

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 age will be taken into account. 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!

footnote

THE new library in the cupola of the Bowes Museum was officially opened on May 11th, offering the public the chance to access many books of local historical interest. It's open to the public two days a week. Jon Smith has details or phone the museum (690606).



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

old hints & recipes

Poetical Hot-pot

From an old recipe book belonging to Sheila Bayles: she says it was produced to raise funds for a church somewhere but the cover has been lost.

*First half a pound of kidney take,
Then half a pound of skirt – not steak,
This is more tender you will find.
Chop, leaving all the skin behind.
Pepper and salt as you think fit,
Place in a hot-pot, cover it
With boiling water, only just,
Lest it be swamped. Then next you must
Add some potatoes cut in four,
And three shallots, if liked put more.
Simmer for quite two hours, Serve hot –
Your family will eat the lot.*

● Skirt steak is an inexpensive cut of beef taken from the diaphragm muscle. It comes in long, narrow strips about $\frac{3}{4}$ lb each.

The grain runs across the narrow side and so for serving the steak should be cut into serving-size pieces with the grain so that it can then be cut into bites against the grain. Since it is one of the less tender cuts of beef, skirt steak is usually marinated and sometimes pounded before cooking.

Skirt steak is also known as the "butcher steak" because it's rarely found on meat counters – the butcher takes this one home!

● If you have old recipes, please contact Kay Duggan (01833 621455) who is compiling a booklet of them.



Archive 8

ANNALS OF THE BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

June
MMX

INSIDE: LONG-LOST VICTORIAN MAPS IN A NEW RECTORY HOARD



PICTURE FROM NEIL TURNER'S COLLECTION

A big day out for 12 wonderful hats

IT'S September 1904, and Barningham Church Choir is at Cliffe, near Piercebridge, on its annual outing. The men have trilbies, caps and boaters, but nobody notices: all eyes are on the ladies' headwear, a magnificent display of the milliner's art as feathers, flowers, frills and fur

fight for attention. For the two ladies in front on the right, eyeing up the opposition over-rides even the photographer's call for 'Eyes front, please!' Second from the right at the back, looking slightly amused by it all, is Canon Edwin Spencer Gough, Barningham Rector at the time.

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NEXT HISTORY GROUP MEETING: TUESDAY JUNE 29th 6pm

Maps, films, and long-lost words

Minutes of the meeting held in Barningham Village Hall, Tuesday May 4 2010:

Present: Greta Carter, Ann Hutchinson, Neil Turner, Sheila Catton, Ann Rowley, Beverley Peach, Robin Brooks, Tony Orton, Ann Orton, Ted Andrews, Phil Hunt, Jon Smith, Diane Metcalf, George-Anne Brooks, Janet Wrigley, Elaine McDermott, Neil Diment.

Apologies: Louise Ferrari, Eric and Kay Duggan, Margaret Heslop, Sue Prytherick, Sally Ridgway.

Minutes: Read and approved. Matters arising: (1) Whitby Trip: Nine definitely booked for the museum tours and 16 just for the bus. (2) The Archive Trophy had been bought, it's quite impressive! Several people are showing interest in the competition, the more the better. (3) Village Hall dedication: no progress yet.

Financial Report: Income for April included a £100 donation (the Newsham Pheasant story profits) and totalled £111; expenditure on

from the vestry minutes book

Keeping the Dole secret

Barningham Vestry Meeting held on April 21 1892:

The Church accounts were presented and passed.

Mr Todd having asked a few questions about the distribution of the Dole 30/- per annum he suggested that the names of all the recipients and the amount each received should be posted on the Church Door, but the Rector pointed out that this would be an exceedingly improper thing to do and said that the distribution was in his and the Churchwardens' hands and that over the amount had been distributed but that such charities should be disbursed with tenderness with the object of not hurting people's feelings but doing as much good as possible.

Both he and the Churchwardens would be very pleased to receive from Mr Todd or any other parishioner suggestions on names of people being within the Parish deserving & requiring help.

E. S. Gough, Rector, Chairman

minutes of the last meeting

balance of £630.51.

House Histories: How Tallon, Shaw House and North View were covered at this meeting. There was a lively discussion about Shaw Lane: someone had surveyed the hedge and said that it had been there for about a thousand years.

Publications: *Archive 7* had been distributed. Jon had found a wonderful book from 1849 with a glossary of old Teesdale words, games and customs. From this he had produced *Aback to Yuvvin* which was available for £4 to members.

Website: Regularly updated: we've had a few comments but would love more! The address is www.barninghamvillage.co.uk.

Recipes: Kay Duggan was making progress.

Film Project: Eric and Neil had been to Richmond with some of Neil's old films of the village. It is hoped that we will have some on DVD in time for the next meeting at a cost of approximately £100. Sally Ridgway was still interested in making an up-to-date film of the village.

Evacuees: Liz Hunt had been speaking to Evelyn Clarke who was evacuated to Barningham with her sister: she is willing to be interviewed.

Old Documents: Tony Orton had made another exciting discovery! In the Rectory garage was a piece of old pipe which contained several old maps of Barningham dating from 1838. Some were displayed for us to see. They are beautifully done and are giving us valuable information about which houses were built at the time. Jon will speak to Durham Record Office to find the best way to conserve them.

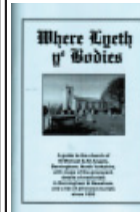
Guest Speaker: Neil Diment, Hay Time conservation Officer – see report opposite.

