

from the parish mag

**105 YEARS AGO:** The Rural Dean examined carefully our Schools in religious knowledge and in every subject, and in every standard gave the highest marks and said he considered the result to be 'splendid'. – August 1914

**95 YEARS AGO:** A Boarding Scholarship, about £60 a year, at the North Eastern County School, has been won by Gordon Hart, and Barningham school awarded all pupils a holiday, leaving him to choose the day. – August 1924

**90 YEARS AGO:** On Sunday July 7 we joined in the world-wide offering of Thanks to Almighty God for the recovery of King George, using as far as possible the same Form of Service as that used at Westminster Abbey. – August 1929  
[The king had been ill for two years with septicaemia, recovering after a long spell of convalescence at Bognor to which he gratefully appended the title Regis.]

It is widely claimed that, upon being told on his death-bed in 1935 that he would soon be well enough to revisit the town, his last words before expiring were 'Bugger Bognor!' Sadly, there's no evidence that this is true. –Ed.]

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Parish mag ad, 1924

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Parish mag ad, 1914

**85 YEARS AGO:** A party of 31 Girl Guides who were camping in the parish attended Evensong. It was a great pleasure to see so many young people in church and hear them sing. – August 1934  
**80 YEARS AGO:** The Prayer Bell is rung each weekday at noon to remind everyone of the necessity for our united prayers for peace. Whether we are on the road, or in the field, or at home, the earnest desire of so many people united in one thought at the same moment cannot fail to be helpful, both to ourselves and to the cause of peace. – August 1939

**75 YEARS AGO:** Both Mrs Smith, headmistress at Barningham, and Miss Huck, headmistress at Scargill, have received excellent reports from the schools inspector. The Scargill report, in fact, was so good that it was made the subject of a special congratulation by the North Riding Education Committee. – August 1944

**70 YEARS AGO:** The Sale of Work raised £50 6s 6d for the Church Restoration Fund, and the work of renovating the churchyard – eg, a new lower gate and rebuilding the gateway, restoring the broken walls and general tidying – has been put in hand and should be completed by the autumn. – August 1949

## Barningham Local History Group

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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Group



# Archive 58

THE NEWSLETTER OF BARNINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

B. A. L. H. LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR 2012

www.barninghamvillage.co.uk

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MMXIX

## INSIDE: THE FLYING VC AND THE MAORI WORTH MILLIONS



William and Isabella Johnson of Greenborough farm take a tea-time break one summer's afternoon in the early days of the last century. We wonder what they were reading before the photographer turned up.

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BLHG next meeting: Look out for details in The Flyer or online @ barninghamvillage.co.uk

## The Archive

BROWSING idly online through old copies of the *Teesdale Mercury*, I found myself a couple of hours later with an extraordinary story involving a South Sea whaling captain, a Maori love-child, a girl who inherited £100,000,000, the first airman ever to get the VC, another one who was selected for the Olympics before dying in the Battle of Britain, and an actress who turned down the chance to play Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With the Wind*.

All with a local connection. You couldn't make it up.

It's there on Page 3. And when you've coped with all that, further on there's the riddle of the prehistoric pathways, the volunteer nurse who died in the great flu epidemic, the Greta Bridge chaos over dog licences, letters from all over the world, and all the usual bits and pieces.

Much of it comes courtesy of the internet (especially the on-line *Mercury* archive, which I can't imagine how we'd do without) but there's a still a place for stories from traditional sources like the parish magazine. And, of course, from you, our readers.

Please keep them coming, wherever you find them.

JON SMITH  
Archive Editor

## The rags-to-riches life of Josephine Bowes

BORN in the back-streets of Paris, clock-maker's daughter Josephine Coffin-Chevalier was making a name for herself as an actress in the city's seedier variety theatres when she caught the roving eye of wealthy Teesdale landowner John Bowes in 1847.

He was entranced, made her his mistress and five years later shocked his family back home by marrying her.

She rapidly made her way up the social ladder to become a centre of Parisian social life, her salons declared the most brilliant in the city, her parties attracting writers, musicians, artists and intellectuals.

She was an accomplished painter and collector of artworks, sharing her husband's vision of improving the lives of ordinary people through art.

The result, of course, was the magnificent Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle. John Bowes got most of the credit, but the driving force behind it was Josephine, an extraordinary woman far ahead of her time.

She was there, silver trowel in hand, when its foundation stone was laid 150 years ago this year. Barnard Castle was bemused as the museum took shape, created as she'd dreamed in the grand French style.

'A great deal of curiosity has



Josephine Bowes

been excited,' said the *Teesdale Mercury*, forecasting that it would greatly enhance the town's future. It was right, of course, but neither Josephine or her husband lived to see it, both dying before it opened in 1892.

The rags-to-riches story of the woman who inspired one of Britain's finest museums and art galleries was told by its archivist Judith Phillips when she came to Barningham village hall in June to deliver a talk jointly hosted by the village hall and the local history group.

