

ART. VIII.—*Gosforth Registers.* By CHAS. A. PARKER, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

*Read at Seascale, September 25th, 1884.*

THE benefice of Gosforth is a Rectory, the details of which are entered in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII., as follows,

*Gosforthe Rectoria Eccl'ie.*

Edw'dus Kellett, incumbens Rector' p'dca.

Mansione cum gleba per annum	} —xxxvij—	} £ s. d.
Decim' granos. vijl. ijs. viijd.		
lan' et agnell' iiijl. xiijs.	} xvij — xij	} £ s. d.
minut' et privat' decim' cum oblac' ut in libro paschal' iiijl. viijs. iiijd.)		
In tot'		

Repris' viz in	£ s. d.
Sinod' ijs. jd. procurac' iiijjs. vd.	— vj vj
Et valet clare	xvij xij vij
Xma ps. inde	— xxxv v ob'

The total value is £17 14s. 7d. It was certified to the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, at the clear yearly improved value of £35, and to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners at £85 per annum. When the commons were enclosed in 1811 the tithes were commuted, lands being allotted to the Rev. Henry Bragg, then Rector, in their stead. This has greatly injured the living, as "Priest's Park" is now worth only £30 yearly, whereas the tithes would amount to £150 at least.

In 1334 (8th Edward III.), William Pennington, of Muncaster, Esq., died, seized of the advowson of this Church. Afterwards the patronage seems to have become vested in the crown, as in 1552 (6th Edward VI), that king

by

by his letters patent granted the advowson and right of patronage to Fergus Greyme, gentleman, his heirs and assigns. Twelve years later a license dated 22nd March, 1564 (5th Elizabeth), was granted to Fergus, empowering him to alienate the same (holden of the queen in capite) to Thomas Senhouse of Seascale, gentleman, for the fine of 16s. rod. paid into the hanaper. It continued in the possession of the Senhouse family until 1688, when it probably passed with the manor by sale from John Senhouse to Mr. Blacklock of Whitehaven, whose daughter Frances married Augustus Earle, Esq., from whom it passed to his two sisters, coheiresses, and eventually to the Lutwidges of Holmrook, whose arms appear on the bowl of the sacramental cup—azure three chapeaux or caps of maintenance, or, turned up ermine,—with the inscription :

Ex dono Car. Lutwidge Arm. Patr. Ecclesiae Gosforthiae Anno 1784.

After the death of Charles Lutwidge, manor and advowson were purchased by Samson Senhouse, Esq., from whom they passed to his brother, Sir Humphrey le Fleming Senhouse, whose widow sold the advowson to Lord Lonsdale, in whose family it still remains.

The names of fourteen Rectors are known :—

Edward Kellett	- - -	in 1535.
Thomas Thompson	- - -	1571.
Nicholas Copeland-	- - -	1592.
Peter Hudson-	- - -	1636.
John Benn	- -	20 Oct., 1662 pres. by J. Senhouse Esq.
Thomas Morland	-	23 April, 1676 Do. do.
Christopher Denton	- - -	1721.
Peter Murthwaite	-	12 Aug., 1738 pres. by A. Earle, Esq.
Charles Cobb Church	-	11 May, 1772 pres. by Bulmer & Calder, Esqs.
Henry Bragg	- - -	1808.
James Lowther Senhouse	-	1827.
Francis Ford Pinder	- - -	1835.
James Albert Cheese	-	10 Oct. 1861 pres. by Lady Senhouse.
John Wordsworth-	- - -	1878.

And

And as a witness to a deed by which William de Esseby and Hectred, his wife, grant

Beckeremet and its appurtenances

to the Abbey of Calder, we have the name of an earlier ecclesiastic :—

Jurdanus, persona de Goseford.

The Registers commence in 1571. The first volume contains the remains of at least three older volumes, the parchment leaves of which have been stitched together by some pious hand, and so preserved for our perusal. The first section, 1571-1673, is bound in two leaves of an ancient missal or psalm book, in black letter of various colours, with illuminated capital letters. Half of each page, vertically, is taken up by the letterpress, and the other half by the music to which it was to be sung. On the first page, which is otherwise blank, is the signature of Peter Hudson, rector of Gosforth, 1636, followed by a pitiful appeal from one Thomas Sherwen, of Field End, To his neighbours and well-disposed Christian people, for assistance to enable him to replace his dwelling-house and household goods, which had been destroyed by fire.

