

The Alsop Family

Feb 2021

Chatsworth has been an important house since Bess of Hardwick in the 1500s and even before. As such it would have had Lodges on access roads, which would have included a road or roads from Baslow. A map of Rutland Estate dated 1799, shows the line of the 1759 turnpike leading up through the fields to Robin Hood and two roads going south to Chatsworth. One was near the river, the other from the Turnpike near Heathy Lea. An 1812 map described the latter as the Private Road to Chatsworth

There was a Chatsworth lodge, called Blue Gates, at the junction of this private road and the turnpike. (Today there is still a lodge at the Beeley end of the Park called Blue Doors). The whole of the area around the turnpike has always been in Baslow Parish. Until 1824 it was farmland owned by the Duke of Rutland. In 1824 the Duke of Devonshire took the opportunity to acquire the land (part of an exchange) which he then converted into today's Park with brand new lodges and driveway to Chatsworth House. All houses in the Park area including Blue Gates were then pulled down and all fields eliminated.

The Allsops were a Baslow family. There were five generations

- **Henry Alsop then**
- **Nathaniel b1685,**
- **Thomas b1722,**
- **Sampson b1749**
- **Thomas b1790.**

Note Spelling varies significantly Allsop Allsopp, Allsoppe, Alsop, Alsopp, Alsoppe

Records from Chatsworth showed that they paid rent to the Duke of Devonshire for "house & land". Henry paid in 1700 and his widow Ann in 1719. Nathan paid between 1739 and 1751, Thomas in 1774 and Ann his widow in 1790

In 1765 Thomas Allsop b1722 was living at Blue Gates on the newly opened Turnpike road, (The Parish register records that his daughter was baptised that year, and that he was living at Goose Lane). So the Turnpike or perhaps an earlier road was called Goose Lane, with obvious connections to today's Goose Green!

There was tragedy in the Alsop family in 1771. There is a gravestone in Baslow Churchyard listing the deaths of four of Thomas and Ann Alsop's children in a 7 week period in 1771. George aged 28, Henry aged 14, Mary aged 26 and William aged 6 all died. Only two children survived, Sampson and Mary

The memorial inscription includes the verse

Weep not for us our parents dear
We are not dead, but sleeping here
Our time was short, our grief was less
Were gone from hence to happiness

In 1824 the Devonshire Rutland Exchange of Lands map and terrier shows that Sampson Allsop lived in Blue Gates. When the lodge was pulled down the Duke

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rehoused the family in Edensor Later in 1830 his son Thomas was a porter at Chatsworth.

Comment

Sampson and his father Thomas were certainly Gatekeepers at Blue Gates, paying rent to Chatsworth. Their parents and grandparents also paid rent to Chatsworth. It is likely (but no proof) that they also were gate keepers at an earlier (pre 1759 Turnpike) lodge at a Baslow entrance to Chatsworth, perhaps at Heathy Lea. This continuity of tenancy, sometimes over centuries, is a frequent occurrence in the history of Baslow.

David Dalrymple-Smith

dds@w3z.co.uk

- *Most of the data comes from the Parish Records, Births, Marriages and Deaths, and from Memorial Inscriptions*
- *I am grateful to Chatsworth Settlement Trustees for the use of information from their records*