

## from the parish mag

**125 YEARS AGO:** Sir Frederick and Lady Milbank entertained the inhabitants of the district with a Ball to which it seemed everyone in the parish came. It was a night long to be remembered as one of those happy occasions when landlord and tenants meet for a time on social terms of equality, and those who give and those who receive appear to be content, happy and thankful. – *March 1894*

**120 YEARS AGO:** We are very sorry to have to draw attention to the church expenses. We have had to cease lighting the candles in the chandelier, and be more saving in the use of coke for warming the church, and unless receipts from the offertories increase we shall have to lessen expenses in other directions. – *March 1899*


**110 YEARS AGO:** Can it be possible that so many find it impossible to attend services twice on a Sunday? It is, alas, too evident that all over the country there are increasing numbers content with going to church only once. – *March 1909*

**90 YEARS AGO:** At the musical tournament in Barnard Castle our children were awarded two second-class certificates but lost the Challenge Shield, which they had held for six years in succession. – *March 1929*

**80 YEARS AGO:** The Bishop of Ripon has appointed the Rev D K Cook, Vicar of Whixley with Green Hamerton, as the new Rector of Barningham. – *March 1939*

**70 YEARS AGO:** The sad death, through accident, of William Saunders was a great sorrow to us all. His quiet,

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*Wartime ad from the parish magazine of March 1944*

sure and unobtrusive way, whether he was driving his bus or mixing with his fellows, inspired confidence and liking. – *March 1949*

● *He was 38, killed in a motorbike crash. – Ed.*

**65 YEARS AGO:** The passing of Joseph Leggett breaks another link with the ways and days of the past. He was in the Milbank household for more than half a century, and as their butler ruled with skill of a general and the understanding of a father, and his guidance and patience must have been the making of many young people who came under his hand.

– *March 1954*

**25 YEARS AGO:** Barningham WI's new president, Mary Gathercole, welcomed members to their meeting. Ribboncraft was our project and it was amazing what we achieved with a few yards of ribbon, vilene, pins, an iron and a cake-board – the cushion class at this year's show will probably overflow with entries. The competition for the county meeting is a pair of dressed wellies. Supper was provided by Mrs Brass, Mary Gathercole and Jennifer Jones. – *March 1994*

## Barningham Local History Group

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

Covering Barningham and surrounding area: Newsham, Dalton, Gayles, Kirby Hill, Kirby Ravensworth, Whashton, Hutton Magna, Greta Bridge, Rokeby, Brignall, Scargill, Hope and beyond.

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# Archive 57

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP  
B. A. L. H. LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 2012  
[www.barninghamvillage.co.uk](http://www.barninghamvillage.co.uk)



## INSIDE: WHY ONE-LEGGED WILLY FACED THE HANGMAN'S NOOSE



*Harvest-time break for farm workers at Dyson House, Newsham in the 1920s – one of many historic photographs in a Teesdale collection. More inside*

### contents

**LINDA'S AWARD TREBLE:** Page 2

**ONE-LEGGED WILLY:** Pages 3-5

**THE FARADAY LETTER:** Pages 6-8

**WINSTON CANAL PLANS:** Pages 9-12

**PICK OF PARKIN'S PICS:** Pages 13-16

**RECTOR'S WIFE'S GIFT:** Page 17



**Bands of Hope**  
Pages 22-25

**LIVES OF THE CARTERS:** Page 18

**APPLEBYS DOWN UNDER:** Page 19

**SEARCHING FOR SHAWS:** Page 19

**DAD'S SURPRISE DNA:** Page 20

**WHERE WERE THE WARDS?:** Page 21

**GRAHAMS IN CANADA:** Page 25

**MILBANK ARMS FACELIFT:** Page 26

**FROM THE PARISH MAG:** Page 28



## The Archive

YOU'RE quite right. It's been far too long since the last *Archive*.

The history group went into hibernation for much of 2018, with no meetings since the spring and not much happening on the research front. There were occasional emails from distant searchers of family records, but not enough to justify a new newsletter.

It didn't help that after ten years as *Archive* editor I'd resigned in the hope that somebody else would take over. They didn't, and I've been persuaded to return.

We're happy to report that things are looking up, and this *Archive* proves, we hope, that the group is still very much alive.

Our apologies to all who paid their subs for 2018 in the confident expectation of getting at least a couple of *Archives* for their money. You'll be pleased to know that we aren't asking existing subscribers for anything at all this year.

We intend 2019 to be more productive than its predecessor. This *Archive* is a start, and we hope you think it was worth waiting for.

JON SMITH  
Archive Editor

## Linda's farewell victory makes it three in a row

LINDA Sherwood kept a firm grip on the Archive Award, winning it in 2018 for the third year running.

Her history of a Gayles property, *Where I Lay My Head*, was named the best entry by judge Chris Lloyd, the local historian who masterminds the *Memories* supplement in the *Northern Echo*.

Linda's project, he said, was an "exhaustive compilation of information which must have taken years to compile... every conceivable angle has been covered, and there are some lovely little snippets in there. It

### archive awards

has the most potential to add to the knowledge of local history and will be of interest to everyone who lives in the area."

Chris said all the entries were extremely valuable and interesting, and he was deeply impressed with the amount of research each of the entrants had undertaken.

Runners-up were John Hay with the story of a letter found in a rubbish dump, Ann Orton who offered a history of the local Band of Hope, and Phil Hunt who had compiled a history of County Durham MPs.

This year's awards will be judged at the end of August.

Linda won't be among the winners: she has recently moved to live near her daughter in Kent. She will, she says, retain her membership of the history group.



**History group member Ken Longstaff sent us this cartoon he found on a greetings card.**

## Make a note of our AGM date

The history group will be holding its annual meeting on Tuesday May 7th, 7.30pm in Barningham village hall.

We'll be electing officers, debating finances and discussing future plans, among other things.

Do come along and have your say if you can.

## Plans to move county's records office

DURHAM County Record Office, whose huge archives include five miles of documents dating back to medieval times, is going to move after plans to develop the city's Aykley Heads area were given the green light.

The office has been based on the same site since it opened in 1963, but the archives' accommodation has now become outdated. There is also little space to store additional materials as the collection expands.

Durham County Council plans to create a new history centre in the disused Mount Oswald manor house on Durham's South Road.

The manor house – a grade-II-listed building – would be renovated to provide accommodation for the archive collection and space for future storage. It is expected to open in 2022.

The centre would also have facilities to hold events, exhibitions and educational sessions, as well as providing opportunities for people to engage in research and volunteering.

Durham County Council's cabinet member for tourism, culture, leisure and rural issues, Coun Ossie Johnson, said: "Our archives span 900 years of Durham's rich and wonderful history and are accessed over a million times a year as people search records and historical information online, by phone or in person."

"The new proposals would ensure our irreplaceable heritage is protected for future generations."

## Committee makes plans for a more active year

THE Local History Group committee met on February 5th to discuss the future of the group and activities for the coming year.

**Present:** Phil Hunt, Chair; John Hay, Vice-Chair; Margaret Stead, Treasurer; Jon Smith, Archive Editor.

**Meetings:** The last organised event had been on March 13th, 2018 and had been poorly attended. Agreed that most future meetings of the group should be business meetings, with an AGM and others as necessary to expedite the business of BLHG. Any public meetings with external speakers would better be arranged in conjunction with the committee of the Village Hall.

**Membership:** There were currently approximately 70 members, with about half being Barningham residents. It was agreed that as no *Archive* had been published recently no membership fee would be charged for 2019 for existing members. Agreed that the annual subscription for new members should remain at £10. This level of fees should cover the cost of publishing, together with paying subscriptions to the online newspaper archives and genealogical websites such as Ancestry. Agreed that the existing membership be emailed about future plans and that the local newsletter *The Flyer* should carry details.

**The Archive:** Jon was working on the next issue and hoped it could be published within a couple of weeks. John Hay of-

### minutes

fered an item on his Faraday letters and Phil Hunt one on the proposed Winston to Stockton canal. After discussion on a possible A4 format it was agreed that the current A5 version was most appropriate as it simplified production. The expectation is that there will probably be at least two issues this year.

**Events:** Suggestions for events and speakers included an evening of historic films; talks on local cheesemongers, the Spanish Flu of 1919, the Saxon origins of Barningham Park, and the latest excavations at Binchester; and the return of popular speakers Chris Lloyd and Neville Turner. Suggested venues for trips included Sunderland Art Gallery, Durham Cathedral and Palace Green Library, the Arts and Crafts house at Windermere and Ruskin's house at Coniston.

**Publications:** John Hay suggested updating the house histories published in the *Archive* and producing them in book format, which might have significant take-up within the village and others who have a local interest. Jon felt this was a practicable project.

**Storage:** Jon hoped to create storage cupboards in the village hall for storage of group files, books and artifacts. Agreed to seek estimates.

**Next meetings:** Committee April 9th, 11.00am; AGM May 7th, 7.30pm.



## The Archive

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

Full index of contents on our website



## family link

## We've helped adopted child trace siblings

WE got an email from Richard Firbank, who had come across a letter in *Archive 6* (published way back in April 2010) from Jackie Woode in South Wales, asking for details of her mother Mary Bell, born in 1921 and adopted by a couple called Pearson who lived at Newsham House.

In adulthood Mary moved into The Nook in Newsham (now called Rosemary Cottage) and had at least four children between 1943 and 1951, some of which were adopted.

One, said Richard, was his mother, Dorothy, born in 1943. Did we know anything more?

We told him there was more information in another letter



Mary Bell in 1940

from Jackie in *Archive 12*, gave him her contact details, and hope they got in touch.

