

Barnsley Roots

Journal of Barnsley Family History Society



Quarry Bank Mill, the venue of our outing on 24th July 2025.



October 2025

Volume 33 No. 4

ISSN 2754-9070 (print)

ISSN 2754-9089 (online)

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Role vacant
Vice Chairperson	Doreen Piper Email: vicechair@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Secretary	Margaret Williams, 5 Summer Road, Royston, Barnsley, S71 4HY Email: secretary@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Treasurer	Doreen Piper Email: treasurer@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Membership Secretary	Elaine Jackson, 8 Regent Court, Royal Street, Barnsley, S70 2ED Email: membership@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Projects Coordinator	Doreen Piper Email: projects@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Publications Officer	Jeff Chambers Email: publications@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Journal Editor	Roger de Mercado Email: editor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Sub-Editor	Shirley Sura, 254 Appleton Ave., Great Barr, West Midlands, B43 5QD Email: subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Bookstall and Genfair	Lynn Smith, 3 Oaks Farm Drive, Darton, Barnsley, S75 5BZ Email: booksalesbarnsleyfhs.co.uk
Search Officer	Margaret Williams Email: search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Librarian	Lynn Smith Email: library@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Programme Co-ordinator	Doreen Piper Email: program@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Webmaster and e-journals	Jeff Chambers Email: webmaster@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Exchange journals	Elaine Jackson Email: exchange@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Committee Member	Suzanne Court-Oak Email: commem01@barnsleyfhs.co.uk
Committee Member	Janet Haigh Email: commem02@barnsleyfhs.co.uk

Front cover images: Janet P Haigh

Back cover images: upper Wikimedia Commons, credit Danny Molyneaux;
lower Janet P Haigh

CONTENTS

2	Editorial	Shirley Sura
4	Secretary's Update	Margaret Williams
5	The Google Newspaper Archive	Roger de Mercado
6	Everyday Clothing in the Medieval Period	Margaret Williams
8	A 'Little Bit Different' Quiz	Margaret Williams
9	The Coal Mining History of the Chapman Family	Janice Millward
11	Family History Detective Skills Solve a Mystery	Liz Whitehouse
14	The 'Little Bit Different' Quiz Answers	Margaret Williams
15	Gawber School Logbooks	Paul Stebbing
16	The 2031 Census	Roger de Mercado
17	Membership Subscriptions 2026	
18	Nominations for Committee	
19	Standing Order Mandate	
20	Intentionally blank	
21	Visit to Quarry Bank Mill	Janet Haigh
25	September Talk Report	Margaret Williams
27	The Lordship of Barnsley	Roger de Mercado
28	Goodbye 'Memories of Barnsley'	Shirley Sura
31	Stan and Grace Update – September 1943	Liz Whitehouse
33	Penistone Archive & History Group	Roger de Mercado
34	Yorkshire Parkin	Margaret Williams
35	Members' Section	Elaine Jackson & Jeff Chambers
35	FamilySearch Updates	Roger de Mercado
36	Search Services	

North Yorkshire Tithe Maps

A snapshot of 19th century North Yorkshire.

View tithe maps and transcribed apportionments from the collections held by North Yorkshire Archives.

At <https://northyorkstithes.com/maps/> there is a collection of digitised tithe maps overlaid on modern maps; one can use a slider to move from the old view to the new view – very useful if you have ancestors there and want to envisage their location. The tithe apportionments are given.

EDITORIAL

Hello again to all members of the Barnsley Family History Society. Autumn has arrived with some welcome rain for gardeners like me. Did I ever tell you that gardening and farming are in my genes? As well as all the usuals, we grew a new one – Cucamelon, which is like a tiny melon tasting of cucumber, very refreshing. You can see them here. I don't think any of my ancestors would have grown them, but I think they would have enjoyed them. However, there might have been an element of, "What am I supposed to do with this?", which is what my Dad said once when I gave him a tiny cauliflower that I had grown from seed in a tiny pot and not getting around to potting on, perfect but the size of a golf ball.



As well as our usual items we have lots of useful information, including The Google Newspaper Archive, FamilySearch updates and information about the forthcoming 2031 census. We have write-ups of recent talks, a report of the visit to Quarry Bank Mill, the Coal Mining History of the Chapman Family, some family history detective work and an update on the romance of Stan and Grace (I love this blog). We have a note about the Penistone Archive and History Group, Barnsley Archives' Conservation Programme on Gawber School Logbooks, the sale of the Lordship of Barnsley, a Yorkshire Parkin recipe and the sad demise of 'Memories of Barnsley'.

What we also have is some very good news: our editor Roger de Mercado, without whom this journal would not be winging its way to our homes, or anywhere else, has been awarded an Honorary Membership of Barnsley Family History Society. Roger has been editor for our journal on two occasions and this time not only edited the journal but also taught me all I know about editing and believe me when I started I did not have a clue about editing or many of the tasks involved. Thank you Roger for all you have taught me and for all you have done for our members. Here is a photograph of Roger with his certificate



Photo by Editor's grandson Chris de Mercado



In forthcoming issues...

All the usual plus a local church and, if you would like to see your contributions, so would we.

Shirley Sura

SECRETARY'S UPDATE –SEPTEMBER 2025



As I write this, it is pouring with the sort of rain that Noah would have recognised, twelve hours and counting... although, to be fair, this is much needed after the driest Spring and Summer on record here in the UK with reservoirs at an all time low, especially here in Yorkshire. Gardeners, like my husband and our Webmaster Jeff Chambers, will be so glad that their rain dances have produced results!

The BFHS season restarted with our first meeting after the Summer recess being held on Thursday September 18th at Buckley Street Methodist Church Hall, as usual.

Doreen Piper, our Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She was delighted to announce that the Committee had decided to offer **Roger de Mercado Life Membership of the BFHS**. Roger has had a long-standing association with the Society, holding various roles, his latest one being Editor of Barnsley Roots and mentor to Shirley Sura, our Assistant Editor. Both Shirley and I value Roger's patience, dedication and understanding; where we would be without his technical expertise, who knows?

This meeting was reasonably well attended with Pauline providing free refreshments after the customary talk. Liz Whitehouse, one of our local members and a regular contributor to Barnsley Roots, gave this talk, that was intriguingly called 'A Nightshirt, A White Dress and a 6ft long Sampler'. Susan, her sister, had come along to add extra insights which was really appreciated (they had worked together on the project Liz was telling us about.)

As you will read in this issue of Barnsley Roots, the annual trip to Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire took place on Thursday July 24th. I am so grateful to Janet Haigh for her review of the trip as I was unable to go. The thoughts of the Committee, and you, the members, must now turn to trips that may be possible for the BFHS friends and family in 2026. If you live 'up north' in the Lancashire, Yorkshire and surrounding counties' areas, please let us know of any possible venues for a day trip. I make this plea every year as it is so difficult for the same small group of people, the Committee, to come up with fresh ideas.

Last year the idea of a trip based around the canal network was raised by several of you, although this found to be inaccessible to people who have mobility issues. Please contact any of the Society Officers if you can suggest, maybe, a trip that you have been on; all our contact details are on the inside front cover of the journal. I try, as much as possible, for those of you who

live worldwide or who cannot participate for any reason, to feel included with the updates and reviews I write.

One Committee meeting has been held. It is great to report that Janet Haigh has rejoined our merry band; it's good to have her input again, as you will see from her review of the Quarry Bank Mill trip.

It was also decided that **there will be no meeting in February 2026**. This means that the Christmas/New Year break will have no members' meetings for the months of December, January and February for the foreseeable future. I am sure that you will understand that members really do not like coming to meetings when it is cold, dark and the weather can be very unpredictable.

I must apologise for the 'Keeping You in the Loop' snippets feature being AWOL in this issue, sometimes the sands of time go more quickly than one expects, I simply ran out of time – although the demands of being a Yorkshire County Cricket Club member may have played a part...

Enjoy the coming season, be it Autumn or Spring, wherever you live.

All the best to you and yours.

Margaret E. Williams

THE GOOGLE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

I am sure you all know about and regularly check the British Newspaper Archive for recent additions. Another source of reports in newspapers, journals and even obscure publications is the Google Newspaper Archive. Most are foreign publications, but there are some British. Go to <https://news.google.com/newspapers> and enter a name or indeed any search term.

The screenshot shows a Google News search for 'Barnsley'. The top result is from 'THE BLADE: TOLEDO, OHIO' dated Sunday, December 18, 1994. The headline is 'British town stomachs a loss'. The article text includes: 'It was the tripe that attracted us to Barnsley. And a distressing little story we picked up on BBC Shortwave radio reporting the imminent demise of the Barnsley Tripe Co. Apparently, Common Market health and hygiene czars in Brussels had decreed that the Western European century. But greater Barnsley can now count on 220,000 Yorkshire'. To the right of the article is a small image of two men and a quote: 'Barnsley is a coal mining town, albeit struggling, and a railway center.'