The next page commences boldly in capital letters—

Registrarius sive—

but all the rest of the page has been deliberately cut away with a knife, which has injured the page underneath.

On the third page it commences afresh—

Registrarius pro pochia de Gosforthe inchoatus, Anno Dni, 1571.  
Thoma Thomson tunc rectore ibi.

The first name has a Norse termination,

Secundo die Mensis Martii Willmus filius Thomæ Postlegwaitt de Totteriggs baptizatus fuit.

From 1571-1583, the Register is a manifest copy of an older one. It is neatly written, all in the same handwriting. Under Baptizati, 1578, are three entries, followed

lowed by the words,

Desunt Reliqui,

and again under

Sepulti, 1579,

are the same words, and in 1583 under a single marriage entry:—

Desunt reliquæ diæ quæ Rectore Thoma Thomson eontigerunt.

There are many entries in this part of the register of baptisms and and burials of people from Wasdale.

The name of Senhouse occurs for the first time in 1576, xxi die Sept. Lancelot filius Thomæ Senhouse, Armiger, baptizatus fuit.

The family of Senhouse sprang from a hamlet in Gosforth parish, now called Hall Senna, but originally Hall Sevenhouse or Senhouse. It is spelt Hall Seaney, Hal Seanow, Hal Sanay, Hal Senay, Hal Senow, Halsean house, Hallsen house, Halsevenhouse, Hallsen. In the same way Julian holme (from Julian the martyr) is written Gillianholme, 1600; Gillian how, 1602; Gillen home, 1606; Gillinghow, 1667; Gylyon houm, 1699; Julyan holne, 1711; Gyllian holm, 1712.

From 1583 to 1592 the registers are missing. A new volume was then commenced by

Nicolaus Copeland tunc rectore ibi.

From the regularity of the entries, this also seems to be a fair copy. It continues to the year 1600, at the bottom of which page Nicolas has signed his name, with some remark in Latin, which runs

Facta collat concordat \* \* \* Nicolao Copeland clerico Rectore.

\* \* \* et chartacas fecit Johes Fletiger \* \* \* edimis.

On the first page is scrawled a signature, John Copley, 1679. Probably one of the Copleys of Gosforth Hall. On the first page, 1572, are many names still remaining in the parish, viz:—Moscrop, (now Mossop) Benson, Jackson, Pooll, Suddert (now Southward), Nicholson, Willson

Willson, etc. Also, Cowpland and Caddie. The name which occurs most frequently throughout the register is Poole, spelt variously, Pool, Pooll, Poole, Powe, Pow. It is constantly connected with Hallsenhouse, and a descendant of the family I am glad to say holds land there to this day. Seascale, spelt Seaskaill, is first mentioned in 1576, and Parknook in 1575. Skaill means a shelter for cattle. Wasdale occurs as a surname in 1572. The family is scarcely now extinct.

1572 *Johannis fili Johannis Wasdaill bap.*

Other surnames occurring early are Tubman, Eilbeck, Patrickson, Byby, Fen, Gaytskaill, Borradell, Sherwen, and Ashburner. In 1596,

*vi die Decembris Johis filius Briani Parker, baptizatus fuit.*

And in the same year the following houses are mentioned: Blengbrowe, Blaywath, Sourmyrr, Peelplace, Thornbank, Howbarrow (probably Hurlbarrow).

In 1596-97 the plague scourged the parish of Gosforth terribly. In 1595 there were but ten burials; in 1596 they rose to 56; and in 1597 to 116, dropping back in the next year to 17. Counting from January 1st to December 31st, in 1586, there were 36 burials, and in 1597, 131. Amongst the plague burials are

*xxiii die Decembris Willm<sup>s</sup> fili<sup>s</sup> Johis Senhouse de Seaskail.  
Eode die puella pauperula peregrina.*

a poor female tramp.

