

THE
VICTORIA HISTORY
OF THE COUNTIES
OF ENGLAND

LANCASHIRE



LONDON
CONSTABLE AND COMPANY LIMITED

WEST DERBY HUNDRED

WIGAN

be enumerated, but mention should be made of the Sailors' Home, founded in 1852, which provides cheap lodging and help for sailors when they are paid off. And it should be noted that its continuous existence, since in 1809 it was founded as the Society

for Preventing Wanton Cruelty to Brute Animals, makes the local branch of the R.S.P.C.A. an older body than the national institution. The David Lewis Club and Hostel is an immense Rowton House with a very handsome club in relation with it.

WIGAN

WIGAN
PEMBERTON
BILLINGE CHAPEL
END

BILLINGE HIGHER
END
WINSTANLEY
ORRELL

UPHOLLAND
DALTON
INCE
HINDLEY

ABRAM
HAIGH
ASPULL

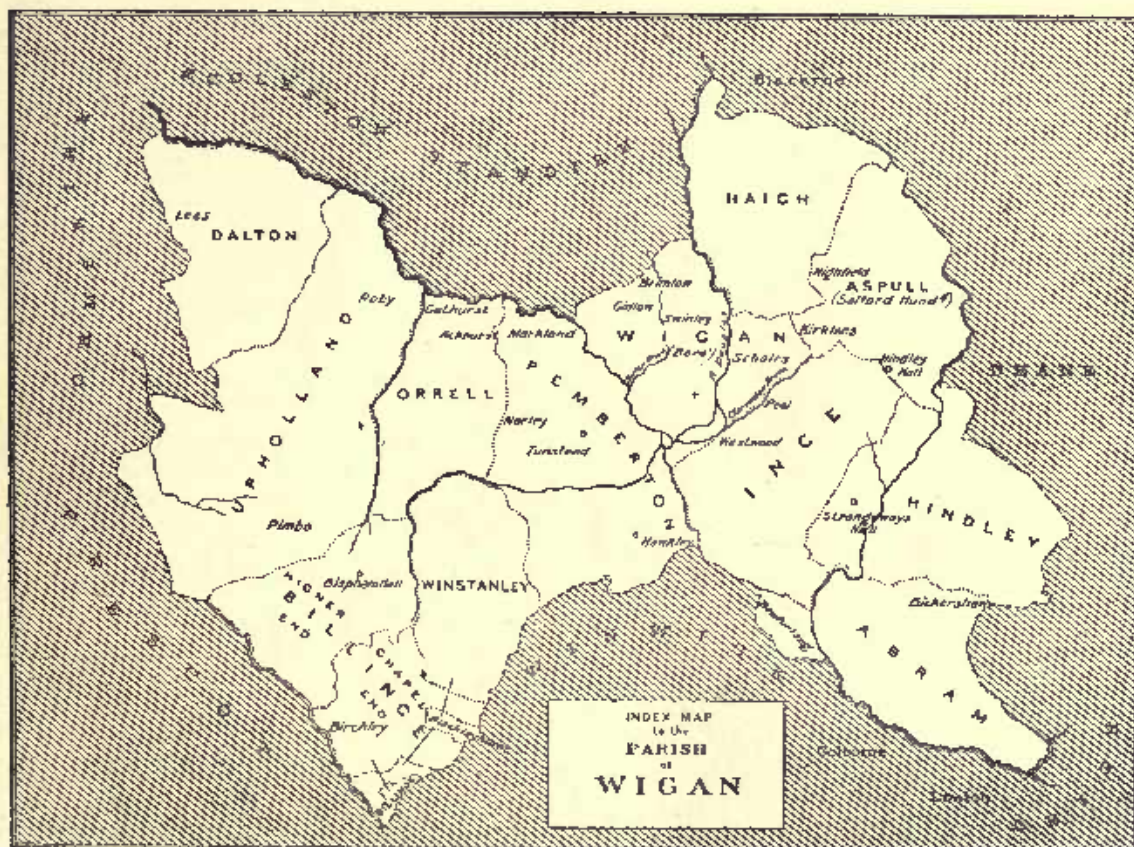
This large parish was at the time of the Conquest included within the hundred of Newton, with the exception of its western townships, Upholland and Dalton, which were within West Derby, and perhaps also of Haigh and Aspull in the north-east. The parish with the same exceptions became part of the fee or barony of Makerfield. Aspull was either then or later placed in the hundred of Salford, in which it has remained till the present. Except in the township of Abram the geological formation consists entirely of the Coal Measures. Coal was discovered and used in the 15th century, or earlier; the mines were extended, and during the last century became the predominant feature of the district. Other industries have also grown up.

Though Wigan was the meeting place of Roman roads which traversed the parish, but few remains of the Roman period have been discovered, and these

chiefly at Wigan itself. From that time practically nothing is known of the history of the district until after the Norman Conquest.

A town with busy traders grew up around the church, and became a centre for the business of a large part of the hundred, political and mercantile. The rebellion of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, in 1321-2, affected it through its rector and also through the Holands, one of the chief local families, who adhered to his cause. The only monastery in the parish, Upholland Priory, was founded in 1317, and Edward II stayed there a fortnight when he passed through the district on his way to Liverpool in 1323.

The landowners were hostile to the Reformation, and in 1630-3 the following compounded for the sequestration of two-thirds of their estates for recusancy by annual fines: Abram, Henry Lance,



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£10; Richard Ashton, £15; Aspull, Ralph Haughton, £6 13s. 4d.; Billinge, Edmund Bispham, £3; Birchley, Roger Anderton, £21 12s. 4d.; Dalton, Thomas Bank, £2; John Reskow, £2; Haigh, William Bradshaw, £3 6s. 8d.; Hindley, Abraham Langton of Lowe, £10; Ince, Thomas Gerard, £40; Thomas Ince, £8; Pemberton, Edmund Winstanley, £2 10s.¹

The Civil War found the district as a whole loyal to the king; but the Ashbursts and some other families were Parliamentarians. There was fighting at Wigan in 1644 and 1651, and much confiscation by the Commonwealth authorities. The Restoration appears to have been generally welcomed. At the Revolution there was much more division, but no open opposition was made, and the Jacobite rising of 1715 does not seem to have had any adherents in the parish. The march of the Young Pretender through Wigan, Ince, and Hindley in 1745 brought in no recruits. The more recent history has, as in the north of England generally, been that of the growth of manufactures and commerce.

The total area of the parish is 29,033½ acres. Of this at present 12,938 acres are arable, 7,179 permanent grass, and 854 woods and plantations. The population in 1901 numbered 157,915. The county lay of 1624 was arranged so that the parish counted as six townships and a half, Wigan itself answering for two. The other groups were—Pemberton and Ince, Hindley and Abram, Holland and Dalton, Orrell, Billinge and Winstanley; Haigh was the half township. Aspull, being in Salford Hundred, was grouped with Blackrod. When the hundred paid £100 Wigan parish, excluding Aspull, paid £12 10s. The ancient fifteenth was more irregularly levied thus: Wigan £3, Haigh 7s., Hindley 16s. 8d., Ince 9s., Dalton 19s., Abram 11s. 8d., Upholland £1 7s. 8d., Billinge cum Winstanley 17s., Orrell 6s., Pemberton 18s. 4d., or £9 12s. 4d. when the hundred paid £106 9s. 6d. Aspull paid 7s. 8d. in Salford.

The church of *ALL SAINTS*² has a *CHURCH* chancel of two bays with north and south chapels, the Legh chapel on the north and the Bradshagh or Bradshaw chapel on the south, a nave of six bays with aisles, and a tower at the north-east angle of the north aisle of the nave, with the Gerard (now Walmsley) chapel adjoining it on the west. East of the tower is a modern vestry.

Though the plan of the church is ancient, the building has undergone even more than the general amount of renewal which has been the lot of so many of the neighbouring churches. The chancel is recorded to have been rebuilt in 1620 by Bishop Bridgeman, and was again rebuilt in 1845. The Bradshagh and Legh chapels, which had been repaired if not rebuilt in 1620, were also rebuilt in 1845, and the nave taken down and rebuilt from the foundations in 1850, much of the old material being however used. The Gerard chapel, rebuilt about 1620, escaped the general fate. The tower and the lowest parts of the stair turrets at the west end of the

chancel were not rebuilt, and contain the oldest work now existing. With such a history, any definite idea of the development of the plan is out of the question. The tower is at least as old as the 13th century, and in the course of rebuilding some 12th-century stones are said to have been found.

The nave arcades, as noted by Sir Stephen Glynne,³ have somewhat the appearance of 14th-century work, with moulded arches and piers of four engaged shafts of good proportion. All the old stone has been re-tooled at the rebuilding of 1850, and the capitals are entirely of that date, so that it is impossible to deduce the former details of the work. A clearstory runs for the whole length of the nave and chancel, and the nave roof retains a good deal of old work, being divided into panels by moulded beams. The figures of angels on the roof corbels are terra-cotta substitutes for old oak figures. All the windows of the church before 1850, except the east and west windows, were like those still remaining in the Gerard chapel, with uncusped tracery and four-centred heads. The tower opens to the north aisle by a pointed arch, with half-octagon responds, and its ground story is lighted by a two-light window on the north, and a three-light window on the west. The latter was built up, perhaps when the Gerard chapel was added, and was opened out again in 1850; it is of three lights, apparently of the second half of the 13th century, though much repaired. In the sill of the north window is set an effigy of which only the face can be seen, the rest being entirely plastered over. It is said to be that of an ecclesiastic, wearing a mitre, and was found under the tower. In the east jamb of the same window is set a panelled stone with two scrolls on the top, locally believed to be part of a Roman altar. It is impossible to examine it satisfactorily in its present condition. The tower has been heightened to make room for a clock, and has pairs of windows on each face of the belfry stage, and an embattled parapet with angle pinnacles. In its upper stages no ancient detail remains, but it seems probable that all above the first stage was rebuilt in the 15th century. Of the ancient fittings of the church nothing remains. The turret stairs at the west end of the chancel doubtless led to the rood-loft, and before 1850 a gallery spanned the entrance to the chancel, carrying an organ given to the church in 1708, and afterwards moved into the Legh chapel. At the west end of the nave was a gallery with seats for the mayor and corporation, and a 'three-decker' pulpit and desk stood against the fourth pillar of the nave arcade. The altar-table is of the 17th century, of oak with a black marble slab. A piece of tapestry with the story of Ananias and Sapphira, formerly hung as a reredos to the altar, is now above the south doorway of the nave. A font dating from c. 1710, removed from the church in 1850, is now in St. George's church, and the present font is modern.⁴ Two 14th-century gravestones with floriated crosses are built into the walls of the tower, and near them lies a slab with a plain cross and the inscription, 'O.L. 1585.' In the Bradshagh chapel is an altar-tomb with two effigies,

¹ From the list in Lucas's 'Warton' (MS).

² By an inquisition in 1370 it was found that Roger Hancockson of Hindley had, without the king's licence, bequeathed a rent of 40d. to the church of Blessed Mary of Wigan. Possibly the gift was

to the Bradshagh chantry, which had this dedication. See Q. R. Mem. R. 160 of Mich. 6 Ric. II. The All Saints' fair dates from 1258. For burial places in the church in 1691, see *Genealogist* (new ser.), i, 282. Arms in the church; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* xxxiii, 248.

³ *Cbs. of Lancs.* (Chet. Soc. xxvii), 58.

⁴ The octagonal bowl of a 14th-century font, used successively as a water trough and flower pot, lies in the garden of Wigan Hall; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xvii, 68.



WIGAN CHURCH, FROM THE NORTH-WEST, SHOWING TOWER



UPHOLLAND PRIORY CHURCH : INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST

said to be those of Sir William de Bradshagh and his wife Mabel, the effigy of the lady alone being old. Sir William's effigy was much damaged, and a new figure has taken its place, the remains of the old effigy being put inside the altar-tomb. Against the south wall of the chapel is the monument of Sir Roger Bradshagh, 1684, and there are several 19th-century Balcarres monuments.⁶

There are eight bells; the first seven of 1732, by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester, and the tenor of 1876, by Taylor of Loughborough. There is also a priest's bell of 1732, by Rudhall.

The church plate was for the most part given by Richard Wells in 1706, but was remade about 1850, the former inscriptions recording the gift being preserved. One large paten is, however, old, having an embossed centre with the Adoration of the Magi. There are three sets of large silver-gilt communion plate, and a smaller set, also silver-gilt. Of plain silver are three flagons and three cruets, and two alms-dishes, the last dating from 1724. There are also seven brass almsdishes of various dates, two pewter dishes of 1825, and twelve of 1840.

The registers begin in 1580, and are contained in over seventy volumes,⁶ and the churchwardens' account books are complete from 1651. The sexton's day book has much detailed information about the burials in the church.

In 1066 'the church of the *ADVOWSON* manor' of Newton had one plough-land exempt from all dues.⁷ It may be assumed that the lord of Newton, who at that time was the King, was patron. When the Makerfield barony was formed the patronage of this church

naturally went with it, although owing to frequent minorities the kings very often presented.⁸ This led to disputes. On a vacancy in 1281 the patronage was claimed by Edward I, but judgement was recorded for Robert Banastre.⁹ At the following vacancy, 1303, William son of Jordan de Standish claimed the right to present, but failed to justify it.¹⁰ The value of the benefice in 1291 had been estimated at 50 marks a year.¹¹ The value of the ninth of sheaves, wool, &c., was only £24 2s. in 1341, but Wigan borough was not included.¹²

In 1349 the crown revived its claim to the patronage and this time obtained a verdict.¹³ It was certainly an erroneous decision, and the Bishop of Lichfield seems to have been unwilling to accept the royal nominee,¹⁴ John de Winwick. It is to the credit of this rector that some time before resigning in 1359 he persuaded the king to restore the advowson to the Langtons.¹⁵ The Standish family afterwards revived their claim to the patronage, and the matter appears to have been closed only in 1446 by a verdict for James de Langton, then rector.¹⁶

In the 16th century the Langtons began to sell the next presentations,¹⁷ and in 1598 Sir Thomas Langton appears to have mortgaged or sold 'the parsonage of Wigan' to the trustees of John Lacy, citizen of London; the latter in 1605 sold it to a Mr. Pears-hall, probably a trustee for Richard Fleetwood, of Calwich, the heir of the Langtons.¹⁸ Bishop Bridgeman, then rector, agreed about 1638 to purchase the advowson for £1,000 from Sir Richard Fleetwood, but Sir Richard Murray, D.D., warden of Manchester, offering £10 more, secured it, and then tried to sell it to the crown for £4,000.¹⁹ Charles I not being

⁶ The monuments are fully described in Canon Bridgeman's *Wigan Ch.* (Chet. Soc.), 689-715.

⁷ The first volume, 1580-1625, has been printed by the Lancashire Parish Register Society. The volume for 1676-83 is among Lord Kenyon's family deeds; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 102.

⁸ See *J.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286a.

⁹ This, it will be found, was the case in the earliest recorded presentation, 1205. About ten years later Thurstan Banastre granted the patronage to the canons of Cokersand, but this gift does not appear to have had effect; *Cokersand Charr.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 676. The Wigan charter of 1246 was witnessed by Robert Banastre, lord of Makerfield, as 'true patron' of the church.

¹⁰ *Abbrev. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 201; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* 1, App. 262. A few years earlier there had been a dispute as to the patronage, but the particulars are not recorded; *De Banco R.* 7, m. 39.

¹¹ William de Standish alleged that his ancestor Ralph, living in the time of King Richard, had presented his own clerk, Ulf by name, to the chapel of Wigan; and that Ulf was instituted and received the tithes, oblations, and dues, 'amounting to half a mark and more.' Nothing otherwise is known of this Ulf. Although it is unlikely that such a claim would have been put forward by the Standishes against great personages like the lords of Makerfield unless there was justification for it, the description as a 'chapel' and the very small amount of dues received raises a doubt. The distinction of 'church' and 'chapel' was at once seized upon by the defence; 'We can-

not yield up what plaintiff demands, for we hold the advowson of a church, and at present we do not know if he demands the advowson of a chapel in that church, as we have seen in other cases, or if he means to say that there is another chapel.' See the late Canon Bridgeman's *Hist. of the Ch. of Wigan* (Chet. Soc.), quoting *Year Bk. of Edw. I* (Rolls Ser.), 358. The information in the present notes is largely drawn from his work, in which documents quoted are usually printed in full. Many of them are from the family records. The Standish claim was still pending in 1312; Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 797. The following references to the suit may be added: *De Banco R.* 153, m. 98d—an extent of the chapel of Wigan; *R.* 161, m. 11—the chapel extended at £9 a year, but the case adjourned because Robert de Langton was setting out for Scotland on the king's service. Thomas de Langtree released his claim to the advowson of the church or chapel of Wigan in favour of Standish; *Coram Reg. R.* 297, m. 20.

¹² *Pope Nick. Tax.* (Rec. Com.), 249. In the claim made by the rector against John del Crasse in 1329 it was alleged that the gross value was about £200 a year.

¹³ *Inq. Non.* (Rec. Com.), 41. The values were: Haigh 47s. 8½d.; Anpall 47s. 3½d.; Hindley 64s. 5½d.; Abram 32s. 2½d.; Ince 32s. 2½d.; Pemberton 64s. 5½d.; Billinge 64s. 5½d.; Orrell 32s. 2½d.; Holland 64s. 5½d.; Dalton 32s. 2½d. The value of the ninth of the movable goods of the men living in the borough of Wigan was 109s. 4d.

¹⁴ *De Banco R.* 358, m. 50. The king alleged in support of his claim that Ralph

de Leicester and John Maunsel had been presented by Henry III. Sir Robert de Langton replied that he had himself presented Master John de Craven, who was admitted, John de Craven, and Ivo de Langton; while his father John had presented Master Robert de Clitcheo, and before that Robert Banastre had presented Master Richard de Marlan in the time of Henry III; he had thus the prescription of a century in his favour. See also *Coram Reg. R.* 357, m. 21. No allusion was made to the presentation of Adam de Walton, which renders it almost certain that he was the clerk presented in 1281, when the king had before claimed the patronage.

¹⁵ See *De Banco R.* 361, m. 42 d; the king v. the Bishop of Lichfield, who had refused to admit John de Winwick to the vacant rectory. Adam de Fulton was also nominated; *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, pp. 473, 496, 514, 534.

¹⁶ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxii, App. 336. Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 617, quoting Standish papers in *Local Glean. Lancs. and Chet.* ii, 60, 61. A fine concerning it, dated 1432, may be seen in Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bllc. 6, no. 59.

¹⁷ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 102, 107, 121, 131.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* 477-80, where abstracts of fifteen deeds relating to the transfers are printed.

¹⁹ Dr. Bridgeman appears to have thought of purchasing the advowson soon after he became rector; *ibid.* 197. For his later attempt to purchase, see 416-18. Laud's letter in reply shows the demands made by Dean Murray; 418, 419.

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able to afford this, Sir John Hotham became the purchaser shortly afterwards;³⁰ and his trustees about 1661 sold it to Sir Orlando Bridgeman,³¹ son of the bishop, in whose family it has since descended, the Earl of Bradford being the patron.

Sir Orlando and his son adopted a 'self-denying ordinance,' and formed a body of trustees to exercise the patronage,³² and thus it happened that for nearly half a century the Bishops of Chester were presented to the rectory.³³

Meanwhile the value had very greatly increased. In the 16th century, and perhaps earlier, the system of farming the tithes prevented the rectors receiving the full revenue,³⁴ and in 1535 the gross value was

set down as £110 16s. 8d., from which had to be deducted a pension of £20, anciently paid to the cathedral of Lichfield, and other fees and dues,³⁵ so that the net value was reported as £80 13s. 4d. In the first half of the next century Bishop Bridgeman found that the clear yearly value was £570 on an average.³⁶ Bishop Gastrell, about 1717, recorded it to be 'above £300 clear, all curates paid.'³⁷ In 1802 the receipts from tithes amounted to £1,306 8s.,³⁸ and afterwards receipts from the coal mining under the glebe were added. The value is now estimated at £1,500.³⁹ The rector of Wigan pays a considerable sum from his income to the incumbents of various churches built in the parish.

The following is a list of the rectors and lords of the manor of Wigan:—

Instituted	Name	Presented by	Cause of Vacancy
oc. 1199 . . .	Randle ⁴⁰	—	—
23 April 1205 . . .	Robert de Durham ⁴¹	The King	res. of Randle
2 Nov. 1226 . . .	Ralph de Leicester ⁴²	„	—
oc. 1241	John Maunsel ⁴³	„	—

³⁰ Bridgeman, op. cit. 483; quoting the Wigan 'Leger,' in which Sir John Hotham is in 1641 called 'the new patron.' At Michaelmas 1638 an agreement seems to have been arrived at between Charles Hotham and others and the Bishop of London and others as to the advowson; Com. Pleas, Recov. R. Mich. 14 Chas. I. m. 3. In a fine of Mar. 1642 relating to the advowson, John Murray, esq., and Marian his wife were deforciant; Pal. of Lane. Feet of F. bde. 140, no. 15.

³¹ Bridgeman, op. cit. 484. In a fine of 1659 Charles Hotham and Elizabeth his wife were deforciant; Pal. of Lane. Feet of F. bde. 164, no. 16. See also Com. Pleas, D. Err. Mich. 1662, m. 95 d.

³² Bridgeman, op. cit. 484; 'bearing in mind the corrupt practices of former patrons, who had turned the advowson into a means of private gain,' and wishing to avoid such abuses, Sir Orlando associated with himself as trustees the then Archbishop of Canterbury and others.

³³ Ibid. 601. In 1713 the Bishop of Chester made inquiries as to the conditions of the trust, supposing that some preference was to be given to the Bishops of Chester; ibid. 613.

³⁴ See the Kitchen lease described under Rector Kighley. Apart from disadvantageous leases it was not always easy to secure the tithe; see *Durby Pleas*, (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 111; and the complaint of Rector Smith in 1553, quoted by Canon Hodgeman, op. cit. 123-7, 130; see also 158, 159. The difficulties of the rectors concerning their tithes were quite independent of those they had with the corporation of Wigan as lords of the manor.

Besides disadvantageous leases and open violence the rectors lost through prescription, by which a modus or composition in lieu of tithes was established. Thus the Earls of Derby had long held the tithes of the townships of Dalton and Upholland at a low rent; and about 1600 William, the sixth earl, claimed an absolute right to the tithes, paying only £12 13s. 4d. a year to the rector. Rector Fleetwood tried to defeat this claim, and Bishop Bridgeman made a still more vigorous effort, but in vain; and the same modus is still paid by the Earl of Derby's

assigns in lieu of the tithes; Bridgeman, op. cit. 162-3, 254-9, 647-50. Prescription was likewise established in the case of Ince, £4 being paid by the Gerards and their successors; ibid. 190, 655.

³⁵ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), v, 220. The gross value was made up of the rents of tenants, free and at will, £25; rent of two water-mills 66s. 8d.; tithes of corn, hay, wool, &c., £61 3s. 4d.; oblations, small tithes, and toll, £18; perquisites and profits of the markets, 66s. 8d. Robert Langton as chief steward had a fee of £4.

³⁶ Bridgeman, op. cit. 417. A statement of his receipts and payments for his first year of occupation ending at Christmas 1616 is printed 188-203; many curious details are given. A later account of the profits of the rectory will be found on pp. 307-19. Bishop Bridgeman compiled his 'Leger,' extant in a copy made by Rector Finch in 1708, recording all the lands and rights belonging to the rector and the endeavours he had made to recover and preserve them. In 1619 he compiled a terrier of the demesne lands of the rectory; op. cit. 244-6. The names of the fields include Parson's Meadow, Diglake or Diglake, the Mexes, Conygrew, Rycroft, Carreslache, Parsnip Yard, and Cuckstool Croft. Potters used to come for clay to the parson's wastes, undertaking to make the land level again; 268. Another terrier was compiled in 1874, and is printed ibid. 651-8.

³⁷ *Notitia Cestr.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 242. The rector was instituted to 'Wigan with the chapel of Holland.' There were two wardens and eighteen assistants, serving jointly for the whole parish; seven of the assistants were for the town.

³⁸ Bridgeman, op. cit. 642. 'The tithes were valued by two competent persons and offered to the farmers at their separate valuations, which they all accepted, and paid their respective shares on the first Monday after Christmas, which is the day usually appointed for payment.' The tithes of Wigan itself were gathered in kind. The mode of tithing is thus described: 'The corn in this parish is bound up in sheaves. Eight sheaves set up together make one shock, and every tenth shock is the rector's property, and

lie under the number of ten the rector had none. The practice was so common on small farms to have eight or nine shocks in each field bound up in large sheaves—the farmers called it "binding the tithe-man out"—to put a stop to this I (Rector G. Bridgeman) now take every tenth sheaf when small quantities of corn are grown. Beans and peas which were bound in rows or drills were not tithed. . . . The practice in this parish was so common for corn growers to claim waste land corn exempt from tithe that in the year 1809 I was advised to make them pay an acknowledgement or to take it in kind'; ibid. 645, 646.

³⁹ *Liverpool Diocesan Cal.*

⁴⁰ *Farrer, Lancs. Pipe R.* 436; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxi, App. 5; a charter by which the king appointed Adam de Freckleton perpetual vicar of the church of Wigan, 'which is of our donation,' at the request of Randle treasurer of Salisbury and rector of Wigan; the latter was to receive a pension of a mark.

⁴¹ *Roc. Chart.* (Rec. Com.), 147. A few years later the church of Wistow was given to the same Robert; ibid. 177. The patronage at this time was in the king's hands through the minority of the heir of Warine Banastre. The new rector was one of the king's clerks, and probably never visited Wigan; the 'vicarage' of Adam was expressly reserved in the presentation.

⁴² *Cal. Pat.* 1225-32, p. 88. The cause of vacancy is not stated, but Robert de Durham was living in 1222; see *Cal. Pat.* 1216-25, p. 332. In 1228 Ralph de Leicester was presented to the chapel of Cowesby; ibid. 195. See also De Banco R. 358, m. 50, where it is stated that he and John Maunsel were nominated by Henry III. A Ralph de Leicester was Treasurer of Lincoln Cathedral in 1248; he died in 1253; Le Neve, *Farr.* ii, 88.

⁴³ John Maunsel was one of the most important of the royal officials; for a sketch of his career see Bridgeman op. cit. 4-30, and *Dict. Nat. Biog.* He was a great pluralist, adding Wigan to his other benefices before 1241, when he charged Thurstan de Holland with setting fire to a house in Wigan; Cur. Reg. R. 121, m. 26 d. As Robert Banastre is supposed to have come of age about 1239, the presentation must have been earlier than this;

WEST DERBY HUNDRED

WIGAN

Instituted	Name	Presented by	Cause of Vacancy
1265 . . .	Mr. Richard de Mar-klan ³⁴	Robert Banastre	d. of J. Maunsel
? 1281 . . .	Mr. Adam de Walton ³⁵	—	—
22 Sept. 1303 . . .	Mr. Robert de Clitheroe ³⁶	John de Langton	—
15 June 1334 . . .	Ivo (John) de Langton ³⁷	Sir Robert de Langton	d. of Rob. de Clitheroe
13 Nov. 1344 . . .	John de Craven ³⁸	"	—
26 Dec. 1344 . . .	Mr. John de Craven ³⁸	"	—
06. 1347 . . .	Henry de Dale, M.A. ⁴⁰	—	—
12 Mar. 1349-50 } 3 May 1350 . . .	John de Winwick ⁴¹	The King	—
10 July 1359 . . .	Richard de Langton ⁴²	Sir Rob. de Langton	—
4 Sept. 1359 . . .	Robert de Lostock ⁴³	"	res. R. de Langton
2 Jan. 1361-2 . . .	Walter de Campden ⁴⁴	John Earl of Lancaster	res. R. de Lostock

Lancs. Inq. and Extents, i, 147. In local history he is notable as procuring the first borough charter. He died abroad in great poverty at the end of 1264 or beginning of 1265.

There are numerous references to him in *Cal. of Papal Letters*. Alexander IV, in 1259, approved the dispensation granted, at the king's request, by Pope Innocent, allowing Maunsel to be ordained and promoted although his mother married his father, a man of noble birth, not knowing that he was a deacon; his father repenting, resumed his orders, and a divorce was declared; the dispensation should hold good, even though the mother's plea of ignorance and the reputation of a lawful marriage could not be sustained; *ibid.*, i, 362. Many documents refer to his superabundance of benefices; see specially *ibid.*, 378.

³⁴ He in July 1265 joined with the patron, Sir Robert Banastre, in assigning an annual pension of 30 marks to the mother church of Lichfield. Canon Bridgeman states: "A sum of £16 is now (1887) paid annually by the rector of Wigan to the sacristan of Lichfield Cathedral."

Master Richard was still living in 1278; *Assize R.* 1238, m. 33 d. His surname shows that he was a local man. He had a son Nicholas, who in 1292 was summoned to warrant William, rector of Donington, in the possession of a message in Wigan claimed by Robert Sperling and Sabina his wife; *Assize R.* 408, m. 33 d.

³⁵ This rector was probably appointed at the vacancy in 1281, when the king, as stated in the text, claimed the patronage. Adam was the rector summoned in 1292 to show his title to manorial rights in Wigan; *Plac. de Quo War.* (*Rec. Com.*), 371. He was chancellor of Lichfield Cathedral from 1276 till 1292, when he was made proctor, retaining the latter office till his death in August 1303; *Le Neve, Fast*, i, 579. His executors were Adam de Walton, rector of Mitton, Adam de Walton, junior, and Richard de Fulshaw; *De Banc. R.* 264, m. 300 d.

³⁶ *Lichfield Epis. Reg.*, i, fol. 98. He was not ordained priest till he became rector; *ibid.*, i, fol. 98b. John de Langton, afterwards Bishop of Chichester, presented as guardian of Alice Banastre, heiress of the barony of Newton.

The new rector was a king's clerk and held several public appointments; *Parl. Writ*, ii (3), 685-6. Leave of absence was granted by the bishop in September 1322; *Lich. Epis. Reg.*, ii, fol. 7. He sided with Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and in 1323 was called upon to answer for the part he had taken in the rising of 1321. By the jury of the wapentake of West

Derby it was presented that Robert de Clitheroe, rector of Wigan, who had for thirty years been a clerk in the king's chancery and for some time escheator this side of Trent, had at his own cost sent two men at arms to the earl's assistance, one of them being his own son Adam de Clitheroe, accompanied by four men on foot, all properly armed; also, that on a certain solemn day, preaching in his church at Wigan before all the people, he had told them that they owed allegiance to the earl and must assist him in his cause against the king, which was a just cause; in consequence whereof divers of his hearers joined the earl. Robert at once denied that he had sent anyone to swell the earl's forces; and all he had said in church was to ask his parishioners to pray for the king and the nobles and for the peace of the realm. He was, however, convicted, and made peace with the king by a fine; *Parl. Writ*, ii (2), App. 240.

At the beginning of the next reign he sued for relief as to the payment of his fine of 300 marks, alleging that most of it had been paid, though the sheriff, since deceased, had not accounted for it to the Exchequer. He did not obtain his request. He acknowledged that he had sent a man mounted and armed for the earl's service, as indeed he was bound to do by the tenure of his rectory; *Rolls of Parl.*, ii, 406.

He died 4 June 1334 and was buried in Sawley Abbey. He granted his 'manor of Bayley' to the abbey of Cockersand in 1330; *Harland, Salfey Abbey*, 64, 65; *Whitaker, Whalley* (ed. Nichols), ii, 471.

³⁷ *Lich. Epis. Reg.*, ii, fol. 109b, where he is called John, son of John de Langton. On the day of his institution two years' leave for study within England was granted him, on condition that he proceeded to the higher orders, *ibid.*, ii, fol. 86. The new rector was a younger brother of the patron, with whom in 1343 he had a dispute as to the tithes of Hindicy; it was alleged by Robert that Ivo was bound to pay him twenty marks a year, and £20 every other year, and that the tithes taken had been assigned in lieu of the pension; *Assize R.* 430, m. 8 d.; 434, m. 3 (quoted by Canon Bridgeman).

Ivo was still rector in 1344; *Assize R.* 1435, m. 37.

Carice de Bolton, 'formerly aunt of the rector of Wigan,' in 1354 brought a suit against the Langtons to recover an annuity; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 3, m. 4 d, 1.

³⁸ *Lich. Epis. Reg.*, ii, fol. 118, may refer to his nomination. See *De Banc. R.* 358, m. 50. Though presented it is not certain that he was instituted; he is probably the John de Craven indicted two

years previously for entering into a conspiracy to procure the presentation of himself to the rectory; *Lancs. and Ches. Recs.* (*Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.*), ii, 262.

³⁹ *Lich. Epis. Reg.*, ii, fol. 118; *De Banc. R.* 358, m. 50. Master John de Craven was a canon of St. John's, Chester, from 1344 (or earlier) until 1363; *Ormerod, Ches.* (ed. Helsby), i, 308, 309. Before 1348 he was commissary for Peter Gomez, Cardinal Bishop of the Sabine, as archdeacon of Chester; *Cal. Pat.* 1345-8, pp. 245, 297.

In 1351 he was fined £40 for extortion in his capacity as official of the deanery of Warrington; *Assize R.* 431, m. 1.

⁴⁰ In 1347 the pope reserved to Henry de Dale, M.A., B.C.L., B.M., a dignity in Wells, not episcopal; he held various canonries and the churches of Higham and Wigan, but was ordered to resign the latter; *Cal. of Papal Letters*, iii, 242. See also *Cal. Clero.*, 1349-54, p. 54. Nothing further seems known of this rector's possession.

⁴¹ *Lich. Epis. Reg.*, ii, fol. 126, 125b. The dispute as to the patronage has been related above; John de Winwick was twice presented and instituted. He was another busy public official; see *Rymer, Foed. (Sylabus)*, 330, &c. Among his ecclesiastical preferments he held the treasurership of York Minister; *Le Neve, Fast*, iii, 160. He was entrusted with the wardship of William de Molyneux in 1359; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.*, xxxi, App. 346. He died about the end of 1359 and was buried at Huyton, where a chantry for him was founded. In 1352 the pope granted him the union of the rectory with the Treasurership of York, of which he was not yet in actual possession; *Cal. of Papal Letters*, iii, 460.

A detailed account of his career will be found in Canon Bridgeman's work, 47-56.

⁴² *Lich. Epis. Reg.*, iv, fol. 6; he promised to pay the £10 a year to Lichfield Cathedral.

⁴³ *Lich. Epis. Reg.*, iv, fol. 6 (quoted by Canon Bridgeman).

⁴⁴ *Lich. Epis. Reg.*, iv, fol. 80; he took the oath to pay the pension. John of Gaunt presented, owing to the minority of Ralph de Langton. The new rector had leave of absence granted him in January 1365-6; *ibid.*, v, fol. 12b.

This rector complained to the pope as to the pension he had to pay to Lichfield; the Bishop of London was thereupon, in 1367, directed to inquire into the matter, and if the facts were found to be as alleged he was to relax the rector's oath regarding this payment; *Cal. of Papal Letters*, iv, 66. Walter de Campden died at Plymouth 10 July 1370, as appears by the *Lich. Reg.*

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

Instituted	Name	Presented by	Cause of Vacancy
24 Aug. 1370	James de Langton ⁴⁵	Ralph de Langton	d. W. de Campden
oc. 1415-31	William de Langton ⁴⁶	---	---
oc. 1432-47	James de Langton ⁴⁷	---	---
oc. 1451	Oliver de Langton ⁴⁸	---	---
oc. 1485	John Langton ⁴⁹	---	---
9 Aug. 1504	Thomas Langton ⁵⁰	Langton feoffees	d. J. Langton
16 Aug. 1506	Richard Wyot, D.D. ⁵¹	The King	d. T. Langton
10 Oct. 1519	Thomas Linacre, M.D. ⁵²	Thos. Langton	res. R. Wyot
oc. 1528-32	Nicholas Towneley ⁵³	---	---
oc. 1532-3	Richard Langton ⁵⁴	---	---
24 Mar. 1534-5	Richard Kighley ⁵⁵	Sir T. Langton	d. R. Langton
8 Aug. 1543	John Herbert ⁵⁶	Thos. White	d. R. Kighley
† March 1550	John Standish, D.D. ⁵⁷	The King	---
1550	Richard Smith ⁵⁸	---	---
2 Mar. 1554-5	Richard Gerard ⁵⁹	Earl of Derby, &c.	d. R. Smith
10 Aug. 1558	Thomas Stanley ⁶⁰	{ John Fleetwood Peter Farington	d. R. Gerard

⁴⁵ Lich. Epis. Reg. iv, fol. 85b; v, fol. 28b, 30. He had received only the tonsure, but was made priest 11 April 1371; *ibid.*, v, fol. 100b.

James de Langton is mentioned as rector down to 1414, about the end of which year he died; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxiii, App. 22, 'late rector.' He was one of the feoffees of Richard de Molyneux of Sefton in 1394; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 70; *ibid.* 103.

⁴⁶ William de Langton is mentioned as rector a number of times from 1417 to 1430; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxiii, 13, &c. In 1431-2 he was 'late rector'; *ibid.* 32.

⁴⁷ In a plea of 1442 mention is made of William de Langton as rector before 10 Hen. VI, and James de Langton as rector in the same year; a note is added, recording a pardon to the latter, dated 1446-7; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 1, no. 316.

In 1436 James de Langton, rector of Wigan, was proceeding to France in the retinue of the Duke of York; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xviii, App. 310.

He appears to have been a violent and lawless man, and his name frequently occurs in the plea rolls. In 1442 the sheriff was ordered to arrest Christopher, Edward, Edmund, and Oliver de Langton, sons of James de Langton, the rector; also Margaret Holerobyn of Wigan, the rector's mistress; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 4 (quoted by Canon Bridgeman).

⁴⁸ Oliver Langton in 1451 covenanted to pay the £20 yearly to Lichfield; *Bridgeman*, op. cit. 69. He was still living in 1462; *ibid.* 70.

In 1457 the Bishop of Lichfield issued a commission to Dr. Duckworth, vicar of Preston, and others to inquire as to the pollution of the churchyard of Wigan by bloodshed, forbidding it to be used for interments until it should be reconciled; *Lich. Epis. Reg.* xi, fol. 92b.

⁴⁹ John Langton, rector of Wigan, occurs in July 1485; *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 266. In 1498 he was called upon to show by what title he claimed various manorial rights in Wigan; *Pal. of Lanc. Writs, Lent*, 13 Hen. VII.

⁵⁰ *Lich. Epis. Reg.* xiii-xiv, fol. 53; the patrons were James Anderton, William Baustre, Thomas Langton (brother of Gilbert Langton of Lowe), and William Wondecock, feoffees of Ralph Langton, deceased.

⁵¹ *Lich. Epis. Reg.* xiii-xiv, fol. 54b; *Act Bks.* at Chester; the king presented on account of the minority of Thomas Langton. Dr. Wyot was a man of some university distinction, being at one time

master of Christ's College, Cambridge; and he held several benefices; see *Ashe-naz Canab.* i, 26.

⁵² *Lich. Epis. Reg.* xiii-xiv, fol. 60b. The biography of this distinguished man may be read in Dr. J. N. Johnson's *Life* of him; also in the *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, and Canon Bridgeman, op. cit. 73-95. He appears to have exchanged the Precentorship of York Minster for the rectory of Wigan, Dr. Wyot receiving the former office on 13 November 1519; *Le Neve, Fasti*, iii, 156. It was only in his later years that Linacre, though made rector of Mersham in 1509, devoted himself to theology, and he was not ordained priest until 22 December 1520, the rectory of Wigan giving him a title.

⁵³ Nicholas Towneley, as rector of Wigan and chaplain to Cardinal Wolsey, complained of a disturbance in his court at Wigan in Apr. 1528; *Duchy Plead.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 173. He was appointed to a prebend in York Minster in Dec. 1531; *Le Neve, Fasti*, iii, 181; and died at Hampton Court on or about 10 Nov. 1532; *Duchy Plead.* ii, 111 (where there is an error in the year; cf. *Le Neve*).

⁵⁴ There is mention of him in *Piccope's Wills* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 247 n.

⁵⁵ *Lich. Epis. Reg.* xiii-xiv, fol. 34; he made oath that he would pay the £20 to the dean and chapter of Lichfield, according to ancient custom.

Soon after his appointment he leased the rectory for five years for £206 13s. 4d. a year, the odd £6 13s. 4d. being payable to the curate in charge. The lessee, John Kitchin, a lawyer, had become surety for the first-fruits, which had now become part of the royal revenue. This transaction was the origin of much disputing. Kitchin was not satisfied with this short lease, and appears to have obtained the promise of an extension for thirty-three years, and to this he obtained the patron's consent. When, therefore, the rector attempted to regain possession in 1540 he was resisted, and though he had the assistance of a number of persons 'of cruel demeanour,' who 'in a riotous and forcible manner' entered the glebe lands and turned the lessee's cattle out, the inquiry which took place was so far favourable to Kitchin that the rector granted a lease for thirty years at the same rent; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Cnm.), i, 164; ii, 64. The evidence is given very fully in Canon Bridgeman's *History*, 102-7.

⁵⁶ *Act Bks.* at Ches. Dioc. Reg.; *Bridgeman*, op. cit. 123. Paid first-fruits 6 Aug.

1543; *Lancs. and Ches. Recs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 408. John Kitchin had purchased the right of next presentation from Sir Thomas Langton in 1538, and afterwards sold it to Sir Richard Gresham and Thomas White, citizens of London.

John Herbert became one of the canons of St. Stephen's, Westminster, in Dec. 1530; *L. and P. Hen. VIII*, iv, 680; (19). He was vicar of Penistone from 1545 to 1550, the patron being the dean of the Chapels Royal; *Hunter, Doncaster*, ii, 339.

⁵⁷ It is possible that Dr. Standish was never actually rector of Wigan, though Edward VI presented him on the death of John Herbert; *Strype, Mem.* iv, 260. He does not appear to have paid first-fruits. His singular and discreditable career is sketched by Canon Bridgeman, op. cit. 115-22. See Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁵⁸ He paid his first-fruits 11 Feb. 1550-1. He had much trouble with the tithesayers, or rather the sub-lessees under Kitchin's lease; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 141; *Bridgeman*, 123-7.

⁵⁹ *Act Bks.* at Chester. The patrons were the Earl of Derby, Lord Strange, and others, under a demise by Sir Thomas Langton in 1551. The new rector, a son of William Gerard of Ince, had been presented to Crappenhall as early as 1522, and to Bangor on Dec. in 1542, resigning the former on becoming rector of Wigan; *Ormerod, Ches.* (ed. Helsky), i, 600. He took part in 1553 in the examinations of George Marsh at Lathom; speaking of the second Prayer Book of Edward VI he remarked, 'This last Communion was the most devilish thing that ever was devised'; *Foxe, Acts and Monuments* (ed. Cattle), vii, 42.

⁶⁰ *Act Bks.* at Chester; *Bridgeman*, op. cit.; the patrons acted under a grant made by Sir Thomas Langton on 10 May 1558.

Thomas Stanley, supposed to have been an illegitimate son of Lord Mounteagle, was Bishop of Sodor and Man from 1558 to 1568; *Moore, Sodor and Man*, 96, 138. He also held the rectories of Winwick and North Meols in Lancashire and Barwick in Elmet. He was living quite undisturbed in South Lancashire about 1564 to the great indignation of the Protestant Bishop of Durham; *Parker, Curres.* (Parker Soc.), 222. The metrical history of the house of Stanley is attributed to him. See Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

WEST DERBY HUNDRED

WIGAN

Instituted	Name	Presented by	Cause of Vacancy
Apl. 1569	William Blackleach, B.A. ⁶¹	John Fleetwood	d. Bp. Stanley
8 Feb. 1570-1	Edward Fleetwood ⁶²	The Queen	res. W. Blackleach
9 Oct. 1604	Gerard Massie, D.D. ⁶³	The King	d. E. Fleetwood
21 Jan. 1615-16	John Bridgeman, D.D. ⁶⁴	"	d. G. Massie
c. 1643	James Bradshaw, M.A. ⁶⁵	Parliamentary Comm'rs.	—
1653	Charles Hotham, M.A. ⁶⁶	[Hotham Trustees]	{d. Bp. Bridgeman}
1662	George Hall, D.D. ⁶⁷	Sir O. Bridgeman	ejec. C. Hotham
1668	John Wilkins, D.D. ⁶⁸	Bridgeman Trustees	d. Bp. Hall
1673	John Pearson, D.D. ⁶⁹	"	d. Bp. Wilkins

⁶¹ Church P. at Chester. First-fruits paid 22 June 1569.

⁶² Ches. Reg. (quoted by Canon Bridgeman); first-fruits paid 12 Feb. The queen presented by reason of the minority of Thomas Langton, and opportunity was taken to place in this important rectory a staunch adherent of the newly-established religious system. Edward Fleetwood was a younger son of Thomas Fleetwood of the Vache, Buckinghamshire. He was but a young man, and established a good example by residing in his rectory; he was 'the first beginner' of monthly communions at Wigan; Bridgeman, op. cit. 235. He also caused forms to be placed in the nave; they were made from the timber of the rood-loft; *ibid.* 272. He instituted various suits for the recovery of the revenues and rights of his church; Bridgeman, op. cit. 243-53.

He took part in the persecution of 'Popish recusants,' and it is clear from the letter printed in Bridgeman, 166-71, as from his not wearing the surplice in 1589 (*Visit. Bks.*), and his joining in the petition to Convocation in 1604, that he was a Puritan; he was indeed charged with 'neglect and contempt' in not observing the forms of the Book of Common Prayer, op. cit. 160; also *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep. xiv, App. iv, 597*. A sympathizer with the victims of his zeal 'could not stay his pen from writing unto him to commend him to leave off blaspheming against this our Catholic faith or else he would drink of Judas' sop,' and threw the protest into the rector's pew; Bridgeman, op. cit. 174. For some of the presentments made by Rector Fleetwood against parishioners alleged to have received priests, see Gibson, *Lydiat Hall*, 239, 240.

⁶³ On 27 June 1604 the benefice was sequestered to preserve the fruits for the next incumbent; on 6 Oct. Brian Vincent, B.D., was presented by John Sweeting and William Hobbes, acting by demise of Sir Thomas Langton; but this grant not being satisfactory, the Bishop of Chester referred the matter to the king, who had presented Gerard Massie, B.D., as early as 17 July; Bridgeman, op. cit. 179. The first-fruits were paid 23 Feb. 1604-5. See also *Fal. of Lanc. Plea R. 296, m. 5*, where it is stated that the advowson was held by the fifth part of a knight's fee.

The new rector was son of William Massie of Chester and Grafton, near Malpas; Ormerod, *Ches.* (ed. Helsby), ii, 706. He was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford; B.A. 1592; D.D. 1609; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.* In 1615 he was nominated to the bishopric of Chester, but died in London, 16 Jan. 1615-16, before consecration; Bridgeman, op. cit. 180.

⁶⁴ Bridgeman, op. cit. 181-455, the whole of pt. ii. The following is a brief outline:—John son of Thomas Bridgeman

was born at Exeter in 1577; educated at Oriel College, Oxford, and Peterhouse, Cambridge, being elected fellow of Magdalene in the latter university in 1599; he also took degrees at Oxford; D.D. at Cambridge, 1612. He soon obtained preferment, and married; having attracted the attention of James I his advance was rapid (pp. 181-6). At Wigan he recovered many rights of the church, and thus greatly increased the rectorial income (pp. 188-262). In 1619 he was appointed Bishop of Chester, retaining in commendam the rectory of Wigan and the prebends he held at Exeter and Lichfield (p. 256). He compiled the valuable 'Wigan Leger'; caused the church to be repaired, procured the erection of an organ (destroyed under the Commonwealth), and made the seats in the body of the church uniform; without interfering with claims to particular sitting places, 'he advised them to rank the best in the highest seats, and so place on the one side only men and on the other side their wives in order; and to exclude children and servants from sitting with their masters or mistresses' (pp. 272, 273). Down to 1629 he usually resided at Wigan (p. 333). In ecclesiastical matters he was a somewhat strict disciplinarian, though not unduly harsh to the Puritans.

Adhering to the king at the outbreak of the Civil War, he was ejected from the bishopric and rectory and fined £3,000 by the Parliament (pp. 437-40). He died at his son Orlando's residence, Morton Hall, near Oswestry, in Nov. 1652 (p. 440). This son was made a judge on the Restoration, and was Lord Keeper from 1667 to 1672; the Earl of Bradford is his descendant and heir. Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁶⁵ James Bradshaw, son of John Bradshaw of Darcy Lever, was educated at Brasenose College, Oxford; M.A. 1637; Bridgeman, op. cit. 462; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.* He was placed in the rectory by the Committee of Plundered Ministers 'upon the delinquency of Dr. Bridgeman,' but was never legally the rector; in 1650 he was described as 'a painful, able, preaching minister,' but he had refused to observe the last fast day; *Commonwealth Ch. Surv. 59; Plund. Min. Acts.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 41. He lost the benefice in 1651 because of the legal rector's death, but was soon afterwards appointed to Macclesfield, where he remained till the Act of Uniformity of 1662 was enforced; *ibid.* 470. Afterwards he ministered as a Nonconformist in Lancashire.

⁶⁶ Charles Hotham was a son of Sir John Hotham and ancestor of the present Lord Hotham. He was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge; M.A. 1639; fellow of Peterhouse, 1640-51, being deprived by Parliament. He was probably presented by his father's trustees, after the death of Bishop Bridgeman, and paid

his first-fruits 9 May 1653. Soon after the restoration of Charles II John Burton was presented to the rectory by the king, Hotham being accused of heterodoxy; but on 8 October 1660 the latter was reinstated, only to be ejected in 1662 on refusal to comply with the Act of Uniformity; Bridgeman, op. cit. 473-6; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xlv, App. 34, 68. He afterwards resided in the Heronodas; returned to England and became a fellow of the Royal Society; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁶⁷ Son of Dr. Joseph Hall, Bishop of Norwich; educated at Exeter College, Oxford, of which he became fellow; M.A. 1634; D.D. 1660. He was made Bishop of Chester in 1662, and held the archdeaconry of Canterbury and the rectory of Wigan in commendam. While he was rector communion was administered at Wigan six times a year. Bishop Hall died 23 Aug. 1668 from a wound inflicted by a knife in his pocket when he chanced to fall in his garden at Wigan. See Bridgeman, op. cit. 485-96; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

An inventory of the church goods in Apr. 1668 is printed by Canon Bridgeman, op. cit. p. 55; the vestments consisted of two surplices; there was a green carpet cloth for the communion table; the books included a copy of *Juell and Hardin*; there were an hour-glass, a great chest, and other miscellaneous articles.

⁶⁸ Son of Walter Wilkins of Oxford; educated there, graduating from Magdalen Hall; M.A. 1634. He was made vicar of Fawsley in 1637; conformed to the Presbyterian discipline under the Commonwealth; D.D. 1649; readily accepted the Prayer Book on the Restoration and rose rapidly, being made Bishop of Chester in 1668, and receiving with it the rectory of Wigan. As bishop he was extremely lenient to the Nonconformists. He was devoted to scientific studies, and was one of the founders of the Royal Society in 1660. He died 19 Nov. 1672. See Bridgeman, op. cit. 497-513; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁶⁹ Bishop Pearson, the most famous of the modern rectors of Wigan, was the son of Robert Pearson, archdeacon of Suffolk. He was born in 1613, educated at Queens' and King's Colleges, Cambridge, becoming fellow of the latter in 1634; M.A. 1639. He retired into private life on the success of the Parliament and devoted himself to study and controversy, his *Exposition of the Creed* first appearing in 1659. In 1662 he was made master of Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1673 he was appointed Bishop of Chester and also rector of Wigan. He resided part of the summer at Wigan, employing three curates, two being preachers and the third a reader in deacon's orders. He died 16 July 1686 at Chester, and was buried in the cathedral. See Bridgeman, op. cit. 513-64; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

Instituted	Name	Presented by	Cause of Vacancy
1686 . . .	Thomas Cartwright, D.D. ⁷⁰ . . .	Bridgeman Trustees . . .	d. Bp. Pearson
1689 . . .	Nicholas Stratford, D.D. ⁷¹ . . .	" " . . .	d. Bp. Cartwright
Mar. 1706-7 .	Hon. Edward Finch, M.A. ⁷² . . .	" " . . .	d. Bp. Stratford
30 April 1714 .	Samuel Aldersey, M.A. ⁷³ . . .	" " . . .	res. E. Finch
12 May 1741 .	Roger Bridgeman, D.D. ⁷⁴ . . .	" " . . .	d. S. Aldersey
(3 July) 1750 .	Shirley Cotes, M.A. ⁷⁵ . . .	Wm. Lord Digby . . .	d. R. Bridgeman
27 Feb. 1776 .	Guy Fairfax, M.A. ⁷⁶ . . .	Sir H. Bridgeman . . .	d. S. Cotes
30 July 1790 .	George Bridgeman ⁷⁷ . . .	Sir H. Bridgeman, &c. . .	res. G. Fairfax
4 Jan. 1833 .	Sir Henry John Gunning, M.A. ⁷⁸ .	Earl of Bradford . . .	d. G. Bridgeman
17 Oct. 1864 .	Hon. George Thomas Orlando Bridgeman, M.A. ⁷⁹ . . .	Bishop of Chester . . .	res. Sir H. Gunning
24 Feb. 1896 .	Roland George Matthew, M.A. ⁸⁰ .	Earl of Bradford . . .	d. G. T. O. Bridgeman

The earlier rectors of Wigan, when presented by the kings, were busy public officials, who probably never saw the church from which they drew a small addition to their incomes; and when presented by the hereditary patrons were, with few exceptions,

men of no distinction, whose only recommendation was their family connexion.

The *Valor* of 1535 does not record any chapelries or chantries nor mention any clergy except the rector and the Bradshagh chantry priest, but Upholland

⁷⁰ Thomas Cartwright was a grandson of his namesake the famous Puritan of Queen Elizabeth's days. His parents were Presbyterians, and he was educated at Queen's College, Oxford, while it was under Puritan rule; M.A. 1655. This makes it the more noteworthy that he ignored the laws in force and was ordained in the year just mentioned according to the Anglican form by Dr. Skinner, who had been Bishop of Oxford, but was then living in retirement. He took a benefice under the existing rule, but as might be expected, at once conforming on the Restoration, and received various preferments. He also secured the firm friendship of the Duke of York, and was one of the very few who thoroughly devoted themselves to his cause when he became king. He was made Bishop of Chester and also rector of Wigan in 1686, and retired to Ireland with the king, dying in Dublin 15 Apr. 1689. His *Essay*, printed by the Camden Society, contains many particulars of local interest.

See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 564-78; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; *Chesh. Arch. Soc. Trans.* (new ser.), iv, 1-33.

⁷¹ He was the son of a tradesman at Hemel Hempstead; educated at Trinity College, Oxford; M.A. and fellow 1656; D.D. 1673; warden of Manchester 1667-84; dean of St. Asaph 1674; noted for his tolerance of Dissenters; Bishop of Chester and rector of Wigan, 1689, being one of the first bishops nominated by William III. He resided at Wigan occasionally, and rebuilt the parsonage house in 1695. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 578-601; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁷² The bishopric of Chester was at this time kept vacant for a year, while the rector of Wigan was filled by the appointment of the Hon. Edward Finch, a son of the first Earl of Nottingham, and a brother of Henry Finch, dean of York and rector of Winwick. He was educated at Christ's College, Cambridge, of which he was a fellow; M.A. 1679. He represented his university in the Parliament of 1690; *Le Neve, Fasti*, iii, 650. The patrons were Sir John Bridgeman, the Bishop of London, Lord Digby, and John and Orlando Bridgeman. The old organ, situated in a gallery in or near the arch between the nave and chancel—'between the two hollow pillars which divide the new and

old chancel,' was the phrase used—had been pulled down in the Commonwealth period, and in its place the mayor and corporation had in 1680 made themselves a pew. This was pulled down in 1709 and a new organ erected, the rector being himself a musician; while the rents from the west end gallery, originally intended for the singers, were appropriated to the organist's salary. Members of the corporation did not take kindly to this ejection from their gallery, and it was probably owing to the ill-feeling and disputes thus engendered that Rector Finch resigned in 1713, apparently before the new organ had been brought into use. He died at York, where he had a canonry, in 1738. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 601-13; *Illus. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 447; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; *Le Neve, Fasti*, iii, 223; i, 48.

⁷³ He was the second son and eventual heir of Thomas Aldersey of Aldersey; was born in 1673, educated at Brasenose College, Oxford; M.A. 1700. He no doubt owed this promotion to his marriage with Henrietta, daughter of Dean Bridgeman of Chester; Ormerod, *Chesh.* (ed. Helsby), ii, 740. He appears to have resided at Wigan. Among the improvements in the church during his incumbency were the recasting of the bells, including 'the little bell called the Catherine bell,' a new clock, 'repairing the curtains at the altar,' a new gallery, &c. At other times (e.g. p. 658) 'a small bell called the Ting-tang' is named. The dispute as to the corporation seat was settled by assigning them the western gallery. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 614-28; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

⁷⁴ He was a son of Sir John Bridgeman; educated at Oriel College, Oxford, of which he became fellow; M.A. 1725; D.D. 1736. He held several benefices, and was appointed vicar of Bolton in 1737. He appears to have resided at Wigan from time to time. He died unmarried in June 1750. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 628-34; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

⁷⁵ Lord Digby was the only surviving trustee.

The new rector was a son of John Cotes of Woodcote in Shropshire, &c.; educated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford; M.A. 1717. He appears to have resided at Wigan until the last years of his life. He died at Woodcote, 11 Dec. 1775. His eldest son John was member for Wigan

from 1782 to 1802. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 635-8; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

⁷⁶ Guy Fairfax, a son of Thomas Fairfax of Newton Kyme, and a cousin of Lady Bridgeman, was educated at Christ Church, Oxford; M.A. 1759. A new church, St. George's, was built in 1781. It appears that the 'prayer bell' was rung twice a day on week days. Mr. Fairfax resided at Wigan during his tenure of the rector, which he resigned for Newton Kyme in 1790. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 638-40; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

⁷⁷ The other patrons were Richard Hopkins and John Heaton. The new rector was a son of Sir Henry Bridgeman, who in 1794 was created Lord Bradford. He was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge; M.A. 1790. He also became rector of Weston under Lizard and of Plumstead. He died 27 Oct. 1832. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 640-59.

⁷⁸ H. J. Gunning was a younger son of Sir George W. Gunning, bart., and a nephew of the patron. He was educated at Balliol College, Oxford; M.A. 1822. On the death of his brother Sir Robert in 1862, he succeeded to the baronetcy. The parish church was restored during his tenure of the rector; and in 1837 he obtained an Act of Parliament enabling the rector of Wigan to grant mining leases for working the coal under the glebe. In 1860 with the consent of the patron he sold the manorial rights to the mayor and corporation. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 659-73; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

⁷⁹ The new rector, a son of the second Earl of Bradford, was collated by the Bishop of Chester, to whom the right had lapsed. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge; M.A. 1845; ordained in 1849, and held various preferments. He was chaplain to Queen Victoria, rural dean of Wigan, hon. canon of Chester, and then of Liverpool. He procured the passing of the Wigan Glebe Act, 1871, enabling him to rebuild the rector, much shaken by coal-mining, and to sell part of the glebe. Canon Bridgeman died in 1896. See his work, already cited, 673-83.

⁸⁰ Son of David Matthew of London; scholar of Wadham College, Oxford; M.A. 1877; vicar of St. Michael and All Angels, Wigan, 1881; hon. canon of Liverpool, 1904.

Priory was still in existence.⁸¹ The *Clergy List* of 1541-2⁸² shows that there were four priests within the parish, apart from rector and cantarist; one of these was the curate, Ralph Scott; two were paid by Robert Langton and Thomas Gerard; the maintenance of the other is not recorded.

