

**WELCOME**  
**The e-Newsletter**  
**NORTHUMBERLAND AND**  
**DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY**  
**SOCIETY**  
**ISSUE 9 – July 2018**

What a wonderful summer we are having after the dreadful winter we endured late last year and earlier this year.

Our Conference held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June was a great success, all the speakers expounded the theme, and we all learned more about different migration and immigration into the North East. The Branches displayed some very good research about their own ancestors or people who had migrated into the area. There has been some very favourable feedback about the day, in addition all the delegates enjoyed the excellent food provided by the caterers.

The society attended the Sunderland History Fair on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, it has been reported that it was a very busy day for the society.

The society also attended the York Family History Fair on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. It proved to be a very busy day, with advice being given out and a lot of meeting and greeting. The sales for the day were very slightly up compared with very recent years. It is a year or two since the Editor had attended the fair and it was evident how the number of stalls had contracted. They are all on the ground floor now and the talks were held on the second floor.

**Dorothy Denny** – This is announced with great sadness, Dorothy Denny, one of the society's longer serving volunteers, both at Bolbec Hall and Percy House passed away on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Dorothy helped many people with their family history over the years, and in the past served as a trustee. She will be remembered by both her fellow volunteers, trustees and other people who came into contact with her for her words of kindness and the laughter that could be heard when it was "break time", as well as her knowledge about family history. Dorothy is sorely missed by us all and our thoughts at this time are with John and the family.

## A Reminder:

### **FAMILY HISTORY COURSE FOR BEGINNERS**

Five Wednesdays at the Society's Library and Research Centre

The aim of the course is to enable the participants to learn how to extract information from the basic records and develop the skills to link one record to another in order to advance knowledge of their ancestors, to understand how to record the information acquired through research and then build a family tree.

Week 1	19 <sup>th</sup> September	Introduction to the course, Civil Registration
Week 2	26 <sup>th</sup> September	Census Returns 1841-1911
Week 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parish Registers
Week 4	10 <sup>th</sup> October	Trade Directories, Electoral Registers and Newspapers
Week 5	17 <sup>th</sup> October	Wills.

Fee £25.00 in advance      Time 10.30-12.30, 30 minutes for lunch. 1-2.30 using the facilities with support.

Booking and payment in advance are required. Send your contact details and payment to Joyce Jackman NDFHS 7 Floor, Percy House, Percy Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4PW. Phone enquiries may be made to 0191 2612159, but Joyce Jackman may not be present to answer your call. There are details about the course and the duty volunteer should be able to answer any queries.

The people delivering the course are all qualified to teach adults.

### **KNOW YOUR PARISH**

#### **GOSFORTH, NORTHUMBERLAND**

Joan Bunting    Volume 6 Number 3      April 1981



When the boundary changes in April 1974 made Gosforth part of Newcastle in the Metropolitan County of Tyne and Wear, and no longer part of Northumberland,, many old Gosfordians feared the end was nigh! The change was inevitable for Gosforth is now a huge suburb of Newcastle with a busy High Street and rows of neat semi-detached or terraced houses.

The name Gosforth (Gosford- a ford over the Ouse, formerly the Gos, Gose or Ose) in the 18<sup>th</sup> century applied to the parish which included the “townships” of North Gosforth, South Gosforth, Coxlodge, Fawdon, Kenton, East Brunt and West Brunton. Just prior to the boundary changes, the old Urban District of Gosforth consisted of two of these, namely South Gosforth and Coxlodge, with small portions of others.

In the very early days the greater part of Gosforth was part of the Barony of Whalton, and a smaller part was part of the Barony of Gosforth (which included Middleton in Teesdale, Co. Durham).

Gosforth Park contained two houses (built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) Gosforth House being the family seat of the Brandlings – the family responsible for a good part of the initial industrial development of Tyneside. Another well-known family were the Bulmans who lived in Coxlodge Hall from 1825-30. Job Bulman built “the Village” on the Great North Road, the name still given to the High Street by many of the older generation.

The Barons of Gosforth until 1507 were the Surtees family. Thomas, the last of the line, passed the land to his daughter Catherine Place, and a lawsuit against the inheritance ensued with the half-brother.