It was very well received, and further talks are planned for later in the year.

## blhg minutes

### Future plans: talks and trip to museums

Summary of minutes of Annual General Meeting, May 7th 2019:

**Present:** Phil Hunt, John Hay, Jon Smith, Margaret Stead, William Marwood, Andrew & Sue Watson. **Apologies:** June Graham, Jane Hackworth-Young, Neil Turner, Doug Anderson, Sheila Catton.

Minutes of 2018 AGM agreed.

**Chair's Report:** Attendance at 'business' meetings had dwindled. Members had entertained members of Teesdale Records Society. Archive Awards were presented at the produce show. Two Archives had been produced. Officers believed that BLHG should continue as a clearing house for local historical information and enquiries, and organise talks and visits as appropriate.

**Financial Report:** The group currently had £936 in the bank.

**Election of Officers:** The Chair wished to stand down, but as no-one else was prepared to accept the role it was agreed that all existing officers continue.

**Future activities:** Possible talks held jointly with the Village Hall Committee, along the lines of the 'Winter's Tales', with suggested speakers Judith Phillips and Catherine Ryan. Trips were suggested to Ripon museums. Agreed to continue Archive Awards as before, and again encourage a youth section. Jon explained plans for an archives centre in the hall. He had explored grant funding and obtained quotations from several local joinery companies.

**The meeting closed** at 8.05pm and was followed by brief presentations by Phil Hunt on turnpikes and John Hay on ancient local trackways (see page 8).

## A random sample from the Barningham A to Z

ARCHIVE Editor Jon Smith is compiling an A-Z miscellany of Barningham-and-district-related information, including stories that have appeared in the Archive or are still awaiting publication. Here's a random selection of unused items gathered so far:

**DRUIDS.** The Grand Master of the Ancient Order of Druids, Brother Pemberton from Derby, called in at Newsham in 1899 with several fellow druids from Darlington and had tea at the Dun Cow. The Order, founded in 1781, had 17,000 members at the time, and survived into the 1970s. Winston Churchill was a member.

**DUNVILLE, Ann.** Seventeen-year-old maidservant who started working for farmer Stephen York at Greta Bridge in 1870 and was accused a week later of trying to poison housekeeper Sarah Severs after being reprimanded for not milking the cows properly. Miss Severs told police her tea tasted of rat poison.

**FERRETS.** In 1898 Greta Bridge magistrates were dismayed to discover that, unlike nets and snares which could be confiscated, ferrets were not 'trapping engines' covered by the gaming laws, and the court had to return one to two men caught poaching with it.

**FITZPATRICK, Lizzie.** Ten-year-old daughter of an Irish labourer, living in Newsham in 1904 when she managed 927 consecutive skips in a village fete skipping contest before being stopped by the judge. The *Teesdale Mercury* hailed it as 'some sort of record' and if the judge had been a bit more patient she might well have exceeded today's world record of 1,012, set in 2016.

**NUT-CRACK NIGHT.** Old name for Halloween (October 31) though celebrated in mid-November 1784 in Newsham, when villagers sat round their hearths eating newly-harvested hazelnuts or chestnuts. Young men gave nuts the names of possible sweethearts and threw them on the fire to see which burned the brightest.

**PRESTON, Doris.** Farmer's wife at Hawsteads, born Doris Icton and better known as Dolly, a pianist who for more than 45 years from the 1930s ran a dance band. Scarcely a week went by without the *Teesdale Mercury* announcing that Mrs Preston's Band would be providing the music at a dance somewhere in Teesdale and Neil Turner remembers it playing at wartime 'sixpenny hops' in the village Reading Room for soldiers based at the hall. 'There was Mrs Preston on piano, her son Bobby on accordion, Alfie Walker on bones and drums, Ena Preston who became the postmistress at Gilling... they went everywhere,' says Neil. The band's last recorded appearance was in 1979.

**TEESDALE MERCURY.** Weekly newspaper, compulsory reading for Barningham residents since its first issue in 1854 if only to reassure them that nothing much ever happens. A treasure-trove of everyday minutiae, indispensable to local historians. Every issue up to 2010 has been digitally copied and all 50,000 pages are available free online at [teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk](http://teesdalemercuryarchive.org.uk). You wouldn't be reading this *Archive* if it didn't exist.



## 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



## the silent killer

and there were plans to close the school temporarily. The North Eastern County School (later Barnard Castle School) broke up earlier than planned for Christmas but 159 infected boys stayed behind. Although the *Mercury* remarked all the boys were doing well, a master was very ill and several of the teaching and domestic staff had been affected. In the end three boys and a master died. The illness was no respecter of rank. It was reported on that Lord Barnard had fallen ill but he recovered, one of the fortunate ones.