In the Visitation List in 1548 is left a blank for the rector's name; then follow eight names, one being that of the chantry priest; but two of the clergy seem to have been absent. In 1554 Master Richard Smith, rector; the curate, and three others appeared, including the former chantry priest. No improvement took place under the episcopate of Bishop Scott, though he had a personal interest in the parish. In 1562 the Bishop of Sodor and Man did not appear, being 'excused by the Bishop of Chester.' Ralph Scott appeared and exhibited his subscription, so that he was prepared to accept the Elizabethan order, as he had accepted all the previous changes; two other names also appear in the list, one of an old priest, the other a fresh name. In 1565 only three names are shown in the list—Bishop Stanley, who 'did not exhibit,' his curate Ralph Scott, and Thomas Baron or Barow, whose name had appeared in each list from 1548, and who perhaps had no ministerial office.⁸³ Thus it appears that by this time the working clergy had been reduced to one, the curate of the parish church.⁸⁴

The short incumbency of William Blackleach, of whom nothing is known, was followed by that of a decided Protestant, Edward Fleetwood. He was one of the two 'preachers' in 1590 at the parish church; there were no preachers at the two chapelries, Uphol-

land and Billinge.⁸⁵ The Puritza rector and his curate in 1592 were reported to 'wear no surplice,' nor did they catechise the youth, and were admonished accordingly; it is also stated that 'they want a chancel.'⁸⁶ In 1610 there was 'a preacher' at the parish church, but none at either of the chapels.⁸⁷

The Commonwealth surveyors of 1650 recommended the subdivision of the parish; Holland Chapel had already been cut off by an Act of 1646, and the committee of Plundered Ministers had made several increments in the stipends of the incumbents of the chapelries out of Bishop Bridgeman's sequestered tithes.⁸⁸ After the Restoration both the rector and a large number of the Protestants remained firm in their attachment to the Presbyterian discipline, while the rectory was till 1706 held by the Bishops of Chester, among them the learned Pearson. Here, as in other parishes, the great increase in population during the 19th century has led to the erection of many new churches and the subdivision of the ancient parish, there being now twenty parochial churches in connexion with the Establishment, besides licensed churches and mission rooms.⁸⁹

There was only one endowed chantry; it was founded in 1338 by Mabel, widow of Sir William de Bradshagh, who endowed it with a message in Wigan and tenements at Haigh.⁹⁰ In 1548 the chantry priest was celebrating at the altar of our Lady in the church according to his foundation.⁹¹

The charities of Wigan⁹² comprise **CHARITIES** a large number of separate benefactions, mostly for the poor in general, but some especially for clothing or apprenticing boys.⁹³

⁸¹ *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), v, 220.

⁸² Printed by the Rec. Soc. of Lancs. and Ches. p. 14.

⁸³ A Thomas Baron, perhaps the same, had been chantry priest in 1534; *Valor Eccl.* v, 220.

⁸⁴ These details are taken from the Visitation Lists preserved in the Diocesan Registry at Chester. A communion table had replaced the altar by 1561; Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 136.

⁸⁵ Gibson, *Lydiat Hall*, 248, quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. cxxxv, 4. The second preacher at the parish church was paid by the lord of Newton, apparently in continuation of the old custom.

⁸⁶ *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), x, 192. Bishop Bridgeman gives a full account of the 'old chancel' as it was in 1620. Rector Fleetwood had removed the 'goodly, fair choir seats' formerly there and allowed 'plain, rude seats' to be placed instead. The communion table stood in the middle of it; the bishop as rector was placed at the west end, his 'wife, &c.,' at the east end, his servants on the south side; the 'minister's box' was on the north side, where also the clerks had a seat. In the old rood-loft the bishop had lately placed an organ; and he built up a 'new chancel' at the east end of the old one. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 163, 264. This new chancel was several steps higher than the old, and contained the altar, 271.

⁸⁷ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 13.

⁸⁸ *Commonwealth Ch. Surv.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 59-64; *Plund. Minn. Accn.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 25, 41; ii, 129.

A list of the modern curates is given by Canon Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 723-9.

⁸⁹ An account of the sale of a pew in

the parish church in 1796 is given in *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Notes*, i, 128.

⁹⁰ Kuerden MSS. ii, fol. 213, no. 16-21; *Cal. Pap.* 1334-8, p. 468. The chaplain was to celebrate at the altar of St. Mary in Wigan Church for the souls of Edward II, Sir William de Bradshagh, Mabel his wife, and others.

Very few names of the chantry priests have been preserved; Raines, *Lancs. Chant.* (Chet. Soc.) i, 66.

1338. John de Sutton, presented by Dame Mabel de Bradshagh. Richard Fletcher.

1488. William Holden, presented by James Bradshagh, on the death of R. Fletcher.

oc. 1521. Geoffrey Coppull, vicar of Mountnessing and chantry priest of our Blessed Lady at Wigan, aged 56, gave evidence in a plea of 1521-2; *Duchy Pleas*, i, 102.

oc. 1534. Thomas Baron.
1535. Vacant.

1544. Hugh Cookson. In 1541 he was paid by Thomas Gerard, and soon afterwards appointed to this chantry. In 1553 he had a pension of 60s. 3d., and was fifty-one years of age. He was not summoned to the visitation of 1562, so that probably he had died before that time.

⁹¹ *Lancs. Chant.* loc. cit. His duty was 'to celebrate for the souls of the founders and to sing mass with note twice a week.' There was no plate, as he used the ornaments of the church. The total rental was 66s. 10d., but 1s. was paid to the rector as chief rent, perhaps for a burgeage in Wigan.

⁹² There was an inquiry at Wigan in the time of Jas. I concerning £100 given in 1616 by Hugh Bullock the elder, citizen and haberdasher of London, for setting the poor of the borough to work 'in spinning of cotton, wool, hemp, flax, and making of fustians, and other stuffs;' it was alleged that the fund was misapplied; and an order was made, 3 Mar. 1624-5, to rectify it; *Harl. MS.* 2176, fol. 326, 34.

⁹³ The particulars hereafter given are taken from the *Char. Com. Rep.* xxi (1829), 271-319. An inquiry into the endowed charities of the parish, except the township of Wigan, was made in 1899.

For Wigan township Hugh Bullock of London, as recorded in the previous note, and Henry Mason, rector of St. Andrew Underhail, London, each gave £100, the latter adding £140 later, which in 1632 and 1635 were conveyed to the corporation; and a farm in Rainford, and lands called Baags in Wigan, and Hall Meadow in Penberton, were purchased. In 1828 these were underlet at rents amounting to £60 a year, of which only part was received by the charity. This was used in binding apprentices. In a feoffment of 1665 lands at Angerton Moss, Broughton in Furness, are described as the gift of Oliver Markland, citizen and innholder of London; this land was sold in 1706, and with the proceeds, £25, a rent-charge of 20s. a year on premises in Standishgate, Wigan, was purchased; but in 1828 no payment had been received for many years, and it was not known upon what premises the charge was made.

John Guest, by will in 1653, charged £3 15s. upon premises in Abram called Bolton House, for cloth to the poor, to be

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Some have been lost.⁸⁴ The most important used to be the Edmund Molyneux bread charity, being the profits of his estate at Canewdon in Essex.⁸⁵

In the following notes the *Report* of the 1899 inquiry has been used; in it is reprinted the *Report* of 1829.

distributed by the minister of the parish church; in 1828 £3 10s. was divided among Wigan and the other townships in the parish.

Robert Sixsmith, by his will dated 1688, gave two closes in Wigan and one in Ince, for the needy people of the town, half the rents being applicable to schools. In 1828 the nominal income was about £30; the usual practice was to give to each poor person in the districts into which the town was divided for distribution, so that from 2d. to 1s. was all that each received. Gilbert Ford, in 1705, left the moiety of a close at Wigan called the Bannycroft; in 1828 the half-rent amounted to £3, which was spent in linen or flannel garments.

In 1707 Ellen Wells left £100 for the poor, and Richard Wells, her husband, £200 for apprenticing boys; Edward Holt in 1704 bequeathed £150 and £75 for oat bread or other sort for a Sunday distribution of bread; these sums and other charitable funds were in 1768 used in building a workhouse, and in 1828 £27 6s. 3d. was paid to the churchwardens out of the poor-rate as interest, which was to be laid out according to the wishes of the donors in linen, apprenticing boys, doles of bread, and school fees. An inquiry respecting the Wells charity is printed in *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 143.

John Baldwin in 1720 left closes called Barker's Croft and Filly Toft, charged with the payment of £100, which had been entrusted to him by Orlando Bridgeman for apprenticing two boys each year; £3 a year was still paid in 1828. William Brown in 1724 augmented a bread charity founded by his uncle George Brown; and £2 a year was paid by the owner of a farm in Poolstock as interest, and laid out in bread.

Ellen Willis, widow, by her will of 1726 left a bond for £100 to her sons Thomas and Daniel Willis, as trustees, and added another £100; Margaret Digges, widow, gave £100 also; and in 1737, Daniel Willis, the surviving son, and William Hulton, conveyed to trustees closes called the Page fields in Frog Lane, Wigan; two-thirds of the interest was to be spent in clothing for poor persons 'frequenting the communion of the Lord's Supper in the parish church of Wigan,' while the other third might be used for apprenticing boys. In 1828 the rental amounted to about £42, which was distributed with the Sixsmith and Guest charities.

Thomas Mort of Damhouse, in 1729 gave money for the Throstle Nests or Baron's fields, near Oldlow Lane, the interest to be spent in binding children as apprentices. The rent in 1828 was £16, but the trustee being in difficulties, a considerable sum was in arrears. John Hardman in 1742 left £200 to found a clothing charity, and £9 10s. a year was available in 1828, being spent on woollen coats and cloaks distributed by the curate of Wigan.

James Molyneux, by his will of 1706, left his lands of inheritance, as also a leasehold messuage in the Wiend, until £100 should accrue from the rents to

found a charity for the poor, or for apprenticing boys. The money was not paid, but in 1757 Richard Barry, son and executor of Lord Barrymore, who had given a bond for the execution of the will, gave Houghton House and another burghage in Wigan to the corporation to fulfil the trust. The lands were leased for 1000 years, bringing in total rents of £11 5s.; but the buildings upon them, including the Woolpack Inn, were worth over £100 a year in 1828. Philippa Pennington in 1758 gave £200 to found two charities, one for the poor generally, the other for apprenticing boys in Scandinigate; this seems to have been intact in 1828.

In 1899 the following changes were reported in some of the charities named.

John Guest's Charity:—The rent-charge on Bolton House has been redeemed, and £140 consols produces the income required for the charity.

Holt's Charity:—The workhouse having been sold £302 was invested in consols as the share of this charity. The income was practically unused, and has recently been applied to found exhibitions for poor boys in the grammar school.

⁸⁴ John Bullock left a rent-charge of £5 a year on premises in St. Dunstan's in the East, and St. Botolph's to the corporation of Wigan for the poor; but in 1828 no information could be obtained. Ralph Sale in 1722 bequeathed to his wife Hannah a burghage in Wigan, on which, after paying 20s. as lord's rent and four groats as chief rent to the rector, he charged 10s. a year for the poor. His widow gave £15, the messuage being chargeable. In 1828 the Charity Commissioners could not find which the premises were; only one house in Wallgate paid four groats to the rector, and the owner, Sir R. H. Leigh, was not aware of any charge of that kind upon it. John Baldwin, brother of Thomas Baldwin, rector of Liverpool, by his will of 1726, charged his house with £3 a year for the apprenticing of a child; but no information as to the premises or the charity was forthcoming in 1828. Robert Furth in 1761 left a charge of 20s. for the purchase of religious books for the poor; up to December, 1816 this sum had been yearly paid to a Wigan bookseller for the purpose named, but in 1828 nothing could be ascertained as to who was liable. Anne Lyon in 1803 left £40 for the poor; but the acting executor died insolvent, and the money was lost.

⁸⁵ Edmund Molyneux was a citizen of London, whose will was dated 8 October 1613; sixty poor people at Wigan and thirty at Upholland were to have each a penny loaf every Sunday. In 1828 it was producing £55 a year, and the interest was distributed in bread.

A new scheme was approved in 1889, by which the net income is applied for the benefit of schools at Wigan and Upholland. Owing to agricultural depression the net income has fallen very much, being at best only £9 a year.

⁸⁶ Abigail Crook gave £12, Thomas Ince £40, and others various sums, so that £95 was laid out in lands, on which a

Abram has certain lands, the rents of which are devoted to charitable uses, and some minor benefactions.⁸⁶ Pemberton also had some small charities.⁸⁷ At Ince, linen, oatmeal, and gifts of money were provided,⁸⁸ but part of the fund is lost; while at Aspall of the two charities one survives.⁸⁹ At

schoolhouse and cottages had been erected, producing £18 a year in 1825, laid out in linen and blankets. The trustees of Thomas Crook distributed £1 a year from his foundation in accordance with their father's will; and 6s. 6d. was received for woollen cloth as the interest of £10 left by William Newton in 1724.

Elizabeth Bevan of Lowton, widow, left £700 in 1833 for a church and school in Abram, and the Rev. Nicholas Robinson in 1839 left £20 for the Sunday school. Frances Elizabeth Chadwick in 1878 bequeathed £200 for the benefit of the poor.

Dissatisfaction existing as to the administration of the older charities a scheme was prepared in 1877, and a new one was made in 1897, under which the charities are administered by the same body of trustees, who have greater liberty in the application of the income, which now amounts to £114 a year.

⁸⁷ Thomas Molyneux gave £20 and James Rainford £10 for the benefit of the poor; the money was devoted to building the school, and 30s. a year was in 1828 paid out of the rates and given to the poor in sums of 6d. to each, a 'useless mode of distribution.' Similarly £55, arising from £100 given by James Kitts, was distributed in sums of 1s. each. William Worthington's gift of £10 had been lost. Molyneux's and Rainford's benefactions have since 1829 been lost, and Kitts' is applied improperly—to the benefit of the schools.

The Rev. Joshua Paley in 1849 left £1,000 for the endowment of the church, but the greater part was lost in 1886 by the bankruptcy of a solicitor; £200 remains, the interest of which is applied to the schools, and a ground rent of £9 15s. 2d. applied to the choir. Pemberton also shares in the Algernon Egerton Memorial Fund.

⁸⁸ John Walmesley, by his will of 1726, gave £100 to his son John and others to purchase a rent-charge or estate, the income to be spent on linen for the poor. Edward Richardson directed that for fifty years after his death five loads of oatmeal should be given to the poor, and this was still in operation in 1828. Mary Collier in 1684 left £20, for which it was conjectured 20s. a year had been given by a Mrs. Anderson, though this her son regarded as a voluntary gift. Peter Whittle in 1727 bequeathed 40s. out of his messuage in Ince; £2 10s. had for long been received out of a close called Fillyhey, but for some years before 1828 Mr. Leigh's agent had refused to pay.

In 1899 it was found that the Walmesley charity had been in existence as late as 1863. For the Whittle charity £2 is still paid by Lord Newton out of Rothwell's or the manor-house estate, and is distributed by the overseers to the poor.

⁸⁹ Houghton's charity was a charge of £5 upon an estate called Kirk Lees; it was in 1828 given in doles of 1s. each. James Hodgkinson's benefaction produced 10s. a year, given in money or calico.

In 1899 the rent-charge of £5 out of Kirk Lees was still paid and distributed to the poor; the £10 belonging to Heikinson's charity had disappeared since 1863.

Haigh Dame Dorothy Bradshagh about 1775 erected a building called the Receptacle, being an almshouse for twenty poor persons; ¹⁰³ there were also a poor's stock and some minor charities, most of which have been lost. ¹⁰⁴ Hindley has linen or flannel charities and one or two others. ¹⁰⁵

For the Billinge townships the principal foundation is that of John Eddleston, who in 1672 bequeathed his house and lands here for charitable

uses; ¹⁰⁶ there were several other benefactions. ¹⁰⁴ At Winstanley are two charities founded by James and William Bankes, with incomes of about £20 and £17, used to provide cloth and blankets. ¹⁰⁵ In Orrell, out of a number of gifts, about £6 a year is still distributed in doles of calico. ¹⁰⁶ Pimbo Lane House and other tenements in Upholland were given by Henry Bispham in 1720 and 1728 for the benefit of that and neighbouring townships; ¹⁰⁷ there are

¹⁰⁰ The Receptacle in 1828 contained ten dwellings, each having a sitting-room and pantry below and a chamber above, with a little garden attached. The townships of Haigh, Wigan, Aspull, and Blackrod were to benefit. The donor's charitable bequest of £3,000 was void by the Statutes of Mortmain, but the Earl and Countess of Balcarres decided to give effect to her charitable designs. The income in 1828 was about £210, of which £80 was given to the almshouse, £10 to the chaplain, and £12 on an average to the apothecary.

In 1899 the annual income was found to be £139. Some of the rules—as that against the use of Bohea or green teas—are now inapplicable; but preference is still given to Haigh people who have worked in the mines; applicants must be over fifty, and adherents of the Established Church.

¹⁰¹ Ellen Kindsley charged an estate in Whittington Lane with £1 a year, which was usually distributed with other charities. Ralph Greaves in 1696 gave £20 for apprenticing children or for the poor; James Monk £20 in 1723 for cloth or apprenticing; William Higham in 1729 a similar sum for linen or woollen; and Sir Roger and Lady Bradshagh in 1767 each gave £20 to augment the fund; it appears to have been lost before 1828 by the practical bankruptcy of the person to whom it had been lent. A poor's stock of £68 5s. existed in 1744, but no information could be obtained in 1828. James Grimshaw in 1822 left £40 for the poor.

For Kindsley's charity in 1899 the rent-charge of £1 on Hilton Farm was found to be paid by the Wigan Coal and Iron Company; the money is distributed in doles of flannel. All the other charities have been lost.

¹⁰² Frances Dukinfield in 1662 left four closes in Moberley for the minister of Hindley Chapel, 'So as he should be elected or approved by the trustees for the time being, by any two or more godly ministers, and by the greater number of the householders and masters of families in Hindley,' and for other charitable purposes; in 1828 £4 was given for the poor of Hindley and Abram from this source, being £2 8s. for the former and £1 12s. for the latter, and laid out in linen cloth. Randle and Mary Collier also left £50 for linen cloth and a further £10; and Edward Green and Robert Cooper £30 for the poor; all was in practice used for gifts of linen.

In 1899 it was found that £7 10s. was paid out of land at Moberley in respect of the Dukinfield charity; under a scheme sanctioned in 1890 £2 10s. was paid to the vicar of All Saints', Hindley, £1 to the grammar school, £1 12s. to the trustees of the Abram United Charities, leaving £2 8s. for distribution in Hindley. The other charities have a capital of £151 consols, the interest being spent on flannel, which is distributed on New Year's Day.

Richard Mather in 1852 conveyed certain lands to trustees for the use of a school and for bread for the poor; but the school has been given up, and a new scheme was in 1899 being prepared. Thomas Winnard in 1860 left £40 for the benefit of the poor attending St. Peter's, Hindley. The public park and the library are also noticed.

¹⁰⁸ The estate consisted of a house and about 14 acres of land, part of the Blackleyherst estate, on which was a quarry called Grindstone Delph; it was subject to a fee-farm rent of 20s. to John Blackburn and his heirs (to Sir William Gerard in 1828 by purchase). The use was for the maintenance of 'a pious and orthodox minister' for Billinge chapel, for the school, and the relief of the poor. In practice the house and land were occupied by the incumbent of the chapel, and the profits of the quarry, let for £50 a year in 1828, to the schools and the poor of the two townships of Billinge. The gross income in 1899 was £98, out of which £1 ground rent was paid to Lord Gerard. The beacon on the hill stands on this property. As the quarry is becoming exhausted the trustees have ceased to distribute the income from it, but £10 a year has been given to the poor.

¹⁰⁴ William Bankes in 1775 left £20 to each of the Billings, and in 1828 18s. was paid yearly out of the estate of Meyrick Bankes. For Chapel End from the same estate was paid £2 12s. a year for bread for the poor, which was distributed every other Sunday; in 1786 there was a poor's stock of £23 5s., the accumulation of numerous small gifts, producing in 1828 23s. 4d. from the overseer's accounts and expended in linen and woollen cloth; £57 resulting from the sale of William Birchall's estates, and supposed to have arisen from a gift of £40 by — Okill, was in 1799 used to purchase a cottage, the rent of which was also spent in linen for the poor. The cottage in 1899 produced a net income of £4 3s. 6d., distributed by the vicar in money and clothing; and 18s. was paid to the overseers by Mrs. Bankes of Winstanley, and distributed in doles of calico or flannel. Nothing is now known of the other ancient funds. Elizabeth Comber in 1896 left £100 for the provision of coals and food for the poor at Christmas.

For Higher End the Dignior estate in Upholland in 1828 produced £10 a year, which was added to other charities and spent in linen and cloth. The net income is now £13 10s.; this is added to the township's share of the Eddleston and other charities, and distributed in doles of calico.

¹⁰⁵ The Rev. James Bankes, rector of Bury, in 1742 gave £40 for linen cloth for the poor; William Bankes in 1775 gave £50; Robert Bankes in 1747, £100; Frances Bankes in 1764, £50; Catherine Bankes in 1766, £20; and there were smaller sums, the total being £402 10s., yielding in 1828 £19 11s.,

which was laid out in linen for the poor. William Bankes in 1798 left £400 for blankets; this yielded about £19 in 1828, and was spent according to the benefactor's wishes. On account of the former set of charities £19 8s. 6d. is now paid by Mrs. Bankes at Winstanley; the overseers distribute it in cloth. William Bankes' benefaction is represented by £600 consols, and the income is distributed in blankets, and 'it is supposed that every cottager in the township received a blanket every alternate year.'

¹⁰⁶ Jane Leigh in 1707 gave £10 to the poor, William Naylor £8, and Peter Parr £4; Anne Sandford in 1746 gave £25; in 1828 the agent or trustee of Sir Robert Holt Leigh and Meyrick Bankes paid £1 and £1 7s. as interest on these sums. Out of the poor rates 5s. was paid as 'Widow Naylor's Charity.' One Holt in 1723 left land called Crossbrook, which brought in a rent of £2 10s. These sums were all placed together and distributed on St. Thomas's Day to poor persons in sums of 1s. or 1s. 6d. James Thomason in 1786 left £200, of which £100 had been lost; the £5 interest on the other half was distributed to the poor on 25 July.

In 1899 it was found that £1 is paid yearly by Mr. Roger Leigh, and £1 7s. by Mrs. Bankes, on account of the Leigh, Naylor, and Parr, and Sandford gifts; Thomason's charity has an income of £3 17s. 4d. The whole sum is given in doles of calico. Holt's charity has failed; the land called Crossbrook was owned by the late Colonel Rhindell.

¹⁰⁷ In 1720 he surrendered a messuage and tenement with right of turbary on Upholland Moss, and land called Moss Close, to trustees for the townships of Upholland, Orrell, Billinge, and Pemberton, also Rainford and Windle, the yearly profits to be spent in apprenticing children; it was let for £70 a year in 1828. Part of the income was used for repairs and legal expenses, and the rest divided among the townships named and used as intended. In 1728 by his will he gave Pimbo Lane House and another tenement called Sefton's Estate to provide woollen garments and oat bread for the poor of Pemberton, Orrell, Upholland, Billinge, Winstanley, Windle, and Eccleston. The gross income in 1828 was £117 10s. a year, but owing to heavy expenses in buildings only about £50 was used for the charity, of which £20 was spent on woollen cloth and £30 on oatmeal loaves.

The income of the charity has greatly increased, owing to the development of coal mines on the lands, and now amounts to about £250, the estate consisting of lands and £2,120 consols, chiefly the products of mining leases. The charity is supposed to be regulated by a scheme giving larger powers, authorized in 1891; but no practical change has been made in the distribution of the income, the three-fold system of apprenticing, clothing, and bread doles being continued.

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here also other charities of considerable value, though several gifts have been lost.¹⁰⁸ Dalton has nothing for itself.¹⁰⁹

WIGAN

Wigan, 1199; Wygayn, 1240; Wygan, common. Pronounced Wiggin (g hard).

The River Douglas, in its unrestricted days, flowed down from the north and turned to the west round the hill upon which Wigan Church stands, thence running north-westward and northward to the Ribble. The township of Wigan consists of the triangular area inclosed by the river and a line drawn across in a north-easterly direction from one part of the river's course to the other; in addition there are the district called Scholes on the eastern side, inclosed between the Douglas and a brook once called the Lorington, and now the Clarrington,¹ which formerly joined it near the southernmost point of its course; and a small area to the south of the river. It is curious that Wigan is cut off by the river from the rest of the parish and hundred, and has on the north no marked physical separation from Standish, in a different parish and hundred. The area is 2,188 acres, including 47 of inland water. The population in 1901 numbered 60,764.

The church stands on the crest of the hill, which slopes away rapidly to the south and more gently to the north. To the north-west is the hall or rectory, with Hallgate leading to it, and beyond this again the Mesnes—part of it now a public park—or rectory demesne lands. Further away in the same direction lie the districts known as Gidlow and Brimelow,² the latter on the Standish boundary; while to the west is Woodhouses, near the river.

On the eastern side of the church is a street representing the ancient Roman road to the north, opening out just at that point into the irregular area in which the market was formerly held, and from which Market Street goes off to the north-west. As the main road goes northward it is called in succession Standishgate and Wigan Lane, with Mab's Cross as dividing mark, and has Swinley and Whitley on the

west and Coppull on the east. The ground once again rises as the northern limit is neared, attaining about 250 ft.

The same road, descending south from the church and turning to the west through the more level ground running nearly parallel to the Douglas, is there called Wallgate. The border district to the south of Wallgate is called Poolstock.

Another road, called Millgate, begins at the old Market-place, and proceeding south-east, crosses the Douglas by a bridge,³ near which was formerly the principal corn-mill of the town, and then goes north-east through the Scholes and Whelley. There is an easterly branch called Hardy Butts, starting near the river and proceeding through Hindley towards Manchester, probably on the line of another ancient Roman road.

Around the church and along the main roads mentioned the town of Wigan grew up. As the head of a great coal-mining district, the Douglas navigation scheme of 1720,⁴ and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, opened in 1774, have been of great service; the Lancaster Canal followed in 1794, and a branch to Leigh connected the town with the Worsley Canal. The railway companies have also contributed to the progress of the place; the London & North Western Company's main line from London to Scotland passes through the place,⁵ having a station in Wallgate, to the south of the church. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's Liverpool and Bury line, opened in 1848, has a station (1860) in Wallgate, near to the church; the company's Wigan and Southport branch (1855) turns off here. More recently the Great Central Railway has found access to the town, having a station near Millgate, opened in 1892.

Wigan is identified with the *Coccium* of the Antonine Itinerary; it stands at the point where the Roman road, north and south, was joined by another important road from Manchester. Its position on a hilltop, surrounded on two sides of its triangular area by a rapid stream, suggests that it had been a British fort. Various Roman remains have been found.⁶

The town continued to grow and prosper throughout the mediæval period, and Ieland thus describes

¹⁰⁸ Henry Prescott in 1638 gave £20 for poor householders; Richard Walthew in 1643 gave £130; James Fairclough, £250, and others smaller sums; the 1829 information concerning the total sum of £446 13s. 4d. was that in 1771 £376 had been placed out on private security. James Fairclough also gave £100 to establish a bread charity, and in 1828 £5 a year was received from the rents of the Moss estate, and added to the share of Edmund Molyneux's bequest. Thomas Barton in 1674 gave to the poor of Upholland £3 6s. 8d. charged on an estate there, and paid in 1828; Thomas Mawdesley, by his will of 1728, devised his copyhold lands—the Little, Rushy, and Meadow Baryards—to the use of the poor as an addition to 'Barton's dole'; in 1828 £17 10s. was received, and, with the preceding gift, divided among the poor in sums of 2s. or 2s. 6d. The Rev. Thomas Holme in 1803 left £100 for a gift of blankets; it was in operation in 1828.

Of the above the Fairclough charity has benefited by the working of mines, and now has an income of £40 from the Moss estate and £124 from consols arising

from the investment of mining rents; the money has been distributed indiscriminately in doles of bread and flannel, &c. The rent-charge of £3 6s. 8d. on Barton House Farm is still paid, and distributed with Mawdesley's charity, the total varying from £16 to £23 a year; tickets worth 2s. 6d. each are given to the selected applicants. The Holme bequest produces £4 16s. a year, expended on blankets for the poor.

¹⁰⁹ It shared in the charities of Peter Latham (Croston), and Edmund Molyneux and John Gaunt (Wigan). Thomas Ashhurst was supposed to have made a rent-charge of 25s. to the poor, paid in 1786 by the owner of Ashhurst Hall; but in 1828 nothing could be ascertained. The share of the Latham charity coming to Dalton is now £68, and is distributed in doles of clothing, valued at from 20s. to £1, and rarely in money gifts.

¹ Ridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* (Chet. Soc. new ser.), 239. Bottling Wood was in the northern part of Scholes.

² Between these and Wigan town the Birley Brook flowed south to the Douglas.

³ This is supposed to have been the first bridge constructed over the Douglas.

In 1348 Henry Banastre of Walton granted to John son of Oliver (? Amory) the Walker, a strip of land stretching from the Millgate and the Stanrygate to the Douglas; also land called the Mill Meadow, with a cottage adjoining Schole Bridge; Towneley MS. 60, no. 2221. In 1477 John Cross of Liverpool confirmed to John Burgess of Wigan a parcel of land near Schole Bridge, between Scholes and the lane leading to Incc; *ibid.* no. 2335.

'Atam' Bridge, between Wigan and Pemberton, was the subject of a dispute in 1334; *Coram Rege R.* 297, m. 11 Rex. Each township should keep in repair its own half of the bridge, which had, however, become so broken that there was no longer any crossing.

⁴ This scheme was formed as early as 1711 (*Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 450); the Act was passed in 1720 (9 Geo. 1, cap. 28). It was purchased by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in 1783.

⁵ As the Preston and Parkside (Newton) Railway this portion of the system was opened in 1838.

⁶ Watkin, *Roman Lancs.* 199; *Pal. Note Bk.* iv, 133.

its appearance about 1536: 'Wigan paved; as big as Warrington and better builded. There is one parish church amid the town. Some merchants, some artificers, some farmers.'⁷

Apart from its internal growth, the history of Wigan is interesting on account of the part taken in the Civil War. The townspeople were Royalist,⁸ and the Earl of Derby appeared to make it his head quarters, its central position rendering it very fit for the purpose. He placed a garrison there,⁹ but on 1 April 1643, the town was captured by the Parliamentary forces under Colonel Holland, after only two hours' resistance. Many prisoners were taken, and the soldiers were allowed to plunder and carry away what they could.¹⁰ The Earl of Derby, who was 12 miles away, marched to its relief, but hearing that the town had surrendered, and that the Parliamentary forces had retired after breaking down some of the defensive works, he desisted and went to Lathom.¹¹ A second assault and capture took place three weeks later.¹² In 1648 Duke Hamilton's forces occupied Wigan after their defeat by Cromwell near Preston, but after plundering the people 'almost to their skins,' retired to Warrington, pursued by Cromwell.¹³ A pestilence followed.¹⁴

When, in August 1651, the Earl of Derby was raising a force for Charles II, he again tried to secure Wigan. On 26 August a hot fight took place in Wigan Lane between his forces and those of Colonel Lilburne. At first the former were victorious, but a reserve of horse coming to Lilburne's assistance, put the Royalists to flight. Lord Derby took refuge in Wigan for a brief time, and after his wounds had been dressed, he went south to join Charles at Worcester. Sir Thomas Tyldesley and other notable Royalists were killed in the battle.¹⁵

The Restoration and Revolution do not appear to have affected Wigan much.¹⁶ Some of those condemned for participation in the rising of 1715 were executed here.¹⁷ The Young Pretender with his

Highland army passed through the town on 28 November 1745, on his way to Manchester, and again on 10-11 December on his retreat northward. The inhabitants were not molested, but no recruits joined the force.¹⁸

At present the whole of the district is thickly populated, the industrial town of Wigan occupying the greater part of the township, whilst its collieries, factories, &c., fill the atmosphere with smoke. There is, however, a fringe of open country beyond the town itself, on the north, and here are arable and pasture lands, the crops raised being chiefly potatoes and oats. The soil is clayey and sandy. The woodlands of Haigh in the adjoining township make an agreeable background. The Douglas, turning many a factory wheel on its way, winds erratically across the district. The south-westerly part of the township lies very low, and is almost always flooded, the result of frequent subsidences of the ground.

The worthies of the town include Ralph Brooke or Brooksmouth, York Herald in the time of Elizabeth;¹⁹ Henry Mason, divine and benefactor, 1573 to 1647;²⁰ John Leland, nonconformist divine and apologist for Christianity, who died 1766;²¹ Anthony Wilson, *alias* Henry Bromley, publisher of catalogues of *Engraved British Portraits*, 1793;²² John Fairclough, a minor Jesuit writer, 1787 to 1832;²³ John Roby, author of the romances entitled *Traditions of Lancashire*, 1795 to 1850;²⁴ John Howard Marsden, antiquary, 1803 to 1891;²⁵ John C. Prince, minor poet, 1808 to 1866;²⁶ and John Fitchett Marsh, antiquary, 1818 to 1880.²⁷

A number of tokens were issued by local tradesmen in the 17th century.²⁸

The printing press is said to have been introduced into Wigan about 1760; books dated in 1780 and later years are known.²⁹ There are three newspapers, two published three times a week and the other weekly.³⁰

⁷ *Ibid.*, vii, 47.

⁸ 'Wigan was better manned with soldiers than Preston, it being the neat garrison to the earl's house and the most malignant town in all the county; for there were (for anything that was heard) not many in it that favoured the Parliament;' *Lancs. War* (Chet. Soc.), 16. Wigan, however, had joined in the Proclamation of 1642; *Pal. Note Bk.* i, 81.

⁹ The Wigan garrison, 'full of desperate cavaliers,' had made several assaults upon Bolton; *Lancs. War*, 32; *Civil War Tracts* (Chet. Soc.), 63, 81-3.

¹⁰ *Lancs. War*, 36; also *Stanley Papers*, (Chet. Soc.), iii, p. lxxxvi, where a facsimile of the Countess of Derby's letter, announcing its fall, is given. See also *Civil War Tracts*, 93, 225-7.

¹¹ *Lancs. War*, loc. cit.

¹² *Civil War Tracts*, 98.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 263; 'a great and poor town, and very malignant,' is Cromwell's description of the place; see Carlyle, *Cromwell Let.* i, 286, &c., for the details.

¹⁴ *Civil War Tracts*, 278; there were 'two thousand poor, who for three months and upwards had been restrained, no relief to be had for them in the ordinary course of law, there being none at present (April 1649) to act as justices of the peace.' The Wigan registers contain many entries referring to the deaths from plague, the last burial being on 23 July 1649.

A petition by the mayor and others in

1660, addressed to Charles II, states that the people of the town had garrisoned it at their own charge for the king; that it had been seven times plundered, burdened with free quarters, &c., by the Parliament army; and that many estates had been sequestered; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1660-1, p. 129.

¹⁵ *Stanley Papers* (Chet. Soc.), clxxxix-ix. For the monument to Sir T. Tyldesley near the spot where he fell, see cccxxiii; *Lancs. and Chet. Hist. and General Notes*, iii, 62.

A graphic account of the battle is given in *Lancs. War*, 74-6.

¹⁶ Ogilby, writing about 1670, called it 'a well-built town, governed by a mayor, recorder and twelve aldermen, &c., and electing Parliament men.' It had two markets, on Monday and Friday, but the former was discontinued, and three fairs. It was noted for its pit coal, ironworks, and other manufactures. A somewhat later description, by Dr. Kuerden, giving many details, may be read in *Local Glean. Lancs. and Chet.* i, 209, 211, 212, 214.

Bishop Cartwright procured an address to James II from the mayor and corporation in 1687; Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 570. Their action was not popular; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 189.

Several persons went to Chester in 1687 to be touched by the king for the evil; their names are given in *Trans. Hist. Soc.* i, 26.

¹⁷ See *Lancs. and Chet. Antiq. Soc.* iii,

70. James B'undell, James Finch, John Macmillan, William Whalley, and James Burn, who had been tried and sentenced at Preston, were executed at Wigan 10 Feb. 1716; see *Pal. Note Bk.* iv, 93.

¹⁸ The town was then famous for its manufactures of coverlets, rugs, blankets, and other sorts of bedding, brass, copper, &c., as well as for the adjacent Cannel coal mines; Ray, *Hist. of Rebellion*, 154.

There is a brief notice of the place as it appeared in 1791 in *Pal. Note Bk.* ii, 275, and a description written in 1825 in Baines, *Lancs. Dir.* ii, 610.

¹⁹ *Pal. Note Bk.* iii, 33.

²⁰ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* ²¹ *Ibid.* ²² *Ibid.*

²³ Gillow, *Bibl. Diet. of Engl. Cath.* ii, 218.

²⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* For a note on the Rev. James Clayton of Wigan, the inventor of gas, see *Local Glean. Lancs. and Chet.* i, 140, 248.

²⁵ *Dict. Nat. Biog.* ²⁶ *Ibid.* ²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Lancs. and Chet. Antiq. Soc.* v, 93, 94.

²⁹ See *Local Glean. Lancs. and Chet.* i, ii. The 1780 book was a translation of Gessner's *Death of Abel*, printed by R. Ferguson, ii, 57. The 'Local Catalogue' issued from the Wigan Free Library gives a list of nineteen books printed at Wigan between 1780 and 1796. At the end is a list of printers.

³⁰ The offices of the *Examiner* were formerly the Public Hall or Mechanics' Institute.

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Coal-mining is the characteristic trade of the place, but there are large cotton mills also; ginghams, &c., are made. Forges, iron and brass foundries, wagon, screw and nail, oil and grease works, and breweries are also in operation. The ancient walk-mills show that cloth was made here from early times. A goldsmith was killed at Wigan in 1341.⁸¹ The potters' right to dig clay on the wastes was vindicated in 1619.⁸² 'Digging and delving mines for coals' was common in 1593.⁸³ Bell-founding is a lost trade; it was formerly in the hands of the Scott and Ashton families.⁸⁴

In 1624 Bishop Bridgeman notified his objection to the 'barbarous and beastly game of bear baiting' at the wakes; but on the mayor's request he allowed the baiting to take place on the market hill after the market was over and the people had packed up their wares.⁸⁵

An old Wigan nursery rhyme is printed in *Harland and Wilkinson's Legends*.⁸⁶

The stocks were formerly near the main entrance to the churchyard from Wallgate. There was a cross in the market place, where proclamations were made, and the base of Mab's Cross, already mentioned, is in Standishgate.^{86a}

There was formerly a spa in Scholes.^{86b}

The curfew bell, anciently rung at eight o'clock, was in 1881 rung at half-past ten.⁸⁷

A body of volunteers, called the Wigan Rifles, was raised in 1804.⁸⁸ The present volunteer force consists of five companies of the 6th battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

In Domesday Book *WIGAN* is not *MANOR* named; it was only 'the church of the manor' of Newton,⁸⁹ and a century later it is the church that brings it forward once more, a resident vicar being appointed.⁹⁰ The rectors were thus from before the Conquest until recently lords of the manor of Wigan under the lords of Newton, and the rectory was the hall. From the account of them already given it will be seen that a large number were non-resident, and exercised their authority by deputies.

Among the rights which gave most trouble to the rectors were those over the mills. Rector Fleetwood in the first year of his incumbency (1571) had insti-

tuted a suit against Hugh, Gilbert, and James Langshaw to recover seisin of two ancient water-mills, described as walk mills.⁹¹ The dispute went on for many years.⁹² Bishop Bridgeman, thirty years later, complained that William Langshaw was endeavouring to deprive the rector of his ownership of the mill.⁹³ The mills were situated at Coppull and a little lower down the river by the school; in 1627 they paid a rent of £4 a year to the rector.⁹⁴

The corn mills, of which in the year just named there were five, also caused trouble. The principal was that on the Douglas in Millgate, of which Miles Leatherbarrow was the tenant in 1617.⁹⁵ In Rector Fleetwood's time a new water corn-mill was erected by Miles Gerard of Ince upon Lorington or Clarington Brook, the boundary of the manors of Wigan and Ince, and the water-course was diverted to feed it. The rectors complained of the injustice done to them, but Dr. Bridgeman allowed the mill to stand on condition that 20s. a year should be paid for tithes.⁹⁶

In his first year Dr. Bridgeman received £16 13s. 2d. as manor rents,⁹⁷ and 10s. each for seven mortuaries.⁹⁸

It is an indication that there was a *BOROUGH* strong community existing around the church to find one of the absentee rectors, the busy official John Maunsel, procuring from the king a charter creating a borough. This was granted on 26 August 1246 to John Maunsel; the town of Wigan was to be a borough and a free borough for ever; the burgesses should have a gild merchant, with a hanse and all the liberties and free customs pertaining to such a gild; and no one but a member of the gild should do any business in the borough except by consent of the burgesses. Further, to the burgesses and their heirs the king conceded that they should have soke, sac, toll, team, and attachment within the borough, infangenthef, utfangenthef; that they should throughout the country and sea ports be free of toll, lastage, pontage, passage, and stallage; that they should do no suit to county or wapentake for tenements within the borough; also that traders, even foreigners, provided they entered England peaceably and with the king's leave, should be allowed to pass in safety to and from the borough with their merchandise upon paying the usual dues.⁹⁹

⁸¹ Assize R. 437, m. 12 d.

⁸² Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* 222.

⁸³ *Ibid.* 161; see also 242.

⁸⁴ *The Industries of Wigan*, by H. T. Fouldard, R. Betley, and C. M. Percy, published in 1889, gives an account of the development of coal-mining and other trades.

⁸⁵ J. P. Earwaker, *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), vi, 170; *N. and Q.* (Ser. 10), 7, 257. The will of John Scott was proved in 1648, and that of Jeffrey Scott in 1669. William Scott occurs 1670-1700; R. Ashton 1703-17, and Luke Ashton 1723-50.

⁸⁶ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 286.

^{86a} *Op. cit.* 182.

^{86b} *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Soc.* xix, 228, 232.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.* 234; quoting from *England Described*, 1788. It had been ruined by 1824; Baines, *Lancs. Dir.* ii, 612.

⁸⁸ *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, ii, 33.

⁸⁹ *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 182, 217. The Earl of Balcarres was colonel; there were eight companies, and 452 men.

⁹⁰ *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286.

⁹¹ *Farret, Lancs. Pipe R.* 436. See also *Engl. Hist. Rev.* v, 395.

⁹² Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 143. In 1316 Edmund de Standish granted to Aymory the Foller land adjoining a narrow lane leading towards the Coppdhill mill; Crosse D. (*Trans. Hist. Soc.*), n. 27.

⁹³ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 144-6.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.* 225. The defendant relied upon the charter of John Maunsel; he was a burgess of Wigan, and had by descent from his ancestors divers burgages in the said borough; and those ancestors had enjoyed his share in the mills as parcel of their own inheritance, paying the accustomed rent for the same. The rector's right to the mills, as part of his glebe, was affirmed by a decree of June 1618; *ibid.* 227, 229.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.* 309.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.* 220, 231. Miles seems to have claimed ownership. He died early in 1628, and his widow Alice begged that either she or her son Orlando might be admitted as tenant. The bishop told her to take comfort, as he had never dealt unkindly with his tenants; but as his

right to this mill had been questioned he had determined to take it into his own hands for a time that there might be no possibility of dispute in future. On receiving this answer the widow refused to give up possession, and Lord and Lady Strange took up her cause. The bishop promised them that the widow should have the mill after a while; but as she still remained obstinate, the matter came before the quarter sessions. It was not till the end of March 1630 that she finally submitted, gave up the key, and allowed the bishop to take possession. He retained it for three weeks, and then admitted her as tenant; *ibid.* 320-8.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.* 240, 241. Two horse-mills were allowed to stand, rent being paid to the lord; *ibid.* 240, 243.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.* 189.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.* 192.

⁹⁹ This charter is known by its recital in that of Edw. II; see Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 9, 32. The charters are printed in Sinclair's *Hist. of Wigan*. See *Chart. R.* 7 Edw. II, m. 4, 3; 24 Edw. III, 145, m. 2, 4; m. 3, 7. The charter of 1314 is still preserved at Wigan.

The rector's concomitant charter grants that the burgesses of Wigan and their heirs and assigns should have their free town, with all rights, customs, and liberties as stated in the king's charter; that each burgess should have to his burgage 5 roods of land; that they should grind at the rector's mill to the twentieth measure without payment, should have from his wood sufficient for building and burning, quittance of pannage and other easements; and that they should have their pleas in portmote once in three weeks, with verdict of twelve men and amercements by the same; paying annually to the rector 12d. a year for each burgage for all services. Robert Banastre, lord of Makerfield and patron of the church, added his confirmation; as did also Roger, Bishop of Lichfield.⁵⁰

The burgesses,⁵¹ regarded as equals, thus became the free tenants of the rector, as lord of the manor, with the usual liberties, and the special privilege of a portmote. The royal charter looks on the place as a trading centre and gives internal and external privileges accordingly; these last, which the rector could not give, were doubtless the reason for invoking the king's help. A later charter, 1257-8, granted that the rectors should have a market at their borough of Wigan on Monday in every week, and two fairs there of three days each, viz., on the vigil, day and morrow of the Ascension and of All Saints.⁵²

In 1292 Adam de Walton, then rector, was called upon to show by what warrant he claimed certain liberties; it was asserted that Master Adam and his bailiffs had exceeded the terms of the charters by trying persons accused of felonies beyond their jurisdiction, when those persons had placed themselves on a jury of their country. In reply to particular charges the community of the vill appeared by twelve men of the vill. As to the court and liberty of the vill they said that these belonged to the rector, and they were suitors there. The jury decided that soke and sac and other liberties had been granted to the burgesses, who did not claim them, and not to the rector, who did; let them therefore be taken into the king's hands. As to the taking of emends of the assize of bread and beer on the market and fair days the rector's claim was allowed; but as he had punished some frequent transgressors at his discretion and not judicially, he was at the king's mercy.⁵³ The

liberties claimed by the rectors were afterwards restored, on the application of the guardian of Robert Banastre's heiress.⁵⁴

The commonalty of Wigan were sued for a debt in 1304.⁵⁵

In 1314 Robert de Clitheroe obtained from the king a confirmation of the charter of 1246.⁵⁶

About 1328 the rector complained that the burgesses, his tenants, every day held a market among themselves, and with strangers, in divers goods, although these be ill-gotten or stolen; taking toll for such merchandise and appropriating it to themselves. They also made assay of bread and tasting of beer every day except Monday, taking amercements and profits by force and power; all to the prejudice of the rector's market.⁵⁷ Possibly it was on this account that the charter was confirmed in 1329.⁵⁸

A further confirmation was granted in 1350;⁵⁹ with a special indemnity to the rector and the burgesses for any abuse or non-claim of the liberties and acquittances of former charters. The king also granted a view of frankpledge, freedom from the sheriff's tourn, cognizance by the bailiffs of the rector of all pleas concerning lands, tenures, contracts, &c., within the borough; with many similar and complementary liberties. 'Moreover, whereas there has been a frequent concourse at the said borough, as well of merchants and others, for the sake of trading and otherwise, the rectors, as lords of the borough, might for ever have a certain seal, by us to be ordained, of two pieces, as is of custom to be used, for recognizances of debts there according to the form of the statutes published for merchants; and that the greater part of the seal aforesaid may remain in the custody of the mayor or keeper of the borough aforesaid for the time being, or other private person of the greater or more discreet men of the borough to be chosen for this purpose (with the assent of the rector) if there shall not be a mayor or keeper there.'⁶⁰

As a result of this charter suits by Wigan people were frequently stopped in the assize court by the bailiffs of the rector appearing to claim the case as one for the local court.⁶¹ Another result was probably the regular election of a mayor, the language of the charter implying that the burgesses had not hitherto had such a generally recognized head. There are numerous instances of 'statutes merchant' before

⁵⁰ Bridgeman, op. cit. 9, 10. Not many years later William de Oecleshaw granted to Simon son of Payn de Warrington and Emma his wife a burgage and an acre of land in Wigan, rendering to the rector of Wigan 12d. yearly, and to the grantor a peppercorn. In 1284 Simon Payn, son of the said Simon (son of) Payn, claimed the land; Assize R. 1268, m. 11. Simon Payn and Amahil his wife were engaged in suits in 1292; Assize R. 408, m. 77d. 60. Simon Payn of Wigan obtained a house and land here in 1336; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 101.

⁵¹ There does not seem to be any means of ascertaining the number of burgesses. The earliest poll-book, 1527, shows that there were then about a hundred in-burgesses, but does not state their qualifications; Sinclair, *Wigan*, i, 197.

⁵² Bridgeman, op. cit. 33. A charter for a fair at All Saints and a market on Monday had been secured in 1245; *Cal. Chart. R.* 1226-57, p. 284. In 1314 the

All Saints' fair was changed to the vigil, day, and morrow of St. Wilfrid the Bishop; Chart. R. 7 Edw. II, m. 4, 4 d.; but in 1329 reverted to the old day; *ibid.* 3 Edw. III, m. 6, 14. The autumn fair was afterwards held on the vigil, feast, and morrow of St. Luke; Wm. Smith, *Descr. of Engl.* 1588; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. IV, 4.

⁵³ Bridgeman, op. cit. 31-5, from *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 371, 372. The rector stated that he did not claim utfrangenther, though named in the charter.

⁵⁴ Bridgeman, op. cit. 37. There exists a petition by the people of Wigan for the restoration of their franchises made after the death of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, 1296; Anct. Petitions, P.R.O. 316, E 225.

⁵⁵ De Banco R. 151, m. 112. In 1307 there were complaints that Welshmen, returning probably from the Scottish wars, had been maltreated and killed at Wigan; Assize R. 422, m. 4 d.

⁵⁶ Bridgeman, op. cit. 41.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.* 44.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.* 45. The king granted a tax called pavage (for the mending of the ways) to the men of Wigan in 1347, *Cal. Pat.* 1340-43, p. 163; see also p. 313.

⁵⁹ Bridgeman, 48-53. In the same year is mentioned the smaller seal for the recognizances of debts; *Cal. Pat.* 1348-50, p. 553.

⁶⁰ At the instance of Rector James de Langton the borough charters were confirmed by Richard II, Henry IV, and Henry V at the commencement of their reigns in 1378, 1400, and 1413; Bridgeman, op. cit. 57, 59.

⁶¹ Thus in 1350, when Richard de Milton claimed in the King's Bench a message in the town from William del Cross, who had entry by Robert son of John del Cross, the rector's bailiffs appeared, made a statement of the jurisdictions conferred by the charter and drew the case to the local court; De Banco R. 363, m. 203. In subsequent years the same thing happened.

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the mayor of Wigan commencing about 1370.⁶³ From a petition of Rector Wyot (1506-19) it appears that, 'for a long time past,' the custom had been that on a vacancy in the mayoralty the burgesses elected three of their number and presented them to the rector, who chose one to act for the ensuing year.⁶⁴

The rectors in the time of Henry VIII, and probably much earlier, exercised their authority as lords of the borough through a steward and a bailiff, with an under-steward who was clerk of the court.⁶⁵

About 1560 Bishop Stanley began to assert his rights as lord of the manor, and he challenged the claim to hold markets,⁶⁶ fairs, and courts leet put forward and exercised by the mayor and burgesses. Those accused of withdrawing 'did not know' whether suit was due to the rector's law-day or leet, or to his three weeks court, though 'most of them had done so, until now of late'; and they endeavoured to draw attention from this aspect of the question by an allegation of outrage upon the mayor by one of the bishop's servants. Nothing seems to have been done, except that the bishop confirmed Maunsel's charter to the burgesses.⁶⁶ He yielded 'upon fear and for a fine of money received,' according to Dr. Bridgeman.⁶⁷

Under Rector Fleetwood the struggle was more determined. The corporation about 1583 laid claim to the lordship of the manor, as lords improving the wastes and commons, and letting the houses built thereupon; also digging for coal within the demesnes of the manor, and in many other ways usurping the rector's rights. They stated that a mayor, two bailiffs, and sundry burgesses were annually elected for the town and borough of Wigan, which had also five aldermen, the Earl of Derby being one; that Maunsel's charter gave the burgesses all the liberties in dispute; and that the moot-hall was their inheritance. They had kept courts, taken waifs and strays, &c., in accordance with their right. The rector's reply traversed all this, alleging in particular that the burgesses had no grant enabling them to elect a mayor to be head of the corporation, though they had done so 'for divers years' by usurpation, and that the appointment of aldermen was a recent usage, 'without due rite.'⁶⁸ A charter was granted about this time, viz. in 1585.⁶⁹

A decree in the nature of a compromise was made in 1596 by the Chancellor of the Duchy. It was ordered that the corporation should keep such courts as they had usually kept, except the leets, and take the profits to their own uses; that, as to the leets,

the rector should appoint a steward to sit with the mayor and burgesses or their steward and take half the profits. Clay and stone might be dug as customary, but the ways must be mended as quickly as possible, and any damage done to the moat round the rectory must be repaired. As to the fairs and markets and the profits arising from them, the corporation should have them as before, but the rector's tenants must not be required to pay any increase upon the customary tolls. The rents claimed by the rector must be paid, with arrears. The question as to the improvement of the wastes does not seem to have been decided.⁷⁰

The corporation were then left at peace for twenty years. Dr. Massie seems to have been very yielding.⁷¹ Bishop Bridgeman, however, an able man and strong in the royal favour, upon being appointed to the rectory made a vigorous and fairly successful effort to recover certain of his manorial rights as against the corporation.⁷² The ownership of the markets and fairs, with the tolls belonging to them, had been held by the town for upwards of fifty years. On 17 October 1617, being the eve of the fair, the rector sent his man to the mayor, entreating him not to deal or meddle with the fair until the controversy as to all these matters had been decided, and inviting the mayor and aldermen, &c., to meet him at the pentice chamber next morning. At this conference the rector desired them to allow him the rights his predecessors had enjoyed, without any lawsuits; they answered that he had what his predecessors had, and ought not to ask more. The mayor was bold enough to challenge the rector's right to the manor, but met no support from the burgesses, who acknowledged their obligation to pay 12*d.* for each burgage plot. On matters of land-ownership no opposition was made; but when the rector claimed the fairs, markets, courts leet, courts of pleas, and courts baron and other privileges, the burgesses' reply seems to have been firm and unanimous: 'They had a right to them and hoped so to prove in law.' No compromise was possible, the answer being that they were 'all sworn to maintain the privileges of the town.'⁷³

A special tribunal was appointed, and at the beginning of 1619 a decision was given: the rector was lord of the manor, with a right to the wastes and court baron and suit and service of the freeholders and inhabitants; the moot-hall to be common to the rector and corporation for the keeping of their courts, of which the pentice plea and court of pleas should be the corporation's, the leets at Easter and Michaelmas being adjudged, the former to the rector and the latter to the corporation; the Ascension-day fair and

⁶³ Early in 1406 Adam de Birkhead, mayor of Wigan, and William de Medewall, clerk, for taking recognizances of debts at Wigan, certified that in March, 1372-3, Sir William de Atherton came before Thomas de Heywood, then mayor, and Thomas Clerk, then clerk, and acknowledged that he owed his brother, Nicholas de Atherton, £100 sterling; which he ought to have paid at the Christmas next following, but had not done so; *Pal. of Lanc. Cluzn. Misc. bûc. 4, file 9, m. 38.*

⁶⁴ *Ibid.* op. cit. 72.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.* 101. Sir Thomas Langton, who, as lord of Newton, was chief lord of the manor, about this time laboured hard to secure appointment as the rector's

steward, and though rejected he took it upon himself to act, making himself very obnoxious to the corporation. In 1539 the mayor and burgesses complained that whereas it had been their custom to elect a mayor on the Saturday after Michaelmas Day, Sir Thomas with a number of associates had disturbed the election, and declared that he would not take Adam Bankes for mayor, though he had been duly chosen. A few weeks afterwards there was an invasion of the town by the Langton faction, which necessitated an inquiry by the Crown. It then appeared that the disturbers asserted the election of mayor to belong to the rector of Wigan or his steward; *Ibid.* 108 11.

⁶⁶ A book of tolls 1561-7 is among

Lord Kenyon's deeds; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 4.

⁶⁷ Bridgeman, op. cit. 133-8.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.* 213.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.* 147-57.

⁷⁰ A contemporary paper copy is extant at Wigan. In *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 253, m. 26, are copies of the earlier charters.

⁷¹ Bridgeman, op. cit. 157, 158.

⁷² *Ibid.* 213. Dr. Bridgeman affirmed that 'none of his predecessors, except Dr. Massie, were without the use and possession of all those things which he claimed; or did at least claim and sue for them as Mr. Fleetwood did.' Dr. Massie was rector from 1605 to 1615.

⁷³ *Ibid.* 205. ⁷⁴ *Ibid.* 213-15.

the Monday market to be the rector's, but St. Luke's fair and the Friday market to be the corporation's.⁷¹

In October 1620 the mayor of Wigan appeared in the moot-hall where the justices were sitting at quarter-sessions, and, 'putting on his hat before them,' claimed the ordering of the alehouses in Wigan, as belonging to his leet. The justices objected to his manners, and as he refused to find sureties for good behaviour sent him to prison; but their action was annulled, though the mayor's action for false imprisonment also failed.⁷²

Bishop Bridgeman in 1622 claimed the pentice chamber in the moot-hall as built upon his waste within living memory, and appears to have succeeded.⁷³ His next correction of the assumptions of the corporation was provoked by the latter; they refused liberty to one William Brown to sell his goods, on the ground that he was not a burgess. The bishop pointed out that they had no right to elect burgesses; the true burgesses were those who paid the lord of the manor 12*d.* rent for a burgage, and he had made William Brown a burgess by selling to him a burgage house recently bought of Thomas Gerard of Ince. The mayor and burgesses were by this time convinced that it was useless to contend with their lord; they made no demur, and asked him to appoint his son Orlando as one of their aldermen; he, however, did not judge it well to do so.⁷⁴

From this time, 1624, till after the Restoration there appears to be no record of any dispute between rector and corporation. It can scarcely be doubted that the Commonwealth period would be favourable to the latter, and when in 1662 Sir Orlando Bridgeman was selected as arbitrator in a fresh misunderstanding, he ruled that though the rector was lord of the manor and must keep a court baron, yet in view of the municipal court of pleas it was of little importance except for inquiring into the chief rents due to the rector, and preventing encroachments on the waste. Hence the court baron was to be held once in two years only, in the moot-hall; no pleas were to be held between party and party; and the mayor and such aldermen as had been mayors should be exempt from attending. The streets and wastes were to be regulated as to encroachments by the rector and mayor. Sir Orlando's father had, by his advice, leased the rector's Ascension-tide fair and weekly market to the corporation; and the arbitrator recom-

mended the continuance of this system as 'a great means to continue peace and goodwill' between the parties, a lease, renewable, for 21 years being granted at a rent of five marks a year. The lease included the yearly fair, weekly market, and court leet, and all tolls, courts, piccage, stallages, profits, commodities, and emoluments belonging to them.⁷⁵

Forty years ago the corporation purchased the manorial rights, an agreement being made 9 July 1860 between the rector and patron on the one side, and the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses on the other. The rights transferred were the summer fair, the Monday market, and various tolls; quit rents and manorial rights in slips of waste lying uninclosed adjoining streets in the borough and in mines under these slips; rights in Bottling Wood and the wastes; and the ancient quit rents amounting to £45 3*s.* 4*d.* The price paid was £2,800. The conveyance was signed by the rector on 2 September 1861.⁷⁶

The charter of 1662, under which the borough was governed down to the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, confirmed to the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of Wigan all their ancient liberties, and ordained that the corporation should consist of a mayor and eleven other aldermen, a recorder, two bailiffs, and a common clerk. The mayor was to be not only a magistrate for the borough, but also for the county, but this privilege was not maintained.⁷⁷ A supplementary charter was granted by James II in 1685,⁷⁸ providing in particular that eighteen burgesses might be chosen to act as 'assistants,' so that there should be a common council of thirty-two in all. The mayor was to be chosen yearly 'on the Sabbath day next after the feast of St. Michael.' The corporation, like others of the time, was a close or self-selecting one, the townsmen being able to make their wishes known only through the jury and court leet. The mayor was coroner *ex officio*.⁷⁹

The election of burgesses was in the jury and court leet. The corporation had the power of admitting non-resident and honorary burgesses to vote at elections without limitation; in 1802 they made a hundred burgesses in order to rid themselves of the Duke of Portland's 'patronage.'⁸⁰

Under the Act of 1835 Wigan was classed with other boroughs having a commission of the peace; it was divided into five wards, to each of which were assigned two aldermen and six councillors.⁸¹ In 1888 it

⁷¹ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 221, 222. The bishop, accordingly, as rector, held his first court leet and court baron for the manor of Wigan just after Easter 1619, and at Ascension-tide his first fair. The matter was of great importance as preserving the lord's rights, but the profits of the courts were barely sufficient to pay the fees of the officers; *ibid.* 237.

The following year he discharged one William Brown from his service because though no burgess he had served in the mayor's court, 'as they call it,' upon the jury. He did so because in former times the corporation had claimed the courts as their own on finding that servants of the rector had sued or served in them; *ibid.* 270, 271.

⁷² *Ibid.* 265, 266.