Meanwhile Robert Brandling, a merchant adventurer, married Catherine’s daughter Ann. In the end the estate was divided, the Brandlings receiving North Gosforth and Felling. The descendants of Roberts were those who built Gosforth House and for some time this was the centre of Conservative political life in South Northumberland. The daughters married into the families of Ord, Burdon, Chevy, Grey and Bell, and in total formed one of the most powerful and influential families in the North-East.

The chapels of North and South Gosforth, both of ancient foundation, were attached to the mother church of St Nicholas, Newcastle. By 1828, the chapel of North Gosforth was a ruin, standing in the grounds of Low Gosforth House- no certain records remain.

South Gosforth on the other hand was known to be in existence in 1170 when it was part of the dowry of Richard Canville’s daughter.

Record connected with the church include:

1578- *Excommunicated for non-attendance: Thomas Hatherwicke, parish clerk*

1799- the church was rebuilt on its present site, on the slope above the Ouse Burn.

In 1805 (14<sup>th</sup> May) the Register shows the marriage of Edward Barret Moulton Barret and Mary Graham-Clarke ( The Barretts of Wimpole Street) “both of this parish”.

In 1868 the living of South Gosforth was changed from a perpetual curacy to a rectory, and the patronage was vested in the Bishop of Durham.

In February 1906, All Saints, the daughter church of St Nicholas became a separate ecclesiastical parish, with the expansion of modern Gosforth. Methodism came to Gosforth in 1802 in the form of “cottage meetings” up at Kenton. The first chapel was built in Bulman Village in 1841. United and Primitive Methodists built chapels in 1877 and 1882 respectively, both of which remain today.

In 1896 a temporary iron building housed the Roman Catholic congregation on what is now the site of St Charles's Church. The present building was opened in 1911. In 1912 a new parish was formed in North Gosforth with its own church, The Church of the Sacred Heart. This church had once been Anglican and stands within the grounds of the Old Gosforth Park.

The early history of Gosforth is closely linked to those two facts of North-East life- coal and agriculture. Working class Gosfordians ( or rather, in earliest days Kentoners) have found themselves at the bottom of a variety of holes, and later, shafts, hewing coal and filling their corves (whicker coal baskets). Various parts of Newcastle Town Moor appear to have been the scene of the earliest coal "winning". In 1577 the will of Cuthbert Mitford ( am former Mayor) bequeathed "*to my sonne Henrie my hole lease &c., in the cool myndes and pittes of Kynton (Kenton) which lease I took of Robert Fenwick*".

The most remarkable feature of Kenton Colliery was "Kitty's Drift" a subterranean connection with the Tyne; 3 miles long 6 foot high and wide. It was begun in 1780 by Mr Christopher ( Kitty) Bedlington.

When the railway through Kitty's Drift was abandoned in favour of the system of loading coals direct from wagons into the holds of ships, a waggonway was constructed which ran east across Gosforth to Wallsend.

Kenton Colliery was closed on the opening of Coxlodge Colliery, to where the miners were transferred retaining their old houses. Coxlodge first won coal in 1810 but this was after many years of exploration. It was named "the Jubilee Pit" in honour of George III's jubilee which was celebrated in that year. Two years later, the "Prince Regent Pit" was opened. In 1952 the Jubilee pit heap was removed and used to make the runways for Newcastle Airport. When South Gosforth pit was opened in 1829 the band from from Coxlodge Institute – workers at Jubilee Pit- played at a subterranean ball.

In 1801 the inhabitants of Gosforth Parish numbered 1,385, most of whom lived in Kenton and were employed in the Colliery. How the population changed in the next 60 years can be seen from the table:

**CENSUS TABLE**

<b>Township</b>	<b>1801</b>	<b>1831</b>	<b>1871</b>
North Gosforth	133	145	147
South Gosforth	63	237	591
Coxlodge	108	965	1538
Kenton	885	1106	678
Fawdon	26	707	501
East Brunton	69	268	102
West Brunton	101	118	166
	<b>1385</b>	<b>3546</b>	<b>3723</b>

## Parish Registers

Although St. Nicholas, Gosforth, was officially a chapelry, independent registers have been kept for hundreds of years. The originals are still in the hands of the incumbent. Baptisms date from 1697, burials from 1699, marriages from 1746. There is a copy to 1812 at Newcastle Central Library which includes marriages from 1725, (implying that an original volume 1725-1746 must have been lost?) Marriages from 1725-1812 are included in Boyds's Marriage Index (Miscellaneous). Bishop's Transcripts exist, with gaps, 1763-1846, at the Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic, University of Durham. Essential reading for the Gosforth genealogist is to be found in the pages of "A History of the Parish of Gosforth" by Richard Welford, first published in 1879 by re-printed in a limited edition (1975) by Frank Graham.