The medical officer updated the local councils on the spread of the disease and the number of fatalities. Each statistic, although depressing enough in its own right, represented the loss of a much-loved family

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**PEACOCK.**—At Spanham House, Barningham, on November 7th, 1918, Elizabeth Eleanor, beloved daughter of James and Elizabeth Peacock, aged 25 years. Interred at Barningham Churchyard, on Sunday, November 10th.

*Teesdale Mercury, November 13th 1918*

member. The officer reported that influenza complicated by pneumonia had caused five deaths at Startforth, a high toll for a small community. There was better news from Staindrop, where there had been some remarkable recoveries, but elsewhere things were grim.

In November the *Mercury* carried a death notice for 25-year-old Elizabeth Peacock, daughter of Spanham farmer James and Elizabeth, who had been a volunteer nurse in Newcastle. She was buried at Barningham.

In the same copy of the *Mercury* as its report on her funeral was a note that both her parents were seriously ill in bed, but they appear to have survived.

A single white cross at St Mary's Church, Gainford, marks a double tragedy. Mary Farrow died on November 25th, aged 25, followed a week later by her husband 2nd Lieutenant Charles Farrow, 28. Charles was on home leave and they were visiting Gainford, a popular holiday destination at the time, from their home in Hartlepool. Both succumbed to pneumonia following influenza, orphaning their only child.

These deaths fit the pattern of fatalities from the disease. Surprisingly, the most likely to die were not the very young or the very old but previously healthy young adults like Elizabeth, Mary and Charles.

The epidemic lasted until the end of 1920, by which time it had infected 500 mil-



Protection: Flu masks for pedestrians in 1919

lion victims around the world, including people on remote Pacific islands and in the Arctic, and resulted in the deaths of 50 to 100 million – about four percent of the world's population, making it one of the deadliest natural disasters in human history.

We are all familiar with the seasonal warnings to have our flu vaccine. No such measures were available in 1918 and the anguish and loss caused by this dreaded disease 100 years should not be forgotten.

## Love-child, VC, air ace and a screen star

*JON SMITH tells the remarkable story of a girl from Rokeby who married the first airman to win a Victoria Cross in World War I and raised a son who died flying Hurricanes in the Battle of Britain 25 years later*

THE GIRL was Linda Morritt, born in 1887, one of seven children of Rokeby Park owner Robert Morritt and his much younger wife Mary Blanche.

Her father died, aged 70, three years later, on the same day that his seventh child, an infant boy, also died. Rokeby passed to his eldest son Robert Alexander, only eleven years old, and Blanche – she was always known by her second name – moved with him and all her other surviving children to London, where she remarried in 1895 a Captain Timothy Donovan.

He died in Cairo in 1901, the same year that Robert Alexander, by then a strapping young soldier of six-foot-four, died fighting in the Boer War, giving her the unwanted distinction of having twice lost a husband and a son in the same year. Understandably abandoning any notion of a third marriage, she moved to Cornwall and died in 1927 at the age of 81 during a trip to Brussels.

Linda, meanwhile, spent her teenage years split between Rokeby, where she was a frequent visitor and involved in various parish activities, and London, where she got married in 1912.

THE HUSBAND was William Barnard Moorhouse, born in 1887, whose parentage was extraordinary.

His mother, Mary Ann Rhodes, was the illegitimate daughter of a South Sea whaling captain, also called William Barnard Rhodes, and a young Maori called Otahui, a member of the Taranaki nation in New Zealand.

Rhodes was later married twice, first to an English settler called Sarah King who died young and then to Sarah Ann



Young Mary Ann in New Zealand with her father and stepmother

her stepmother's younger brother Edward Moorhouse, moved to England and raised four children.

They included Mary, who became a major figure in the British Communist Party in the 1920s before moving to Finland and being accused of spying for Russia during World War II, and William Barnard, who was destined to marry Linda Morritt in 1912.

William went to Harrow and Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and became one of the brightest stars on the Edwardian social scene.

He was a highly successful racing driver, gained his pilot's certificate in 1909, designed aircraft, competed in aviation races, and in 1912 was the first person to cross the English Channel in a biplane with two passengers, his new bride Linda, who had also become a flying enthusiast, and

the rokeby vc



Linda Morritt

Moorhouse. The story goes that after the first wedding his illegitimate baby daughter Mary Anne was 'gifted' by the Maoris to the newlyweds.

Whether this is true or not, he certainly adopted Mary Ann (he had no other children) and when he died in 1878 he left her an immense fortune, making her the richest woman in New Zealand with what today would be around £100 million.

Five years later she married



**William  
in Flying  
Corps  
uniform in  
1914**

**With  
Linda on  
their  
wedding  
day  
two  
years  
earlier**



**Willie with  
his bride  
Amalia  
at their  
wedding  
in 1936**



**the rokeby vc**

a journalist with the London *Evening News*.

Hailed as the finest car driver and airman of his day, William made headlines when he became the first man to deliberately turn off his plane's engine and stall in mid-air to see what would happen (as he predicted, it went into a gentle dive and he landed it perfectly).