⁷³ *Ibid.* 268, 270. On Christmas-eve in the same year, 'and properly no market day,' he prohibited the sergeants and bailiffs of the town from receiving toll, 'because the wastes and streets are the

parson's'; and the jury were instructed to find that the town officers had wronged the lord of the manor by receiving such tolls on the Saturday before the wake day. The jury demurred to the contention that the streets were part of the wastes, but gave way, and the tolls collected that day were given to the rector; *ibid.* 274.

⁷⁴ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 287. The dispute marks another step in the growth of the rights of the community; first was the election of mayor; next, the appointment of aldermen; and thirdly, the co-optation of burgesses. The last was important, because the burgage plots had a tendency to become the possession of a very few persons.

⁷⁵ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 486-91. See also *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 441, for a declaration in this sense by the corporation in 1708.

In 1743 Dr. Roger Bridgeman refused to renew the lease, and a lawsuit followed which lasted for many years; 'the result

appears to have been that the fair and markets remained in the rector's hands, but the courts leet were never afterwards held by them'; Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 632.

⁷⁶ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 664-71. A list of the quit rents is given. They range from 4*d.* up to £6 14*s.* 8*d.*, this sum being paid by the Canal Company. A considerable number were of the exact 1*s.*, probably representing ancient burgage rents.

⁷⁷ Pat. 14 Chas. II, pt. xviii, m. 5. The charter specially mentions the loyalty of the town to the late king; it therefore allowed a sword to be borne before the mayor.

⁷⁸ The charters of 1662 and 1685 are in the possession of the corporation.

⁷⁹ Baines, *Lancs. Dir.* ii, 516.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.* ii, 607.

⁸¹ The wards were: All Saints, the central portion of the town around the church; St. George's, a narrow strip along the Douglas; Scholes; Queen Street, in the south; and Swinley, in the north.

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became a county borough, and in the following year a rearrangement of the wards was authorized; the borough was divided into ten wards, each with one alderman and three councillors, the membership of the council being thus unchanged in number.⁶⁵ The inclusion of Pemberton in 1904 has caused the increase of the council to fifty-six members, chosen from fourteen wards.

The old town hall, rebuilt in 1720 at the expense of the members for the borough, stood at the western side of the market-place. It was pulled down and rebuilt in the first half of last century. It stood on pillars, the space underneath being subsequently filled with shops. The moot-hall, a stone building in Wallgate, with meeting-room above and shops below, was demolished in 1869, and 'the new town hall' in 1882, the present town hall and borough courts having been finished in 1867. A new council chamber was opened in 1890. The county police courts date from 1888. The Fish-stones, which were at the northern side of the market place, were removed in 1866. The new market hall was opened in 1877; there is a separate fish market. The ancient cloth hall was superseded by a commercial hall in the market-place, erected in 1816.

The Public Libraries Act was adopted in 1876, and two years later there was opened the new free library building, presented to the town by Thomas Taylor, who died in 1892. A Powell Boys' Reading-room, presented by the member for the borough, was added in 1895. A school board was created in 1872. The mining college was founded in 1858; in 1903 the present mining and technical building was opened.

The corporation have acquired or inaugurated a number of works and institutions for the health and convenience of the people. The first Wigan Water Act was passed in 1764; the waterworks were purchased by the corporation in 1835; the gasworks, established in 1822, were acquired in 1875; and the tramways, opened in 1880, in 1902. An electric-power station was erected in 1900, and the following year the corporation electric tramways started running. The Mesnes Park was opened in 1878, the sewerage works in 1881, public baths in 1882, and a sanatorium in 1889. Victoria Hall was built in 1902. The cemetery was established in 1856.

A dispensary was started in 1798, and a building in King Street provided in 1801, now the Savings

Bank. The Royal Albert Edward Infirmary was opened by the King, then Prince of Wales, in 1873.

A court of quarter-sessions was granted to the borough in 1886.

Impressions of the borough seal of the 15th century are known.⁶⁶ The device upon it—the moot-hall—is used as a coat of arms for the borough.

As a borough Wigan sent two burgesses to the Parliaments of 1295 and 1306, but not again until 1547. From this year the borough regularly returned two members until 1885, except during the Commonwealth, when owing to its royalist tendencies it was disfranchised by Cromwell.⁶⁷ In the 17th century the burgesses were of two classes—in and out; the latter were principally neighbouring gentry, and do not seem to have availed themselves to any great extent of the privilege of voting. On the other hand a large number of the townsmen made strenuous efforts to obtain a vote, and in 1639 the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses prepared a memorial to Parliament on the subject. This stated that they were 'an ancient corporation by prescription, and that all such persons as are or have been burgesses of that corporation have always been received into that corporation by election made by the burgesses for the time present of that corporation, and have been afterwards sworn and enrolled as burgesses in the burgess roll,' and that from time immemorial only such enrolled burgesses had voted for the burgesses who served in the Parliament; but at the recent election, after the choice had been made—but apparently before a formal declaration—'divers inferior persons, labourers, and handicraftsmen, being free only to trade within the said town and not enrolled burgesses,' demanded voices. The mayor and bailiffs had replied asking them 'to make it to appear that they or any others of their condition had any time formerly any voices in election of the burgesses for the Parliament'; they could not prove anything of the sort, and so their votes were not allowed; but the mayor and bailiffs, at the instance of the elected burgesses, judged it right to inform the Parliament concerning the matter.⁶⁸ By the Redistribution Act of 1885 Wigan was allowed but one member instead of two as previously.

A number of families come into prominence from time to time in the records. One of the early ones took a surname from Wigan itself,⁶⁹ another from Scholes.⁷⁰ Other surnames were Jew,⁷¹ Botling,⁷²

⁶⁵ The central ward is called All Saints; to the north is Swinley ward, and to the west of both St. Andrew's ward. The small but populous district in the south has three wards, Victoria and St. Thomas, on the west and east, being divided by Wallgate; and Poolstock, to the south of the Douglas. Scholes has four wards: St. George and St. Patrick the innermost, divided by the street called Scholes; and Lindsay and St. Catherine outside, divided by Whelley.

⁶⁶ *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Geneal. Notes*, iii, 100; an impression of it occurs among the De Trafford deeds.

⁶⁷ Pink and Beaven, *Parl. Rep. of Lancs.* 217, where an account of the members will be found.

⁶⁸ Sinclair, *Wigan*, i, 222.

⁶⁹ In 1292 in various suits appear Quenilda widow of Nigel de Wigan, Thurstan de Wigan, Henry son of Hugh de Wigan, and others; Assize R. 408, m. 54 d, 97, &c.

About 1290 Roger son of Orm de Wigan was defendant; De Banco R. 167, m. 8 d. In 1307 Maud widow of Adam son of Orm de Wigan claimed dower in Wigan lands from Adam son of Roger son of Orm; De Banco R. 162, m. 258 d.; Assize R. 421, m. 4. Lands of Richard son of Adam son of Orm are mentioned in 1310; Crosse D. (*Trans. Hist. Soc.*), no. 19.

Margery widow of Roger de Wigan (son of William son of Hugh de Wigan) in 1331 claimed certain lands as her inheritance. A deed granting portion of them to her brother John atte Cross was produced, but she denied it to be hers; De Banco R. 287, m. 106.

⁷⁰ In 1291 and 1292 Richard son of Adam de Scholes claimed various tenements in Wigan; his legitimacy was denied, but he appears to have recovered possession; Assize R. 407, m. 1; 408, m. 3.

⁷¹ Alice widow of Thomas the Jew,

and Alice wife of Robert the Jew, occur in local suits in 1350; Assize R. 1444, m. 4, 7.

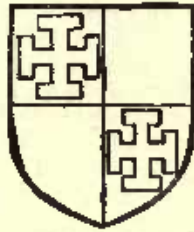
Robert son of Richard de Ince in 1352 granted land in the Scholes, adjoining John de Longshaw's land, to Hugh son of Henry the Jew; Towneley MS. G.G, no. 2618.

In 1383 William de Whittington released to William the Jew, chaplain, his claim to the land called Jewshed near Whelley Cross; Add. MS. 32106, no. 1351. William the Jew was a trustee in 1417; Crosse D. (*Trans. Hist. Soc.*), no. 126.

⁷² William Botling was a burgess about 1300. Richard Botling made a feoffment of his estate in 1333; Crosse D. no. 6, 44.

John son of William Botling of Wigan claimed three messuages, &c., from Richard Botling and others in 1344; Assize R. 1435, m. 45 d.

Birkhead,⁸³ Duxbury,⁸⁴ Preston,⁸⁵ Ford,⁸⁶ and Scott.⁸⁷ The Crosse family, afterwards of Liverpool and Chorley, were long closely connected with



CROSSE. Quarterly gules and or a cross potent argent in the first and fourth quarters.

⁸³ This family held a good position in the town, and furnished several of the mayors. There is a quaint note concerning the Birkheads in Leland's *Itinerary*, vi. 14; he suggests a relationship with the Windermereth Birkheads or Birkettes.

In 1308-9 John de Birkhead, son of Ralph, granted a burgage to Richard del Stanistreet; Kuerden MSS. ii, fol. 253. John de Birkhead attested various local charters down to 1324; Adam de Birkhead others from 1377 to 1417; in the last-named year his son and grandson, Henry and John, also attested; Crosse D. nos. 41, 72, 126. John Birkhead was living in 1434; Towneley MS. GG, no. 1301. In 1471 Richard was son and heir of Henry Birkhead; *ibid.* no. 148. John Birkhead appears in 1504; *ibid.* no. 165.

In 1378 Hugh son of Robert de Birkhead claimed from Richard de Birkhead, litator, various tenements in Wigan, but did not prosecute his claim; Assize R. 1425, m. 2. Thurstan de Birkhead and John his brother were defendants in 1356; Duchy of Lanc. Assize R. 5, m. 26; and Matthew son of Thurstan de Birkhead, in 1376; De Banco R. 461, m. 276 d. Adam de Birkhead and Joan his wife were plaintiffs in 1374; De Banco R. 456, m. 10 d.; 460, m. 364. Euphemia daughter of William son of Richard de Birkhead, litator or tinctor, demanded in 1357 20 acres in Wigan from Sir Robert de Langton, Robert his son and others; Pal. of Lanc. Misc. 1-8, m. 3, 4, 5; Duchy of Lanc. Assize R. 6, m. 3. The younger Robert defended, saying the land had been granted to himself and Margaret his wife and their issue.

An undated petition, addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury, as Chancellor, complained that John Birkhead, feoffee of Richard Birkhead, had refused to make over an estate in the latter's land to William Marsh, the cousin and heir; Early Chan. Proc. 16-523.

Richard Birkhead, who died in or before 1512, held land in Rivington and a burgage in Wigan; Joan, his sister and heir, was four years of age; Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. iv, no. 26. A later inquisition shows that they were the children of Hugh, son of Richard, son of Henry 'Birkenhead' of Wigan. The last-named Henry, who had another son John, had granted nine burgages in Wigan and other lands there, held of the rector by a rent of 431. 4d., to feoffees who had granted five burgages to Maud, the widow of Richard Birkhead for her life, and four burgages to Elizabeth, widow of Hugh Birkhead, who died 16 Jan. 1510-11, *ibid.* v, no. 23. Joan, the heiress, married Thomas, son and heir of Thomas Tydeney of Wardley; *Vint.* of 1567 (Chet. Soc.), 44.

⁸⁴ Thomas de Duxbury was mayor of Wigan in 1402-3; he or another of the name was outlawed in 1420; Crosse D. (*Trans. Hist. Soc.*), no. 95, 127. John de Duxbury also occurs; *ibid.* no. 116, 130.

⁸⁵ In 1277 Maud widow of Orm de Wigan claimed burgages and land in Wigan against William son of William de Preston, and Eleanor his wife and others; De Banco R. 21, m. 62 d. About the same

time Adam del Crosse⁸⁹ appears in 1277, his son John in the first half of the 14th century.⁹⁰ John's son Thurstan⁹¹ was followed by Hugh del Crosse his son,⁹² after whose death the property went to Richard del Crosse of Wigan and Liverpool. He may have

time Adam del Crosse obtained from the same William and Eleanor a messuage and 14 acres of land in Wigan; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 153.

From one of the Crosse D. (no. 19), dated 1310, it appears that Eleanor de Preston was a daughter of Nicholas de Wigan, clerk; this charter concerns land in Henhurst Meadow, Hitchfield, Lorrimer's Acre, Loamy Half acre, Hengande Half-acre, &c.; the Stonygate is mentioned.

Adam Russell of Preston had land here in 1307; De Banco R. 163, m. 214 d. For Henry Russell see *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 275.

⁸⁶ There were two families of this name, of Swinley and of Scholes; see Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* 259. They supplied many mayors. In Oct. 1854 representatives of James Horrocks of Spennymoor, claiming to be the heir of Robert Ford who died in 1772, took possession of the 'Manor House' in Scholes and were besieged for some days, to the excitement of the town.

⁸⁷ 'Roger Scott's land' is mentioned in 1323; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2561. Roger son of Roger Scott of Wigan in 1345 complained that Robert del Mourihilles had been wasting lands 'held by the law of England'; De Banco R. 345, m. 95 d. Further particulars of the family will be found in the account of Pemberton.

⁸⁸ About seven hundred of the family deeds are contained in Towneley's MS. GG (Add. MS. 32107), no. 2196-905. Some of these and others are printed in the *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), v-ix, Crosse D. no. 1-224.

The first of the family of whom any particulars can be stated is the Adam del Crosse, 1277, mentioned in a preceding note. Two grants to him are known, one being of land in Holywell Carr; Crosse D. no. 7; Towneley's GG, no. 2355. To his daughter Ellen he gave land in the Rye Field and Holywell Carr; Crosse D. no. 13. She was living in 1292; Assize R. 408, m. 32 d. Adam del Crosse was also living in 1292; *ibid.* m. 32. The Adam son of Richard del Crosse of 1311 (Crosse D. no. 20), was probably a different person. The *de Crosse* of Latin deeds also appears as 'de la Croyz,' 'atte Crosse,' and 'del Crosse.' The family seems to have come from Lathom; Crosse D. no. 5.

In 1277 Richard, rector of Wigan, had a dispute with William del Crosse as to whether the latter's tith belonged to the church of Wigan or to a lay fee; De Banco R. 18, m. 54.

⁸⁹ John son of Adam del Crosse was defendant, with others, in a plea of mort d'ancestor in 1295; Assize R. 1306, m. 20 d. Later he had various disputes with Alan son of Walter the Fuller, husband of his sister Ellen. As early as 1299 he released all his right in the lands his father had given Ellen on her marriage, and in 1315 a final agreement was made;

Towneley MS. GG, no. 2678, 2435; Crosse D. no. 14, 23. He was a defendant in 1292 in two Wigan cases, Henry de Leigh being one plaintiff, and Hugh son of William the reeve the other; Assize R. 408, m. 54, 76.

In 1304 he had a grant of land in the Strindes in the islands of Wigan, on the east side of the high road from Wigan to Out-town Bridge; Crosse D. no. 14*. In 1324-5 he granted to his son Thurstan on the latter's marriage the burgage upon which his capital messuage was built; another burgage which he had received from his sister Margery; the Greater Hey called the Eiclyves, and other lands; with remainders to the grantor's son William, and to his daughter Maud, wife of Henry Banastre; *ibid.* n. 36. In 1329, by fine, Henry Banastre of Walton secured from John del Crosse four messuages and lands in Wigan; Thurstan son of John and the rector of Wigan putting in their claims; *Final Conc.* ii, 73.

About the same time Robert de Clitheroe the rector called on John del Crosse to render an account for the time he was the rector's bailiff in Wigan, viz. from Michaelmas 1313 till the end of August 1316, during which time the profits of three mills, markets, and fairs amounted to £160; and from September 1316 to 4 April 1324, during which time the issues of the church as in corn, hay, beasts, great tithes, small tithes, oblations, obventions, and other profits, amounted he said to £1,500. The money receipts during the same period amounted to £335 11s. 7d. At the trial John did not appear, but the jury decided against him and he was committed to the Fleet Prison; De Banco R. 279, m. 61. In the following year the rector sought to make it clear that four messuages and lands held by John del Crosse and Thurstan his son were free alms of the church of Wigan and not their lay fee; De Banco R. 283, m. 147. John seems to have died about this time, and Thurstan only is named in the following year; *ibid.* R. 285, m. 15 d.

⁹⁰ Thurstan del Crosse and Emma his wife were plaintiffs in a Wigan dispute in 1334; Coram Rege R. 297, m. 6. Thurstan appears as witness to charters from 1346 to 1367; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2753, 2423. He was defendant in a suit of 1355; Duchy of Lanc. Assize R. 4, m. 6.

⁹¹ Hugh son of Thurstan del Crosse made sundry grants in 1370, charging an annual rent of 1 mark on his Wigan lands in favour of William son of Adam de Liverpool, who seems then to have married Katherine widow of John son of Aynory; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2169, 2896. In 1382 he made a feoffment of his lands in Wigan and Leigh; Crosse D. no. 75; and in 1386 he was mayor of the town; *ibid.* no. 80. He appears to have died about 1372. Katherine his widow, afterwards wife of Thomas de Hough, in 1403 granted to trustees the lands she had had from her late husband; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2343. In 1395 the feoffees of Hugh del Crosse gave lands received from him to his son Henry, with remainders to his widow Katherine (*for*

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been a descendant of Aymory the Walker, who appears to have been a Crosse also.¹⁰⁹ The Marklands were prominent up to the beginning of the 18th century.¹⁰³ A number of deeds concerning the Marsh family have been preserved by Kuerden.¹⁰⁴ Other surnames were derived from various trades carried on here.¹⁰⁵ In few cases can any connected account be given of them.

By an inquisition taken in 1323 it was found that one William de Marclan had held two messuages and two acres of land and half an acre of meadow in Wigan of the rector by the service of 12*d.* yearly, and other lands in Shevington of Margaret Banastre. He granted them to feoffees, who in turn granted a moiety to Robert de Holand. The last-named at Christmas 1317 assigned an annual rent of 29*s.* 6*d.* out of his

life); to Imayne daughter of Hugh and Katherine; to William and to Gilbert, brothers of Hugh; *ibid.* GG, no. 2356. These are not heard of again.

From all this it appears that Katherine, who was a daughter of Adam son of Matthew de Kenyon (Crosse D. no. 56), was four times married: (1) to John son of Aymory, about 1366; (2) to William, son of Adam de Liverpool, who died in 1383 (*ibid.* no. 77); (3) to Hugh del Crosse, who died about 1392; and (4) to Thomas de Hough, of Thornton Hough in Wirral, who died in 1409; see Ormerod, *Ches.* (ed. Helsby), ii, 549, 550 (from p. 576 it appears that Thomas had a previous wife, also named Katherine). She had issue by the three earlier marriages. She was still living in 1417; Crosse D. no. 126. The pedigree recorded in 1567 *Visit.* (Chet. Soc. 107) gives her yet another husband, William de Houghton, the first of all; but this may be an error.

¹⁰⁹ Adam del Crosse, who heads the pedigree, had another son William, who may have been the William del Crosse already mentioned in 1277. In 1292 William son of William the Tailor of Wigan claimed a tenement from William son of Adam del Crosse on a plea of most d'ancestor; Assize R. 408, m. 46*d.* This William married Emma daughter of Thomas de Ince. The widow in 1316 released to John del Crosse all her right in her husband's lands in Ormskirk; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2384.

There seems, however, to have been another of the name, for in 1331 Isolda widow of William de Cros complained that she had been deprived of 40*s.* rent from a messuage and 60 acres in Wigan; Assize R. 1404, m. 18*d.*

In 1329 Aymory the Walker, son of William del Crosse, granted to feoffees all his lands in Wigan; these were regranted forty years later, with remainders to William, John, Henry, and Thurstan, sons of Aymory; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2513, 2556.

An Aymory the Walker appears as early as 1306, when William the Prete granted him half a burgage next to the half-burgage he already held; *ibid.* GG, no. 2588. In 1316 he had a grant from Richard de Tace; *ibid.* GG, no. 2654. In 1345 Lora widow of Robert de Leyland granted to Aymory the Walker land called the Souraete ('Sowrykatt') in Wigan; *ibid.* GG, no. 2544; and in the same year he is named in De Banco R. 344, m. 432.

Before 1347 John son of Aymory had acquired land near Standishgate from Adam son of John Dickson, whose divorced wife in that year released all claim to it; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2568. A little later he purchased land in Liverpool from Adam son of Richard de Liverpool; *ibid.* GG, no. 2576. In 1347 William son of Aymory granted to Thomas son of Henry Fairwood a toft lying in the Wurchinback; *ibid.* GG, no. 2604. In July 1359 William son of Aymory the Walker and

Isobel his wife were non-suited in a claim against Agnes, widow of Aymory; Duchy of Lanc. Assize R. 7, m. 3*d.* William had a son Aymory, who about 1380 made a feoffment of his lands in Wigan; *ibid.* GG, no. 2567, 2534. In 1388 Aymory the Walker leased the Priestsacre in Botlingfield to Richard de Longshaw; Crosse D. no. 96.

John son of the elder Aymory in or about 1366 married the above-named Katherine daughter of Adam de Kenyon; Crosse D. no. 56; see also Towneley MS. GG, no. 2530. He died in 1369, leaving three sons by her, Richard, Nicholas, and Thurstan; Crosse D. no. 66. In 1377 Robert de Picton, cousin and heir of Robert Barret of Liverpool, released to William son of Adam de Liverpool, Katherine his wife, and Richard son of John Aymoryson of Wigan, all actions; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2713.

It is uncertain whether the Richard del Crosse who followed Hugh was the latter's son or the Richard son of John Aymoryson and Katherine born about 1367. The latter is the statement in the *Visit.* of 1567, and has probabilities in its favour. The charters state Richard del Crosse to have been the son of Katherine, but do not name his father, and he is not named in the remainders to Hugh's feoffment of 1395. Richard del Crosse first occurs in the charters in 1400-1 (when, if he were son of Hugh, he could not have been of full age); Towneley MS. GG, no. 2526; Crosse D. no. 96. On the other hand, in a writ excusing him from serving on juries, dated 1445, he is said to be over sixty years of age, while Richard the son of John and Katherine would have been nearly eighty years of age; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2286. In 1423-4 Richard Aymory son of Henry Aymoryson (i.e. son of Aymory son of William) released to his 'cousin' Richard del Crosse all his right in land which had belonged to Aymory the Walker, son of William, son of Aymory de Wigan; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2511.

Richard del Crosse prospered. He was receiver for Lady Lovell (*ibid.* GG, no. 2199); and acquired lands in Liverpool and Chorley at the beginning of the 15th century. Settling in the former town he and his successors had little further direct connexion with Wigan. A schedule of lands in Wigan included in the marriage settlement of John Crosse and Alice Moore in 1566 is printed in Crosse D. no. 224. Some of these were sold in 1597 and later years; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bble. 53, m. 13, &c. For a complaint by John Crosse regarding trespass on his lands at Wigan see *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 203.

¹⁰⁸ A pedigree was recorded at the *Visit.* of 1664 (Chet. Soc.), 193. A descendant acquired Foxholes in Rochdale by marriage with an Entwisle heiress; Fishwick, *Rochdale*, 411. The surname is derived from Markland in Pemberton. Adam son of Richard de Marklan(?) attested

a charter dated about 1280; Matthew and Henry one in 1323; Crosse D. no. 13, 34.

John and Matthew Markland occur in the time of Richard II, and John son of Matthew Markland in 1413; Kuerden MSS. ii, fol. 253. John Markland of Wigan, mercer, occurs in 1443 and 1445; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 5, m. 1; 7, m. 2, 6*d.* Alexander son of Matthew Markland was one of the receivers of the persecuted priests in 1586; Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* 166, quoting Harl. MS. 360. Ralph Markland, as a landowner, contributed to the subsidy in 1628; Norris D. (B.M.).

Captain Gerard Markland had served in a regiment of horse raised for the Parliament, but disbanded in 1648, after which he applied for arrears of pay. He may be the alderman Gerard Markland who left £5 to the poor of Wigan; *Cal. of Cam. for Compounding*, i, 173; Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* 716. A short letter of his is printed in *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 62.

¹⁰⁴ Kuerden MSS. ii, fol. 253. Grants of land were made to Roger del Marsh by Richard son of Adam son of Orm de Wigan and by Adam son of Roger son of Orm de Wigan in 1322 and 1336. In 1323-4 John son of Robert del Marsh granted his inheritance to John del Marsh and Roger his brother.

John son of Roger del Marsh gave land in Scholefield to Robert de Laitwaite and Anabel his wife.

In 1398-9 Adam del Marsh received from the feoffees the lands he had granted them with remainders to Roger his son by his first wife; this seems to have been upon the occasion of his later marriage with Joan, daughter of Hugh de Winstanley.

Deeds of the time of Hen. VI show the succession; Roger—s. William, who married Isabel—s. Robert, whose wife was Margaret.

In the time of Hen. VIII the lands of this family appear to have been sold to Thomas He-keths.

¹⁰⁵ The following occur in the 14th and 15th centuries: Baxter, Bowwright, Carpenter, Ironmonger, Litster, Lorimer, Potter, Skinner, Tanner, Teinturer, Walker, and Wright.

Three minor families occur in the Visitations. The Kighys of Wigan and Peel in Little Hulton recorded a pedigree in 1613; *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 65. In 1664 Colonel William Daniell of Wigan recorded a pedigree; Dugdale, *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 95. Also the Pennington family; *ibid.* 232. David de Pennington and Margery his wife occur in pleas of 1374; De Banco R. 455, m. 424*d.*; 457, m. 341. Margery afterwards married Richard del Ford, and in 1384 a settlement by fine was made between them and John de Swiale and Alice his wife concerning the latter's inheritance; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bble. 2, m. 27.

For the Baldwins of Wigan see *Pal. Note Bk.* i, 54.

share to Aline the recluse of Wigan for her maintenance. This payment ceased when Sir Robert's lands were forfeited; whereupon the recluse petitioned for its restoration, and inquiry was made.^{106a}

William Ford and the widows of James Houghton and Nicholas Standish contributed to a subsidy of Mary's reign as landowners.¹⁰⁶ The following were returned as freeholders in 1600: Gilbert Barrow, Peter Marsh, Oliver Markland, William Foster, Hamlet Green, Charles Leigh, William Burgess, Edward Challenor, John Tarleton, Gilbert Bank, Ralph Markland of Meadows; Thomas Molyneux and Edward Laithwaite of Wigan Woodhouses; Alexander Ford of Swinley, William and Hugh Langshaw, and William Bankes of Scholes.¹⁰⁷ William Ford contributed to the subsidy of 1628 as a landowner.¹⁰⁶

Wigan people generally were royalists, but William Pilkington was in 1650 singled out as a 'grand delinquent'; he escaped with a fine of £29 5s.¹⁰⁸ Minor offenders against the Parliament were Robert Baron, William Brown, and William Tempest.¹¹⁰ The following 'papists' registered estates at Wigan in 1717: Nicholas Mather of Abram, Richard Tootell, Thomas Naylor of Orrell, Gilbert Thornton, Thomas Scott, gent., John Thornton, Dr. Thomas Worthington, and Anne Laithwaite of Borwick.¹¹¹

The parish church has been described above. The first additional church in the township in connexion with the Establishment was St. George's, between Standishgate and the Douglas, consecrated in 1781. A district was assigned to it in 1843, and this became a parish in 1864, on the resignation of Sir Henry Gunning, rector, as did the two following:¹¹² St. Catherine's, Scholes, consecrated in 1841, had a separate district assigned in 1843.¹¹³ There is a small graveyard attached. St. Thomas's, consecrated in 1851, had in the following year a district assigned to it.¹¹⁴ The rector of Wigan is patron of the above churches. St. James's, Poolstock, was consecrated in 1866, for a district formed in 1863. The patronage is vested in Mr. J. C. Eckersley.¹¹⁵ St. Andrew's, Woodhouse Lane, consecrated in 1882, had a district assigned to it in 1871.¹¹⁶ The church of St. Michael and All Angels, Swinley, was consecrated in 1878 as a chapel of ease to the parish church, and became parochial in 1881.¹¹⁷ The patronage of these two churches is vested in the rector of Wigan.

The various bodies of Methodists have in all eight churches and mission-rooms, the Wesleyans having two, the Primitive Methodists three, the Independents two, and the United Free Church one. The Wesleyans have also built the Queen's Hall, a large structure opened in 1908.

A Particular or Calvinistic Baptist congregation was formed in 1795 by seceders from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion (St. Paul's);¹¹⁸ the chapel in King Street was opened in 1854. There is another chapel in Platt Lane.

What provision was made by those who became Nonconformists by the Act of 1662 does not appear. In 1689 William Laithwaite's barn was certified as a meeting-place of the Wigan Dissenters,¹¹⁹ and two years later Roger Kenyon knew of two meeting-places, one held by Mr. Green, the supporter of Presbyterianism in Hindley, and the other by 'dissenters who do furiously dissent from each other.'¹²⁰ An 'old English Presbyterian congregation' is mentioned in 1773, and a little later William Davenport, also minister at Hindley, was in charge. He was probably a Unitarian, but after his death the chapel was about 1797 secured for the Scottish Presbyterians, who have retained possession to the present time. Trinity Presbyterian Church was built upon the old site in 1877.¹²¹

The Congregationalists formed a church about 1777, probably as a protest against the Unitarianism taught at the existing chapel; in 1785 they opened a chapel, now St. Paul's Congregational Church. For some time it belonged to the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion. Becoming 'unhealthy' in 1839, it was dissolved and reformed.¹²² A new Gothic church replaced the old building in 1902. A new minister coming to Wigan in 1812 drew a congregation from dissatisfied Nonconformists, and a chapel was opened in 1818. Hope Congregational Church, opened in 1889, is a short distance from this older chapel, and continues its work.¹²³ Silverwell Congregational chapel originated in a secession from St. Paul's in 1867 and continued till 1888, when it was bought by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company.¹²⁴ There is a chapel in Gidlow Lane.

The Welsh Presbyterians have a place of worship; the Christian Brethren have two; and the Catholic

^{106a} Inq. a.q.d. 17 Edw. II, no. 137; Anct. Petitions, P.R.O. 150-7470.

¹⁰⁶ Macey of Rixton D.

¹⁰⁷ *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 239-43. Richard Molyneux of Wigan Woodhouses was trustee for lands in Orrell in 1522; Pal. of Lane. Feet of F. hble, 17, m. 192. Thomas Molyneux was buried at Wigan, 18 Nov. 1611. John Molyneux of the same place followed; *Lancs. Ing. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 279. In the same work (ii, 154) is the inquisition taken after the death of John Lowe of Aspull, who died in 1619, holding lands in Wigan.

¹⁰⁸ Norris D. (B.M.).

¹⁰⁹ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, iii, 2175. 'It was by his aid that the Earl of Derby got into Wigan; he helped in its defence, assisted Prince Rupert with hay and money, and told the Earl of Derby that all the Wiganers would go with the Prince to York or Liverpool and turn out the Roundheads; and when others refused, he went himself.' He

had an estate of great value, which he had gone to London to underrate.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.* iv, 2913; iii, 1804, 2011.

¹¹¹ *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 97, 124, 125, 136, 144. At the time of the Gates Plot Dr. Worthington of Wigan and his son Thomas fled into Yorkshire for fear of an indictment; *Lydiat Hall*, 125, 126. 'Old Dr. Worthington' in 1682 entreated Roger Kenyon to withdraw the warrant out against him; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 139; Dr. Thomas Worthington was with other suspected persons imprisoned in 1689; *ibid.* 314.

¹¹² *Bridgeman*, op. cit. 783; *Land. Gaz.* 1 Aug. 1843; 28 July 1863. Under an Act obtained in 1904, St. George's will be removed to the east side of the Douglas. The Rev. Benjamin Powell, incumbent from 1821 to 1866, was the father of Sir Francis Sharp Powell, bart., M.P. for Wigan from 1885 to the present.

¹¹³ *Bridgeman*, op. cit. 786; *Land. Gaz.* 1 Aug. 1843; 14 June 1864; 14 Jan. 1868. There is a mission church in Whelley.

¹¹⁴ *Bridgeman*, op. cit. 788; *Land. Gaz.* 24 Feb. 1852; 14 June 1864; 19 May 1876.

¹¹⁵ *Bridgeman*, op. cit. 788; *Land. Gaz.* 1 May 1863; 28 July 1863; 5 Aug. 1870. There are two Eckersley memorial brasses in the church. There is a licensed chapel at Worsley Meenes.

¹¹⁶ *Bridgeman*, op. cit. 789; *Land. Gaz.* 28 Mar. 1871; 28 Apr. 1871; 13 Apr. 1883. The incumbent, the Rev. W. A. Wickham, has given assistance to the editors.

¹¹⁷ *Bridgeman*, op. cit. 790; *Land. Gaz.* 5 Apr. 1881; 15 June 1883.

¹¹⁸ *Nightingale*, *Lancs. Nonconformity*, iv, 84. For notice of the congregation in 1798 see Rippon, *Suppl. Reg.* iii, 21.

¹¹⁹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 232.

¹²⁰ *Ibid.* 270.

¹²¹ *Nightingale*, op. cit. iv, 67.

¹²² *Ibid.* iv, 74.

¹²³ *Ibid.* iv, 84.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.* iv, 85.

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Apostolic Church has a meeting-room. There are two unsectarian mission-rooms.

The Swedenborgians have a meeting-place called New Jerusalem.

Something has already been recorded of the loyalty of a large number of the people of Wigan to the ancient faith at the Reformation.¹²⁵ In 1681 there were ninety-one 'convicted recusants' in Wigan, and an attempt to levy a fine for recusancy—a result of the Protestant agitation of the time—led to a riot.¹²⁶ The Jesuits were in charge of the mission. In the time of James II they had a flourishing school and well-frequented chapel, but at the Revolution the excited mob destroyed the buildings and the work was stopped for a short time.¹²⁷ The Society of Jesus, however, still possesses the ancient property. Fr. James Cancell is known to have been there in 1695, and died at Wigan 1722.¹²⁸ Fr. Charles Brockholes built a house about 1740, the upper room being designed as a chapel.¹²⁹ Near this a chapel was built in 1785, and enlargement being necessary it was replaced by the present church of St. John in 1819. It is still served by the Jesuits.¹³⁰ The other churches, served by secular clergy, are St. Mary's,

Standishgate, built in 1818;^{130a} St. Patrick's, Scholes, founded in 1847 and rebuilt in 1880; St. Joseph's, 1870; and the Sacred Heart, Springfield, 1903. A convent of Sisters of Notre Dame is served from St. John's.¹³¹

The grammar school was founded before 1596.

PEMBERTON

Pemberton, 1212.

Pemberton is cut off from Wigan on the north-east by the River Douglas, and from Ince on the east by another brook running into that stream. Through the township runs eastward the brook dividing Orrell from Winstanley. Going north from this brook on the eastern side are found Hindley Hall, Worsley Hall, Newtown, Lathwaite House, Marsh Green, Walthew House, and Markland¹; and on the western side Tunstead, and Lamberhead Green, Norley, Kit Green, and Orrell City. To the south, on the eastern side lie Smithy Brook, Worsley Mesnes, Goose Green, Hawkey,² and Wheatlees. The lowest ground is that in the Douglas valley; the surface rises to the south-west, where a height of

¹²⁵ E.g. in the account of Rector Fleetwood. In 1580 the sons of Ford of Swinley and Markland were being educated beyond the seas, 'where they were accustomed and nourished in papistry'; Gibson, *Lydiat Hall*, 218, 226, 240. For Alexander Markland see Foley, *Rec. Soc. Jesus*, vi, 147; *Douay Diaries*, 12, 321, &c. For James Ford, *ibid.* 12, 202, &c.

In 1583 the Bishop of Chester described the 'papists' about Preston, Wigan, and Prescot, as 'most obstinate and contemptuous,' and desired the Privy Council to arrange 'to deal severely and roundly' with them; *ibid.* 222 (from S.P. Dom. Eliz. xlvi, 84).

The story told by John Lathwaite, born at Wigan in 1585, gives a picture from the other side. He was the son of Henry Lathwaite by his wife Jane Bolton, and he and three brothers became Jesuits and two of them laboured in England. He stated, on entering the English college at Rome in 1603, 'I made my rudiments at Blackrod under a Protestant schoolmaster, with two of my brothers; but being a Catholic, our parents removed us and we received instruction at home from a Catholic neighbour for about half a year. At length it was arranged for our attending schools at Wigan until we were older, and that I did for four years or more. My father's family is descended from the Lathwaites, a wealthy family of the middle class.

'For his faithful adherence to the Catholic religion my father was driven away by the Protestants, and compelled to abandon all his property and possessions, and seek an asylum in another county, until at length, by favour of Henry Earl of Derby, he was reinstated in his property, but rather in the condition of a serf, totally dependent upon the pleasure and ambition of the earl, who had the power of committing or discharging him at will. He was thus enabled to live quietly and securely at home, protected by the earl from the insults of the heretics, for the space of two years; after which, at the earl's pleasure, he was thrown into Lancaster Gaol, but was liberated after two months, on ac-

count of corporal infirmity, and returning home with health completely broken, he died a fortnight after.

'My mother, who is descended from the ancient stock of the Boltons, persevering in the Catholic faith, about three years after my father's death suffered the loss of her whole property; but death at length released her from all her tribulations.' A Joan Lathwaite, widow, of Pemberton, was 'a recusant and indicted thereof' in 1590; *Lydiat Hall*, 247.

'I have five brothers, of whom the eldest, upon my mother's death, yielding to the solicitations and threats of many and the dread of the loss of his property, unhappily lapsed into heresy. . . . My second brother is a Catholic, and (as I hear) is a priest in Spain. My third brother is now a Protestant. In the first or second year after my mother's death he was seized by the pursuivants who are employed to hunt down the Catholics, and was taken before the Bishop of Chester, who endeavoured both by threats and blandishments to entice him to heresy, but in vain, for he preferred torture and death itself to abandoning his religion. But it seems his words were widely different from his actions, for having been discharged from custody, being under age, he was afterwards seduced by a certain intimate friend and, now, though utterly ignorant, yet he is obstinate, and as he declares, acts by the inspiration of the Spirit. My fourth and fifth brothers were always brought up Catholics; the younger of them is now in grammar at Douay. I have two sisters, both Catholics; one married, one still a child. I was always a Catholic.' Foley, *Rec. Soc. Jesus*, iv, 641, 642. The stories of the other brothers (op. cit.) are full of interest.

The Recusant Roll of 1641 shows but few names in Wigan township; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xiv, 239.

¹³⁰ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 128, 132. The bailiffs made a distress on the goods of Anne, widow of Richard Pennington, for a fine of £100. A great disturbance ensued; the bailiffs were kept imprisoned in the house for an hour and

a half, and on venturing into the street were set upon by 'some hundreds,' and the distress rescued, the men hardly escaping with their lives.

¹³¹ Foley, op. cit. v, 319. 'Some of the fathers resided there and taught several classes, numbering more than a hundred scholars. . . . There were constant sermons, which the mayor, or chief magistrate of the town, and his suite were accustomed to attend. . . . The Society had very large chapels in other places, which were much better attended than the neighbouring Protestant churches.' These sentences are from the Annual Letters of 1685, &c. In 1687 Bishop Leyburn confirmed 1,331 persons.

Dr. Kuerden passing through Wigan about 1695, after crossing the Mill Bridge from Scholes, saw 'without the bars, a fair built house lately styled a college, with officers of learning belonging to it, but since violently pulled down, and the ruins thereof yet remaining, but neither Romanist master nor scholars are left.' Thence by the bars he passed into Millgate; *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 214.

¹³² Foley, op. cit. v, 405. His stipend in 1701 amounted to £31 4s., of which £10 came from the people; *ibid.* 321.

¹³³ *Ibid.* v, 406. His income in 1750 was £47 10s., of which £18 came from his family and £6 10s. from the congregation; sixty general confessions were made (for the Jubilee), and the 'customers' or attendants numbered 300. Bishop Matthew Gibson confirmed 230 in 1784, when there were 660 Easter communions; in 1793 the numbers were 285 and 300 respectively. The return made to the Bishop of Chester in 1767 shows an increase of 'papists' from 594 in 1717 to 1,194 in the main portion of the parish, apart from the chapels; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xviii, 215.

¹³⁰ *Liverpool Cath. Ann.* 1901.

^{130a} For the controversy about it see Gilow, *Bibl. Disc. of Engl. Cath.* iv, 270.

¹³¹ *Liverpool Cath. Ann.* 1901.

¹³² Ancient spellings: Marclane, 1276; Marghlands, xvi cent.

² Or Hawcliff.

245 ft. is attained. The area is 2,894 acres.³ The population in 1901 was 21,664, including Goose Green, Highfield, Little Jane, and other hamlets. The whole district is unpicturesque, bare and open, occupied for the most part by collieries, mine shafts, and pit banks. There are, however, fields where some crops are raised, potatoes and oats surviving the smoke of the environs. Pastures are scattered about also. The soil is clay and loam, over Coal Measures and stone.

There are several important roads. That from Ormskirk to Wigan enters the township at Lamberhead Green and passes through Newtown, where it is joined by the road from St. Helens through Billinge, and by that from Warrington to Wigan, through Goose Green. This last road has a branch to Wigan through Worsley Mesnes. The principal railway is the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's line from Liverpool to Wigan, which has a station called Pemberton; a loop line, avoiding Wigan, goes east to join the Wigan and Bolton line. The same company's Wigan and Southport railway crosses the northern corner of the township. There are minor lines for the service of the collieries.

The Local Government Act of 1858 was adopted by the township in 1872.⁴ The board was changed to an urban district council of fifteen members by the Act of 1894. It has now been dissolved and the township added to the borough of Wigan, with four wards each returning three councillors and having an alderman.

A hospital was erected in 1886 by the local board. A public park was given by Colonel B. H. Blundeil in 1903; and a Carnegie library has been opened.

Coal-mining is the principal industry. There are stone quarries, boiler works, iron foundry, cotton mill, and brick-making. The soil is loam and clay, with subsoil of clay, stone, and coal; potatoes and oats are grown, and there is some pasturage.

The pedestal and portion of a cross exist at Goose Green.⁵

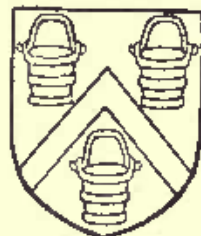
There was formerly a burning well at Hawkley.⁶

At Lamberhead Green in 1775 was born William Atherton, a Wesleyan divine, president of the Conference in 1846. He died in 1850.⁷

Before the Conquest, as afterwards, *MANOR PEMBERTON* seems to have formed one of the berewicks or members of the manor of Newton.⁸ It is so regarded in the inquisitions.⁹

During the 12th century it was held in thegnage by a certain Alan,¹⁰ whose son Alan, settling at Windle, was known as Alan de Windle. At the Survey of 1212 the latter was holding Pemberton, assessed as two plough-lands, by the rent of 20s. and the service of finding a judge for the court of Newton.¹¹ Like other Windle properties this mesne lordship may have descended to the Burnhulls¹² and Gerards¹³; no record of it occurs in their inquisitions, but Sir Thomas Gerard, who died in 1621, held certain lands in the township 'of the lords of Pemberton.'¹⁴ It seems, however, to have been alienated to the Walton family,¹⁵ and so to have descended with Northlegh or *NORLEY* to Legh of Lyme.¹⁶

The first Alan de Pemberton had created a subordinate manor for a younger son, known as Adam de Pemberton.¹⁷ He in 1212 was holding it of Alan de Windle, and had granted out a quarter of it to Henry son of Lawrence, who in turn had granted an oxgang, i.e. a quarter of his share, to Alan son of Aldith.¹⁸ Adam de Pemberton made grants to the Hospitallers¹⁹ and to Cocksand Abbey.²⁰ He was



PEMBERTON. Argent a chevron between three buckets sable with hoops and handles or.

³ 2,895, including 15 acres of inland water; Census of 1901.

⁴ *Lanc. Gaz.* 20 Aug. 1872.

⁵ *Lanc. and Ches. Antiq. Soc.* xiv, 235.

⁶ Baines, *Lanc.* (ed. 1836), iii, 563, quoting Bowen's *Geog.* Roger Lowe records that on 1 June 1665 he went to see the burning well at Pemberton, 'and we had two eggs which was so done by no material fire'; *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 180.

⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁸ *P.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286.

⁹ See for example *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 138; *ibid.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 105.

¹⁰ In the Pipe Roll of 1200-1 the sheriff rendered account of 10 marks from Alan son of Alan for having seisin of the land of Pemberton and for his relief; also for a writ of right against Nicholas le Boteler, formerly deputy sheriff, concerning 40s. already paid; Farrer, *Lancs. Pipe R.* 132, 141.

¹¹ In 1202 Edusa, widow of Alan de Windle, claimed dower in Pemberton from Alan son of Alan; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 37.

¹² *Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 75.

¹³ See the case cited below.

¹⁴ In the inquisition made in 1447 after the death of Sir Peter Gerard it was found that he had held messuages, lands, and tenements, rents, and services in

Pemberton, but the jurors did not know of whom they were held; Towneley MS, DD, no. 1465.

¹⁵ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 300.

¹⁶ Alan de Windle granted to Master Adam de Walton the homage of Adam son of William de Pemberton, and this being transferred to Adam de Walton, lord of Walton le Dale, was by him granted to Thurstan de Northlegh in 1316; *Raines MSS.* (Chet. Lib.), xxxviii, 509. In 1292 Adam de Pemberton was nonsuited in a claim against Adam de Northlegh; *Astize R.* 408, m. 43. In 1305 Adam de Pemberton claimed estovers as against Thurstan de Northlegh and Maud, the widow of Adam de Northlegh, and his claim was allowed; *Abbree. Plac.* (Rec. Com.), 258b. Adam de Pemberton acknowledged that Thurstan and Maud had a right to housebote and haybote without view of the forester, but they had cut down their wood beyond due measure, 93 oaks having been removed; *Coram Rege R.* 184, m. 53. By a fine of 1312 7 messuages, 2 oxgangs and 37 acres of land and 5 acres of meadow in Pemberton were settled upon Thurstan de Northlegh and Margery his wife; *Final Conc.* ii, 40; see also ii, 33, 43. Margery, widow of Thurstan de Northlegh, occurs in 1346; *Astize R.* 1435, m. 31.

¹⁷ Robert de Legh of Adlington and

William de Radcliffe of Smithills married respectively Maud and Katherine, daughters and co-heirs of Thurstan de Northlegh in Pemberton, by his wife Margery, daughter and heir of John de Walton; Ormerod, *Ches.* (ed. Heleby), iii, 661; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 35; *Raines MSS.* (Chet. Lib.), xxviii, 256-9.

¹⁸ In 1448 Robert Cantsfield of Pemberton, holding of Peter de Legh, had a dispute with John Pemberton; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 12, m. 2, 14.

¹⁹ In the inquisition (1528) after the death of Sir Piers Legh his lands in Pemberton were said to be held directly of Thomas Langton; Duchy of Lanc. *Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 63. In right of Norley the Leghs of Lyme had a chapel in Wigan Church, which was given up to the rector in 1682; *Bridgeman, Wigan Ch.* 694.

²⁰ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, i, 75. That Adam was son of the elder Alan appears from the Burnhull case cited below.

²¹ *Ibid.* It is probable that one of these grants is represented by Tunstead.

²² *Ibid.* 76. No grant in Pemberton is mentioned in the list of the Hospitallers' lands in 1292 in the *Plac. de Quo War.* or in the rental of 1540.

²³ *Cocksand Chart.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 668-71. He gave land called Ashbern ridding, within bounds starting at the Douglas and going up Whittle Brook to Flax ridding; across the cart to the syke

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still living in 1246.²¹ His descendant William died about 1292,²² leaving a son Adam,²³ who in 1331 made a settlement of the manor, his son William, who had married Eleanor, being the heir.²⁴

In or before 1362 William died, leaving Eleanor a widow,²⁵ with six children. Thurstan, the heir, was a minor, and his wardship was in 1367 claimed by Robert de Legh and William son of Robert de Radcliffe, in right of their wives.²⁶ Thurstan died soon afterwards and his five sisters were his heirs. One of these died young; the other four each had a share, and it is easy to trace the descent of two: that

of Emma, who married Robert de Hindley of Aspull;²⁷ and of Katherine, who married Alexander de Worsley.²⁸ The family of Molyneux of Rainhill had Hawley in Pemberton, and in 1578 acquired a fourth part of the manor.²⁹ As late as 1415, however, the lord of the manor was said to be Henry de Pemberton.³⁰

But few particulars can be given of the descent of the various portions of the manor. *HINDLEY HALL* became the property of Meyrick Bankes of Winstanley, and is held by his trustees.³¹ The Worsleys of *WORSLEY MESNES*³² were succeeded by the Downes

between Stephen's assart and the charcoal-menz's assart, and by the syke to the Douglas. He also granted an assart which Randle de Pemberton had held, and another called White's cross. Henry son of Lawrence released his share of these lands to the canons.

The abbot shortly afterwards (before 1235) gave them to William son of Richard White of Wigan, who had married Hawise, daughter of Adam de Pemberton, at a yearly rent of 12*d.*; *ibid.* 671. About 1268 John the Smith held these lands by the same rent and a payment of $\frac{1}{2}$ a mark at the death of wife or heir; *ibid.* 668. For the inquisitions after the death of Edmund the Smith of Pemberton in 1408, see *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 92.

²¹ Assize R. 404, m. 9. Adam de Pemberton sued Peter de Burnhill for 200 acres in Pemberton, of which Alan, the plaintiff's father, was seized in the time of Henry II, i.e. before July 1189. The decision was committed to the hazard of a duel, and Adam's man Philip being defeated, Peter de Burnhill was allowed to hold the land in peace. The sureties for Philip were Alan de Windle, William and James de Pemberton, and John del Marsh. See also Assize R. 454, m. 25.

At the same time Adam de Pemberton was summoned to answer Robert son of Hugh, who complained that the lord of Newton compelled him to do service to the three-weeks court at Newton, which Adam as mesne tenant should perform. Robert's tenement was 17 acres, for which he paid a rent of 7*d.*; Assize R. 404, m. 12.

Adam and William his son, together with James de Pemberton, were charged with having disseised William White, John del Marsh, and Adam his brother of their common pasture in Pemberton; *ibid.* m. 2. Peter de Burnhill also claimed 6 acres in Ince from Adam de Pemberton, William his son, and James son of Henry; *ibid.* m. 12*d.* The last may be the James de Pemberton of the preceding case; then the father may be the Henry son of Lawrence of 1212.

²² The exact relationship is uncertain. A case in 1254, in which an Adam son of William was defendant, alludes to William de Pemberton as if he were then dead; Cur. Reg. R. 154, m. 20. In 1292 William son of Roger de Ince acquired a messuage and two oxgangs in Pemberton from William son of Adam de Pemberton and Mary his wife; *Final Conc.* i, 176. Two years later Mary, widow of William, did not prosecute the claim she made against Adam son of William son of Adam de Pemberton; Assize R. 1299, m. 14*d.* John son of William de Pemberton was of full age in 1292; Assize R. 468, m. 27*d.*

²³ Adam de Pemberton was both

plaintiff and defendant in 1292; Assize R. 408, m. 38*d.* 43. Adam and Henry de Pemberton were jurors in 1293; *Lanc. Inq. and Exent.* i, 276. Hugh de Pemberton, enfeoffed by Adam de Pemberton (probably the grandfather), recovered seisin of a messuage, mill, &c., against Adam de Pemberton and Robert de Rod; Assize R. 1306, m. 16. The fine of 1304 (*Final Conc.* i, 203) may refer to a later agreement between the parties.

²⁴ *Ibid.* ii, 79.

William son of Hugh de Pemberton is mentioned in 1343; Assize R. 430, m. 26.

Hugh de Pemberton, rector of Brindle, was about this time engaged in a number of disputes and settlements in Pemberton; possibly he was the younger son of Adam mentioned in 1331. In 1356 Thomas de Pemberton and many others, including Henry de Pemberton the elder, Henry his son, Edmund and Lawrence de Pemberton, and several 'nailers,' were convicted of having disseised Rector Hugh of two messuages and lands in Pemberton; Duchy of Lanc. Assize R. 5, m. 5. Roger de Winstanley was defendant in another case; *ibid.* m. 5*d.* In 1365 and 1366 Emma, widow of Roger de Winstanley, who afterwards married John de Ince, brought a suit against the same Hugh; De Banco R. 421, m. 504*d.*; 425, m. 253*d.* See also *Final Conc.* ii, 153.

²⁵ In 1362 Eleanor, widow of Adam [William] de Pemberton, and other executors of the will of William son of Adam de Pemberton, gave half a mark for a writ respecting a false judgement; Fine R. 163, m. 7.

²⁶ De Banco R. 417, m. 236; 463, m. 389, from which it appears that four of the daughters had by 1376 married as follows: Agnes to Alexander de Lynalx, Katherine to Alexander de Worsley; Alice to Roger son of Richard de Atherton, and Emma to Robert de Hindley. The other daughter was named Juan.

²⁷ See above, and *Vita*, of 1613 (Chet. Soc.), 117. In 1531 it was found that Hugh Hindley of Aspull had held six messuages, 60 acres of land, &c., and a water-mill in Pemberton, of Thomas Laughton in socage, by the rent of 10*s.* per annum, i.e. a moiety of the ancient thegnage rent of the whole manor; Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. vi, no. 22. He had two of the shares, as will be seen below.

²⁸ The relationship of Alexander to the main Worsley stock is unknown. An Alexander son of Richard son of Henry de Worsley occurs in 1334, but can scarcely have been the husband of Katherine; Coram Rege R. 297, m. 120.

In October, 1431, a writ of redisseisin was issued in favour of Robert de Sankey, Hugh de Hindley, and Alice de Parr, against William de Worsley and Alice, widow of Jordan de Worsley, regarding

lands and tenements in Pemberton and Hindley; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxiii, App. 32. Hugh Worsley of Pemberton is mentioned in 1470; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2671. For a curious claim made after his death see *Duchy Head*, (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 109.

The Worsley portion of the manor was in 1511 said to be held of Richard Fleetwood, baron of Newton, by a rent of 5*s.* the service for a quarter of the manor; *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 172.

²⁹ From the preceding note it will be seen that a quarter of the manor is unaccounted for. Nothing further is known of William de Pemberton's daughter Agnes, wife of Alexander de Lynalx. Alice, who married Roger de Atherton, may have been ancestor of the Athertons of later times.

It appears from the last note that Robert de Sankey and Alice de Parr were lords of the manor in 1431, in addition to the Worsleys and Hindleys. One of the latter married a Parr heiress, apparently the Alice de Parr just named, so securing the estate they had later in Parr and a second quarter of the manor of Pemberton. The Sankey quarter seems to have descended to Thomas Sankey and Thomas his son and heir apparent, who in 1578 sold it to Thomas Molyneux of Hawley, in whose family it afterwards descended; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. b'die. 40, m. 171.

³⁰ *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 103. Henry, son of Henry de Pemberton, who had brothers William and Peter, occurs in 1430; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2675; and Henry de Pemberton in 1447; *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* ii, 54.

³¹ A moiety of the manor of Pemberton, i.e. the Hindley portion, was in the possession of Robert Bankes of Winstanley in August 1721, and appears to have descended with Winstanley; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 515, m. 4; 571, m. 6*d.*; 628, m. 7.

³² The family attained some prominence in the 16th century. The Worsleys of the Isle of Wight were the most conspicuous offshoot; Sir James Worsley, their founder, in 1526 complained of the destruction of fences in the Crossfield; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i, 140. Sir James's will is in P.C.C. Ralph Worsley obtained a grant of Birkenhead Priory. Ottwell Worsley was concerned in various suits in 1525; *ibid.* i, 130, 133. A pedigree was recorded in 1613; *Vita*, (Chet. Soc.), 72.

James Worsley purchased land in Pemberton from Sir Robert Worsley o. Booths and Robert, the latter's son and heir apparent, and Elizabeth his wife, in 1562; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. b'die. 24, m. 61.

James Worsley in 1570 had a dispute

of Wardley,³³ and their estates are now held by the Earl of Ellesmere.³⁴ The Molyneuxs of *HAWKLEY* continued in possession until the death of Bryan William Molyneux in 1805.³⁵ By his will the Rev. William Hockenhill of Lymm in Cheshire succeeded, and assumed the surname of Molyneux.³⁶

Hawley, however, was afterwards sold, and is now the property of the trustees of Meyrick Bankes.³⁷

The estate called *TUNSTEAD* was in the possession of a branch of the Pembertons during the whole of the 15th century.³⁸ One of the daughters and co-heirs of George Pemberton then carried it by mar-

with James Winstanley and Thomas Taylor respecting lands abutting on Salterford Brook; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 403. (It may be stated by the way, that an Adam the Salter and his wife Juliana had a tenement in Pemberton in 1292; Assize R. 408, m. 44.) James Worsley died in September 1590, holding the capital messuage or manor house called the hall of Worsley, and other houses and lands, of Thomas Langton by a rent of 5s.; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xv, no. 29.

His brother Ralph succeeded. He was one of the 'comers to church but no communicants' in 1590; *Lydiat Hall*, 246. He had spent some time in Salford gaol for religion in 1582; *Engl. Martyrs* (Cath. Rec. Soc.), 23-5. Dying in 1610 it was found that he had held the 'hall of Worsley' in Pemberton with messuages, lands, and rents there, and in Part, Winstanley, Wigan, and Hindley. The Pemberton lands were held of Richard Fleetwood in socage, by a rent of 5s. but part had belonged to Upholland Priory, and was held of the king by the two-hundredth part of a knight's fee and 2s. rent. His widow Ellen was in possession in 1611, and his heirs were his sister Alice, aged sixty years, and Roger Downes of Wardley, son of another sister, Elizabeth; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 171-3.

An account of the sinking of a coal pit on his estate in 1600 is printed in *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Soc.* vii, 49-53.

³³ Roger Downes represented Wigan in the Parliaments of 1601 and 1620; *Pink and Beaven, Parl. Rep. of Lancs.* 223, 224. He was buried at Wigan 6 July 1638. A monument to his grandson Roger, who died in 1676, is in Wigan Church. See the pedigree in Dugdale, *Vitæ* (Chet. Soc.), 100, and the account of Worsley.

³⁴ In a fine concerning the Wardley estates in 1741 George Lewis Scott was plaintiff and James Cholmondeley and Penelope his wife were defendants; *Pal. of Lanc.* Feet of F. bdlc. 327, m. 80. Lady Penelope sold them to the Duke of Bridgewater in 1760.

³⁵ Some particulars as to this family will be found in the accounts of Rainhill and Whiston.

The *Vitæ* of 1567 suggests that their coming to Pemberton was due to marriage with the heiress of the Ince family. Gilbert de Ince of Hawkley occurs in 1374; *Inq. a.q.d.* 48 Edw. III, no. 19; see also *Coram Rege R.* 426. John Molyneux of Hawkley occurs in 1469 and 1490-1; *Kuerden MSS.* ii, fol. 245, no. 2012; *Towneley MS.* GG, no. 2537.

An agreement was made in 1572 between Richard Molyneux of Hawkley or Hawcliffe and Thomas Gerard of Ince for the marriage of the former's son Richard (i. Roger) with the latter's daughter Elizabeth; *Chet. P.*

In 1543 Thomas Molyneux, son of Roger and the last-named Elizabeth, and Elizabeth his wife had a dispute with Roger Molyneux concerning Hitchcock cart; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i,

174. A settlement of lands in Pemberton and Hawkley was made by fine in 1546 between Roger Molyneux and Thomas, his son and heir apparent, and Elizabeth his wife; *Pal. of Lanc.* Feet of F. bdlc. 12, m. 193. Roger was living in 1547; *ibid.* bdlc. 12, m. 250.

Hawley Hall is mentioned in a dispute between John Kitchen and Isabel his daughter and Thomas Molyneux, the owner, in 1561; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 228. Thomas Molyneux and his second wife Sibyl occur in various fines concerning lands in Pemberton and Markland from 1572; *Pal. of Lanc.* Feet of F., bdlcs. 34, m. 39, &c. 'Thomas Molyneux of Hawkley, gent., in lands £40 and in goods £100,' was a recusant in 1577; *Lydiat Hall*, 215, quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. cxviii, 45. He was buried at Wigan 16 May 1586; and soon afterwards disputes arose between his son and heir Richard and Sibyl the widow. In the pleadings the descent is thus given: Richard Molyneux-s. and h. Roger-s. and h. Thomas-s. and h. Richard. The estate is described as a capital messuage called Hawkley, containing demesne lands in Hawkley and Pemberton, and various lands in Aughton and Uplitherland of very good yearly value; *Duchy of Lanc. Pleas.* Eliz. civ, M. 12; *Decrees and Orders*, Eliz. xx, fol. 37.