'Barnsley' doesn't bring up much, but it did find that in December 1994 a Toledo newspaper had taken an interest in a problem with the supply of tripe in Barnsley!

I knew that an associate of my grandfather had changed his name from Lazarus to Lascelles; searching Alfred Lascelles found entries in The Daily Register, the official law journal of New York, in 1886 recording the name change and giving details of his company activities. Soon afterwards, now as Alfred Lascelles, he set up with my grandfather the import/export firm of Lascelles de Mercado Ltd, of Kingston, Jamaica. Another snippet for my family history!

The screenshot shows a legal notice titled 'Partnerships.' from The Daily Register. The text reads: 'A. S. LAZARUS & COMPANY.—Whereas Alfred A. S. Lazarus of the firm of A. S. Lazarus & Company has this day by due process of law changed his name to Alfred S. Lascelles; and Whereas the said firm of A. S. Lazarus & Company has for the past five years and over transacted business in the City of New York, and had business relations with foreign countries; and Whereas the undersigned desire to continue to'.

Roger de Mercado

EVERYDAY CLOTHING IN THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

BFHS Talk by Tony Perkins, Thursday 19th June 2025

Thank you so much to the five people who sent me 'likes' for my summary of the talk on "Agnes Peterkin".

The following is just a taster of the talk given by Tony.

The Medieval period is generally thought to be from the Norman Conquest in 1066 to the end of the Wars of the Roses with the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485.

Elaine Perkins, Tony's wife, was able to assist him with the costumes they brought as this talk complemented Elaine's visit in April. All the wool and linen garments on display had been made by Elaine.

Tony started by telling us that wool and linen were the fabrics used for all garments worn by everyone. Wool, even when wet, keeps the wearer warm.

Tony gave us samples of the clothing worn by the majority of working people. The nobility had the desire for furs, velvets, better fabrics as they could afford them. We were invited to try various garments on after the talk; one brave lady did, the rest of us chose Pauline's tea and cakes!



Male clothing

Clothes were worn to show off your wealth. Fashions only changed at the top of society from the 11th to 15th centuries.



The process of making the cloth for the vast majority of people was the same: wool had to be gathered, cotton harvested, washed, then spun into thread, dyed, (often yellow as it was a cheaper dye) then woven. All the material was made in strips which were exactly the width of the weaving loom.

Every strata of society wore a cloak which went over the head, had open arms and covered the back. All people wore linen next to the skin. Most people wore a linen shift, cloak, woollen hose and a cotton hood before woollen hats were promoted to encourage the wool trade. The linen shift was also

the garment folk slept in.



Medieval trousers, called hose or 'braies', were a basic element of the man's clothing. They were a type of "joined" hose, had a closed back and a codpiece at the front. The Church complained the curvature of the buttocks was too visible! Medieval trousers were tight to the legs and covered them from the hips to the feet. Clothes consisted of an inner tunic or shirt with long, tight sleeves, and drawers, usually of linen. Tailored cloth leggings, called chausses or hose, could be made as separate garments for each leg and were

worn under the tunic. Striped hose was popular. So, except for the nobility, men often had two separate legs of fabric joined with rough string at the waist so that, if the wearer tore one leg of his hose, only one needed to be replaced as fabric was costly for the majority of the populace. There was no underwear until the Victorian era!

Belts, shoes and pouches could not be made; they had to be bought so were cherished and really looked after. Shoes were made by a Cordwainer*, using leather, so, if you had to go into water or a wet field, wooden pattens were worn under the precious footwear. Tony told us you had to pay to go over a bridge so the majority of people would choose to walk through the water underneath instead! Most people wore a plain form of belt, but they could be decorated with seashells, symbols of purity, to show piety and wealth.

Female Clothing

This has already been detailed in Elaine's previous talk but we were given a few extra pieces of information. The vast majority of women had only one dress, a kirtle, for which they



sourced the wool, dyed it, spun the yarn and wove the fabric before sewing the garment. As working in the fields could be arduous, an extra pair of yellow dyed sleeves were made, often worn over the original sleeves; sleeve length was the wearer's choice. The kirtle was laced straight across the back. If a kirtle was cross-laced the wearer could be regarded as wanton!

So that's where the word straight-laced comes from! An over-kirtle was always worn over the kirtle although it was removed in hot weather or during hard labour in the fields.

Female hair could not be seen after the age of 12; hair always had to be covered in the presence of men as failing to do so was regarded as sensual. The only time a woman was allowed to show her hair was on her wedding day.

Just to show that some things never change...

Eleanor of Aquitaine, born 1122 in France, died on April 1st 1204, buried in Poitiers, France, Queen to Henry II, was mother of Richard the Lionheart.



Despite her piety, she so despised her sagging chin that she wore a cradle under her chin to hide this perceived flaw. Very soon, this became the 'go to' fashion for all the ladies of high society. No Botox then, just a neck cradle!

Thanks were given by our Vice Chair, Doreen Piper to Elaine and Tony for two very enlightening talks.

* Cordwainer - A cordwainer is a shoemaker who makes new shoes from new leather. The cordwainer's trade can be contrasted with the cobbler's trade, according to a tradition in Britain that restricted cobblers to repairing shoes.

Margaret E. Williams

Illustrations by permission of the MDT Archive.

THE LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT QUIZ



Answers to the first 10 questions all start with 'A'
Questions 11 – 20 are (allegedly) General Knowledge

1. Which King is said to have burnt the cakes'
2. Who wrote the long-running play 'The Mousetrap'?
3. Who made up ABBA with Benny, Bjorn and Anni-Frid?
4. Which Marie is supposed to have said "Let them eat cake!"?
5. Which East Coast port is known as the Granite City?
6. Which musical direction means 'at ease', 'at a comfortable pace'?
7. Which Ali was created by Sacha Baron Cohen?
8. Which Welsh singer was famous for 'Walking in the Air'?
9. Which animal comes first in a dictionary?
10. Which country originated the word 'plonk'?

11. In 'Little Britain', who runs the Fat-Fighting class?
12. Which English cathedral has the largest monastic cloister?
13. Which European nation was the first to give women the vote?
14. What colour is 'verdant'?
15. Where is the San Siro stadium?
16. Who was South Africa's second post-apartheid president?
17. Which instrument did Glenn Miller play?
18. On which English Canal is the Blisworth Tunnel?
19. What does the Russian word 'Sputnik' mean?
20. Which land creature has the biggest eyes?

Have a go. Just a bit of fun!

Margaret E. Williams

THE COAL MINING HISTORY OF THE CHAPMAN FAMILY

I received a copy of Jane Ainsworth's book, *Victims of the Oaks Colliery Disaster 1847*, as a gift when my husband, Ian, discovered that a relative of mine was killed in the tragedy.

James Brown (c1797 to 1847) was my great great grandfather. His daughter, Martha Ann (1843 to 1919) is also mentioned in the book. Martha married John Chapman (1837 to 1908) at the Parish Church in Gawber, Barnsley in June 1865. On the marriage certificate, John's father's occupation is stated as 'farm labourer' and Martha's father is described as 'Miner'. John signed his name with an X and was living in Gawber. Martha was living in Barnsley. Jane mentions in her book that John retired before 1901, 'living on his own means'. We cannot confirm this but our research shows that 'the estate of John Chapman of Gawber near Barnsley died 27th March 1908 left effects worth £327 8s.0d' (*England and Wales National Probate Calendar Index of Wills and Administrations 1858 to 1995*). In her book Jane equates this to £34,440 in 2019 values.

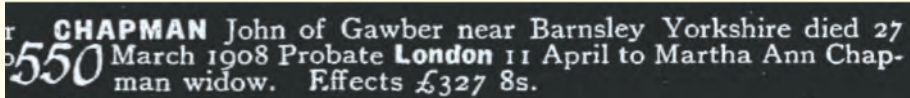


Image source <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/>

Martha and John had four children: Sarah Ann (1871 to 1953), James (1873 to 1959), John (1877 to 1916, killed in action, France) and Elizabeth (1885 to 1904). James was my grandfather and also a miner. Sarah Ann married Edwin Clifton Sharman in 1891. My father's middle name is Sharman and he was told it was after a rich relative. Is this the connection to the money mentioned by Jane? More research needed, I think.