Mary's mother was a servant girl called Hannah, who was working for the Pearsons in the early 1920s. We know nothing more about her, and the father of her daughter is unknown.

The Pearsons, married in 1903, were childless, and presumably welcomed the arrival of a baby they could adopt as their own. Has anyone any memory of them or Mary?



## Archaeologists research pub after it closes for restoration

THE Milbank Arms, Barningham's last remaining public house, closed in the summer but is expected to re-open within a few months after a major restoration project.

The building, largely unchanged for at least a century, has been stripped to its bare walls and re-roofed, and extensions are being added at the rear.

As part of the redevelopment project, Barnard Castle-based Northern Archaeological Associates have been researching the pub's history and turned to the history group for help.

"Your website has a lot of useful information," said researcher Lydia Loopesko. "Can you point me in the direction of any more, particularly about its origins as a coaching inn?"

We told her we were doubtful if it ever operated as a staging post for coaches, but it would certainly have been a welcome stopping point for travellers passing through Barningham on their way to Arkengarthdale.

The earliest reference we have to the pub is a mention of Elizabeth Bowman, named in a directory published in 1823 as the landlady of what

was then called the Royal Oak (suggesting it was originally named in memory of Charles II not long after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660). It was renamed The Milbank Arms in the early 1860s.

In 1823, as today, it was owned by the Milbank family, whose family accounts show that she had been paying them rent (£18 a year) since 1821.

A register of publicans' licences, held by the North Riding County Records Office shows four licences issued to premises in Barningham in 1774, one of them to Elizabeth's father Joseph, and it seems reasonable to suppose that he was running the Royal Oak then and that Elizabeth – one of four children born to him and his wife Margaret – eventually took it over.

She died, unmarried, in 1836; her brother Andrew, Barningham parish clerk, died the same year.

Joseph, born in 1728, was the son of a Thomas Bowman, but we don't know if he too was a publican, perhaps among the first in the pub after it was built.

Lydia has promised to let us have a copy of her report when the research project is finished. ● *More pub info in Archive 26.*

## Why one-legged Willy faced the gallows

*Young William Mennell went halfway round the world, lost a leg, came home and 200 years ago this month went on trial for attempted murder.*

JON SMITH tells the tale

BACK in *Archive 19*, we carried a brief story about Barningham-born soldiers discharged from the army a couple of centuries ago.

Among them was William Mennell, a 23-year-old private in the 19th Foot Regiment who was discharged after three years' service in 1798.

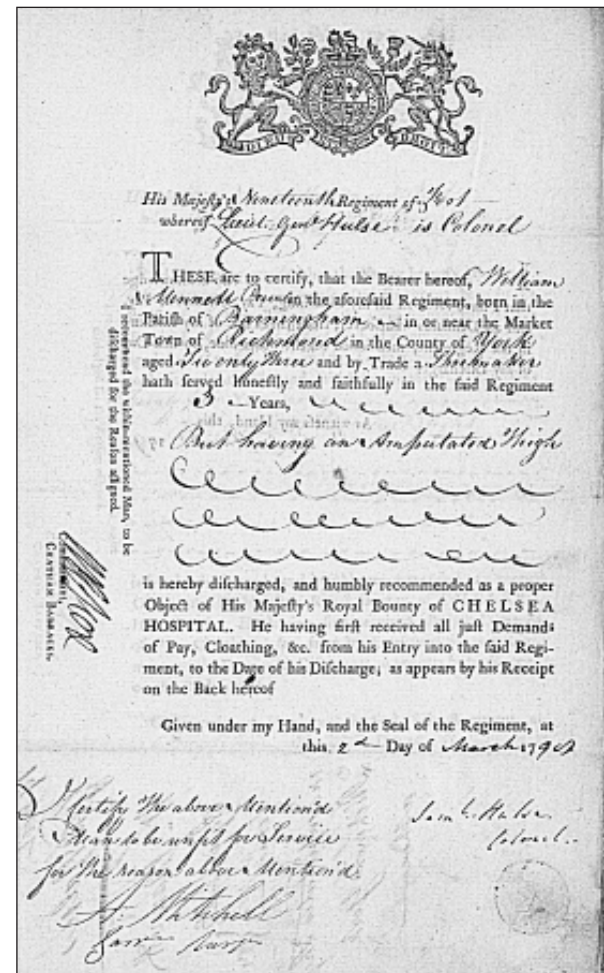
Rosemary Probert of Chesterfield came across our story while browsing the internet, and got in touch. "I was delighted to find a reference to 'my' William Mennell," she emailed.

He was her great-great-great-grandfather, and she knew why he left the army. He'd had a leg amputated at the thigh in Sri Lanka.

Surviving that was fairly astounding, given the primitive surgical methods of the time (no anaesthetics in those days, they just tied you down and started sawing).

William – known as Willy to his mates – came through it somehow and lived to face (and escape) death another way: on the gallows outside York Castle. It's a remarkable tale.

William, baptised in Barningham on February 20 1774, was the son of William and Elizabeth Mennell, who had moved to the village from Marrick, bringing with them three other children (three more had died in infancy and



William Mennell's 1798 army discharge paper

### one-legged willy

are buried at Grinton). Another child, Jane, was born in 1785.

In 1795, at the age of 20, young William joined the 19th Foot (also known as the 1st Yorkshire North Riding) which had recently returned from fighting the French revolutionary army in Flanders, losing spectacularly and fleeing back

to England in disgrace. Within a year the regiment was sent to India, sailing in April 1796 via the Cape of Good Hope to Madras – a journey which took them the best part of eight months – before moving to Colombo, capital of what was then known as Ceylon, recently been captured from the Dutch (allies of France).

What happened to William

## one-legged willy

there is a mystery, and we can only assume he stuck his leg in the path of a Dutch cannonball or suffered some similar injury. Whatever the cause, he ended up on the surgeon's table, and his discharge papers in 1798 gave the reason for his discharge from the army as an "amputated thigh".

William, minus a limb, came home and within months married Ann Pounder of Gayles at Kirby Hill church. We like to think she was his childhood sweetheart who stood by him even though he couldn't stand by her without a wooden leg to lean on. The couple settled in Gayles, where William set up shop as a shoemaker and fathered six children.

All went well until five in the morning on January 11th 1819, when a Gayles fishmonger called Joseph Scott hitched up his horse and cart and set off to collect fresh supplies of cod from Hartlepool.

He'd hardly gone a hundred yards when he came across William, wooden leg strapped to what was left of his thigh, struggling up the road towards Kirby Hill. They knew each other, of course, and Scott stopped to offer him a lift. What happened then, Scott later told the judge at York Assizes, took him completely by surprise.

"I went towards the horse to put it in motion, turned my head, and saw Mennell three or four feet away presenting a pistol, which immediately went off and wounded me in the left shoulder. I felt quite staggered, put my hand on the part, and said 'Oh Willy, oh Willy!' but he never said a word, just made off towards Gayles."

Scott made his way as fast



**Foot Regiment soldier, circa 1800. William would have looked something like this... until he lost his leg, of course**

as he could to Ravensworth, where he was put to bed in the village pub. A surgeon was summoned and dug three bullets out of his shoulder. Two more were removed later.

William, meanwhile, fled the scene of the shooting and took refuge in a nearby house, but was easily apprehended (not least because he left a tell-tale trail of wooden leg-prints behind him) and promptly committed to York Castle to stand trial.

Two months later he appeared before the York Assizes, charged with feloniously firing a pistol at Scott with intent to murder, maim or wound him. Scott told the jury what

had happened, and a gunsmith called Hickman testified that he had sold William the pistol on December 19th.

William vehemently denied shooting Scott, but admitted buying the gun. He'd bought it, he said, for a schoolboy at Kirby Hill, and called his 16-year-old son Benjamin as a witness that it had been delivered the same day it was purchased. The boy also swore that on the day of the shooting his father had been in bed until seven in the morning.

Reporting the proceedings, the *Newcastle Courant* of March 27th 1819 described it as "one of the worst cases" before the court, and its reporter was surprised when, in his words, "his lordship charged the jury in a manner very favourably to the prisoner and appeared to countenance a supposition that the prisoner was insane."

The shooting, said the judge, was the act of a madman, and might merely have been an attempt to frighten Scott without any intention of harming him.

The *Courant* reporter thought this was nonsense. The judge, he said scathingly, had "passed unnoticed the obvious supposition that, the parties being well-known to each other, it might be the intent to murder first and then rob."

The jury agreed, and found William guilty, though recommending mercy for the prisoner "on account of his good character." The judge took no notice and sentenced William to death.

He was one of 27 assize prisoners ordered to face the gallows that spring (among others sentenced to die were a forger, several highwaymen, a mail robber, some horse

## band of hope

for example, Barnard Castle Band of Hope went to Tyne-mouth for the day.

"Through the kindness of the North Eastern Railway Company, separate carriages were reserved for the party, numbering in all 110," ran one report. "The weather was everything that could be desired. The boys diverted themselves with the various amusements to be had at the seaside, whilst the girls, thoroughly bent on enjoying themselves, spent part of the afternoon on the steamers plying between the various riverside stations."

It looks like a good time was had by all, but this didn't seem to apply to the children of the workhouse who went on the trip. It would appear that they spent the day with no food other than a slice of seed bread and then had no supper before they went to bed. This was considered to be highly unsatisfactory and was not to be allowed to happen again.

There are no details of when the Band of Hope ceased to exist in Barningham. The last article to be found in the *Mercury* was in 1912 and it seems that it went out of existence some time later. People who attended the chapel up until its closure in about 1970 told me they had not heard of it.

