

The Garden House information from John Daniels

Garden House owners:	Mrs Birnie	? – 1928
	Mr & Mrs Howie	1928-1953
	Col & Mrs Philips	1953- 1971
	Mr & Mrs Daniels	1971-

Information from Mrs Howie:

Mr Barber bought the house from a Miss Bernie who used to keep a shop there and who also did dressmaking . The shop sold general goods. Miss Bernie was on her own in the house but lived there for some time.(through the First World War?). After selling the huse she moved up to Barmoor where she later died.

Mr & Mrs Howie moved to Lowick from Wooler. He was a sanitary/ water engineer and was responsible for water in the area (?) He did work for many of the farmers, particularly Mr Barber which is was why Mr Barber offered him the house. There was also a separate cottage and the granary but these were no connection with Mr Howie's house. There was a wall across the garden with a gate through into the orchard which was also owned by Mr Barber. In the orchard there were Victoria Plum trees, pears, apples and gooseberries. In the granary the upper storey was the barn and the lower part was used for farm implements which were horse drawn.

Mr Howie had been in the Fusiliers in the First World War – The Northumberland- and had been at Loos. The had 6 children –one girl and five boys. A Scottish Presbyterian preacher who knew them and visited the house thought it was 200 years old and said that it had previously been the Presbyterian Church in the Granary with the house as The Manse.
(This needs investigating and should be relatively easy to confirm. It would hardly be likely that this was the original use of the granary as the function is clear from the style of building and if used as a Chapel must only have been on a temporary usage.)

The entrance to the house through the front door in the garden, presently a window. At this time there was a narrow hall and the evidence for this can still be seen on the ceiling. The stairs were black- Mrs Howie thought black oak. Under the stairs was a cupboard for coal.

From the hall doors led off to the kitchen/scullery (library) and sitting room. The floor of the living room has been lowered (see step in passage). There were chairs and a settee around the fire which has since been altered. The room was originally a primrose colour and a greater idea of space was given by the bay window.(cut off partly when the house was joined to the cottage).

There was a wireless in the living room and others would come in to listen. The gardener from Mr Barber's was a betting man and he would come in to listen for the racing results. All gathered round when Chamberlain announced War with Germany. He didn't actually say that war was declared. Jack Curl was among those present.

The sitting room area also served as a dining room with a large table at the opposite end from the fire.

There was a large gathering for Christmas with eight of the family plus aunts and uncles. Sometimes twelve would be at the table for turkey from the local farm.

Upstairs has also changed. At the top of the stairs the left hand room was where her boys

slept. She cannot remember if it was all of them together or just some of them, and their daughter slept on the other side. The present bathroom was much smaller and there was a second bedroom on its left hand side. There was therefore an exact duplicate situation with the floor above.

Of the upstairs at that time, the stairs existed though in rickety condition but there were no bay windows, only one small window- since blocked on the inside- looking out over The Kyloes. Mrs Howie watched a great fire there after the War.

The cottage had a steep staircase going straight up from the front door .The cottage was used by the groom who kept his horse in the small barn, now the wood shed. The other exterior building where the oil tank is now used to contain the privy.

The War Memorial

General Sitwell wanted the rocks now at Barmoor for the Lowick Memorial with the a statue of George & the Dragon in bronze on the top and the names of the fallen on metal plates at the side. He said this was more Northumbrian "rough and ready". It seems he was prepared to put money & suggested money was raised by public subscription (£200) be put to building a new village hall.

His suggestions were vetoed though p some controversy. Mr Howie was in favour.

Barmoor Castle

Mrs Howie described it as very fine with armoury etc. She went up there when she was on the Conservative committee. An enormous number of cars parked right down the village street when the General died.

World War 2

Troops were billeted in the village, coming locally for training and exercises before being drafted overseas. They generally came in divisional groupings. The first troops were the Border regiment and they left early one morning for the Norway campaign in 1940. There was a great commotion with the assembly of the bren gun ,carriers etc in the farmyard as troops moved off in secret.

The Somerset Division made some mark on the village with soldiers marrying local girls. A man originally from Honnington still lives here near Mrs Howie. Mr Fox, a forester at Kyloe has a distinctive western burr.

Noted for their smartness the band would parade down the village street.

The Glasgow Highlanders were the next unit and they wore brown tam 'o' shanters, KOSB tartan trews and cap with two black ribbons down the back. They left for Burma and Wingate as Chindits?

Also searchlight division.

Frequent dances were held in the barn. 'Save for Victory Week' dance was held every night. Also regular Friday or Saturday dances.

Two of the Howie boys served in the war. Both were in the Territorials at the outbreak of the war so immediately got involved but they had both given their wrong age so they were kept back. Both were in the Fusiliers- one in the 7th and one in the 9th. The son with the 9th Fusiliers was captured in Singapore and worked on the railway. He suffered from fits when he returned having eaten everyone's food on the boat back.

The other son ended up Sergeant Armourer in R E M E. He was involved with the D Day landings..

Mr Nicolson, the school teacher was popular with the pupils and he was a great organiser of wartime activities etc.

Lowick was bombed by German bombers returning from a big Glasgow raid and dropping bombs to lighten their load for their home trip. Trail of bombs in the vicinity Routin Lynn. Lowick happened to be on the flight path for a particular plane. Luckily the bomb exploded on soft ground.

HQ Co
Mr Henderson ?

Autumn/ Winter 1941?

Man in 9 Borders at time remembers bomb incident. Light from cookhouse situated one of house bottom of lane caused bomb to drop. Landed in stock yard. Large boulder landed in space in front of granary. Granary shook from blast. Damage to slates etc.

Mr Henderson visit
1/10/88

Log man 31.3.2000

Used to know house when Mrs Phillips was here – also as a child.

Remembered pigs roaming the orchard amongst the apple and pear trees.