Richard Molyneux of Hawkley was in 1590 among the 'comers to church, but no communicants,' but he and his family appear to have soon afterwards conformed to the Established religion; *Lydiat Hall*, 246 (quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. cxxxv, 4). Pedigrees were recorded in 1567 and 1664; *Vitæ* (Chet. Soc.), 108, 200.

Richard Molyneux and Thomas his son and heir-apparent made a settlement of the manor of Pemberton in 1607; *Pal. of Lanc.* Feet of F. bdlc. 71, no. 25. Richard paid £10 in 1631 on refusing knighthood; *Vitæ* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 213. He was still living in 1664, but Thomas was dead, and his son Richard, aged forty at the Visitation in that year, soon afterwards succeeded to the estate. Early in 1681 he made a settlement of the manor and various lands in Pemberton, as also in Wigan, Ince, Standish, and Croft, Anne his wife, and Hugh his son and heir-apparent being joined as defendants; *ibid.* bdlc. 206, m. 91. Richard Molyneux was buried at Wigan 31 Oct. 1681; Hugh succeeded, but appears to have had no issue, and administration of his estate was granted at Chester in 1687.

William Molyneux succeeded his brother Hugh; he was buried at Warrington in 1698 and there is an inscription in the churchyard commemorating him; *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 216. His son William was succeeded by an uncle, Reginald, brother of the preceding William and Hugh; and in turn was succeeded by his sons William (buried at Wigan 4 Nov. 1740) and Richard (buried at Warrington in 1748). In a settlement made in 1721, William Molyneux, gentleman, being in possession, their part of the manor is described as 'the

fourth part'; *Pal. of Lanc.* Feet of F. bdlc. 288, m. 36. A monumental inscription for Richard Molyneux exists in Warrington Churchyard; *Local Glean.* loc. cit.

Hawley descended to his only son Richard, who married Jane daughter and heir of Bryan Wilcock of Walsh Hall, Aughton. Among the Croxteth Hall monuments is a lease of Hawkley Hall in 1749, which describes the house and names the mill and several fields, as Haslings, Hiscow cars, &c. In 1757 a fine concerning the manor of Pemberton has Hugh Wishaw for plaintiff and David Brodie, Mary his wife, Rev. Francis Gastrell, Jane his wife, William Projean, Sophia his wife, and Richard Molyneux as defendants; *Pal. of Lanc.* Feet of F. bdlc. 259, m. 111. Richard Molyneux was buried at Wigan 9 Mar. 1762, and was succeeded in turn by his sons Richard (died 1771) and Bryan William. The latter died at Lymm Parsonage, 29 July 1805, unmarried. There is a monument to him in Wigan Church, where he was buried.

A full pedigree, from which this outline has been taken, will be found in *Palmer MS. E.* (Chet. Lib.), 202, 398.

³⁶ The will of B. W. Molyneux stated expressly: 'The said William Hockenhill shall not enjoy the said premises otherwise than upon the express condition that when such estate shall come to him in possession under the said trusts, he shall take use and bear the surname of Molyneux and shall cause himself to be called by the surname of Molyneux and no other.' A pedigree of the family is given in *Burke, Family Rec.* 433.

³⁷ Hawkley was sold by the Rev. Bryan William Molyneux, son of William Hockenhill.

³⁸ There appear to have been several families bearing the local surname. James de Pemberton has been mentioned in 1246; Henry son of James occurs in 1276; *Coram Rege R.* 26, m. 3d. Henry attested a local charter in 1293 in the next place after Adam lord of Pemberton; *Towneley MS.* GG, no. 2649. Henry de Pemberton and James his son occur about 1283; *Cockersand Chart.* ii, 659.

In the Towneley volume just quoted are a number of charters relating to Tunstead, which was at first an oxgang of land, possibly that belonging to Alan son of Aldith in 1212.

William de Pemberton granted 'an oxgang in Pemberton called Tunstead, which Aynhou (?) de Pemberton formerly held' of him, to Christiana, daughter of Adam de Radcliffe; *Towneley MS.* GG, no. 2649. This afterwards came into the possession of Simon de Holland, who called it his 'manor,' and in 1293 granted it to William son of Roger de Ince; *ibid.* GG, no. 2647, 2648; also *Crosse D. Trans. Hist. Soc.* no. 114, b, c.

Simon son of Thurstan de Holland had complained in 1292 that Robert de Holland, Adam his son, Adam de Northlegh, and others had disseised him of his free tenement in Wigan and Pemberton (17 acres). Thurstan de Holland had

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riage to Robert Molyneux of Melling,³⁸ and it descended with the other lands of this family³⁹ until they were sold in the middle of the 18th century.

MARKLAND was the property of the Hollands,⁴⁰ and in 1360 was granted to the Priory of Upholland. On the suppression it was acquired by John Holcroft,⁴¹

Alexander Worsley, Thomas and John Molyneux, Gilbert Scott, and Robert Higginson, contributed to a subsidy of Mary's reign as landowners.⁴² The freeholders in 1600⁴³ were: Ralph Worsley, — Downes,⁴⁴ Richard Molyneux of Hawley, Robert Arrowsmith, Thomas Laitheait,⁴⁵ Richard Pemberton,⁴⁶ Hugh Scott,⁴⁷ William Walthew,⁴⁸ Thomas

granted the estate to Juliana daughter of John Gillibrand, for life, with remainders to her sons, Thurstan and Adam, and then to the plaintiff Simon, apparently a brother. Adam died before Thurstan without issue; Thurstan died at Oxford; and Simon, who was then in Scotland, returned to Wigan to take possession, but found Robert's men in the tenement. At Pemberton, Adam de Pemberton, as lord, had entered, and held until Simon appeared to claim; Simon had married a daughter of his. The lands in Wigan were held of Robert de Holland by the service of a barbed arrow; Assize R. 408, m. 16 d.

Nothing further is known of its history for a century. Richard de Pemberton died in possession of it in 1415, as also of other lands called the Marsh, &c.; his son Thomas being dead the heir was his grandson Hugh; *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 103. In the same year William, another son of Richard, as trustee granted Tunstead to Alice, the widow of Richard, for life, with remainders to Hugh son of Thomas de Pemberton, and then to Hugh and Thurstan, sons of Richard; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2626, 2655.

Hugh de Pemberton by his wife Douce had a son John, whose son George was the last of the direct male line of the family. For Hugh's marriage see *ibid.*, GG, no. 2596, 2597, dated 1435. He died in or before 1466, when Douce was a widow, and the son John in possession; *ibid.*, GG, no. 2650, 2671, and *Crosse D.*, no. 146.

³⁸ Beatrice, Elizabeth, Ellen, and Alice were the daughters and co-heirs of George son of John Pemberton; Towneley MS. GG, no. 2362, 2890, 2405, dated 1512 and 1514; and *Crosse D.* no. 172. Beatrice Pemberton and others in 1512 claimed the wardship of Elizabeth Birkenhead; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i, 127.

The third of the daughters, Ellen, married Robert Molyneux of Melling (*Visit.* of 1567, p. 100), and in the inquisition taken after the death of their son and heir John Molyneux in 1582, the estate, comprising Tunstead Hall and various lands, is fully described; among the fields were Bridgeley and Mabeck; it was held of the heirs of the lords of Pemberton, James Worsley and Robert Hindley, in socage by rents of 4s. 8d. and 7d. respectively; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xiv, no. 73.

³⁹ See *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 43; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 94, no. 15.

⁴⁰ In 1241 Robert de Holland quit-claimed to Adam de Pemberton all his title to twelve oxgangs in Pemberton in return for the homage and service of Thomas de Sifrethley; *Final Conc.* i, 82. In 1292 Robert de Holland and Robert his son had an estate in Pemberton and Orrell; *ibid.* i, 173.

In 1348 Maud, widow of Robert de Holland, had claimed dower in the 'manor of Markland,' described as three plough-lands; *De Banco R.* 355, m. 307. Inquiry was made at Prescott on 25

Jan. 1346-7 as to whether or not it would be to the king's hurt if a messuage, a mill, 60 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, and 6 acres of wood in Pemberton, and the reversion of other lands held for a term by Adam de Orrell and Nicholas his son, should be granted to the prior and convent of Upholland. The lands were held of Ralph de Langton by fealty and rendering a rose at midsummer, and were of the annual value of 53s. 4d. The answer of the jury was in the negative; the king had already licensed a grant of lands to the value of £20 a year; and after this land had been given Sir Robert de Holland had the manor of Holland, worth 100 marks a year, from which to discharge his liabilities to the king and others; *Inq. p.m.* 41 Edw. III (2nd nos.), no. 12.

In 1535 the clear value was reckoned at £8 10s. a year, and after the Dissolution the various rents came to the same amount; *Dugdale, Mon.* iv, 412.

⁴¹ *Pat. 37 Hen. VIII, pt. iv*; included in the general grant of the priory lands. Markland was soon sold to Sir Robert Worsley of Booths, Thomas Molyneux purchasing part from Robert Worsley; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 31, m. 121, 147; 35, m. 41.

⁴² Masey of Rixton D.

⁴³ *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 239-43.

⁴⁴ Roger Downes had acquired land in 1597 from Thomas Worsley and Katherine his wife; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 58, m. 19.

⁴⁵ See the account of Wigan.

⁴⁶ In 1517 John Pemberton of Lonerethead, with his son Thomas and the latter's wife Elizabeth, leased their chief place to Robert Molyneux; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 121, m. 6 d. John Pemberton and Alice his wife had an estate in the township in 1519; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 11, m. 217. Robert Pemberton and Margaret his wife in 1546; *ibid.* bdlc. 12, no. 247. He may be the Robert Higginson *alias* Pemberton of 1549, who had a dispute with Roger Molyneux as to Wacars; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i, 241. Ralph Pemberton *alias* Higginson appears in 1571 (*ibid.* iii, 25) and Richard Pemberton *alias* Higginson in 1579; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 42, m. 92.

Richard Pemberton, yeoman, died 20 Sept. 1628 holding a messuage and lands of Roger Downes and Richard Molyneux; the heirs were his daughters, Margaret wife of Henry Holme, and Margery wife of Ralph Rylands, aged thirty-nine and thirty-four respectively; Towneley MS. C 8, 13 (Chet. Lib.), 976.

⁴⁷ Roger Scott was a defendant in a plea by John the Sater respecting a messuage and lands in Pemberton in Lent 1351; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 1. m. 1d. The Scotts held the lands of the Abbey of Cockerham; *Charul.* iii, 1246, 1243; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i, 266. Cuthbert Scott, Bishop of Chester 1556 to 1559, is said to have been a member of the family, which adhered to the ancient faith; *Gillow, Bibl. Dict. of*

Engl. Catholics, v, 484. A Cuthbert Scott and his wife appear in the Recusant Roll of 1641; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xiv, 239.

A large number of deeds relating to the Scotts of Wigan and Pemberton have been preserved by Kuerden (ii, fol. 259) from 'Mr. Thomas Scott's charters.' In 1384-5 a settlement was made on the marriage of Richard son of Roger Scott with Alice daughter of Richard the Marshal of Wigan (his land was in the Woodhouses); no. 108; see no. 37, 36, 45. About 1411 Richard son of Roger Scott made a grant of land in Scholes in Wigan between the walk mill and the high road to his son Roger on marrying Alice daughter of William Laitheait; *ibid.* no. 71, 59. Roger Scott the younger received the Marshal lands in Wigan Woodhouses in 1418; *ibid.* no. 48, 72. These lands descended by 1467 to Hugh Scott of Pemberton, a son of Roger Scott; *ibid.* no. 38, 53, 61. Hugh's son Richard was in 1467 married to Ellen daughter of Richard Warburton; lands called High Appletree Croft and Little Scholesfield were granted to them; Joan, wife of Hugh is mentioned; *ibid.* no. 32, 80.

Richard Scott had a son Hugh, whose marriage with Agnes, sister of Thomas Gerard of Ince, was arranged in 1508-9; *ibid.* no. 14, 47. In 1529 Hugh Scott of Pemberton, and Gilbert his son and heir, demised to Gilbert Mason and Margery his wife a burgrave in Millgate, Wigan; *ibid.* no. 104. In 1552 Agnes, widow of Hugh Scott, and Gilbert her son, leased a tenement in Scholes to Charles Bank, brother of William Bank; *ibid.* no. 19. Richard Scott of Lathom, household servant to the Earl of Derby, mentioned in the story of George Marsh, occurs in these deeds, no. 41, 68.

Gilbert Scott died in or before 1576, when a settlement was made by Hugh Scott, his son, and Alice his wife, of various lands in Wigan, Pemberton, and Iremston, with remainders to Gilbert and Roger sons of Hugh; *ibid.* no. 17. Gilbert married a Margaret, and his son Ralph in or before 1592 married Elizabeth a sister of Gabriel Hesketh; *ibid.* no. 21, 9, 91.

Gilbert Scott died 28 January 1620-1, his son Ralph being then 27 years of age; various family arrangements are set out in the inquisition printed in the *Rec. Soc. Lancs. Inq. p.m.* ii, 237-9. Ralph Scott's estate was confiscated by the Parliamentary authorities, and ordered to be sold by the Act of 1652; *Index of Royalists*, 41; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, 15, 3105. Cuthbert Scott, a recusant, petitioned in 1653 to contract for his estates; *ibid.* iv, 3174.

An old ballad about Gilbert Scott and his wife appeared in the *Cent. Mag.* 1740; *Preston Guardian Soc. Notes*, no. 1460.

⁴⁸ A Geoffrey Walthew was trustee in 1589; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 31, m. 147. The William Walthew of the text was perhaps his son (buried at Wigan, November 1600); for Geoffrey, grandson of Geoffrey Walthew, died in 1607, leaving a son and heir Robert, three years

Whalley,⁶⁰ Humphrey Winstanley, and John Worthington. The landowners who contributed to the subsidy of 1628 were Roger Downes, for Worsley's lands; Richard Molyneux, and the heirs of Richard Pemberton.⁶¹ Several 'delinquents' compounded for their estates under the rule of the Commonwealth.⁶² The following 'papists' registered estates here in 1717: Barbara and Margaret Green, George Unsworth, and William Winstanley.⁶³ The land tax returns of 1787 show the chief owners to have been the Duke of Bridgewater, the heirs of T. Barton, Mrs. Percival, W. B. Molyneux, and John Markland.

During the last century a number of places of worship have been erected in Pemberton. In connexion with the Established Church St. John's was consecrated in 1832 as a chapel of ease to the parish church; a burial ground was attached to it. The rector of Wigan is the patron.⁶⁴ The church of St. Matthew, Highfield, built in 1894, serves as a chapel of ease. St. Mark's, Newtown, was built in 1891. The patronage is vested in trustees. There is a licensed chapel at Worsley Mesnes.

The Methodist denominations are well represented, the Wesleyan, Primitive, Independent, and United Free Methodists having places of worship. There are also Free Gospel and Congregational chapels.

The Roman Catholic church of St. Cuthbert dates from 1872; it was enlarged in 1887.⁶⁵

A schoolhouse was built at Goose Green by Thomas Molyneux; but no endowment was provided.⁶⁶

BILLINGE

Bulling, 1212 and commonly in xiv cent.; Billinge, 1284; Bollynge, 1292; Bullynth, 1292.

This township, which originally included Winstanley, has long been divided into two halves regarded as separate townships and known as Chapel End and Higher End. They form the south-west corner of the parish.

The position of Chapel End township—the eastern one—is bleak and open, and the country bare except in the south, where there are more trees and green fields about the neighbourhood of Carr Mill Dam, a fairly large sheet of water. In the middle of this lake the boundaries of three townships meet. In the north there are sandstone quarries on the highest point of the hill. There are fields where potatoes, wheat, and oats are grown, besides pastures nearer the base of the hillside. The soil is sandy, over a substratum of gravel and sandstone rock. The chapel lies near the centre of the boundary between Chapel End and Winstanley on the north. The village,

with its long straggling street and stone houses, spreads from it along the road from Wigan to St. Helens, which is the principal thoroughfare. About the middle of the township it is crossed by another road which runs eastward from the chapel to Ashton in Makerfield. The south-western boundary is formed by Black Brook, near which lies Birabley; and the south-eastern by the Goyt, its affluent, on which is Chadwick Green. Two detached portions of Winstanley lie on this side. The surface rises from the two streams, a height of nearly 600 ft. being attained at the northern border. Here stands Billinge Beacon,¹ from which fine views can be obtained. The area of Chapel End is 1,161 acres,² and the population in 1901 numbered 2,068.

Billinge Higher End, on the north-west side of the former township, has an area of 1,571 acres.³ The population in 1901 numbered 1,600.⁴ Near the centre, by Brownlow, a height of 560 ft. is attained, the surface falling away somewhat quickly to the south-west boundary, which is formed by Black Brook, and also to the west and north. This ridge of high ground, known as Billinge Hill, is visible for miles around. There are extensive quarries of sandstone and a gritstone used for making mill-stones. In the north of the district there are one or two unimportant coal-mines. In this part the hill is not entirely bare in spite of its exposed situation, for there are plantations of small pine trees and some larger deciduous trees. The west side of the township is occupied by cultivated fields where wheat, oats, and potatoes are grown in a rich sandy soil. On the west lies Billinge Hall; to the north are Bispham Hall, Gantley, and the Great Moss. On the east a brook divides the township from Winstanley; Longshaw lies here, with the village adjacent, on the road from Billinge chapel to Upholland. The main roads are macadamized; others set with square blocks of native sandstone; they are protected by walls in the upper parts and hedges in the lower parts of the township.

A local board for Billinge was formed in 1872,⁵ the district including both the townships and also part of Winstanley. This was succeeded in 1894 by an urban district council of twelve members.

The present townships of **BILLINGE MANOR** (Higher End and Chapel End) and **WINSTANLEY** were originally but one manor, rated as half a plough-land, and probably forming one of the berewicks of Newton before the Conquest, just as they constituted members of the Newton barony after it.⁶ The inquest of 1212 shows that this extensive manor had long been divided into three portions, almost equal. The lord was Adam de Billinge,

old; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 80.

⁶⁰ Robert Walthew of Pemberton was charged with delinquency by the Parliament in 1650, and his estate was in danger of sequestration; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, iii, 2333. In 1667 he built the school at Upholland; his daughter and heir Elizabeth married Ralph Markland of the Meadows; *Castrell, Notitia Cesar.* ii, 259, 260, with a reference to *Nichol, Lit. Anec.* iv, 657.

⁶¹ John Whalley of Pemberton, yeoman, died in 1587, holding lands of the queen in Orrell and Pemberton by a rent of 2s. 4d.; Thomas his son and heir was twenty-eight years of age; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xiv, no. 36. A later

John Whalley died in April 1630, holding lands in Orrell and Pemberton of the king; James his brother and heir was forty years of age; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xvii, no. 37. James Whalley is named in Dugdale's *Visitatio* (Chet. Soc.), 319; he appears in the recusant roll of 1641; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xiv, 240.

⁶² *Norris D.* (B.M.).

⁶³ In addition to those mentioned already, see *Cal. Com. for Compounding*, iii, 2014, 2394; *Royalist Comp. Papers* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 257.

⁶⁴ Estcourt and Payne, *Engl. Cath. Non-jurors*, 111, 124, 152.

⁶⁵ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* (Chet. Soc.), 782. A district was assigned in 1838 (*Lond.*

Gaz. 3 Apr.); the inclusion of part of Orrell led to disputes, as the ratepayers here were for a time called on to pay church rates both to the new church and to Upholland.

⁶⁶ *Liverpool Cath. Annual*, 1901.

⁶⁷ *Castrell, Notitia* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 251.

¹ It was erected as a sea mark, about 1780; *Baines, Lancs.* (ed. 1836), iii, 565.

² 1163, including 9 of inland water, according to the census of 1901.

³ 1573, including 3 of inland water; census of 1901.

⁴ Including King's Moss, &c.

⁵ *Lond. Gaz.* 17 Dec. 1872.

⁶ *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286. See *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 138; ii, 99; *ibid.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 105.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

holding of 'ancient feoffment' by the service of 10s. rent and the finding of a judge at the Newton court.⁷ The two subordinate manors were held by Simon and by Roger de Winstanley; each was considered an oxgang and a third, but the services due are not recorded. Roger's share soon became independent. Yet another tenant, Uctred Leute, held a ridding, and paid 16d. rent.⁸ Adam had made grants to Cockersand Abbey and to the Hospital of Chester.⁹

No satisfactory account can be given of the descent of these manors, through lack of evidence. Adam de

Knowsley had lands here in 1246;¹⁰ and six years later he and his wife Godith seem to have had the lordship.¹¹ Henry de Huyton, the son of Adam, was in 1292 lord of two-thirds of the manor, the other third being Winstanley.¹² Billinge, however, did not descend with Huyton; Robert, son of Henry, becoming lord of it, either by special grant or in right of his mother. His daughters were his heirs.¹³ In 1374 the manor is found to have been divided into four parts, which seem to have been held by Eves, Heaton, Billinge and Winstanley.¹⁴ The Eves share

⁷ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 76. Adam de Billinge contributed half a mark to the scutage in 1201 and later years; *Fartet, Lancs. Pipe R.* 152, 179, 205.

⁸ *Inq. and Extents*, loc. cit.

Uctred Leute's holding may have been in Crookhurst, a family taking its name from this place. Richard son of Richard de Crookhurst was a defendant in 1302; *Assize R.* 418, m. 10 d.

⁹ To Cockersand Abbey Adam de Billinge gave all Felling and Ruhlou, the boundaries beginning at Kideay Brook, going to Blackley, to Walley Clough, by this to Westcroft Lache, and so by Little Ruhlou to the starting point. Further he gave half of Crookhurst, the bounds being from Swinepit Clough to Birchley Brook and Blackley Brook, and so to the start; *Cockersand Chart.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 665, 666. William son of Simon de Bulling granted the same abbey a part of his land called Leyerich Ridding, within the care and Hennecroft; also his portion of Crookhurst, the bounds being named with great minuteness; 'the ford next the house of Thomas Cert which was burnt' is among them; *ibid.* ii, 667.

From the charter last quoted 'the Hospital' is identified as that outside the north gate of Chester.

The Abbey's lands in Crookhurst were in 1267 held by Henry Atherton of Bickerstaffe, and descended with this estate; *ibid.* ii, 668; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* iv, no. 68. The rent paid was 18d.

William de Felling, probably the tenant of the Abbot of Cockersand, in 1308 held lands under the lord of Winstanley; *Assize R.* 423, m. 2. A later bearer of the name forfeited his lands for felony, but those he held of Cockersand were given up to the abbot in 1384; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxii, 356, 357.

The Cockersand lands here, as in other places, were granted to Thomas Holt; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 288.

¹⁰ Christiana widow of Henry son of Quenilda sued Hugh de Crookhurst for dower in 12 acres; it was found that Adam de Knowsley held the land; *Assize R.* 404, m. 13.

Crookhurst was the subject of an agreement in 1256 between William son of Hugh and Emma his wife, and Adam son of Hugh and Agnes his wife; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 127. William son of Hugh is called William de Rainford in a suit of 1292; *Assize R.* 408, m. 61.

¹¹ *Final Conc.* i, 114.

¹² In 1278 William de Billinge complained that Henry de Huyton had destroyed one of his ditches in Billinge; *Assize R.* 1238, m. 35.

Six or seven years later Adam de Billinge complained that Henry de Huyton and another had disseised him of his free tenement in Billinge; *Assize R.* 1268, m. 19 d.

In 1290 it was Henry de Huyton who was plaintiff, regarding two-thirds of certain wood and moor, and iron mineral; *Assize R.* 1288, m. 12, 13. The defendants were Roger de Winstanley and Henry son of Ralph de Billinge; they made an exchange of lands in 1283, to which Hugh son of Ralph de Billinge was one of the witnesses; *Cockersand Chart.* ii, 659.

Richard de Crookhurst in 1292 complained that Henry de Huyton, Adam de Billinge, and Roger de Winstanley had deprived him of estovers in 100 acres of wood for horsebote and haybote—i.e. for burning, fencing, and building—pannage for his pigs, &c. Henry, in reply, said he was chief lord of two-thirds of the vill, and Roger of one-third; as chief lords they had approved from the waste, and the complainant, who was Henry's tenant, had sufficient estovers outside the improvement. He was non-suited; *Assize R.* 408, m. 12 d.

Adam de Billinge's right in the manor is not here defined; it appears that he was the representative, and no doubt descendant, of the Simon of 1212. He should, therefore, have had a moiety of Henry de Huyton's two-thirds, and from another suit of 1292 it appears that he claimed the moiety of 50 acres of moor and wood from Henry de Huyton, here called de Rycroft, and others; *ibid.* m. 25. Nine years later the suit, or a similar one, appears in the rolls, Adam claiming the moiety of 60 acres of wood and waste. Henry de Huyton, the principal defendant—the others were William Bird and Alan son of Eva de Billinge—replied that he was lord of the two-thirds of Billinge and Adam of one-third; and they had agreed that the 60 acres should pertain to Henry, and another portion of the waste, called Catshurst, should belong to Adam. The jury found that Catshurst was only 22 acres, and that Henry had approved 40 acres, a share of which should be given to Adam; *Assize R.* 1281, m. 5 d. In the following year Adam de Billinge and Henry de Huyton were chief lords, the complainants being William de Huyton and Robert his brother; *Assize R.* 428, m. 10 d.

A possible solution is that Winstanley, having become detached, paid 3s. 6d. rent to the lord of Newton; that the remaining 6s. 6d. was shared between Henry de Huyton and Adam de Billinge in the ratio of two to one, while they divided the land equally.

¹³ Robert and William de Huyton were among the defendants in a suit of 1309 affecting the boundaries of Billinge and Winstanley, Henry de Huyton and Adam de Billinge being also joined; *Assize R.* 423, m. 2.

Four years later Robert de Huyton recovered from Henry de Huyton the manor of Billinge; *Assize R.* 424, m. 1 d.

In 1321 William son of Robert de Huyton settled messuages and lands upon Robert de Huyton the elder for his life; *Final Conc.* ii, 41. The pedigree of the Huyton family is not clear; but Robert de Huyton the elder was probably a brother of Henry. Robert son of William brother of Henry de Huyton and Robert son of Henry de Huyton were last in the remainders of a settlement made by Ellen de Torbock in 1332; *Croxtheth D. Z.* i, 4. In the same year Robert de Huyton and William de Billinge contributed to the subsidy; *Exch. Lay Subs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 26. Six years later Robert de Huyton of Billinge acquired some land in Ashton; *Final Conc.* ii, 108.

Robert de Huyton of Billinge, probably a descendant, complained in 1348 of the damage which William Dawson of Billinge had done to property while he had it on lease; he had pulled down a hall worth £10, and two chambers worth £5 each, and cut down twenty apple-trees worth 20s. each, &c.; *De Banco R.* 355, m. 21; 356, m. 234 d. Four years later certain lands were held jointly by Alan the clerk of Rainford, whose wife was Agnes, and Robert son of Matthew de Huyton; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 2 (Pent.), m. 2. Another defendant in the case was Isolda, widow of Roger de Winstanley and daughter of Roger (? Robert) de Huyton. Richard de Huyton appears in 1357; *ibid.* R. 6, m. 5.

¹⁴ By charter of June 1331 Robert de Huyton and Mary his wife granted an estate in Billinge to trustees, with remainders successively to their children, Henry, Richard, Isolda, Agnes and Avice. By 1363 Robert and Mary were dead, and Henry and Richard had died without issue; Isolda was the wife of William the clerk of Wigan, and her estate having been taken into the king's hands for some default of Eustace de Cotesbach, for whom her father had been a surety, she petitioned for restoration; *L.T.R. Memo. R.* 128, m. 5. Isolda seems to have been the widow of Roger de Winstanley; in 1363 Hugh de Winstanley sued William the clerk of Wigan and Isolda his wife for waste; *De Banco R.* 416, m. 299 d. It appears from the following that there was another daughter who shared the inheritance.

From a plea of 1372 it is clear that the manor of Billinge, i.e. the Huyton half as previously explained, had become divided among four co-heirs and their issue; for Geoffrey de Wrightington and Ellen his wife, executors of the will of Robert de Winstanley (Ellen being the widow), in that year claimed dower from Henry de Scarisbrick as guardian of the land and heir of Robert de Billinge, from Richard de Heaton and Isolda his wife; and from Alan the Barker and Agnes his wife, each of the defendant parties holding a fourth part of the manor; *De Banco R.* 447, m. 184 d.; 454, m. 141.

Alan the Barker may have succeeded



BILLINGE: BISPHAM HALL



ABRAM: BAMFURLONG HALL

descended to the Lathoms of Mossborough;¹⁵ and one of the parts was later held by the Bispham family.

The Heaton's also held *BIRCHLEY* in Chapel End, the service to the lord of Newton being 3s. 2d. rent.¹⁶ This manor of Birchley was acquired in the 16th century by the Andersons of Lostock, a younger son settling here.¹⁷ It is now owned by Lord Gerard.¹⁸

Higher End contains Bispham Hall and Billinge Hall, named after the lords of other portions of the manor. The share of the Bispham family¹⁹ was described as a fourth part even in the 18th century, when it passed by marriage to Thomas Owen of

Upholland,²⁰ and then by his two daughters to Holt and Edward Leigh.²¹ From Holt Leigh it has



ANDERSON of Lostock.
Sable three shackbals argent.



GERARD, Lord Gerard.
Argent a saltire gules.

Alan de Rainford, who, with Agnes his wife, had a quarter of a moiety of the manor in 1366, when it was settled upon them for their lives, with remainder to Robert del Eves and his heirs; *Final Conc.* ii, 172. It may be conjectured that this Robert was the son of Agnes by a former marriage. Thus the four co-heirs were in 1374 represented by Winstanley, Billinge, Heaton and Eves, and each quarter would pay a rent of 1s. 1d. to the lord of Newton.

Some further light on the descent is given by claims for debt made by the executors of the will of Sir John de Dalton in the next year against Geoffrey de Wightington and Ellen his wife, executrix of the will of Robert de Winstanley; Geoffrey de Urnston, executor of the will of Joan, who had been wife and executrix of Robert de Billinge; Alan the Barker of Billinge, executor of the will of Margery, who was the wife and executrix of Robert de Staverley; and Robert de Huyton, executor of the will of Agnes, who was the wife of Alan de Rainford; *De Banco R.* 457, n. 186. 341 d.

¹⁵ Agnes de Rainford being dead, as appears in the last note, Robert del Eves came into possession, and was defendant in 1375; *De Banco R.* 459, m. 162. He died in or before 1398; having held Galfrey (? Gaultley) in Billinge of Ralph de Langton, baron of Newton, in socage by the rent of 13d.; Nicholas, his son and heir, was twenty-four years of age; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 68. The heiress of this family married a Lathom of Mossborough; *Visit. of 1613* (Chet. Soc.), 106; and in 1620 Henry Lathom died, holding messuages and lands in Billinge of the barony of Newton by a rent of 13d.; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc.), ii, 205; see also *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* 2, no. 2.

¹⁶ The rent appears to be made up of 2s. 2d. due by the heir of Adam de Billinge, and 1s. due from the quarter of the manor inherited from the Huyton family. In a later inquisition the rent is given as 3s. 3d.; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xxx, no. 7.

What is known of the Billinge family has been stated in previous notes. A member of the family married one of the Huyton co-heirs, while the heiress of the main branch appears to have married William de Heaton, son of the Richard de Heaton who held another quarter of the Huyton share. In 1398 a dispensation was granted for the marriage of Joan de Billinge with William de Heaton; *Raines MSS.* (Chet. Lib.) xxxvii. B, 61; *Dods, MSS.* vii, fol. 326. In 1422 a settlement was made of the manor of Birchley and messuages and lands in Billinge, &c., the holders being William de Heaton and

Joan his wife; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 5, m. 9. In 1530 Richard Heaton gave the manor of Billinge, and his messuages, mills, and lands there and in Birchley to trustees, for the benefit of his son William; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 151, m. 8.

¹⁷ In a fine of 1581 relating to Birchley and a quarter of the manor, James and Thurstan Anderson, sons of Christopher, were plaintiffs, and William Heaton and his sons Ralph and Richard, defendants; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 43, m. 133. Previously, e.g., in 1542, the manor of Birchley had been included in the Heaton settlements; *ibid.* bdlc. 12, m. 66, &c. James Anderson, of Lostock, died in 1613, seised among other properties of the capital messuage called Birchley Hall, and of various houses and lands in Billinge, held of the Baron of Newton, in socage, by a rent of 3s. 2d.; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc.), ii, 26, 27. Roger, his younger brother, had Birchley by arrangement with his brother Christopher, of Lostock; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 94, m. 3, and note of Mr. Ince Anderson. In 1631 he paid £10 on refusing knighthood; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 213. He was buried at Wigan, 1 Oct. 1640, and Anne, his widow, on 14 Sept. 1646.

His son, James Anderson, of Gray's Inn, took arms for the king in the Civil War, and joined in the attack on Bolton. Though comprised within the articles of Ludlow he forechose to compound within the time fixed, being a recusant, though not convicted. In 1649 he petitioned to be allowed to compound. His estates were, however, confiscated, and included in the third act of sale, 1652; *Index of Royalists* (Index Soc.), 41; and Thomas Wharton purchased Birchley in the following year. Soon afterwards, however, a composition was arranged, the fine of £800 being reduced to £650 3s. 4d., and further afterwards; *Royalist Comp. Papers* i, 75-81. Captain Thurstan Anderson, another of the family, was wounded at the battle of Newbury, and died at Oxford, in Sept. 1643; *Castlemain, Cath. Apology*. Early in 1654, in a fine concerning the 'manor of Billinge,' James Anderson, Thomas Wharton, and Joseph Rigby were defendants; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 153, m. 81. James Anderson died in 1673; *Cavalier's Note Bk.* 305. His only child was a daughter Elizabeth, who married John Cansfield of Cansfield. A pedigree was recorded in 1664; *Dugdale, Visit.* 5.

¹⁸ Mary, the daughter and heir of the above John Cansfield, married Sir William Gerard, and in 1692 her lands were settled as the manors of Robert Hall and Cansfield, and a fourth part of the manor of Billinge, with messuages and lands in

these places, including Birchley; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 229, m. 109.

¹⁹ No pedigree was recorded. The earliest of this family known is Thomas Bispham, who in 1552 was one of various persons charged with destroying timber in Galtly Wood, and who early in 1568 made a settlement of three messuages, and other lands in Billinge and Rainford; *Ducatus*, i, 242; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 20, m. 112. Henry and Thomas, jun., appear in a fine of 1571; *ibid.* bdlc. 33, m. 39. Two years later, Thomas Bispham (probably the younger, on succeeding), made a settlement of 4 messuages and lands in Billinge and Rainford; *ibid.* bdlc. 35, m. 19. In 1600 he was among the freeholders of the township.

William Bispham, who appears in 1628, on refusing knighthood paid £20 in 1631; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 212. He died 10 Oct. 1639, holding lands in Orrell and Billinge, the latter of the Baron of Newton by a rent of 13d., the regular rent for a fourth part of the manor; his son and heir, Samuel, was of full age; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xxx, no. 97. William Bispham of Billinge married a niece of Bishop Bridgeman's; *Wigan Ch.* 348. See also *Fun. Certs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 198, for further particulars of the family; Samuel Bispham was one of King Charles's physicians in ordinary, and had a son and heir, Thomas, aged 18 months at his grandfather's death.

In 1641 the manors of Orrell and Billinge, and messuages, windmill, and lands there were the subject of a settlement by Samuel Bispham, esq.; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 139, n. 32. Thomas Bispham died 22 Sept. 1677, aged 40; *Wigan Ch.* 746; and another of the same name followed, for Frances Bispham, widow of Thomas, and Thomas Bispham were vouches in a recovery of the manors in 1703; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 477, m. 6. Frances died at the end of the same year; *Wigan Ch.* loc. cit.

²⁰ Thomas Bispham had an only daughter and heir Margaret, who about 1731 married Thomas Owen; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 532, m. 7; *Feet of F. bdlc.* 307, m. 8; *Wigan Ch.* 746.

²¹ *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlcs.* 368, m. 64; 371, m. 137; *Plea R.* 599, m. 12; the 'manor or lordship of Orrell, a fourth part of the manor or lordship or reputed manor or lordship of Billinge, with lands, &c., in Orrell, Billinge, Upholland, Rainford, and Wigan.'

Holt Leigh died 11 March 1785, aged 55, and was buried at St. Clement Danes, London; his widow Mary died 28 Nov. 1794, aged 53; *Wigan Ch.* 745, 746. Bispham Hall was about 1850 the property of John Holt; *Raines, in Gastrell's Notitia*, ii, 254.

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descended like Orrell to Mr. Roger Leigh, of Hindley Hall, Aspull.

The shares of the Billinge²² and Winstanley²³ families cannot be traced satisfactorily.

One of the quarters of the manor was acquired by the family of Bankes of Winstanley.²⁴

Thomas and John Winstanley and Thomas Bispham,²⁵ as landowners of Billinge and Winstanley, contributed to a subsidy levied about 1556. The freeholders in 1600 were: Anderton of Birchley, Thomas Bispham, Richard Billinge, William Ather-ton, and John Wood.²⁶ In 1628 the landowners, contributing to the subsidy were: Roger Anderton, William Bispham, William Blackburn, Edmund Wood, and Edmund Bispham. The first and last of these, as convicted recusants, paid double.²⁷ Those who contributed for lands to the subsidy of 1663 were James Anderton of Birchley, Thomas Bispham, Peter Parr, Geoffrey Birchall, and Alexander Leigh.²⁸ In 1717 the following, as 'papists,' regis-tered estates here: John Gerard of Ashton, John Howard, Richard Mather, and Robert Rothwell of Winstanley.²⁹ The principal landowners in 1787, according to the land tax returns, were William Bankes, Edward Leigh, and Sir Robert Gerard, contributing together about half of the sum total raised.



LXTON. *Gules a cross engrailed argent between four lozenges ermine, a canton or.*



BISPHAM. *Sable a saltire between four haris' heads cabossed ermineois.*

²² A pedigree, imperfect, was recorded in 1665; Dugdale, *Vitin.* (Chet. Soc.), 30.

John Billinge was in 1590 reported as 'soudly affected in religion' *Lydiat Hall*, 246. He was a trustee in 1573, and Richard Billinge was a freeholder in 1600. His grandson, another Richard, recorded the pedigree, being then 52 years of age. As a 'papist' two-thirds of his estate fell into the hands of the Parliamentary authorities, and in 1652 the whole was sequestered; on inquiry it was found that his estate in Wigan parish had been sequestered for recusancy, and that in Ormskirk parish for recusancy and delinquency. Afterwards he petitioned to be allowed to compound; *Royalist Comp. Papers*, i, 173; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, iv, 3102. His son John was aged 17 in 1665, and in 1691 Frances Bispham, widow, purchased from John Billinge and Margaret his wife, and Margery Billinge, widow, the fifth part of the manor of Billinge, with houses, windmill, dovecote, and lands in Billinge and Rainford; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde.* 226, m. 44. This 'fifth part' of the manor is named in a later fine, Holt Leigh being possessor; *ibid.* bde. 368, m. 64.

²³ This family may be the Winstanleys of Blackley Hurst, a detached part of the township of Winstanley.

²⁴ In a recovery of the fourth part of the manor of Billinge in 1729 Hugh Holme was vouches; this was before his marriage with the Bankes heiress; *Pal.*

of Lanc. Plea R. 528, m. 8. It has since descended like Winstanley; *ibid.* Aug. Assizes, 1803, R. 10.

²⁵ Massey of Rixton D.

²⁶ *Misc. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.)*, i, 240, 243.

John Wood in 1570 acquired lands in Billinge, Windle, and Winstanley from Richard Cowper, and ten years later made further purchases from Ralph and Richard Heaton; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde.* 32, m. 51; 42, m. 143.

The Orrells of Turton held lands, as appears by various suits recorded in *Ducatus Lanc. (Rec. Com.)*, i, 242.

For a Molyneux family, holding under Fleetwood, see *Lancet. Ing. p.m.* (Rec. Soc.), ii, 128.

²⁷ Norris D. (R.M.).

²⁸ List in possession of W. Farrer, containing also a catalogue of the charterers.

²⁹ *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 124, 125, 151. The son of Richard and Elizabeth Mather is described as a Protestant. In addition, Francis Estcourt of Birchley registered an annuity of £33 from a house in Ashton in Makerfield; *ibid.* 151.

³⁰ The documents referred to are printed in Canon Bridgeman's *Wigan Ch.* 749-57.

The dedication of the chapel is unknown. In the earliest record, 1539-40, the priest in charge is called the vicar of Billinge; *op. cit.* 750. Nothing but 'one little bell' belonged to it in 1552; *Ch. Gds.* (Chet. Soc.), 75.

The Inclosure Award, with plan, is preserved in the County Council offices at Preston.

A chapel of ease was built here in the CHURCH time of Henry VIII at the cost of the inhabitants, who also paid the priest's wages.³⁰ At the beginning of Mary's reign James Winstanley of Winstanley, 'minding utterly to destroy the same chapel for ever, out of very malice and hate that he had and bore towards the service of God, which he perceived the Queen's majesty was minded to advance and set forwards,' assembled a band of twenty 'evil-disposed persons,' and forcibly carried off the chalice and paten and other ornaments, broke the windows, turned out forms and chairs and the like furniture, and made it a barn, keeping his hay and corn there by force.³¹ There was 'no preacher' at Billinge in 1590.³² Eight years later the building was found to be out of repair; there were no books but a Bible, the curate was 'no minister, but one licensed to read.' No attempt had been made to collect the 1s. a week fine for absence from the legal services, nor were there any collections for the poor. Very few came to the communion thrice yearly; the parishioners could not say the Catechism, and many did not know the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and commandments.³³

The Commonwealth surveyors recommended that the chapel should be made a separate parish church, but this does not seem to have been carried out.³⁴ The minister in charge was ejected in 1662.³⁵ The old building was demolished and rebuilt in 1717-18.³⁶ The church has been of late considerably enlarged under the direction of Mr. T. G. Jackson, R.A. The oldest part of the building dates only from 1717, and before the additions was a plain rectangle in plan, 57 ft. by 37 ft., with a small eastern apse. The elevations are very plain, divided on north and south into four bays by shallow pilasters, with a round-

³¹ *Wigan Ch.* 751. It is possible that the chapel was not used in the time of Edward VI, there being no 'ornaments' in 1552, and that James Winstanley had acquired some title to the building, or claimed a chief rent. As to his opponents, it is obvious that they would use the argument most likely to move the queen. In the will of James Winstanley of Winstanley, made 12 Mar. 1555-6, and proved at Chester 19 Dec. 1557, he expressed a desire to be buried 'within the holy sepulchre in the parish church of Wigan.'

³² Gibson, *Lydiat Hall*, 348; quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. ccxxv, 4. A similar report was made about 1610; *Misc. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 13.

³³ *Wigan Ch.* 754; *Raines MSS.* (Chet. Lib.), xxii, 184.

³⁴ *Commonw. Ch. Surv.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 62; the salary was £50. An augmentation of stipend to the amount of £30 was granted in 1656; *Plund. Minis. Act.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 145. ³⁵ *Wigan Ch.* loc. cit.

³⁶ *Ibid.* Bishop Gastrell about this time found the income of the curate to be £34 *on Ed.*, of which £6 was paid by the rector, and the remainder was the interest of various benefactions, £15 coming from Eddieston House, an estate bequeathed by John Eddieston in 1672, and containing a stone delph set for £2. A chief rent of £1 was payable to Mr. Blackburn. One warden was appointed; *Notitia Cestr.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 253.

headed window in each bay, each window subdivided by mullions into three lights. The walls are crowned with an embattled parapet, with urns at intervals on the parapet, and in the west front is the doorway, with a window of semi-Gothic style over it. All the work is very good of its kind, of wrought stone without, and the fittings of oak, while a fine brass chandelier hangs from the ceiling. Galleries put up in 1823 have now been taken away. It has lately been dedicated to St. Aidan. In 1765 the patronage was disputed, but the rector of Wigan established his right, and is the present patron.³⁷ The church became parochial in 1882.³⁸

The curates in charge and vicars have been as follows³⁹ :—

1609	Richard Bolton ⁴⁰
1625	Edward Tempest
1626	Peter Travers
1646	John Wright ⁴¹
c. 1686	Nathan Golborne ⁴²
1699	Edward Sedgwick
1704	John Horobin
1708	Humphrey Whalley
1749	Edward Parr
1763	Thomas Withnell
1776	Richard Carr
1813	Samuel Hall, ⁴³ M.A. (St. John's Coll. Camb.)
1833	John Bromilow
1853	Howard St. George, M.A. (T.C.D.)
1898	Francis Broughton Anson Miller, M.A. (Trinity Coll. Camb.)

There is a Wesleyan Methodist chapel at Higher End, built in 1845, and a Primitive Methodist one in Chapel End.

If Billinge has afforded some evidence, though questionable, of the existence of a vigorous Protestantism in this part of the county as early as 1550, it also affords evidence of the vitality of the ancient faith, the Andertons of Birchley sheltering the missionary priests. One of the earliest to labour here was the Jesuit Roger Anderton, who served from 1645 until his death fifty years later.⁴⁴ The present church of St. Mary was built in 1828. A manuscript preserved in the presbytery contains the *Forma Vivendi* of Richard Rolle of Hampole.⁴⁵

³⁷ *Wigan Ch.* 755.

³⁸ *Ibid.* 756; *Land. Gen.* 8 Dec. 1882.

³⁹ *Wigan Ch.* 756, 757. The first who was formally licensed to the cure was Humphrey Whalley, in 1708. Most of the earlier ones, therefore, except during the Commonwealth, were probably curates of Wigan who read the service at Billinge on Sundays.

⁴⁰ He was merely a 'reader' in 1609 (*Raines MSS.* xxii, 298), but contributed to the subsidy of 1622 as curate; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 65.

⁴¹ He was a 'very honest, godly minister, and of good life and conversation, but kept not the fast day appointed by Act of Parliament'; *Commonw. Ch. Surv.* 63.

⁴² There is probably some error in Canon Bridgeman's list at this point, as Humphrey Tudor's name does not appear in Bishop Stratford's visitation list of 1691. In 1689 Nathan Golborne was 'minister' at Billinge, and was 'conformable'; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 228. In Stratford's list he is described as curate of Wigan, ordained in 1686. He is probably the Goulburn of

Canon Bridgeman. He was buried at Warrington 12 Mar. 1691-2.

⁴³ While at Billinge he renounced Calvinism, became a Universalist, and left the Established Church. He died in 1858; *Axon, Manch. Annals*, 275. Later he returned to the Church, but was not again beneficed.

⁴⁴ In 1717 the families in the chapelry numbered 178, ten being 'papists' and fourteen Dissenters (ten Presbyterian and four Quakers). There were ninety-four 'papists' in 1767. See Gastrell, *Notitia*, ii, 253; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xviii.

⁴⁵ The details in this paragraph are chiefly from the *Liverpool Carb. Annual*, 1901.

¹ 1,860, including 29 of inland water; census of 1901.

² *Dict. Nat. Biog.* ³ *Ibid.* ⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Roger de Winstanley held the manor under the lord of Billinge in 1212; *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 76. He was a contributor to aids, &c. in the time of King John; *Farrer, Lancs. Pipe R.* 205, 230. As Roger de Winstanley, son of Outi, he made grants to Cockerand Abbey: (1)

WINSTANLEY

Winstaneslege, 1212; Wynstanesleigh, 1252; Wynstanlegh, 1292; Winstanislegh, 1293.

Winstanley is situated on the eastern lower slopes of Billinge Hill, 440 ft. above sea level being reached, on the edge of an extensive colliery district, several coal-mines being found in the township itself. The principal object in the landscape is the mass of trees surrounding Winstanley Hall, the grounds of which occupy nearly one-third of the whole area of the township. The rest of the country is divided into fields, usually separated by thin hedges, and sometimes by low stone walls. The arable fields produce crops of potatoes, oats, and wheat, whilst there are pastures and meadows, with isolated plantations. The surface soil is sandy, mixed with clay in places, with sandstone rock not far from the surface.

The park is bounded on two sides by the roads from Billinge to Wigan and from Haydock to Upholland, which cross at its southern point. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's Liverpool and Wigan Railway passes through near the northern boundary. A colliery railway goes south-west through the township.

Withington lies in the north-west corner, and Longshaw on the western boundary; south of this is Moss Vale. Two detached portions of the township lie within Billinge Chapel End; one of these is called Blackley Hurst.

The township has an area of 1,859 acres,¹ and in 1901 the population numbered 564.

Thomas Winstanley, an Oxford scholar of some distinction, was born in the township in 1749. He became Camden Professor of History in 1790 and held other university and college appointments. He died in 1823.² James Cropper, 1773 to 1840, philanthropist, was also a native of Winstanley,³ and Henry Fothergill Chorley, 1808 to 1872, musical critic and general writer, of Blackley Hurst.⁴

The earlier stages of the history of the *MANOR* manor have been described in the account of Billinge.⁵ There are no materials at present available for tracing the descent in the family of Winstanley, which continued in possession until the end of the 16th century.⁶ Early in 1596 Edmund Winstanley and Alice his wife sold the manor

Witlow Hurst, the bounds of which were the Syke, Green Lache, Thornhurst Brook, and Kempesbirrines; (2) another piece, the bounds beginning at the road from Northcroft to Sandyford on Budshaw Brook; and (3) another, bounded by Eldcley Brook and Thornhurst Brook to Green Lache; *Cockerand Chert.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 654-8. The lands were granted by the abbot to William de Burley, by a rent of 12d., and 10s. as obit; William de Whitlow held them in 1268, and James de Winstanley, paying 2s., in 1461; *ibid.* 655-6.

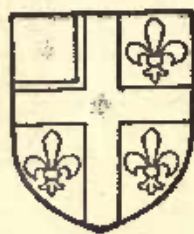
⁵ Adam de Winstanley was in possession in 1252; *Final Cont.* i, 114. By the agreement he appears to have secured a practical enfranchisement of his manor. It was probably Roger his son who made a grant to Cockerand of certain land marked out by crosses; this had been exchanged for other land held by Henry de Billinge, and the exchange and donation were confirmed by the lord of Newton in 1283; *Cockerand Chert.* ii, 658-60. Roger de Winstanley was a plaintiff in 1292 against Henry de Huyton; Assize R.

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of Winstanley, with the coal mines and view of frankpledge, to James Bankes.⁶ The purchaser, who belonged to a Wigan family,⁷ died 4 August 1617,



WINSTANLEY. Or fess base azure and in chief three crosses formy gules.



BANKES. Sable a cross or between four fleurs de lis argent, a canton of the second.

leaving a widow Susannah, and a son and heir William, then twenty-four years of age. The manor was held of Sir Richard Fleetwood, baron of Newton, in socage by a rent of 3s. 6d.; the other possessions of James Bankes included the manor of Houghton in

Winwick, and lands in Winstanley and adjacent townships.⁸ William Bankes, the heir, represented Liverpool in Parliament in 1675;⁹ his son, another William, represented Newton in Makerfield in 1660;¹⁰ the latter's son, also William, represented Wigan in 1679.¹¹ The last William Bankes dying in 1689, the manors passed to his brother Thomas's son and grandson.¹² Thomas had also a daughter Anne, who married Hugh Holme of Upholland in 1732, and their descendants, assuming the name of Bankes,¹³ ultimately acquired possession, retaining it until the death of Meyrick Bankes in 1881. His daughter, Mrs. Murray, was left a life interest in the estate, and it was entailed in tail male on her sons. She resumed her maiden name and died December 1907, when her only surviving son George Bankes came into the property.¹⁴

Another branch of the Winstanley family¹⁵ is found at Blackley Hurst, a detached portion of the township. Their lands were sold to Richard or William Blackburne in 1617,¹⁶ and Blackley Hurst was later acquired by the Gerards, owners of the adjacent Birchley.

408, m. 44c.; and in the same year Henry son of Roger de Winstanley and Adsm son of William de Winstanley were defendants; *ibid.* m. 36 d.

In 1305 Roger son of Roger de Winstanley recovered messuages and lands from Richard son of William the Lewed, Alice his wife, and Amota daughter of Alice. Alice, it appeared, was the real defendant; her title came from a grant by Robert de Huyton and William de Winstanley; *Assize R.* 1306, m. 19. In 1332 Roger de Winstanley contributed to the subsidy; *Exch. Lay Subs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancia. and Ches.), 26. Roger son of Roger de Winstanley and Isolda his father's widow had disputes in 1352; *Assize R.* 435, m. 29. Particulars of various suits will be found in the account of Billinge.

Hugh de Winstanley contributed to the poll tax in 1381; *Exch. Lay Subs.* bdlc. 130, no. 24. In 1388 he had licence for an oratory for two years; *Lich. Epis. Reg. Scrope*, vi, fol. 124. Henry de Winstanley and Malin his wife made a grant of land in Houghton in Winwick in 1400-1; *Towneley MS. GG.*, no. 1007.

At the end of 1433 James de Winstanley the elder granted to trustees all his lands, &c., in Wigan, Winstanley, Penberton, and Billinge; these in the following year were regranted to him with remainder to his son James and Agnes his wife; *ibid.* no. 2857, 2224. In 1490-1 Gilbert Langton (of Lowe in Hindley), as trustee enfeoffed Gilbert Langtree, James Molyneux, rector of Sefton, and Robert Langton, son of the grantor, of his manor of Winstanley and all his lands in Winstanley, Wigan, Orrell, and Billinge, then occupied by Agnes mother of Edmund Winstanley, and by Randle and Robert Winstanley. After Edmund's death the manor and lands were to descend to James the son and heir of Edmund, with remainder to James's brother Humphrey; *ibid.* no. 2537. Edmund Winstanley was tenant of the Cockersand lands in 1501; *Rentale de Cockersand* (Chet. Soc.), 5. Richard Crosse of Liverpool in 1493 agreed to marry Elizabeth daughter of Edmund Winstanley; *Towneley MS. GG.* no. 2250; *Vind.* of 1567 (Chet. Soc.), 107.

Humphrey Winstanley was recorded among the gentry of the hundred in 1512. A marriage agreement between him and Evan Haydock in 1505 is in *Towneley MS. GG.* no. 1534. For the child marriage of Humphrey Winstanley and Alice sister of James Worsley, see F. J. Furnivall's *Child Marriages* (Early Engl. Text Soc.), 2.

⁶ *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 59, m. 348. The remainder of the holding included forty messuages, five water-mills, two dovecotes, 300 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, common of pasture for all cattle, and various houses and lands.

Edmund Winstanley is mentioned in the *Vind.* of 1567, pp. 24, 107. He was steward of the rector of Wigan in 1575; *Wigan Ch.* 145. There is a deed of his in *Towneley MS. GG.*, no. 2635.

⁷ A pedigree was recorded in 1664 (*Dugdale, Viar.* [Chet. Soc.], 26), and there are later pedigrees in *Gregson's Fragments* (ed. Hasland), 232; *Burke, Commoners*, iv, 213; *Baines, Lancs.* (ed. Croston), iv, 306.

In 1588 William Bankes purchased a house and lands in Wigan and Ince from Miles Gerard and Grace his wife; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 50, m. 171. Five years later James Bankes made a purchase in Aspall and Wigan, and in 1597 he and Susan his wife made a sale or mortgage, Francis Sberington being the plaintiff in the fine; *ibid.* bdlc. 55, m. 127; 58, m. 220.

⁸ *Lancs. Ing. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 97-9.

⁹ *Pink and Beaven, Lancs. Parl. Representation*, 191. He was then 91 years of age. William Bankes in 1631 paid £12 on refusing knighthood; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 213.

¹⁰ *Pink and Beaven*, op. cit. 281.
¹¹ *Ibid.* 229; he was a Whig. Some of his letters are printed in *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 128, &c.

¹² Thomas's son Robert was sheriff in 1742; his grandson William (son of William) in 1784; *P.R.O. Lit of Sheriffs*, 74. William Bankes died in 1800, without issue, and the estates passed to his cousin, the Rev. Thomas Holme of Upholland, whose mother's monument in

Upholland Church states that she died 2 June 1799, aged 93; *Wigan Ch.* 747. Thomas Holme was incumbent of Upholland from 1758 to 1767; *ibid.* 749. Several of the family have been benefactors to the poor.

¹³ Meyrick son of Thomas Holme took the surname of Bankes in 1804; he was sheriff in 1805; *P.R.O. Lit.* 74.

¹⁴ A view of the hall, about 1876, is given in *Gregson, Fragments* (ed. Hasland), 231.

¹⁵ An undated fragment of a pedigree in *Piccoppe's MS. Pedigrees* (Chet. Lib.), ii, fol. 18, gives the succession: James—32. Ottiwell—a. James, said to be an alms knight at Windsor?

A Humphrey Winstanley about 1560 married Jane, a daughter of William Heaton, and had disputes with the Andertons and Heatons; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 236; iii, 12, 13.

¹⁶ *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 90, no. 47; bdlc. 91, no. 27; in the former James Soroold was plaintiff, and in the latter Richard Blackburne was joined with him. James Winstanley and Margaret his wife were deforciantes; the property is described as the manors of Winstanley and Billinge, with various lands, &c., in these townships and in Ashton.

William Blackburne in 1631 paid £10 on refusing knighthood; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 213.

The Blackburnes, a Protestant family, near relations of those of Newton, Orford, and Hale, long continued in possession. They had an estate—Crew Lane—in the parish of Winwick, and a burial place there, for in the registers are records of the burials of Thomas Blackburne of Blackley Hurst, 9 Feb. 1664-5; John, 18 Dec. 1666, see *Roger Lowe's Diary*; William son of John (of Billinge), 14 July 1719; William, 21 Dec. 1724; Anne wife of John, 1 May 1745; and John, 2 Apr. 1766, aged 89; see Blackburne son of Mr. Gilbert of Blackley Hurst, aged 2, 23 Dec. 1767; John Gildart of Billinge, 13 Feb. 1771-2; and Jane Creighton, of Blackley Hurst, aged 86, 20 Jan. 1795. Sophia daughter and sole heir of John Gildart of Blackley Hurst married Major Richard Jones, a son of the fourth Viscount Ranelagh;

In 1600 the freeholders were James Bankes, Edmund Atherton, and James Winstanley of Blackley Hurst.¹⁷ William Bankes and William Blackburne contributed to the subsidy of 1628.¹⁸ William Bankes, Thomas Blackburne of Blackley Hurst, clerk, and the heirs of James Winstanley of Hough Wood, contributed in 1663.¹⁹ A number of Winstanley Quakers were in 1670 convicted as 'Popish recusants,' two-thirds of their properties being sequestrated.²⁰ Thomas Marsh, John Butler, William Jameson, and Thomas Appleton, as 'papists,' registered estates here in 1717.²¹

ORRELL

Horul, 1212; Orel, 1292; Orhull, 1294; Orul, 1307.

This township, sometimes called Orrell in Makerfield, to distinguish it from Orrell in Sefton parish, has an area of 1,617½ acres.¹ It is divided from Upholland on the west by Dean Brook, flowing through a pleasantly-wooded dingle to join the Douglas, which forms the northern boundary. It is situated on the eastern slope of the ridge of high ground stretching north from Billinge to Dalton. The country is open and varied, and consists of pasture land and fields, where the crops are chiefly potatoes, wheat, and oats. Towards the south the country is even more bare and treeless as it merges into the colliery district. The soil is clay with a mixture of sand, over a foundation of hard stone. The town of Upholland is partly situated in this township, and the Abbey Lake, a small sheet of water, is the rendezvous of picnic parties and excursions from the larger towns in the neighbourhood, such a lake being attractive on account of the scarcity of water in the district.

The principal road is that from Ormskirk to Wigan,

which passes through the township from west to east, and is crossed by a road leading northwards from St. Helens to Standish. Orrell Mount, over 300 ft., and Orrell Post are to the east of the point where the roads cross; to the south-west is Far Moor, and to the north Ackhurst. Lamberhead Green lies on the eastern edge, partly in Pemberton. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's Liverpool and Wigan line crosses the southern corner of the township, having a station there called Orrell; the same company's Wigan and Southport line passes through the northern portion, close to the Douglas, with a station called Gathurst.

The population in 1901 numbered 5,436.

Nail-making is carried on, and there is a cotton mill. Roburite is made at Gathurst. In 1787 there were coal mines working under five different ownerships.²

A local board was formed in 1872.³ The township is now governed by an urban district council of twelve members.