We're unsure of the reasons why, but James left the pits of Yorkshire and made the journey, on foot, to the coalfields of County Durham sometime between the 1911 census and his marriage to Mary Dodds (maiden name, Mather) in 1916. The marriage certificate shows that the wedding took place at Chester le Street Registry Office and Mary would have been three months pregnant. James was described as a 'Collier Coal Cutter'. James was a 38 year old bachelor and Mary was a 32 year old widow. Her first husband, John Thomas Dodds, was killed in France in 1915 during World War I. Mary and John Dodds had four children. The youngest died days after Mary was informed that John had been killed.

James and Mary Chapman had four sons: John (1916 to 2003) Edward Sharman (1919 to 2014), James (1921 to 1923) and Vincent (1924 to 2007). The three surviving sons followed their father in working at Kimblesworth Colliery, not far from Durham city. John (Jack) became a professional footballer. He played for Hartlepool, Bury and Tottenham Hotspur (for one season). His career was cut short by World War II. He was conscripted but was soon brought back home due to his knowledge of operating a certain machine. He developed dementia in his final years, believed to have been

caused by heading the heavy leather footballs. He and Vincent moved to the West Midlands shortly after the war to work at Hamstead Colliery on the outskirts of Birmingham.

James sadly died of measles when he was 2 years old. His burial is the first carried out at the newly constructed St Philip and St James's Church, Kimblesworth.

Edwin (Ted) Sharman was my father. He told me that one of his earliest memories is standing in line for his soup and bread during the general strike of 1926. He recalled that the 'bairns' were served first and then any surplus was given to the 'mams and dads'. Although he was a very bright child, he didn't attend the local grammar school because his parents couldn't afford the 1s fees. He left school when he was 14 years old and became a pony boy at Kimblesworth Colliery. One of his stories was about his favourite Welsh pony, Taffy, who used to pinch his snap (packed lunch) out of his pocket. He explained that he was responsible for getting his tub of coal to where it needed to be in one piece. This involved leaning against it to keep it on the tracks at bends. If the tub overturned, he had to right it by himself and then refill it. He said that this was the incentive to make sure the tub and its contents remained on the rails! As he grew older he undertook more adult jobs and progressed to working on the main seam.

Dad was conscripted into the Durham Light Infantry when he was 22 years old and served as a Desert Rat in the North Africa campaign and in Italy during World War II. He never spoke of his time during the war but, from the history I have read, I don't think it was a pleasant experience for anyone who served there. He returned to Kimblesworth afterwards but it wasn't long before he followed his brothers to Hamstead. He alternated between living with Jack and Vincent's families before marrying my mom, Barbara Smith, in 1957.

Marrying late must run in the genes because dad was 37 years old. Barbara was 22. They had five children: Janice Margaret (1958), Christopher John (1960), Paul (1962), David (1965) and Robert (1968). One of my earliest memories (around 1964) is of men in navy blue donkey jackets carrying my dad upstairs to the bathroom so that he could have a bath before they helped him to bed. There had been a collapse at the pit and dad had been amongst a few men caught up in it. They brought him home in an NCB (National Coal Board) van. Fortunately, he wasn't badly hurt but carried blue scars on his back for the rest of his life.

I also remember a time when we thought the bogey man had come to get us. The pit head baths were broken so dad had come home covered in coal dust. I can still see the green lips and red-rimmed eyes.

Hamstead Colliery closed in 1966 and ended the coal mining tradition of the Chapman family. Dad found work at a local factory which dealt in heat treating metal and remained there until he retired. After a long and happy retirement, he died in May 2014 at the age of 95.

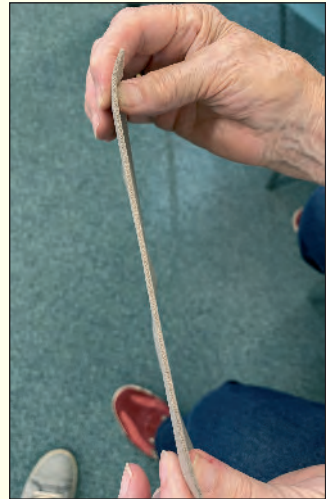
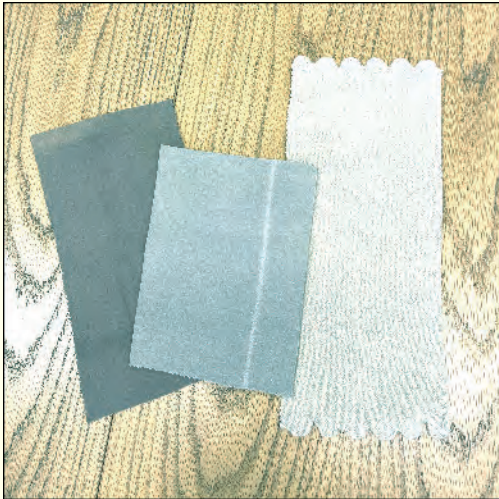
Janice Millward (née Chapman)

FAMILY HISTORY DETECTIVE SKILLS SOLVE A MYSTERY

My sister Susan and I are currently volunteering for Barnsley Archives as, for the time being, we have reached the end of our exploration of the Barnsley Museums' textile and costume collection (subject of my talk to the Society on 18th September).

We were asked to look at three fabric samples donated by a 'Miss Nicholson' in 1998. There was little information taken from Miss Nicholson at the time apart from her surname and her address. It was felt that the fabrics had come from "*her family's mill*" in the Penistone area, which was in operation "*in the 1920s or earlier*".

Susan and I looked at the fabric. There were two pieces of identical cloth, one a dark creamy-beige and the other a dark lovat green. These pieces seemed to be made of a top and bottom outer layer of brushed wool cloth, giving a dense texture and quite a stiff feel. The top and bottom layers were



Box cloth samples (colours not true) and edge.

joined through the centre of the cloth by a very fine thread in a zigzag. This is a most unusual construction and I have never seen a cloth constructed in this way.

The third piece of cloth was a much thinner plain-woven wool in cream with a brushed surface. Our first reaction was that the thicker pieces could have been used for uniform or for gentlemen's outer wear (jackets and coats).

The only further information that the Archives had from Miss Nicholson was her address: 8 Park Lane, Thurlstone. There was no first name. It was thought that the mill referred to was Richardson and Tee (or Tea) & Co.

Susan and I began our research by looking at trade directories for the area from 1921 or earlier. In its introduction to Penistone, Kelly's 1901 Directory of the West Riding said that all the mills in Penistone had closed: "*The woollen trade, formerly carried on here to a considerable extent, is now entirely gone*

and the old Cloth Hall has long been converted into shops". However, there was a mill still operating in Thurlstone, and the Directory says, *"The manufacture of woollen cloth was introduced here centuries ago but is now almost entirely in the hands of one firm who produce drab livery cloths only"*.

The company listed was "Tomasson, Thos. & Son, livery cloth manufacturers." This company operated from Plumpton Mill and specialized in 'livery fabrics', which would be a possible description of the thicker donated fabrics.

I began looking for the three surnames in the census returns: Nicholson, Richardson and Tee/Tea. I was looking for anyone with these names with connection to a mill or to cloth manufacturing. There was no-one at all with the surname Tea or Tee. Fortunately both Richardson and Nicholson were not very common names in the Penistone area.

There were no likely Richardsons, but in the 1911 census, seven Nicholson siblings, aged between 28 and 9 years old, all marked as 'son' or 'daughter', were living at Wellcliffe Cottages, Penistone. A note made by the enumerator on the form says, "Mother Head but away from home on night". The oldest sibling was Oliver (28), a Wool Dyer, employed by a 'Cloth Manufacturer'.

I found Oliver again in the 1921 census, living at Prospect, Thurlstone, aged 38. He was a wool dyer working for Thos. Tomasson & Son, woollen cloth manufacturer, at Plumpton Mill, Thurlstone. With him were his wife, Lilian, his daughter Vera (age 7) and a visitor, Martha Watts.

By the time of the 1939 Register, Oliver was living in Stocksbridge with his wife, Lilian, and Vera, who was now a 25-year-old School Teacher, still single. Oliver was no longer a cloth dyer but was a Sawman in a steel rolling mill. We now need to look at the history of Plumpton Mill to find out why his occupation had changed.

The owner of Plumpton Mill was Hugh S. Tomasson. The Penistone, Stocksbridge & Hoyland Express dated 30th September, 1933 carries an article on the closing down and sale by auction of Plumpton Mill. It describes the mill as *"...the old woollen box cloth mill of Thomas Tomasson and Son"*. It says that the owner, Mr H. S. Tomasson, is retiring from business and *"it was his desire that the whole should be sold as a going concern"*. Sadly, no-one was willing to bid enough to buy the business as a going concern and bidding ceased at £4,250 and the lot was withdrawn. The associated buildings and houses were withdrawn at £1,750. The goodwill of the business was sold at £200 and then the machinery and equipment was sold in individual lots.