Next meeting: Tuesday June 29, 6pm in the village hall.

Any Other Business: (1) Beverly Peach offered to compile a scrapbook of newspaper articles about local events, births, deaths, marriages, etc. Please let her have anything you find (she lives at The Hollies). (2) Tony Orton had spoken to Lance Hodson who was willing to come and talk to us. Ann will arrange a date.

ANN ORTON, Secretary

Barningham Local History Group Publications



Where Lyeth Ye Bodies

A guide to St Michael and All Angels in Barningham, with a history of the church, maps of the graveyard, details of memorials, and a list of every known burial since 1503.

A5 Booklet, 116pp, photographs, maps and charts. Soft laminated cover.

Members' price: £8. Non-members: £10 + £1 p&p



A Child of Hope

The childhood memories of Mary Martin, born on a Teesdale farm in 1847. Includes a wealth of detail about families living in Barningham, Scargill and Hope in mid-Victorian days.

A5 Booklet, 32pp, photographs, family tree. Soft laminated cover.

Members' price: £4. Non-members: £5 + £1 p&p



Barningham Vestry Minutes 1869-1894

Transcript of all meetings in the final 25 years of the village's Vestry Meeting before the Parish Meeting took over, with background history of vestry meetings, index and list of all named parishioners.

A5 Booklet, 32pp, photographs. Soft laminated cover.

Members' price: £4. Non-members: £5 + £1 p&p

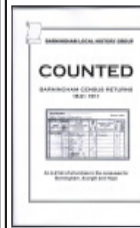


Barningham Parish Minutes 1894-1931

Transcript of all meetings from the meeting's formation in 1894 to its demise in 1931, with background history, analysis, index and list of named parishioners.

A5 Booklet 44pp, photographs. Soft laminated cover.

Members' price: £4. Non-members: £5 + £1 p&p



Counted: Barningham Census returns 1841-1911

An A-Z listing of every available census entry, arranged so that families can be tracked through 70 years. Covers Barningham, Scargill and Hope, with names, ages, marital status, addresses, occupations, birthplaces and deaths.

A5 Booklet, 68pp, photographs, census history, house index, family index. Soft laminated cover.

Members' price: £8. Non-members: £10 + £1 p&p

The Archive: Back issues £1 each to members, £2 + £1 p&p to non-members

Order publications from Jon Smith – see Page 16 for contact details

A wee buik iv aud-farrant taak

WOULD you *chirm* or be *jarbled* if a *twitchbell* or *tenging ether* got *hanckled* in your *claise*? Do you know the rules for playing *blob-cap* or *hitch-i-beds*?

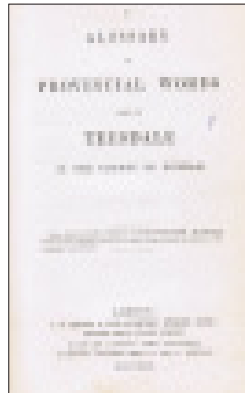
You'll find the answers in *A Glossary of Provincial Words used in Teesdale in the County of Durham*, first published in 1849, a 170-page compendium of 2,000 local words and phrases, with an explanation of many long-lost rural customs, pastimes and curiosities. It's fascinating, so much so that we've reproduced it as a history group publication called *Aback to Yuvvin* (the first and last entries in the book).

The original glossary was the work of Frederick T. Dinsdale, a man of many talents. He was born in Newsham around 1803, trained as a lawyer and became a doctor of law, a judge and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, with a passion for the language, tales and ballads of the North.

As well as producing the *Glossary*, he edited and illustrated a book of the ballads and songs of David Mallet, whose *Ballad of Edwin and Emma* was based on the tragic story of Bowes sweethearts Roger Wrightson and Martha Raitlon.

Little is known of his personal life. He left Newsham at an early age (in his preface to the *Glossary* he talks of Teesdale as a district 'with which I was once well acquainted') and appears to have spent much of his career travelling the country to preside over county courts. In 1861 he was recorded in the census as a visitor at Staindrop Hall, and ten years later he was at the Imperial Hotel at Upton-upon-Severn.

Between these two dates he appears to have got married, late in life, but we have yet to find out anything about his wife, their home or where he died, apparently sometime in the 1870s. He was a modest man, so much so that the *Glossary* did not even carry his name as the man respon-



Cover page of the 1849 book

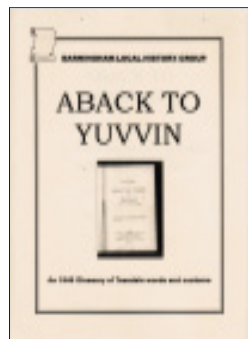
sible for its creation, and he ended his preface to the book by saying self-effacingly 'that on commencing this collection I had not the least intention of ever publishing it'. It was probably the success of his Mallet book, published in February 1849, that encouraged him to publish the glossary six months later.

We should be grateful that he did, because much of what he recorded would otherwise probably have been lost forever. Some words, of course, have survived and may be heard today at sheep sales, auction marts and the back bars of village pubs up the dale.

But without Frederick Dinsdale we would have been deprived of such wonderful words as *eccled* and *minniminni-moni-feet*, and know nothing about long-lost customs like *throwing the stocking* or *riding the stang*. Dip into the pages and you'll not be *bawked* or *blonk'd*. You may even find yourself a bit *gocks-bobbed*.