Before the Conquest, as afterwards, *MANOR ORRELL* was the extreme north-west berewick of the manor or fee of Newton in Makerfield,⁴ and it remained a member of it until the 17th century.⁵ The available materials for its history are but scanty. At the survey of 1212 it was held in thegnage by Richard de Orrell as half a ploughland, by the service of 100. rent and finding a judge; this was an arrangement 'of ancient time.'⁶ There was an ancient subordinate holding, William holding half an oxgang after giving Thomas de Orrell two oxgangs in free marriage in the time of King Richard. Richard de Orrell himself had recently given one oxgang to his brother John, and previously 4 acres to the Hospitallers.⁷ Soon afterwards grants were made to Cockersand Abbey by Richard de Orrell and John his son.⁸

Gen. Mag. 1785, ii, 747. She died in 1803 without issue.

The following members of the family matriculated at Oxford, Brasenose College: William son of William Blackburne of Billinge, plebeian, 1626, aged 17 (afterwards vicar of Chartbury); Richard son of William, 1633, aged 21; Thomas son of William, of Blackley Hurst, 1639, aged 18 (B.D. 1661); John son of William, of Billinge, 1640, aged 18 (B.D. 1662); Foster's *Alumni*.

William son of Thomas Blackburne occurs in 1673 in the account of Newton in Makerfield.

William Blackburne, of Blackley Hurst, John his son and heir apparent, and William the son of John, are all mentioned in a lease enrolled in 1718; Piccope MSS. (Chet. Lib.), iii, fol. 200, from 2nd R. of George I at Preston.

A Roger Rigby of Blackley Hurst, brother of Edward Rigby of Burgh, was in 1590 reported as 'evil given in religion'; *Lydiat Hall*, 250.

¹⁷ *Mitic.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 239, 242. Edward Winstanley and Humphrey Atherton had a dispute concerning lands in Winstanley in 1593; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 291, 319. A settlement of lands in Billinge was made in 1596, Humphrey Atherton and Alice his wife, and Edmund, the son and heir, being deforciant; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 59, m. 21.

Edmund Atherton of Winstanley died

in 1613 holding land in Billinge of the Baron of Newton; Humphrey his son and heir was four years old; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 277.

From deeds in the possession of W. Farrer it appears that Romeslaw House was part of the Atherton estate.

¹⁸ Norris D. (B.M.).

¹⁹ Schedule in possession of W. Farrer. A William Blackburne of Blackley Hurst is also named.

²⁰ *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 234, where lists referring to this and neighbouring townships are printed.

²¹ *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 97, 125, 135, 151. Appleton's house was called The Riddings.

¹ Including 7 acres of inland water; Census of 1901.

² Land tax returns at Preston. The owners were William German, Blundell & Co., Harcastle & Co., Rev. Thomas Holme, and Richard Culshaw & Co.

³ *Lanc. Gaz.* 21 June 1872.

⁴ *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286.

⁵ See the various inquiries of the Langtons; e.g. *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 138; ii, 99; *ibid.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 105.

⁶ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 76. Richard de Orrell occurs from 1201 in the Pipe R. (*Lancs. Pipe R.* 152, 179, &c.), but it appears from the Survey that he had been in possession in the time of Henry II.

⁷ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, loc. cit.

The grant to the Hospitallers is not mentioned in the list of their lands in the *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 375, nor in the rental of 1540; but in 1617 James Bankes of Winstanley held a messuage and various lands in Orrell, with common of pasture, of William, Earl of Derby, as of his manor of Woolton, by 12d. rent; these were probably the Hospitallers' lands; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc.), ii, 98.

⁸ *Cockersand Chart.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 651-4. Richard de Orrell granted a piece of land between Clansclough and Bradley Brook, and between the Douglas and Osbernia.

John son of Richard de Orrell granted Haselhurst; from Bradley Brook where Small Brook enters it, up to the syke dividing the Cockersand land from that of William de Orrell, following the syke to Small Brook, and down this to the start. This land had been previously granted to Adam son of Robert; the charter states that Bradley Brook flowed down from Swiche' Hills.

William son of Leising released his claim in these lands to the canons.

In 1501 Robert Orrell held a portion of the abbey's lands, and the heirs of Robert Holland the remainder, for a total rent of 12d.; *Cockersand Rental* (Chet. Soc.), 4, 5.

The Cockersand lands here, as elsewhere, appear to have been granted to Thomas Holt.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

Before the end of the century, in what way does not appear, the manor was acquired by the Holands of Upholland,⁹ from whom it descended, like their other manors, to the Lovels,¹⁰ and, after forfeiture, to the Earls of Derby.¹¹

William, the sixth earl, sold it to William Orrell of Turton,¹² and the latter soon after sold to the Bisphams, lords of part of the adjacent manor of Billinge;¹³ then by marriage it descended to Thomas Owen,¹⁴ and to Holt Leigh of Wigan.¹⁵ His son, Sir Roger Holt Leigh, of Hindley Hall in Aspull, left it to his cousin, afterwards Lord Kingsdown, for life, and then to the present owner, Mr. Roger Leigh of Aspull.¹⁶

The Orrell family had numerous offshoots, but the relationships cannot be traced. The survey of 1212, quoted above, shows that there were then two subordinate holdings of one-eighth and a quarter of the manor. The former may have descended to the Orrells of Turton,¹⁷ and the latter may be the holding of Alexander Orrell of Orrell Post, whose land in 1607 was held by a rent of 3s.¹⁸

The freeholders in 1600 were the Alexander Orrell just named, William Prescott, and Thomas Tipping.¹⁹ James Bankes of Winstanley also held lands here in 1618.²⁰

About the same time another family, the Leighs of Ackhurst, are mentioned, continuing down to the

⁹ Robert de Holland was lord in 1292; Assize R. 408, m. 37; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 173.

In 1307 Robert de Holland desiring to give a plough-land in Orrell to the chaplain of Upholland, inquiry was made on behalf of the king; the manor of Orrell was found to be held of John de Langton and Alice his wife by the service of 20s. 6d.—an increase of 6d.—and doing suit at the court of Newton in Marketfield from three weeks to three weeks; *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, i, 322.

At a later inquiry in 1324 the same statement was made as to the lease; the value of the manor was £6 6s. 3d.; *Inq. a.d. 18 Edw. II, no. 68*. See also *Inq. p.m.* 47 Edw. III (1st nos.), no. 19.

¹⁰ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 2.

¹¹ Pat. 4 Hen. VII, 25 Feb.; Duchy of Lanc. *Inq. p.m.* v, no. 68. In 1597 the deforciant of the manors of Orrell and Dalton were William, Earl of Derby, and Edward Stanley; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 58, m. 254.

¹² Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* (Chet. Soc.), 257; see further below.

¹³ See *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc.), 3, 200, in 1607. William Bispham died in 1639 holding the manor of Orrell of the king as of his manor of East Greenwich; Duchy of Lanc. *Inq. p.m.* xxx, no. 97.

¹⁴ See the account of Billinge.

¹⁵ See the account of Aspull.

¹⁶ Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

¹⁷ In 1292 Adam son of William de Orrell, asserting that he was lord of an eighth part of the vill, complained that Robert de Holland and Robert his son had disseised him of his free tenement in Orrell. Some of the waste had been improved by the elder Robert, and it was shown that sufficient pasture had been reserved for the commoners; thus Adam lost his case; Assize R. 408, m. 37.

In 1334 William Hert and Emma his wife, Roger Hert and Agnes his wife—the wives being granddaughters (or daughters) and heirs of Adam de Orrell—claimed lands in Orrell against Henry de Orrell and the brothers Roger and William de Orrell, Henry alleging a grant by Adam; *Coram Rege R.* 297, m. 103.

¹⁸ In 1530 there was a recovery of the manor of Orrell by William Orrell, sen., against William Orrell, jun.; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 151, m. 1. William Orrell of Orrell claimed against John Orrell of Turton in 1551 a messuage and lands in Orrell, as heir of a certain Robert Orrell, giving his pedigree thus: Robert—s. John—s. Peter—bro. Henry—s. William; *ibid.* R. 191, m. 12.

In disputes which arose in the time of Elizabeth are numerous details regarding this manor.

It was stated that William Orrell of Orrell was seized of a capital messuage called the Hall of Orrell, a water corn-mill, and lands in Orrell, by descent from his ancestors. About 1558 he conveyed the estate to Hugh Anderton, from whom it passed to Richard Chisnall of Gray's Inn, and then to Sir Robert Worsley, who gave it to his son Robert. The younger Robert, at the desire of William Orrell, assured the premises to Gilbert Sherington of Gray's Inn, who about 1570 sold to Francis Sherington and Katherine his wife. Two years later William Orrell was charged with forging deeds to regain possession, his son John being an accomplice, and 'they went to the said premises, shooting arrows at the said Katherine and her servants'; Duchy of Lanc. Plead. Eliz. lxxxviii, S. 18.

From another document it appears that Sir Robert Worsley, about 1558, was the owner of Orrell Hall and conveyed it to William Orrell, who bought out the interest of Thomas Molyneux in part of the estate. It is not clear whether Sir Robert's title arose from a purchase from the grantee of Upholland Priory, or from a sale (or mortgage) by William Orrell; *ibid.* lxxviii, O. 4. The money to be paid to Sir Robert Worsley was £280. Gilbert Sherington paid this; William Orrell was to be tenant for life, and his son Thomas released all his interest in the estate; *ibid.* xxvii, O. 2.

Somewhat earlier, in 1549, James Anderton had purchased lands in Orrell from William Orrell; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 13, m. 66. James died shortly afterwards holding lands in Orrell of the Earl of Derby by a rent of 3s. a year; Duchy of Lanc. *Inq. p.m.* ix, no. 14. In April 1555 Hugh Anderton, the son and heir of James, purchased a messuage, water-mill, &c., from William Orrell; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 15, m. 27. Two years later Richard Chisnall secured the same from Hugh Anderton and Alice his wife; *ibid.* bde. 17, m. 71.

A settlement by William Orrell and Thomas his son and heir-apparent was made in 1561; *ibid.* bde. 23, m. 193. Sir Robert Worsley, his son and heir Robert, whose wife was Elizabeth, made a settlement two years later; *ibid.* bde. 25, m. 225. Gilbert Sherington's purchase took place in 1569; the deforciant being Robert Worsley and Elizabeth his wife, William Orrell and Margaret his wife, and William Stopforth and Blanche his wife; *ibid.* bde. 31, m. 200.

There were perhaps two estates; Orrell Hall held under the priory and then under Worsley, and sold to Sherington; and another held under the Earl of Derby and sold to James Anderton. If so, the

latter was perhaps regained by the Orrells, the rent (3s.) being the same in 1552 and 1607. In 1567 John Orrell conveyed an estate to feoffees; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 29, m. 85. He seems to have been the great-grandfather of Alexander (son of John) Orrell, who, as a minor, in 1587 complained that Elizabeth, wife of John Rivington, and widow of the elder John Orrell, was detaining part of his estate; Duchy of Lanc. Plead. Eliz. cxlii, O. 2. This is no doubt the Alexander Orrell who died in 1607, leaving a son and heir Ralph, aged eighteen in 1612; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 199.

The former, Orrell Hall, was retained by the Sheringtons. In 1601 William Orrell of Turton, having purchased the manor, had disputes with Katherine, widow of Francis Sherington, as to her coal mine in Hare hey adjoining the High Street in Orrell. The latter complained that William Orrell had dug a pit in the highway and made a passage to her mine, had caused the water from the ditch to flow into it, and had stopped up the gate through which her coals were carried. He replied that Katherine's messuage was held of the manor, which he had demised to his brother Richard, of London; and that she had taken coals from his land; Duchy Plead. Eliz. cxv, S. 10; *cxiv*, O. 1; *cxv*, S. 27.

In 1650 Edward Rigby, who held Orrell Hall of Francis Sherington of Booths at a rent of £38, petitioned the Parliamentary Commissioners for relief. Sherington's estate had been sequestered in 1643, and from that time Rigby paid his rent to the sequestrators; but when Prince Rupert was in the county (1644) Sherington took him prisoner, made him pay £11 5s., and seized his goods, &c., the place being within 3½ miles from Lathom. He desired that Sherington might not be allowed to compound until he had satisfied him; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, ii, 1192.

¹⁹ *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 242-3. Thomas Prescott died in 1591, holding a messuage, shop, and lands in Orrell and Upholland of the queen as of the late priory of Upholland, by a rent of 13s. 6d. His son William was thirty-five years of age; Duchy of Lanc. *Inq. p.m.* xv, no. 7.

William Prescott occurs 1597; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 58, m. 223. He died in 1601 leaving a son Thomas, one year old; Duchy of Lanc. *Inq. p.m.* xviii, no. 21.

²⁰ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc.), ii, 97; part was held of Richard Fleetwood, and part, as already stated, of the Earl of Derby.

middle of the 18th century.²¹ They were recusants and incurred the usual penalties. Emma, or Emerentia, Leigh, widow, Margaret and Catherine Leigh, spinsters, and their sister, Anne Sandford, widow, registered their estates in 1717.²² Thomas Duxon and William Tarleton were the other 'papists' who did the same.²³

Orrell was formerly considered part of the chapelry of Upholland. Recently, in connexion with the Established Church, St. Luke's Chapel-of-ease has been erected.

The Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists have chapels in the township, as also have the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists.

Salem Chapel, built in 1824, belongs to the Congregationalists, who formed a church here about 1805 and erected a temporary chapel about 1810. The building is still called John Holgate's Chapel, from the name of one of the early ministers, 1820-50. A later minister conformed to the Established religion, an occurrence which almost ruined the Congregational interest.²⁴

The Roman Catholic mission was founded at Crossbrook in 1699 and removed to the present site at Far Moor in 1805; the church of St. James was enlarged in 1841, and a bell-tower erected in 1882. There is a burial-ground attached.²⁵ Anne Sandford in 1740 gave £100 to the mission with an obligation to say mass for herself, her mother, and two sisters.²⁶ A convent of French Benedictine nuns, driven out of their country by the Revolution, in the first half of last century occupied the house at Orrell Mount, but afterwards removed to Princethorpe, Warwickshire.

UPHOLLAND

Holland, Dom. Bk.; Hollande, 1202; Holand, 1224 and common; Hollande, 1279; Upholland, 1292; Upholland, xvi cent.

This township, distinguished by the prefix from Downholland near Halsall, is the largest in the parish, having an area of 4,685 acres.¹ The population in 1901 numbered 4,773.² From the northern and eastern boundaries, formed by the River Douglas and its affluent the Dean Brook, the surface rises rapidly to a point near the middle of the western boundary, where a height of about 550 ft. is attained. From this a ridge extends southerly, the ground to the south-

west falling away continuously to the boundary, which is formed by Raw Moss and Holland Moss. The southerly aspect of the township is open and bare; on the north there are more trees as the land dips down to the romantic valley of the Douglas. The arable fields, many divided by stone walls, are sown with oats and wheat, and potatoes are very extensively grown. On the south and west there are collieries and fire-brick works, whilst stone quarries give work to a section of the inhabitants. The soil appears to be chiefly sandy, clayey in places, a shaley rock appearing now and again on the surface, but the solid base is sandstone.

The 17th-century registers name many 'coalers' and 'delf men'; there were also nailers, linen-weavers, glovers, watchmakers, and other craftsmen, whose names are found in the township.

Upholland village, where the priory formerly stood, lies on the eastern slope of the ridge, near the Orrell boundary. Through it pass from east to west the road from Wigan to Ormskirk, and from north to south that from Chorley to St. Helens. The village has a steep main street, with the church at the south end, overlooking a wide open space of churchyard on the north and east. Immediately south of the church is the site of the claustral buildings, but their remains, with a single exception, are buried in the ground and have never been explored. The houses of Upholland are from an architectural point of view of little interest, except one, an early 17th or late 16th-century house on the south side of the main street, with mullioned windows and a panel with the Stanley crest. To the north lie Walthew Green, Roby Mill, and Holland Lees; to the west are Holland Moor, Birch Green, Digmoor, and Tawd Bridge, the River Tawd forming a portion of the boundary at this point, and being joined by Grimshaw Brook; to the south and south-west are Tontine, Pimbo, and Crawford. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's railway from Liverpool to Wigan passes through the southern part of the township, with a station at Pimbo Lane now called Upholland.

Edward II stayed at Upholland for a fortnight in October 1323, on his way from the north to Liverpool.³

The Local Government Act of 1858 was adopted by the township in 1872.⁴ The local board was, in 1894, replaced by a district council of fifteen members.

²¹ The inheritance of this family was derived from Edmund Molyneux, mercer of London, lord of Vange in Essex, who died 31 Jan. 1615-16, seized of lands in Orrell and Upholland, held of Richard Fleetwood and of the king respectively. His heir was James Leigh, son of his sister Agnes, aged forty in 1618; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 99. He was a benefactor of Wigan and Upholland. His will is printed in *Gisborne Molineux's Molineux Family*, 143; it shows that he was related to the Molyneuxes of Hawkley. An Edmund Molyneux and his wife Agnes had lands in Orrell (apparently in the latter's right) in 1532; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. balle*, 12, m. 192.

James Leigh and Margaret his wife, with their daughters Alice, Jane, and Ellen, were fined for recusancy in 1616.

James and Alexander Leigh also appear on the recusant roll of 1641. James Leigh had a small copyhold estate at Barking in Essex sequestered for his recusancy by the Parliamentary authorities, and sold in 1648 to Abraham Webb, apothecary-general to the army; Alexander Leigh, the son and heir of James, afterwards for £120 concurred in the sale. In 1619 he charged his lands in Orrell with a rent of £6 13s. 4d. for the maintenance of the grammar school at Wigan. Under the Parliamentary rule, two-thirds of his estate was sequestered for his recusancy. He died in or before 1649, when his son Alexander succeeded; *Royalist Comp. Papers* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iv, 86-91; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, iv, 2564.

Alexander Leigh appears in the recusant rolls down to 1667, and Richard Leigh,

probably his son, to 1680. Two of Alexander's sons, Philip and John Joseph, became Jesuits; the former was the author of a *Life of St. Winifride*. See Gillow, *Bibl. Dict. of Engl. Cath.*, iii, 191; Foley, *Rec. S.F.*, vi, 518, 516; vii, 448-50.

²² *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 135, 124.

²³ *Ibid.*, 149, 126.

²⁴ Nightingale, *Lancs. Nonconformity*, iv, 37. Daniel Rosbotham of Rainford in 1858 left £200 towards the endowment; *Wigan End. Char. Rep.*, 1899, p. 57.

²⁵ *Liverpool Cash. Ann.*, 1901.

²⁶ Gillow, *op. cit.*, iv, 191.

¹ 4,686, including 9 of inland water; Census Rep., 1901.

² Including Bank Top, Crawford, &c.

³ *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, pp. 25, 27, 28, 41.

⁴ *Lond. Gaz.*, 13 Sept. 1872.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

A figure, probably of Cupid, dating from Roman times was found here.⁵

A fair, for pigs only, is held on Easter Monday. There was formerly a market on Wednesday.⁶ There were several crosses which have now disappeared.⁷

In 1066 the manor of *HOLLAND* or *MANOR Upholland* was held by Steinulf; it was assessed as two plough-lands and worth 64*d.*⁸ Nothing further is known of its tenure until 1212, when it together with Melling was held in thegnage by Henry de Melling; of him Matthew and Alan held the two plough-lands in Upholland by a rent of 12*s.* a year.⁹ Ten years earlier Matthew de Holland—or Holand, as the name was usually spelt—held fourteen oxgangs here, to which Uctred de Church quitclaimed all his right.¹⁰ Nothing further seems to be known of Alan, the joint tenant with Matthew. The latter was a benefactor of Cocksand Abbey.¹¹

In 1224 Simon de Halsall quitclaimed to Robert de Holland all his right in the two plough-lands in Upholland.¹² The relationship of this Robert to his predecessor Matthew does not appear in the records. He was the ancestor of the great Holland family. His last appearance was to answer a charge of setting fire to one of the rector's houses in Wigan in 1241; he and his son Thurstan were lodged in prison, but released till the trial.¹³

Thurstan is said to have married a daughter of Adam de Kellet; eventually the lordship of Nether Kellet descended to his heirs by this wife.¹⁴ He also acquired lands in Hale, and large grants in Makerfield.¹⁵ Sir Robert de Holland, the son of Thurstan, who succeeded about 1276, married Elizabeth daughter and co-heir of Sir William de Samlesbury.¹⁶

Robert's son and namesake, Sir Robert de Holland, became one of the leading men in the county, being a favourite official of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, from whom he secured an alteration in the tenure of Upholland, which does not seem to have been permanent.¹⁷ He extended his possessions by a marriage with Maud, daughter and co-heir of Alan de la Zouch,¹⁸ and had many grants from his patron the earl;¹⁹ some of these were held to be invalid. He was summoned to Parliament as Lord Holland from 1314 to 1321. He took part in the earl's rebellion, and all his lands were forfeited;²⁰ he himself was murdered in October 1328, it is said by followers of the earl who regarded him either as a coward or a traitor.²¹ Among his other acts was the foundation of the priory at Upholland in 1310 to 1317.²² This was practically the conclusion of the family's active interest in the manor.

The forfeiture of the estates was in 1328 reversed by Edward III,²³ and Holland descended regularly to Sir Robert's son, Robert, who distinguished himself

⁵ Watkin, *Roman Lancs.* 230.

⁶ It had long been discontinued in 1836; Baines, *Lancs.* (1st ed.), iii, 561.

⁷ *Lancs. and Ches. Antig. Soc.* xix, 237.

⁸ *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 284b.

⁹ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 15.

¹⁰ *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 14. The two oxgangs not accounted for may have been Alan's portion.

¹¹ *Cocksand Chart.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 610. The boundaries of his donation begun at the head of the Ridge on the division between Holland and Dalton, followed this division as far as Black lache, and by Black lache, Rutand Clough, Green lache, Pool lache, to the syke between St. Mary's land and the assart of Outi; then by the cart beyond the Ridge to the starting point. He added an assart called Lithehurst, lying between Philip's boundary and Hawk's Nest Clough. The easements included oak mast and shealings (*tealingis*). The 'St. Mary's land' mentioned was perhaps the abbey's land in Dalton.

¹² *Final Conc.* i, 47.

¹³ *Cur. Reg. R.* 121, m. 25 d., 26 d., 32. The result is not given. Robert de Holland granted to Cocksand Abbey all the land which Hugh and Wronow held of him in Bothams, on the boundary of Dalton, and apparently adjoining that granted by Matthew de Holland; *Chart.* ii, 617.

¹⁴ See *Final Conc.* ii, 118. Thurstan de Holland was one of the jurors as to those liable to contribute to the Gascon scutage in 1242-3; *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, i, 146.

¹⁵ In 1246 Thurstan de Holland was acquitted of having diseased Amice, wife of Thomas de Pendlebury, of 16 acres in Upholland; *Assize R.* 409, m. 1.

¹⁶ In 1268 Thurstan de Holland, his brothers Matthew, Richard, Robert, and

William, and his son Robert, were summoned to answer a charge of trespass; *Cur. Reg. R.* 186, m. 23 d.; 190, m. 16 d.

¹⁷ As Sir Thurstan de Holland he witnessed a charter to Stanlaw in 1272; *Walley Coucher* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 585.

¹⁸ There were other families bearing the local surname; thus in 1258 Christiana, daughter of Adam de Holland, claimed 6 oxgangs of land in Holland from Roger, Henry, and William, sons of Adam de Holland; *Cur. Reg. R.* 160, m. 5, 32.

¹⁹ See the accounts of Hale, Pemberton, Haydock, Golborne, and Lowton.

²⁰ Robert de Holland and Elizabeth his wife occur in 1276; *Assize R.* 405, m. 2. By his marriage he acquired part of the manor of Harwood and other lands; *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, i, 313; *Final Conc.* i, 173; ii, 193. He is supposed to have died about 1304.

²¹ In 1295 Upholland seems still to have been dependent upon Melling, for the heirs of Jordan de Hulton were responsible for the 12*s.* rent; *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, i, 233.

²² Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, by his charter granted to Robert de Holland and Maud his wife the manors of Upholland, Hale, &c., to hold of the chief lords by the services due, and further by the service of distributing each year for the earl's soul on St. Thomas the Martyr's Day, and on Christmas Day, to the poor folk coming to the manor house of Upholland, 20 heaped-up measures of wheaten flour, and ox, swine, and calf flesh to the value of £20; and of providing a repast of two courses for 240 poor persons in the hall of Upholland, on the same feast, to be served on dishes after the manner of gentlefolk, and a repast of one course the following day, a pair of shoes, or 4*d.*, being given to each of the guests on departing; *Duchy of Lanc. Misc.* vol. cxxx, fol. 14 d.

The endowment of the priory may have been a commutation.

²³ Robert son of Robert de Holland had lands in Pemberton and Orrell settled upon him by his father in 1292; *Final Conc.* i, 173. In 1304 a grant of free warden in Upholland, Hale, Orrell, and Markland was made to Robert de Holland; *Chart. R.* 97 (32 Edw. I), m. 3, no. 48.

²⁴ In 1307 Sir Robert de Holland desired to assign two messuages and two plough-lands in Holland, and land in Orrell to two chaplains in his chapel, at Holland to celebrate for his soul and the souls of his ancestors for ever. It was found upon inquiry that the manor was held of Adam de Pennington—who was perhaps a trustee or a representative of the Melling family; he does not occur again—Adam holding of the Earl of Lancaster, and the earl of the king; *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, i, 322.

²⁵ In 1308 Robert de Holland had licence to crenellate his manor house at Upholland; *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 57.

²⁶ The account of the family is mainly taken from G.E.C.'s *Complete Peerage*, iv, 236.

²⁷ See the account of West Derby; *Ormerod, Ches.* (ed. Helsby), iii, 851. There are numerous details in the *Calendar of Close and Patent Rolls*.

²⁸ In 1325 the forfeited manor was held by Ameta, widow of Simon de Holland; *Cal. Close*, 1323-7, p. 391.

²⁹ In an account of Sir Robert's lands made about 1326 the manor of Holland with garden and castle-stead is recorded; *Duchy of Lanc. Misc.* 2, fol. 15.

³⁰ For some account of his proceedings in Lancashire see *Coram Rege R.* 254, fol. 6c.

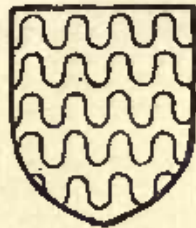
³¹ *Dugdale, Mon.* iv, 409-12.

³² *Parl. R.* i, 400; ii, 18; *Cal. Close*, 1327-30, p. 286. *Ch. R.* of 1326 are printed in *Lancs. Ch. R.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 73.

in the French wars, and died 16 March 1372-3,²⁴ and to the latter's granddaughter Maud, who married John Lovel, fifth Lord Lovel of Titchmarsh.²⁵ She



HOLLAND. Azure semé de lis a lion rampant guardant argent.



LOVEL. Barry nebulee of six or and gules.

survived her husband, and died 4 May 1423, holding the manor of Upholland of the king as Duke of Lancaster in socage by the ancient rent of 12s.; also the manors of Halewood, Walton in West Derby, Nether Kellet, half of Samiesbury, Orrell, and a quarter of Dalton, burgages in Wigan and Lancaster, and lands in Aughton, Cuccrdley, and Ditton. The other estates had descended to her father Robert's brother John, as heir male, and he was succeeded by Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter.²⁶

Lady Lovel's son John having died in 1414 Upholland was inherited by her grandson William, seventh Lord Lovel and fourth Lord Holland. It descended on his death in 1455 to his son John, Lord Lovel, who died ten years later, and then to the latter's son and heir Francis, created Viscount Lovel in 1483. Adhering to the cause of Richard III he had many offices and honours bestowed upon him; but was attainted by Henry VII in 1485 and his honours and lands were forfeited. Two years later he fought on the Yorkist side at the battle of Stoke, and was either killed there or died soon afterwards.²⁷

Upholland and the other forfeited manors were

retained by the Crown until 25 February 1488-9, when they were granted to Thomas, Earl of Derby, with the lands and manors of other Yorkists.²⁸ It continued to descend with Lathom and Knowsley until 1717, when it was sold by Lady Ashburnham, as heir of William, the ninth earl, to Thomas Ashhurst of Ashhurst in Dalton.²⁹ In 1751 Henry Ashhurst sold it to Sir Thomas Bootle of Lathom,³⁰ and it has since descended with his manors, the Earl of Lathom being the present lord.³¹

After the foundation of the monastery the prior were the chief residents within the manor. As in the case of most other religious houses the external history was uneventful.³² After the suppression of the house by Henry VIII in 1536 the site and all the lands were granted to John Holcroft,³³ who soon transferred them to Sir Robert Worsley of Booths.³⁴ Seventy years later the site was owned by Edmund



BOOTLE. Gules on a chevron engrailed between three combs argent as many crosses formy fitchy of the field.



WILBRAM. Argent three bendlets wavy gules.

Molyneux of London,³⁵ who bequeathed it to his nephew, Richard Leigh.³⁶ It is said to have been acquired by the Bisphams of Billinge, and descended with their estates to the Leighs of Orrell and Aspull.³⁷

²⁴ G.E.C. loc. cit. Robert was sixteen years old in 1328; *Cal. Clov.*, 1327-30, p. 148. From the fine above quoted [*Final Conc.* ii, 193] it will be seen that Sir Robert had three sons—Alan, Robert, and Thomas. Of Alan nothing further is known, and it is supposed that he died before the restoration of the honours. Thomas married Joan daughter of Edmund, Earl of Kent, and granddaughter of Edward I; he was summoned to Parliament as Lord Holland in 1353 and as Earl of Kent in 1360; G.E.C. op. cit. iv, 237, 351, 352.

The inquiry made in June 1349, after the death of Maud, widow of Robert de Holland, showed that she had held the manor of Upholland for her life, with reversion to her son Robert and his heirs, in socage by a rent of 12s.; and doing suit to county and wapentake; also the manors of Haic, &c.; *Inq. p.m.* 23 Edw. III, pt. 1, no. 58. She died outside the county; Sir Robert, her son, was of full age.

A similar return was made after the death of Sir Robert in 1373. The heir to Upholland and other manors was his granddaughter Maud (daughter of his deceased son Robert), wife of John Lovel, and seventeen years of age. The heir to the moiety of the manor of Haydock, &c., was his son John, aged twenty-four and upwards; *Inq. p.m.* 47 Edw. III (1st

nos.), no. 19. See also *Surv.* of 1346 (*Chet. Soc.*), 42.

Sir Robert in 1367 increased the endowment of Upholland by a grant of Markland in Pemberton and other lands; *Inq. p.m.* 41 Edw. III (and nos.), no. 12.

²⁵ G.E.C. op. cit. iv, 236; v, 164-6, from which this account of the Lovels is derived.

²⁶ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (*Chet. Soc.*), ii, 1-3. For the Exeter family see G.E.C. op. cit. iii, 296.

²⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

²⁸ Pat. 4 Hen. VII. There is a later grant of this and other manors to James Lord Strange; Pat. 13 Chas. I, pt. 27, 3 July.

In the inquisition taken after the death of Ferdinando, fifth earl, in 1595, it was found that Upholland was still held by the rent of 12s.; *Add. MS.* 32104, fol. 425.

²⁹ James, Earl of Derby, seems to have released his right in the manors sold, in Sept. 1715; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde.* 276, m. 52.

Thomas Ashhurst and Diana his wife were in possession in 1721; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde.* 512, m. 8.

Baines (ed. 1836) gives the date 1717, apparently from the Lathom D.; iii, 559.

³⁰ *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde.* 347, m. 26.

³¹ See the account of Lathom.

³² In 1350 Prior John took action against a number of men who had invaded his lands; *De Banco R.* 363, m. 92 d.; 364, m. 78 d.

³³ *Dugdale, Mon.* iv, 411; Pat. 37 Hen. VIII, pt. iv, 22 May; the price was £344 12s. 10d.

In 1592 an annual rent from the site and demesnes of Holland Priory was granted to William Tipper and Richard Dawe; Pat. 34 Eliz. pt. iv.

³⁴ *Mon.* iv, 409 n.; from Orig. 38 Hen. VIII, pt. v, *Lanc. R.* 118; *Lancs. and Ches. Recs.* (*Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.*), ii, 385.

³⁵ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (*Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.*), ii, 99, where it is simply called 'a messuage, mill, 50 acres of land,' &c. in Upholland, held of the king by knight's service.

³⁶ Gisborne Molineux, *Family of Molineux*, 143. Richard Leigh was brother of James Leigh of Orrell. Edward Leigh of the Abbey gave a rent-charge of £5 a year for Upholland School; *Gastrell, Naisia* (*Chet. Soc.*), ii, 259. The Prescott family also held land which had belonged to the priory; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xv, no. 7; xviii, no. 21. The site and lands of the priory were the subject of suits in 1576 and 1580, Margaret Parker being plaintiff; *Ducatus* (*Rec. Com.*), iii, 46, 115.

³⁷ Baines, *Lancs.* (ed. 1836), iii, 560.

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Little can be said of the remains of the monastic buildings. They were on the south of the church, but did not, as it seems, join it except as regards the western range of the claustral buildings. Part of the west wall of this range is standing, enough to show that it was of two stories with a row of narrow windows on the west side. In the deed of grant to John Holcroft in 1546 a chamber at the west end of the church is mentioned, which may be that on the south face of the tower, the roof corbels of which still remain.

Sir John de Dalton and his accomplices, after carrying off Margery de la Beche in 1347, took refuge for a time in Dame Maud de Holland's manor at Upholland, which was then vacant; but fled north on the arrival of the king's writ for his arrest.³⁸

Among the landowners in the township may be named Hesketh,³⁹ Orrell,⁴⁰ Standish,⁴¹ Crosse,⁴² and Fairclough.⁴³ In 1600 the only freeholder recorded was Robert Smallshaw.⁴⁴ In 1628 William Whalley, Roger Brownlow, and Richard Smallshaw, as landowners, contributed to the subsidy.⁴⁵ A family

named Holme were also settled here. Hugh Holme of Upholland House in 1732 married Anne daughter of Thomas Bankes of Winstanley, and her descendants ultimately succeeded to the manors and lands of the Bankes family.⁴⁶ Pimbo was held of the Earl of Derby.⁴⁷ Though the Recusant Roll of 1641 contains but few names of residents here⁴⁸ the Ven. John Thewlis, a priest, executed for religion at Lancaster in 1617, was a native of this township.⁴⁹

The earliest record of a church of **CHURCH** any kind is that concerning Sir Robert de Holland's endowment of his chapel in 1307.⁵⁰ This was succeeded by the priory church, which, after the destruction of the monastery, was preserved for the use of the people, as a chapel of ease to Wigan.⁵¹ It appears to have been well fitted, but the church goods were seized by the Crown, as part of the priory,⁵² and in 1552 it was but poorly furnished.⁵³

The church of **ST. THOMAS THE MARTYR** stands at the south-east end of the village on sloping ground, the churchyard, which lies on the north and

³⁸ Chan. Inq. p.m. 21 Edw. III, no. 63.

³⁹ The Heskeths of Rufford held various properties in this and neighbouring townships; see Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. v, no. 16. In 1555 Richard Hey acquired a messuage and lands from Sir Thomas Hesketh and Alice his wife; this property seems to have been secured in 1578 by Robert Hey from James, the bastard son of Richard; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdes. 16, m. 137; 40, m. 167. See also *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 145.

⁴⁰ The families of this name make frequent appearances. Henry Orrell was a defendant in a suit respecting Dean riddings in 1516; *Ducatus*, i, 127. William Orrell and Thomas his son were deforciantes in 1561 and 1562; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdes. 23, m. 193; 24, m. 256. Lewis Orrell and Ellen his wife in 1566; *ibid.* bde. 28, m. 102.

⁴¹ George Standish of Sutton held land in Upholland of the Earl of Derby by the 100th part of a knight's fee; Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. ix, no. 3 (6 Edw. VI). William Standish, the grandson and heir of George, had secured to him in 1561 the reversion of a tenement of Robert son of Thomas Topping; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 23, m. 153. William Standish and Margaret his wife made a settlement in 1573; *ibid.* bde. 35, m. 56. John, William's son and heir-apparent, was joined with them in 1597; *ibid.* bde. 58, m. 26.

⁴² Roger Crosse of the Liverpool family, in the time of Henry VIII, had copyhold lands in Upholland of the Earl of Derby at a rent of 17s.; Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. vi, no. 18; also x, no. 20. See Crosse D. *Trans. Hist. Soc.* no. 165.

⁴³ Oliver Fairclough purchased lands from James Worsley and Beatrice his wife in 1584; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdes. 46, m. 10. Arthur Fairclough occurs in 1613; *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc.), i, 276.

Thomas Winstanley, clerk, and Thomas Fairclough were in 1588 defendants in a suit regarding Dean Mill in Upholland and Orrell; *Ducatus* (Rec. Com.), iii, 199.

⁴⁴ Dr. James Fairclough, 1636, and his son James were benefactors; *Notitia Ceur.* ii, 260.

⁴⁵ *Mbc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.),

i, 241. William and Robert Smallshaw occur in fines of Elizabeth's reign; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 26, m. 55, &c. The name takes various forms, e.g. Smohay.

Thomas Chisnall acquired lands in Upholland in 1549 and 1559; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdes. 13, m. 73; 21, m. 90. They appear to have descended to Edward Chisnall or Chisenhale, 1535; Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xviii, no. 8.

⁴⁶ Norris D. (B.M.). Henry Whalley, as a landowner, contributed to a subsidy in Mary's reign; Masey of Rixton D. A later Henry Whalley died 31 July 1627 holding lands in Euxton, Tockholes, and Upholland; the last of William, Earl of Derby. His son and heir William was aged thirty and more; Towneley MS. C. 8, 13 (Chet. Lib.), 1288.

⁴⁷ The surname Holme occurs early; in 1352 the executors of the will of John de Holme of Holland are named; Assize R. 432, m. 14. Gilbert Scott of Wigan married Elizabeth Holme of Upholland before 1620; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 238. There is a pedigree in Burke, *Commoners*, iv, 216. See the account of Winstanley and A. E. P. Gray, *Woodcock Fed.* 13, 14.

⁴⁸ Thomas Molyneux held the marled earth and Russell's cliffs in Pimbo. His widow Cecily, in or before 1598, married Thomas Worden, and various suits followed; *Ducatus* (Rec. Com.), iii, 380, &c.

⁴⁹ *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xiv, 239. Bishop Gastrell recorded 20 'papists' in 1717, but there were 216 in 1767; this, however, is for the whole chapelry; *ibid.* xviii, 215.

⁵⁰ Bishop Challoner, *Missionary Priests*, ii, n. 155, relates his story from an account published at Dousy in 1617. There is another contemporary account in verse printed, together with extracts from a poem by Thewlis himself, in Pollen, *Act of Martyrs*, 194-207. John Thewlis was educated at Rheims and the English College, Rome; he entered the latter in 1590, and was sent to England as a priest two years later; Foley, *Rec. Soc. Jctms*, vi, 181, 117. He was for some time imprisoned at Wisbeck for religion; afterwards he laboured in Lancashire and was arrested by order of William, Earl of

Derby, and condemned to death for his priesthood. He escaped from Lancaster Castle by the aid of a fellow-prisoner for religion, Roger Wrennall, a weaver; they were captured and executed together, 18 Mar. 1616-17. It was with great reluctance that the authorities carried out the execution; the priest was at the last moment begged to save his life by taking the oath of allegiance, but to his challenge—'Write me out a form of oath which contains nothing but civil allegiance and I will take it'—there could be but one reply, that the Parliamentary form was binding, and this impossible for him. One of his quarters was exposed at Wigan.

The name is an uncommon one, but it appears that the family was connected with the Ashletons of Lever. A Christopher Thewlis, *alias* Ashton, was at the English College, and sent to England as a priest in 1585; Foley, *op. cit.* vi, 137.

⁵¹ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, i, 322, quoted above.

⁵² Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* 744.

⁵³ The inventory of the goods of the priory of Upholland in 1536 is in Duchy of Lanc. Misc. 11, no. 47. The plate was valued at £28 3s. 9d.; some of the pieces were in pledge to Geoffrey Sherington of Wigan and others. The crosses, vestments, and other church ornaments were worth nearly £12; the bells, £8; the lead (3 'foulders' weight), £10; and the books, 6s. 8d. These last included four old mass-books, 'whereof two in paper printed and two in parchment written.' Then follows an account of the furniture in the hall, parlour, great-chamber with adjoining chapel, rooms, kitchen, outhouses, dorter, &c.; horses, cattle, &c.; carts and other gear, corn and oats. The chambers of two monks—John Codling and John Ainsdale—had furniture valued at 10s. 2d. and 9s. 8d. respectively; the former monk had a feather-bed and bolster; the latter—perhaps the vicar of Childwall of that name—had a mattress and bolster.

The high altar had a tabernacle gilded, and the altar adjacent had alabaster tabernacles. There were twenty-one great and small images of wood and stone, and 'twelve fair windows glazed with divers and many pictures.'

⁵⁴ *Ch. Gds.* 1552 (Chet. Soc.), 75.

east sides, falling rapidly from west to east and allowing the introduction of the vestry under the east end. The building consists of chancel 32 ft. 6 in. by 22 ft. 6 in., nave 80 ft. by 22 ft. 3 in., with north and south aisles 11 ft. wide, and west tower 14 ft. by 16 ft., all these measurements being internal. With the exception of the chancel and the tower the building is of 14th-century date, the original structure having been planned as a T-shaped church with large central western tower and transepts, the present nave forming the chancel. Whether this plan was ever carried out is extremely doubtful, and only excavation on the west end could determine the extent of the original building, if it were ever greater than at present. It is probable, however, that the building came to a standstill somewhere about the middle of the 14th century, perhaps during the Great Pestilence, and that in this unfinished state it remained till late in the 15th century, when the present west tower was added in the rather clumsy manner now apparent. In this form the church continued till late in the last century, the sanctuary being formed in the easternmost bay, inclosed on the north and south by low walls, the evidence for which may still be seen in the arcades; but in 1882 (when a drastic restoration was commenced), a new chancel was begun to the east, and the building was brought to its present condition.

It may be assumed that the original chapel founded here in 1307 was a small building, and that it stood for some years after the foundation of the priory twelve years later. There is no record, indeed, of the erection of a church by the convent, but probably a larger and more important building would be thought necessary, and the present structure begun towards the middle of the first half of the 14th century. The conditions of the site, which rises steeply at the west end, preclude the idea that the building was ever intended to extend much farther in that direction, and the evidence of the masonry at the west end of the nave and aisles makes a transeptal T-shaped plan the only likely one.

The walls are constructed of rough sandstone, finishing with a plain parapet, and the nave and aisles are roofed in one rather low span, which detracts somewhat from the external dignity of the building. This roof, which is covered with stone slates, is however not the original one, the line of which may still be seen on the exterior of the east face of the tower. The old pitch is only slightly more acute than the present one, and it may be assumed that the original aspect was not very different from that which now exists, the height of the aisle walls precluding the idea of there having ever been a clearstory.

There seems to have been a restoration in the middle of the 18th century, the present roof dating from 1752 according to a date roughly cut on it, with the initials P T on one of the principals, and T W on another. The tower also appears to have been repaired at this time, and many of the bench-ends put in during the previous century renewed. Galleries were also inserted, and in 1799 a vestry was built on the north side at the east end of the aisle, a door being cut through the wall in the north-east angle of the aisle. The galleries, which were on the north, south, and west sides, projected in front of the nave piers, which were much damaged in being cut away to receive them. The interior remained in this state, with square pews and no chancel, down to the

time of the restoration of 1882-6. In this restoration, in addition to the erection of the new chancel, the tracery of all the old windows which had not been already restored was renewed. A plan of the church with the seating as it existed in 1850 now hangs in the vestry.

The chancel is built in 14th-century style, and is lit by a large five-light traceried window at the east and two windows on the north and on the south. On the north side a stone circular staircase leads down to the vestry beneath, access to which is gained on the outside by two doors at the east end. To obtain room for the vestry the chancel is raised four steps above the level of the nave, which makes it dominate the interior rather aggressively. The chancel arch is modern, of three moulded orders, and takes the place of a very poor east window, inserted in 1840, after a former 14th-century window had been blown out. The older window is shown in Buck's drawing of 1727.

The nave is of four bays with north and south arcades of pointed arches springing from piers, and responds composed of four rounded shafts with hollows between, with moulded capitals and bases. The arches are of two orders with the characteristic 14th-century wave-moulding. There is no clearstory, and the nave roof is ceiled with a flat plaster ceiling at the level of the crown of the arches, the aisles having plaster ceilings following the line of the roof. The 18th-century king-post roof above is of a very plain description, and not intended to be exposed. At the west end of the aisles are pointed arches springing from responds composed of three shafts, the moulded capitals of which range with those of the nave piers, and were designed to open to the transepts on each side of the tower. The arches are now filled in with modern windows, apparently reproducing early 16th-century work. The responds, both to nave and aisles, form on each side of the tower part of the great eastern piers of the crossing, the lofty clustered shafts of which, facing west, are now partly exposed on the outside of the building in the internal angles of the tower and aisle walls, and partly hidden by the later masonry.

The north aisle has four three-light pointed windows on its north side with net tracery, all modern copies of the original 14th-century work, and one similar window at the east end; the later window, already mentioned, on the west end is of four lights with poor tracery, and all the windows have external labels. The south aisle is similarly lighted except in the west bay, where there is a deeply-splayed window placed high in the wall. Originally the wall of this bay appears to have been pierced for an opening about 12 ft. wide which gave access to the western range of the priory buildings, which abutted here. The straight joints in the masonry on the outside wall show distinctly the extent of the former opening, and the present window must be a late insertion after the opening had been built up. At the east end of the south aisle is a good double 14th-century piscina, in the usual position, with trefoiled head, and on the corresponding side of the north aisle a square hole in the wall, probably an aumbry. Under the windows at a height of 6 ft. there is a moulded string, which is cut away for some distance on each wall on the west end. Below the string the walls have been cemented, but above it are of rough

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masonry. The capitals and upper parts of the western responds have also been much cut away at the time when the galleries were inserted.

The west tower is narrower than that originally designed, built of very friable sandstone, and having apparently been untouched since the 18th century is in a very bad state of repair. Some refacing appears to have been done on the west front on the north side of the doorway and at the belfry stage, and a scheme of restoration which it is proposed shortly to carry out will include the refacing of the tower. It has little architectural merit, being of low proportion and little in keeping with the rest of the building. Externally on the west face it is of four stages, with rather weak diagonal buttresses of nine stages at the north and south-west angles. On the north and south sides the walls are quite plain up to the string under the belfry windows. The west doorway, now much decayed, consists of a pointed arch with moulded head and jambs, with a series of hollows filled with carvings, and so weathered as to be unrecognizable. Between the buttresses a moulded string-course forms the lower member of the sill of a large three light west window similar to those of the nave, with net tracery and external hood-mould. The tracery is modern, but the jambs appear to be old, and the window must have been moved here when the tower was built. Above this again is a string ornamented with four-leaved flowers which goes round the tower, breaking round the buttresses at the level of the belfry window-sills. The belfry windows, which are of similar detail on all three sides (north, west, and south) are of two lights under a pointed traceried head, and appear to be of 14th-century date. They seem to have been originally intended for glass, as the jambs and mullions are grooved, and probably belong to some part of the monastery building either destroyed or in decay when the tower was erected. They have now stone louvres. Above the belfry stage there is a single-light narrow window on the north, south, and west sides, and on the east side one of two lights, but these are now hidden by the clock face. The present clock was given in 1907, replacing an older one. The tower ends in an embattled parapet with 18th-century angle pinnacles, one only of which is perfect. The roof is apparently of the same date, being in the form of a stone-slatted gable running east and west. There is a door also on the north side of the tower in the east angle, and on the south side below the string underneath the belfry window are three corbels, showing that a building was set against it at this point. On the face of the north buttress is a niche now much decayed, with a trefoiled head. There is no vice in the tower, the first floor being gained by a wooden staircase, and the others by ladders, but at the belfry stage in the south-east corner is a stone staircase in the thickness of the wall, descending to a door which is now blocked. This must have been the original means of access to

the upper part of the tower, and from this stage a stair in the south-east angle of the tower leads up to the roof. The tower was evidently meant to be open to the church up to 35 ft. from the ground, and at this level a chamfered string, with four-leaved flowers cut on it, shows on the inner face of the walls, marking the position of the original floor here.

The tower arch is of two moulded orders springing from a 15th-century impost moulding, and is filled in at the ringing-chamber stage with modern glazed wooden tracery, and below with a modern wooden door screen to the porch under the tower.

The fittings are mostly modern, the pulpit and font, both of wood, dating from 1882. In the north and south aisles are the 17th-century bench-ends already mentioned, carved with initials, names, and dates, the majority belonging to the year 1635,⁶⁰ and at the west end of the nave is a good oak churchwardens' pew with the names of the wardens and the date 1679. There is a good 18th-century brass chandelier in the middle of the nave, suspended by a long ornamental iron rod. In the tower porch above the north door is the board with the royal arms, dated 1755; and on the opposite wall is an oak cupboard with doors inscribed with the churchwardens' names, Scripture texts, and the date 1720.

There were formerly fragments of ancient stained glass in various parts of the church, but these were collected and brought together in the middle window of the south aisle in 1883.

There is a ring of six bells cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1877.

The church plate consists of a chalice 1706, a paten 1720, another paten 1738, inscribed 'The gift of Thomas Henry Ashhurst Esqr. to the Chappel of Upholland in Lancashire 1739'; two flagons of the same date; one with a similar inscription, but the other without, and a chalice 1817, with the inscription 'The gift of Meyrick Bankes Esqre. to the Chapel of Upholland 1817.'

The registers of marriages begin in 1600, those of baptisms in 1607, and those of burials in 1619. The first volume (1600-1735) has been printed.⁶¹

During the time of Elizabeth, and probably later, only a reading minister was provided;⁶² but an improvement took place under Bishop Bridgeman,⁶³ and in 1643 Upholland was made a parish, the district including also the townships of Dalton and Orrell, and parts of Billinge and Winstanley.⁶⁴ The Act was treated as null at the Restoration, and Upholland remained a chapelry until 1882, when by Order in Council it was made a parish.⁶⁵

The income of the minister appears to have been about £60 in 1650.⁶⁶ The principal tithes were owned by the Earls of Derby, who paid a small composition to the rectors of Wigan⁶⁷; the lands of the monastery were tithe-free.⁶⁸ In 1724 Bishop Gastrell found the curate's income about £40, of

⁶⁰ Many have been recut and a late 18th-century date added.

⁶¹ Transcribed and edited by Alice Brierley. *Lanc. Par. Reg. Soc.* xxiii, 1905.

⁶² Gibson, *Lydiat Hall*, 248; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 13. In 1598 there was no curate, but Mr. Moss, unlicensed, had done service for a time; *Wigan Ch.* 744.

⁶³ It appears from the Act of 1643 that

William Ashhurst and others had guaranteed to Bishop Bridgeman or his son Orlando, that his tithes from the rest of the parish should be at least £600 a year, if he would consent to an Act being passed for making the chapelry an independent parish.

⁶⁴ The Act is printed in *Wigan Ch.* 237 9.

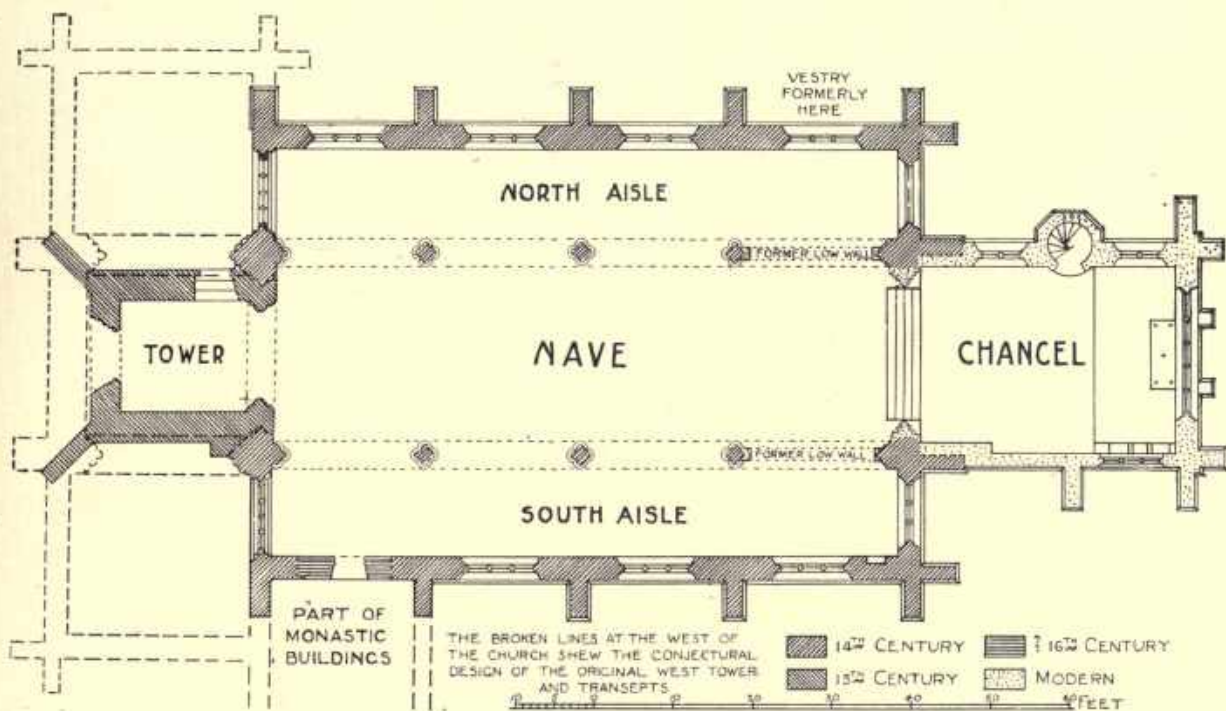
⁶⁵ *Wigan Ch.* 745.

⁶⁶ *Commonwealth Ch. Surv.* (Rec. Soc.

Lancs. and Ches.), 60, 62. There was no residence.

⁶⁷ *Wigan Ch.* 254-59. The tithes of Upholland were sold by Edward, the twelfth earl, in 1782 to John Morris, and those of Dalton to — Prescott. The rector of Wigan still receives £8 8s. 10½d. and £4 4s. 5½d. or 19 marks in all, as composition for the tithes of the townships.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.* 258.



PLAN OF UPHOLLAND CHURCH

which half was paid by the rector.⁶¹ Various grants and benefactions have since been added, and the gross income is now about £300.⁶² The rector of Wigan is patron.

The following is a list of the curates and vicars :⁶³

1598	William Moss
1609	Edward Tempest
1626	William Lever
1628	William Lewes ⁶⁴
1634	Richard Eaton
1636	Richard Whitfield ⁶⁵
1646	Henry Shaw ⁶⁶
1650	Richard Baldwin ⁶⁷
1653	Samuel Boden ⁶⁸
bef. 1671	Gerard Brown
occ. 1681	John Leigh
1683	Roger Bolton, M.A. ⁶⁹
1694	William Birchall
1719	John Allen, M.A. ⁷⁰
1726	Adam Bankes, M.A.
1728	William (Simon) Warren
1746	Thomas Winstanley, B.A. ⁷¹
1747	John Baldwin
1758	Thomas Holme ⁷²
1767	Richard Prescott
1798	John Fawel
1802	Thomas Merrick, B.A.
1821	John Bird, B.A.
1844	Charles Bisset, B.D. (Clare Coll. Camb.)
1881	Frederick D'Austini Cremer, M.A. (Wadham Coll. Oxf.) ⁷³
1888	George Frederick Wills.

There is a licensed mission-room.

There are Wesleyan, Primitive, and United Free Methodist chapels.

The grammar school was founded in 1668 by Peter or Robert Walthew.⁷⁴

At Walthew Park, in the north-east part of the township, is situated St. Joseph's College, the seminary for the Catholic diocese of Liverpool. After collecting a sufficient sum the foundation was laid in April 1880, and in 1883 the building was open to receive students preparing for the priesthood. The museum contains a rich collection of ancient furniture, china, &c.⁷⁵

⁶¹ *Notitia Cestr.* ii, 258. There were two wardens.

⁶² *Liverpool Dioc. Cal.* For particulars of the grants see *Wigan Cb.* 744, 745.

⁶³ This list is taken, with a few additions from Visitation lists, &c., from that compiled by Canon Bridgeman; *Wigan Cb.* 748. It is not continuous until 1719.

⁶⁴ Perhaps the same as 'Lever.'

⁶⁵ In 1639 Richard Whitfield, curate, paid 10s. to the clerical subsidy; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 122. He was in charge when the Act of 1643 was passed.

⁶⁶ He was a member of the classis in 1646; *Esinea, Lancs.* (ed. 1870), i, 227.

⁶⁷ 'A very able minister, a man of honest life and conversation,' but he had not kept the last fast day; *Commonw.*

Cb. Surv. 61. The name is spelt Bowden on p. 63.

⁶⁸ Paid first-fruits 9 April 1653; *Lancs. and Ches. Recs.* ii, 414. Probably a Baldwin also. He had recently been in trouble with the authorities, it being alleged that he had taken part with the Earl of Derby in his recent attempt to raise forces for Charles II; *Col. of Com. for Compounding*, iv, 2955; v, 3266. He is mentioned in 1648; *Plund. Mins. Accts.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 214.

⁶⁹ Bishop Stratford's Visitation List. He was 'conformable' in 1689; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 229.

⁷⁰ At this time the church papers at Chest. Dioc. Reg. begin.

⁷¹ It is possible that a James Miller (inserted between Winstanley and Baldwin by Canon Bridgeman) was assistant curate for a time.

DALTON

Dalton, Dom. Bk. ; Dalton, 1212.

Dalton occupies hilly ground south of the River Douglas. The highest point is Ashhurst Beacon, known locally as the 'Beetle,' 569 ft. above sea level. From it the land slopes away gradually on every side. The district is extensively cultivated, fields of corn, potatoes, and other root-crops alternating with pastures. Plantations of trees appear more especially on the north-east under the lee of the hill and away from the assault of westerly sea winds. A few insignificant brooks find their way towards the Douglas, which forms the northern boundary of the township and divides the Hundred of West Derby from that of Leyland. The view from the top of the hill near the Beacon is an extensive one, affording a fine panorama of the surrounding country. The preponderance of holly trees and hedges on the sheltered side of the district is a noticeable feature. There are many picturesque stone-built houses in the neighbourhood. The soil appears to be loam and clay, over solid sandstone rock. The area is 2,103½ acres.¹ The population in 1901 was 422.

The road from Upholland to Newburgh crosses the township in a north-west direction, ascending and descending; Ashhurst Hall and the church lie on the western slope of the ridge; to the north are Hawkclough and Dalton Lees, and to the south lies Elmer's Green. Prior's Wood is in the north, and Cassicarr Wood on the eastern boundary.

There is a colliery.

The township is governed by a parish council.

Ashhurst Beacon was erected a century ago, when a French invasion was regarded as imminent. Watchers were stationed day and night to be ready to light the beacon fire, and thus give notice of the enemy's landing.

At the death of Edward the Confessor, **MANOR DALTON** was held by Uctred as one plough-land; its value was the normal 32d.² On the formation of the Manchester fee Dalton was included in it, and probably about 1150 Albert Greley the elder enfeoffed Orm son of Ailward, of Kirkby Irelech, of a knight's fee in Dalton, Parbold, and Wrightington, in marriage with his daughter Emma. The heirs of Orm held it in 1212.³ Dalton was reputed part of the Manchester fee down to the 17th century.⁴

For Thomas Winstanley see Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

⁷² He succeeded his cousin, William Bankes, at Winstanley in 1800; died 17 Aug. 1803.

⁷³ Now vicar of Eccles.

⁷⁴ *End. Char. Rep.* 1899.

⁷⁵ *Liverpool Cath. Ann.* 1886.

¹ 2,102, including five of inland water; Census Rep. of 1901.

² *F.C.H. Lancs.* i, 284b.

³ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 55.

⁴ *Ibid.* 254 (Dalton probably included with Parbold) and 248. For claims by Lord La Warr see *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i, 264; ii, 74. From the *Manchester Ct. Lect. Rec.* (ed. Earwaker) it appears that constables for Dalton and Parbold were summoned to the court held down to 1733, though they did not appear; vii, 25.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

The descent of the mesne lordship it is not possible to trace clearly. The descendants of Orm were the Kirkbys of Kirkby Ireleth, who long retained an interest in part of the fee of Dalton, Parbold, and Wrightington. Dalton and Parbold as half a knight's fee seem very early to have been granted to the Lathom family,⁸ and Parbold and part at least of Dalton were in turn granted to younger sons. In the 13th century Dalton was held by Richard de Orrell, Richard le Waleys of Aughton, and Henry de Torbock, but how their interests had arisen there is nothing to show, though the Torbocks no doubt held their quarter of the manor by a grant from the Lathoms.