Elsewhere Bands survived well into the 20th century but by the 1950s they were starting to die out. The *Mercury* reported in October 1952 that the Barnard Castle Band was "now dormant" and its funds given to the local junior branch of the International Organisation of Good Templars which was still working

in the cause of temperance.

This wasn't the case everywhere, however. Mary Foster of Hutton Magna was a member of the Vale of Eden Band for many years and in 1975 was crowned Band of Hope Queen.

Each September, she recalls, the Queen and her attendants were expected to visit all the local Bands and give talks as well as singing and giving recitals.

In June each year there was a demonstration, held alternately between Kirkby Stephen and Appleby, which began with a march through the town before everyone congregated in a field for a picnic followed by sports. The Queen would give a speech and present a cup for the winner of an exam about the effects of alcohol and drugs. Mary won it several times.

The Vale of Eden Band of Hope Union published a centenary brochure in 1973 which urged the fight against alcohol to continue despite decline in support for the Band which it blamed on falling congregations at chapels and churches and the rise of radio and TV.

"At one time the Band of Hope was almost the sole attraction in some of our villages," it lamented. "Not so now."

Social changes, however, proved too much for the Band. Today it is known as Hope UK which works to support adults, children and young people and to provide educational sessions about drink and drugs. It has the same aims as the Band of Hope but its work is more targeted to meet modern life, a fitting legacy for an organisation that had a huge and lasting influence for good for over 100 years.

## family link

## Canadian link to Grahams of Newsham

LISA Henderson in Canada contacted us asking for help in tracking down the Graham family of Newsham.

"I am descended from Thomas Graham (1727-1801) through his son Nicholas, his daughter Amy Graham Robson, then through Jane Robson Ross and finally my great grandfather, Daniel Davidson Ross, son of Jane Robson and John Ross.

"I was born a Ross, eight generations from Thomas Graham. My branch of the Graham/Robson family has been in Canada since 1840.

"The Grahams were a brick wall family for me until about a year ago. Prior to that, I had no idea where in Yorkshire my Amy Graham's family had come from despite looking for years.

"It is pretty clear that her father Nicholas left Newsham after his brother James took over the family farm in the late 18th Century and the sibling families became estranged over the years, living in different areas of Yorkshire."

Thomas' father was James (1765-1843) who farmed in the Newsham area. Another branch of the family included Matthew Graham (1795-1877, a surgeon in the village.

We put her in touch with our history group member June Graham, whose late husband Michael was related to Matthew, and the two have since held long-distance phone calls discussing the family.



A report of a concert that year gives us a glimpse into the content of the meetings.

"There is bright singing, short addresses were given by friends, concert parties are held, and all is done that can be to keep children under good influences and to teach them the advantages of total abstinence."

One set piece in the concert was an amusing dialogue which took place with nine boys who were caught smoking behind a curtain. When asked the reason they replied for headache, earache, dyspepsia and (to much laughter) corns.

By then it was considered obligatory that a Sunday School would also have a Band of Hope. At Barningham it was the Misses Todd who were in charge – Lilian, 22, and Mary, 19, the daughters of James and Mary Todd, of Fairview in Barningham. Chairman at the concerts was Thomas Pearson, a gardener at Barningham Park who was very active in local events, particularly the village Reading Rooms and Library. Another key member of the entertainment, was a lay preacher called Tunstall who boarded with the Pearsons. There is a mysterious reference in the *Mercury* in January 1904 to Barningham having recently been called a "monstrous moorside village". Unfortunately the page containing this allegation (possibly in a letter) is missing so it is not possible to say why this had been said.

The *Mercury* goes on to say, however, that this description was not considered accurate by the inhabitants of the village "and could the writer himself have been present in the school-room, on Tuesday evening, his opinion would



### band of hope

certainly have undergone a change.

"The occasion was the annual concert in connection with the Band of Hope. To say that it was first class is the least that can be said. It was from beginning to end instructive as well as entertaining. Practically the whole of the programme was carried out by members of the Band of Hope who had been trained almost to the point of perfection by the Misses Todd. More devoted officials than the ladies mentioned a society never possessed."

The concert, reported the *Mercury*, ended with an allegory entitled 'The Revolutions'. Scene 1, set in the court of King Alcohol, depicted the monarch learning that his empire was being defeated by a large and ever-increasing army. His courtiers, friends and many subjects deserted him, "and in a fit of utter despondency, he drank himself to death in the wine cellar of his palace".

His place was taken in Scene 2 by Queen Temperance who, "bearing all the marks of sobriety in direct contrast to the late King" puts right the wrongs that afflict the people so that prosperity

follows in her train.

"The moral was well enforced," said the *Mercury*. "Temperance is to conquer, and in conquering bring about a universal empire of prosperity and contentment."

Barningham, it added, was "justly proud of having as one of its inhabitants the author of the allegory," but sadly omitted to give his or her name.

In 1906 a Band of Hope evening was so successful that many supporters had to be turned away. In 1909 a Mr Fletcher of the North of England Temperance League spoke to the members on a very stormy night but the meeting was still well attended, and it was felt that the presence of many adults was very encouraging.

As well as lectures and concerts there was fun to be had on the many picnics and outings provided for the children of the Band. These were usually annual events and took place all over Teesdale.

The only outing for Barningham mentioned by the *Mercury* was in July 1896, when the Wesleyan Sunday School had an outing, but there were many such trips organised for Band of Hope children elsewhere in the dale which were recorded. In 1896,

### one-legged willy

thieves and a youth who'd stolen three heifers) and all must have thought their time had come. But in a final twist, the last act of the judges before they left York a week later was to announce that all those sentenced to die should be reprieved. We have no idea why.

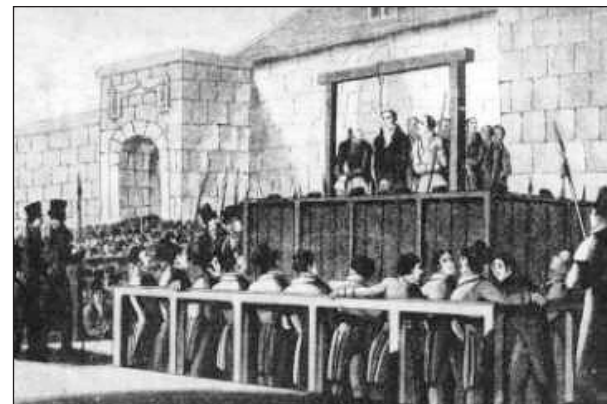
On June 7th, the *Yorkshire Post* reported that William had been sent to the Northallerton House of Correction to spend the next two years in hard labour. What he had to do exactly is unknown, but if it involved the treadmill it couldn't have been easy without his leg.

He survived, however, and went back to Gayles to spend the rest of his life, as far as we know, out of trouble. In 1841 the census recorded William and Ann, then in their sixties, living in West Street with unmarried daughters Ann, aged 30, and 25-year-old Mary, plus an 11-year-old grandchild called Thomas.

William and Ann's son Benjamin, apparently unconcerned that he had committed blatant perjury at York in a vain attempt to save his father, was also living in West Street and earning a living as a shoemaker. With him were sons John, eight, and six-year-old Thomas – Benjamin's wife Mary had died in 1837, aged only 24, and he never re-married.

By 1861 Ann had died and William was an inmate in Kirby almshouses, where he followed her to the grave six years later. He was 93, a good age and a great deal older than, several times during his life, he must have expected.

Benjamin ended up in the almshouses too, dying aged about 80 in the 1880s. There's no record of Mennells



**Last words from a convicted felon on the scaffold outside York Castle. In London they hanged them in batches – the photo below shows an eight-noose gallows outside the Old Bailey in the early 1800s**



in Gayles after that (though there are plenty of families with similar surnames in the area today). Benjamin's son Thomas moved away (in 1886 he was found drowned in the river at Wakefield); his daughter Jane Ann (1882-1941) married a George Probert; their son George married a Pamela Myers; and their son Crispian George became our correspondent Rosemary's husband.

She's hoping to find out yet more about William and his family. "He survived sailing to Ceylon, the tropics, an incident

that left him with one leg, and a trip back to England – and then fathered six children!" she says. And then there was the court case...

Rosemary says her family tree also has a number of Glovers buried at Barningham; some Grahams, Hawdons and the odd Pinkney. "They mostly start somewhere else and end up in Barningham, or the other way round: none seem to stay for more than a generation."

● *Many thanks to Rosemary for all her help in preparing this story.*



## Faraday and the Indian seeds of the earth

History group member JOHN HAY delved into a heap of rubbish and came up with a 200-year-old letter from world-famous scientist Michael Faraday.

CLEARING out rubbish left in his daughter's new house in Darlington, John Hay discovered, lying on top of a pile of junk destined for the tip, a battered ledger recording sales of earthenware products from the long-forgotten New Moors Pottery at Evenwood in the period 1877-1887.

It contained a list of customers in the Teesdale, Barnard Castle and Durham area, original letters and invoices addressed to ledger owner John Snowdon, and, carefully folded in the back, two original letters from an earlier period relating to Lord Dundas of Aske Hall and chemist Michael Faraday, the man whose face adorned our £20 notes at the end of the last century.