Translations: *Aud-farrant* old-fashioned; *bawked* and *blonked* disappointed; *chirm* moan; *claise* clothes; *eccled* tried; *gocks-bobbed* amazed; *hanckled* entangled; *jarbled* wet; *minni-minni-moni-feet* centipede; *tenging ether* dragonfly; *twitchbell* earwig. *Blob-cap* and *hitch-i-beds* were children's games, *throwing the stocking* a wedding custom, and *riding the stang* a painful punishment for errant spouses.

● There's a copy of the original book in Barnard Castle library. If you want to buy it, there's one going on Amazon for just £120.



The reprinted version, now available from the history group. £4 to Archive subscribers, £5 + £1 p&p to non-members



Bringing hay meadows back to life

NEIL Diment, our guest speaker in May, is the Community Officer for the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Hay Time Project.

The project's aim is to work with land-owners to restore, enhance and conserve hay meadows. To help with this they have interviewed farmers who remember how the meadows were managed before mechanisation, important because these skills were in danger of being lost.

Little has been written about the subject but there are lots of old photographs and many farmers kept very detailed diaries. We found the resulting film fascinating. It was lovely to hear the voices of the old farmers describing hay time.

The stock was removed from the fields in April/May and the grass was left to grow until late summer. Haymaking was incredibly hard work, it needed at least four clear days, not easy with the weather in these parts. All the family would help.

The hay crop was very important, because even the smallest amount gathered by the children could make a difference to the survival of stock. The meadows evolved because of the lead mines: the men worked in the mines and the women and children tended the fields. The climate, altitude (250m) and traditional farming methods all helped to preserve them.

In the very best hay meadows more than 30 different species of plants might be found in

guest speaker

one square metre, providing food and shelter for a multitude of wildlife.

The decline in hay meadows is due to intensive farming, the use of artificial fertiliser and wetter conditions. Roughly 1,000 hectares of upland hay meadows are left in the UK, 40% of them in the North Pennines.

Neil brought along various tools that were used, including a scythe, sickle and rake.

The project is aiming to increase public awareness and enjoyment of meadows. This summer, at Allendale Village Hall on June 19 and 20, a new exhibition will explore the marvellous hay meadows and visitors will be invited to discover some of the characteristic flowers and wildlife. There will be hands-on hay timing activities for children, demonstrations and special hay time teas available throughout the weekend.

● Many thanks to Neil Diment for his very interesting and informative talk.

ANN ORTON



footnote

DATES for future meetings of the BLHG have been provisionally fixed as 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!



Left: William (1859-1933) and Agnes (1861-1927) Atkinson of Crooks House; right, their daughter Gertrude (1891-1976) and her husband Joseph Metcalfe (1890-1970), pictured on honeymoon in Blackpool in 1915.

The long line of Barningham Atkinsons

OUR feature in *Archive 5* on the link between Barningham clock-maker Thomas Binks and the Atkinson family prompted contact from Mavis Marwood of Richmond, great-grand-daughter of a man who farmed Crooks House a century ago.

She came armed with a family tree file of exactly 4,000 Atkinsons all over the world she'd traced back to Barningham ancestors in the 1660s (the 4,000th had been born shortly before her visit).

We've got a copy of all the relevant Barningham connections, and a tiny fragment of her tree appears opposite.

Atkinsons are one of the oldest families in the Barningham area. There are 57 of them in the churchyard, the first recorded being an Agnes Atkinson who was buried there in May 1590 and quite possibly remembered the days when Henry VIII was busy beheading his wives.

The Atkinsons at that time were among the leading farmers in the village: in 1609 Bartholomew Atkinson was among eight who signed the enclosure agreement (see *Archive 6*). He died in 1619.

Mavis has traced her branch of the family almost that far back, to John Atkinson, born in 1660. He married a Mary Barnes and had two sons, one of whom, George, was Mavis's great-great-great-great-grandfather. He too had two sons: John, listed in 1803 as being allocated

a third of an acre of land opposite the junction of Low Lane and the Scargill road under the enclosure agreement that year, and George, a smallholder renting land from the Milbanks up to his death in 1815. The tenancy passed to his son Thomas and shortly after that to his son

John Atkinson (1862-1937) of Wilson



letters & emails

Sorry about the slight delay, Mr Sowerby...

TUCKED between the pages of an old parish magazine rescued from the Rectory skip we found a letter dated July 19th 1979 from a John Sowerby of Shildon.

Addressed to "The Rev Coven" (which probably didn't amuse the then Rector, Jack Cobham) and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (first class post, 7p), it asked whether the church had any information about the Sowerby families of Barningham in the 18th and 19th century.

The writer, a lad of just 17, said he was trying to track down his ancestors and had identified Coulson Sowerby, a Barningham agricultural labourer born in 1793, as his great-great-great-grandfather. In 1838, he added, Coulson had been appointed village pinder – the officer appointed by the parish to impound stray animals in the pinfold at the top of the village

The letter was obviously never answered, and there's no trace of John Sowerby in Shildon today. But, better late than never, here's the reply he should have received, pieced together from the church births, marriages and burials records and other sources:

Three families called Sowerby arrived in the area in the late 1700s. One settled in Scargill, where five children appear to have been born between 1800 and 1810: two of them, boys, died in their teens; three daughters appear to have survived although there is no further record of them.