The Orrell portion, called a fourth part of the manor,⁹ was like Orrell itself acquired by the Holland family,⁷ and descended in the same way to the

Levels,⁸ and, on forfeiture, to the Earls of Derby.⁹ The latter sold it about 1600 to the Orrells of Turton,¹⁰ who soon afterwards sold all their rights to the Ashhursts.¹¹ The Dalton family, who took their name from this township, but who are better known as lords of Bispham in Leyland and afterwards of Thurnham, probably held under the Hollands and their successors.¹²

The Waleys portion was divided, half being given to a younger branch of the family. Richard le Waleys had a brother Randle, whose son Richerit was a benefactor of Cockersand Abbey.¹³ Adam the son of Richerit sold his quarter share to Robert, lord of Lathom, who granted it to the priory of Burscough.¹⁴

The priory continued to hold this quarter of the manor to the Suppression, after which its fate has not been ascertained; but all or most was probably

⁸ *Inq. and Extents*, l. 55; see also *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i. 28. Robert de Lathom was holding the knight's fee in Parbold and Wrightington in 1242 (p. 154). Robert de Lathom was one of the tenants in 1282, but Thomas de Ashton did suit; *Mamecure* (Chet. Soc.), i. 126. The Lathom tenure was remembered in 1349; *ibid.* 443; and even in the Feodary of 1483 it is stated that 'Lord Stanley holds Allerton and Dalton of Lord de Warre'; see also *Feud. Aids*, iii. 94.

⁹ In the grants to Burscough of a quarter of the vill John de Orrell has the position of a superior lord, confirming the grant; Burscough Priory Reg. fol. 31b. The same John granted to Burscough land held of him by Robert son of Henry the Smith of Lees; *ibid.*

¹⁰ He and his father Richard were benefactors of Cockersand Abbey. One of the father's grants was the half of Lithurst, the other half of which seems to have belonged to Richard le Waleys, with lands of Burscough Priory adjacent. John de Orrell made grants of Neleserett and Fernyhurst and of a piece of land, the bounds of which cause the naming of Full clogh, Mickle clogh, the Hill, Edwin's ridding, Barn bache, the Dyke, the carr, Lithurst and Buke side; acquaintance of passage for thirty pigs in Dalton Wood was allowed with other easements; *Cockersand Chart.* (Chet. Soc.), ii. 621-5.

¹¹ See the account of Orrell.

¹² In 1320 Sir Robert de Holland was the principal mesne tenant, Richard le Waleys, the Prior of Burscough and Ellen de Torbock following; Dalton and Parbold are joined, but the tenant of the latter is omitted; the service was 3s. for sake fee and 5s. for ward of the castle of Lancaster. From the later statement of rents it is evident that half of this was due from Dalton, and the other half from Parbold; thus each of the four quarters of the former should pay 1s.

¹³ In 1341 and again in 1349 it was found that Maud de Holland held the fourth part of Dalton of the lord of Manchester in socage by a rent of 13d. and the lord of Manchester of the Earl of Lancaster by the same service; *Inq. p.m.* 15 Edw. III (2nd nos.), no. 30; 23 Edw. III, pt. 3, no. 58. In the later year it was worth, in all issues, 53s. 4d.

¹⁴ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), ii. 2. The rent is this time stated as 6d., so that half had been alienated, probably to the Daltons.

A Manchester rental of 1473 shows the division of the manor at that time: The Prior of Burscough, 6d.; William Orrell, jun. (of Turton), 12d.; Richard Bradshaw of Uplitherland, 12d.; William Arrow-smith of Warrington, 6d.; Lord Lovel, 6d.; — Dalton, 6d. (making 4s.); Edward de Lathom (of Parbold), 4s.; making up the 8s. paid for sake fee and castle-ward as in 1320; *Mamecure*, 491.

⁹ Pat. 4 Hen. VII, 25 Feb.

¹⁰ Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* (Chet. Soc.), 257. Bishop Bridgeman recorded the division of the manor among four lords, of whom the Prior of Burscough was one; and says—'All these four lords called themselves lords thereof, and sometimes kept courts all jointly and sometimes severally'; 258.

¹¹ Thomas Parker, who died in 1600, held various messuages and lands in Dalton of William Orrell, which in 1622, when the inquisition was taken, were held of Henry Ashhurst; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iii. 307.

¹² Robert de Dalton is mentioned as early as 1293; *Inq. and Extents*, 276. In 1305 Robert de Dalton was claiming common of pasture from Ellen, widow of Henry de Lathom, and from the Prior of Burscough; De Banco R. 154, m. 252 d.; 156, m. 179. There was another family bearing the local name, who held of the Torbocks; thus Gilbert son of Alan de Dalton speaks of 'my lord, Henry de Torbock'; Kuerden MSS. iii. T, 2, no. 15. Robert de Dalton allowed the Prior of Burscough to approve in the hey of Dalton; Burscough Reg., fol. 34b.

The most conspicuous of the early members of the family was Sir John de Dalton, kt., whose exploit in carrying off Margery de la Beche in 1347 has been mentioned in the account of Upholland. Robert de Dalton, his father, was then living. Sir John died in 1369 holding 40 acres in Dalton of Roger La Warr, lord of Manchester, in socage, by the rent of 9d. yearly; *Inq. p.m.* 43 Edw. III, pt. 4, no. 31. The service does not agree with the 6d. named in the rental previously quoted. Ellen, wife of Robert de Urswick, was executrix; De Banco R. 454, m. 141 d. For later descents see the accounts of Bispham in Leyland and Thurnham.

¹³ By a charter made in the first quarter of the 13th century Richard le Waleys, with the consent of his brother Randle, gave land to Cockersand; Dulfyn and

Itharthur were two of the tenants; *Cockersand Chart.* ii. 616. This was followed by grants and confirmation from Richerit son of Randle le Waleys; the first of these states that the quitance of pannage had the consent of John de Orrell; while another was for the benefit, among others, of 'the soul of Thomas Grelley, my patron' (*advocatus*); *ibid.* ii. 617-20. These charters contain a number of local names, as Hawk's nest clogh, Rushy lea, Rodelea pool, Sandysford, &c. Adam the son of Richerit was also a benefactor; *ibid.* ii. 621.

The Cockersand lands were afterwards held in 1451 by Henry Birchinslaw by a rent of 12d., in 1501 by the Earl of Derby, and in 1537 by the Prior of Burscough (who denied); *ibid.* iv. 1244, &c.

¹⁴ Burscough Reg. fol. 31, 31b.

John le Waleys released to Sir Robert de Lathom the annual rent of a pair of gloves due to him from the fourth part of the vill, which Richerit de Aughton and Adam his son had held of the lord of Uplitherland by that rent; *ibid.* fol. 33. John le Waleys also granted lands in Bokeside, the bounds beginning at Livelds-bridge; this charter mentions the house which Robert de Legh founded on the land of Blessed Nicholas of Burscough; *ibid.* fol. 33b; see also fol. 32b for another gift. His son Richard confirmed these grants; *ibid.* fol. 35.

The other Burscough charters include an agreement between the prior and Richard son of Stephen de Lees and Denise his wife as to land in Rodelea carr; an engagement by Richard son of Simon de Haselhurst for himself and his heirs, to pay 6d. a year to the prior and canons to the end of the world; and a grant of Gibhey, between Priors' Hey and the Douglas, made by Geoffrey de Wrightington; *ibid.* fol. 34, 35.

At the Dissolution the priory was drawing a rent of £6 3s. from its lands in Dalton, viz. £4 from Dalton Hey, Richard Prescott being tenant at will; 10s. from Coratillow or Coratfield, the same tenant; 25s. from Haselhurst, Buckshead, and Willins carr, leased to John son of Ralph Orrell for 509 years from 1533, when Edward Prescott was tenant; the second best animal, or 6s. 8d., was paid as heriot; and 8s. from a quarter of the Helde in Dalton, formerly Walsh's, William Shaw being tenant; Duchy of Lanc. Mss. Accts. bdlc. 136, no. 2198, m. 7 d.



DALTON : SCOTT'S FOLD, DOUGLAS VALLEY

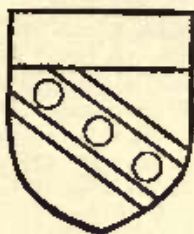


DALTON : STANE HOUSE, DOUGLAS VALLEY

acquired by the Earls of Derby,¹⁵ and remained with this family till the sale of Lady Ashburnham's estates.¹⁶

The fourth part retained by the Waleys family descended like Uplitherland to the Bradshags,¹⁷ and was sold in 1546 to Matthew Clifton,¹⁸ and then apparently to the Ashhursts, who before that seem to have been the tenants under Waleys and Bradshagh.

The remaining quarter, that of the Torbocks, descended for some time with the principal manor of Tarbock; but this portion of Dalton became, like Turton, the share of the Orrell family.¹⁹ The estate was often called the manor of Walton Lees. A family named Lascelles, of long continuance in this township



ORRELL. Argent three torteaux between two bendlets gules, a chief sable.

and Upholland, appear to have been the immediate holders.²⁰

In 1598 William Orrell of Turton was called lord of 'three-fourths' of the manor, holding his hereditary share and that of the Holland family; and William Ashhurst lord of 'one-fourth,' i.e. probably the Waleys share.²¹ The Burscough quarter does not seem to be accounted for. Shortly afterwards, as stated above, the Ashhursts acquired the Orrells' lands and rights, and became sole lords of the manor. In 1751 they sold it to Sir Thomas Bootle, and it has since descended with Lathom, the Earl of Lathom being lord of the manor.

In the absence of records it is not possible to give a satisfactory account of the Ashhurst family.²² The earliest known is Simon de Ashhurst, who about the end of the reign of Henry III granted to his son Robert all his land in Dalton, and to his son John all his land in Ashhurst.²³ Robert son of Simon next occurs;²⁴ and in 1300 Richard son of Robert de Ashhurst made

¹⁵ A grant of Burscough lands, including Dalton, was made to the Earl of Derby in 1603; Pat. 3 Jas. I, pt. v, 21 July.

¹⁶ William Rigby of Lathom, who died just before this date, held land in Dalton of the Earl of Derby, as parcel of the possessions of the dissolved monastery of Burscough; *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 20; see also i, 30, and ii, 185.

¹⁷ Part of the Burscough lands was later granted to Robert Hesketh; Pat. 12 Jas. I, pt. 5.

¹⁸ Lands in Dalton were included in a fine concerning the Derby manors, &c., in 1708, John Earl of Anglesey and Henrietta Maria his wife, being deforciant; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 260, m. 53. They were sold under a decree of 14 July 1719 to Thomas Franke; *Cal. Easch. of Pleas*, D. 3; see the account of Lathom.

¹⁹ John le Waleys acquired land in Dalton in 1283; *Final Conc.* i, 161. Richard le Waleys in 1322 held a fourth part of the manor of Dalton; *ibid.* ii, 46. This was in possession of Eleanor wife of Thomas de Formsby in 1372; *ibid.* ii, 183.

²⁰ Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 12, m. 173; William and Edward Bradshagh were the vendors. About a year afterwards Matthew Clifton had a dispute with John Orrell and others regarding a coalmine in Dalton; *Ducatus*, i, 222. William Clifton was hanged at Lancaster 28 Aug. 1562 for participation in the murder of William Huyton of Blackrod; he had lands in Dalton held of William, Lord La Warr, by knight's service and the rent of 12d.; also lands in Mawdesley and Ormskirk; Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. 21, no. 40.

²¹ For the descent see the account of Tarbock. See also *Final Conc.* ii, 187. Maud widow of Richard de Torbock granted her annuity from Walton Lees to Gilbert de Haydock in 1340; *Raines MSS.* (Chet. Lib.), xxxvii, 45; also 247, &c., for other arrangements, in one of which John the son of Maud is named; he is not otherwise known. In the endorsement of one deed Maud is called 'de Standish.' Walton Lees and Turton were early seised by the Orrells, according to the award of the arbitrators in 1225; *Croxteith D. Z.* i, 21. Ralph Orrell, who died in or before 1535, held messuages and lands in Dalton of the Earl of Derby by a rent of 14d. and of

Lord La Warr by a rent of 12d.; Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. vii, no. 1; those said to be held of the Earl of Derby were perhaps in Upholland or Orrell.

²² In 1543 a formal agreement was made between Lord La Warr and John Orrell of Turton, setting forth that the latter held his lands, &c. in Dalton of the lord of Manchester by fealty and the yearly rent of 12d., and by doing suit at the court of the manors of Manchester twice a year; *Manchester Corp. D.*; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 74. A grant or confirmation of lands in Orrell and Dalton was made to William Orrell in 1599; Pat. 41 Eliz. pt. 11.

²³ Walton Lee is mentioned in a grant to Cockersand; *Chart.* ii, 629. Richard son of Thurstan de Walton Lees in or before 1270 released 2 acres in the vill of Walton Lees to Henry de Torbock; *Kuerden MSS.* iii, T. 2, no. 17.

²⁴ In 1292 Denise, wife of Richard son of Stephen de Dalton Lees claimed lands in Upholland and Swardisce against Richard Lascelles and Amice (or Avice) his wife; William son of Warine son of Matthew, a minor, was called to warrant; *Assize R.* 408, m. 33. The defendants are named in an earlier suit; *Assize R.* 1238, m. 31 d.

²⁵ In 1322 Henry son of Richard Lascelles quitclaimed to Ellen de Torbock all his right in the Green in Dalton; *Kuerden MSS.* iii, T. 2, no. 14.

²⁶ In 1341 Gilbert de Haydock granted lands in Dalton to Burscough Priory. Part at least was held of Maud widow of Sir Robert de Holland by a rent of 2d.; and part had been purchased from Warine Lascelles; *Inq. p.m.* 15 Edw. III (2nd nos.), no. 30; *Kuerden fol. MS.* fol. 175. Three years later Henry Lascelles of Walton Lees claimed certain lands in Dalton against Adam de Ley of Welch Whittle, John the Prior of Burscough, Gilbert de Haydock, Maud de Standish, and others; afterwards the estate was described as a fourth part of four messuages, 2 organs of land, &c., and the resulting suits show the descent of the Torbock quarter of the manor; *Assize R.* 1435, m. 38 d.; *De Banco R.* 346, m. 155 d.; 348, m. 146, &c. Isolda widow of Warine Lascelles claimed dower in 1348 from Thomas, Prier of Burscough, and Henry de Molyneux of Halshead, respecting the grant to the priory; *Assize R.* 1444, m. 6.

²⁷ In 1501 John Lascelles held the Cockersand lands in Upholland by a rent of 12d.; *Cockersand Rental* (Chet. Soc.), 7.

²⁸ In 1574 Thomas 'Lasell' and Elizabeth his wife had a water-mill and other property in Upholland; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 36, m. 25. Thomas Lasell, who seems to have married a second wife named Margaret, had a son Edward, whose first wife was named Grace, and second Ellen; there are various fines concerning their estate in Dalton and Upholland, and in 1586 they sold land in Upholland to Anne Halsall; *ibid.* bde. 41, m. 136; 48, m. 103, &c. The name occurs in later documents.

²⁹ *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 362. John Orrell was deforciant of the manors of Turton and Dalton in 1607; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 72, m. 5. William Orrell of Turton died in 1612 seised of the manor of Dalton, which was held of Sir N. Mosley as of his manor of Manchester by a rent of 12d.; thus only the rent of a quarter of the manor was paid; *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 224.

³⁰ There are a few brief notes of the family deeds in *Hart. MS.* 2112, fol. 95. Pedigrees were recorded in 1613 and 1664; *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), p. 97 and p. 9 respectively; abstracts of some deeds are printed with the former. There is a later one in *Foster's Lancs. Pedigrees.*

³¹ The place-name occurs in a charter by Richard le Waleys early in the 14th century, mention being made of lands which Hugh son of Osbert held in Ashhurst; *Burscough Reg.* fol. 35 b.

³² The following other members of the family are named in the deeds in *Hart. MS.* 2112; Roger, in Scatcliffe; Hugh, with John and Adam his sons, in Sherington; Thomas, whose mother was Hannah daughter of Robert Torbock, in Lathom; William in Winstanley; Ralph and Henry his son in Upholland; all in undated deeds.

³³ *Hart. MS.* 2112; *Visit. of 1613*; grants from Simon to his sons Robert and John.

³⁴ Simon de Ashhurst was defendant in a plea concerning 20 acres in Dalton in 1292; the plaintiff, Robert son of William de Senington (? Sherington) and grandson of Robert son of Osbert, was non-suited; *Assize R.* 408, m. 30.

³⁵ *Hart. MS.* 2112; Ashhurst is called a vill.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

a release of lands in Pemberton.²⁵ This Richard acquired lands about the same time from Henry the Miller of Skelmersdale, whose daughter Alice afterwards released her right in the same.²⁶ Richard's son Adam was the most distinguished member of the family until the Commonwealth period. He fought in the French wars under Edward III and was knighted, receiving also a grant of lands in Essex and Hertfordshire.²⁷ He was succeeded by his son John, who married Margery, daughter of Henry de Orrell,²⁸ and had a son Roger. This Roger about 1385 married Maud,²⁹ daughter of Henry de Ince, leaving a son Robert, whose son John de Ashhurst about 1437 married a daughter of Roger de Dalton.³⁰ From this date there is an absence of documentary evidence until the middle of the 16th century,³¹ about which time, as already stated, William Ashhurst acquired, probably from the Bradshaws of Aughton, a quarter of the manor, and afterwards acquired the remainder from William Orrell.

This William Ashhurst was in 1590 reported to be 'soundly affected in religion';³² and the family continued Protestant, adopting Puritan and Presbyterian tenets. William Ashhurst died in 1618,³³ and was succeeded by his son Henry, who married Cassandra Bradshaw,³⁴ and had several children, including Henry, the draper and alderman of London, a wealthy man and a consistent Puritan.³⁵ The eldest son William

was a member of the Long Parliament, and also of Cromwell's Parliament of 1654.³⁶ He died in January 1656-7, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir Thomas, who recorded a pedigree in 1664. John Ashhurst, the brother of William and Henry, took an active part in the Civil War on the Parliamentary side, having a commission as captain and major. He engaged in the second siege of Lathom, and was present at the surrender in December 1645; he was subsequently governor of Liverpool.³⁷

Thomas Ashhurst, aged twenty-five in 1664,³⁸ was succeeded in 1700 by his son Thomas Henry, who made a settlement of the manor of Dalton in 1706,³⁹ and about thirty years later succeeded also to the manor of Waterstock in Oxfordshire, which had been bought by the above-named Alderman Henry Ashhurst. In 1751 the manors of Dalton, Upholland, and Skelmersdale, with various lands, were sold to Sir Thomas Bootle by Henry Ashhurst, son of Thomas Henry,⁴⁰ and apparently an elder brother of Sir William Henry Ashhurst, the judge.

Families named Arrowsmith,⁴¹ Prescott,⁴² and Hol-



ASHHURST. *Quatre a cross between four fleurs-de-lis argent.*

²⁵ Harl. MS. 2112.

²⁶ *Ibid.*; *Visit. of 1613*. Richard and Adam de Ashhurst contributed to the subsidy of 1322, the former paying 5s. out of a total of 16s.; *Exch. Lay Subr.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 8.

²⁷ *Staff. Hist. Coll.* (W. Salt Soc.), xviii, 38, 85, &c. Pardons were granted at his request in 1347; *ibid.*, 277. His retinue consisted of four esquires and two archers; *ibid.*, 200.

In 1336, already a knight, he received a grant of land in Dalton from John the Harper of Dalton; *Visit. of 1613*. Three years after he had a protection from the king, dated at Brussels, as being in the royal service in parts across the seas; Harl. MS. 2112. There are also references to him in the *Cal. Pat.*

In 1341 he acquired land in Dalton from Richard son of Adam de Huxton and Alice his wife; *Final Conc.* ii, 112; see also *De Banco R.* 328, m. 155 d. He was still living in 1366, when he granted his lands to his son John; Harl. MS. 2112.

²⁸ *Visit. of 1613*; Harl. MS. 2112.

²⁹ *Visit. of 1613*.

³⁰ *Ibid.* A John Ashhurst of Dalton in 1481 granted to William Rolland, Abbot of Cockerand, a rent of 12*d.* and 6*s.* 8*d.* at death as an obit; Towneley MS. DD, no. 1553.

³¹ About 1540 William Ashhurst was tenant of the Hospitallers' land in Dalton, at a rent of 12*d.*; Kuerden MSS. v, fol. 84. The rent suggests an alternative origin for the 'fourth part of the manor' subsequently claimed for this family. In 1559 a settlement was made of lands in Dalton by William Ashhurst and Cecily his wife, who according to the pedigree of 1613 were the parents of the William Ashhurst of 1590; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc. 25, m. 143.

³² Gibson, *Lydiat Hall*, 246; quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. cxxxv, 4.

³³ *Manchester Ct. Lost Rec.* iii, 19; 'his will dated 6 February 1615-16 was proved at Chester 9 April 1618. He mentions his wife Margaret; his son

Henry Ashhurst, and his daughter Anne Elston, and Robert, Elizabeth, Margaret, Henry, Anne, and Mary Elston, children of the latter. Henry Ashhurst was to pay his mother £40 a year; in default of which she was to have all the testator's lands in Biigham and Wrightington for her life.'

³⁴ *Visit. of 1613*, p. 98; *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 250; marriage settlement dated June 1606. Baxter says that he 'was a gentleman of great wisdom and piety, and zealous for the true reformed religion in a country where papists much abounded. And when King James, the more to win them, was prevailed with to sign the book for dancing and other such sports on the Lord's days, he being then a justice of the peace, as his ancestors had been, and the papists thus emboldened sent a piper not far from the chapel to draw the people from the public worship, he sent him to the house of correction. And being for this misrepresented to the king and council he was put to justify the inequality of what he did at the assizes; which he so well performed that the judge was forced to acquit him—though he was much contrary to him; and an occasion being offered to put the oath of allegiance on his prosecutors, their refusal showed them papists, as was before suspected'; *ibid.*, 251.

Henry Ashhurst was the only Dalton landowner contributing to the subsidy of 1628; Norris D. (B.M.). He and Cassandra his wife were in possession of the manor in 1630; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc. 115, no. 3. In the following year he paid £25 as composition on refusing knighthood; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 212. About the same time he was engaged in the trial of Anne Spencer, a known witch; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 55.

³⁵ 'A very holy man,' according to Oliver Heywood; *Diaries*, ii, 142. His career and virtues are recorded by Richard Baxter in the funeral sermon quoted in the last note. See also Wood, *Athenae Oxon.* (Ecc. Hist. Soc.), i, 157-8; and *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

³⁶ *Local Glean.* ii, 272, 275; Pink and Beaven, *Parl. Rep. of Lancs.* 280, 73. He was a member of the fourth Presbyterian Classis in 1646; *Baines, Lancs.* (ed. Croston), i, 308.

³⁷ *Local Glean.* ii, 276. Afterwards, as a leading Presbyterian, he joined in the attempt to set Charles II on the throne in 1651, and took refuge in the Isle of Man; *Cal. of Com. for Advance of Money*, iii, 1464. See *Civil War Tracts* (Chet. Soc.), 77, &c.; *Royalist Comp. Papers* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iii, 176-7.

³⁸ Dugdale, *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 9.

³⁹ Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc. 156, m. 3. The estate is described as the manor of Dalton, with messuages, barns, dovecote, lands, wood, common of pasture and turbarry, and 20*s.* rent in Dalton, Wrightington, Ormskirk, Lathom, Biigham, Skelmersdale, Shevington, Orrell, and Hutton.

In 1721 King's Silver was paid by Thomas Ashhurst and Diana his wife for a fine concerning the manors of Dalton, Upholland, and Skelmersdale; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 512, m. 8.

⁴⁰ Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc. 347, m. 26. This Henry is omitted in the pedigree in Foster, but appears in the *Alumni Oxonienses* as son of Thomas Henry Ashhurst, having entered Exeter College, Oxford, in 1739, aged eighteen; he was made D.C.L. in 1754, being then of Waterstock, Oxfordshire. Sir William Henry Ashhurst is stated to have been born in 1715; *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁴¹ William Arrowsmith of Warrington in the rental of 1473, already quoted, paid 6*d.*; this was possibly a part of the Burscough quarter, the prior being returned as paying 6*d.* only. Hugh Arrowsmith occurs in 1555; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc. 15, m. 40. In 1598 there was a dispute as to land between William Ashhurst and Robert Arrowsmith; *Ducatus* (Rec. Com.), iii, 393.

⁴² As will have been seen from the Burscough rental the Prescotts were tenants of the priory at the Dissolution

land⁴² also held lands in Dalton. In 1600 William Ashhurst and William Moss were the only freeholders recorded.⁴³

The Knights Hospitallers had land.⁴⁴

In the 13th century an estate called Sifredlea is recorded; it disappeared later.⁴⁵

About 1400, 2 acres of land in Dalton, granted without royal licence for the repair of Douglas Bridge, were confiscated, but restored.⁴⁷

For the adherents of the Established Church John Prescott of the Grange, owner of the great tithes of the township, turned the tithing barn into a place of worship; a district was assigned to it in 1870,⁴⁸ and it was consecrated in 1872; but five years later the present church of St. Michael and All Angels was built on an adjoining site, and the old one destroyed. The patronage is in the hands of Mrs. Prescott.⁴⁹

INCE

Ines, 1212; Ins, 1292; Ince, xvi cent.

Ince, called Ince in Makerfield to distinguish it from Ince Blundell in the same hundred, lies immediately to the east of Wigan, of which it is a suburb, and from which it is separated by a small brook, the Clarendon or Clarrington. A large part of the boundary on the south-west and eastern sides is formed by mosslands. Ambers or Ambrose Wood lies on the eastern edge. The ground rises slightly from south-west to north-east, a height of over 200 ft. being attained on the latter boundary. The area is 2,320 acres.¹ The population in 1901 was 21,262, including Platt Bridge.

Two great roads cross it, starting from Wigan; the more northerly is the ancient road to Hindley and Manchester, while the other goes through Abram to Warrington. A cross road joining these is, like them, lined with dwellings. The portion of the township to the north-west of it is called Higher Ince. Numerous railway lines traverse the township, as well

as minor lines for the service of the collieries. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's line from Wigan to Bolton and Manchester crosses the centre from west to east, and has a station called Ince; it is joined near the eastern boundary by the loop line through Pemberton. The London and North-Western Company's main line goes through from south to north, and has junctions with the lines from Manchester and St. Helens, as also with the Joint Companies' railway through Hindley and Haigh. The Great Central Company's line from Manchester to Wigan also crosses the township, with a station, called Lower Ince. The Lancaster Canal traverses it near the Wigan boundary, and the Leigh branch of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal near the western and southern boundaries.

The general aspect is unpleasing, it being a typical black country in the heart of the coal-mining area. The flat surface, covered with a complete network of railways, has scarcely a green tree to relieve the monotony of the bare wide expanses of apparently waste land, much of it covered with shallow 'slashes' of water, the result of the gradual subsidence of the ground as it is mined beneath. A good deal of the ground appears to be unreclaimed mossland. Needless to say no crops are cultivated. All the energies of the populace are employed in the underground mineral wealth of the district, Ince being famous for cannon and other coal.

The northern part of the township merges into the town of Wigan, the principal features being huge cotton mills and warehouses, crowding the banks of the canals and River Douglas, which here degenerates into a grimy ditch, with never a bush or tree to shade its muddy banks.

The soil is clay, with a mixture of sand and gravel lying over coal. There are iron works, forges, and railway wagon works; cotton goods also are manufactured.

The Local Government Act of 1858 was adopted by the township in 1866.² The local board was

for Dalton Hey and Gorstlow. Alice and Edward Prescott were among the defendants in a case regarding these lands in 1548; *Duchy Plead.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iii, 51. Richard Prescott and Ellen his wife occur in 1560; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde.* 22, m. 108. He seems to have been a lessee of the Orrella for their manor of Walton Lees, and his children were orphans in 1596; *Ducan.* iii, 206, &c.

The Recusant Roll of 1641 includes two Prescotts, also Crosses, Holland, &c.; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xiv, 239. The Earls of Derby owned the tithes of Dalton, and about 1782 sold their right to Mr. Prescott, in whose family it remains; *Bridgeman, Wigan Ch.* 258.

⁴² In 1554 Lewis Orrell had a dispute with Robert, Ralph, Hugh, and Agnes Holland respecting a close in Dalton called the Barn Hey; *Duchy of Lanc. Plead.* Edw. VI, x, O. r. In 1560 Richard Holland and Margaret his wife had land at Dalton; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde.* 22, m. 102.

In a fine of 1572 concerning land in Dalton in which Richard Holland, Ralph Crosse, Philip Moss, and Edward Prescott were plaintiffs, and Richard Chisnal and Thomas Latham defendants, the latter warranted Richard Holland and his heirs against Lord La Warr, the heirs of

William Bradshagh, deceased, James Howorth, and Margaret his wife, and Margaret's heirs, and John Parbold and Margery his wife; *ibid.* bde. 34, m. 16.

Richard Holland died 29 Apr. 1587 holding lands in Dalton, Parbold, and Ormakirk, which by his will he left to his wife Margaret for life and then to his son and heir James; the latter was sixty-eight years of age; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xiv, no. 20. James Holland, perhaps a son of the last-named James, died in 1605, leaving a son and heir Richard, eleven years old; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 30.

In 1717 Ellen Holland, daughter of James Holland, as a 'papist' registered an estate at Dalton for the life of her sister Mary; *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 131.

⁴⁴ *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 239, 241. In 1653 Edward Moss of Dalton, two-thirds of whose estate had been sequestered for recusancy, asked leave to contract for the same; *Royalist Comp. Papers* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iv, 199.

⁴⁵ *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 375; see also a preceding note.

⁴⁶ The name has a great variety of spellings.

In 1202 Syfthelegh was part of the tenement of Alan de Windle (or de Pemberton) in which Edusa his widow claimed dower; *Final Conc.* i, 38. In

1241 Robert de Holland released his claim to twelve ergangs in Pemberton, on receiving from Adam de Pemberton the homage and service (viz. 5s. 6d. rent) of Thunza de Siverdelege in the latter place; *ibid.* 82.

Very early in the 13th century Edrith de Siverdeleie granted a portion of his land to Cockerand Abbey, the bounds commencing at a burnt oak by Swinley Carr, so to two oaks, and to Raven's Oak, and by syke and brook to the great bank, and so to the start; this was afterwards held by a tenant paying 12d. and a half 2 mark at death; *Cockerand Chant.* ii, 627. In 1271 or 1272 Robert son of Thomas de Siverthelege released to Matthew de Bispham and his heirs all his right in the abbey's land in Siverthelege, rendering to the abbot 12d. a year; this land was in 1268 held by Matthew de Holland; *ibid.* ii, 629, 630.

It is clear that Matthew de Holland was the same as Matthew de Bispham, and it was for him probably that Robert de Holland had before bought out the interest of Adam de Pemberton.

⁴⁷ *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxiii, App. 2.

⁴⁸ *Land. Gaz.* 29 Nov. 1870; 23 Dec. 1870.

⁴⁹ *Bridgeman, Wigan Ch.* 789.

¹ Including 100 acres of inland water.

² *Land. Gaz.* 23 Oct. 1866.

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changed into an urban district council by the Act of 1894; it consists of fifteen members.

The manor of *INCE* appears to have been a member of the royal manor of Newton before the Conquest,² and to have been included in the fee of Makerfield from its formation.³ In 1212 Alfred de Ince held this in thegnage with Haydock,⁴ in succession to his father, Orm de Haydock, whose name occurs as early as 1168.⁵ The whole of Haydock had been granted out, and half of Ince was held of Alfred by Richard de Perpoint.⁶

Some forty or fifty years later Henry de Sefton began to acquire a share in the manor. In 1261 he held the Perpoint moiety by grant of Thomas de Perpoint,⁷ and seems to have acquired the remainder, with the meane lordship, from Henry son of John de

Ince.⁸ He was still living in 1288,⁹ but in 1291 his son, styled Richard de Ince, was in possession.¹⁰ Richard de Ince occurs as late as 1333;¹¹ he was succeeded by his son Gilbert, living in 1347.¹² At this time Gilbert had a son Ivo living; but in 1382 the manors of Aspull and Ince were granted to feoffees by Richard son of Robert de Ince, whose relationship to Gilbert is not known.¹³ The manor went with Ellen, daughter of probably the same Richard de Ince, who married John Gerard, a younger son of Peter Gerard of Bryn.¹⁴

From their son William the manor descended regularly to Thomas Gerard of Ince, who in 1514 had a dispute with Sir Thomas Gerard of Bryn, as to the possession of Turneshea Moss, on the boundary of Ince and Ashton.¹⁵ At his death in 1545 it was

² *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286.

³ *Ibid.* 366, note 8. For later notices see *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 138; ii, 99; *ibid.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 105.

⁴ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 74. The separate assessment of Ince appears to have been one plough-land; and its share of the thegnage rent was probably 10s.; one of the judges being also supplied by it. In 1544 the Gerard's rent was stated to be 5s. only; possibly this was a moiety of the manor, the other moiety being held by the Ince family.

⁵ Farrer, *Lancs. Pipe R.* 12. Orm de Haydock gave to Cocker sand Abbey a portion of land in Ince, between two brooks, as marked out by the canons' crosses; *Cockersand Chart.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 673. Robert Anketon held this in 1501 at a rent of 10d.; *Cockersand Rental* (Chet. Soc.), 5.

⁶ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents*, i, 74; the half plough-land was held 'of ancient feoffment.'

⁷ Richard de (or le) Perpoint was a benefactor of Cocker sand, his grant being thus bounded: 'The great brook up the Thre lache, down the lache between Beric-acre and Wolvrey to the syke between Hardacre and Bircacre, to the great brook; *Cockersand Chart.* ii, 672. He seems to have been succeeded by Robert son of Adam de Perpoint, who released to the canons the lands he had held of them in Ince, and whose daughter Godith did the same; *ibid.* 673, 674. For Alfred de Ince see *Lancs. Pipe R.* 152, &c.

⁸ *Cur. Reg. R.* 171, m. 28; Henry de Sefton called Thomas de Perpoint to warrant him as to 4 oxgangs in Ince. He may be the Henry de Seveton who with his wife Alice was taken into confraternity with the Knights Hospitallers in 1256; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 128.

⁹ *Assize R.* 408, m. 21 d. John de Ince was witness to an Abram charter about 1240; *Cockersand Chart.* ii, 664.

¹⁰ *Assize R.* 408, m. 73. It is possible that there is an error in the date.

¹¹ *Assize R.* 407, m. 3 d. Gilbert de Southworth claimed in right of the dower of his wife Emma, who seems to have been the widow of Henry de Sefton; but this would not have been so if Henry de Sefton was living in 1288.

¹² About this time there was a long suit between John son of Richard Maunsel of Heaton and Richard son of Emma de Marhalgh as to messuages, mill, &c., and 6 oxgangs of land in Ince and Aspull.

Richard is described as son and heir of Henry de Wigan, a brother of Richard Maunsel; *Assize R.* 1265, m. 22 d.; *R.* 1321, m. 13 d.; *R.* 418, m. 2, 11. As in one of the pleadings in 1284 (*Assize R.* 1268, m. 11) Gilbert de Southworth and Emma his wife were joined in the defence with Richard son of Emma de Marhalgh, it might seem that Henry de Wigan was the same as Henry de Sefton, but there is probably some other explanation.

¹³ In 1292 he was defendant in a number of suits concerning his father's acquisitions.

¹⁴ Henry de Litherland claimed 4 oxgangs less 12 acres; he had in 1288 released his right in them to Henry de Sefton, but now said he was a minor at the time; *Assize R.* 408, m. 73. It is possible that the plaintiff was the Henry son of Thomas de Ince who at the same assizes claimed 6 acres of land, &c., from Robert son of Fulk Banastre, Hugh de Hindley, Alan son of Peter, Adam de Urmston and Isabel his wife, and Richard de Moynoux and Beatrice his wife; *ibid.* m. 68. Agnes widow of Thomas de Ince was also a claimant in respect of dower; 2 oxgangs of land are named; *ibid.* m. 3, 13 d, 64 d. Henry son of Thomas de Ince held 12 acres claimed by William, brother and heir of Robert de Wytonelake, who asserted that Thomas had devised to Henry de Sefton, who had disseised Robert; *ibid.* m. 51.

¹⁵ Robert de Abram and Emma his wife, in right of the latter, claimed the moiety of an oxgang of land, &c., from Richard son of Henry de Sefton of Ince, and from Gilbert de Southworth and Emma his wife. The latter pair said they had only Emma's dower out of Richard's inheritance. The plaintiffs said that Henry de Ince gave the tenements to Adam son of Wido and Margery his wife; the latter being, it would seem, a daughter of Henry; and that Emma was their daughter and heir; Robert was the son of John de Abram, who had married the said Margery. Richard de Ince's reply was that Margery had granted the lands to his father while she was a widow and free to do so; but the jury decided for the plaintiffs, believing a grant was made after she had married John de Abram. Gilbert and Emma were also to have nothing from the land, 'because the reisin of the latter's first husband was unjust'; *ibid.* m. 26 d. The last sentence seems to prove that this Emma was widow of Henry de Sefton.

In the same year, 1292, Richard de Ince and Alice his wife, 'put in their

claim' in a fine concerning the manor of Haydock; *Final Conc.* i, 174.

¹⁶ Late in 1334 Richard son of Henry de Ince granted Gilbert de Culcheth leave to carry turves from Hindley to Wigan through Ince; *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, i, 52.

¹⁷ In 1323-4 Gilbert son of Richard de Ince remitted to Gilbert de Haydock a rent of 13s. 4d.; *Raines MSS.* (Chet. Lib.), xxviii, 33. Gilbert de Ince was witness in 1334; *Crosse D.* no. 45. Ten years later John de Tyldesley made a claim against Gilbert son of Richard de Ince and others concerning land; *Assize R.* 435, m. 47. A little later, 1347, William son of John Donning of Ince sued Gilbert son of Richard de Ince for a messuage in Ince. Gilbert claimed by a grant from Elias Donning and Margery his wife, parents of John Donning; in the defence there were associated with him his brothers Richard, Thomas, and John; also his son Ivo; *ibid.* m. 41 d. Gilbert de Ince at Easter 1354 was convicted of disseising John son of Thomas Jew of a rent of 13s. 4d. in Ince; and Hugh, Gilbert's brother, cut off John's arm; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 3, m. 3. Henry, another brother, occurs in 1347; *Cal. Chas.* 1346-9, p. 49. Gilbert de Ince attested a charter in 1358; *Standish D.* no. 46.

¹⁸ *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. hble.* 2, m. 36; a list of the tenants is given.

¹⁹ Robert was perhaps yet another brother of Gilbert's, for a Robert son of Richard de Ince was plaintiff in 1353 against Roger de Leigh, and others; *Assize R.* 435, m. 20.

²⁰ Richard and Thomas de Ince contributed to the poll tax of 1381; *Lay Subs. Lanc. hble.* 130, no. 24.

²¹ Ormerod, *Chet.* (ed. Helsby), ii, 131, where it is stated that a dispensation was granted for the marriage. John Gerard of Ince occurs in 1425; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 13.

²² In 1420 John Gerard of Ince and Ellen his wife arranged for the succession of the manor of Ince, with fifteen messuages, 140 acres of land, &c., in Warrington, Wigan, and Aspull; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. hble.* 5, m. 18. At the inquisition after his death, taken in 1434-5, his son and heir William was said to be aged twenty-three; *Ormerod, loc. cit.*

²³ *Duchy Pleas.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 3-7; the date should be 6 Hen. VIII. The plaintiff's pedigree is given: 'The said moss . . . is the freehold and inheritance of plaintiff as parcel of his manor of Ince, whereof William Gerard his great-grandfather, put in their

found that he had held the manor of Ince of Sir Thomas Langton in socage by a rent of 5s.; also the manor of Aspull, a burghage in Wigan, and lands in Abram and Hindley. Miles Gerard his son and heir was thirty years of age.¹⁷ Miles died in August 1558,¹⁸ leaving a son William,¹⁹ who in turn was succeeded by his son, another Miles Gerard.²⁰ The family adhered to the ancient faith, and Miles Gerard in 1590 was reported to be 'in some degree of conformity, yet in general note of evil affection in religion.'²¹



GERARD, Azure a lion rampant ermine crowned cr.

Miles Gerard was still living in 1613, when a pedigree was recorded, showing Thomas his son and heir to be twenty-two

years of age.²² Thomas was a convicted recusant in 1628,²³ and his estates were in 1643 sequestered 'for his recusancy and supposed delinquency.'²⁴ The documents relating to the matter give a number of interesting particulars as to the mining of cannel and the charges upon the lands;²⁵ they also show that Thomas Gerard, his son, had fought against the Parliament, and had been taken prisoner at Naseby in 1645; afterwards he took the National Covenant and compounded for his part of the estate.²⁶

It appears to have been Anne, the daughter and heir of the younger Thomas, who carried the manors of Ince and Aspull to her husband John Gerard, a younger son of Sir William Gerard, third baronet; and the manors were afterwards sold to Richard Gerard, uncle of John.²⁷ Richard's son and heir Thomas and his wife, Mary Wright, were in possession in 1683.²⁸ His son Richard Gerard of Highfield

his grandfather, and William his father, and many others of his ancestors were time out of mind peaceably seized.

In 1448 Thomas Gerard son of William Gerard, Roger Gerard, and Cecily wife of William Gerard, were accused of causing the death of Robert Gilow, but were acquitted; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 12, m. 25; see also R. 11, m. 15, 16.

In that year a dispensation was granted by Nicholas V for the marriage of Thomas son and heir of William Gerard of Ince, and Elizabeth a daughter of William Norris of Speke, the parties being related in the third degree; Norris D. (R.M.), no. 643. Ten years later an indenture was made, reciting the fact of this marriage, and stating that lands in Aspull and Hindley had been assigned to them; William Gerard, the father, 'had not made and would not make any alienation of the manor of Ince or of any messuage, lands, and tenements that were Ellen's that was wife to John Gerard mother to the said William Gerard,' but such as should determine at his death. William's brothers, Robert, John, Hugh, and Richard are named, as also his younger sons, Roger, Edmund, Lawrence, and Seth; *Ibid.* no. 644.

To Thomas Gerard, the son, a pardon was granted in 1479; Towacley MS. RR, no. 1430. In this year Thomas Gerard of Ince and William his son, with Roger and Seth his brothers, were parties to an engagement to keep the peace with Alexander Standish and others; Standish D. nos. 160, 161.

In 1490 the marriage of Thomas son and heir apparent of William Gerard, and Maud daughter of Sir Henry Bold, was agreed upon; Dods. MSS. cxlii, fol. 210, nos. 118, 119.

¹⁷ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. vii, no. 27. The burghage in Wigan was held by the rent of a pair of gloves.

¹⁸ *Ibid.* xi, no. 12; he held the manors of Ince and Aspull, with various messuages and lands, &c.; including a windmill and a water-mill in Ince, and the same in Aspull; sixty burghages, &c., in Wigan, and various lands there, held by a rent of 5s. 1d.; also lands in Pemberton, Abram, and Hindley. William his son and heir was twenty-three years of age.

¹⁹ William was a plaintiff against Sir Thomas Gerard in 1549; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 101.

In 1557 a pedigree was recorded; *Pitt.*

(Chet. Soc.), 101. William Gerard was buried at Wigan, 29 Nov. 1583; Reg.

²⁰ A settlement of the manors of Aspull and Ince was made by fine in 1586; Miles Gerard and Grace his wife being deforciant; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 48, m. 299; there was a later one in 1612; *ibid.* bde. 32, m. 51. Several other fines relate to dealings with their properties; *ibid.* bde. 47, m. 57, &c.

In 1599, as lord of the manor, he complained that Ralph Houghton and others were withholding suit; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 336, 399.

²¹ Gibson, *Lydiate Hall*, 245, quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. cccxxv, 4. He and his wife had been accused in 1586 of sheltering one Worthington, a persecuted priest; and his own brother, Alexander Gerard, was another priest in the neighbourhood; *ibid.* 239, 240. Thomas and Alexander Gerard, aged eighteen and seventeen respectively, entered Brasenose College, Ox. in 1578; Foster, *Alumni*. In spite of a discrepancy in the dates—it being recorded that Alexander left Rheims for England in 1587—it seems certain that Miles's brothers were the Thomas and Alexander Gerard imprisoned for religion in Wisbech Castle, where Thomas died; their brother Gilbert, born in 1569, and therefore not recorded in the Visitation pedigree, entered the English College, Rome, in 1587, and became a Jesuit; Foley, *Rec. S.F.* vi, 175; vii, 293.

In September 1590 Miles Gerard was indicted for fourteen months' absence from church, but for most part of the time he had been 'so extreme sick' that his life had only been preserved by the use of goat's milk; before that he said he had been a regular attendant at church; *Illa. MSS. Com. Rep. xiv, App. iv, 397*. See also *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 252.

Miles Gerard, a Donay priest, executed at Rochester in 1590 for his priesthood, is supposed to have been of this family; Gilow, *Bibl. Diet. of Engl. Cath.* ii, 430-2. He does not occur in the pedigree, but Miles seems to have been a favourite Christian name in this branch.

²² *Visit. of 1613* (Chet. Soc.), 25. 'Miles Gerard of Ince, esquire, was buried at Wigan, 1615, in his own chancel, the 28th day of September'; Reg.

Thomas son and heir of Miles Gerard of Ince entered St. Mary Hall, Ox. in 1607, aged seventeen; he was afterwards of Gray's Inn; Foster, *Alumni Oxon.*

²³ Norris D. (B.M.). For a settlement

in 1641 see Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 178, m. 78. He paid £13 6s. 8d. on refusing knighthood in 1632; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 222.

²⁴ *Royalist Camp. Papers* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iii, 34; petition of his wife and daughters.

²⁵ *Ibid.* iii, 34-52. Thomas Gerard had a mine of cannel in Aspull, for which he needed a trench through lands of James Corsuch, paying him £20 for leave. Owing to neglect in the various sequestrations the trench was filled up, and the mine was 'totally drowned up'; the fault being that of the agents of the sequestrators. He asked for compensation or assistance to put the mine in order.

The rents of the confiscated two-thirds of the estates amounted in 1653-4 to £111 17s. 6d.; it consisted of the demesne lands at Ince, a mill, tenants' rents, tithes corn, rents in Aspull, and a cannel mine in Aspull farmed to his son Thomas Gerard; *ibid.* 47.

Ince Hall was the subject of suits between Thomas Gerard and Roger Stoughton in 1663; *Exch. Depos.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 37, 44.

In 1667 an inquiry was made touching an annuity granted by Thomas Gerard to John Biddulph; *Lancs. and Ches. Recs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 348.

²⁶ *Royalist Camp. Papers*, iii, 40-43. It being alleged that the younger Thomas was 'a delinquent papist and not to be admitted to composition, notwithstanding his conformity,' his friends moved that he might be allowed to give the committee further satisfaction by taking the oath of abjuration.

²⁷ For Richard Gerard see *Dier, Nat. Biog.*

The descent which follows is taken from Piccope's MS. Pedigrees (Chet. Lib.), i, 119, with additions from his abstracts of Roman Catholic deeds enrolled in the Preston House of Correction. There is also a pedigree in Gregson, *Fragments* (rd. Harland), 239. John Gerard died in July 1672, and was buried at Winwick; *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 191.

²⁸ Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 211, m. 25. Besides the manors the property included messuages and lands and a water grain mill in Ince, Aspull, and Wigan; also tithes in Ince. For a line of 1700 see bde. 245, m. 93; Thomas Gerard, Sir William Gerard, and William Gerard were the deforciant. Thomas Gerard is usually described as 'of Highfield' in

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succeeded, but dying without issue the manor of Ince went by the provisions of his will¹⁹ to his wife Margaret for life and then to his heir, his cousin Richard Gerard's son William.²⁰ William's heirs were his sisters, Mary and Elizabeth; but as the latter died unmarried, the whole devolved on the former, the wife of John Walmesley, a relation of the Showley family.²¹ They settled at Westwood House in Ince, and the manor has descended regularly to the present lord, Mr. Humphrey Jeffreys Walmesley, of Ince and Hungerford.²² The Hall of Ince was sold by Richard Gerard in 1716 to John Walmesley of Wigan, whose descendant Mr. John Walmesley of Lucknam and Ince is the present owner.²³

Ince formerly possessed three halls, each bearing the name of the township; two of them, very much modernized, still stand. The first of these, now known as above mentioned as Hall of Ince, stands in Warrington Road, near the cemetery, and was restored about ten years ago, the old timber work at the back, which was then visible, being removed, and the wall rebuilt in brick.²⁴ The whole of the exterior of the building, which was formerly timber framed, is now stuccoed and otherwise modernized, but the roofs retain their old stone slates. The building is now divided into three houses.

Another branch of the Gerard family also resided in Ince from about 1600; their house was called the New Hall.²⁵

The house now known as Ince Hall, which is situated off Manchester Road, near Rose Bridge, was originally surrounded by a moat and approached by a fine avenue of elms. It was a good specimen of timber and plaster building erected about the reign of James I, with a picturesque black and white front of five gables.²⁶ The entrance hall is described as being spacious and with a richly ornamented plaster ceiling and wainscoted walls. Three other rooms also were stated to have been paneled in oak, and the drawing-room ceiling was ornamented with carved work representing birds, shells, fruit, and flowers. There were two chimney-pieces of fine Italian marble. The staircase was of oak and 6 ft. wide, the ceiling much ornamented with stucco. The best bedrooms were covered with tapestry.²⁷ In 1854 the house was so seriously damaged by fire as to necessitate a practical rebuilding. The ancient timber front has therefore given place to a brick elevation of no architectural pretension, and the house is internally wholly modernized. The line of avenue still remains, but the trees have disappeared, and the opening of coal pits in the immediate vicinity about thirty years ago has destroyed any sense of picturesqueness that the rebuilt structure might have possessed.²⁸

A family using the local surname came into note in the 16th century.²⁹ Thomas Ince, who died in April 1573, held a capital messuage and other messuages with lands and wood at Ince of Thomas Langton in

Aspull. As a 'papist' he registered his estate in 1717, the value being given as £345 17s. 4d.; Richard Gerard, of Highfield, who registered an annuity of £150 out of the manor of Aspull, was no doubt his son; *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 128, 153; he also owned the hall of Southworth; Piccope, *op. cit.* Two of his sisters were nuns.

In 1694 an inquiry was made as to the suspected devotion of the Hall of Ince to religious uses; *Exch. Depos.* 84.

²¹ Richard Gerard of Highfield died without issue in 1743. In 1721 he was in the remainder to the Brynn estate. By his will dated 1 Feb. 1734-5, he gave the manor of Ince to his wife Margaret, who was daughter of John Baldwin of Wigan, for life, with remainder to his right heirs; his manors of Southworth and Croft to his brother Thomas; Piccope, *op. cit.* This Thomas and another brother Cayll were priests; for the latter see Foley, *Rec. S.F.* vi, 468.

²⁰ Richard Gerard, a younger brother of Thomas, was an apothecary in Wigan. He and his son Richard registered as 'papists' in 1717; *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 107, 148. They mortgaged a messuage in the Market-place in 1732. The son, who died in 1743, married Isabella, another daughter of John Baldwin of Wigan; and their son William, described as an apothecary in 1744, was the heir to Ince. Aspull is not mentioned, having probably been sold. In 1751-2 William Gerard was deforciant of the manor in a fine, which included lands in Ince, Abram, Hindley, Newton in Makerfield, and Wigan; also 'one chapel open to the north side and adjoining the parish church of Wigan'; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bble.* 346, m. 108.

²¹ In 1773 John Walmesley and Mary his wife, Elizabeth Gerard, spinster,

William Moss and Margaret his wife, and Richard Baron and Anne his wife were the deforciant in a fine regarding this manor; *ibid.* *bble.* 389, m. 176.

²² The descent is thus given in Burke, *Landed Gentry*—John Walmesley, d. 1780; son, Richard, d. 1790; son, Charles, d. 1833; son, William Gerard, d. 1868; son, William Gerard, d. 1877; brother, Humphrey Jeffreys, born 1846.

²³ Information given by the present owner, who also inherited the house in Hallgate, Wigan, in which the Young Pretender slept in November 1745. For the pedigree of the family see Burke, *Landed Gentry*, Walmesley of Hall of Ince.

²⁴ A view of the Hall, as it was a century ago, is given in Gregson, *Fragments* (ed. Harland), 236.

²⁵ One Thomas Anderton had lands in Ince in 1529, as recorded in a later note; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* vi, n. 14, 30. One of his daughters and co-heirs married Thomas Gerard, and a division was sought in 1546; *Pal. of Lanc. Writs*, file 30. Ralph Gerard and Grace his wife sold lands here in 1548; James Gerard was a purchaser; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bble.* 13, m. 133, 136. See also *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xv, no. 59; a James Gerard was buried at Wigan 21 Sept. 1590. This James may have been the father of Miles Gerard, who in 1600 was one of the freeholders in Ince; *Misc. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.)*, i, 239. The same name, as 'of New Hall' appears among the landowners contributing to the subsidy of 1628; Norris D. (B. M.). He was buried at Wigan in 1640, and in 1654 Charles son of James Gerard, of the New Hall, was buried, as appears by the Wigan registers.

For some 'delinquency' James Gerard's

estate was sequestrated about the end of 1651 by the Parliamentary authorities; as 'son and heir of Miles Gerard, late of Ince,' he was admitted to Gray's Inn, 1646; *Royalist Comp. Papers*, iii, 21; iv, 34.

In 1671, on a complaint by Henry Backer and his wife Jane against Ellen Gerard, depositions were taken as to the marriage of John Davies of Manby in Cheshire, with Alice eldest daughter of Miles Gerard, late of Peel Ditch in Ince, and moneys agreed to be paid to Jane and Margaret, daughters of Miles; and touching a sum of £400 lent to Thomas Gerard of Ince; *Exch. Depos.* 49.

²⁶ The house is the subject of one of Roby's *Traditions of Lancashire*, where a view of it in its original state is given.

²⁷ *Manchester City News, N. and Q.* iv, 7 (1881).

²⁸ There is a tradition that the Young Pretender slept here when he was in this part of Lancashire, and that there was a skirmish in the hall during his stay in which two men were killed.

²⁹ They may have descended from the Henry son of Thomas de Ince, of 1292, who had a son Thomas; *Assize R.* 419, m. 12; *De Banco R.* 198, m. 136 d. Richard son of Henry de Ince contributed to the subsidy in 1332; *Exch. Lay Subs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 6. The Thomas of 1331 may also have belonged to it; a release by Thomas son of Robert de Ince, dated 1379, is in Towneley MS. GG, no. 2439. Robert son of William de Ince, occurs in 1398; *Crosse D. (Trans. Littr. Soc.)*, no. 86. Henry de Ince occurs in 1415; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), 4, 107. Thomas son of Henry de Ince was party to a bond in 1428; *CC*, no. 2655. Henry Ince of Ince was one of the gentry of the hundred in 1512.


socage by a rent of 5s.^{85b} The residence was known as Ince Hall, or the New Hall. They also adhered to the ancient faith,⁸⁵ and John Ince's estate was sequestered by the Parliamentary authorities during the Commonwealth,⁸⁷ but not confiscated outright. It descended from him to his great-great-granddaughter Frances Sobieski, daughter of Christopher Ince, and wife of William Anderton of Euxton. She died in 1816, when the family ceased to reside here.⁸⁸

The third hall, the residence of the family of Ince, stood on a site a short distance from the junction of Ince Green Lane and Warrington Road, part of which is occupied by a building apparently erected some sixty years since from the materials of the former house. Two date stones, now on a rockery in front



Ince. Argent three torteaux between two bendlets gules.

of the house, are said to belong respectively to the old barn and a stable now pulled down. One bears the date 1578 and the initials G.M., and the other

the inscription  referring to the above-named

William Anderton and Frances his wife. There is also part of a stone sundial, dated ^{G.M.} 1741. The hall is said to have been built about 1721.

Property here was acquired by a family named Brown,⁸⁹ in which it descended for about a century and a half.⁹⁰ Henry Brown, by his will in 1726, left it to his grand-nephew Edward, son of Robert Holt of Wigan; by two daughters and co-heiresses it became the property of General Clegg and Thomas Case of Liverpool.⁹¹

Miles and Peter Gerard, Thomas Ince, and Ralph Brown were the landowners recorded about 1556.⁹² Richard Pennington was a freeholder in 1600.⁹³ The four halls of Ince were duly noted by Kuerden

^{85b} Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xiii, no. 6. Miles Ince was his son and heir, and of the age of twenty-five years. The rent payable seems to prove that this was a moiety of the manor. Mr. H. Ince Anderton gives the descent as: Thomas Ince (15 Edw. IV) —s. Henry (20 Hen. VI) —s. Arthur —s. Thomas; from Harl. MS. 1987, fol. 388.

The father of Thomas was Arthur Ince, who in 1546 and later had a dispute with Ralph Brown over the marriage between the latter's daughter Ellen and Thomas Ince, son and heir apparent of Arthur; *Duchy Plead.* ii, 211. In 1569 Miles Ince, as grandson of Ralph Brown, put in a claim to lands in Ince, Aspull, and Wigan; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 378, 360.

⁸⁶ Miles Ince was one of the 'comers to church but no communicants' in 1590; *Lydiat Hall*, 246 (quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. cccxxxv, 4). He was buried at Wigan 7 Apr. 1593; Reg.; and was succeeded by John Ince, probably his son, returned as a freeholder in 1600; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 241. With him begins the pedigree recorded in 1664; Dugdale, *Vitin.* (Chet. Soc.), 163. In 1628 he paid double to the subsidy as a convicted recusant; Norris D. (B.M.); and died the following year, being buried at Wigan.

⁸⁷ In 1643 two-thirds was sequestered for Thomas Ince's religion only, and so remained till his death in Feb. 1653-4; it does not appear that he took arms for the king. John Ince was the only son and heir, thirty-four years of age, and in 1654 had a wife and four small children depending on him. He mortgaged his property in order to pay his father's debts and provide for his wife Margaret and his children Thomas, Hugh, &c.; *Royalist Comp. Papers*, iv, 1-13.

⁸⁸ Dugdale's pedigree is supplemented by that of Piccope [MS. Pedigrees, ii, 291], who consulted the Roman Catholic deeds enrolled in the House of Correction, Preston. It appears that Thomas, the eldest son of John, mentioned in the preceding note, had no issue, and the estate descended to Christopher Ince, a younger brother, who in 1717 as a 'papist' registered his estate, being described as 'of Aughton'; *Engl. Cash. Nonjurors*, 112. His four sisters, Dorothy, Anne, Ellen (wife of James Twiss), and Elizabeth also registered; *ibid.*, 124.

Christopher was executor of his brother Thomas's will (dated 1703), and by his own will, dated 12 Dec. 1728, he left Ince Hall to his grandson Christopher; John, the son, to have 'the profits of part of Brook House,' if he behaved himself to the satisfaction of the trustees. Thomas, a younger brother of John, had lands in Aughton and Billinge, divided between his sons Thomas and James; Piccope, *op. cit.*

Mr. Ince Anderton adds that papers in Chet. Dioc. Reg. show that Christopher Ince died in 1735, leaving two sons, John and Thomas; and that administration of the goods of John Ince of Ince was granted on 14 Jan. 1739-40.

Christopher Ince, son of John, accordingly succeeded to Ince; in 1740 he married Mary Catherine Parry of Holywell; and their daughter and heir, Frances Sobieski Ince, married in 1769 William Anderton of Euxton; Piccope.

⁸⁹ In a suit in 1609 respecting a place called Rundsfield in Ince, the following pedigree was adduced:—Roger le Brown, to whom the rent of 4s. from the land had been granted by William de Ince —s. Rowland —s. William —s. Ralph. Ralph in 1545 granted the rent to William Brown, whose son Roger was defendant in 1609; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 303, m. 16.

Roger Brown of Ince, in August 1517, granted to Cecily daughter of Richard Urnston a burgage in Scholes for her life, with remainder to Ralph Brown, junior, son and heir of William Brown; and at the same time this Ralph Brown, describing himself as next of kin and heir apparent of Roger, granted his burgages, &c., in Scholes to the same Cecily, probably on his marriage with her; Towneley MS. OO, no. 1109, 1108.

Thomas Anderton of Ince died in August 1549, seized of messuages and lands in Ince held of Thomas Gerard of Ince, by a rent of 2s. 8d.; and other lands in Thingwall, Walton, Halewood, and Aughton. His heirs were his daughters Margaret, Ellen, and Cecily, said to be ten, nine, and eight years of age in 1534. They were in the wardship of Ralph Brown of Wigan, who accordingly took possession; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 14, 30.