At the outbreak of war in 1914, shortly after the birth of his son William Henry, he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps. Five months later he was severely wounded during a bombing raid in Belgium. He managed to fly his plane, riddled with bullets, back to Allied lines but only after being wounded twice more, and died the next day.

He was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross 'for most conspicuous bravery', the first airman to be given the medal. His body was returned to England and buried at the family home in Dorset.

William changed his surname to Rhodes-Moorhouse, as required by his grandfather's will, shortly before he married.

After his death Linda remained at Rokeby Park until 1938, when she bought and renovated Mortham Tower, and

remained there most of the rest of her life. She died in 1973, aged 86.

HER SON William Henry (known as Willie) went to Eton, where he obtained his pilot's licence at the age of 17.

In 1933 he inherited his father's estate of over £250,000 (a huge sum for the time) and three years later, after travelling extensively, he married Amalia Demetriadi, who had been approached to play Scarlett O'Hara in the film *Gone with the Wind*, but declined.

A keen sportsman, Willie was selected for the British team for the 1936 Winter Olympics, but an accident on the ski jump prevented him

from competing.

In 1937 he joined the RAF, flying Bristol Blenheims with 601 Squadron, and at the start of World War II went with them to Biggin Hill. His wife's 21-year-old brother Dick was in the same squadron.

He later flew Hawker Hurricanes and in spring 1940 shot down nine German aircraft including a Heinkel bomber near Brussels and several Messerschmitt fighters over France. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in late July.

In September, a month after Dick died in combat, Willie was also shot down and killed over Kent during the Battle of Britain. He was buried beside his father in Dorset.

Amalia died in 2003, aged 88.



**Flu victims in an emergency hospital in 1918**

## After the peace, a new terror strikes

### the silent killer

*GILLIAN HUNT recalls the great influenza of 1918-1919 which caused more deaths worldwide than the whole of the Great War*

A CENTURY ago, and the war was over. Teesdale had marked the Armistice along with the rest of the country with celebratory bell-ringing, special church services, and a children's tea at Barningham arranged by Lady Milbank.

But a new terror, which would kill more people worldwide than World War I, was sweeping the country: Spanish flu. We did not escape its clutches.

There had been an outbreak of flu in the summer of 1918, which the *Teesdale Mercury* editorial of 10 July that year put down to a 'lowering of vitality' in the district. One feature of the disease was the mental and physical exhaustion which followed.

The summer epidemic had abated by late August but the flu strain which struck that 1918 was particularly virulent. Once it turned to pneumonia, there was little that could be done other than keeping the

patient comfortable and hoping for the best.

Features of the disease were the extremely high temperature and coughing up of rust-coloured sputum. Victims literally drowned, their lungs filled with fluid.

There were various attempts at treatment and prevention. Knowles' Original Cough Mixture was advertised as equally effective as a cure and as a preventative measure if a dose was taken before going out in muggy weather. Quite what this mixture contained is unknown, as is its effectiveness, but bottles were available at 1/3d and 3/- from Knowles' Chemist in Market

Place, Barnard Castle. A 'dense atmosphere' and a change of wind direction was blamed for influenza spreading to the 'hill country and the valleys' in mid-December. The disease was actually spread by coughs and sneezes over short distances, so wind and weather really had little, if anything to do with it.

Local doctors were hard pressed to cope and a medical man at Barnard Castle advised that immediately early symptoms were detected, patients should go to bed. Isolation from others was probably the most effective means of preventing spread.

A whist drive and dance in aid of the Cotherstone Sailors and Soldiers Fund scheduled for December 12th and a whist drive and dance in Lunedale on December 20 were postponed due to the influenza outbreak.

On November 13, nine pupils had been sent home ill from Gainford Village School



## Gayles House Farm timeline

<u>Owner</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Occupier</u>
William Head	1763-1769	Edward Johnson, schoolmaster
William Head	1770-1794	James Swetnam, brewer
James Swetnam	1794-1826	James Swetnam, brewer 1794-1823 Robert, James & Solomon Swetnam, brewers 1823-1823 George Sampson, brewer 1823-1828
John Hind Snr	1826-1836	John Hind Snr 1828-1836
Elizabeth Hind Snr	1836-1861	John Dawson Blackett Hind (farmer, 250acres) John Hind kept cows 1842 J Hind owner/occupier 1842 Tithe Map John Barker, maltster & farmer, sued by J Hind 1845 Windmill for sale by John Hind 1857 Brewing ceased 1860
John Dawson Blackett Hind	1861- 1865	John Dawson Blackett Hind – house Brewery to let 1861
Elizabeth Hind Jnr & Annie Wilson	1865 – 1893	Mary Ann Hird girls' school 1890
Alice Lampray	1893 – 1912	Vacant 1894/1895 & 1901 Frederick Coates, farm 1910 & 1911
Richard Hind Lampray	1912 – 1913	
Alan Ian, Duke of Northumberland	1913 – 1924	Housed Austrian POW's 1914
Robert Barker	1924 – 1935	Robert Barker, farm & Mrs l'Anson & Mrs Barker letting out rooms in house.
Robert Frank Herring	1935 – 1968	Robert Frank Herring, farm
Ian & Mary Herring	1968 – 2001	Ian & Mary Herring, farm
Randall Orchard (Hldgs) Ltd	2001 – 2002	Conversion/construction ongoing
Graeme & Joanne Newton	2002 to 2019	

with my previous research on Gayles; however it does not specify properties inherited by name or description.