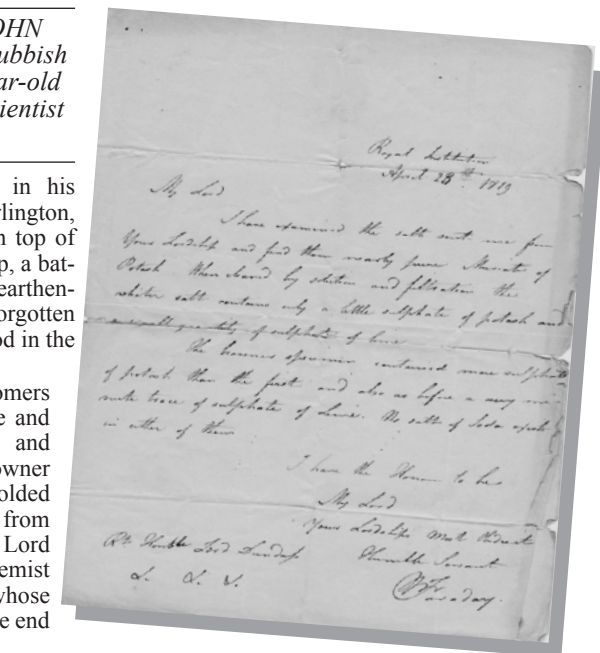
John's investigation into these two historic letters formed the basis of his 2018 Archive Awards entry, on which this article is based.

The first was a personal letter to Lord Dundas from Dr Nathaniel Wallich, the superintendent of the Botanic Gardens in Calcutta, dated 10th December 1818.

It listed samples of various plants that were to be shipped in a special chest on the East India Company's ship the *Charles Mills* (named after an MP and director of the company).

Wallich's letter is headed '*List of plants put up in a covered chest for Lord Dundas*', below which is a note that it was '*Put up at the request of Capt Jackson of the Charles Mills*'.

The second letter (pictured above), dated April 1819, was



the faraday letter



Dr Wallich

a personal letter to Lord Dundas from Faraday discussing the analysis of a sample of soil.

"The only connection that I could see is that the 36th item in Dundas' list of samples is a collection titled '*Seeds in the Earth*,'" wrote John in his project report. "I conjecture that Lord Dundas, having re-

ceived the samples, had sent some of the earth for analysis at the Royal Institution's laboratory, whose chemist at that time was Faraday.

"Faraday's reply makes it clear that Lord Dundas was trying to discover whether the 'earth' sample would be of use as a growth promoter in his gardens.

"Faraday identifies by his analysis that the 'salts' contain nitrate of potash, sulphate of potash and sulphate of lime, so very similar to a modern day plant feed."

John's subsequent investigations explained the link between the East India Company and the Dundas family, and why it should go to the trouble of sending him the samples.

Dr Wallich (1785-1854) was a Danish surgeon who was the officiating Superin-

sporting activities took place at Mickleton and Woodland held a Spelling Bee. Middleton-in-Teesdale held an exhibition, in 1891 "by means of a powerful magic lantern, of the leading thoroughfares of London" and a decade later the *Mercury* reported on a performance at Piercebridge by the Gainford Dark Men, "a troupe composed entirely of Gainford talent, and judging by the hearty applause they received from a packed audience, gave them to understand that they were appreciated."

In 1907 Middleton was entertained by Mr Enos Bacon, a miner and preacher known as the Yorkshire Nightingale; in Woodland in 1912 Mr J. J. Coates "gave a number of items on his gramophone which were much appreciated"; and in the same year children in Cotherstone gave a concert which included morris dancing, "amusing sketches", and a black and white minstrel troupe.

It all sounds very innocent, though one Band entertainment in Middleton in 1918 finished with a "humorous sketch, entitled Honeymoon Experiments".

It is not clear when the Band of Hope was formed at Barningham but the temperance movement was certainly active in the village by 1894 – see the *Mercury* report above. (The commitment of Sir Frederick and Lady Alexina to the cause of temperance was not total: the *Mercury* had reported a few years earlier that the feast at a Milbanks' servants' ball included a boar's head, turkeys, roast beef, pheasants, rabbit pies – and a bottle of champagne beside each plate. It sounds like a splendid party but was

certainly not teetotal.)

**BARNINGHAM.**  
**Total Abstinence Society.**—The opening meeting of the winter season was held in the National School-room, on Monday evening, the 20th inst. Mr Morrell presided, and the programme consisted of songs by Miss Alice Coates, Miss Ella Coates, and Mr Stubbs; banjo solos by Miss B. Simpson; piano solos by Mr Stubbs; and recitations by Mr Pearson. Mr Stubbs also gave an address on the subject of improvement. Lady Milbank accompanied the banjo solos on the piano, and they were loudly encored by the large number present. Miss Milbank accompanied the songs in capital style. Mr Pearson fairly brought down the house. Mr Morrell proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the contributors to the evening's enjoyment, and it was heartily given. Sir Frederick Milbank spoke on the temperance question, and gave some remarkable instances from his own life of endurance under very trying circumstances without the aid of stimulants. Lady Milbank also strongly advised all the young, and those tempted by drink, to become total abstainers. The National Anthem brought a very pleasant evening to a close. It is expected that the meetings will be continued through the winter months, when special singers and speakers will try to promote the welfare of the community, and demonstrate that the right side is the only safe side.

### Teesdale Mercury report in 1894

#### band of hope

certainly not teetotal.)

Barningham's Band of Hope appears to have been founded at the end of the 19th century. The Misses Todd had become interested in the movement and enrolled 40 names, and the stewards' book for the Wesleyan Chapel shows a payment of 2/6d for lighting for a Band of Hope meeting in 1900.

A year later the *Mercury* that "the monotony of village life at Barningham was pleasantly broken on Friday evening by a very interesting and instructive concert given by the members of the Band of Hope and a few friends.

"This is the third season for our Band of Hope movement, and the interest shown by the young people is growing

more every year. The very fact that such an entertainment was given plainly indicates that the movement has a living, pulsating influence over the young life of the village and neighbourhood."

The *Mercury's* representative praised the concert (although he did conclude his review somewhat wearily, saying "the programme was a very lengthy one" – there were 25 items, some of them encored) and later reports remained enthusiastic.

"It is in such societies that foundation truths of a noble character are laid in the hearts of the young," said the *Mercury* in 1903. "The seeds of a true manhood are being sown, which when ripened will constitute England's future glory, in her citizens being conspicuous for sobriety and truth."

## Band who waged war on the demon drink

*Millions of Victorians joined the Band of Hope, set up to promote abstinence among the working classes. ANN ORTON finds out how it fared in Teesdale*

I FIRST came across the Band of Hope while researching the history of Barn- ington's Wesleyan Chapel when I learned that the Band had met there.

I discovered that Durham County Records Office had records relating to the Band, mostly registers of those attending, and that the *Teesdale Mercury* online archive had no less than 653 pages mentioning the movement's activities in Teesdale.

The Band of Hope was founded in 1847 by the Rev Jabez Tunnicliff, a Baptist Minister in Leeds who was appalled by the death of a young man through the excessive consumption of alcohol.

A national organisation was formed to educate children about the dangers of alcohol and help them to become teetotal. Bands were run by the churches and were inter-denominational, especially popular with Methodists who to this day are teetotallers.

The idea was that along with Christian teaching children would be provided with activities such as rallies, marches, demonstrations and coffee taverns as alternatives to the public houses. Members were invited to 'sign the pledge' which meant complete abstinence from alcohol.

By the time of Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1897 there were more than three million members.

The first mention of the Band in Teesdale appeared in the *Teesdale Mercury* in September 1855 (the first year of the paper's publication). Entitled *Grand Doings at Middle-*

band of hope



*ton-in-Teesdale*, it reported that villagers had erected a tent capable of housing 500 people on the green and "during the whole day the bustle of transit with the usual requirements for a 'tea feast' was to be witnessed. At noon the Middleton Fife and Drum band played some lively airs accompanied by the Band of Hope children and preceded by a number of boys, hoist-



Signing the pledge to stay sober

ing in the air appropriate banners... who entered the tent together with the Temperance String Band. They played away merrily whilst about 1,000 partook of the cup that cheers, but not inebriates."

Soon practically all the villages in the dale had a Band of Hope. In 1888 the Town and Temperance Missionary Society reported that it had visited scores of Band events in the area "for the purpose of preaching, lecturing, conferences, Sunday school anniversaries, temperance demonstrations and festivals, including ten at Dalton, eight at Barningham, seven at Cotherstone, five at Bowes, Brough, Barnard Castle and Butterknowle, four at Staindrop, three at Newsham, Bishop Auckland, Cockfield and Copley, and two at Whorlton.

There are frequent reports of Band events. At Gainford in 1881 Mr McNicoll of Darlington "gave a very able and amusing ventriloquial entertainment." In 1882

## Self-taught scientist of world renown

Michael Faraday, born in London in 1791 but raised in what was then Westmorland, had little formal schooling and was largely self-educated.

In 1812 he joined Humphrey Davy at the Royal Institution as a laboratory assistant, was promoted to director of the laboratory in 1825, and served as Fullerian Professor of Chemistry until 1867 and, concurrently, Superintendent of the House 1852 to 1867.

He was responsible for a wide range of advancements in understanding in both chemistry and electricity. His correspondence was prolific (the Institution has a collection of some 4,900 of his letters) but Professor Frank James, Editor of the Faraday Collection, has told John Hay that the letter Faraday wrote to Lord Dundas was unknown until now.



### the faraday letter

tendent of the Botanic Garden in Calcutta from 1818 to 1846 and made periodic expeditions to India's Northern and Eastern frontiers collecting plants.

The garden had been founded by Colonel Robert Kyd (1746-1793) of the East India Company in 1787. "Kyd was an amateur botanist and with the backing of Joseph Banks of Kew fame is credited with introducing some 300 plants to the garden," says John's project report.