The Society holds (as well as other material):

Gosforth Parish Church

B 1697-1839

M 1725-1839

Bu 1697-1839

MI's

Gosforth Bulman Village Wesleyan Methodist

1788-1940

Gosforth Colliery Methodist

B 1878-1919

Gosforth United Methodist West Avenue

B 1927-1951

Gosforth Woodbine Road Primitive Methodist

B 1918-1910

## **CIVIL REGISTRATION**

In recent days it has been brought to the notice of the society that Newcastle City Council, along with other local authorities has decided that access to ordering and paying for copy civil registration certificates must be carried out on a PC at the City Library (Avison Building). Anyone who cannot pay electronically for the copy certificate can pay cash by going up to the Registrar's Office in Newcastle Civic Centre. This does not mean that the copy certificate will come any faster. It is still £24.00 to pay for a copy certificate via the fast service.

The Editor's concern is that members who are coming from abroad or further afield in this country are going find this confusing. There was no notice on the Council Website to say that there had been a change.

My advice would be to use the [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk) website and order your copy certificate from there.

## **BRANCH MEETINGS**

### **ALNWICK:**

4 September 2018, Medieval Family Life, Speaker: David Silk

### **BELMONT:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the month

### **BLYTH:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month

### **LONDON:**

10<sup>TH</sup> November. T.B.A

### **NEWCASTLE:**

5 September 2018, 17<sup>th</sup> Century Newcastle, Speaker: Jo Bath

### **NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND**

15 September 2018, Lifting the veil on past lives- looking at our ancestors' wills and testaments,  
Speaker: Margaret Fox.

### **NORTH TYNESIDE:**

4 September 2018, Members Forum

### **SOUTH TYNESIDE:**

19 September 2018, Members Forum – Help for Beginners

### **TYNEDALE:**

13 September, Estate Records workshop, Speaker: Joyce Jackman

### **WANSBECK:**

5 September, Houses of Correction, Speaker: Janet Goodridge

## AN ANNOUNCEMENT:

Our society is to become an Affiliate Library for the LDS Church, this means that members and others visiting our Library & Research Centre in Percy House will be able to access the actual digitised images recorded in Parish Registers.

At the moment, no date has been set for the introduction of this development for the Centre, as soon as it happens the Editor will post it on the website, on the list and the forum.

Remember when this does happen requests will be able to be sent to our research centre.

The alterations to the Membership section of the website are ongoing and should be ready at the end of August.

## WILLS PROJECT

DARLINGTON: The data for this CD is nearing completion and all being well it will be available in a CD format, at the latest by the end of August.

Names in a Will George Davison, Sunday Sight Farm. Parish of Simonburn. Will proved 1816

**George Gofton**, one half of my estate Sunday sight occupied by **Mathew Young**. The other half of the estate to **George Lawson. To George Lawson, Thomas Lawson** £5 yearly, **Mrs A Johnston** £50, **Edward Gilley** £5. **William Robson** £5, **Ann Cowel** £5 for her natural life, **John Leighton** £50, **Mrs Crowfit** £50, **Joseph Richardson** £15, **George Mason** £100, pay his sister (George Gofton's) **Mrs Mason** £5 yearly, my servant girl **Ann Twisel** £10 yearly for her natural life, to be paid six monthly. Mourning clothes for my father's old servant. £5 to the Poor of the Parish of Bolam

E-newsletter Editor: Joyce Jackman

Feedback is welcomed and do not be shy, if you wish to contribute please get in touch.

A Reminder:

The deadline for submission of items for inclusion in the newsletter will be the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2018.

Items must be in the form of WORD, RTF or ODT file, to be attached to an e-mail and sent to:

[ndfhsnews@ndfhs.org.uk](mailto:ndfhsnews@ndfhs.org.uk) Photographs and other images should be attached separately as JPG files