I am confident of the accuracy of the remainder of my timeline from 1836 to date. However, I needed to revisit the Deed Register at the North Yorkshire County Records office and seek out any more deeds which would have enabled me to follow any chain of

### gayles house farm

leases, sales, etc for both Matthew Hind and William Head to determine categorically that my assumptions are correct in respect of the earlier years and possibly enable me to find earlier entries for Gayles House Farm. Unfortunately from Kent this may be difficult.

There is also debate as to when Gayles House was built

and the Grade 2 listing, probably the most reliable information source, states it to be an early 19th century rebuilding of an earlier house. If this is the case then in the mid-1700s owner William Head would have had the capital to build such a house and John Hind Snr as owner in the early 1800s would also have had capital to gentrify the house by rebuilding it in part.

## 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)

## Our family search for the Barningham Bowrons

### letters & emails

MY ancestor on my maternal grandfather's side, William Bowron (1) owned a farm at Scargill around 1730 which passed on to his son, William Bowron (2) after his death in 1771, and I have the original copy of the indenture which the son received when he inherited it.

This William Bowron married Jane Hanby and their son William (3) married Mary Coates. All three Williams were born in Barningham.

In 1998 my late husband and I visited the area, and found two Bowron graves in Barningham graveyard next to a tomb holding members from the Hanby family. At the time I knew little about the family history, and because of the age of the gravestones could only identify the name Anne Bowron on one of them. (William (1) had a sister Anne and William (2) had two sisters called Anne!) I have since found out that the other grave is that of William (2) and his wife Jane, their son William (3) and daughter Margaret Newby (wife of Mark) both of whom died in 1815. I suspect Margaret died in childbirth as her daughter Jane was born that year.

A cousin has recently sent me a photo of a third grave in Barningham which is more legible, confirming that that is actually the gravestone of William 2 his wife and children, and has inscriptions about William Bowron (died 1819 aged 72), Jane his wife (1811 aged 63), daughter Isabella (1808 aged 26), daughter Margaret Newby, wife of Mark Newby

(1815), son William Bowron (1815) and Christian, daughter of William and Jane Bowron (1857).

Grass is covering the writing at the bottom bit of the stone but I am guessing it may be the other two unmarried daughters Anne (died 1860) and Jane (1875).

The last remaining son, Christopher, set up a cheese-mongers business in London to which my great-great-grandfather was apprenticed, and from then on my side of the Bowrons was centred round the capital. He married a Jane Proctor and I see his son William also married a Jane Proctor, presumably a cousin.

A lot of the family history revolves round Cotherstone, where Mary Bowron nee Coates (my great-great-great-grandmother) set up a grocery business selling tea after her husband died in 1815.

I have not been able to trace further back than William (1) who was born c1715 and I think any Bowrons buried at Barningham probably lived and died at Scargill.

I would be very interested to find out whether William (1) had also inherited the farm from his father.

I understand you have copies of the parish register going back to the 16th century and I would be very interested to have a digital copy if that were possible.

A lot of my Bowron research was based initially on meticulous and time consuming work done by grandfather's cousin

## letters &amp; emails

Walter Bowron, and the family tree he wrote and signed in 1991 five years before his death. Back in the 1950s I was a student living with Walter and his sister Greta when they were beginning to explore the family history (without a computer) and it involved countless trips to Yorkshire, letters and phone calls, etc.

As well as the indenture marking William's ownership of the Scargill farm I also have Margaret Hanby's will.

GILLIAN COOK  
Market Harborough

● *We've sent Gillian copies of the parish registers and further information from our records. There were Bowrons and Bowrans buried in Barningham from the mid-1700s until late Victorian times.* —Ed.

## Have we got a Milbank link?

I'M just starting some genealogical research into my mother's side of the family.

Her mother, my grandmother, always said we were related

to Sir John and Lady Milbank of Durham County, and that the name, Sir John Robertson Milbank, was carried down in the family through several generations. She also said she had portraits in their home of both Sir John and Lady Milbank before her family moved to America in 1947.

Supposedly, John Robertson Milbank Tucker married my great-great-grandmother, Bethia (I don't have her maiden name). They had a daughter, Emily Tucker (my great grandmother) who then married Andrew Glass. One of their five children, Winifred Jennifer Glass, was my grandmother. My mother's family was from in and around Newcastle. My grandmother married Edward Norman Hall on April 17, 1922 at Christ Church, Gateshead.