*viii die Junii Margareta ux Johis Bewes Clerici sepulta fuit.  
x die Julii Margareta ux Rici Punsonby de Briggpetton.  
Elisa relict Edwardi Hudson extranea.*

At this time the population of the parish did not exceed 650, but notwithstanding this dreadful mortality, marrying and giving in marriage went on even faster than usual. In 1595 only four couples were united, but in 1596 seven,  
and

and in 1597 eleven, a number unprecedented in this register, and not again attained for 43 years. I have noticed similar facts in other registers. It seems as if the young people were married hurriedly to replace the population. In the next year, 1598, there are but two marriages; in 1599 they rise to nine, but in 1600 there is only one, and under 1601 and 1602, are the decisive words,

Noe weddings this yeare.

In 1603 there are four marriages, but of the four husbands one comes from St. Bridget's, one from Ponsonby, and one from Whitehaven. Under 1600 is a remarkable entry, *xix die Julii Ricus et Johes Sowyarde felones de se immolati fuere.*

a double suicide, both being men, a rarity of itself. "Immolati" certainly does not mean Christian burial, and that being the case, why was it inserted in the church register? It sounds like a stake and cross roads business, and if so, was very probably performed at Cross Lonnins, just outside the village. In 1597, an order was issued, for the copying of the registers on parchment. Accordingly we find up to the end of 1600 a regular small handwriting, with the signature of Nicolaus Cowpland. In 1601, a new, large, and very distinct hand appears, but speedily loses the regularity shown by the preceding. From 1601 to 1636, no rector's name appears. About this period Dorothea is a common name. In 1605 the baptism of Elicia Senhouse is twice recorded. The register is regularly kept up to 1612, when a gap of 20 years occurs. This was in the reign of Charles I. On the back of the page containing the entries for 1612, are seven entries of the Senhouse family; the births of John and Wrightington, sons of John of Seascale Hall, Wrightington being born

About half an hour before day;

the

the births of Wrightington's four children, and his burial. The next page is dated 1632, and has but one entry, and the register is badly kept until 1636, when Peter Hudson seems to have become rector. In the same year

*Dorothea filia Petri Hudson sepulta fuit.*

In 1637

*Thomas filius Wilielmi Hudson peregrini*

was baptised. In 1638 two Stricklands occur, Elenora and Marmaduke; also two Irtons in 1639—

*Christopherus Irton de Windhall undecimo die Decembris, Sep. fuit. Mabella filia Richardi Irton 29 mo die Martii sepulta fuit.*

The name of Tyson, now so common in the parish, occurs for the first time in 1639—

Joseph Tyson, of Peel place.

Peter Hudson evidently kept the register himself; his writing is large, but sadly crowded, as many as forty entries in one page. Still it is much better than the crabbed entry in 1644, which records:

*Peter Hudson, rector de Gosforth, sepultus fuit ye ii of August.*

The entries again become erratic, and are absent altogether from 1649 to 1662 (exclusive) almost the exact duration of the Commonwealth. There are two interpolated entries,

John Copley was borne y<sup>e</sup> 25th de of July 1661.

Mr. William Tubman, of Gosforth, buried in y<sup>e</sup> chansell there, the 26th day October, 1653.

Mr. Richard Copley was steward to Sir William Pennington of Muncaster, for seventeen years, during his minority, and chief baliff of Copeland Forest under the Earl of Northumberland. He purchased part of the manor of Gosforth, and erected a handsome mansion and garden there, which no doubt was Gosforth Hall. Above the fireplace in one of the principal rooms are the initials

C  
R I

**C**  
**R** | and a rose within the four coils of a knot, with the date 1673, the whole surmounted by a diamond shaped moulding, having a spray of roses on the right hand and of lilies on the left. It is in raised plaster work ; also over a door in one of the outbuildings are the initials R. C., with the date 1633 cut in stone.

Under 1633 :

Thomas Hill alias Sudert sepult.

1664 Guilelmus filius Guielmi Minican mendicus et viator sepultus.

John Ben succeeded Peter Hudson. In 1667 we find :

25 die Junii, Maria filia Johannis Ben clerici Gofforniensis baptizat fuit.