Ralph Brown next appears in 1535 in a dispute with Thomas Gerard as to lands in Whitreding; *Ducatus Lanc.* i, 201; and then in 1546 regarding the marriage covenant with Arthur Ince, already referred to. William Brown, feoffee of Ralph, and James Brown appear in 1568 and 1569 in the disputes with Miles Ince. In 1581 William Brown made complaint as to Charles Bank, Miles Gerard, and Lawrence Wood regarding lands called Foxholes, &c.; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 92, 107.

William Brown died 13 May 1596 leaving a son and heir Roger, then about sixteen years of age; he had held two messuages and various lands in Ince of Miles Gerard, by a rent of 4s. 6d. and sixteen messuages in Wigan; *Lancet. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 157.

Roger Brown, in 1597, alleged that Miles Gerard was withholding suit; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 350. He died 2 Jan. 1619, seized of the paternal lands, and leaving as heir his son William, aged seventeen; there was a younger son Ralph, as appears by a feoffment made in 1611; *Lancet. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 202. He had lived 'roguing about London,' in Bishop Bridgeman's opinion; *Bridgeman, Wigan Ch.* 249.

⁹⁰ William Brown died in 1626, for his uncle Ralph, brother of Roger Brown, tendered his relief on succeeding; he was buried at Wigan 11 Mar. 1626-7, and succeeded by his son; *Bridgeman, op. cit.* 250. The 'heirs of Ralph Brown' are mentioned in the Wigan rental of 1627; *ibid.* 310.

⁹¹ Baines, *Lancs.* (ed. 1836), iii, 568; *Gregson, Fragments*, 176.

⁹² Macey of Rixton D.; a subsidy roll, *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 241.

In 1546 was a fine between Nicholas Pennington (ur Pinnington) of Wigan and John Pennington of Ince, respecting property in the latter place; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlr. 12, m. 167. In 1559 John Pennington was again deforciant; *ibid.* bdlr. 21, m. 134. In 1600 Gilbert Bank sued Robert and Nicholas Pennington concerning a cottage and lands called Emme Fields; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 412.

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about 1696.⁴⁴ In 1717 John Clarkson and Richard Richardson, as 'papists,' registered estates here.⁴⁵

Ambrewood inclosure award may be seen at Preston.

The Established Church has two places of worship in the township; Christ Church, consecrated in 1864, the district assigned being the whole township;⁴⁶ and St. Mary's, Lower Ince, consecrated 1887.⁴⁷ The patronage of both is vested in Simeon's trustees.

The Wesleyan Methodist chapel was built in 1866; the Primitive Methodist one in 1885. The Congregationalists also have a place of worship.

The adherents of the ancient religion found assistance in the constancy of the families of Gerard and Ince. The chapel at New Hall was built in 1760; this was closed in 1818. There was a private chapel at Westwood House, and in 1873 the church of St. William was opened. Twenty years later the Church of the Holy Family at Platt Bridge was added.⁴⁸

HINDLEY

Hindele, 1212; Hindelegh, 1260 (common); Hindley, 1292.

Hindley lies in the centre of the great Lancashire coalfield, and consists of a level-surfaced country dotted over with collieries and black pit-banks. A close network of tramways and railways covers the face of a singularly dreary stretch of country, where the pastures are scanty and blackened. Frequent pools of water lie between the collieries, indicating subsidences of the earth caused by mining. What trees remain standing appear as dead stumps, with leafless branches reflected weirdly in the 'fashes' of water. In the more favoured parts of the township, wheat, oats, and potatoes manage to find an existence. There is some pasturage also. The area is 2,610½ acres,¹ and the population in 1901 was 23,504.

The ancient road from Manchester to Wigan goes west-north-west through the township. The town of Hindley lies to the north of this road. At this point is a cross road leading north-eastward from Platt Bridge and Lowe Green to Westhoughton, having a branch north to Aspull. Through the town, adjacent to this cross road, runs a brook known here as the Burden. Near the eastern boundary is the

village of Hindley Green; from this a road leads south to Leigh. The London and North-Western Company's Manchester and Wigan Railway passes through the township from east to west, with stations at Hindley Green and Platt Bridge. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's line from Wigan to Manchester also crosses the northern corner, where there is a station; and the two companies' joint railway runs north through the western part of the township, being there joined by a connecting line from the North-Western main line. The Great Central Railway's line to Wigan crosses the western end, and has a station called Hindley and Platt Bridge.

There were formerly two 'burning wells' here, one in Derby Lane, the other near Dog Pool, now called Grange Brook.²

The great business is coal-mining; there is also an iron foundry, and cotton manufacturing is carried on extensively. The first factory is said to have been erected near the end of the 18th century by Richard Battersby at Lowe mill, formerly a water corn-mill. A little later hand-loom weaving was one of the chief industries, each cottage having a weaving shop attached.³

The Local Government Act of 1858 was adopted by the township in 1867.⁴ Under the Act of 1894 an urban district council of fifteen members has been constituted. New council offices were opened in 1904.

A fair is held on the first Thursday in August.

A sundial, dated 1699, formerly stood at Castle Hill.⁵

HINDLEY was no doubt one of the **MANOR** fifteen berewicks of the royal manor of Newton before the Conquest.⁶ After the Conquest it continued to form part of the fee of Makerfield,⁷ and in 1212 one part was held in thegnage, in conjunction with Ashton, by Thomas de Burnhull.⁸ The remainder was held by local families.

Swain son of Leofwin held the Burnhull share, and gave it to a certain Gospatric in free marriage; in 1212 Roger the son of Gospatric held this portion of Thomas de Burnhull. Two oxgangs were at the same time held by Adam de Hindley 'of ancient feoffment,' i.e. by a title going back to the time of Henry I at least. Another half plough-land was held by Richard de Hindley, son of Robert; portions of this had been given to the Hospitallers and to Cocker-sand Abbey. Some portion was perhaps still held in demesne.⁹

⁴⁴ *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 209-14. He states that the Browns had the Cocker-sand lands.

⁴⁵ *Engl. Cash. Nonjurors*, 125, 152.

⁴⁶ Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* 787; a district had been assigned in 1862; *Land. Gaz.* 4 Nov.

⁴⁷ Bridgeman, loc. cit.

⁴⁸ *Liverpool Catb. Ann.* 1901.

¹ 2,612, including 30 of inland water; *Census Rep.* of 1901.

² Leyland, *Hindley*, 7. Baines quotes an account from the *Life of Lord Guildford*, of a visit to the burning well in 1676; *Lancs.* (ed. 1836), iii, 555.

³ Leyland, op. cit. 96, 104. An interesting account is given, pp. 105-8, of the former customs of the place; the pacciggers and their drama, the Esstertide lifting, maypole on the green, rush-bearing, &c.

⁴ *Land. Gaz.* 2 July 1867.

⁵ *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Notes*, 3, 165.

⁶ *P.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286. The ancient assessment appears to have been a plough-land or a plough-land and a half.

⁷ See e.g. *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 138; ii, 99; *ibid.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 105.

⁸ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 74. He had half a plough-land in Hindley.

⁹ *Ibid.* 75. The Hospitallers' holding is named in the *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 375; see also *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, i, 35. In the rental of their lands compiled about 1540, the following particulars are given: John Atherton, a messuage, 11. 4d., and a close 2s. 8d.; Robert Lee, a messuage, 6d.; Jonathan (?) Bate for Crockholes, 6d.; Peter Langton, a messuage, 6d.; Gilbert

Hindley, a messuage, 6d.; 6s. in all; Kuerden MSS. v, fol. 84. John Leigh of Westhoughton in 1619 held lands formerly belonging to the Hospitallers by a rent of 6d.; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 133.

The *Cocker-sand Chars.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 642-51, contains particulars of the grants made to this abbey. Robert de Hindley gave 6 acres, partly in Twiss Carby Lanchache and partly by Aspenhead, with pasture for as many animals as the man might have who held the land from the canons; he also gave an acre on the northern side of Bickershaw. Richard his son confirmed these charters, and gave further parcels in Bertlets-housted and Osborn meadow, and a third with his body. Adam de Hindley also was a benefactor, 10 acres and a messuage on the north of Stony street, 4 at Ferry-

The mesne lordship of the Burnhills appears to have been surrendered, and the lords of Makerfield had the various Hindley families as immediate tenants. It appears, however, down to 1330, and the Pemberton holding was part of it.¹⁰ Gospatric's immediate successors seem to have been the Waleys or Walsh family.¹¹

The two oxgangs of Adam de Hindley may have been joined to that half plough-land or to the half plough-land of Richard de Hindley to form the moiety of the manor held by a family bearing the local name. Gilbert de Culcheth was overlord of this in 1300. In November 1302 Adam de Hindley complained that a number of persons had joined in disseising him of a free tenement

in Hindley, a messuage with an acre of land, and an acre of meadow, which he had had from one Adam de Plumpton, who had purchased from Hugh de Hindley. Gilbert de Culcheth replied as chief lord; he had taken possession fearing that the feoffment made by Adam de Plumpton was contrary to the statute.¹² Some settlement was made, and the claim was not prosecuted.

This moiety was divided into four parts, the descent of which can be traced for some time.¹³

In 1308 half of the manor was claimed by Robert son of Fulk Banastre.¹⁴ This was afterwards recovered by Robert de Langton, baron of Newton, from Jordan de Worsley,¹⁵ and about 1350 the lordship of the whole manor, together with lands in it,

halgh, and a land called Crockeland, one head of which lay towards Platt and the other towards Thureaclough, and another portion bounded in part by the Lanulache. These grants conveyed the usual easements, including quitance of pannage for pigs in Hindley Wood. Godich daughter of Adam de Hindley gave Tunkercroft by Glazebrook, lying north of the Hospitallers' land. Robert Banastre gave land in Fernyhalgh, and Robert his son confirmed the preceding and other gifts to the abbey. Thurstan Banastre gave all his portion of the water called Glazebrook from Maresfeld to the ditch of Henry the Hosteller of Hindley. In 1501 the heirs of Thomas Turton (6d.) and Gilbert Laugton (6d.) held these lands; *Cockersand Rental* (Chet. Soc.), 4.

¹⁰ Katherine wife of Hugh de Venables, as widow of Peter de Burnhill, in 1331 claimed dower in two-thirds of an eighth part of the manor of Hindley; *De Banco R.* 284, m. 119; 287, m. 185 d. Peter's sisters and heirs, then minors, were called to warrant; *ibid.* R. 286, m. 170. William son of Adam de Pemberton was the tenant.

¹¹ Gospatric also had a grant of land in Lathom, supposed to be represented by the Cross Hall estates, of which in the 13th century the tenants were named Waleys (i.e. Welsh). In Hindley Richard le Waleys and Eleanor his wife held lands, of which a portion was given in arms to Cockersand Abbey; *Cockersand Cart.* ii, 648.

¹² *Assize R.* 418, m. 3, 13. The defendants were: John de Langton and Alice his wife, as chief lords of the fee; Gilbert de Culcheth and Gilbert his son, as lords of Hindley; Henry de Atherton; Richard de Molyneux of Crosby and Beatrice his wife; Alan de Windle; Robert son of Fulk Banastre; Adam de Bradshagh; Adam de Urmoston and Isabel his wife; Robert Bulgut; Henry son of Roger de Ince; Hugh de Hindley; John son of Henry le Suur of Hindley; and Richard son of William Hert.

¹³ Some tenants occur in the last note.

In 1306 and 1307 Beatrice widow of Hugh de Hindley claimed dower from Hugh son of Roger de Ashton and others. Hugh de Ashton called to warrant him Adam son of Hugh de Hindley; Adam de Bradshagh and Margaret his wife also called Adam de Hindley and John de Broadash; Thomas son of John son of Maud called William son of Simon de Warrington and Emma his wife; John Gillibrand called Hugh and Gilbert sons of Richard de Culcheth; *De Banco R.* 161, m. 132; 164, m. 212. Henry de Atherton and Beatrice his wife in 1330

claimed 25 acres in Aspull, Hindley, and Ince from Cecily the widow and Robert the son of Robert de Hindley; but it appeared that Beatrice while sole had demised them to Cecily, and the latter's title was therefore admitted; *Assize R.* 1411, m. 12 d.

In the following year Henry de Atherton the elder and Beatrice his wife did not prosecute a claim for lands in Aspull and Hindley; Henry de Atherton the younger was one of his sureties; *Assize R.* 1404, m. 18. Their sons were Henry, William, John, and Thomas; *De Banco R.* 297, m. 103.

The younger Henry married Agnes daughter and heir of Thomas son and heir of Richard de Molyneux of Crosby and Beatrice his wife; *Assize R.* 1411, m. 12 d.; *Final Conc.* ii, 18. Henry and Agnes were concerned in numerous actions as to tenements in Hindley; among others was a claim in 1345 by Beatrice widow of Richard de Molyneux to her dower in one-eighth part of the manor of Hindley; *De Banco R.* 344, m. 442. The latest case in which they are mentioned is in 1356; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 5, m. 10 d. Agnes daughter of Henry de Atherton of Hindley, after a divorce between herself and Adam son of John Dickson, released her right to lands in Wigan in 1347; *Towneley MS.* GG, no. 2568.

In 1358 Beatrice daughter and heir of Henry de Atherton, and then wife of Thomas de Wight, claimed from Richard de Atherton and others a messuage and lands in Hindley. The defence was a grant by Henry de Atherton to Richard; see *Hindley D.* no. 25, 26, in *Local Glean. Lancs. and Chet.* ii, 150. Beatrice alleged that this had been merely in the nature of a trust, she being then under age. Her claim, however, was rejected; *Assize R.* 658, m. 3 d. Beatrice was soon left a widow; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxii, App. 338; and afterwards married Thomas Hert; *De Banco R.* 462, m. 199 d. In 1460 a bond of £100 was given at Wigan by John son of Richard Hert to Charles Hert, who purchased the Hert estate in Hindley and Westleigh; Ellis son of Charles sold in 1500-1 to Thurstan Southworth; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), iv, 166-71. Margaret wife of Richard Tothill and Alice wife of William Edge were in 1519 the heirs of their father John Hert, described as son of Richard son of John son of William Hert; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 128, m. 14 d.

The share of the manor derived from the Molyneux family was by Thomas Hert in 1390-1 released to William de Charnock of Charnock, Richard and Henry Blundell of Little Crosby, other heirs of

Richard and Beatrice de Molyneux; *Blundell of Crosby D. K.* 282. In 1517 the feoffees of Nicholas Blundell released to him their interest in the eighth part of the manor; *ibid.* K. 179. Henry Charnock was in 1535 found to have held a messuage and lands in Hindley of Sir Thomas Langton by fealty only; while in 1573 a moiety of (the eighth part of) the manor was claimed for Thomas Charnock; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* viii, no. 23; xiii, no. 5. In 1546 Robert de Nevill of Horby demanded a messuage and land in Ashton in Makerfield from John son of Henry de Atherton of Hindley, in right of his wife Joan daughter of Henry son of Hugh de Atherton and heir of the latter; *De Banco R.* 346, m. 349. It is probable that her inheritance was a portion of the estate in this neighbourhood held by the Harringtons of Wolsage in the 16th century; Hindley in the partition was allotted to the Standishes; *Norris D.* (H.M.).

The Athertons of Atherton held lands in Hindley under the Hospitallers; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 107. See also the *Inq. p.m.* of George Atherton in 1535; v, no. 12. His son John is named in the list of their tenants already given. A decree as to Kidd land in Hindley was made in Elizabeth's time between Standish and Atherton; *Lancs. and Chet. Rec.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 253.

The Lathoms of Welfall in Hayton held their lands under the Culcheths by a rent of 1d.; *Inq. p.m.* ix, no. 10; the Gerards of Ince under the Langtons of Lowe by the rent of 3s. 1d.; *ibid.* vii, no. 27. John Urmoston in 1508 was found to have held his lands of Gilbert Langton of Lowe by fealty and a rent of 2s. 7d.; *ibid.* iii, no. 30.

Hugh Hindley of Aspull was in 1531 found to hold his lands in Hindley of Thomas Langton by a rent of 10d.; *ibid.* vi, no. 22. In this case the mesne lord may have been overlooked.

¹⁴ *Hart. MS.* 2042, fol. 60; quoting *De Banco R.* 167. In 1303 this Robert Banastre alienated an oxgang and a half to Jordan son of Richard de Worsley; *Final Conc.* i, 202. John son of Robert de Langton and Alice his wife put in their claim as chief lords of Makerfield.

¹⁵ In 1316 and later years Robert son of John de Langton and Alice Banastre claimed from Jordan de Worsley two parts of the moiety of the manor of Hindley which Robert Banastre, great-grandfather of the claimant, granted to Fulk Banastre and his issue, and which after the death of Robert son of Fulk Banastre without issue should revert to him. Jordan at first pleaded that the

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was granted to Robert de Langton, a younger son of the Robert just named, from whom descended the Langtons of *LOWE* in Hindley,¹³ the last of the line being Edward Langton, who died in 1733. The descent is stated in cross-suits by Peter Langton and Ellen widow of John Langton in 1444. The former said that Henry son of Adam de Manchester, chaplain, holding (as trustee) the manor of Hindley, granted it to Robert de Langton and Margaret his wife and their heirs.¹⁴ In virtue of this their son and heir Robert succeeded them, and was followed by his son John, who married Amice daughter of Roger de Bradshagh of Westleigh. John lived to a great age, dying in July 1443; his son Gilbert died before him, leaving as heir his son, the above-named Peter; John's second wife Ellen was the other party to the suits.¹⁵ Peter Langton died at sea in May 1450, leaving a son and heir Gilbert, seven years of age.¹⁶

In 1528 there was a dispute between Robert Langton of the Lowe and others as to the title to waste lands and the right to dig coal. The plaintiff, son of Gilbert Langton, asserted that he was sole lord and owner of the manor of Hindley, and he had built some cottages on the waste, assigning to each a plot of ground; this was on account of 'the increase and



LANGTON. Argent three chevrons gules.

multiplying of the people in those parts,' and sufficient pasture had been left for the other free tenants. Gilbert Culceth, however, held a manor described as 'half the manor,' and a dwelling called Hindley Hall; and Hugh Hindley of Aspuli, whose ancestors had from time immemorial been seised of nine messuages and 80 acres in this moiety of the manor, took the law into his own hand, disregarded the inclosure, and dug and got coal and turf as accustomed, and this 'with strong hand, by the aid of certain his masters, gentlemen.' It appeared that about 1475 permission to get coal had been asked by 'old Hugh Hindley's wife,' and had been granted by Gilbert Langton, then chief lord of Hindley. Inclosures being then a general grievance, the Chancellor of the Duchy and his council ordered seven of the cottages to be pulled down and various parcels of land to be restored to the common, from thenceforth 'not to be kept in severalty by any pretending to be lords of the said waste.' Others they allowed to stand. The tenants were to have the right to take turf and dig coals, which, 'within late years,' had been found on the waste; but to prevent abuses Robert Langton and his heirs were to nominate three charter-holding tenants and Gilbert Culceth one, to 'appoint the places where coal and turbary should be digged and taken for fuel' of the general body of tenants.¹⁷

Peter Langton at his death in January 1572-3 held the manor of Hindley of the heirs of Thomas Langton of Makerfield in socage by fealty only.¹⁸ The heir was his son Robert, then twenty-six years of

grant to Fulke had been in fee and not to his issue, but seems to have withdrawn, and the case went against him by default; De Banco R. 216, m. 56; 257, m. 72 d.; 264, m. 264. In 1319 there was also a claim for the third part of the moiety against Adam de Bradshagh and Isabel his wife, widow of Fulke Banastre; De Banco R. 229, m. 129.

Jordan de Woraley left a daughter and heir Margaret, who married Thurstan de Tyldesley, and they at Michaelmas 1352 claimed the manor of Hindley against Sir Robert de Langton. The jury, however, did not allow it; Duchy of Lanc. Assize R. 2, m. 2 d.

Edward Tyldesley of Morleys in 1621 held his lands in Hindley of Philip Langton; Lancs. Inq. p.m. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 260.

¹³ Lancs. Inq. p.m. (Chet. Soc.), ii, 95. There is a difficulty in having a younger Robert de Langton so early as 1330, but the pleadings seem to require it. It should be noticed that Robert de Langton, the husband of Margaret, is usually identified with the baron of Newton; see Lancs. Inq. p.m. (Chet. Soc.), i, 98, and *Visit. of 1533* (Chet. Soc.), 24, 25.

¹⁴ *Final Conc.* ii, 194. The whole grant comprised a third part of the manor of Langton in Leicestershire, a messuage and plough-land in Henden, a messuage and 38½ acres in Walton le Dale, the manor of Hindley, and half the manor of Golborne.

A number of Hindley deeds are among the additional charters in the B.M., including:—

No. 17670. Grant by Robert son of Sir John de Langton to Henry de Milnigate, chaplain, of the manor of Hindley; 1325.

No. 17674. Grant by Robert de Langton to Henry (son of Adam) de Man-

chester, chaplain, of the manor of Hindley and half the manor of Golborne; 1334.

No. 17683. Quitclaim by Ralph son and heir of Sir John de Langton to Robert son of Sir Robert de Langton of the manors of Hindley, Langton, and Henden; 1361.

No. 17687. Quitclaim by Henry son and heir of Ralph de Langton to John son and heir of Robert de Langton, junior, of the manor of Hindley, &c.; 1395.

No. 17690. Reconversion to John de Langton of Hindley and Agnes his wife of tenements in Hindley; 1419.

No. 17694. Settlement by John de Langton of Hindley in favour of his wife Ellen de Radcliffe; 1429.

No. 17698. Grant in tail by Peter de Langton, chaplain, to John de Langton his brother; 1432.

No. 17699. Grant to William son of John de Langton; 1433.

¹⁵ Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 6, m. 15, 16. In the former of these suits Peter claimed from Ellen a box of charters, containing among others the final concord and marriage covenant referred to and an exemplification of the said fine granted by Richard II in 1391 at the request of John de Langton. In the second Ellen claimed damages from Peter Langton, Robert Gerard, and many others, for trespass on her close at Hindley and destruction of her corn and grass. Ellen claimed a life interest in the manor by grant from her late husband; but as she did not appear when summoned judgment was given for the accused.

In a later case William son of John Langton is mentioned; *ibid.* R. 8, m. 1, 37b.

The inquisition taken after the death of John Langton in 1443 confirms the statements in the text; Peter the grandson and heir was then twenty-four years

of age. It recites a grant made in 1413 by the deceased to Gilbert his son and his wife Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Gerard, who afterwards married William Cernet. The manor was held of Henry Langton, lord of Makerfield, but by what service the jury were ignorant; it was worth, including the Hollinhey, £10 a year; Towneley MS. DD, no. 1471.

¹⁶ Early Chan. Proc. 22-137, and 26-611; petitions by William Langton, to whom his 'cousin' Peter had bequeathed Gilbert's wardship.

¹⁷ *Duchy Plead.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 160-71. The hall was tenanted by James Strangeways, and came to be known as Strangeways Hall.

The Gilbert Langton, father of Robert, had a brother Thomas, to whom in 1485 certain tenements in Hindley were granted for his life; Agcroft D. no. 348. By an indenture of the same date Robert son and heir of Gilbert Langton of the Lowe confirmed a grant by Ralph Langley, warden of Manchester, to Peter Langton, son of the said Gilbert, for life; B.M. Add. Chart. 17707.

Gilbert Langton of Lowe, 'squier,' was one of the gentry of the hundred in 1512. Robert his son and heir apparent occurs in 1505; Towneley MS. GC, no. 1534. In 1512 Gilbert Langton made a grant of certain lands in Hindley to Robert his son and heir apparent; B.M. Add. Chart. no. 17715. In Aug. and Sept. 1555 Sir Thomas Hesketh of Rufford and others made grants of lands in Hindley to Gilbert son of Peter Langton of Hindley, deceased; *ibid.* 17719-20.

¹⁸ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xii, no. 14. Peter Langton was in possession of the manor in 1549, when he made an exchange of lands with Gilbert Culceth; *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 1. It is with him that the recorded pedigree begins.

age. The tenure is stated 'as in free socage, by a rent of three pepper-corns' in the inquisition after the death (1595) of Robert Langton, who was succeeded by his son Philip, then aged twenty-six.²¹ Robert Langton of the Lowe, a justice of the peace but of 'mean living,' was in 1590 reported to be 'well affected in religion'; he had spoiled his estate and used 'bad company.'²² At the same time Edward Langton of Hindley, one of the 'gentlemen of the better sort,' and perhaps a brother of Robert, was a 'recusant and thereof indicted.'²³ The head of the family, however, soon reverted to the ancient religion,²⁴ and Abraham Langton, son and heir of Philip, in 1628, as a convicted recusant, paid double to the subsidy.²⁵

This Abraham Langton, as a 'papist delinquent,' had his estates sold for treason by the Parliament in 1652;²⁶ but appears to have recovered at least a portion of them. He was living, sixty-six years of age, in 1664, when he recorded a pedigree at the Visitation.²⁷ His son Philip, then aged thirty-six, succeeded him, and was tried in 1694 for participa-

tion in the Lancashire Plot.²⁸ Very shortly afterwards he was succeeded by his son Edward Langton,²⁹ who as a 'papist' registered his estate in 1717.³⁰ Edward died without issue in 1733, leaving his property to Catherine his wife for life and to nephews and nieces named Pugh. William Pugh had Hindley, and his nephew and heir, Edward Philip Pugh of Coctmor in Carnarvonshire, sold the manor of Hindley and the Lowe Hall estate to the Duke of Bridgewater, the Earl of Ellesmere being the present owner.³¹

The Culcheth moiety of the manor descended to Thomas Culcheth, who died about 1744; by his will it passed to the Traffords of Croston.³²

Among the other early families of the place may be named Nightegale,³³ Barker,³⁴ and Harper.³⁵



ESTON, EARL OF ELLESMERE. *Argent a lion rampant gules between three pheons sable.*

²¹ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xvi, no. 12. Philip Langton and Mary his wife were deforciantes of tenements in Hindley in 1597; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 58, m. 324; and of the manor and estate in 1612-13; *ibid.* bde. 81, m. 52.

²² Gibson, *Lydtate Hall*, 244, quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. cexxv, 4.

²³ Gibson, *op. cit.* 246.

²⁴ In 1607 lands of Philip Langton, recusant, were farmed out to Sir Arthur Aston; Pat. 5 Jas. I, pt. 23, 25 July.

He died at Lowe 22 Jan. 1625-6; the manor was held of Sir Richard Fleetwood and the heir was Abraham Langton son of Philip, then aged twenty-nine years and more; *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 2. The heir's christian name was derived from his mother's surname, she being one of the coheirs of Thomas Abram or Abraham of Abram.

²⁵ Norris D. (B.M.). Elizabeth his wife occurs in the Recusant Roll of 1641; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xiv, 239. Abraham Langton in 1631 paid £10 as a composition on declining knighthood; *Minc. [Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.]* i, 213.

²⁶ *Index of Royalists (Index Soc.)*, 43. He afterwards petitioned to be allowed to compound; and on the petition of 'divers well-affected persons,' his tenants, he was informed that it was 'just and reasonable' to request him to allow his tenants liberty of pre-emption or a renewal of their leases at the ancient rents. Later, in Dec. 1653, Major John Wildeman, who had contracted to purchase, received an order to take possession; *Royalist Comp. Papers (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.)*, iv, 56-9.

²⁷ Dugdale, *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 174.

²⁸ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 303, &c.; on p. 362 is an account of his arrest at Weyre in Flintshire, where he was attending the burial of his sister-in-law; he had married a daughter of Edward Pennant of Bagillt. In Jan. 1688-9 he broke an innkeeper's head with his cane, for proposing the health of the Earl of Derby—a sufficient indication of his politics; see the amusing anecdote on p. 214. He had been indicted for recusancy in 1678; *ibid.* 109.

²⁹ In Aug. 1687 a fine was made concerning the manor of Hindley, seventy

messuages, a water-mill, dovecote, gardens, lands, wood, furze and heath, turbarry, moor and mess and 80s. rent in Hindley and Westleigh; the deforciantes were Philip Langton and Elizabeth his wife, Edward Langton son and heir of Philip and Katherine his wife, and George Langton; George Pennant was one of the plaintiffs; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 219, m. 64.

³⁰ *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 123. The value of the estate was £69 *li.* 2*d.* For a mortgage by him see *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 272. Edward Langton of Lowe in 1728 granted to John Rigby of Hindley a messuage and land there; B.M. Add. Chart. 17733.

³¹ *Baines, Lancs.* (ed. 1870), ii, 193; from information 'supplied by Mr. William Langton.' In Piccope's MS. Pedigree in the Chet. Lib. (ii, 234) it is stated that Edward Langton's sister Elizabeth married—Pugh; their son William is described as 'of Lowe, jeweller.' Their other children were Philip Pugh of Pemebye or Penwrye, Carnarvonshire (whose son Edward was the vendor), Joseph, Winifred, Anne, and Frances. The references are to Piccope MSS. (Chet. Lib.), iii, 178, 234, 254, 258, 270, from the Roman Catholic D. enrolled at Preston.

In Aug. 1758, by fine, Edward Philip Pugh and Mary his wife remitted to William Caghey messuages and lands in Hindley; the manor is not named; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 361, m. 132.

³² Cal. Exch. of Pleas, Lancs. C. 301, where the will of Thomas Culcheth is given. In 1771 Humphrey and John Trafford were vouches of the manor of Croston and various other lordships, including a fourth part of the manor of Hindley, with the hall known as Hindley Hall or Strangeways Hall; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 613, m. 10; also at Ang. Assizes, 1797, R. 11.

In 1364 Gilbert de Culcheth, a minor, by his guardian Joan de Blackburn, demanded against Cecily, widow of Gilbert de Culcheth the elder, messuages and land in Hindley which the elder Gilbert gave to Gilbert his son and Joan his wife, and which should now descend to the plaintiff as son and heir. Cecily claimed

the manor of Hindley and all its demesne lands for life by a charter from her late husband and a quitclaim from his son, plaintiff's father; dated 1354; De Banco R. 418, m. 227.

John Culcheth, who died at the beginning of the reign of Charles I, held 'the manor of Hindley'; Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xxix, no. 67. For a decree as to Strangeways Hall at this time see *Lancs. and Ches. Rec.* ii, 244.

³³ A number of suits are on record brought in 1292 by John Nightegale and Alice his wife against Hugh de Hindley, Adam son of Hugh de Hindley, Robert son of Adam de Hindley, and others. Alice was the widow of Adam de le Woodhouses. John had a son Henry. The surname is spelt in many ways—Nutegal, Nithingale, Nightegale, Nithingale, and Nightingale; Assize R. 408, m. 12, 7 d. 59 d. 58 d. 57.

In 1330 Robert del Coran and Eva his wife, Jordan de Rixton and Agnes his wife, and Amota daughter of Robert de Ashton, claimed land in Hindley from William the Fisher by inheritance. It appeared that Roger son of Whinilda married Lenkia daughter of Richard the Boor, seized in the time of Edward I, and left a daughter Agnes as heir; Agnes had three daughters—Eva and Agnes plaintiffs, and Emma, formerly wife of Robert de Ashton, represented by her daughter Amota; De Banco R. 275, m. 7; 278, m. 31 d.; 281, m. 78 d.

³⁴ *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 144. Alice daughter of Robert Dicconson of Hindley married Hugh the Barker in 1401; her property descended, in the reign of Henry VIII, to William Barker, who was succeeded by five daughters, Agnes, Margery, Ellen, Cecily, and Elizabeth, married respectively to John Hulme, James Harrison, Richard Astley, Henry Waterworth, and William Ainsworth.

³⁵ In Towneley MS. OO, are preserved a number of deeds regarding the lands of Adam the Harper of Hindley and his descendants. Adam's son William acquired lands about 1299, and was living in 1331; nos. 1465, 1470, 1449. His son John made a feoffment in 1334; no. 1466; and his sons John and Thomas sold their lands in 1364 to Adam son of Richard son of John de Hindley; no. 1443.

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Philip Langton of Lowe, Robert Pinnington, and Peter Harrison of Hindley, occur among the freeholders of 1600.³⁸ In 1628 Abraham Langton and Christopher Stananought were the freeholders contributing to the subsidy.³⁹ Nicholas Ranicars of Hindley had his estate sequestered by the Parliament in 1650 'for delinquency in the late wars,' and was allowed to compound.⁴⁰ A family named Marsh resided here.⁴¹

A decree concerning the boundaries between Hindley and Ince, and the division of the wastes, was made in the time of Charles I.⁴²

Before the Reformation there was a chapel at Lowe in Hindley; but the Langtons probably claimed it as private property, and then allowed it to decay.⁴³

The next church in Hindley was erected in 1641 on land given by George Green,⁴⁴ subscriptions being collected for the building from the inhabitants. It was built with the approbation of the rector of Wigan, then Bishop Bridgeman; there was a chancel at the east end, and the Established services were adhered to, one of the Wigan curates officiating.⁴⁵ The place was, as early as 1643, regarded as Puritan,⁴⁶ and its first regular minister, Thomas Tonge, conformed readily to the Presbyterian discipline established a few years later.⁴⁷ He was succeeded by William Williamson,⁴⁸ and he by James Bradshaw, ejected in 1662 for nonconformity.⁴⁹ The chapel seems to have remained unused for six years, and

then a succession of curates followed; some of the freeholders were Nonconformists or sympathizers, and thus conforming ministers had probably an uneasy time.⁵⁰ In 1690 a determined attempt was made to secure the chapel for the Dissenters, their worship now being tolerated, by the appointment of Thomas Whalley, an open Nonconformist.⁵¹ The matter was finally taken into the Duchy Court; after a long trial the chapel was secured for the Establishment and consecrated in 1698 on All Saints' Day.⁵² It was rebuilt in 1766,⁵³ and with some alterations remains in use. It is now known as All Saints' Church. The church property is still in the hands of trustees, but the curates and vicars since 1708 have been appointed by the rectors of Wigan.⁵⁴ There is a mission chapel called St. Augustine's.

St. Peter's, Hindley, was consecrated in 1866, the patronage being vested in trustees.⁵⁵ To the recent churches of St. Nathaniel, Platt Bridge (1905), and St. John the Evangelist, Hindley Green (1903), the Bishop of Liverpool collates.⁵⁶

The Wesleyan Methodists acquired land in 1846, and built a chapel in 1851. Another chapel was built in 1869 in Walthew Lane, Platt Bridge.⁵⁷ The United Methodist Free Church have two chapels at Hindley Green—Brunswick Chapel, built in 1855, and another in 1866.⁵⁸ The Primitive Methodists have one at Castle Hill, built in 1856, and another at

1462; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), iv, 161; the purchaser had a son Richard, who in 1430 made a settlement of his lands; *OO*, no. 1459. The ancestor of this branch of the Hindley family was perhaps the Richard son of Beatrice who had a grant from Robert Banastre, lord of Makerfield; the rent was to be 4s. a year; no. 1471.

A grant of Burghurst in Hindley by Hugh de Thursaker is printed in *Pal. Note Bk.* iv, 150.

³⁸ *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 238, 243, 251.

In the *Hindley D.* printed in *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* ii, 167, are some referring to the Harrisons of Hindley; Peter Harrison, living in 1637 and 1651, had a son and heir John, who in the latter year was rector of Ashton under Lyne, and has found a place in *Diet. Nat. Biog.*

Peter Harrison, 'late solicitor to the County Committee,' had in 1651 joined the Earl of Derby, but being angry with him for plundering, recalled his two sons; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, iv, 2955. These sons are called Captain Jeremiah and Lieutenant Nathaniel Harrison in 1652; *Cal. of Com. for Advancing Money*, iii, 1445.

Richard Wood of Hindley died 12 Jan. 1612-13 seized of a messuage and lands in Hindley held of the king, as of his manor of Enfield by a rent of 31. 4s.; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 262.

³⁹ Norris D. (B.M.). Christopher Stananought was son and heir of William, living in 1602; *Hindley D.* no. 10.

⁴⁰ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, iv, 2519. John Ranicars was not allowed to compound for a messuage and lands purchased from Nicholas.

⁴¹ Wills of John and James Marsh, of 1670 and 1687 respectively, are printed in *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, ii, 44, 80. See also Gillow, *Bibl. Dict. of Engl. Cath.* iv, 467-70.

⁴² *Lancs. and Ches. Recs.* ii, 278.

⁴³ It is mentioned in one of the Cutcheth deeds dated 1517; as an annuity was to be paid there it must have been open to the people of the district; *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, i, 13.

⁴⁴ This account is derived from Canon Bridgeman's *Wigan*, 757-80, in which are reprinted a number of the *Hindley D.* from *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.*; John Leyland, *Mem. of Hindley*, 1873; the Kenyon MSS. (*Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv); *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, i, 12, &c. In Leyland's book are given extracts from the wardens' accounts and many personal reminiscences. In the *Liverpool Dioc. Gaz.* for Oct. 1905 will be found a further account, the object being to show that this was not a Puritan effort; special stress is laid upon the almost perfect orientation.

A contributor was Chisenhall Brettagh, who died before 1652. In October that year a settlement was made of disputes between Alice Brettagh the widow and Edward son of Edward Chisenhall, the former surrendering the lease of her house on receiving £260. Chisenhall Brettagh was a captain at the defence of Lathom House, and otherwise took part in the wars on behalf of Charles I; he was buried at Wigan 12 Dec. 1645, being described as 'Captain Chisnall Bretter de Hindley'; he left children—Edward, Jonathan (died in 1664), Frances, and Elizabeth. From J. P. Earwaker's MSS.

⁴⁵ Leyland, *Hindley*, 21, from the petition for consecration in 1698. The statement that the 'prayers of the Church' had been duly said from 1641 to 1669 requires to be corrected by the remembrance that at least the period 1645 to 1668 was an exception. Part of the endowment was given in 1655 by John Ranicars.

⁴⁶ For the Cavaliers' behaviour in Hindley (Henden) Chapel see Ormerod, *Civil War Tracts* (Chet. Soc.), 63.

⁴⁷ Thomas Tonge was in 1646 a member of the fourth Presbyterian Classis; Baines, *Lancs.* (ed. 1870), i, 227.

⁴⁸ William Williamson was minister in 1690, 'an able, godly, and painful minister,' the Parliamentary Commissioners described him, 'of good life and conversation'; *Commonw. Ch. Surv.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 61. He died 9 Feb. 1656-7; *Flund. Minn. Accs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 181.

⁴⁹ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 758-60; he afterwards ministered at Rainford Chapel. Another James Bradshaw had been acting rector of Wigan, 1643-53.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.* 779, 762.

⁵¹ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 763, 765-7.

John Green in 1690 tendered a certificate to the justices at Lancaster, so that the chapel might be recorded as 'a place appointed to dissenting Protestants for their religious worship'; but the court, on the opposition of the Bishop of Chester, refused; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 245, 246; see also 270, where the quarrels of the Dissenters are noticed; and 415.

⁵² Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 769-72. In this document it is not called All Saints' Church.

⁵³ A brief was issued in 1763 on behalf of the rebuilding.

⁵⁴ Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 602-5. See *Lond. Gaz.* 2 July 1878 for the formation of the present chapel.

John Crowson, incumbent from 1789-1811, was also head master of Wigan Grammar School; he visited the village one day in each week; Leyland, *op. cit.* 29.

⁵⁵ *Lond. Gaz.* 14 May 1867, 26 Mar. 1875, &c. See Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 780; Leyland, *Hindley*, 57, 58.

⁵⁶ Leyland, *op. cit.* 75-7; Nightingale, *Lancs. Nonconf.* iv, 13.

⁵⁷ Leyland, *op. cit.* 78, 79; Nightingale, *op. cit.* iv, 21. The chapel was practically unused from 1862-82.

⁵⁸ Leyland, *op. cit.* 79.

Platt Bridge, built in 1854.³⁴ The Independent Methodists have one at Lowe Green, built in 1867.³⁵

The Particular Baptists built Ebenezer Chapel in Mill Lane in 1854.³⁶

The Congregationalists made a first effort in 1794, but no church was formed until 1812; St. Paul's Chapel was built in 1815, meetings for worship having been held some years earlier in cottages. Certain differences between the minister, the Rev. William Turner, and the majority of the congregation caused him to resign in 1830; his friends opened a temporary building in the Bridge Croft, and built a church in 1838, where he officiated till 1862.³⁷

The ejected Presbyterians of 1698 built another place of worship for themselves; it has been continuously used, the present congregation being Unitarian in doctrine.³⁸

Nothing is known of the permanence of the ancient religion during the 17th century, but mass was probably said at Lowe Hall as opportunity was afforded. Dom John Placid Acton, a Benedictine, was stationed at this place in 1699, and died there in 1727; succeeding priests, who till 1758 resided chiefly at Park Hall in Charnock Richard, or at Standish Hall, moved the chapel to Strangeways and then to Hindley village; this change was made in 1789. From 1758 there has been a resident Benedictine priest in charge; and the present church of St. Benedict in Market Street was built in 1869.³⁹

ABRAM

Edburgham, 1212; Adburgham, 1246, and common; Abraham, xvi cent.; Abram, xviii cent. Pronounced Abbram.

Abram is situated in the centre of a coal-mining district; the surface of the country is flat except in the south, where it is very slightly undulating. The surroundings are characteristic of a coal-producing district, distinctly unpicturesque, dingy grass-fields alternating with collieries, pit-banks, and railway lines. Some fields are arable and produce crops of wheat and oats. There is much pasture land. Trees are in the minority, and stunted and blackened with smoke. The hawthorn hedges which divide the fields are low and spare. The soil is a stiff clay which holds a quantity of water on its surface, for besides occasional 'flashes' caused by mining, the fields appear to be slightly flooded at most seasons of the year. It is a district of sett-laid roads and cinder-paths. In the northern part of the township the geological forma-

tion consists of the Coal Measures. At some distance from the southern boundary this formation dips under the New Red Sandstone and the intervening Permian Beds.

The area is 1,982 acres,¹ and in 1901 the population numbered 6,306. Part of the western and nearly all of the southern boundary is formed by a brook running through Hindley, and called successively Eye Brook and Glazebrook; by it Bamfurlong,² in the extreme west, is cut off from the main portion of the township.

Abram village lies in the north-western corner, where the road from Wigan to Warrington by Golborne crosses the township, meeting at the village other roads from Ashton on the south-west, and from Leigh on the east. Bickershaw³ lies by the last-named road, near the eastern boundary. Plank Lane is a hamlet in the south-eastern corner, situate on the road from Leigh to Newton. Dover is a hamlet on the south-west border.

The London and North Western Company's railway from Warrington to Wigan crosses the western corner of the township, with a station called Bamfurlong; a branch of its Wigan and Manchester line has a station at Plank Lane; the Great Central Company's Manchester and Wigan line passes north through the middle of the township, with two stations called Walsleigh and Bedford, and Bickershaw and Abram. The Leigh branch of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal passes through near the southern border.

Coal-mining began about sixty years since.

A local board was formed in 1880. The township is now governed by an urban district council of twelve members, elected by four wards.

Before the Conquest, as after, **ABRAM MANOR** appears to have been a member of the manor and fee of Newton.⁴ Henry II gave it to Warine son of Godfrey, and his descendants, assuming the local name, held it to the 17th century. This Warine confirmed a grant by his nephew, William de Occleshaw, to Cokersand Abbey, for the souls of King Henry and others.⁵ His son Richard was a benefactor to the same house, granting Bernogrenes, on the south of Walter's Pool, with other lands and liberties.⁶ Richard de Abram was in possession in 1212, holding the manor as 4 oxgangs by a rent of 4s.; a third part had been given in alms.⁷ John son of Richard confirmed the previous grants to Cokersand and added a ridding by Glazebrook.⁸ Warine Banastre granted an oxgang of his demesne to the same canons,⁹ and Robert son of Robert Banastre gave a general confirmation about 1250.¹⁰

³⁴ Leyland, op. cit. 79.

³⁵ Ibid. 79.

³⁶ Ibid. 78.

³⁷ Ibid. 75-7; Nightingale, op. cit. iv, 13.

³⁸ Leyland, *Hindley*, 64-75. The chapel was built in 1700 by Richard Crook of Abram and conveyed to trustees in 1717, James Green of Abram being one. Owing, it is said, to an attempt by William Davenport, minister in 1777, to carry the endowment to the Presbyterian chapel at Wigan, he became unpopular, was assaulted and finally resigned. He is said to have been Arian in doctrine. Unitarianism prevailed here by the end of the 18th century, but from the account of a disturbance in the chapel in 1833 it would seem that some Trinitarians then remained in the congregation. Particulars of the endow-

ment, now considerable, on account of coal mining on the land, are given in the *Report of the End. Char. of Wigan*, 1899, pp. 90-7.

³⁹ Mr. Gillow in *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xiii, 153, 154, where it is stated that Bishop Matthew Gibson confirmed fifty-nine at Strangeways in 1784; there were 259 communicants; *Liverpool Cath. Ann.* 1901. See further in Leyland, *Hindley*, 62, 63, for reminiscences of Dom Anselm Appleton, 1808-36.

¹ 1,984, including 26 of inland water; Census of 1901.

² Basforthlang, 1448.

³ Bykershagh, 1365.

⁴ *P.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286.

⁵ *Cokersand Chart.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 661.

⁶ Ibid. 663. The first of his charters

names 'the deep lache which was the boundary between Abram and Occleshaw.'

⁷ *Lancs. Inq. and Extent* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 77. How King Henry came to have Abram in his hands is unknown. The third part in alms probably refers to the Occleshaw and other gifts recorded in the text.

⁸ *Cokersand Chart.* ii, 664. In 1246 John de Abram quitclaimed his right in 200 acres of land to Peter de Burnhull; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 98.

⁹ *Cokersand Chart.* ii, 660.

¹⁰ Ibid. ii, 643. The following were the abbey tenants in 1501: John Ashton, 12d.; William Culcheth, 12d.; Richard Atherton and Robert Bolton, in Bickershaw, each 6d.; *Cokersand Rental* (Chet. Soc.), 4.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

The family pedigree cannot be traced satisfactorily.¹¹ A Gilbert Abram died about 1470 leaving two daughters as heirs; Constance married Henry Byrom and Isabel married James Holt;¹² and the later holdings of these families probably represent the inheritance of the daughters.¹³ The manor, however, continued in the male line¹⁴ to Thomas Abram, who died in 1606, also leaving two daughters to divide the property.¹⁵ The elder, Susan, married Henry Lance,



ABRAM. *Azur a sun in splendour or.*

of a Cornish family,¹⁶ and the manor was assigned to her; the younger daughter, Mary, married Philip Langton of the Lowe in Hindley.¹⁷ All adhered to the ancient religion, and suffered accordingly under the persecuting laws in force.¹⁸ In 1652, however, Abraham Lance, the son and heir of Henry and Susan, being 'conformable,' petitioned for the removal of the sequestration of his mother's lands, and on condition that he abjured his religion they were allowed to him.¹⁹ It does not appear whether he actually regained possession or not, but the ruin of the family, several members of which fell in the Civil War fighting as Royalists, could not be averted.²⁰

Shortly afterwards William Gerard and Anne his

¹¹ Adam de Abram occurs in 1246; Assize R. 404, m. 13 d. In 1270-1 Robert de Abram and Robert and Adam his sons were defendants; Curia Regis R. 201, m. 15 d. From one of these may descend the John son of Richard son of Robert de Abram mentioned in 1342; Towneley MS. CG, no. 2670.

Richard de Abram, probably the head of the family, was a juror in 1288; *Imp. and Extents*, i, 273. John son of Richard de Abram was a defendant in 1301; Simon de Holland was plaintiff; Assize R. 419, m. 4 d.; 418, m. 2. John de Abram seems to have died soon after his father, for in 1305 the defendants in a case concerning land were Richard son of John de Adburgham, Agnes widow of John, Maud widow of Richard (probably the grandfather), Henry de Huyton, William and Roger de Bradshagh, Simon de Holland, John Gillfranc, and William son of Roger de Ashton; the plaintiff was Richard son of Adam del Lache. This list probably includes all or most of the freeholders; Assize R. 420, m. 8. Many years later, in 1324-5, Richard del Lache claimed common of pasture from Richard de Abram; Assize R. 426, m. 9. In 1324 an agreement was made between Adam de Kenyon and Richard de Abram that the latter should marry Adam's daughter Godith, her portion being £40; Harl. MS. 2112, fol. 159-95.

William de Abram was a juror in 1387; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 25. Soon afterwards there are several references to Gilbert de Abram, who was a juror in 1416; *ibid.* i, 116. In 1419 a proclamation was issued forbidding armed men to go about to the peril of the king's peace, with special reference to Gilbert de Abram and his sons John and William, who had entered the lands of Richard del Lache at Abram; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxiii, App. 17.

John de Abram, probably the son of Gilbert just mentioned, appears to have died about the beginning of 1446, when the writ *Dum clausit extremum* was issued; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxia, App. 533. William de Abram, gentleman, and Joan daughter of John de Abram, occur in suits of 1445; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 8, m. 1, 6.

¹² In the time of Edward IV there was made a settlement of his estate, or part of it, in favour of his two daughters; Towneley MS. CC, no. 651. It is described as seven messuages, 124 acres of land, &c. John Abram was the deforciant. Possibly he was the heir male; in which case Gilbert must have been dead at that time. In the Visitations the father's name is given as John.

About 1500 James Holt with Isabel his wife and Constance Byrom a widow, as

cousins and heirs of Hugh Boydell and daughters and heirs of Gilbert Abram claimed a right of toll from all who crossed the Mersey between Runcorn and Thewall; *Duchy Plead.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 39-41. In Ormerod's *Ches.* (ed. Helsby), i, 596, it is stated that Isabel, one of the sisters and co-heirs of Robert Boydell, was married to John Abram as early as 1405; Gilbert was the son and heir; a few years later she was the wife of Nicholas Langton. The other sister, Margaret, married Hugh Reddish. See also *op. cit.* ii, 723.

¹³ *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xi, no. 46; Thomas Holt of Cristcharst. In the inquisition taken after the death of Henry Byrom in 1613, it was found that he had held lands in Abram, &c., of the lord of Newton, but the service was not known; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 273; ii, 12.

¹⁴ Thomas Abram seems to have been lord about 1500 and John Abram in 1528; *Duchy Plead.* i, 162, 161. In 1540 Thomas Abram was defendant in a claim to messuages, &c., in Abram put forward by Gilbert Hindley and Elizabeth his wife; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i, 163.

¹⁵ In 1567 Thomas Abraham, the last of the family, was deforciant of the manor of Abram, and lands in the township; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bñle. 29, m. 68; and again, in conjunction with Mary his wife, in 1600; *ibid.* bñle. 62, m. 275. The remainders in the former settlement are thus stated: To Peter brother of Thomas, Sir Thomas Gerard, Thomas and George, sons of the late Richard Abraham of Westleigh; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 223, m. 18. Thomas Abraham, in October 1606, was buried at Wigan, as 'father-in-law to Mr. Henry Lance of Abram'; Wigan Reg. He was on the recusant list of 1599-1600; Gillow, *Bibl. Dicc. of Engl. Cath.* iv, 112.

¹⁶ *Visit. of Cernow.* (Harl. Soc.), 124. The story of the marriage is curious. 'Abram of Abram, a gentleman of £100 land in Lancashire, put his daughter and heir unto my lady Gerard of the Bryon. Sir Thomas and my lady being here in London, one Dwellea, a fenceer near Cecil house, and his wife, by indirect means—being of kin to the girl—did invite all my lady's children and gentlewomen unto a breakfast. They came thither, and at their coming the youths and serving men were carried up to the fence school. My lady's daughters and gentlewomen must needs play at the cards, will they nill they. The girl Abram, by the wife of the house, was conveyed into a chamber and shut the door after her and there left her. The girl found in the chamber four or five tall men. She knew

them not. And immediately the girl fell into a great fear, seeing them to compass her about. Then began an "old priest" to read upon a book. His words she understood not, saving these words: "I Henry take thee Susan to my wedded wife," etc. This done they charged the wench never to discover this to anybody living; and so sent her down to her fellows. And dinner being done the wench told to her fellows very lamentably what had been done; and they over to Sir Thomas and my lady.' The date of this deposition is 1583. Quoted in Leyland's *Abram* from Ellis's *Original Letters* (Ser. 1), ii, 292.

¹⁷ By an indenture of 10 Dec. 1598 the estate was secured to Mary wife of Thomas Abram for life, with reversion to Henry Lance and Susan his wife, eldest daughter of Thomas Abram, and their heirs; in default, to Philip Langton and Mary his wife, younger daughter of Thomas Abram; Leyland, *op. cit.* 11. Mary Abram gave £90 to the school at Hindley.

¹⁸ An informer gave evidence that Abraham Lance and Abraham Langton—so named from their mother's family—were 'present at a meeting of some of the leading Catholics of the county, held at the house of Widow Knowles in Ashton the day before Newton Fair, 30 July 1623, at which Sir Thomas Gerard is asserted to have made a treasonable speech. In 1626 Abraham Lance, of Abram, gent. and Emma his wife are found in the recusant rolls'; Gillow, *op. cit.* iv, 112.

In 1628 Henry Lance the father, as a convicted recusant, paid double to the subsidy; Norris D. (B.M.). He was buried at Wigan, 7 Jan. 1629-30.

¹⁹ *Cal. Com. for Compounding*, iv, 2967; *Royalist Comp. Papers* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iv, 55. No reason is assigned except the recusancy of the petitioner's mother, who was buried at Wigan 9 Sept. 1648, as 'Old Mrs. Susan Lance of Dalton.' Emma wife of Abraham Lance was buried at the same place 17 Mar. 1651 2.

²⁰ Abraham Lance certainly had issue, for a son Henry was baptized at Wigan in 1619, and another was buried in 1620; Wigan Reg. Hence the Captains Abraham and Robert Lance stated by Lord Castlemain to have been slain at Rowton Heath may have been his sons; John Lance was another of the family, killed at Islip; Gillow, *loc. cit.* A Captain Lance was taken prisoner 6 Mar. 1643-4; *Civil War Mem.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.) 125. Abraham married again, Elizabeth daughter of Richard Massey of Rixton, and afterwards wife of George Massey, being his second wife; Dugdale, *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 194.

wife were in possession,²⁰ and sold the manor to Richard Hilton,²¹ with whose daughter Abigail it descended to her children by her husband Thomas Crook.²²

The new owner it appears was a zealous Protestant, and his son Richard Crook was the builder of the Non-conformist chapel at Hindley, after the existing one had been recovered by the Bishop of Chester.²³ Richard died without issue in November 1727, and the inheritance, which, besides Abram, included lands in Walton le Dale and elsewhere in the county,²⁴ passed to his five sisters as co-heirs.²⁵ The manor of Abram seems to have been the portion of the second sister, Anne, who married John Darbyshire of Warrington, and her only child, Abigail, married Thomas Clayton, M.D., of Little Harwood.²⁶ Their grandson,

Thomas Clayton, in 1785 sold the manor to Peter Arrowsmith of Astley, who in 1828 sold it to John Whitley, and his son Henry Jackson Whitley, of Biggleswade, succeeded.²⁷ His son, Mr. John Henry Arthur Whitley, of Bourton, Salop, is the present owner; but no manorial rights are claimed.²⁸

The portion called *OCCLESHAW*, as has been seen, was granted to Cokersand Abbey,²⁹ and was occupied by the Urnston family;³⁰ after the Dissolution it came into the possession of the Earl of Derby.³¹ The Occleshaw family long continued to hold an estate in the township;³² this eventually passed into the hands of Abigail Crook, and became part of her Abram estate.³³

BAMFURLONG was the possession of the Ashton family for a long period³⁴; it then passed to a junior

²⁰In 1649 Abraham Lance appointed William Gerard of Garswood, son and heir apparent of Sir William Gerard of Bryn, receiver for behoof of Abraham Lance and his wife and their heirs, with remainder to the use of the said William Gerard; a bond, signed by William Gerard in 1667, mentions that Abraham Lance had died about seven years before without male issue. See J. Leyland's *Abram*, 12, for fuller abstracts of these and other deeds.

Fines relating to the above are Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bds. 146, m. 111; 180, m. 17.

²¹On 16 Sept. 1667 the estate was conveyed to Richard Hilton of Westleigh, yeoman, for £1,505; it included two pews in Wigan Church; also the following fee-farm rents: 'William Leyland, 5s.; John Anderton, 3s. 4d.; late Frances Dinkinsfield, 12d.; Richard Occleshaw, 12d.; James Wreast, 3s. 5d.; Thomas Holland, 1s. 6d.; Roger Culcheth, 2d.; John Lithgove, 1d.:' see Leyland, op. cit. 12, 13. Richard Hilton died at the beginning of 1690.

²²*Ibid.* 14. Thomas Crook is described as of Hoole, Lancashire. He was the founder of numerous charities, and left money 'to the preaching Protestant minister of Hindley chapel.' He expressed a desire to be buried with his mother (Margaret Green) and brother in St Andrew parish church; Leyland, op. cit. 14, 118-21; also *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 147. An accusation of coin clipping, probably false, was made against William Crook and Thomas his brother in 1684; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 173, 175.

²³Leyland, *Hindley*, 65.

²⁴The will of Thomas Crook already quoted mentions estates at Bretherton, Much Hoole, Mawdesley, Walton le Dale, Billings, Euxton, Ulmes Walton, Leyland, Farington, Alston, and Whittingham.

Richard had an elder brother Caleb, who also died without issue.

Abigail Crook, the widow, died about 1705; an abstract of her will is printed in *Local Glean.* ii, 231, in which volume is much information as to the Crook family. Several documents about their properties are in the possession of W. Farrer.

²⁵*Ibid.* ii, 231, 237. The eldest sister, Lydia, married Thomas Yates of Whitchurch; the second, Anne, married John Darbyshire of Warrington; the third, Abigail, married in 1707 John Andrews of Bolton le Moors; the fourth, Margaret, married (1) John Percival of Liverpool and Allerton, and (2) Thomas Summers of Liverpool; the fifth, Isabel, married (1) — Danvers, and (2) Rev. Thomas Heys of Rainhill.

²⁶In 1734 all the heirs joined in a lease of the manor of Abram, viz.—Thomas Yates and Lydia his wife, Thomas Clayton and Abigail his wife, John Andrews and Abigail his wife, Thomas Summers and Margaret his wife, Thomas Heys and Isabel his wife. There is an account of the Clayton family in Abram's *Blackburn*, 556-61.

²⁷Leyland, *Abram*, 15, 16.

²⁸Information of Mr. Whitley and Mr. William Vallant of Newton.

²⁹'The whole land of Occleshaw' was granted by William de Occleshaw to the canons of Cokersand about the end of the 12th century. The bounds are thus given: 'From where Deep lache runs down from Bageley head, by the lache to Gasebrook, up this brook and Occleshaw brook, to Rushy lache and so to Bickershaw, then up the lache to the Slavi-lache, by this to within Bageley wood Eves, and so to Deep lache;' *Cokersand Chant.* ii, 660, 664. William de Occleshaw is called William Gillibrand in the confirming charter; and John Gillibrand had the land as the canons' tenant in 1268 at a rent of 12d.; *ibid.* 543, 661. Other Occleshaws occur in Hindley and Aspull.

The spelling of the *Charolary* is Acularsaw or Acularsaw; in 1292, Okeleshaw.

³⁰Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p. m. iii, no. 30; John Urnston of Westleigh, 1507.

³¹*Lancs. Inq. p. m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 433; Richard Urnston, 1624. The rent payable was 12d., as paid by John Gillibrand.

³²In 1292 William del Platt unsuccessfully claimed right of way beyond the lands of Thomas and Roger de Occleshaw in Abram; Assize R. 403, m. 65 d. The same William demanded lands in Abram and Ince from William Gillibrand, Margery his wife, and others in 1305; it was agreed that he should receive a rent of 5d. for them; Assize R. 420, m. 3 d. A fine between Beatrice daughter of Thomas de Occleshaw and her father in 1303 settled a messuage and lands upon her; *Final Conc.* i, 200. Richard Gillibrand and Cicely his wife; Roger Gillibrand; and Margery and Lucy, daughters of Adam son of William Gillibrand, occur in various suits of 1365; De Banco R. 419, m. 192, 108 d.; 420, m. 17.

John Occleshaw of Abram, gentleman, was a trustee in 1531; Add. MS. 32105, no. 912. Thomas Occleshaw in 1568 held four messuages, &c. in Abram; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bds. 30, m. 111. In 1600 John Occleshaw was a freeholder and Henry Occleshaw in 1628; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 240; Norris D. (R.M.).

³³A mortgage by Richard Occleshaw and Thomas his son in 1698 seems to have prepared the way to a sale, the release being granted 3 Apr. 1700; the purchase money was £590. In 1713-14 an indenture was made between Thomas Occleshaw and Elizabeth his wife, and Thomas son of Thomas and the representative of Abigail Crook. From abstract of title in possession of W. Farrer.