"There were a number of failures – cinnamon, peppers, cloves and nutmeg proved unsuitable for the climate – but generally the garden was a success and Kyd began transferring plants and seeds to other botanical establishments owned by the Company.

"This was no philanthropic gesture as the Company were intent on growing tea from plants stolen from China and the subsequent founding of the tea gardens of the Himalayas and Assam areas.

"Lizzie Collingham in her book *The Hungry Empire* has the Company shipping illegal opium from Bengal in 1773 as

far as the Chinese Pearl River, and smugglers were exchanging it, weight for weight, for silver. Some 75% of the silver was then traded back for tea and silk.

"Historian Tony Fuller has examined the Baltic Exchange records of the Society of the East India Commanders 1773, who were concerned about establishing pensions when and if the company lost its monopolies – it lost the tea monopoly in 1833.

"The records show that Captain Jeffrey Jackson was the master of the *Charles Mills* of 563 tonnes and had made two voyages in the 1810-1812 season and another in 1818. He was eventually promoted a commander and died in Woodbridge in Suffolk at the age of 75. (As an aside, his wife was awarded a silver platter for the feat of having 10 children alive at the same time, which considering Capt Jackson's time at sea suggests he wrote some very romantic letters).

"Jean Sutton in her *Lords*

*of the East – The East India Company and its Ships* comments that the Company controlled most of the sub-continent of India.

"No other company in history has governed so many people – with the exception of China, the Company controlled a larger population by the 19th century than any government of any country in the world. This begs the question why the Company should go to some trouble for Lord Dundas.

"There is a record of a George Dundas as a Captain of Company ships from 1752 to 1792 but this is not a direct family connection.

"Lawrence Dundas, the son of a successful Scottish cloth producer, moved South and asked the current London government to elevate him to a baronet, and as Sir Lawrence Dundas 1st Baronet he purchased Aske Hall in 1763, partly because it included the pocket borough of Richmond.

"Unashamedly zealous to be elevated to the peerage, he was not successful in his lifetime but his first and only



## the faraday letter

son became 1st Lord Dundas (1741-1820) in 1794. His eldest son Lawrence (1766-1839) became the second Lord Dundas and then the first Earl of Zetland (Shetland) in recognition of his financial support of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Queen Victoria's parents.

"Helen Clifford has made a wide-ranging analysis of the Dundas fortunes through her studies at Aske Hall and the North Yorkshire Records Office.

"Her *The Aske Hall case study; Sir Lawrence Dundas, Nabob of the North* researches his connection to the East India Company and to his maintaining a distance from some of its less favourable activities.

"Sir Lawrence was not a servant of the Company but a major investor initially on the level of £100,000. As a major shareholder he worked extensively with the commanders and captains. This would explain why the 1st Lord Dundas was able to request a wide



Lord Dundas and daughter



Faraday delivering one of his popular lectures at the Royal Institution

range of plants from the Botanic Garden, to be sent to the UK on one of the Company's ships."

Professor James of the Faraday Collection offered John a copy of the laboratory note book, which confirmed that the scientist had recorded his analysis, and was pleased to receive a copy of the Dundas letter to complete their record.

"The library of the Royal Horticultural Society requested that they be allowed

to keep both a copy of the Dundas and the Faraday letters. They pointed out that Dr Wallich was a distinguished botanist of his day."

John ends his report by saying: "There is still no clue as to why John Snowdon or his forebears should have the keeping of this correspondence.

"At least copies now reside with the libraries of the RHS and the RI where they can be of use."



The London headquarters of the East India Company at the height of its power

## Where oh where were the Wards of Woodclose?

VIRGINIA Bergmann got in touch with us all the way from Canada, asking if she could have a digital copy of our Scargill and Hope tithe maps.

"My 7x great-grandfather Simon Ward was baptised in 1639 in Marske, son of Ralph Ward of Orgate," she wrote.

"Simon was one of a long line of lead smelters. He must have lived out on Barningham Moor at one point because in March 1669 a daughter was baptised at Kirkby Ravensworth and the register says 'Margaret the daughter of Simond Ward of Woodclose'.

"I'm hoping someone can help me out with the place name Woodclose. I have located a 'Woodclose Gill', south-west of Barningham that runs along the Stang Forest near Far East Hope, but that seems a long way from Kirby Hill and Ravensworth.

"Has anyone local to the area ever heard of a farmhouse called Woodclose?"

"Margaret Ward later married a Hugh Whitell at Kirkby

## letters &amp; emails

Ravensworth in 1691.

"Thanks for any leads anyone may have for me. I love your publication, by the way!"

Flattery worked. We sent her the map and links to our website, and she was soon back in touch.

"I came up with a couple of great articles on barningham village.co.uk," she says.

"One is on House Histories and includes Wood Top House, which it says was on Cow Close Land and occupied until at least the 1850s but derelict by the early 1900s. There's no sign of it today.

"Then there was Mill Hill, north of Barningham House, occupied by a family called Ward in the early twentieth century but abandoned many years ago and now used as agricultural outbuildings.

"I've also discovered that Margaret Ward was buried at Barningham in 1730 as Margaret Whitell."

● *Happy we could help! – Ed.*

## Can you help my hunt for Hannah?

ERIC Hodgson emailed from Reigate in Surrey, seeking information about his great-great-great-grandmother Hannah Hardy who he thought was born in Barningham around 1802 and later married in the village church.

We were able to tell him he was right. Baptised in the church in February 1803, the daughter of Ralph and Hannah Hardy, she was married in 1820 to James Nicholson, by whom she had three children.

After James' death in 1839, Hannah married again, this time to John Watson of Middleton-in-Teesdale. They had at least two children, one of whom, Mary, was Eric's great-great-grandmother.

"My grandfather Joseph Watson Hodgson, like most of his ancestors, was a farmer in the Morley/Lynesack area until his death in 1975," says Eric.

"My family tree is complicated and took some unravelling."

## Are there any Dunns still in the area?

DAVID Cross emailed from Carlisle wondering if we knew anything about an Isabella Dunn, daughter of Edward and Jane Dunn who lived in the Barningham area in the 1700s.

She was, he said, the first wife of Moses Binks (1788-1851), who farmed High Feldom Farm on the Marske estate. Isabella died in 1820, and Moses re-married Grace Shaw from Arkengarthdale in 1825.

Moses and Isabella's son Francis eventually took the farm over with his wife Mary (nee Fenwick) and their children included Richard Binks who became a Richmond draper, married and had a daughter Lilian, born in 1884, who became David Cross's grandmother.

"Moses and Grace are buried at Marske,"

said David, "but I'm not sure where Isabella was buried."

We were able to tell him that her funeral took place in Barningham, and that the Dunns lived in Newsham. There are extensive census records of Dunns there from 1841 to 1911 and our marriage and baptism records show a number of Dunns from around 1780 and include the marriage of Moses and Isabella in 1812. There was also an Agnes Dunne married to Barnard Marley in 1607.

Our burial records show Dunns up to the 1950s but none remain today as far as we know.

● *Moses may have been related to Barningham clockmaker Thomas Binks, featured in several past Archives.*



Shaws living 1840s-1850s at Hexwith.

A month after Claire's email, another arrived from Jo Shorrocks asking if we had information about the John Shaw of Bragg House. "He married a Mary Proud of Barnard Castle," wrote Jo. "He was born in 1793 in Oxque, near Marrick, and moved to Barningham as a young man.

"I think the family were recusants and the move may have had something to do with the Orde Powletts selling Marrick Park and moving to Barningham. The family eventually moved back to Marske."

We put Jo and Claire in touch with each other and they've swapped details. However, Jo told us later, although her John had children, none were called George.

## My dad's DNA test really surprised us!

HELEN Pearson, who lives near Kelso, came across our history group on the internet and emailed "I've found three distant cousins through the group, which is wonderful, and I thank you so much!"

Helen is researching the Macdonald family who lived in Barningham a couple of centuries ago. Her ancestor George Macdonald was baptised in the village church in 1810, son of a Mary Macdonald and an unidentified father.

Mary married blacksmith Anthony Bowron at Brignall in 1817 and had seven more children in the following 11 years. George, who married Elizabeth Nicholson in Barnard Castle in 1834, turned out

## letters & emails

to something of a black sheep of the family, and in 1841 the census recorded him as a prisoner in Northallerton House of Correction (along with his cousin William Lee, later to become landlord of the Black Horse inn in Barningham).

What George had done to deserve this incarceration isn't known, but after that he seems to have stayed out of trouble (or at least avoided getting caught). He was widowed in 1848, eventually re-married (another Elizabeth) and died in Brignall in 1897.

Our correspondent Helen's father – now well into his eighties – is one of George's direct descendants, and last year was persuaded to take a DNA test.

"We did it in a spirit of fun rather than serious research not expecting to discover anything very unusual," says Helen. "We were wrong!"

"My father's fatherline (Y-DNA) is of the haplogroup I-L22 which we are told is amongst the oldest of the major European haplogroups present in Europe today. It is most often found in Finland, Sweden and Norway, and people who carried this haplogroup may have been some of the first farmers and some of the first people to make widespread use of dairy products.

"Even more exciting was that these people are part of 'The Battle-Axe Culture', an offshoot of the 'Corded Ware Culture. I am now able to tease my father that he is a direct descendant of an axe-wielding Norseman.

"The I-L22 haplogroup is said to be uncommon in the UK but I wonder if there are pockets of people who carry

the same Y-DNA either as the result of raids or of settlement from the Nordic countries?"

"I would love to hear from anyone else who shares the same male line haplogroup with my father as I am curious as to whether this haplogroup is indeed rare or if there are isolated groups of people who descend from Norse raiders and settlers within the hidden dales of Britain."