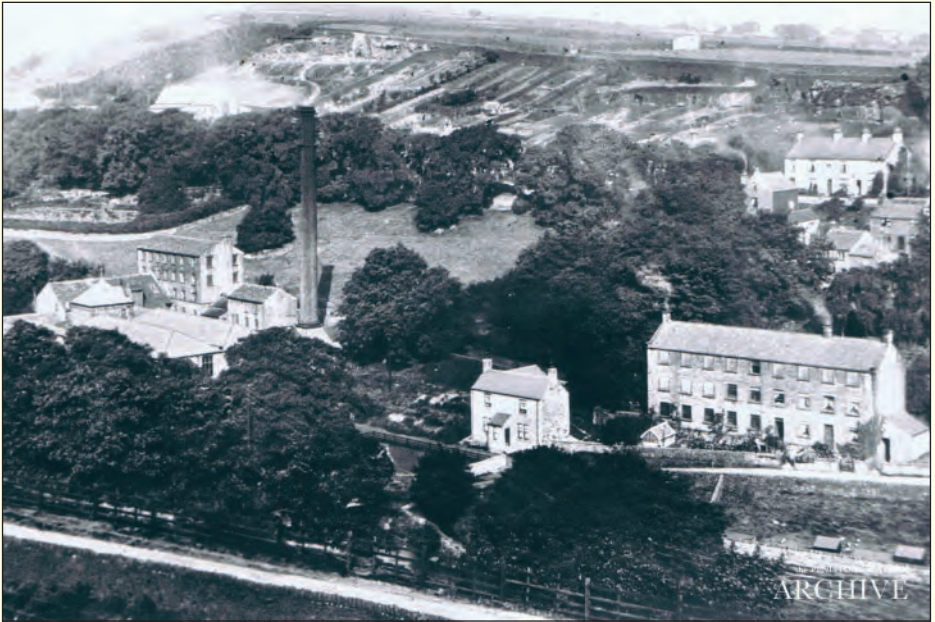
An advert in the Yorkshire Post of 28th April, 1934, shows the mill and its associated buildings, including cottages, was for sale again. At some point the property was bought by Durrans and is the site of one of their manufacturing premises in Thurlstone. There is a photograph of Plumpton Mill on the web site www.Penistonearchive.co.uk/thurlstone-gallery (See note p.33)

Hugh Tomasson died in November, 1938 and left £34,000.

To ensure that we had the right Vera Nicholson, we followed Vera to the end of her life. A very short piece in the Huddersfield Examiner dated 27th July, 1974, records the retirement of Miss Vera Nicholson, head mistress of Oxspring School for 26 years. I identified Vera's death on the Find My Past web site. She died on 9th April, 2008 in the S36 postcode area.

A search on the Royal Mail postcode finder gives the postcode for 8 Park Lane, Penistone as S36 6DP, so I think we can say that all the research points to this being the Miss Vera Nicholson who donated the fabric in 1998.

We identified her father, Oliver's, death in the September quarter of 1981, when he was aged 99 years.



Above: 'Tomasson's Cloth Mill 1912', image courtesy Penistone Archive Group.
Below: Plumpton Mills, 1903 (National Library of Scotland). The red arrow suggests the photographer's viewpoint was up on Hill Side.



The Cloth

Finally – back to the cloth. Plumpton Mill is described as producing “livery fabrics” in the description in the 1901 Kelly’s trade directory and as producing “box cloth” in the article in the newspaper in September, 1933.

I looked up “box cloth” in my book “The Illustrated Dictionary of Fabrics” (pub. 1978), which gives the following in the chapter on Wool:

“Melton”: The name Melton comes from Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire, England, an area famous for fox-hunting. Melton is a thick, well-milled fabric with a nap which has been closely sheared to give a smooth surface. Normally woven with a twill weave in wool, less expensive Melton has a cotton warp and a wool weft. It is always dyed solid colours and has become one of the most commonly-used woollen cloths for overcoats, uniforms and riding habits. Melton is one of the same group of fabrics as kersey, **boxcloth**, admiralty cloth and espagnolette.”

Liz Whitehouse

THE LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT QUIZ ANSWERS



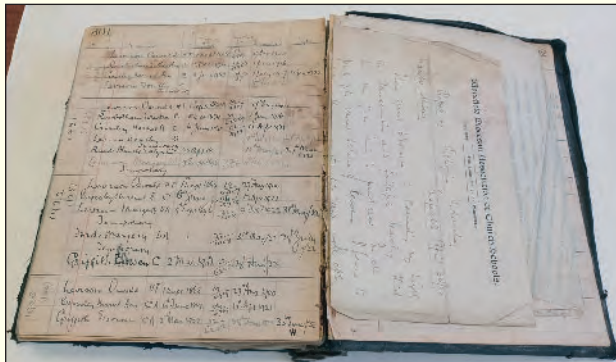
- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ALFRED | 11. MARJORIE DAWES |
| 2. AGATHA CHRISTIE | 12. NORWICH CATHEDRAL |
| 3. AGNETHA | 13. FINLAND |
| 4. ANTOINETTE | 14. GREEN |
| 5. ABERDEEN | 15. MILAN |
| 6. ADAGIO | 16. THABO MBEKE |
| 7. ALI G. | 17. TROMBONE |
| 8. ALED JONES | 18. GRAND UNION |
| 9. AARDVARK | 19. TRAVELLING COMPANION |
| 10. AUSTRALIA | 20. OSTRICH |

BARNSELY ARCHIVES' CONSERVATION PROGRAMME GAWBER SCHOOL LOG BOOKS

Barnsley Archives and Local Studies have an ongoing conservation programme to ensure that the 4000 collections in our custody can still be safely used by researchers many years, decades and centuries from now. The programme is a crucial part of the work we do and is supported by Barnsley MBC, the Friends of Barnsley Archives and the Barnsley Museums and Heritage Trust.



In 2024, a visit to Gawber Primary School (originally Gawber National School) led to the transfer of the school's historic records into the custody of Barnsley Archives. These records included the school log books 1863-1968, admission registers from 1910-1999, printed school histories, photographs and other historical items. Whilst the school had recognised the importance of these items, they simply did not have the facilities at the school to properly preserve them, or make them accessible to researchers. School log books are



always of particular importance. Going back to Victorian times, school headteachers used log books as a daily diary, recording every aspect of school life. Losing such information would leave a massive gap in the historical record of the school and of Gawber in general.

The third in the series of school log books was of particular concern to us. It covers the period 1916-1932. It had at some point suffered from water ingress which had caused severe damage and leather deterioration. The boards were damaged, there was evidence of previous mould infestation, the spine was badly damaged, and there were small tears throughout. In fact, a complete rebind was necessary. Thankfully, due to our annual conservation programme, we were able to commission work on the volume within just a few months of it arriving at Barnsley Archives. Such was the poor condition of the volume, coupled with the popularity of school log books, that it did jump the queue! The conservation work on the volume had been completed by April 2025 and we were able to show off the end result to the Gawber Primary School Student Council when they visited the Town Hall for an Archives taster session. They were delighted that the school's treasures were being well looked after and preserved for future generations.

Paul Stebbing
BMBC Archives and Local Studies Manager
18th August 2025

2031 CENSUS

Even before the 2021 census, it had been suggested that a better way of monitoring the UK population statistics would be by using the various administrative records now held by the Government, such as tax records and NHS data. These would be continually updated, whereas a decennial census is a snapshot at a moment in time and becomes increasingly out of date. A public consultation in 2023 revealed strong support for the continuance of a census. The UK Statistics Authority accordingly recommended that the Government should commission the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to deliver a census of England and Wales in 2031. On 15th July the ONS reported:

“Today HM Government has commissioned the Office for National Statistics to conduct a mandatory, questionnaire-based, whole-population census of England and Wales in 2031. This follows the UK Statistics Authority's recommendation to Government last month for a census as part of system of population and migration statistics which combines the power of data collection and builds on the use of administrative data. We welcome the Government's decision and have begun the process of designing the shape and structure of Census 2031.

We have set up a Census Taskforce which has started scoping plans for 2031. The Taskforce will focus on delivering a census that builds on the successes of Census 2021, working with devolved governments to support coherent UK outputs and maximising the benefits from our work with administrative data to date.

We will launch a public consultation later this autumn. This consultation will gather views on topics that users need from a system of population statistics and inform the development of the census questionnaire.”

The 1931 Census

A devastating fire destroyed the individual returns for the 1931 Census in England and Wales on Saturday 19th December 1942. A letter from a Mr Derrick of the General Register Office said the fire was a mystery as it was not caused by enemy action and had taken hold despite special fire hydrants and a guard of six ‘paid watchers’.