And in 1668

xxvii die Martii Henricus Ben, clericus pochialis, sepultus.

The word

Clericus

is indistinct, and is probably means parish clerk. In the same year is the burial of a centenarian :

22 die Sept., Thomas Powe de Hall Senhouse qui centum et quator annos complevit, sepultus fuit.

Also

Johannis Fox alias Benson.

Also

Doritheia Punsonby, vidua pauper.

The next page, which is otherwise blank, has the signature

Tho. Morland, Rector de Gossforth, Anno Domi 1678.

After this, several pages contain nothing but entries of burials in woollen, under each of which is laboriously written

An affidavit was brought according to the late Act of Parliament concerning burials in woollen.

In

In 1683

John Sherwen, son of Jo. Sherwen, was buried in linnen, August the 15. His father paid a fine according to the late law for burying in woollen.

In 1685 Dorothy Towerson, of Calder Abbey, and Isabella Copley, gentlewoman, were buried. 1686—Several pages are here almost illegible.

Thomas Smith, pedlar

is mentioned; also

Willm Shepheard y<sup>e</sup> husband of Dorothy Shepheard buried.

In 1685 a new handwriting appears, probably that of Christopher Denton, rector. Several of his children's names are recorded. Under 1701

The posthumous daughter to John Dixon bapt.

1711: John Moscrop, late of Windermereghyll, buried.

1711 Tyson, of Julyanholme.

1711 Ann the wife of John comonly Cooper Beby buried March 18th.

1712 John Benn, father of Robert buried.

1713 Moses, son of Joseph Mawson, smith in Seascale, buried.

1716 William, son to John Simon and Isabella, his supposed wife bapt.

1717 John, son of Ann Edrington, a stranger and widow, buried Dec. 24. y<sup>e</sup> mother of y<sup>e</sup> child was born at Oxford and the child baptized by Mr. Bell, Rector of Aspatrick in Carlilis Docess

1720 Thomas Senhouse gentlmen, a poor batchelor, buried May 4.

John Bragg, late of Crosfield a sojourner in the parish of Gosforth, buried October 8.

Matthew Alexander, curate of Long Sleddale, in the parish of Kendal, and Dorothy Atkinson, in the parish of —e, within the County of Westmorland, spinster, married by lycence, Sep. 17.

1723 John, y<sup>e</sup> spurious son of Bridget.

Abraham Ben, a poor householder buried.

John Wallis, the servant of Mr. Joseph Senhouse buried

1726. Augustin Earle of y<sup>e</sup> city of Carlisle Esq. and Miss Francis Blacklock of Whitehaven Spinster married August 13 by licence granted by Ro: F.

By this marriage the manor of Seascale passed. Also

Samuel Feron, school-master buried Jan. 8. He was a widower.

1738.

1738. In large writing,

The Reverend Mr. Christopher Denton, Rector of Gosforth buried June the sixth 1738.

And next year the name of his successor appears, viz. :—

Nov. 27. Elizabeth daughter of Mr. Peter Murthwaite baptized.

And with the words

Hitherto registered at Chester,

the earliest volume of Gosforth Registers closes.

The second volume of the Registers is much smaller, 12 in. by 6 in. It is on parchment, and has been regularly kept, but contains nothing of special interest. The third volume is missing with the exception of three leaves, which were found in a house at St. Bees in 1873. It contained the marriages from 1753 to 1791, the recovered leaves being those of 1769-1772.

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APPENDIX.

THE SENHOUSES.