A second family made a home at Wood Top, a now vanished farm cottage at the top of Gill Beck bank on the road to Scargill. The parents were Langley-born William Sowerby (1768-1852) and his wife Alice (1776-1869). They seem to have had one son called William (1801-1888), another called George (1812-1894) – see the 1841 census story about him in *Archive 7* – and possibly other children, who produced another generation in the 1820s and 1830s. There appear to be at least eight of these, seven of whom survived to adulthood.

One, Thomas (1822-1895) married a girl from Kirklington called Ann and took over Wood Top when his father died.

Ann herself died in 1857, leaving Thomas with two small children to bring up with the help of his widowed mother. After her death he brought in a housekeeper, Sarah Kirkley, a widow in her late thirties with four children of her own. He married her soon afterwards and they had two more children before she, too, died aged only 46. Thomas brought them all up somehow until his death in 1895; what happened to them after that we don't know, but by the 1901 census they had all gone.

The third Sowerby family, the one young John was asking about in 1979, was headed by Coulson. Born in Lunedale, he married a Barningham girl called Hannah Tinkler (1797-1881) about whom we know little except that her mother was called Margaret (1765–c1855: she went to live with Coulson and Hannah in her widowed old age) and she might well have been the niece of a Christopher Tinkler who married a Frances Robinson in Barningham in 1790.

Coulson and Hannah had several children, including Jeremiah (1822-1893) who married a Romalldkirk girl called Margaret and had offspring including Hannah Sowerby (1852-1933) who never married but nevertheless produced at least one son, John Coulson Sowerby (1873-1968). His son James was our Shildon letter-writer's father.

This branch of the Sowerbys are recorded in Barningham up to the end of the 19th century, but all had left the area by the time of the 1901 census. Some, clearly, got as far as Shildon.

footnote

If you're not football mad, there is something else to do during the World Cup – research your family history. You can view all the records on findmypast.c.uk free during every England World Cup match – 30 minutes before kick-off they'll stop charging for three hours, which should give you plenty of time to explore what they have to offer. Register beforehand as you'll need to sign in to view the records.

letters & emails

ten so far, it has been quite a voyage of discovery for me to realise the extent of my connections to the Barningham region of North Yorkshire, not just via the Alderson line, but also of course with the female lines of Anderson, Atkinson and Coats.

It was also a great pleasure to read *A Child of Hope* which helped to put some flesh on what is normally just a skeleton of ancestry trees and find out a little of what life would have been like for children living in the farms at Hope at that time. It is a great treasure that you found in the account by Mary Martin and a wonderful legacy for all that you got it into print.

DICK ALDERSON, Dalgety Bay, Fife

● *The 'Hussar' was recorded as Gjertson in the 1920s parish minutes: I don't suppose the clerk at the time thought he should spell it any other way. – Ed*

Tracking down the inn where Dickens

FOLLOWING a fairly heated dispute in one of our local hostelrys about where Charles Dickens stayed at Greta Bridge during his visit in January 1838, I've found a cutting from the *Teesdale Mercury* of 70-odd years ago which may be of interest to your members.

Written by someone who signed himself simply as 'Dickensian', it lists the coaches that in the early 1800s passed along what is now the A66. They included the daily London to Glasgow mail, the London to Carlisle Express (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays), the Leeds to Carlisle North Star (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays) and the sporadic Glasgow to London Herald.

All of them needed fresh horses along the way, and inns were contracted to provide them for the different companies. Dickensian quotes an 1822 'Dictionary of Yorkshire' as saying there were then two inns at Greta Bridge – the George on the north side of the river (landlord Ralph Chambers), and the Morritt Arms on the south (landlord George Martin). It was the Morritt that had the contract for providing horses for the Glasgow mail coach, some to travel north

to the Bridge Inn at Brough, some south to the George Inn at Catterick.

However, says Dickensian, "during the early 1820s, George Martin had some disagreement with his landlord, so he persuaded the owner of the Thorpe Estate, Mr Sheldon Cradock, to convert into an inn a farmstead (now Thorpe Grange), situate about half a mile southwards on the main road from Greta Bridge, and the outbuildings were enlarged and transformed into a commodious posting establishment."

In 1826 or thereabouts, Martin became landlord of the new hostelry, and took the contract for horsing the Glasgow mail with him. The Morritt continued to run, but the George seems to have ceased to operate as a licensed house.

"The new inn was generally known as the New Inn, but was frequently referred to as the George and New Inn, hence in a directory dated 1840 there is a note under 'Greta Bridge' stating there were two inns, the Morritt's Arms in the parishes of Barningham and Brignall, landlord William Harrison, and the George Inn in the parish of Wycliffe, landlord George Martin."

Dickens travelled up from London by the Glasgow mail coach, and clearly he would have had to stay at the New Inn which had the horsing contract. This is borne out in a letter to his wife dated the day after he stayed there, in which he describes it as 'a house standing alone in the midst of a dreary moor' – a fair description of the site on a bleak wintry day. The author always described the inns he stayed at in minute detail, says Dickensian, "and most assuredly had he put up at the inn adjoining the bridge he would have mentioned that fact.

"When trains began to run regularly on the railways in the early 1840s, the coaches gradually ran off the road and wayside inns and posting houses were closed down.