“It is hardly possible to imagine a more complete state of devastation than the scene presented to us in which it was impossible to see where some of the racks had stood and where the remains were nothing more than shapeless mounds of paper rubbish dragged outside the building by the firemen who tackled the fire and where even the least damaged sheets that were recognizable were charred to the depth of two or three inches on all edges. The store must be regarded as a total loss.”

The Scottish 1931 Census returns were fortunately stored in Edinburgh at the time of the fire and can be released in 2031.

There is a useful history of censuses from 1801 onwards at www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/storyofthecensus.

Roger de Mercado

VISIT TO QUARRY BANK MILL, CHESHIRE, 24TH JULY 2025

Quarry Bank is a National Trust Property with working mill, gardens and countryside near to the village of Styal. It began as a textile factory, one of the first of the Industrial Revolution, built in 1784. The founder, Samuel Greg was a pioneer of the Factory System. The Mill was the largest textile mill in the country at the time. He also built a village alongside the factory to house his employees. Samuel Greg was born in Belfast. His family, or more likely his uncles, were linen merchants in Ireland.

In 1784 the textile industry was booming and the new innovative machinery, such as the Spinning Jenny and larger weaving machines meant that the machinery needed was too big for the previous cottage industry. The river Bollin provided a clean fast water source, which meant that a water wheel could provide the power for the larger, newer machines. The factory and the machines were originally powered by the water wheel, but it was replaced by steam engines or steam power in 1810.



The Mill chimney.



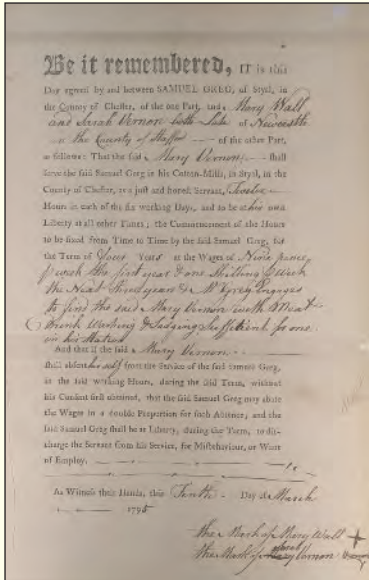
Spools of cotton; machines beyond.

As visitors, we were given the opportunity to visit the Mill and were able to see and hear the machines working and producing calico. The processes of carding, spinning and weaving of the threads were demonstrated in the Mill. Exhibitions gave information about the Greg family, the workers, including children, and the connections to the slave trade, as the cotton was brought from the family-owned cotton plantations in America.

The House of the Greg family was open for visitors, as well the gardens and woodlands. Styal village where the workers were housed was also open and is situated about half a mile away from the Mill. Some members of our group went along to experience the contrast in the living conditions of the Mill owners compared to the workers.



Rachel, Apprentice House guide.



Be it remembered, It is this Day agreed by and between SAMUEL GREG, of Styal, in the County of Chester, of the one Part, and Mary Wall and Sarah Vernon both late of Newcastle in the County of Stafford of the other Part, as follows: That the said Mary Vernon shall serve the said Samuel Greg in his Cotton-Mills, in Styal in the County of Chester, as a just and honest Servant, Twelve Hours in each of the six working Days, and to be at his own Liberty at all other Times; the Commencement of the Hours to be fixed from Time to Time by the said Samuel Greg, for the Term of four years at the Wages of Ninepence per week the first year and one shilling a week the next three years and Mr Greg Engages to find the said Mary Vernon Meat Drink Washing and Lodgings Sufficient for one of her Station. And that if the said Mary Vernon shall absent his self from the Service of the said Samuel Greg in the said working Hours, during the said Term, without his Consent first obtained, that the said Samuel Greg may abate the Wages in a double Proportion for such Absence ;and the said Samuel Greg Shall be at Liberty, during the Term, to discharge the Servant from his Service for Misbehaviour, or Want of Employ

As Witness their Hands, this Tenth day of March 1795

The Mark of Mary Wall X
The Mark of Sarah

Many of our party took the opportunity to visit the Apprentice House. We were shown around by Rachel, who was dressed as she would have been in the 1830s or 40s. We entered the property through the kitchen with Rachel describing and explaining along the tour as we entered the rooms. The Apprentice House was the living accommodation for children who were usually orphans or had been taken from the Workhouse to work in the Mill.

The children and their guardian signed an agreement to work. Only meals, clothing and lodgings were provided until they reached the age of 21. They would then be free to leave or gain permanent work in the Mill with the chance of obtaining a property in the adjoining village. At work in the Mill the children were expected to clean up, by sweeping out the dust and debris from underneath the moving machine. They also did some carding and spinning, whilst the boys may have been trained to become mechanics.

At the Apprentice House, an overseer and his wife lived and made sure that the children were fed, clothed and given a basic education. One surprising detail was that the children were served with a dollop





Where the apprentices ate and were taught; note slates on table.

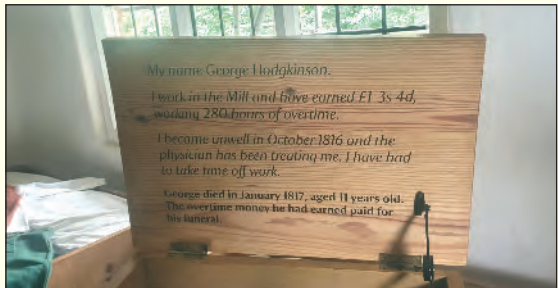
of porridge into their hands in the morning, which they would eat as they walked the half mile or so to the Mill. The diet was generally meagre, but marginally better than they would have received in the Workhouse. They had meat as part of their evening meal and vegetables that they had to tend and grow themselves after a long 13-hour day in the mill. We were informed by Rachel that a test of a child's age would be that if they could touch their left ear, by reaching their outstretched right arm over the top of their head, then they would be deemed old enough to work in the mill.

Rachel explained that there was a doctor available to administer to the children's health. He gave basic herbal medicine and poultices for ailments. We were shown a dish of live leeches. These would have been used for bloodletting or to reduce swelling around

the eyes. Lung diseases and respiratory problems were common due to being exposed to dust in the mill.

The children were mostly educated by the Mill owner's wife. They were taught in the Apprentice House. The children were expected to undertake one hour of learning after their thirteen-hour shift of work in the Mill. The tour continued into a classroom with blackboard, abacus and slates for the children. The children were taught reading and writing with arithmetic for the boys

The Apprentice House held approximately 90 children at any one time. The children were separated into two dormitories, one for boys and one for girls. They were locked in at night to prevent them



My name: George Hodgkinson

I work in the Mill and have earned £1 3s 4d, working 280 hours of overtime.

I became unwell in October 1816 and the physician has been treating me. I have had to take time off work.

George died in January 1817, aged 11 years old. The overtime money he had earned paid for his funeral.

escaping. The tour continued upstairs where we were informed that the children slept two to a bed. Chamber pots were placed underneath the beds for use during the night. The children would have to empty these themselves. The children were given a uniform of sorts with a red cape to be worn on

Sunday as they walked to the Church service in the Village. We were shown a number of boxes which may have contained the children's meagre possessions.

We were told that over a period of time 46 apprentices tried to run away. Many were brought back and were isolated as a consequence and fined. The children did earn money for themselves as overtime. By 1847 the Apprentice Scheme at the Mill was abandoned and the house closed.

Further information.

Quarry Bank is a preserved historic site.

Many families who came to work at the Mill had migrated from the countryside. Living and working in Agriculture was difficult and often there was poverty and deprivation whilst trying to make a living off the land. Workers often left the countryside for better and more prospects such as a regular and more secure income. Living in Styal Model Village was preferable to living in the overcrowded big cities. There may have been 7 people living in the two-up two-down cottages compared to maybe 14 in the cities. The village shop was part of the "Truck System" meaning that workers were given tokens to be spent only at the company shop. Various factory reform acts meant that conditions improved as shorter hours and less days of the working week were restricted by law.

The Mill was productive and lucrative for the Greg family. The Georgian style house became the permanent residence of the family. The family house is set in 400 acres of land which are landscaped with many pretty features, such as bridges over the river, gorges, caves, gardens and trees.

It was a very interesting and informative visit. I would recommend anyone to visit and will probably return myself in the near future. This would include further investigation of the house and gardens as well as a visit to the model village. The museum has certainly reignited my interest in the social history of the time and has reminded me that many of my Barnsley family were workers in the linen factories in town, and indeed one of them came from the cotton mills at the other side of the Pennines to settle in the county of Yorkshire!