*B. Baptized. M. Married. S. Buried. Year from April to April.*

xxi Sept. 1576	Lancelot of Thomas	B
24 Dec. 1596	William of John	S
16 Feb. 1597	Agnes of John	B
16 April 1599	John of John	B
12 Jan. 1600	Thomas of Thomas	B
21 May 1601	Dorathea of John	B
25 Sept. 1603	Joseph of John	B
22 March 1605	Elicia of John	B
22 March 1607	Thomas of John	B
15 July 1609	Fanne of John	B
6 April 1611	Antony of John	B
16 Dec. 1636	Thomas	S
25 Sept. 1637	John of Seascale	S
4 March 1637	Lancelot of Joseph of Hall Bolton	B
20 May 1638	John of John of Seascale	B
8 Jan. 1639	Wrightington of John	B
16 March 1660	John of Wrightington of Seascale	Born

9 Nov.

9 Nov. 1662	William of Wrightington	B
26 Jan. 1662	Dorothea of Seascale	S
25 Jan. 1663	Isabella of Thomas of Seascale	B
22 Dec. 1664	Frances of Wrightington	B
14 Jan. 1665	Janet of Thomas	B
5 March 1666	Richard of Wrightington	B
11 Sept.	Janet of Thomas	S
28 Nov. 1667	Wrightington of Seascale	S
29 March 1668	John of Thomas	B
8 Aug. 1668	Anna wife of John	S
29 Sep. 1669	Joseph	S
22 Jan. 1669	John of Seascale	S
27 Sept.	John of Thomas	B
22 July 1670	John of Thomas of Seascale	S
12 Nov. 1670	John of Thomas of Seascale.	S
12 Jan. 1671	Frances of Thomas	B
1 Aug. 1672	Joseph of Lancelot of Hallboltom	B
6 Nov. 1672	Isabella of Lancelot of Hallboltom	B
30 Aug. 1680	William of Lancelot	B 1
13 March 1682	William of Lancelot	B 1
March 1683	John of Lancelot	B
7 Oct. 1685	John of John	B
13 July 1689	Wrightington of John	B
11 Nov. 1690	John	S
29 Jan 1690	Margaret	S
11 Nov. 1691	William of John of Seascale	B
17 May 1709	Lancelot	S
8 Aug. 1712	Isabell Relict of Lancelot.	S

## TABLE A.—MARRIAGES.

*Year counted from April to April.*

THOMAS THOMPSON, RECTOR.

Years.	No. of Marriages.	Years.	No. of Marriages.	Years.	No. of Marriages.
1571	..... None.	1576	..... 3	1580	..... 4
1572	..... 5	1577	..... 5	1581	..... 5
1573	..... 8	1578	..... 5	1582	..... 7
1574	..... 6	1579	..... 2	1583	..... 1
1575	..... 2				

Gap from 13th April, 1583, to 21st July, 1593.

NICHOLAS

Years.	No. of Marriages.	Years.	No. of Marriages.	Years.	No. of Marriages.
Nicholas Copeland, rector.		1664	5	1706	2
1593	6	1665	12	1707	3
1594	6	Plague y <sup>r</sup> in London.		1708	none
1595	4	1666	5	1709	none
1596	7	1667	6	1710	3
1597	11	1668	3	1711	2
Plague year.		1661	2	1712	1
1598	2	1670	4	1713	3
1599	9	1671	7	1714	8
1600	1	1672	4	1715	5
		1673	2	1716	7
		Gap 1674 to 1679.		1717	4
Rector unknown.				1718	3
1601	none	1676 Thos. Morland, rector.		1719	5
1602	none	1680	4	1720	8
1603	4	1681	4	Chris. Denton, rector	
1605	1	1682	none	1721	10
1606	2	1683	1	1722	12
1607	3	1684	4	1723	1
1608	5	1685	3	1724	none
1609	2	1686	5	1725	none
1610	2	1687	3	1726	4
1611	3	1688	3	1727	11
Gap 1612 to 1635.		1689	4	1721	5
Peter Hudson, rector.		1690	5	1729	none
1636	4	1691	4	1730	6
1637	5	1692	3	1731	11
1638	4	1693	2	1732	3
1639	3	1694	3	1733	7
1640	11	1695	3	1735	8
1641	5	1696	3	1736	2
1642	4	1697	1	1737	none
Death of Pet <sup>r</sup> Hudson.		1698	7	1738	4
		1699	4	Death of Christopher Denton.	
Gap 1641 to 1661, Commonwealth.		1700	4		
		1701	4	Peter Murthwaite, rector 1738.	
John Benn, rector.		1702	none	1739	7
1662	1	1703	2		
1663	4	1704	none		
		1705	none		