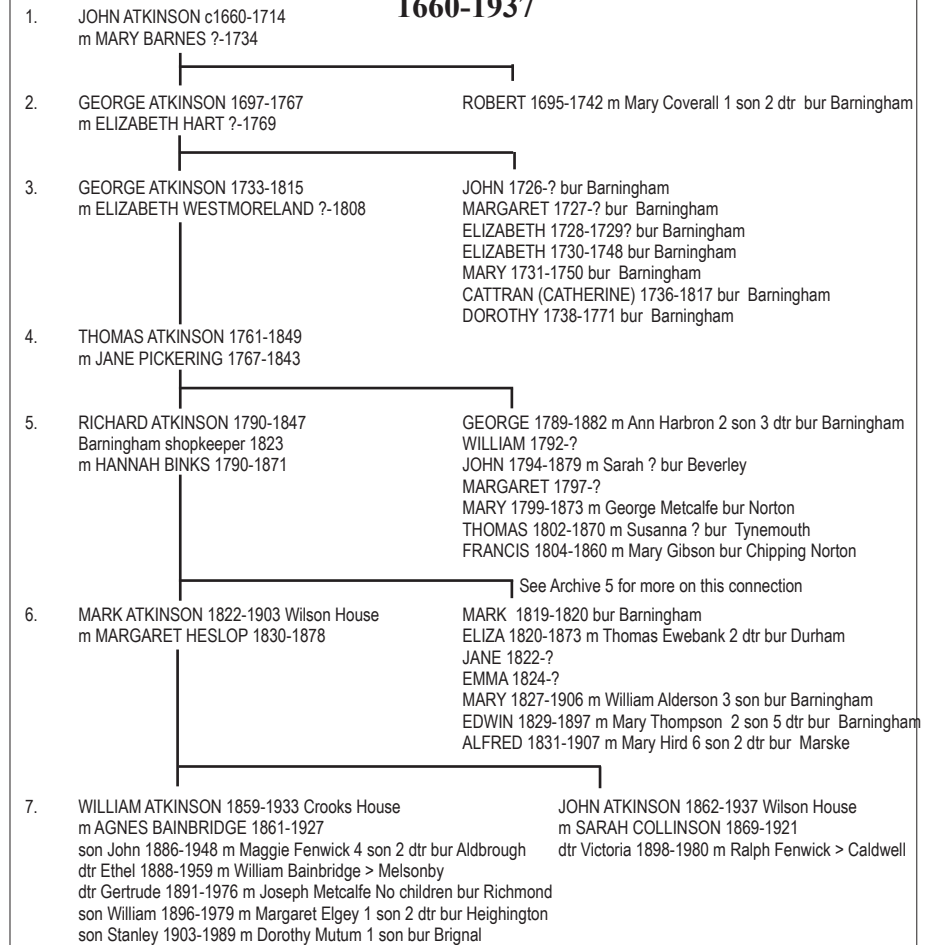
"The New Inn lingered on until 1841, when the house became once more a private residence; the Morritt Arms also ceased to exist as an inn, and its licence was transferred to the old George Inn on the north side of the bridge, and the inn assumed the name of the Morritt Arms."

So now you know: Dickens stayed at what is now Thorpe Farm, and almost certainly never set foot on or near Greta Bridge.

DICKENSIAN II, Barningham

BARNINGHAM ATKINSONS

1660-1937



Richard (the one who had married the clock-maker's daughter Hannah Binks).

We can't be certain which farm he took over, but it seems likely it was Crooks House because that's where his son Mark (1822-1903) was farming in the mid-1800s. By 1891 had passed to Marks' son William; another son, John, was farming Wilson House.

Both brothers married and had six children between them, but the next generation all moved out of the area. William and John remained at

the two farms until at least the late 1920s, by which time both were widowed.

William died in 1933. John moved to Park View, where he died in 1937. The *Teesdale Mercury* reported that Barningham church was packed for his funeral, with mourners – many of them Atkinsons – travelling from all over the North.

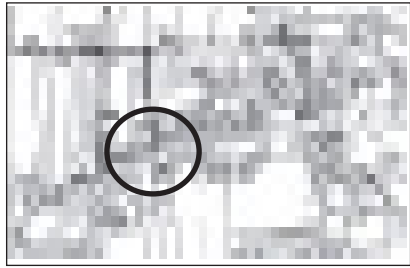
● *Thanks to Mavis for lending us her files and photographs.*

house histories

Some new, some old, some much changed

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 Raby View, Brantfell, Byresbron, How Tallon, Shaw House and North View, all of which we look at in more detail below. If you have more information or amendments, please let us know.



HOW TALLON

ONE of the few modern houses in Barningham, converted in the early 1970s from a barn that had served as the Shaw House stables for well over a century and a half: it is marked on a village map of 1838.

The conversion to a house won a Teesdale District Council design award for the sensitivity of the work. The first owners were Tim and Alwyn Laurie and their four children, who lived there until 1987 when it was bought by the present owners, Wilf and Janet Wrigley.

SHAW HOUSE

SHAW House has been around a long time, certainly since the 18th century and probably a good while longer in some form or another. It was originally two cottages, and Greta Carter recalls it having two staircases, two kitchens and two pantries half a century ago, although by then it had been turned into one house.

It is not named in any census up to 1911, and it is probable that was christened Shaw House when it was converted into one, taking its

name from Shaw Lane running beside it down to Banks House and beyond. Where the name Shaw Lane comes from is unknown, but it may have been named after the Shaw family, one of the oldest recorded in Barningham.

A Widow Shaw was among the very first names in the church burials book, dying here in 1590, and over the next 250 years and more the name crops up again and again, with dozens of Shaws being buried in Barningham.