Apprentice bed and stoarge box.



Superintendents' bedroom.

Janet P Haigh

A NIGHTSHIRT, A WHITE DRESS AND A SIX FOOT LONG SAMPLER

Discovering Textiles and Costumes in Barnsley Museums BFHS Talk by Liz Whitehouse, Thursday 18th September

The members at the meeting were treated not to a lecture, just fascinating details of some the garments held in storage by Barnsley Museums and how they are in the process of being catalogued.

Why a photo of Cannon Hall, you may well ask?

Liz commenced her talk with the interesting observation (one of many in her talk) about the history of Barnsley Museums. Barnsley did not have a Museum at all after the war but they did have Cannon Hall, the home of the Spencer-Stanhope family. In 1951 Barnsley Council bought the building from the family, who possibly had to sell because of death duties. Cannon Hall was opened in 1957 with many artefacts and donations stored there. The venue was probably not ideal, but it served as a base for all the items and donations that belonged to the Museum Service.



In 2013, **Experience Barnsley** became the name for Barnsley Museum. It is now based in the Town Hall. Today, Experience Barnsley holds regular exhibitions of local interest which are regularly changed. (The Museum is located on the ground floor of the Town Hall with access available to everyone. The entrance is at the left hand side of the Town Hall, next to the fountains!).

Liz started by telling us that she has a long standing interest in the history of costume, with a special interest in quilting; she is a member of the Quilters' Guild, having held a leading role.

The cataloguing of the items in the museum collection was haphazard. When the collection was still at Cannon Hall, a very well-meaning man tried to label items to be put in store. One such item was a Sampler according to the label – Liz told us it was actually a bell pull to summon servants! Louise, who works part-time for the Museum dealing with cataloguing and recording of items, was overwhelmed with demands on her time so enter Liz and her sister, Susan.

In October 2022, the ladies commenced work with cataloguing and recording all the stored clothing and fabric items. They devised a structure to work to:

IDENTIFY ITEM > DESCRIBE > MEASURE > CONDITION OF ITEM > PHOTOGRAPH > RECORD ON A SPREADSHEET > REWRAP FOR STORAGE IN EXPERIENCE BARNSELEY.

Liz then gave us an insight into some of the items that had been wrapped and stored; there were boxes and boxes of them, with many duplications. There was a lot of Victorian and Edwardian clothing, much of it hand sewn. Handmade lace decorated many of the earlier items of clothing and haberdashery; this cottage industry demonstrated the patience and dedication of family members.

There was a lot of beautiful children's wear. 12% of the collection was baby wear, 7% was for older children so about 20% of the whole collection was in children's clothing.

Liz and Susan discovered lots of ladies undergarments (underwear) plus cuffs and collars. Ladies' gowns were often made from delicate fabrics or more heavy fabrics like brocade which could not be washed, so the cuffs and collars were removable and made in a material that could be frequently washed.

There were many wrapped packages of tablewear, napkins, doilies and rolls of lace to sort through. Unfortunately, it is difficult to find storage for all the duplicated donations. This is such a shame as many of the items had been lovingly crafted in the cottage industry of the 18th and 19th century. (I can relate to this as I have three packs of hand-embroidered items, lace and crochet doilies which I don't know what to do with, as no-one wants these as gifts or donations. What can I do?)

McLintocks, manufacturers of quilted goods.

Liz introduced the topic of a company I, and I suspect many of you, have never heard of. The McIntocks building was once a key feature in the Summer Lane area of Barnsley, near to the Town End roundabout. It was one of the most well-known factories in the town, employing many people.

It was the source of one of Barnsley's greatest exports – the eiderdown or quilt. The quilt was patented by James McIntock, a Barnsley businessman, in the 1860s. McIntock & Sons subsequently became famous for manufacturing quilts, winning awards in Paris, Edinburgh and Philadelphia. The factory even manufactured a quilt with the Royal Coat of Arms for Queen Victoria.



Broderie Anglaise edging on a Regency man's shirt.



A dress for a toddler.

Photos from the collection provided by Liz Whitehouse.



Eiderdown made by McIntock.

Quilted items were always welcome for the more wealthy people as they provided warmth for people living in large houses with large fireplaces only – no central heating then! I suspect that Liz, with her long interest and involvement in quilting could enlighten us further perhaps?

(The factory thrived for years; the building is now a multi-purpose hub of offices and small businesses.)

Over the course of two and a half years, the two intrepid ladies catalogued 475 individual items, 88 of which were women's clothing. Liz displayed the spreadsheet that had been created with all the data and statistics. It was fascinating to see and deserves to be acknowledged by a wider readership.

The job is far from finished, I suspect, as there is no official Collections Policy for costume and textiles, so this a task for the future.

Doreen Piper gave a vote of thanks to Liz and Susan for a very informative talk that everyone could relate to. Several members enjoyed chatting with the two of them after the talk.

Margaret E. Williams

THE LORDSHIP OF BARNSELY

Would you like your descendants to be able to say proudly "my ancestor was Lord of Barnsley, y'know..."? Unless it's already gone, now's your chance to snap up the lordship. It's up for auction, starting at just £38,000. Yorkshire Live announced that The Lord of Barnsley is putting his title up for sale alongside 230 acres of mineral rights beneath the town.

The Lordship doesn't include a manor house or any entitlement to sit in the House of Lords, though the successful bidder does receive certain benefits. David Harrison, who currently holds the title, explained: "It's not only a title for whoever buys the Manor, it's also a title for their spouse. The mineral rights are certainly the main draw though."

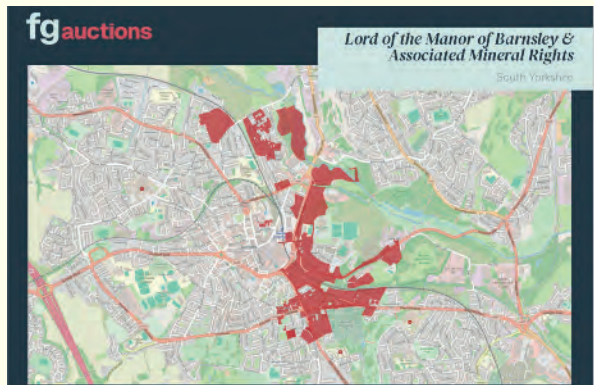
The primary mineral beneath Barnsley was coal, notably the Barnsley Seam, which formed a significant component of the Yorkshire coalfield.

Additional minerals found within the coal deposits include kaolinite, utilised in the paper, paint and ceramics sectors. Further trace elements discovered also encompass titanium, zirconium, yttrium and niobium, employed in manufacturing chemicals, electrical components and even aircraft engines.

The Sale Brochure is at

<https://assets.reapit.net/fsg/live/pdf.php?p=BAN250131&t=S>

It includes the map above, showing the land involved.



Roger de Mercado

Credit Yorkshire Live, plus thanks to Jeff Chambers for the tip-off.

GOODBYE 'MEMORIES OF BARNSELEY'

It was with sadness that I read the letter accompanying my latest copy of 'Memories of Barnsley' because it said 'We write to inform you that sadly we have made the decision to cease the publication of Memories of Barnsley...'. I have been a subscriber for several years and have either hard copies or online copies of those no longer in print. How I shall miss the 'plop' as it drops through my letter box.

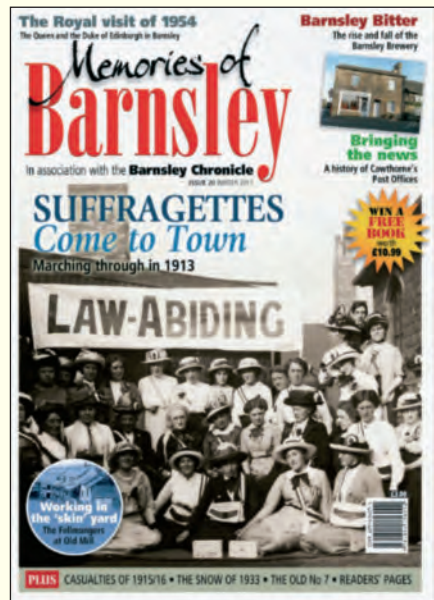
However, all is not lost. If you visit www.memoriesofbarnsley.co.uk and look under 'Back Issues', you can see which issues are still in print. These can be ordered on the website or you can order them by telephone on 01226 734734. You can get 5 back issues for £14.00. Issues no longer in print can be ordered in pdf format online. (Excuse me a moment while I just go and check I have none missing...)

In 'Memories of Barnsley', I have spent many happy hours reading, looking at the photographs and picturing in my mind what my father, my grandparents and other ancestors' lives might have been like, what they did, where they lived, walked and worshipped, where the children went to school and where they played, as well as with what?

