Had they not done so it would without doubt have spread over the building.”

*The Northern Echo* agreed: “Had the beams of the roof caught fire the gale would have fanned the flames to fury, and Rokeby Hall might easily have become a furnace.”

● *We don't know the exact date of the fire (and neither do the current owners: we asked) but the publication number on the front of the Echo cutting and reference to cars for sale on the other side suggest sometime in late 1930 or early 1931.*

● *We can't resist mentioning something else on the reverse of the cutting: a reader asking about the maximum number of hours a shopkeeper could make an employee under 18 work in each week. The answer: 74, including mealtimes.*

## Local History Day

THERE'S a Local History Day at Darlington Central Library on Saturday April 24th which includes talks about searching family history (10.45) and researching probate records (2pm). The North-East War Memorial Project will be there with a stall. Admission to talks is £10 and it's advisable to book beforehand : Tel: 01325 349630.

## FAMILY ALBUM

## The Danish Hussar who found a new home in Hope

AMONG those present at Barningham parish meetings 90 years ago was a Mr Lass Strang Gjertson.

We were just wondering who he was when we came across photos of him helping farmer Richard Alderson shear sheep at his East Hope farm in the 1930s. It seems Mr Gjertson was a Dane who had served with the Yorkshire Hussars during the First World War and then somehow ended up in this part of the world. He turned up at the Aldersons' farm and stayed on as part of the family, who re-named him Stanley, and he moved with them in 1936



to Danby in the North York Moors when their livelihood at Hope was wrecked by the afforestation of moorland to create the Stang Forest.

The picture above shows him in the background, beyond Richard and Hugh Tunstall; on the left he's pictured introducing

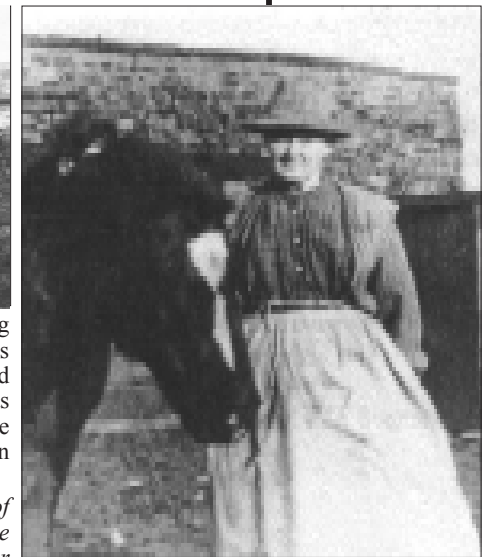


Jane to one of their dairy shorthorns.

How he came to be fighting with the British in the First World War trenches and then came to Barningham is a mystery. He obviously spoke good English: when the parish meeting needed a new clerk in 1919 he volunteered his services. These photos, and the others fea-

tured on this page, are among many collected by Richard's son, also called Richard and living in Cotherstone, who has created a comprehensive guide to this branch of the Alderson family.

● *Thanks to Marian Lewis, of Hutton Magna – related to the Aldersons and several other families in Barningham during the past two centuries – who*



Jane Alderson (1856-1927), who brought up six children at East Hope



From the Alderson family album: Tom Robinson (1894-1971) in uniform during the first world war; Tom and his bride Mary Alderson (1892-1971) after their wedding in 1920; hay-turning in the 1930s; Richard Alderson (1852-1932)

If you have old photographs of Barningham and its people, we'll be happy to feature them. You can view pictures at our website [www.barninghamvillage.com](http://www.barninghamvillage.com).