Back to the earlier Macdonalds: Helen has emailed us again, saying she's established that the Mary Macdonald who gave birth to George 200 years ago was the daughter of an Alexander Macdonald and Margaret Wardel, who had ten other children.

"I've found records for various family members who are MacDonald, McDonald, M'Donald and Donald. My dad pronounces McDonald as Muck (pause) Donald. I have also seen MacDonnel and a few variants and they may also be connected.

"I don't know when the family moved to Barningham but they appear to have been established in Barningham before 1810. Prior to that the domiciles appear to have been Manfield and Kirkby Ravensworth."

● *We searched for George's baptism in the Barningham registers without success until we discovered it listed under the surname Donald. His mother, listed as Mary Donald, gave birth to another illegitimate child, Isabella, in 1813.*

*There was at least one other Donald family in Barningham at the time, a couple called Robert and Ann, who also had a daughter called Isabella born in 1813. One of the infants died that April, but we don't know which. – Ed*

## The canal that almost came to Winston

*PHIL HUNT investigates the canal that could have made Winston a bustling centre of the coal trade*

WINSTON is a quiet, well-mannered village sitting above the north bank of the Tees about five miles north-east of Barningham.

Its church is in a magnificent, almost cliff-top, position with a view of its 18th century bridge, said to have had the largest single arch span in Europe when it was built and in the last century famously under-flown by a Spitfire.

The name of the village pub, the Bridgewater Arms, is a link to the Dukes of Bridgewater, who acquired the manor of Winston from the Scrope family. The bridge is one result of many estate improvements made during the tenure of the Third Duke, later known as the Canal Duke, who acceded in 1748, aged 12. Had his plans succeeded, Winston could have become a canal town attracting the inevitable gongoozlers on sunny days.

On November 9th 1767 "several Gentlemen of the County of Durham, and North



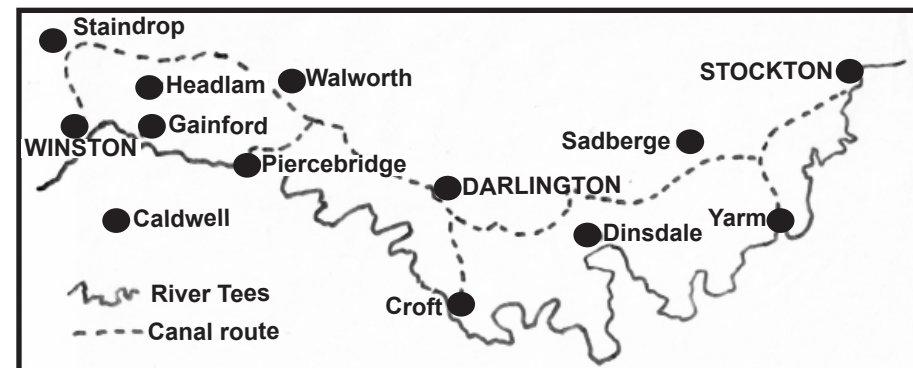
*The 'Canal Duke', Third Duke of Bridgewater*

### the duke's canal

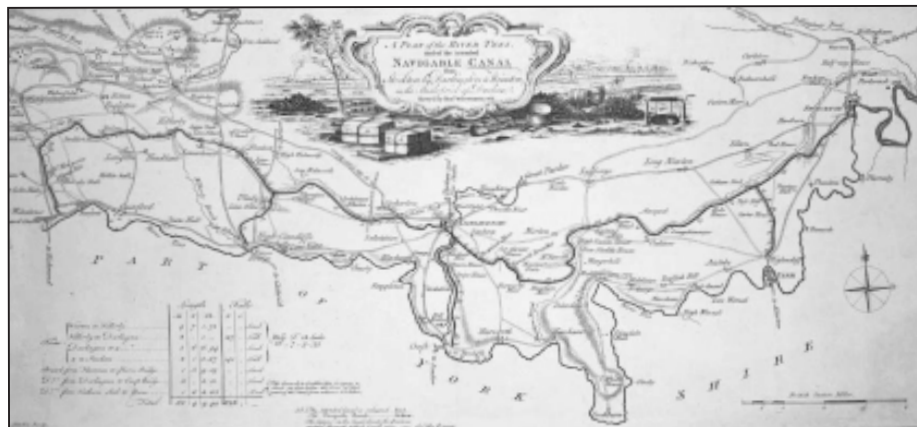
Riding of the County Yorkshire" met at the Post House in Darlington to consider the prospects of building a canal, mainly to take coal from the West Auckland collieries to Stockton. That the subsequent canal route linked to four bridges across the Tees suggests that trade of coal into Yorkshire and agricul-

tural produce out were seen as a significant further income streams. The meeting agreed a voluntary subscription to cover the survey costs "employing one or more proper Engineers, skilled in Inland Navigation, to survey the River Tees and the adjacent County, from the Port of Stockton upwards, and also the River Skerne, from the Croft Bridge upwards;"

They were to meet again on



*Route of the proposed canal from Winston to Stockton*



Whitworth's plan of the route of the duke's canal

December 1st to appoint an engineer and select a committee of 13 subscribers chaired by Sir John Eden, and including James Backhouse, soon to become a banker.

Their engineer was Robert Whitworth, chief surveyor and draftsman to the renowned canal engineer James Brindley. Whitworth was 33 and had learnt his trade with both Brindley and John Smeaton and went on to be engineer to numerous canal and navigation schemes, including the 1810 Mandale Cut on the Tees.

Whitworth surveyed in July 1769 and his report was published in 1770 in Newcastle. Subsequently Brindley visited the area and confirmed both Whitworth's proposed line and his cost estimate of £64,000 (over £11m today).

The 1770 report lists all the subscribers, with the aristocracy and the landed gentry as the first ten names on the list. The Earl of Darlington, the Hon Frederick Vane, Sir Ralph Milbank of Halnaby, Sir Laurence Dundas of Aske, Thomas Dundas Esq of Marske and Charles Turner Esq of Kirkleatham each subscribed

### the duke's canal

£50. Others gave either £20, 10 or 5 guineas, raising a total of £832 10s, about £150,000 today, about 1% of the full cost of the scheme.

Brindley's patron Francis Egerton, the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, was not among the subscribers, although, with his local agricultural interests and experience of coal and canals in Lancashire, he surely was involved. He is listed by Whitworth as the first landowner whose land is crossed by the projected canal.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* of August 1772 included a map of the route in an article on canals. This, and the comments in Whitworth's report, show the route quite accurately. The Winston terminus was close to the Turnpike Road, and behind what is now Vicarage Farm, although Whitworth says that it could be "continued to the Road near Winston-bridge, about a half a Mile further."

Of the two branches, to Yarm and Piercebridge, he says they "will make the

Navigation as convenient for Carriage coming out of, or going into Yorkshire, as the Situation of the Ground and Country will admit of." By contrast, he comments that a "Branch-Canal cannot be made to or near Croft-bridge, without locking down from the Main-Canal, which I suppose will not be thought eligible, as it would rob it of Water, and be attended with a considerable Expense."

The Croft branch is shown on the map, but Whitworth was clearly flagging up that it brought its own problems.

The Croft branch apart, Whitworth's plan was for a contour canal, the norm in Britain before 1800. These meander across the terrain, following the contours to reduce the engineering work for cuttings, embankments or tunnels and also for locks to change levels.

It also reduced water demand. In theory, once the canal is full of water, no more water is needed, whereas a locked canal loses water every time a boat goes through a lock, and the water must be supplied at the summit level, frequently

## Sent down under on a convict ship

MALCOLM Perrins sent us an email from New South Wales asking for copies of the Barningham births, marriages and deaths books.

He's researching the Appleby family, and has traced his ancestors back four centuries and more to Henry Appleby, born in this area around 1560.

Henry's grandson Thomas was born in Barningham in 1700, and since then eleven more generations have been born here or nearby. More than 40 were born, married or buried in Barningham between 1570 and 1885.

Many more lived in nearby villages; some emigrated, and some ended up abroad for other reasons.

Among them was Malcolm's great-great-great-grandfather Thomas Appleby, born in Barnard Castle in 1816, whose brief career as a soldier ended abruptly when at the age of 18 he was sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia for stealing watches, silks, coats and silverware from army officers in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland.

Thomas was described at the time of his trial as "educated, of the Protestant religion, unmarried... five foot seven inches in height, ruddy with a freckled complexion, brown hair, light grey eyes and a scar on the back of each thumb."

He was one of 227 prisoners

### Drop us a line

The *Archive* welcomes comments, contributions and queries about its contents or any topic relating to local history. Email the editor, Jon Smith, at [jonxxsmith@gmail.com](mailto:jonxxsmith@gmail.com).

### letters & emails

on the convict ship *SS Surry* when it sailed from Cork to Sydney in 1836.

He appears to have led an exemplary life there for five years, as in 1840 he was granted his ticket of leave — a form of parole — and the next year he married an Elizabeth Bain and began working as an overseer on a sheep and cattle ranch at Lanyon near Canberra.

In 1842 he was an innkeeper and the year after was granted his Certificate of Freedom, which gave him the right to return to England if he wished (and could afford it).

However, he stayed in Australia, raised a family, and kept out of trouble until he had enough grown-up sons for them all to take up cattle-stealing.

Thomas and two of his boys ended up doing six month' hard labour.

After that he seems to have stayed out of trouble, working variously as a fencer, a baker, and a dealer in wattle-bark (useful in leather-making, apparently), before being twice declared bankrupt.

He died in 1901 at the age of 85.