I'll keep looking through the Barningham website, but is there any way to confirm that John Robertson Milbank was, indeed, a real person? Or that John Robertson Milbank Tucker was related to the Milbank family?

I'm not sure if the tie to

the Milbank family was just someone's wishful thinking.

GILLIAN JEFFY-ANDERSON  
Plymouth, Maine, USA

● *We've told Gillian that a thorough search through our Milbank records has failed to find any mention of a Sir John Robertson Milbank or any of the other people Gillian mentions. If he did exist he must have belonged to some other branch of the family elsewhere in England, but we suspect, like her, that Winifred had been sadly misled.* —Ed.

## Thanks for the contact

AMAZING! The story of the Carters and the butlers, etc., in the last Archive is fascinating. As you correctly guessed I work in London but live in Maidenhead.

Thanks for putting me in touch with George Carter.

DAVID NICOLL  
Maidenhead

● *We'd sent David and George, who are both researching Carter families, each other's email addresses and are glad it's helped.* —Ed.

## Hinds from Gayles ended up in Ireland

I have been researching over many years my Hind ancestors of London, and Gayles.

It was quite by accident I came across my 3x great grandfather John Hind's possible baptism at Barningham on 28th April 1787, the son of James Hind and Jane Bamlet formally of Gayles. Since then I have found he had a sister Mary and a brother Joseph and I am trying to chase their baptisms between 1788–1795.

As I live in Suffolk and although I have spent many hours in the Northallerton Record office over the years, it is a long way to come just to see if these baptisms are on the microfiche. If all their names are on your digital copy of baptisms then I would like to buy a copy please.

For local interest, I can report that the Hind family I am interested in had moved by 1797

to Manchester where James had a cotton mill and became an agent for one of the local London Schools. There were more children before they all moved to Northern Ireland where James (who had originally been a farmer, I believe) became a leather cutter.

His son John went into spinning cotton in Ballynure before moving to Belfast where he introduced the wet spinning of flax and ended up as the largest linen manufacturer in Ulster in the mid 1850s. The family did well but it unfortunately all came to a disastrous end in the 1880s with a family feud and the longest legal battle in Irish history!

JANE HELLIWELL, Suffolk

● *We sent Jane the baptisms and put her in touch with Hutton Magna Hinds expert Marian Lewis.*

## Where I laid my head (till Kent called)

LINDA SHERWOOD,  
now living in Kent, won  
the Archive Award in 2018  
for the third year running.  
Here she describes her  
research into the story  
of Gayles House Farm  
beside her former home

IN 2007 I moved to live in Gayles End Cottage, which was one of a number of dwellings formed in 2001 by the conversion, extension and alterations of barns at Gayles House Farm in West Street, Gayles. Gayles House Farm is Grade 2 listed.

My project for the 2018 BLHG Archive Award was to find out as much of the history of this farm and its steading before I moved to Kent in December later that year.

I was very lucky to have many photographs loaned to me which I included in my project showing the farm steading before it was converted to form six new dwellings.

I researched the Deeds Registry at North Yorkshire County Record Office for leases,

wills, conveyances and maps, and used websites for census and probate records, newspaper extracts, birth records, the Gayles tithe apportionment map and schedule, parish registers and construction drawings to add to my findings.

I also accessed research done previously at the Duke of Northumberland's Archives by Graham Best, which had been loaned to me previously by the then parish clerk.

The timeline I have established through my research, which I believe to be correct,



gayles house farm

is given overleaf. However, there is some potential confusion caused by the fact that Matthew Hind, the father of John Hind Snr who lived at Gayles House Farm, was described as a common brewer in 1795 when he bought some unrelated land from William Heslop.

Matthew died in 1801, and was then described as 'of Gayles'. His son John Hind Snr and later Matthew's daughter-in-law Elizabeth Hind Snr inherited the property. In 1823 both John Hind Snr and Sampson George are listed in *Baines Directory* as maltsters and brewers, which could suggest that there were two breweries running separately at that time in Gayles.

I also referred to a copy of the Duke of Northumberland's estate map for Gayles dated 1810 to try and clarify the confusion, but unfortunately

the name inscribed on the parcel of land where Gayles House Farm lies could be read as 'Head' or 'Hind' and therefore it is difficult to resolve this quandry given the poor reproduction of this map and that there is no accompanying schedule with the copy of the map.

In 1770 William Head sold land (which appears to relate in its description to Gayles House Farm) to James Swetnam but there is no plan attached to the deed.