They seem to have petered out in the mid-1800s. The last burial entry is of a seven-year-old John Shaw who died in 1841, one of nine children of a farmer of the same name recorded in the census that year. They left the area within the next decade, and there is no further mention of the name. There is no evidence that any of these Shaws ever lived in what is now called Shaw House.

It has been owned by the Milbank family since the time of our earliest records. The earliest occupants we know of were the Birtwhistle family (see *Archive 6*) who lived there in the



letters & emails

Ten-year search ends, thanks to the

I'VE just received your edition of *Archive 7* and I cannot thank you enough.

I have been visiting Barningham for the last ten years, researching the Marriner families between 1620 & 1800. I know they were there during that time but the evidence I have only confirms that they lived there, not where or what they did.

Lo and behold, a few weeks after I joined your group, in the House History update on Hillside on page 14 of *Archive 7* come the words I thought I would never see: "their neighbour to the east was John Marriner".

Not only does this point me to a site or dwelling, but it also means from my database that the John Marriner mentioned is in fact my 5 x great-grandfather who married a lass called Mary Pypus (from Kirkby Fleetham) on 22 January 1742 in St Michael and All Angels church in Barningham. They had three children before 1750.

I am double-double checking my data, and my brother (Tony Marriner, who lives in Dorset and also gets the *Archive*) is checking his. If as we expect we do confirm our findings the Local History Group will have found our missing link.

I hope to arrange a visit to Barningham to bring through various information I have which will be of interest to your group.

Once again many thanks. Funny how things work out – if I hadn't joined your group or Lee Darvill's solicitor not sent the pile of paperwork through about the house at the same time, we may never have linked the two.

JOHN MARRINER, Middlebrough
marriner@ntlworld.com

Two Woodbines

MANY thanks for the very interesting *Archive 7*. Were there two Woodbine Cottages at Barningham? My gran Frances Alderson's two sisters used to live at Woodbine Cottage which was

next to the Post Office. They were called Miss Hannah Bowe and Mrs Elizabeth Etherington, who was Neil Turner's step-gran. They moved from Stone Stoops on the A66 to Barningham in the late fifties.

The Richard Alderson who put the family tree together (see the *Family Album feature* in last issue, and letter below) lives at Dalgety Bay, Scotland. Hugh Tunstall was Richard Alderson's uncle and the baby called Jane, his sister. His mother was called Tunstall before she married; her father was also called Richard Alderson.

Keep up the good work.

MARIAN LEWIS, Hutton Magna

● Yes, there were two Woodbine Cottages: the one beside the Post Office was re-named Britan-

Voyage of discovery

YOU featured the Aldersons of Hope in *Archive 7*, which I guess will have come from my writings which you must have copies of from Marian Lewis. [Yes – the writer of this letter is the man we mentioned in the last issue who had gathered an enormously useful amount of information on the Hope Aldersons. –Ed]

The 'Danish Hussar' Stanley Gjertsen (not Gjertson) was my godfather. He was in Barningham from the end of the First World War and, as you say, taking an active part in village life, but how did he end up fighting in the Yorkshire Hussars which, I guess from the name, must originally have been a cavalry regiment? Did he meet any of the Alderson brothers and brother-in-law who also served, or one of the many others from the area who went to that war? Certainly more to find out.

I look forward to further contact and communication with you and your enthusiastic and informative group of local historians.

As you will have seen from what I have writ-

footnote

BARNINGHAM local history group gets a mention in the latest issue of *Local History News*, the magazine of the British Association for Local History, which reports our research into the 1841 census.

The Todds, the Pinsents, and the girl who never got to see New York

THE next name in our 1841 census enumerator's list was Todd, one of three families of that name living in Barningham at the time.

This one was headed by 49-year-old William Todd, the eldest son of a farmer of the same name who had died only a couple of years before. William junior was one of the Todds who had done well out of cheesemongering in London, and seems to have divided his time between the capital and Barningham, as he appears in the census records only this once.

William was related to many other Todds in the area, a cousin of (among others) James, Edward and another William: see *Archive 1* for a family tree showing the family links.

He had married Elizabeth Middleton at Startforth in 1822; he died in 1857, she in 1876. They had no children, but staying with them in 1841 was 19-year-old Elizabeth Pinsent, believed to be the child of William's sister Mary who had married a tallow chandler from Devon and emigrated with him to New York in the 1830s.

We say 'believed to be' because there's something of a mystery about Elizabeth. Mary Todd married John Pinsent in Clerkenwell, London, in 1822 – just about when Elizabeth was born – but when the couple sailed to New York to start a new life in 1832 they took with them only three sons, all born later than Elizabeth.

John Pinsent did well for himself in New York, became an American citizen and ended up running a prosperous confectionary business with an address on Sixth Avenue. He and Mary visited England on several occasions over the next two decades, their eldest son John went to school for a time in Durham in the 1840s, and Mary herself came back to Barningham to die in 1874 (John had died in 1870).

Elizabeth, meanwhile, stayed in England. She remained unmarried, and spent her life with various relatives around the country. In 1861 she was housekeeping for her cousin William in London; in 1871 living with farming cousins William and James in Barningham; in 1881 she

1841 census trail, part 6

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

had her own home in Montalbo Terrace, Barnard Castle, where she was looking after two young cousins, Minnie and Margaret Todd. She died in 1896 and was buried in Barningham.