We have also featured articles from the magazine in our family history journal and thanks to the kind permission of the publishers will continue to do so.

The first 'Memories of Barnsley' came out in the spring of 2007 and cost £2.50. It included articles about Charlie Williams (BR issue), the Theatre Royal and getting about by tram in the 1900s.

One of my favourite issues goes back to issue 20 in the winter of 2001 that has articles about the suffragettes visiting Barnsley in 1913 and being supported by over 17,000 of Barnsley's men.



SUFFRAGETTES *come to town*

Barnsley and the suffragette movement: an unlikely pairing or friends from the past? What could a male-dominated mining town possibly have in common with the campaign for women's rights? Well, interestingly, they share a relationship dating back to the beginning of the last century when the countrywide suffragette movement popped in for a quick visit. **Josh Millington** investigates.

Barnsley casualties of 1915/1916



Wittemans Cemetery, Colli, France

And that brings me to the final issue – 73, Spring 2025. It tells us what was happening in Barnsley in 1940, as well as a preview by Brian Elliot of his book 'The Making of the Miners' and the Great War Book, more reasons to remember the brave servicemen and women, and Barnsley collieries and steam engines, all my favourite subjects.

I would like to thank everyone of the staff at 'Memories of Barnsley', especially Borian and Amy at the Barnsley Chronicle and Paul Wilkinson, editor of 'Memories of Barnsley', for putting up with my long telephone conversations with such patience and the friendliness of the North, and for providing all the information I required or a telephone number to obtain it.

Shirley Sura

All images are courtesy of Memories of Barnsley.

DARTON HALL SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOL
Attending the school in the 1950s

FINAL ISSUE!

Memories of Barnsley

In association with the **Barnsley Chronicle**
ISSUE 73 SPRING 2025 www.memoriesofbarnsley.co.uk

CHASING STEAM
Steam at Grimethorpe Colliery

ST MARY'S SCHOOL
Attending the school during the 1930s

REMEMBERING THE YEAR 1940
News from around town

PLUS
GEM FROM THE ARCHIVES • READERS' PAGES
MINERS AND THE GREAT WAR

THE OLD YMCA
The construction of the YMCA building on Eldon Street

OPENING OF THE PARK AT TOWNEND
The opening ceremony of The Taylor Recreation Ground in 1905

£3.99
ISBN 184425609-5
9 781844 156092

STAN AND GRACE UPDATE...SEPTEMBER 1943

The July edition of *Barnsley Roots* left Stan in Tunis, having seen the Victory Parade there, and Major DCC Cox, the father-in-law of your Editor, Roger de Mercado, busy taking the surrender of the Italian General commanding the island of Pantellaria.

A lot has happened in the three months since then. 10th July, 1943, saw the beginning of the Sicily landings. Stan was not part of the first wave of landings, but clearly knew he was about to leave North Africa. In his letter of 8th July he tells Grace how much he enjoys re-reading her letters and says:

"Actually we are supposed to destroy all our letters when we go into the forward areas and there is a chance of getting run in by the enemy, but I am afraid that I (being a sentimentalist) hadn't the heart to consign your letters to the flames, and so I am still carrying them around with me, although they are locked away in my kitbag, which we don't actually carry forward with us!!"

Although Stan left North Africa on the morning of 15th July, he was not able to write to Grace until the 20th. Being part of a company which is mostly 'behind the lines' does not mean that there is no danger in war. Describing his arrival in Sicily he says:

"We landed on the Island without mishap, although there was one narrow escape. We sailed into the harbour we were scheduled to land in & found that the enemy was only a mile from the shore. Consequently they started shelling us & we had to turn round & beat a hasty retreat to a safer harbour. Luckily there were no casualties & so all it did was provide us with a bit of excitement to bring to a close what would have been a very quiet journey."

At the beginning of July Grace had been on holiday with her friend Kit, to stay with some of Kit's family in Abertillery in South Wales. The holiday ended with Kit staying for a few days with Grace in Grimethorpe. In a letter to Stan, Grace includes Kit's description of a visit to Grimethorpe's 'Picture Palace' cinema:

"Upon entering the said building my eyes immediately flew to the opposite wall which was green and mouldy. Whilst sitting in the "dress circle" I looked down upon the "orchestra stalls" with the elite of Grimey in them and I had an urge to join the children in the "fourpennies". They were having a good time playing "tigs" as only Grimey kids can. Then the picture started amid "whoops". The show continued, prompted periodically by a deep male voice which boomed forth "Be quiet". The place has an aroma of its own which is undistinguishable. However, I managed to escape without collecting any live-stock which I am sure must roam around such buildings."

As the Allied Army fights its way across Sicily, Stan's unit moves several times, each time Stan sets up his office in a grand private or civic building. Stan describes these buildings, the Italian staff who are being recruited to work with them and his impressions of life in Sicily. On 17th August, as German troops are quitting the island for the Italian mainland, Stan describes one of these buildings:

"I have moved my office & am now living in a house which used to belong to an Italian banker. It is a beautiful place & the room in which I work has a grand painting on the ceiling. If I need any inspiration during the day, all I

need to do is to look up & there, staring at me from the roof are several nude women & cherubs & seraphims looking quite angelic. I feel it almost sacrilege to use bad language in their presence."

In the meantime, Grace is back at work and on the run-up to her final exams which will take place in September. She has little news compared to Stan and writes of everyday life. Her sister, Vera, is busy bottling tomatoes. Without freezers and tomatoes being imported from Europe as they are today, this was the only way to preserve them for cooking during the winter. They could, of course, be made into chutney but that needed sugar, which was in very short supply!

At the beginning of September, Stan found himself on a ship going back to North Africa. He is not able to tell Grace why he is going but can describe the journey. The ship makes a stop in Malta and Stan is able to go ashore for a few hours. He says:

"I got an unexpected thrill yesterday when the boat called at Malta & I managed to get ashore for a few hours. I have always wanted to see Malta (in peace time I once applied for a job on the Maltese paper) & having had a glimpse of the town of Valletta for a couple of hours & talked to some of the people living there, what admiration I already had for the Maltese people has been greatly strengthened.

Of course the thing that impressed me most was the harbour & its contents, but of course of that I cannot write. I will say this, however, that having climbed to the highest spot in the town to get a "birds eye view" of the harbour, one found on looking down, a very decisive answer to the question "Who holds mastery of the Mediterranean?" I think it has always been wishful thinking on the part of the Italian who have called this inland sea "Mare Nostrum".

The results of the prolonged aerial bombardment by Jerry are very evident in the town. There is no doubt that it has had a hammering, but you shouldn't run away with the idea (as I am sure many people have) that this main town of Malta is a heap of rubble – far from it. As with London, which took a good battering the greater part is still unharmed, although I will admit that in comparison with England's capital, Valletta is in my opinion the hardest hit."

There is much more description of Valletta and its people, but no more space here. Enclosed with this letter was a much-awaited new photograph of Stan, a studio portrait taken with a friend who has been alongside him in the Army for the last three years. What strikes me is how incredibly young they both look.



Follow Stan and Grace's letters on the blog at <https://stan-and-grace.blogspot.com/> or click through from the link on the Barnsley FHS web site at <https://www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk/links.html>

Liz Whitehouse

Liz adds: In August the blog featured at the Festival of Quilts held at the NEC, Birmingham. The Quilters' Guild Museum Collection exhibition was about "Sewing in Wartime" and Heather, the curator, put out a call for any photos or memories around sewing during WWII.

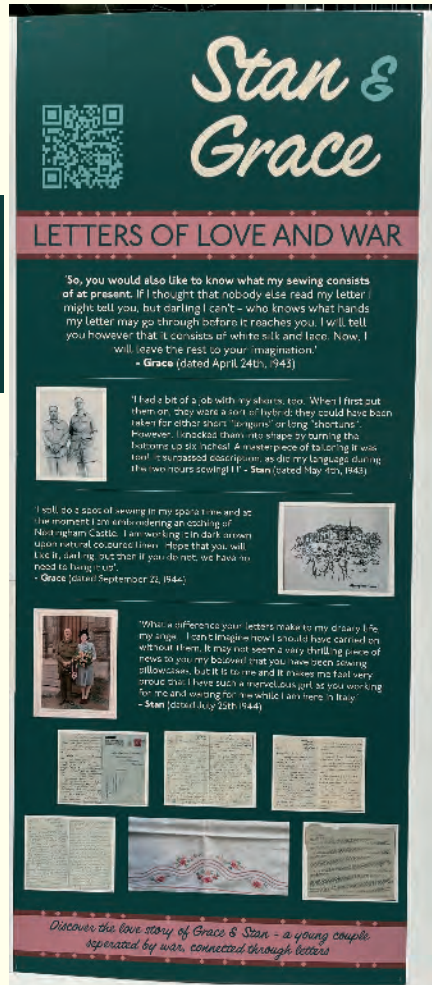
'So, you would also like to know what my sewing consists of at present. If I thought that nobody else read my letter I might tell you, but darling I can't - who knows what hands my letter may go through before it reaches you. I will tell you however that it consists of white silk and lace. Now, I will leave the rest to your imagination.'