Prior to this time William Head's nephew Edward Johnson was known to be running a 'London School' at Gayles House. It is very likely that William Head 'set up' his nephew as a schoolmaster in Gayles because William was a wealthy man who had no children of his own and therefore provided for his nieces and nephews as his will shows. I had obtained a copy of William Head's will in connection





## Brides down the years

*Six local wedding photos from different eras, published in the parish magazine in 1992. Clockwise from top left, they're dated 1918, 'between the wars', 1938, 1944, 1961 and 1966. Can you name anyone?*



## Letters between Academy husband and his wife

### letters & emails

AS a member of our local history society here in Whitworth, Lancashire, I recently had sight of a series of letters, nine in all, written between November 1823 and June 1824 by Margaret Newby (nee Crawford) to her husband the Rev George Newby, whose father founded Barningham Academy.

At that time the couple lived at Witton-le-Wear where, I understand, Rev Newby was curate and master of the Grammar School and incumbent at the church of St Phillip & St James.

Essentially these letters cover a period of some seven months during which Mrs Newby was treated by the 'famous' Whitworth Doctors for, we believe, breast cancer. Treatment for cancers then, as now, was brutal and painful. Members of the Taylor family had made the transition from blacksmiths and farriers to become respected doctors, surgeons and apothecaries not only locally (in Whitworth) but nationally; the first generation of the family having treated aristocracy, royalty and, perhaps importantly in the context of this mail, Thomas Thurlow, Lord Bishop of Durham.

Happily, Mrs Newby appears to have made full recovery from her condition and was to live a further twenty years or so supporting her four children and her husband in what appears to be, for him at least, a successful career in the church and in education.

My understanding is that both George and Margaret Newby are interred in the churchyard at Barningham but

am unclear as to whether they were actually born there.

Unfortunately, our modest museum does not actually own these historic letters but, thanks to the generosity of the owner, we have been able to make scanned images of the originals to allow full transcription of the contents.

Being 1823/24 the letters pre-date the use of stamps and envelopes and were folded and sealed as was the custom at that time. I've attached a scanned image of the outer cover of the first letter in the series, dated 26th November 1823, and a copy of a transcription, where we can read it, of its contents.

I am very impressed with your *Archive* and the fact that it is available, along with the index, on line. Anything you can add to this story and the family concerned would be greatly appreciated.

BRIAN FURNESS  
Chairman

Whitworth Heritage Museum  
Rossendale, Lincs.

● *We've sent Brian information about George Newby (1779-1846), who became a curate in Witton-le-Wear and then taught at the grammar school there. Later he became vicar of Stockton and then rector of Whickham.*

*He inherited Barningham Academy on the death of his father in 1827. Married to Margaret Crawford, he had four children including Mark who became rector of Crosby Garrett, George who also took holy orders, and William Crawford, who became a solicitor in*

*Stockton. After George's death friends and admirers raised £540 to establish a scholarship at the University of Durham in his memory.*

*Coincidentally, history group members Jon Smith and June Graham recently spent a day poring over hundreds of Newby family letters and other documents at Durham County Records Office, which purchased them at an auction in Leyburn last year. They have yet to be sorted and catalogued, but it's hoped that they will be the subject of research and we can publish something about their contents in a future Archive. — Ed.*

## Beamish hosts history fair

THE popular County Durham History and Heritage Forum event will take place this year at Beamish on Saturday September 21st, when local history groups will come together to display their projects.

The fair provides a valuable opportunity for everyone interested in local history and heritage to share their knowledge and passion with local, regional and national organisations.

Entry to the local history fair will be free to all museum visitors.

County Durham Forum for History and Heritage is a voluntary association of local history societies and groups, heritage organisations and individuals interested in sharing and promoting the history and heritage of County Durham.

SARAH, CDFHH

● *The history group belongs to the CDFHH and reduced admission should be available to members — see the Forum's website for details. — Ed.*



## Are these tracks Barningham's long-lost highways and byways?

*JOHN HAY intrigued local history group members at their last meeting with his theories about what may be ancient tracks criss-crossing Barningham.*

WHEN Bill Metcalf and I were discussing the site location of Mill Hill Farm and what turned out to be a gin-gang driving the mill, I commented on the peculiar landscape around the Mill and how it looked as though a highway had been driven from east to west passing on the north side.

This led Bill to explain that there were many pathways, no longer used, but still in evidence as he farms around Barningham House Farm.

I asked if he could draw them onto a copy of the Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1854 and reprinted in 1895 on a scale of six inches to the statute mile or 880 ft to the inch.

I have copied Bill's markings using the same scale but left out much of the map's detail – see opposite.

The oldest pathway runs from the south-west to the north-east through the Smallways area and then onto Hutton Magna (Lane Head) and then through Forcett, Stanwick and into Piercebridge.

A deviation from the old route at the south-west corner



**One of the tracks across a Barningham field**

cuts across the ford on the Scargill Road and travels north then east joining the end of Shaw Lane, continuing east and then rejoining the oldest route.

Presumably, as the route ignores the Roman road to Bowes, it could be a badger way (peddlars' road) heading down to Reeth via the mine workings or further west?