Why was she left behind when her parents set off across the Atlantic? Had she been born out of wedlock and 'farmed out' to her mother's brother to save embarrassment? Did William and Elizabeth – childless themselves – happily 'adopt' her? Was she perhaps disabled in some way and unable to travel? Or was she the daughter of some other Pinsent?

We don't know, but we are in touch with someone researching the Pinsent family tree, and we'll let you know if they can throw any light on it all.

Also at the Todds' home in 1841 were three servants: 14-year-old Elizabeth Jones, Annie Raine, 31, and Ann Beck, 20. None had family in the village, and all had either changed their name by marriage or left the area by the time the next census took place.

Living alone next door was 40-year-old Ann Porter, an agricultural labourer from Byers Hill. By 1851 she'd got a job as a housekeeper; she died in 1859.

Next along was blacksmith Ralph Goundry, his wife Ann, their five children and 26-year-old unmarried servant Isabella Goundry, who was probably his sister.

Ralph, born in Newsham, was 38 and within ten years was also operating as an innkeeper, possibly running the Boot and Shoe (now The Hollies) but more likely The Royal Oak (now the Milbank Arms). Whether he used the smithy on the south side of the green beside Newby House or had premises elsewhere, perhaps behind his inn, is unknown.

By 1851 he and Ann had two more children; by 1861 the family had left the village.

● *Next issue: More cottagers and a cordwainer.*

house histories

early 1900s before moving to Heather Cottage. In their place came the Powells, who arrived in Barningham in 1919, one of several families brought here by Sir Frederick Milbank when he inherited Barningham Park and moved up here from Presteigne in North Wales.

The head of the family was gamekeeper William Powell (1878-1940). He and his wife Agnes (1880-1966) had eight children, some of whom remained in the house until the 1980s. The last ones there were Bert and Isabel, whose daughter Dot was renowned as an astonishingly fast pheasant plover.

Occupants since then have included photo salesman Peter Johnson, Mike and Lilian Kavanagh (now at Park View), Roy and Jenny Currie (who left for Zambia in 2008) and the current tenants, Aaron and Kriss Baker.



Byresbron, Brantfell & Raby View

BYRESBRON, BRANTFELL and RABY VIEW

THIS row of three adjoining houses was built in the mid-1970s in the corner of a field that had been part of the Milbank-owned Hilltop Farm and from 1919 to the late 1950s was the site of Sam Turner's garage (see picture in *Archive 1*).

The first people to live in Byresbron were Jon and Pat Morris. They were followed by John and Janet Richardson, Colin and Bev Blackburn, and Mark and Jo Chamberlain, the current occupiers.

Brantfell's first owners were a couple of teachers (anyone remember their names?). They sold it in the 1980s to the Milbanks, who have rented it ever since to Pete and Val Sutton.

Raby View has been occupied by Metcalfs since it was built, first by Keith and Daphne and now by Keith's parents John and Betty.



North View

NORTH VIEW

THIS was originally two cottages, owned by the Todd family until the late 1950s.

Postman Richard and Mary Lee were tenants of one cottage in 1911, and it seems likely they had been there for up to 20 years before that, raising seven children there.

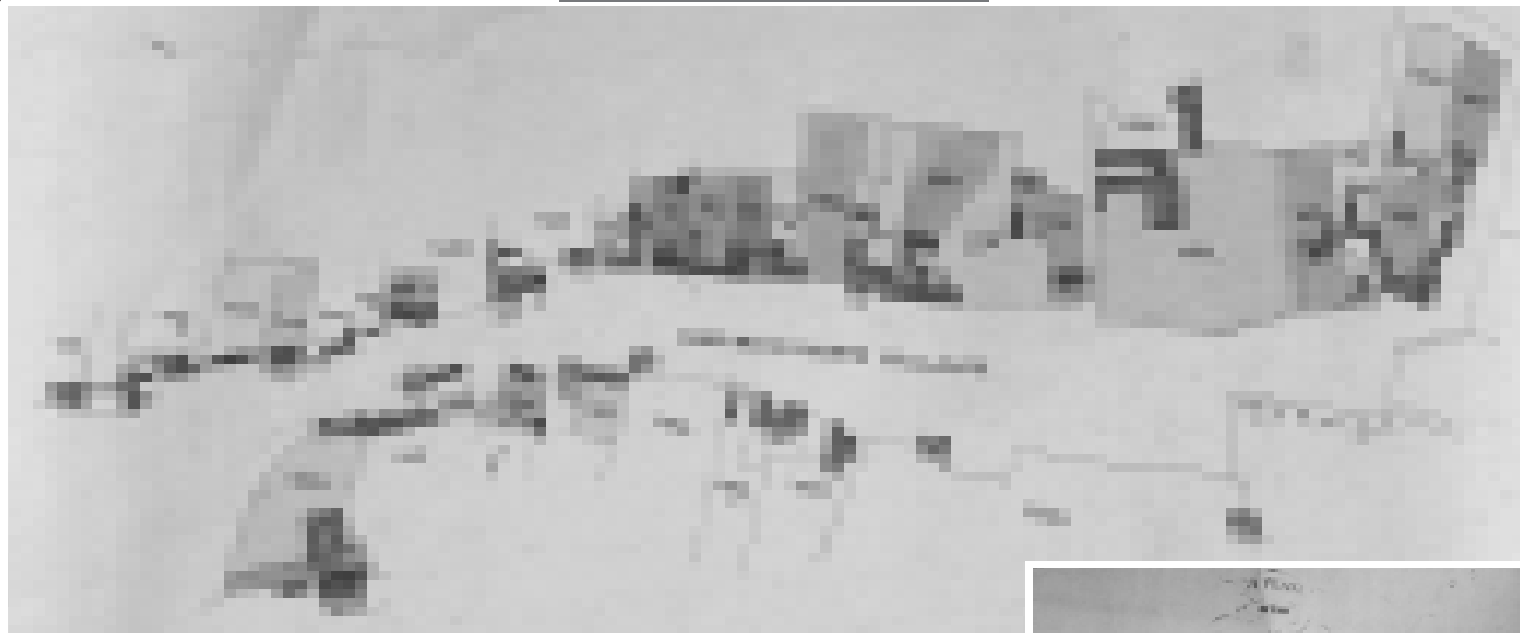
Next-door was washerwoman Elizabeth Robinson, who had been born in Shap and lived for some time in Dorset before moving to Barningham in the mid-1880s. Her husband died not long afterwards, leaving her to bring up seven children. Six survived; by 1911 only one, 17-year-old Mary, remained with her at North View. Elizabeth died three years later.