Malcolm is descended from Thomas's son Richard (one of those convicted of rustling) via his daughter Lilly, her daughter Florence, and her daughter Yvonne, Malcolm's mother.

● *Thanks to Malcolm for sending us his family tree and all the background about Thomas.*

● *There was more about the Applebys in Archive 21.*

## Double hunt for the Shaw family

WE'VE had two people asking what we know about the Shaw family of Barningham.

First was Claire Hunter, inquiring about a farmer called George Shaw who was farming in the Aycliffe area in 1871, when the census gave his birthplace as Barningham.

He died in 1883, and Claire has documents relating to his death and the sale of farm goods. "I read in your *Archives* that the Shaws pretty much disappeared from Barningham in the early 1800s but I'm hoping to connect a few dots eventually!" she emailed.

We dug into our records in vain. There were a lot of Shaws and Shawes buried in Barningham churchyard in the 17th and 18th centuries, but as the *Archives* said, they seem to have mostly disappeared by 1800. There were no Shaws married or baptised in the village after 1800, and no sign of Claire's George.

There was a John Shaw who was a tenant farmer in Barningham when local valuations were made in 1817 and the tithe apportionment map drawn up in 1838.

He rented about 350 acres of land, mostly moorland, and lived at Bragg House, about half a mile west of the village. He had left by the time the 1841 census was drawn up and there's no record of his family, if any. He could be the father of George, we suggested.

It's the only family of that name here around the time of his birth — 1814-ish — that we can find, though there were



## Carters who ended up in the workhouse...

MY great-great-grandfather Jonathan Carter was born in Newsham 1813, married Mary Carlton in Staindrop in 1836 and seems to have settled in Barningham soon after.

Jonathan's son, my great-grandfather William Carter, was born in 1837, moved to London, married an Essex girl, Eliza Lunn, then moved up to Darlington (with the railway I think). There my grandfather Christopher George Carter was born.

Sadly William died in 1885 of TB and the whole family went into the workhouse. My grandfather eventually found his way to Gateshead where he met and married my grandmother Elizabeth Carr and had a family,

my father Arthur being the youngest. William's brother, Christopher Carlton Carter, born 1838, lived almost all his life in Barningham until he showed up in Barnard Castle in 1881 and died in 1882. He had family and they lived close by in the 19th century.

I'd be really interested to hear from anyone who might have a connection with the family from Barningham.

GEORGE CARTER

george.a.carter@googlemail.com

● *Jonathan Carter was listed in the 1841 census as a gardener in Barningham. By 1851 he and Mary had three more children, George, Isabel and Hannah. All had gone by 1871. – Ed.*

## ... and one who became a top-notch butler

DAVID Nicoll emailed us (not sure where from, but he says he's high up in the IT department of a multi-national conglomerate, so we'd put our money on London), also asking about the Carter family.

He was trying to get details of his father-in-law's ancestor George Carter, born to Jonathan and Mary Carter in Barningham in 1840.

Jonathan was born in Newsham around 1812 and had five children altogether. In 1861 George was working as a footman at Forcett Hall (mentioned in *Archive 16*) but not long after he moved to London, married

### letters & emails

an Elizabeth Barnaby from Tunbridge Wells, and ended up as a butler in a very upper-class boarding house in Upper Grosvenor Place.

"In 1891 he was listed as running the house with his family and three servants," says David.

"The occupants were quite interesting: the wonderfully-named Sedgwick Barnes who was a gentleman and his wife, an architect called David Jones, Annie King who was a 'literary', Josephine Ogain who sold mantles (I assume gas mantles),

and a woman from Athens recorded as 'wife' but it's unclear who was her husband."

George had five children, including one called Mary Isabel. She married a Leicestershire farmer's son called John Walker who ran a large butcher's shop in the West End.

"They had two daughters," says David. "One, Mary Teresa Walker, was born in 1889 and sent to finishing school in Belgium to learn French, so clearly it was a profitable butcher's business."

"She married Frederick Adolphus Page, also a butcher, and had nine children. The youngest, Henry Anthony Page born in 1925 and still going strong, married June Morris and I married their daughter Molly."

David bought all our relevant booklets – births, marriages, burials and censuses (and gave the history group a donation which was very welcome) and is now hoping to find out more about Newsham-born Jonathan Carter.

● *We're putting David and George in touch. – Ed.*

## Searching for a Sarah Stead

STEPHEN Hoath emailed from Cambridge, saying: "Your decade of work in the village is a very impressive and inspiring opus."

"My great-great-grandmother Sarah Stead was, according to the 1861 census (in Battersea London) born in Barningham around 1826 but we can't locate her baptism (or marriage) record. Any help would be greatly appreciated."

● *Impressive and inspiring? We've failed dismally to find Sarah or any Steads in our records. Anybody help? – Ed.*

## A mystery present from Alison

ALISON French bought a pile of our history group books but couldn't tell us why. "I'm helping someone with Barningham ancestry but it's a surprise for her," she explained. "Maybe once she knows she'll be in touch." She hasn't yet.

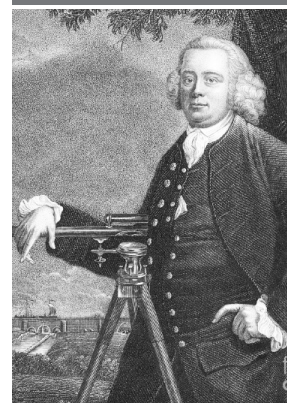
close to the top of a hill. In reality the canal would have a flow of water from Winston to Stockton.

Whitworth deals with this: "I apprehend this Navigation will be sufficiently supplied with Water, if Staindrop-beck and Sutburn-beck, (*sic*) (with many other small Rivulets and Springs that may be intercepted) be brought into Head-Level, which will extend from Winston to near Killerby, almost five Miles in Length; and to make it the better Reservoir, ought to made one Foot deeper of Water than the rest of the Navigation, that in time of drouthy Weather a Foot in Depth of Water may be drawn off, and the Navigation of this Level remain good." The plan was to take the canal across the green in Killerby, now a triangle of grass at the road junction.

Alwent Mill, perhaps a mile north of the canal head and on the Langley Beck, is mentioned in relation to taking water for this head level. "Yet if the Water of Staindrop-beck and the Sutburn-beck (*sic*) may be taken into the Navigation, it will render a Mill useless, called Alwent-Mill, (belonging to Mr Hodgson) which, as I am informed, is not very valuable, and may be purchased under the Act of Parliament, rather than fetching Water from the River Tees".

Whitworth then goes on with a rather surprising suggestion about obtaining more water: "but Water may be had from the Tees, by taking it out of its Course a little above Whorlton, which is about three Miles and a Quarter distant; though it will be attended with some Difficulty, upon Account of the steep and high Banks of the River, and, in some Places,

### the duke's canal



James Brindley

almost perpendicular Rocks." This last point is hardly surprising as the Tees is about 15 metres below the proposed head of the canal.

Indeed, it hardly seems feasible to create a channel to carry the water between these two points. True, the Tees at Whorlton is at the same altitude as the head of the canal, but the top of the river gorge is about 25 metres higher and it seems unlikely that it would have been practicable to get the water out of the river valley.

Whitworth's costings were for a canal 16ft wide and 4ft 6in deep, similar to "those long Canals now making from the Trent to the Mersey, and from the Trent to the Severn, the Expense (exclusive of procuring an Act of Parliament, etc.) may, on a general Computation, be supposed near sixty-four thousand Pounds."

The main age of canal building began in the early 18th century and reached its peak with the 'canal mania' of the 1790s. The Canal Duke's Bridgewater canal, by Brindley, had opened in 1761 and proved the potential of canals as a successful transport sys-

tem for coal. By carrying coal by water rather than road on the ten-mile journey, the Duke halved the price of coal in Manchester.

There is no obvious reason why our scheme did not proceed; it would have been a very clear improvement in the region's limited transport infrastructure.

The decades before the canal survey saw turnpike roads opened from Topcliffe to Croxdale (The Post Road, 1745), from Stockton to Barnard Castle via Gainford (1747), and from West Auckland to Darlington, with a branch from Royal Oak to Piercebridge (The Coal Road, 1751). But Tomlinson's History of the Stockton & Darlington Railway reports that when it opened in 1825 most local coal was still transported by pack-horse train.

The canal at Staindrop would have come within three or four miles of the coalfield and so replaced some 15 miles by pack-horse with the much more efficient barge transit. One horse can draw many tons of coal loaded on the barge in place of a couple of hundred-weight on a packhorse.

Whitworth's map shows coal mines near Cockfield and at West Auckland, but north of the canal route the topography is compressed so these probably indicate the location of the coalfield area rather than specific pits. Early mining occurred along the Gaunless Valley from Woodland to Auckland, but there are few records before the 19th century.

Had the scheme gone ahead the next stage would be to sign up investors to make a down-payment with further to be paid when called for as work progressed. With investment



**Winston bridge's claim to fame: a daring Spitfire flight underneath its arch**

committed the projectors could go to Parliament to seek an Act to authorise the scheme.

The national economy had developed fairly steadily from the "Glorious Revolution" of 1688 and there was a growing middle class of tradesmen and merchants with savings to invest. 1770 was in the early stages of banking. The first bank in the north-east opened in Newcastle in 1745; the third was opened in Darlington in 1772 by J. Clement, just ahead of the Backhouses, although they had been using their woollen business as a base for financial services before they became bankers in 1774.

Nationally the nation was in a period of peace between the end of the Seven Years' War (1763) and the start of the American War of Independence (1775) but for some reason the interested locals who'd started the scheme did not feel confident in proceeding.