- Grace (dated April 24th, 1943)

I searched through the letters and sent her a number of quotes on the theme of sewing, knitting, etc., plus photos, and they were used in a dedicated panel on the outside of the stand. The panel is about 7 feet tall. I had some flyers printed for people to pick up.



'I had a bit of a job with my shorts, too. When I first put them on, they were a sort of hybrid; they could have been taken for either short "longuns" or long "shortuns". However, I knocked them into shape by turning the bottoms up six inches! A masterpiece of tailoring it was too! It surpassed description, as did my language during the two hours sewing! !! - Stan (dated May 4th, 1943)



PENISTONE ARCHIVE & HISTORY GROUP

In case, like me, you hadn't known about the Penistone Archive & History Group, it might be worth a visit if you have ancestry in that area. The website is <https://penistonearchive.co.uk>. There are sections on all the towns and villages in the area, with a selection of photos for each. There is also a link to the Penistone History Group, who hold monthly talks. **RdeM**

YORKSHIRE PARKIN

(Mrs May Ainsworth)

Traditional Yorkshire Parkin is a ginger cake that originates in the North of England. It is always made with oatmeal and black treacle.

There are many regional variations, even in Yorkshire, with the East Riding of the county producing a bake almost like a biscuit-like texture. Some versions are also cut into biscuits, similar to flapjacks.

This recipe is a good sticky traditional Yorkshire Parkin, often made in readiness for Halloween or Bonfire Night. Parkin is usually made at least a week, or, even better, a fortnight, before it is eaten. Keep the finished parkin uncut in an airtight tin so it gets sticky, the stickier the better!. This recipe is moreish, I find, the longer it is left in the tin. In Victorian times, it was often served with a smear of butter or a slice of Wensleydale cheese.

Ingredients

- 225g (8oz) SR Flour
- 350g (12oz) medium oatmeal
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- 115g (4oz) unsalted butter
- 225g (8oz) black treacle
- Juice of a lemon
- 115g (4oz) Demerara or soft brown sugar
- 1 large beaten egg
- 150ml (1/4 pint) milk



Instructions

1. Pre-heat oven to 180C/375F/Gas 4. Grease and line a square baking tin (18cm x18cm/7" x 7") with greaseproof or baking paper. (I use the latter.)
2. Combine all the dry ingredients together in a large mixing bowl. Melt the butter in a saucepan with the black treacle, lemon juice and Demerara sugar. Leave it to cool a little.
3. Pour this butter and treacle mixture into the dry ingredients and mix well before adding the beaten egg and milk.
4. Spoon the parkin mixture into the prepared tin and bake for between 50 minutes and 1 hour until firm to touch. Remove from the oven then leave to cool completely in the tin.
5. Remove the cold parkin from the tin and carefully take the baking paper off.
6. Store **UNCUT** in an airtight container for between 1 and 2 weeks before cutting into squares and serving.
7. Serve buttered or with Wensleydale cheese and an apple. (Mrs Ainsworth always added an apple as the sweetness of the fruit counteracts the salty cheese.)

Give it a go! This is a sticky, moreish parkin. (I don't wait for Autumn to make it, goes down a treat all year round.)

Margaret E. Williams

MEMBERS SECTION

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our only new member who has recently joined the society. I hope that you will find your membership useful, enjoyable, rewarding and above all, productive.

Member No. 2008 Vivien Betts

Elaine Jackson

MEMBERS INTERESTS OCTOBER 2025

Mem. No.	2008	Vivien Betts		
Surname	Location	County	Country	Period
Charlesworth	Monk Bretton	WRY	ENG	1800-1920
Charlesworth	Silkstone	WRY	ENG	1800-1920
Charlesworth	Thurgoland	WRY	ENG	1800-1920

Jeff Chambers

SURNAME SEARCH INDEX

Surnames uploaded to the Barnsley FHS 'Surname Search Index' between July and September 2025:

Charlesworth.

Jeff Chambers

FAMILYSEARCH UPDATES

FamilySearch publishes monthly updates on its website in the Blog section – scroll to the bottom of the home page to find it. Look for entries such as this one for September 2025. Just occasionally one finds something useful; August’s update included additions to the Find A Grave listing, which prompted me to have a look. I found burials of relatives in Australia and in Canada of which I wasn’t previously aware, although I knew of their deaths.

New Free Historical Records from 12 Countries | September 2025 Update

By [FamilySearch](#)
September 8, 2025

FamilySearch adds millions of new records every month. See new records from Italy, Chile, Portugal and more!

Roger de Mercado

SEARCH SERVICES

The Society offers its members free searches – there is now no limit (within reason, of course!). Our fees for search services for non-members are at www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk/Searches.html?sid=2

Margaret E Williams

Baptisms

Barnsley Ebenezer	
Methodist New Connexion	1862-1973
Barnsley St. George	1832-1844
Barnsley St. Mary	1813-1837
Barnsley Wesleyan	1839-1910
Bretton Chapelry	1813-1841
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1844
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Royston St. John	1813-1831
Silkstone All Saints	1813-1840
Wentworth Wesleyan	1849-1980
Wortley St. Leonard	1813-1856

National Probate Calendars / Wills Index 1858 to 1943

Please give full name and year of death. Because wills were not always proved immediately, we will search up to three years after the death.

National Burial Index; Third Edition

England & Wales. Please give full name, year-range and county if known.

Soldiers who died in the Great War

Please give full name and age if known.

1851 Census, Barnsley Area

Please give surname and forename(s) if known and age. Or request all occurrences of a given surname.

1891 Census, Barnsley

Please give surname and approximate age. 1891 Search results supplied as copy of enumeration page.

Marriages

Barnsley St. George	1832-1837
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1837
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1837
Darton All Saints	1813-1822
Penistone St. John	1800-1837
Royston St. John	1799-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1837

Burials

Barnsley St. George	1832-1850
Barnsley St. Mary	1800-1840
Bretton Chapelry	1800-1840
Cawthorne All Saints	1800-1845
Darton All Saints	1800-1845
Denby Chapelry	1800-1856
Dodworth St. John	1848-1934
Hoyland Nether St. Peter	1813-1861
Penistone St. John	1800-1856
Royston St. John	1800-1837
Silkstone All Saints	1800-1840
Tankersley St. Peter	1813-1858
Worsbrough St. Thomas	1859-1903
Wortley St. Leonard	1800-1854

For searches or enquiries please contact:

Margaret E Williams

5 Summer Road, Royston, Barnsley,
S71 4HY

Email: search@barnsleyfhs.co.uk

If applying by post please
enclose a large SAE

**If applicable, please include your
membership number.**

DIARY DATES

Please check our website for updates or call Doreen on 01226 383606 or mobile 07963 243 538

16 th October	Lizzie Jones , Left Behind in Stratford – The Family of William Shakespeare.
20 th November	Eric Jackson , A Tale of Two Houses – Chatsworth House; Hardwick Hall and Bess of Hardwick.
December	Christmas Break - no meeting
January 2026	New Year Break - no meeting
February 2026	No meeting
19 th March 2026	AGM

Barnsley Roots is the official journal of the Barnsley Family History Society, published in January, April, July and October of each year. Please send material for the January 2026 edition by 31st November 2025 to:

Email: subeditor@barnsleyfhs.co.uk, or

Shirley Sura, 254 Appleton Ave., Great Barr, West Midlands, B43 5QD

Copyright clearance is the contributor's responsibility and you must ensure that written and illustrative material does not breach copyright and that all sources are correctly acknowledged. The Society accepts no responsibility for the views expressed in the articles published. The right to final editing lies with the Journal Editor.

Meetings of the Society are held at the Buckley Methodist Church Hall, Union Court, Barnsley, S70 1JN on the 3rd **Thursday** of each month from 7.30 to 9.30pm. There are no meetings in July, August, December and January. Free parking is available and there is full wheelchair access. The venue is within easy reach of Barnsley town centre.

For more information visit the website at: **www.barnsleyfhs.co.uk**



View from behind the Mill, with Quarry Bank House beyond.



Quarry Bank House.
The front is much less imposing than the back, which overlooks the gardens.

Barnsley
Family History
Society