We don't know who lived there over the next 20 years, but by the mid-1930s it was empty and derelict, the outside covered by an enormous pear-tree. In 1936 Sam Turner's family moved in from The Nook, renovating it before moving out to take over the Milbank Arms in 1939.

Tenants after that included the Kirkup and Raine families before Bobbie Etherington (Sam's brother-in-law) moved in with his wife Amy and stayed there until the 1960s, when they moved to Fairview Cottage.

In 1957 the property was sold by the Todds to Newsham cattle dealer Henry Nicholson. It then passed to George Bellwood who occupied it until the 1970s when it was sold to Gordon and Caroline Senior. Early in the 1980s they sold it to David and June Johnson, who have lived there ever since.

● *Next issue: East View, The Cottage, Chapel Cottage and the Old Chapel. If you have old documents relating to your home and the people who once lived there, we'd be very grateful to see them for future House Histories*



A corner of the Barningham map, showing the centre of the village in 1838



had yet to be built, and the 'Round the World' path petered out at the lime kilns.

The map, measured in chains (one chain = 220 yards) was drawn to a scale of approximately 4000:1 by John Humphries of London, and is stamped with the date December 31 1841, when the tithe commutation proposals for Barningham were officially approved.

The maps will probably end up in the county record office but we're investigating the possibility of making a copy of the Barningham one for display in the village hall. Meanwhile, if you'd like to see any of them, contact Jon Smith who's looking after them.

Rescued: a treasure trove of maps from Victoria's early days

JUST when we thought we'd found everything there was to be saved from the Rectory clear-out, another hoard came to light: a collection of Victorian maps hidden in an old metal canister.

They were about to be thrown out when history group member Tony Orton spotted the container, wondered what was inside and discovered the documents.

They attracted great interest at the last group meeting. Among them is a five-by-two-foot map of Barningham, meticulously hand-drawn on a sheet of fine linen in 1838 and showing every field and building in the parish at the time. There are similar maps of Scargill and Hope, and a dozen maps of the area dating from the first Ordnance Survey in the 1850s.

The 1838 maps were drawn up as a result of the

Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, when the whole country was surveyed. Three copies of each map were made at the time, one for the Tithe Commissioners, one for the diocesan bishop and one (the one we've found) for the parish clerk. The Tithe Commissioner's copy is held by the Borthwick Institute for Historical Research in York; the whereabouts of the bishop's is unknown.

As well as showing all the fields and numbering them (more than 400 in Barningham alone), there is a detailed plan of the village revealing much that has changed in the past 180 years.

Several houses shown on it have long vanished, and many of the old field boundaries have disappeared. The top of the village had yet to be enclosed, Park House and Banks House (among many others)

120 YEARS AGO: Lady Milbank, accompanied by Miss Milbank, presented handsome and suitable books to those children with the best attendance at the day school. Lady Milbank was heartily greeted and said she must impress upon them how necessary education was for the sake of advancement in life. What children should first learn was to read fluently and easily, and above all to be able to study the Scriptures; writing and arithmetic; history, which teaches us how our country by its un-failing love of liberty and freedom and respect for law and order has gained the great position it now holds; geography, which teaches us a knowledge of other countries and our own colonies; astronomy; and geology.

Best attenders were Albert Robinson (436 out of 436), Lilian Birtwhistle (435), Tom Robinson (434) and James Nelson (433). B. Hutchinson won the Special Prize and Mark Coates the Good Conduct Prize. Proceedings were, after the singing of a hymn, brought to a close by ringing cheers as the children's acknowledgement of the pleasure her ladyship had afforded them by her words. — *June 1890.*

75 YEARS AGO: The Village Festivities to celebrate the King's Jubilee, including sports, tea, distribution of mugs, whist drive, dance, the planting of a chestnut tree on the green by Mr John Atkinson, and the lighting of the beacon fire, all passed off simply and very happily, in delightful weather. — *June 1935.*

40 YEARS AGO: We have recently lost two elderly people, Miss Esther Thompson and Dorothy Lady Milbank, who have had a great effect on our village life. There was little, both in Church and village life, in which they did not interest themselves or work hard for, and the results of their thoughts and work helped to make the happy atmosphere of our village life so attractive. — *June 1970.*



footnote

NEIL Turner's 8mm films of Barningham in the 1960s-80s have been transferred to DVD and we hope to show a preview of them at the next history group meeting on June 29th. Don't miss it!