

WELCOME TO THE E-NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
ISSUE: 19 - JANUARY 2021 EDITOR: JOYCE JACKMAN

Hello everyone,

Last year, we were touched by illness, anxiety about the future and the sadness of death from COVID 19. All our lives were touched by the above, closed facilities, activities relating to our family history research, because we all know you cannot 'do it all' via the internet. We are now in another lockdown that may go on for some time and this will delay the Society being able to welcome researchers to our new Library & Research Centre. Better days are ahead with the roll-out of the vaccines.

A wonderful team at Percy House has been preparing for the move to our new premises, still within the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne. NDFHS, 3rd Floor, MEA House, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8XS. The phone number remains unchanged 0191 2612159. The premises at MEA House are smaller than the previous locations from which the Society has operated in the past. There is a good Cafe on the ground floor of MEA House, researchers will be able to visit this for refreshments.

Would you like to work safely outside? Days are lengthening and the weather will be improving soon. Why not consider photographing MI's for the Society, please get in touch with our MI's/ Burials Co-ordinator at Editor@ndfhs.org.uk to ascertain which parish graveyards have already been completed.

Sales requests are being dealt with and dispatched.

Please remember to send in your Membership Renewals, they are being collected by the Membership Secretary.

At this present moment in time please do not send in any Research Requests, our volunteers are also keeping themselves safe. One volunteer comes in regularly to catch up with earlier research requests. In the time being, sign up to use North East Ancestors and The Forum.

The society is booked in as an exhibitor for the Virtual Really Useful Family History Fair 10 April 2021. The last one in November was interesting, as it was the first time the Federation had presented in this form.

Take care and stay safe.

Branches The Alnwick and Belmont Branches are holding Zoom meetings, members of other Branches prefer to wait until face to face meetings can resume again.

Wills Project

Our Wills project Co-ordinator will continue once Durham Special Collections have re-opened.

Thomas Emerson of Wham in the parish of Stanhope, Miner, 28 September 1816

Wife **Ann Emerson**, Money goods and Chattels, After his decease daughter **Jane Peart** sum of Fifty pounds. To her husband **Emerson Peart** Fifty pounds, Daughter **Mary Humble** Fifty pounds To her husband **George Humble** Fifty pounds. To the children of my late son **Thomas Emerson** sum of Fifty pounds equally divided. To my two Grandsons, the sons of **Cuthbert Peart** sum of Ten pounds each. To my Grand daughters, the daughters of the said **Cuthbert Peart** Fifteen pounds each. After Testators and wife's decease. I give to my two daughters **Jane Peart and Mary Humble** All household furniture and clothes. I give to my son **Ralph Emerson** all the residue and remainder of my goods, money to be shared with sons **John Emerson, Joseph Emerson**.

Ralph Emerson Executor.

Know your Parish Vol. 5 no.1. October 1979

Dr. D.W. Burdon

Medomsley, Co Durham

The parish of Medomsley was originally a chapelry within the parish of Lanchester, in Chester Ward of County Durham. From 1727 to 1838 it was annexed to the neighbouring chapelry of Ebchester, and both communities were served by a single priest. The church of St Mary Magdalen, which has its origins in the 12th century, is situated in Medomsley village, a pleasantly located on high ground overlooking the Derwent valley.

The old chapelry consisted of three townships, each containing a village and several farmsteads. Medomsley township included Bradley, Byerside, Darwencote and Hamsterley, and corresponds closely to the modern parish of Medomsley. Benfieldside contained the village of Shotley Bridge and five farms, including Snows Green and The Law. The third township was Conside with Knitsley, and contained Consett. In 1847, Benfieldside, part of Conside with Knitsley and some detached portions of Ebchester became a separate chapelry. The remaining portion of Conside with Knitsley became the parish of Consett in 1862. Within the reduced parish of Medomsley a chapel of ease named Christ Church, was commenced at Hamsterley in 1892, to replace a schoolroom used for services since 1852

Medomsley is a rural parish and until the opening of coal mines from 1839 onwards the inhabitants were mainly employed in agriculture. Some parishioners, however, were described as miners before the mines opened, and these were perhaps employed at nearby Pontop. In 1793 it was stated in the Durham "Diocesan Book" that there were about one hundred houses in the chapelry", and by 1801 this had risen to 157. The population in 1801 was 754. By 1851 the population of the township of Medomsley had doubled, whereas that of Benfieldside, and with Conside with Knitsley, had increased 10-fold and 20-fold respectively. It was not until 1881 that Medomsley achieved a 10-fold increase in population.

The parish registers of Medomsley commence in 1608 and have been deposited at Durham Record Office. During the period 1743-1761 there is a sharp fall in the number of recorded baptisms. Burials are erratic from 1730 to 1761 and then cease until 1783 there are transcripts of the registers 1608-1730 at Gateshead and Newcastle Reference Libraries, and marriages for this

period are in Boyds Marriage Index. Baptisms are included in the LDS micro-fiche index (CFI) The Bishops Transcripts commence in 1766, but those for the years beginning March 1767 and 1785 are missing. The registers of Christ Church, Hamsterley, commencing 1852, and of Benfieldside St Cuthbert, commencing 1848, have also been deposited in Durham Record Office.

The earliest Quaker Meeting House in County Durham was established in Benfieldside, but was subsequently abandoned. The Diocesan Book for 1793 states John Swinburn and his family, and a husbandman who worked under him were the only papists, and that there were three families of Methodists. With the growth of population in the nineteenth century Free, Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists, and other nonconformist chapels were built in Medomsley and its daughter parishes.

Apart from church registers, there are a few other genealogical sources. The Church Wardens Accounts 1803-1853 are deposited at Durham Record office. Land Tax Returns start in 1759, but there are only eleven returns available before 1820. Mawson's Deeds, deposited at the Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic, Durham University, include material relating to Medomsley, and there are also some Medomsley Deeds at the County Record Office. Medomsley Fell was enclosed by the Lanchester Inclosure Act of 1773, and the tithe apportionment was made in 1817.

The main landowners were the families of Hall, Hunter, Swinburn and Surtees. Accounts of these appear in the principal local histories and in the MS collections at Newcastle Reference Library.

Christopher Hunter, MD. 1675-1757, the antiquary, was born at Medomsley. After his death, his extensive manuscript notes were dispersed, but it is not known whether any of them referred to Medomsley. Two volumes, consisting of ecclesiastical records, are in the Dean and Chapter Library, Durham, and another in the Allgood of Nunwick MSS at Northumberland County Record Office. The latter contains a little genealogical material, especially of the Hunter family. An MS history of Medomsley, prepared by the W.I, is held at Durham Record Office.

Royal Navy Wills.

TNA 20,000 digitised wills from 1786 onwards.

<http://familytr.ee/navy>

Joyce Jackman, e-Newsletter Editor

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 1st April 2021

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

ndfhsnews@ndfhs.org.uk

Photographs and other images should be attached separately as JPG files.