Local interest remained for the next half century, but in the end the railway age overtook the canal age and the scheme remained on paper.

Another public meeting was

### the duke's canal

held at the King's Head in Darlington in 1812, and engaged the renowned civil engineer John Rennie to consider a canal route.

His report, delivered three years later, simply recommended a canal on substantially the same route as Whitworth's.

Sadly this coincided with the collapse of local banking houses, which meant there was little local appetite, and even less money, for investing in infrastructure.

LTC Rolt quotes a member of the Stockton & Darlington committee in 1818: "We lost twelve millions sterling by the failure of the Country Banks in this neighbourhood in 1815."

Perhaps, if that bank had not collapsed, the canal would have been built in the early years of the 19th century, reducing the need for the Stockton & Darlington Railway.

As it is, Winston remains a peaceful village, although it was later home to a number of collieries, including a drift mine close to its bridge.

## History Group Publications

Where Lyeth Ye Bodies\* Guide to Barningham church, graveyard map, memorials and burials.

Barningham Baptisms\* Listed by date, name and parents. Vol 1: 1500-1800; Vol 2: 1800-1950.

Barningham Brides\* All marriages 1580-1950, listed by date, groom and bride.

Counted\* A-Z of census returns 1841-1911, arranged so that families can be tracked through 70 years. Vol 1: Barningham, Scargill, Hope; Vol 2: Newsham, New Forest. Vol 3: Brignall, Rokeby. Vol 4: Dalton, Gayles & Kirby Hill.

Jam Letch & Jingle Potts\* Barningham farms, fields, owners & occupiers in 1838.

Short Butts & Sandy Bottom\* Newsham farms fields, owners & occupiers in 1841.

A Child of Hope\*\* Journal of Mary Martin, born 1847 on a local farm.

A Fleeting Shadow\* The diaries of young Newsham schoolmaster James Coates, 1784-85.

A Farmer's Boy\* Memoirs of life in the area in mid-Victorian days.

Aback to Yuvvin\*\* 1849 Glossary of Teesdale words & customs.

Barningham Vestry Minutes\*\* 1869-1894, Parish Minutes\*\* 1894-1931 and Reading Room Minutes\*\* 1892-1922. Transcripts, history, index and names.

The Archive\*\*\* Group newsletter. Back issues downloadable free from website. Hard copies also available.

Memories 1 & 2\* DVDs of cine film of Barningham, 1960/70s.

\* £10 each + £1.50 p&p

\*\* £5 each + £1.50 p&p

\*\*\* £2 each + £1 p&p

Discounts for group members.

Some booklets are available in digital format at £2 per publication – please contact us for details.

We can also supply copies of *As Time Passed By*, a history of Barningham by Merryne Watson.

More information on our website:

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

## Schoolboy who impressed the rector's wife

VICKY Embrey emailed us from Stoke-on-Trent asking for information about Barningham School and where (if anywhere) she might find the school's archives or records.

"My great-great-grandfather was John Standen Robinson and he went to Barningham School in 1860," wrote Vicky.

"I know this because I found, in my grandmother's belongings, a Church Service book which had his name, date and school name written in the front. He lived at White House, West Layton."

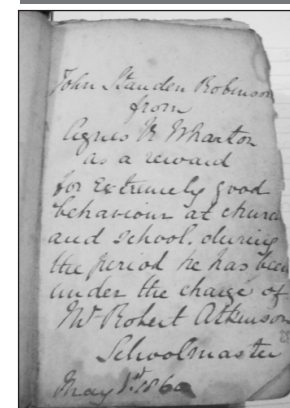
Vicky attached scans of two inscriptions. One reads *John S Robinson, (from) Bar<sup>n</sup> Rectory, Christmas 1859, the second John Standen Robinson from Agnes M Wharton as a reward for extremely good behaviour at church and school during the period he has been under the charge of Mr Robert Atkinson, Schoolmaster, May 1st 1860.*

We wrote back to Vicky, telling her that there were two schools in Barningham in 1860. One was Barningham Academy, a boarding school (one of the 'Yorkshire Schools' Dickens wrote about in *Nicholas Nickleby*) which ran from the late 18th century until around 1880. It was in what is today Newby House on the south side of the village green (see history in *Archive 32* and other issues).

There's no record of a John Standen Robinson among the Academy pupils listed in the 1861 census, and as he lived locally it's unlikely he attended this school which catered almost exclusively for pupils from the south of England.

More likely is the second

### letters & emails



**Inscription in Vicky's book**

educational establishment, the National School, which took boys from Barningham and surrounding villages including West Layton.

We've no records of who went there and don't know who might have them, if any were kept and have survived, which is doubtful. *Archive 13* carried a history of this school, which in 1860 was housed in a building, now long vanished, in the churchyard and in 1875 moved to what is today the village hall.

The fact that the front of Vicky's book says 'Barningham School' suggests that John went there – the other school was always known as the Academy. Another clue is that Agnes Wharton (clearly much impressed by young John) gave the book: she was the young wife of the then rector, the Rev William Wharton, and it's more likely the Whartons would have been involved in running the National School than the Academy. And there's no schoolmaster Robert Atkin-

son among the Academy staff listed in the 1861 census (there was someone of that name living nearby, but he's listed as a farmer).

Vicky replied, thanking us and agreeing with our deductions. "My Nan had a box of books which all have different inscriptions to different family members," she added. "I went through them all taking photos of the inscriptions (I didn't pay much attention to what the books were about)."

Two other books have John's name in them, the first a *History of England* with an inscription showing that he moved to Kirby Hill Grammar School in 1860, the second *Olney Hymns Complete*, a gift from Barningham Rectory at Christmas in 1859. What fun to find that in your stocking!

Vicky says the Robinson family lived in West Layton from about 1861 until 1883, with family members baptised, married and buried at other churches including Hutton Magna, Fingall, Patrick Brompton and Barnard Castle.

Vicky was brought up in a Shropshire hamlet called Besford, where John Standen Robinson's daughter Mary Caroline moved in 1917 when she married Frederick Embrey.

And John, who so impressed Agnes, the young wife of Barningham rector? His story ends sadly.

"He left England in 1909 and went to New Zealand, leaving his wife and daughter behind," says Vicky.

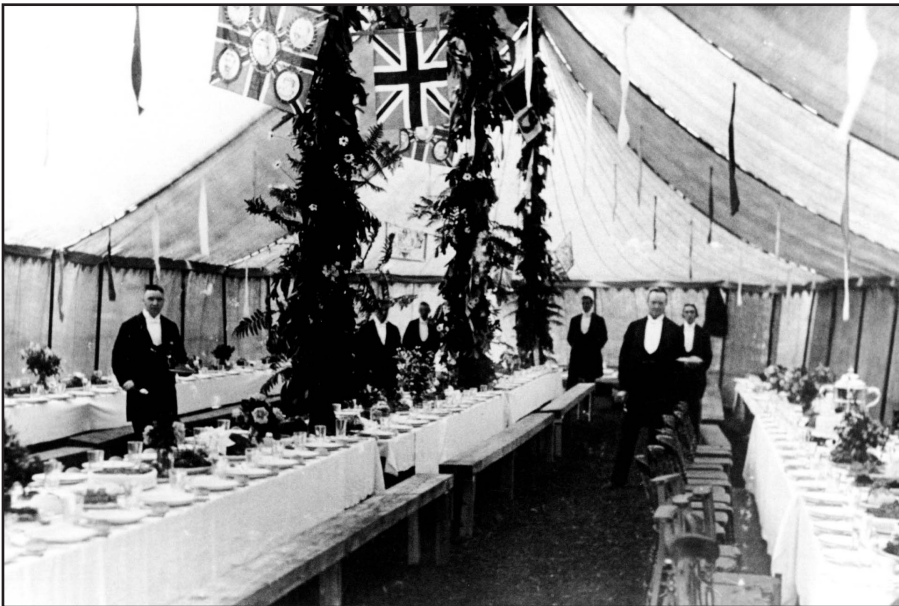
"He lived there until his death in 1925 from heart failure due to drinking a bottle of poison which he had mistaken for his medicine."



## picture gallery



*Frown, please! Thirty-one boys from Barningham School pose for the photographer in 1897, and not one of them manages to scrape up a smile. Has anyone any idea in which garden this picture was taken?*



*All set for a sumptuous celebratory meal in a marquee at Barningham Park to mark Frederick Milbank's 21st birthday on September 21st 1902*

## Our latest pick of Parkin's pix from the past

## picture gallery

PARKIN RAINE, as many of our readers will know, was a photography enthusiast who took and collected thousands of pictures covering life in the Teesdale area over the past 150 years.

His collection is now held by the Fitzhugh Library, currently based in Middleton-in-Teesdale. Much of the collection has been digitalised and the

history group has scoured it over the years for items of local interest to use in *The Archive*.

The next four pages contain a selection of photographs we've found recently in the collection.

If you want to know more about the library and its collections, you'll find details at [www.thefitzhughlibrary.co.uk](http://www.thefitzhughlibrary.co.uk).



*Parkin Raine 1935-2017*



*Snapshots of the Clarkson family's life at Dyson Farm, Smallways, in the 1930s: clipping sheep, sweeping hay, thinning turnips, thatching a stack and gathering apples*







*Barningham village green, circa 1880.*

*Far left: two views of Silver Street, News-ham, in the 1930s and with a Maude's bus – 20 years later?*

*Left: Robert Barry as the village pump at a Hutton Magna carnival in the 1920s.*

*Right: Mrs Beadle, Whorlton bridge toll-keeper, around 1880.*

*Below, boy scouts visit Barningham in the 1920s.*