The other possibility is a corpse road, also called beir road, coffin line, lyke or lych road, funeral road or procession way.

Fields named Church way or Kirk way show possible routes.

Many of these roads covered long and difficult terrain as no one wanted a dead body carried through their settlements, so the roads crossed hills and

is marked "?" as it veers north by Hawsteads Farm along the Union Boundary and then arcs back south to rejoin the oldest route.

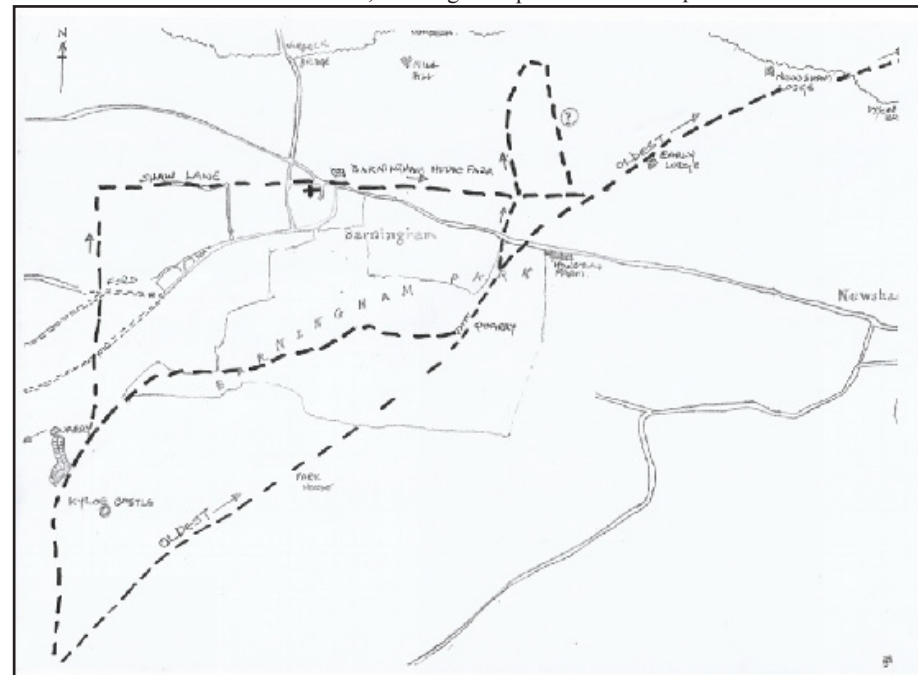
In the Lake District corpse roads run from Rydal to Ambleside, Swindale Head to Mardale, and Wasdale to Eskdale.

One of the means medieval churches had of maintaining control over outlying settlements was to insist on burials in consecrated land and when funeral processions had to go cross-country the route took on great folk lore significance.

If a coffin passed over private land the path automatically became a right of way. This was believed until the early 20th century but is not true, although despite there

pastures. It was considered bad luck to plough them or to deviate from the route even if that meant crossing running water.

One part of the oldest route



**Ancient routeways identified by John Hay**

## When farmers packed the court to save their seven and six

THE Dogs Act of 1906 brought chaos to Greta Bridge magistrates court.

The new law said farmers didn't have to pay for a dog licence (it cost 7s 6d, about £30 today) unless police queried their claim, in which case they had to argue their case before the court.

The local constabulary took their duties seriously and in January 1907, when the new regulations came into force, they queried nearly every farmer's right to exemption – some probably with good cause because 7s 6d was 7s 6d, after all, the price of a good few beers at the time, and Yorkshire farmers didn't waste their brass.

The Greta Bridge court was besieged by aggrieved applicants. More than 200 applied for exemption, and the magistrates discovered to their dismay that the new Act had failed to define what a farmer was (or a dog, for that matter).

They sought legal advice and were told that, as far as their lawyers could tell, anyone who kept an animal, even if they were not a fulltime farmer and owned no land, was entitled to claim exemption. Proving that a dog was needed on a farm, or whether a pig farmer needed one, or whether a farmer's daughter's puppy was really just a pet, was impossible. Nobody knew whether puppies needed a licence, anyway, or if they did at what age it became a dog.

In one day alone in February 1907 the magistrates tried to deal with 30 applications, including several from shepherds wondering if they counted as farmers, four from farmers with more than one dog and asking how many exemptions they didn't need, and one from a man with a one-legged wife wondering if she qualified when she went to feed his sheep.

In the end the exasperated bench granted all but one exemption. By March the number of applications had reached 430, for 630 dogs, and the court was still trying to sort things out months later.

The problem was eventually raised in Parliament in 1910 but by then the magistrates at Greta Bridge, and everywhere else, appear to have advised police to stop querying farmers' eligibility for exemption unless there were very, very good grounds for bringing the matter to court.



**Dead end: milestone on a Yorkshire corpse road**

being no laws or by-laws to suggest it, a number of the remote paths were regarded as footpaths.