³⁴It is possible that this was the oxgang of land held by Alan de Burton in 1212, rendering yearly 12d. in fee-farm; *Lancs. Inq. and Extent*, i, 77.

William son of John de Ashton was a defendant in 1305; Assize R. 420, m. 8.

Amota daughter of Robert de Ashton by his wife Emma was with Robert del Coran and Eva his wife and Jordan de Rixton and Agnes his wife a plaintiff in 1329 respecting lands in Abram; De Banco R. 278, m. 31 d.; 281, m. 76. Another suit of the series is recorded under Hindley; the defendant in the Abram cases is called William de Ashton instead of William the Fisher. William de Ashton contributed to the subsidy of 1332; *Exc. Leg. Subs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 13. Richard de Ashton of Abram attested a Newton charter in 1373; *Raines MSS.* (Chet. Lib.), xxxviii, 146. Richard de Ashton of Abram in 1388 granted to his son Roger and another lands in Sankey and Penketh acquired from Margaret widow of Simon de Langtree; *ibid.* 87.

The name occurs in 1445 in a complaint by Katherine the widow and Gilbert the son of William de Ashton, as executors, against Richard de Ashton of Abram and others, respecting the seizure of cows and other property; Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 8, m. 6. In the following year there were cross-suits between Katherine the widow and Oliver, Gilbert, and James the sons of William de Ashton, and Richard, also son of William de Ashton of Abram, Hindley, and Ince; *ibid.* R. 9, m. 136, 14, 146. In 1448 William son of Richard de Ashton of Bamfurlong was charged with breaking into Sir John de Byron's close at Atterton; *ibid.* R. 12, m. 6.

In 1478 a marriage was agreed upon between Oliver son and heir of Thurstan Anderton and Margaret daughter of John Ashton of Bamfurlong; *Duchy Pleas.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 92, 97.

John Ashton, about fourteen years of age and in ward to Roger Anderton of Bickershaw, being son and heir of Gilbert Ashton, in 1552 made complaint that various servants of Sir Thomas Gerard had prevented his viewing Bamfurlong Hall and its lands, Sir Thomas apparently asserting that a Richard Ashton was the

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branch of the Gerards, described as 'of Brindle'³⁸; and probably by sale to the later Gerards of Ince, and has descended with the Westwood property.³⁹

Nothing definite can be stated about the descent of *BICKERSHAW*, formerly called a manor.⁴⁰ In the 16th century it was owned by the Holcrofts, and sold by them to Richard Ashton in 1599.⁴¹ Ralph Ashton about thirty years later sold it to Frances widow of Robert Dukinfield of Dukinfield near Stockport.⁴² It descended in this family until 1760, when it was sold to Richard Clayton of Adlington; and it was again sold in 1790 to Edward Ackers of Newton, surgeon. The trustees of Abraham Ackers, who died in 1864, are the owners; it is leased to the Abram Coal Company.⁴³

A branch of the Culbeths were long seated in Abram.⁴⁴ The inquisition taken after the death of John Culbeth in 1586 shows that he had held lands in Abram of Thomas Abram by a rent of 1*d.*, and in

Hindley of John Culbeth of Culbeth by a rent of 6*d.*⁴⁵ A pedigree was recorded in 1664,⁴⁶ but the family afterwards migrated to Warwickshire, and in 1750 sold the property.⁴⁷

Adam Bolton,⁴⁸ John Occleshaw, John Southworth, Roger Culbeth, Cecily Ashton, and Nicholas Huyton, were the landowners contributing to a subsidy collected about 1556.⁴⁹ The Coriess,⁴⁷ Lithgoe,⁴⁸ and Leyland⁴⁹ families were long resident here.

A plot of land in Park Lane, known as the Morris Dancers' ground, is popularly supposed to be held by them on condition that a morris dance be celebrated there once in twenty years.⁴⁰



CULBETH. *Argent an eagle sable preying upon a child swaddled gules.*

true heir; *ibid.* iii, 124, 125. At the same time John Ashton and Richard his son alleged their title to Bamfurlong against Richard, Cecily, and Anne Ashton, Roger Anderton, Gilbert Lee, Gilbert Houghton, and Ralph Anderton; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 114.

John Ashton of Bamfurlong, senior, and his son and heir were in 1590 among the 'comers to church but no communicants'; Gibson, *Lydiate Hall*, 246, quoting S.P. Dom. Eliz. cccxxxv, 4. In 1598 as an avowed recusant he was called upon to pay £10 for 'her Majesty's service in Ireland'; *ibid.* 262, from S.P. Dom. Eliz. cclxvi, 80.

John Ashton, claiming by inheritance from Richard Ashton, deceased, demanded in 1594 an estate in Bamfurlong, &c., from Adam Hawarden, Margaret Ashton, and Lawrence Bispham; *Duchy Plead.* iii, 293. In that year Richard Ashton of Bamfurlong had died holding nothing, as the inquest found, and leaving a son Richard who was but sixteen in 1609; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 170. At the *Visitation* in 1613 (Chet. Soc. 17) Richard was said to be twenty years of age; his father Richard was son of John Ashton of Bamfurlong. John Ashton had died in 1603, being buried on 30 July at Wigan; Reg. Richard Ashton, being a convicted recusant, paid double to the subsidy in 1628; Norris D. (B.M.).

³⁸ This family recorded a pedigree in 1664, in which they are already described as 'of Bamfurlong'; Dugdale, *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 128. It is not clear how they obtained possession. In 1684 John Ashton called for an inquiry as to the title of Henry Gerard, son of Henry Gerard, a solicitor, deceased, to the hall of Bamfurlong, a water corn-mill, and various lands, formerly the property of Richard Ashton and his daughter Mary, deceased; *Exch. Depos.* (Rec. Soc.), 65. There is a charge of 'dishonest contrivances' against the elder Henry.

³⁹ See Gillow, *Bibl. Disc. of Engl. Cath.* ii, 431; Leyland, *Abram*, 18, 19. From the latter it seems that Henry Gerard the son in 1681 married Cecily West, who in 1717 (now Cecily Howett) as 'a papist' registered an annuity of £80 derived from her first husband; *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 128. Henry's brother Ralph, a priest, served the domestic chapel at Bamfurlong.

⁴⁰ Sir Thomas Holcroft held Bickershaw manor of James Browne by a rent of 6*d.* in 1558; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* 2, no. 13. There was a large amount of dis-

puting about it at the time, as will be seen by a reference to the *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i, 145, 150; ii, 56, 194. Hugh Bradshaw and Constance his wife were in possession in 1535, but Thomas Holcroft's title was allowed.

⁴¹ William Holcroft and Elizabeth his wife were vendors; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. file. 67, m. 139.

⁴² It was purchased from Edward Bolton in 1671, according to the statement in Leyland's *Abram*, 20; but was acquired by Frances Dukinfield in 1633 or 1634 from Ralph Ashton and Katherine his wife; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. file. 124, m. 18.

The later accession is described in Leyland, 21-8. See also Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. file. 362, m. 129.

⁴³ Leyland, *op. cit.* 23, 24; and information of the secretary to the company. Nothing of the old house remains.

⁴⁴ Some deeds concerning the family have been preserved by Towneley, Add. MS. 32105, no. 906 23. The other information is given in the Culbeth papers published in *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*.

In 1392 John son of Thomas de Culbeth had lands in Abram and Hindley; his son Roger had married Ellen daughter of Henry son of Robert de Blackrod; Add. MS. 32105, no. 915.

William Culshaw in 1531 arranged for the marriage of Roger, his son and heir, with Janet daughter of John Richardson; his own wife was named Margery; *ibid.* no. 911, 912, 919. The lands in Hindley were called Occleshull and Taleor, and in Abram, Longfield.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.* no. 909. The holding in Abram was two messuages, two tofts, two gardens, two orchards, 40 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 20 acres of pasture. Roger Culbeth was his son and heir, and six years of age.

⁴⁶ Dugdale, *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 92. Roger Culbeth was still living, aged eighty-four; his son George recorded the pedigree. His two eldest sons had been slain at Newbury, and a younger son in Wirral in the Civil Wars; Thomas, the third son, aged forty-four, was the heir.

⁴⁷ See *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, ii, 228, for a continuation of the pedigree by Mr. J. P. Rylands. Roger Culbeth of Wottonbury in Warwickshire, by his will of 1701, left his estate in the parish of Wigan to his brother Thomas of Studley in Warwickshire, tanner; *ibid.* p. 120. This Thomas left a son William, who seems to have been the

last of the family connected with Abram; *ibid.* i, 275, 276. See also Payne's *Engl. Cath. Rec.* 26. Part of their land is now the property of the trustees of Abigail Crook's charities.

Roger Culbeth of Abram, as a 'papist,' registered his estate in 1717, the value was £64 15*s.* 4*d.*; *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 124. The name of the family had constantly appeared on the Recusant Rolls; Gillow's *Bibl. Disc. Engl. Cath.* i, 608.

⁴⁸ Adam, son and heir-apparent of Robert Bolton, was a surety for William Culbeth in 1532; Add. MS. 32105, no. 912. The father and son were engaged in numerous disputes as to their property, called Blackfields, Mossheys, Lower House, New Earth, &c.; see *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), i, 166, &c. It appears that Robert Bolton died in 1552 or 1553; his wife's name was Elizabeth Holden. Another Robert Bolton is mentioned in 1583 (*ibid.* iii, 129), and the inquisition after the death of Edward Bolton in 1587 is in *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xv, no. 48. The tenure is not recorded; Edward's heir was his son William, twenty-three years of age.

William Bolton was a freeholder in 1600 and Edward Bolton in 1628; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 6, 239; Norris D. (B.M.). This is perhaps the Edward Bolton who sold Bickershaw Hall in 1671. Deeds relating to Bolton House in Abram and other properties of the family are printed in *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, ii, 39, 47.

⁴⁹ Masey of Rixton D.

⁵⁰ Richard Corless as a landowner contributed to the subsidy of 1628; Norris D. (B.M.).

⁵¹ Nicholas Huyton of Blackrod in 1528 held lands in Abram of the heirs of John Abram by a rent of 5*s.*; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 53. In 1628 John Lithgoe contributed to the subsidy 'for Huyton's lands'; Norris D. (B.M.).

⁵² William Leyland was a trustee in 1626; Add. MS. 32105, no. 906. Their connexion with the township ceased about 1780; but John Leyland of Chetham House (afterwards called the Grange) in Hindley represented them down to his death in 1883; his accounts of Hindley and Abram, published in 1873 and 1881, have been used in these notes. A grant of arms was made to him in 1863; *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, iii, 34.

⁵³ Leyland, *op. cit.* 114; the custom was observed in 1880. Mr. William Vallant informs us that this is still kept up.

The church of St. John was erected in 1838 for the accommodation of members of the Established Church.⁴¹ The rector of Wigan is patron of this, but trustees present to the new church of St. James and St. Elizabeth, Bickershaw

A Congregational chapel was built in 1897.

A school was founded at Lowe in 1632 by Mrs. Mary Abram.⁴²

HAIGH

Haig, 1193; Hagh, 1298, and common, with Haghe; Ha, Haw, xvi cent.; also Haigh.

This township forms the north-eastern corner of the parish. On the west it is bounded by the Douglas, and on the north a small brook running into the Douglas divides it from Blackrod. The ground rises towards the east and north, and the village of Haigh, near the middle of the Aspull boundary and 2½ miles north-east of Wigan, is one of its highest points, about 520 ft. above sea level. The Hall is on the slope of the hill to the west of the village. The area is 2,135½ acres.¹ The population in 1901 was 1,164.²

Roads lead from the village, north to Blackrod, west to Standish, and south to Wigan and Aspull. The London and North Western and Lancashire and Yorkshire Companies' joint railway passes through the township on the western side, where it is joined by a short connecting line from the Wigan and Preston Railway; there is a station called Red Rock. The Lancaster Canal also winds through the western part of the township, near the Douglas.

The woods and grounds of Haigh Hall, occupying 500 acres, clothe the south-western slopes with pleasant scenery in contrast with the surrounding collieries of a black country. It is a common sight to see the gaunt and black coal-shafts rising from

the midst of corn fields and plantations. For Haigh has its agriculture, as well as mining and manufacturing industries, wheat, oats, and potatoes being grown in spite of an exposed situation and smoke from neighbouring factories &c., the soil being clay upon a staley rock. The Hall itself commands a fine panorama of the district around Wigan. Haigh has long been celebrated for its cannel coal;³ this is almost exhausted, but coal-mining is the great industry of the place. There are also a brewery, and dyeing and bleaching works.

The township is governed by a parish council.

William Roby, 1766 to 1830, a Congregational divine of note, was a native of Haigh.⁴

The early history of the manor of *MANOR HAIGH* cannot be traced. About 1220-1230 it belonged to the Marney fee, sold to Ranulf, Earl of Chester.⁵ A Hugh de Haigh, most probably Hugh le Norreys, to whom the adjacent Blackrod was granted, paid 3 marks in 1193-4 for having the king's good will.⁶ Richard de Orrell granted to Cocksand Abbey land in Haigh, adjacent to Hugh's ridding, about 1220;⁷ and as a century later Sir Robert de Holland held it of the Earl of Lancaster,⁸ together with other manors which had belonged to Richard de Orrell, it might be supposed that Haigh was part of the Orrell family's holding.⁹ In 1282, however, Hugh son of Alan le Norreys was lord of Haigh.¹⁰

In 1298 William son of Richard de Bradshagh and Mabel his wife were in possession of the manors of Haigh and Blackrod,¹¹ which were Mabel's right as heir of the last-named Hugh le Norreys. Her husband from his name is supposed to have been a descendant of the Bradshags of Bradshaw, near Turton.

In 1302 William de Bradshagh held the twelfth part of a knight's fee in Haigh of the Earl of Lancaster;¹² ten years later the title of William and

⁴¹ Leyland, *Abram*, 29-35. The tenures of the second and third of the incumbents appear to have been shortened by their parishioners' objection to what was called 'ritualism.' The district chapelry was formed in 1843; *Land, Gaz.*, 1 Aug. and 3 Oct. 1843.

⁴² *Gastrell, Notitia*, ii, 256.

¹ 2,130 acres, including 68 acres of inland water; Census Rep. of 1901.

² Including Willoughby's.

³ See the account by Roger North in 1678, quoted in Baines, *Lancs.* (ed. 1836), from the *Life of Lord Guildford*, iii, 544; see also Baines, *Lancs. Dir.* 1825, ii, 613. There is a notice of a cannel mine being on fire in 1737 in *Lancs. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, iii, 106.

⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁵ *Ormerod, Ches.* (ed. Helsby), i, 37, from the Duchy Coucher. The Marney fee is only imperfectly described in the survey of 1212.

⁶ *Yarter, Lancs. Pipe R.* 78; after the rebellion of John, Count of Mortain, afterwards king. If Hugh le Norreys be rightly identified with Hugh de Haigh it may indicate that he had been settled in Haigh before Blackrod was granted to him; *Lancs. Inq. and Extent* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 68, where he is called Hugh de Blackrod.

⁷ *Cocksand Chart.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 612. The boundaries began at 'the road to the church,' and went up to the head

of Green syke, and so to Hugh's ridding, and by the dyke to the starting point.

⁸ *Inq. 11 Edw. II*, no. 4, quoted below. Haigh and Blackrod were both held of Sir Robert.

After Robert de Holland's forfeiture it was found that he had held the manor by a rent of 10d.; *Roll of Foreign Rent of Derbyshire in Duchy of Lanc. Rentals*, 379. In an account of his lands made about 1326 it is stated that his manor of Haigh had been leased to Henry de Atherton and Adam de Bradshaw for £20 a year; *Duchy of Lanc. Misc.* 10/15.

In the Feodary compiled in 1324 it is stated that Robert de Holland held the manor of Haigh by the service of 10d. as the fourth part of a knight's fee; *Dods. MSS.* cxxxii, fol. 366. In all other inquisitions the twelfth, not the fourth, part of a fee is recorded. The 10d. rent continued down to the 17th century.

⁹ See the account of Orrell.

It is more likely that Robert de Holland had had the grant of a meane manor from Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and that it was not restored to him by Edward III.

¹⁰ So described he attested a Haydock charter of Robert de Holland's in that year; *Raines MSS.* (Chet. Lib.), xxxviii, 231. From the account of Blackrod it will be found that the descent was as follows—Hugh le Norreys (1193-1221)—s. Hugh (1233)—bro. Alan—s.

Hugh—dan. Mabel. Hugh son of Alan had a brother Henry, &c.

Emma la Norreys held messuages and lands in Haigh in 1290; *De Banco R.* 85, m. 95.

¹¹ *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 185; a surrender to William de Atherton. It is recorded that Thomas de Oshaldeston put in his claim. Kuerden (*MSS.* ii, fol. 213, no. 5) has preserved a grant of the manor by William de Atherton to William de Bradshagh, about that time or earlier.

In 1295 William and Mabel de Bradshagh had a contest with Adam de Walton, rector of Wigan, the latter charging them with having diverted the water-course between Haigh and Standish to the injury of his mills. They replied that they had only erected a mill by the Douglas, two leagues from Adam's mill. The jury found that the new mill had been made by William's father, Richard de Bradshagh, while he was guardian of William and Mabel, and that it had been to the loss of the rector's mill; *Assize R.* 1306, m. 19; 1321, m. 7 d.

Brief and unsatisfactory abstracts of some Bradshaw deeds are printed in Croston's edition of Baines, *Lancs.* iv, 297, 292. There are others in Kuerden *MSS.* loc. cit.

¹² *Lancs. Inq. and Extent*, i, 313; *Feud. Aids*, iii, 81. The meane lordship of Robert de Holland is not recognized here or later.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

Mabel was assured by a fine.¹³ For his share in Adam Banastre's rebellion in 1315 and the death of Henry de Bury,¹⁴ Sir William de Bradshagh was outlawed for felony and by 1317 his manors of Haigh and Blackrod had been taken into the king's hands and demised to Peter de Limesey, but Mabel de Haigh intruded herself.¹⁵ Sir William was living in 1328,¹⁶ and appears to have been killed at Winwick in August 1333.¹⁷

Mabel's title to the Norreys lands must have been recognized, for in 1336 and 1337, when a widow and childless, she arranged for the succession to the manors as absolute owner, granting them to her husband's nephews; Haigh to William, a son of John de Bradshagh, and Blackrod to Roger son of Richard, who was another son.¹⁸ In 1338 she founded a chantry in Wigan Church for her husband's soul and her own, as also for the soul of Edward II.¹⁹ In 1346 Mabel de Bradshagh, heir of Hugh le Norreys, held the manor of Haigh for the twelfth part of a knight's fee and by the service of 10d. yearly.²⁰ She was living two years later.²¹

Early in 1365 Roger de Bradshagh of Westleigh demanded the manor of Haigh from William de Bradshagh and Sir Henry de Trafford, in virtue of the settlement of 1312.²² There may have been two

Williams in succession, for William de Bradshagh, who died in 1380 seized of the manor of Haigh, left a son and heir Thomas only twelve years of age.²³ Thomas de Bradshagh took part in the Percy rising of 1403 and was present at the battle of Shrewsbury; afterwards he received a pardon from Henry IV.²⁴ He was living in 1425.²⁵

His son and heir was James Bradshagh,²⁶ who, with many others, was accused of the death of John Tailor; he appears to have been released from attendance at the trial, but died in the summer of 1442 before it came to an end.²⁷ He had held lands in Wigan called Rudgatchurst of the rector, and the manor of Haigh of the king, as Duke of Lancaster, for the twelfth part of a knight's fee and by the service of 10d. yearly. His son and heir was William Bradshagh, aged twenty-three.²⁸

William Bradshagh was accuser and accused in various pleas of the next succeeding years.²⁹ He had several children, but the manor descended to his son James,³⁰ who died in May 1491, leaving as heir his son Roger, then twenty-three years of age and more. There were also two younger sons, Ralph and William, and a daughter Constance.³¹ Roger, who was made a knight, had no children, and died in December 1537, the heir being his brother Ralph, then about

¹³ *Final Conc.* ii, 9. The remainder was to 'the heirs of William,' which occasioned a lawsuit later. Also Kuerden, loc. cit. no. 3.

¹⁴ *Coram Rege R.* 254, m. 52.

¹⁵ *Inq. a.q.d.* 11 Edw. II, no. 4. The inquiry was made at Haigh in June 1318, when the manors had been in the king's hands a year and a day. It may be added that in 1319 Mabel asserted that her husband was dead; *Assize R.* 424, m. 8d.

These facts are utilized in the well-known legend of Sir William and his wife; see Bridgeman, *Wigan Ct.* 695-9; also Harland and Wilkinson, *Lanc. Legends*, 45; *Topog. and Gen.* ii, 365-9. That there is some basis for the legend may be gathered from entries in the Close R., Mabel being called wife of Peter de Limesey in 1318 (unless there is an error in the record) and 'Mabel de Haigh' simply in the following year; *Cal. Close*, 1313-18, p. 554; 1318-23, p. 8.

¹⁶ *De Banco R.* 273, m. 121 d.; Sir William de Bradshagh charged Adam de Hindley and others with having forcibly carried off his goods at Haigh and Blackrod.

¹⁷ *Coram Rege R.* 297, *Ret.* m. 23 d.

¹⁸ *Final Conc.* ii, 101, 107. The former of these was a grant of the manor of Haigh to William de Bradshagh for his life. The latter was a settlement of the succession after Mabel's death; to William son of John de Bradshagh, with remainders to the sons of Richard de Bradshagh his brother, and a further remainder to Henry son of Robert le Norreys. Alan son of Henry de Eltonhead, another Norreys, put in his claim. Also Kuerden, loc. cit. nos. 11, 13.

As Mabel de Haigh she made a grant of two plough-lands (probably the manor) in Worthington in 1318; *Final Conc.* ii, 28.

¹⁹ See the account of Wigan Church; Kuerden, loc. cit. no. 16-21.

²⁰ *Surv.* of 1346 (*Chet. Soc.* 36). In the same year Dame Mabel accused

William son of John de Bradshagh of breaking down her close and doing other damage; *De Banco R.* 348, m. 338.

²¹ The sheriff accounted for 10d. from Mabel de Bradshagh for the manor of Haigh for ward of Lancaster Castle; *Duchy of Lanc. Var. Accts.* 32117, fol. 7b.

²² *De Banco R.* 419, m. 180 d.; 425, m. 363 d.; 429, m. 68. The descent is clearly stated; Sir William de Bradshagh died without issue, and the claimant, as son of Richard son of John de Bradshagh, brother of Sir William, was the heir entitled to the manor. For the Trafford feoffment see Kuerden, loc. cit. nos. 35-8.

²³ *Lanc. Inq. p.m.* (*Chet. Soc.*), 1, 93; *Dip. Keeper's Rep.*, xxii, App. 354.

In the aid collected in 1355 William de Bradshagh contributed for the twelfth part of a knight's fee formerly held by Hugh le Norreys; *Feud. Aids*, iii, 91.

In 1397-8 Isabel, widow and executrix of William de Bradshagh, was called upon to account for the issues of a house at Haigh; *L.T.R. Mem. R.* 163, m. xii, 167, m. x.

²⁴ *Add. MS.* 32108, nos. 1491, 1495, 1507.

²⁵ He was juror from 1397 to 1425; *Lanc. Inq.* (*Chet. Soc.*), 1, 65 &c. In 1399 his feoffees regranted the manor to him with remainder to James his son and heir; Kuerden, loc. cit. no. 39.

William de Bradshagh seems to have been in possession of Haigh at the time of Thomas's outlawry; *Duchy of Lanc. Knts. Fees*, 1/20, fol. 8b. Edward was there in 1429; *Lanc. Inq.* (*Chet. Soc.*), ii, 35.

²⁶ *Croston's Baines*, iv, 292; his mother was Margaret, daughter of Robert de Highfield. It was an earlier Robert de Highfield who granted lands in Rudgatchurst to William de Bradshagh and Mabel his wife; Kuerden, loc. cit. no. 10, 12.

²⁷ Lettice, widow of John Tailor, summoned a large number of people in

the neighbourhood to answer for the death of her husband on 2 Feb. 1440-1. They included James Bradshagh of Haigh, Alice his wife, William son of James, Christopher son of Thomas Bradshagh, the wife of Gilbert (another son of Thomas), Ivo and Richard, sons of Thomas son of Ivo Bradshagh of Haigh or Pennington, Richard Houghton of Aspull, Ralph and John, sons of John Gidlow of Aspull, Alexander and Gilbert Nowell of Read, etc.; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 3, m. 15. James Bradshagh seems to have taken part in the assault, but was allowed to go *sine die*; *ibid.* m. 37. Two years later the trials concluded; Christopher Bradshagh was outlawed for the felony, James had died, and the rest were all acquitted; *ibid.* R. 5, m. 188; 21, 5b.

²⁸ *Towneley MS.* DD, no. 1484. In 1436-7 a dispensation was granted for the marriage of William Bradshagh and Agnes daughter of John Gerard of Ince; *Baines*, op. cit. (*ed. Croston*), iv, 292.

²⁹ *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 5, m. 24, ordered to keep the peace towards Thomas Cayley; *R.* 8, m. 3, and *R.* 9, m. 106 charged Christopher Bradshagh and others with waylaying him with intent to kill, but did not prosecute; m. 12, 196, 37, accused of trespass and fined for defaults; *R.* 10, m. 368, warrant for his arrest. A pardon was granted in 1457-8; *Baines*, loc. cit.

³⁰ By fine in August 1477 the manor of Haigh with its appurtenances, as also a water-mill and land in Wigan, were settled on James son and heir of William Bradshagh of Haigh, whose widow Agnes was living, with remainders to Roger, Ralph, and William, sons of James Bradshagh and Joan his wife, daughter of Alexander Standish, and heirs male; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bble.* 9, m. 3. The covenant of marriage between James and Joan is dated 1463; *Baines*, loc. cit.

³¹ *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 106; James's wife was named Joan, and Roger's Anne.

sixty years of age.³² Ralph died early in 1554, his heir being his brother William's son Roger, aged about thirty-six.³³

Roger Bradshaw of Haigh died 20 February 1598-9.³⁴ To the religious system established by Elizabeth he showed 'some degree of conformity,' but was of 'general note of evil affection in religion, and a non-communicant.'³⁵ In temporal matters the time was one of prosperity for the family, the canal-coal of Haigh being famous already, and bringing wealth to the lord of the manor.³⁶

His son James having died before him he was



BRADSHAW OF HAIGH.
Argent two bendlets between three martlets sable.

³² Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. vii, no. 16; the fine of 1477 and other settlements are recited. Roger Bradshaw was 'not at home' when the herald came in 1533, so that only his arms were recorded; *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 174. His will is in P.C.C.

Sir Roger's widow Anne married Nicholas Butler of Rawcliffe and various disputes followed; *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Com.), ii, 70. She died at Hoole 22 Aug. 1554; *Duchy Plead.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iii, 182.

Henry Bradshaw of Hailton, Buckinghamshire, attorney-general of the king, seems to have been concerned in the manor; *Close, 37 Hen. VIII.*, pt. ii, no. 46; pt. iv, no. 37.

³³ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. 2, no. 41. William Bradshaw is named in various suits of the time; *Ducatus* (Rec. Com.), ii, 32.

³⁴ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xvii, no. 59; the tenure was unchanged. A pedigree was recorded in 1567; *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 88.

³⁵ Gibson, *Lydiat Hall*, 245, quoting S.P. Dom. Edit. ccxxv, 4. His son Thomas was a serjeant-at-arms to the queen; *Ducatus* (Rec. Com.), ii, 295.

³⁶ Leland, writing about 1536, noted that 'Mr. Bradshaw hath a place called Haigh a mile from Wigan. He hath found much cannel like sea coal in his ground, very profitable to him'; *Itin.* vii, 47. These mines led to various law suits; see *Ducatus* (Rec. Com.), ii, 179, &c.

In 1554 Roger Bradshaw said that he was owner of the demesne lands of the manor of Haigh, within which there had always been certain mines or pits of a kind of fuel called cannel, wherein the tenants within the lordship had been accustomed to dig and get cannel to be 'spent and brent' in their tenements, for which they had paid by boons, presents, and averages; *Duchy Plead.* iii, 182.

³⁷ James son and heir of Roger Bradshaw married, in or before 1567, Jane the daughter and heir of Thomas Houghton of Hughton; *Dods. MSS.* cxlii, fol. 44.

³⁸ Richard son of Roger Bradshaw of Haigh was baptized at Wigan, 28 Dec. 1601; *Reg.* 51. In 1621, on entering the English College at Rome under the name of Barton, he gave the following particulars: 'My true name is Richard Bradshaw. I am in my twenty-second year, was born in Lancashire, and for the most part brought up there. My parents are Roger Bradshaw of Haigh . . . and Anne his wife. The former, who had been brought up in the Catholic religion,

left it in his youth; at length, however, by the goodness of God, about six months ago, he again embraced the true faith and I hope will persevere in it until death. My mother, brought up a Catholic by her parents [Anderson of Lostock], has never professed any other religion. I have seven brothers and six sisters, all of whom are Catholics. I received some local schooling until my fifteenth year, when I gave myself up to hunting and suchlike youthful sports; but by good fortune being sent to St. Omers College, I applied myself to humanity studies. I was always a Catholic.' He afterwards joined the Society of Jesus, and from 1655 to 1660 was head of the English Province; Foley, *Rec. Soc. Jesus*, i, 229-32, where extracts from his letters are given; vii, 78; Gillow, *Bibl. Diet. of Engl. Cath.*, i, 287; *Dies. Nar. Biog.*

Thomas Bradshaw, a younger brother, entered the English College from St. Omers in 1626, and made a similar declaration: 'My chief relations are uncles and aunts, all Catholics, except one uncle, Alexander Bradshaw, who is a Protestant'; Foley, i, 228. He also became a Jesuit and laboured in England from 1650 to 1663; vii, 79. A third brother Peter, also a Jesuit, served the English missions from 1650 to 1675, and was twice rector of the Lancashire district; *ibid.*, vii, 77. Another brother, Edward, a Carmelite, after a term of imprisonment was banished, but returned to England and ministered at Haigh Hall; he was a student of English antiquities; Gillow, *op. cit.*, i, 286. Another brother, Christopher, was a secular priest. Three of the sisters were nuns. A brother William was knighted by Charles I; his will is printed in *Lancs. Wills* (Chet. Soc. new ser.), ii, 66.

³⁹ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xxix, no. 66. His eldest son James was buried at Wigan 7 June 1631; *Royalist Comp. Papers* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 229, 230.

A pedigree was recorded in 1613; *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 57. Roger refused knighthood, paying in 1632 a composition of 20 marks; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 222.

⁴⁰ *Royalist Comp. Papers*, i, 228-33; it is obvious that strict inquiries were made by the Commonwealth authorities. There are numerous references to the family in the *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*.

⁴¹ The guardianship system was a common and successful means of inducing such conformity.

Dr. Wroe, warden of Manchester, who

succeeded by his grandson Roger, twenty-one years of age in 1599.³⁷ He also, after some wavering, adhered to the ancient religion,³⁸ but died in May 1641, before the outbreak of the Civil War.³⁹ His grandson and heir Roger, being then only thirteen years of age, took no part in the war, and the estates escaped the sequestration and forfeiture which would no doubt have overtaken them under the Commonwealth.⁴⁰ The minority, however, involved the placing of the heir under a Protestant guardian; he changed his religion and conformed to that established by law.⁴¹ In 1679 he was made a baronet⁴²; he was knight of the shire in 1660,⁴³ showing himself an opponent of the Presbyterians⁴⁴ and also of the adherents of Monmouth.⁴⁵ He died in 1684, and his son Roger three years later,⁴⁶ when the third Sir Roger Bradshaw, his son, succeeded.⁴⁷

preached the funeral sermon, said: 'His religion was true Protestant; not that of late falsely so called, but that which is by law established, the religion of the Church of England; in which he was happily educated and instructed in his greener years by the care and directions of the Right Honourable James, Earl of Derby, to whom he was entrusted by his faithful guardian, John Fleetwood of Penwortham, esq.; to whose religious designs and the joint endeavours of his virtuous consort he owed the early impressions of piety, and in that family first commenced Protestant, and was thence sent into the Isle of Man, where the principles he had already imbibed were soon cultivated and improved under the umbrage of that religious, loyal and great man;' quoted in *Pal. Not. Bk.*, ii, 34. One of his sisters was a nun and the other married Thomas Culcheth of Culcheth.

⁴² Burke, *Extinct Baronetage*. A pedigree was recorded in 1664; Dugdale, *Visit.* (Chet. Soc.), 52.

⁴³ Pink and Beaven, *Parl. Rep. of Lancs.* 77, 78. He was made a knight in the same year; Le Neve, *Knight* (Earl. Soc.), 77. He was re-elected in 1661, this Parliament lasting till 1678. There is a monument to him in Wigan Church; Bridgeman, *op. cit.*, 701, 702.

In a fine of 1673 the estate is described as the manor of Haigh, sixty-four messuages, two water-mills, a saw-mill, 500 acres of land &c., with views of frankpledge in Haigh and Wigan. The deforciantes were Sir Roger Bradshaw, kt., Elizabeth his wife, and Roger Bradshaw, esq.; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. dble.* 191, m. 71.

⁴⁴ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.*, xiv, App. iv, 84. There are a number of Bradshaw letters in this volume. ⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 161.

⁴⁶ The son represented the borough of Wigan in 1678, and the county in 1685; Pink and Beaven, *op. cit.*, 228, 79. Like his father he was a Tory. He was knighted in 1679; Le Neve, *Knight*, 330.

⁴⁷ He was a member for Wigan in fourteen successive Parliaments from 1695 till his death, 25 Feb. 1746-7; Pink and Beaven, *op. cit.*, 230-3. According to this he was Tory down to the accession of George I, when he became a Whig. He restored the family chapel in Wigan Church in 1719; Bridgeman, *op. cit.*, 620. A view of Haigh Hall as it existed in his time is given in *Haines' Lancs.* For recoveries of the manor in Aug. 1697, see *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 466; in 1727, R. 524, m. 7 d.; in 1730, R. 533, m. 2 d.

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

ASPULL

His son Sir Roger, the last baronet, died in 1787 without issue,⁴⁸ the heir to the manor and estates being his sister Elizabeth.⁴⁹

She married John son of Sir Humphrey Edwin,⁵⁰ and her daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married Charles Dalrymple of North Berwick, whose daughter and heir, Elizabeth Bradshaw,⁵¹ married Alexander Lindsay, sixth Earl of Balcarres. He thus became lord of the manor of Haigh,⁵² which has descended regularly⁵³ with the title to James Ludovic Lindsay, Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, who succeeded in 1880.⁵⁴ His son, Lord Balcarres, is the member of Parliament for the Chorley division of the county. At the Hall is a valuable library, including a Mazarin Bible among the printed books.⁵⁵



LINDSAY, Earl of Crawford and Balcarres. Quarterly, 1 and 4: Gules a fess chequy argent and azure for LINDSAY; 2 and 3: Or a lion rampant gules debraised by a ribbon sable, for ARMISTREY.

Apart from the Bradshaw family there do not seem to have been any important landowners⁵⁶ in the township, though in 1600 Ralph Charnock was also returned as a freeholder.⁵⁷

A poor man named John Rycroft was in trouble with the Commonwealth authorities during the Civil War; he explained that he had assembled with the king's men on Westhoughton Common but had not joined them later.⁵⁸

In connexion with the Established Church St. David's, Haigh, was consecrated in 1833 as a chapel of ease to Wigan; a district was assigned five years later. The rector of Wigan is patron.⁵⁹ At New Springs, St. John Baptist's, an iron church, was licensed in 1871; and rebuilt in brick in 1897.

A school was founded here about 1660 by the township.⁶⁰

Aspull, 1212; 1292; Hasphull, 1277; Haspebull, 1292; Aspehill, 1292; Aspell, 1301; Asphull, 1304, common; Aspull, 1356, common. Aspden and Aspsaw occur in the district.

This township, though in the parish of Wigan, is in the hundred of Salford. It is separated from Westhoughton by a brook running through Borden or Borsdane Wood, but has no marked physical separation from the other neighbouring townships, which, like itself, are in Wigan parish. The ground rises from south to north, reaching 400 ft. The area is 1,905 acres.¹ The population in 1901 was 8,388.²

The principal road leads north from Hindley to Haigh, passing through Pennington Green, which lies 2½ miles east-north-east of Wigan Church. To the south-west of this lies Hindley Hall, and a road branches off to the north-west, going through New Springs to Wigan. The Lancaster Canal passes through the western corner of the township.

Aspull Moor lies in the northern half of the township.

Canal coal was found in Aspull. There are several large collieries, also malt kilns and a cotton mill. Wheat, oats, and potatoes are grown.

A local board was formed in 1876. This has been succeeded by an urban district council of nine members.

The earliest notice of *ASPULL* is that *MANOR* contained in the survey of 1212, when, as one plough-land, it formed part of the Childwall fee held by Richard son of Robert de Lathom, under the lord of Manchester.³ Immediately after this lands in Aspull are found among the possessions of William de Notton, being described as the right of Cecily his wife, daughter of Edith, lady of Barton-on-Irwell.⁴ The Lathom mesne manor was commonly ignored⁵; thus, in 1302 Richard de Ince, as son and heir of Henry de Sefton, and Adam de Hindley, were

⁴⁸ Little seems to be known of the last Sir Roger, or of the male descendants of the previous baronets.

⁴⁹ These and the subsequent particulars are from the pedigree in Baines, *Lancs.* (ed. Croston), iv, 294-296.

⁵⁰ See the note in G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*, ii, 419; *Herald and Gen.* vi, 62; viii, 186, 187.

⁵¹ She died 10 Aug. 1816. There is a monument to her in Wigan Church; Bridgeman, *op. cit.* 703. There was a recovery of the manor in 1804; Aug. Assize, 44 Geo. III, R. 5.

⁵² The Earl of Balcarres resided at Haigh, which has since remained the principal seat of the family. He became *de jure* 23rd Earl of Crawford in 1808, but did not assume the title. He died in 1825, and was buried at Wigan; see *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁵³ See G.E.C. *loc. cit.* James, son of the sixth earl by Elizabeth Dalrymple, was member for Wigan 1820 to 1825, and was created Baron Wigan of Haigh Hall in 1826. In 1848 the House of Lords decided that he had justified his claim to the earldom of Crawford. He died 15 Dec. 1869. For his younger son Colin, see *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

The eldest son and heir, Alexander William Crawford Lindsay, Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, author of *Hist. of Christian Art*, &c., died 13 Dec. 1880; see *Dict. Nat. Biog.* He was succeeded by his son, the present lord of Haigh.

⁵⁴ He was member for Wigan 1874 to 1880, is a fellow of the Royal Society, and was formerly president of the Royal Astronomical Society.

⁵⁵ *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Soc.* i, 59; iii, 236.

⁵⁶ Robert son of Richard de Windle granted to his brother Adam Haleshurst and Middichurst in Haigh; *Kuerden MSS.* ii, fol. 213, n. 22.

⁵⁷ *Misc. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.)*, i, 238, 243.

Robert Charnock, in right of James Bradshaw, claimed possession of a water-mill, &c. in Haigh in 1581; *Ducatus (Rec. Com.)*, iii, 109; see also iii, 435.

Roger Bradshaw was the only landowner contributing to the subsidy in 1628; Norris D. (B.M.).

Other holders of land in the 16th century were Thomas Holt, Christopher Anderton, and Gilbert Sherington, probably as purchasers of land of suppressed monasteries and chantries.

⁵⁸ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, ii, 1093.

⁵⁹ Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* 783; *Land. Gaz.* 3 Apr. 1838.

⁶⁰ *Gastrell, Notitia*, ii, 251.

¹ 1,906, including 23 of inland water, according to the Census of 1901.

² Including New Springs and Torlock.

³ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.)*, i, 54. The fee was a composite one of 6½ plough-lands (of which

Aspull formed one), held chiefly by Richard de Lathom, and partly by Roger de Samlesbury and Alexander de Harwood.

⁴ The evidence of Edith's holding is contained in grants preserved in the *Cokersand Charr.* (*Chet. Soc.*), ii, 695-8. Edith de Barton herself gave the canons of Cokersand a portion of land in Aspull in free alms; *Lonington Brook, Holeslache, Scraplache, and Cranberry Lea*, are named among the boundaries; no. 6.

William de Notton, with the assent of Cecily his wife, of whose dower it was, gave half of Hulgreave in Aspull; and added a portion bounded by the Roskit (brook), from the ford, thence by a lache and oak marked with crosses to the Meanway, and so back to the ford; no. 4, 1. Sir Gilbert de Barton, son of William and Cecily, confirmed these gifts, and himself added the Millward'scroft; the bounds of this went by Mickle Brook, starting at the ford, to the boundaries of Richard de Hindley's land, and by various dykes to Sinerhill Leach, and so to the ford; also waste near Brinshope; no. 5, 2. The land called Scrapps in Aspull was in 1501 held by Richard Houghton at a rent of 2d.; *Cokersand Rent.* (*Chet. Soc.*), 4.

⁵ From a subsequent note it will be seen that the lordship of the Lathoms was recognized in 1290. In: 1346-55 Sir Thomas de Lathom is said to have held the same fee, including Aspull; *Feud. Aids*, iii, 89.

found to hold Aspull, as the eighth part of a knight's fee, directly of Thomas Grosley.⁶ From this time the lordship has been held with the adjacent Ince by the families of Ince and Gerard in succession; until Aspull was sold to the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, lord of Haigh.⁷

The Hindley family appear to have had a quarter of the manor by grant of William son of Richard son of Enot de Aspull. The succession can be traced from Adam son of Hugh de Hindley, living in 1292,⁸ until the 17th century,⁹ when Roger Hindley suc-

⁶ *Lanc. Inq. and Extents*, i, 314. Richard de Ince and Robert de Hindley held the same in 1322; *Mamecestre* (Chet. Soc.), 579.

⁷ Towneley (CG, no. 1604), preserves an agreement between Henry de Sefton and the free tenants of Aspull, including those of the Hospitalers, their names being given. These granted to Henry as their lord all the land bounded by a line starting at Haigh on the west, going to the Quint-acres, Terneshaw Brook, Brinshope Bridge, and so to Quintacres; also land in Fald-worthingshaw. Henry on his part granted them certain liberties.

⁸ See the account of Ince above.

John son of Peter Gerard and Ellen his wife made a settlement of the manor of Aspull in 1421; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. Bille*, 5, m. 12.

Thomas Gerard, in 1473, held the lordship of Aspull of the lord of Manchester by a rent of 8*d.* and the same sum for ward of the castle of Lancaster; *Mamecestre*, 481.

Miles Gerard, in 1558, held the manor, &c., of Lord La Warre in socage by a rent of 18*d.*; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xi, no. 12.

Aspull descended with Ince until the early years of the 18th century, when Richard son of Thomas Gerard of Highfield appears to have sold it to the Gerards of Bryon. The manor of Aspull was Sir William Gerard's in 1796, as appears from R. 12 of the Lent Assizes, 1796 (*Pal. of Lanc. Pleas R.*). It was sold to the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres before 1825; *Baines, Lancet* (ed. 1836), iii, 553.

⁸ A plea of 1292 gives an account of the acquisition. Adam de Hindley alleged that Robert de Lathom, Richard de Ince, Gilbert de Southworth, Emma his wife, and others had disseised him of a messuage and 12 acres of moor and pasture in Aspull. Gilbert, however, claimed nothing but common of pasture. Robert de Lathom claimed lordship only. Richard de Ince, as tenant, asserted that Adam had no right beyond common of pasture, but had inclosed the disputed land by night, his fence being promptly thrown down the next day.

The jury, however, found that Adam's title was derived from William son of Richard son of Enot de Aspull, who had delivered seisin of all his lands to Adam de Hindley; that Henry de Sefton and Richard son of Enot had been lords of the waste in common, and had divided an agreement, Henry taking three parts and Richard the other part, amounting to 7 acres; that after they had lain uncultivated Adam inclosed them, at the same time adding 5 acres more without the assent of Richard de Ince, and he and his man dwelt there some time; that Richard ejected him *vi et armis*; and that the 7 acres should be restored to Adam, and the 5 remain waste as formerly; *Assize R.* 408, m. 6.

The Hindleys had several branches, one by marriage acquiring Culbeth. The Hindleys of Aspull continued to hold land in Hindley also. Hugh de Hindley, father of Adam, is mentioned in 1258-9; *Originalia*, 43 Hen. III, m. 3. Hugh de

Hindley was living in 1292; *Assize R.* 408, m. 12; and Beatrice widow of Hugh de Hindley—perhaps another Hugh—claimed dower in 1307; *De Banco R.* 161, m. 132; *Lanc. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, i, 27.

Adam son of Hugh de Hindley, and Robert his son, were defendants in a plea concerning a mark of rent in Hindley and Ince in 1291 and 1292; *Assize R.* 407, m. 3*d.*; 408, m. 7*d.* This suit arose through a certain Adam de Woodhouse, who gave land as dower for his wife Alice; she took a second husband John Nightegale, and gave the land to Henry son of her previous husband, for the rent of 13*s.* 4*d.* Adam de Hindley seems to have secured the land, and refused to pay the rent; the jury allowed half a mark to the claimants.

Then Cecily, widow of Henry son of Adam de Woodhouse, claimed dower from lands in Hindley and Ince from Adam son of Hugh de Hindley, and Maud his wife; they asserted that Henry was not dead, but living at Paris; *Assize R.* 408, m. 55. Adam de Hindley occurs as plaintiff or defendant in many suits; e.g. *Assize R.* 419, m. 12; 421, m. 1*d.*; 441, m. 12*d.* There was another Adam son of Richard de Hindley; *Assize R.* 1294, m. 9*d.*

⁹ A pedigree was recorded at the *Visitation* of 1613 (printed by Chet. Soc. pp. 117, 118), in which abstracts of some family deeds are given. From these and other sources it is possible to give an outline of the family history. The somewhat earlier pedigree printed in the Chet. Soc. *Visit.* of 1567 is from Harl. MS. 6159.

Robert son of Adam de Hindley occurs in 1291, as already stated, and was in possession in 1322; *Mamecestre*, 379. He and his brothers Adam, Thomas, and John, seem to have taken a share in the rebellion of Thomas of Lancaster; *Coram Rege R.* 254, m. 60. Robert married Cecily daughter of Henry de Tyldesley; *Visit.* 117. She was a widow in 1329, when Henry de Acherton and Beatrice his wife claimed from her and Robert son of Robert de Hindley the fourth part of the manor of Aspull, and various lands in Aspull, Ince, and Hindley; but it was shown that Beatrice had granted them while sole; *Assize R.* 1411, m. 12*d.* From an earlier suit it appears that Beatrice was a daughter of Adam de Hindley's; *Assize R.* 420, m. 2*d.*

Among the Culbeth deeds is a grant from Adam son of Hugh de Hindley to his daughter Beatrice, for her life, of his lands in Aspull, 'Kastrelegh' in Hindley, &c.; she was to pay a rent to her brother John; *Lanc. and Ches. Hist. and Gen. Notes*, i, 27. A release of lands was made in 1332 by Henry de Acherton to Robert son of Robert de Hindley; *Visit.* 117. Cecily the widow of Robert afterwards married Robert de Warrington; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 1, m. 5*d.*

The younger Robert occurs in 1343 and 1358; *Assize R.* 430, m. 26; 438, m. 8. He was still living in 1365, as appears by a suit concerning lands in Windle, in which he was a plaintiff; the pedigree is there given as Robert son of Robert

(and Cecily) son of Adam son of Hugh; and it is further stated that Robert the father was seized of the lands in dispute in the time of Edward I; *De Banco R.* 421, m. 108.

Robert, who married Emma, a daughter and co-heir of Pemberton, had a son Hugh, as appears by a release made by Hugh son of Robert in 1398-9; *Visit.* 117.

Robert son of Hugh de Hindley was a plaintiff in 1447; and at the same time Robert and Adam de Hindley of Aspull were defendants in another suit; *Pal. of Lanc. Pleas R.* 10, m. 2, 2*b.* Robert Hindley in 1473 held a messuage and lands in Aspull of the lord of Manchester by the service of the eighth part of a knight's fee and a rent of 2*d.*; paying a further 2*d.* for ward of the castle; *Mamecestre*, 480. This Robert Hindley and his son 'old Hugh Hindley' are both mentioned by aged witnesses in a dispute concerning the wastes of Hindley in 1528; *Duchy Pleas*. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 165. He made a lease to his son Hugh in 1472; *Visit.* 117.

Hugh Hindley had a son Robert who married Alice daughter of William Parr, as appears by an entail dated 1489-90; *ibid.* Alice wife of Robert Hindley the younger and her husband, as well as Hugh Hindley, had numerous disputes with the Parr family from 1466 onwards; *Pal. of Lanc. Pleas R.* 30, m. 10; 44, m. 6*d.*; &c.

There were three sons, Hugh, Gilbert, and Roger. Hugh Hindley's name is entered in a list of the gentry compiled about 1512; he died 30 Apr. 1531 holding lands in Aspull called Greenhalf, Pilate croft, Kilm croft, and Rosket, of Thomas Gerard of Ince by the rent of 5*s.* 4*d.*; also Mickle croft of the heirs of John Aspull, by a rent of 12*d.*; and six messuages, 100 acres of land, &c. and a water-mill, of Lord La Warre, by knight's service and the rent of 2*s.* 1*d.* a year. He held other lands in Ince, Hindley, Pemberton, and Parr. His son and heir was Robert, aged only about five years; but six other sons had annuities assigned to them; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* vi, no. 22. His wardship was assumed by Lord La Warre, who granted it to George Leigh, of Manchester, by whom it was sold to Peter Anderson, and by the last-named to Grace the widow of Hugh de Hindley; *Kierden MSS.* li, fol. 237.

From a suit in 1549 it appears that Hugh Hindley had been married, about 1510 at Wigan, to Ellen Langton, both parties being 'within the age of consent'; and that they were in 1522 divorced by a decree of Richard Smith, rector of Bury, acting as commissary of Adam Breconsaw, rector of Brington and official of William Knight, archdeacon of Chester; and then Hugh married Grace Turner, Robert, declared heir in 1531, being their son. This decree was afterwards reversed in the Court of Arches, it appearing that Hugh and Ellen had lived together for eight years before the divorce was granted, and Gilbert, brother of Hugh, claimed the inheritance; on Gilbert's death without issue Roger, another brother, claimed it, and the court gave sentence in his favour, the dispossessed

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ceeded.¹⁰ **HINDLEY HALL**, as the residence of the Hindleys was called, became the property of James, a younger son of Robert Dukinfield of Cheshire.¹¹ In the 18th century it was acquired by the Leighs of Whitley Hall, Wigan, and Sir Robert Holt Leigh lived here till his death in 1843.¹² His estates then passed for life to his cousin Thomas Pemberton, who took the name of Leigh, and made Hindley Hall his residence; he was raised to the peerage as Baron Kingsdown in 1858.¹³ After his death in 1867 it passed by the will of



HINDLEY. *Argent a hart lodged argent.*

son Robert, then about twenty-four years of age, appearing and renouncing his title; *Duchy Pleas.* iii, 69.

Roger's son Robert, one of the 'gentlemen of the better sort' who were 'soundly affected in religion' in 1590 (Gibson, *Topham Hall*, 246), was living at the *Platination* of 1613 (p. 218), and his will was proved in 1620. Roger Hindley was assessed to the subsidy in 1622, and refusing knighthood compounded in 1631; *Misc. Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.*, i, 162, 216.

¹⁰ It appears from the Wigan Registers that he had several children; his wife Alice died in Jan. 1624-5; Roger Hindley himself was buried at Wigan, 15 Nov. 1651. Robert son of Roger Hindley was baptized at Winwick in 1607.

Margaret, a 'daughter and co-heir of Roger Hindley of Hindley,' is said by Dugdale, *Visit.* (54), to have married Roger Bradshaw of Aspull; it appears from the registers that the marriage took place in 1596, a daughter Elizabeth was born in 1597, and in the following year the wife died.

¹¹ *Ibid.* p. 100; Ormetod, *Ches.* (ed. Helsby), iii, 817. Old Mrs. Dukinfield and her son James are mentioned in *Roger Lowe's Diary*, 1663; *Loc. Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 170, 171, 189. The mother left money to the chapel and school of Hindley.

¹² Alexander Leigh, the grandfather, procured the Act of 1720 for making the Douglas navigable from Wigan to Preston; for an anecdote of him see *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 458. Holt Leigh, the father, of Hindley Hall, Aspull, and Whitley Hall, Wigan, married Mary daughter and co-heir of Thomas Owen, of Upholland; acquiring the manors of Orrell and Billinge. Robert Holt Leigh was born at Wigan in 1762. He was educated at Manchester School, and Christ Church, Oxford, but though he passed the examinations he did not graduate till 1817. He was made a baronet in 1815, at the instance of Canning, and represented Wigan in Parliament from 1802 to 1820; he is described as 'a high Tory and firm Churchman, but strenuous Protestant.' He had a high reputation as a scholar, linguist, and man of culture, but 'over the latter years of his life it is better that a veil should be drawn. It is very sad to record folly and profligacy in the mature years of a life in which, otherwise, there is much to admire;' *Manchester School Reg.* (Chet. Soc.). He died at Hindley Hall, 21 Jan. 1843.

His brother, Roger Holt Leigh, of Leeds, died 13 May 1831 from injuries received during election disturbances.

Sir R. H. Leigh to Mr. Roger Leigh, the present owner.¹⁴

The Knights Hospitallers held lands here from an early period.¹⁵

One of the ancient families here was that of Occleshaw. In 1246 Richard son of William recovered 8 acres in Aspull from Gilbert de Barton, Henry de Occleshaw, and Hugh his brother.¹⁶ Thirty years later the prior of St. John of Jerusalem was claimant against John de Occleshaw and another;¹⁷ and John de Occleshaw and Henry his brother occur in 1291.¹⁸ Afterwards Occleshaw was acquired by the Ince family.¹⁹

Yet another early family was that of Gidlow, whose residence was long known as **GIDLOW HALL**. In 1291 Robert de Gidlow was a freeholder in Aspull,²⁰ and the name occurs frequently down to the 17th century,²¹

¹³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*, iv, 401.

¹⁴ Burke, *Landed Gentry*.

¹⁵ *Plac. de Quo War.* (Rec. Com.), 375. The rental compiled about 1540 shows that there were four tenements yielding a total rent of 4s., viz. one messuage held by Thomas Gotsuch, 6d.; Occleshaw, by Alexander Catterall, 18d.; Whittington House, by John Byrom, 12d.; and a messuage by William Houghton, 12d.; *Kuerden MSS.* v, fol. 84.

¹⁶ Assize R. 454, m. 11 d.

¹⁷ De Banco R. 18, m. 6; 21, m. 26.

¹⁸ Assize R. 1294, m. 9 d.

¹⁹ By her charter, Cecily daughter of John de Occleshaw granted to her first-born son John all that she had received from her father in Aspull; Henry de Occleshaw was a witness; *Add. MS.* 32104, fol. 117 (509). She is perhaps the same Cecily who, as wife of John de Worthington, in 1323-4 claimed a messuage and lands from Richard de Occleshaw and William son of Henry de Occleshaw; *Assize R.* 425, m. 3; and, as wife of John de Warrington, quitclaimed to Hugh de Ince the land called 'Oecleshagh' in Aspull, of which John son of William de Occleshaw was once seized. Her grandson and heir, Thomas son of Henry son of Robert de Unsworth, in 1359 claimed it from Hugh de Ince; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 7, m. 2 d.

Another Cecily, wife of Robert de Warrington, claimed dower here in 1351; *ibid.* R. 1, m. v d; 2, m. 2.

²⁰ *Assize R.* 1294, m. 9 d.; Henry son of Guans and Roger de Swinley were other defendants. The Gidlows were probably so named from Gidlow in Wigan; the name is spelt Gydelowe, Gudelowe, Goodlaw, &c. Robert de Gidlow was plaintiff in 1304; *Assize R.* 420, m. 2 d.

²¹ Some family deeds have been preserved by Towneley (*Add. MS.* 32107, C.C. no. 1586-1619), and these and others more briefly by *Kuerden* (ii, fol. 244b), but they are not sufficient for a complete history.

Henry, lord of Ince, gave lands in Ince to William de Gidlow, with reasonable entry from his land in Aspull, by following the Mill Brook and that part on which the Harleton lies to Ince boundary, rendering two white gloves; *GG.* no. 1588. Robert de Gidlow gave the mill of Brinshope to Richard de Ince; *Kuerden*, loc. cit. no. 27. Henry de Sefton (father of Richard de Ince) gave land in Ince to Robert son of William de Gidlow in exchange for some the latter had from Roger son of Godith; also the greater hey in Aspull, the bounds mentioning Longshaw, Balliscent, and the highway

to Westhoughton; *GG.* nos. 1595, 1603. This latter was in 1294 transferred by Robert to his son William, except portions he had given to his daughter Ellen and another son Robert; 130, a year was payable to Richard de Ince; no. 1593.

William son of Robert de Gidlow in 1326 gave the Blackfield to his son Richard; nos. 1598-9.

Robert son of Roger de Gidlow at Easter 1354 claimed a messuage and lands in Aspull from John son of Richard de Gidlow, Gilbert de Ince, and William de Ince of Aughton; but Gilbert de Ince showed that the father had held of him by knight's service, so that he had lawfully entered into possession, as guardian, on Roger's death; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 3, m. 3 d.

Another John Gidlow, of the time of Henry VI, is the next of whom information is forthcoming; *GG.* no. 1586. Ralph son of John Gidlow was in 1444 contracted to marry Joan daughter of John and Elizabeth Parbold; no. 1591. In 1445 Thomas Pleasington accused John Gidlow and others of an assault upon him at Heapey, and Amice Gidlow accused Randle Charnock and others of waylaying her with intent to kill; *Pal. of Lanc.* P. 23 R. 8, m. 1, 18; 9, m. 6, 2. In the same year Ralph Gidlow was to be arrested for felony; *ibid.* R. 7, m. 16b. In 1491-2 the fees were regranted to John Gidlow, senior, all his messuages and lands in Aspull, with remainders to John son of Ralph son of the elder John; then to John, William, and Robert, brothers of Ralph; *GG.* no. 1600.

Ralph Gidlow of Aspull referred his disputes with Roger Brown to arbitration in 1514; no. 1529. He was murdered with a dagger 22 Sept. 1531 by one Christopher Shakerley. Thomas Gerard of Ince was called out of his bed by the constables of Aspull to view the body and search for the felon; and on returning home with a crowd of neighbours, Cecily and Agnes, daughters of Ralph, desired him to take charge of two boxes belonging to their father. The complaint of Anne the widow followed; *Duchy Pleas.* ii, 25-27. At the inquisition after Ralph's death it was found that he had held lands in Langtree, Coppull, and Aspull; the jury did not know what knight's service belonged to the last. Robert Gidlow his son and heir was sixteen years of age; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq.* p.m. vi, no. 12.

In 1535 another inquisition was made at the petition of Robert the heir. It appeared that Ralph Gidlow had in 1520 made a feoffment of the Dower house and others of his tenements in Aspull and Ince,

when a short pedigree was recorded.²³ In 1584 and 1586 rights of way were investigated, Thomas Gidlow claiming a footpath from Gidlow Hall westward across Roger Hindley's meadows called Longer Hey to the highway between



GIDLOW. *Asure a chevron argent between two lions guardant in chief and a cross formy, fleury in base or.*

&c., for the use of Anne Shakerley, widow, for her life. Robert asserted that he was of full age, and not sixteen only, when the former inquisition was taken; also that the premises in Aspull were held of Thomas Gerard of Ince and not of Lord La Warre. The message in Langtree had been the property of one John Perlebarne, whose heirs were Ralph Gidlow, Roger Haydock, and James Aspenall, descendants of his daughters Joan, Katherine, and Margaret. Joan had married a Gidlow (obviously the John Gidlow, senior, of a previous paragraph), and her son was Ralph father of John father of the Ralph Gidlow of 1531; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* iii, no. 6.

On Robert's coming of age Lord La Warre remitted all actions, &c.; *GG*, no. 1610; and soon afterwards, in 1541, Robert made a settlement of his lands, the remainder being to Thomas his son and heir; *Kuerden MSS. loc. cit. no. 20*. In 1552 a further settlement seems to have been made by Robert Gidlow and Ellen his wife; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 14, m. 106; and another including the capital message called Gidlow, Hindley House, Bark House, &c., three years later, perhaps on the marriage of his son Thomas with Elizabeth daughter of William Kenyon of Pilkington; *GG*, no. 1601, 1609, 1611. A release was made to Thomas in 1584 by John son of William Kenyon; *GG*, no. 1606. Two years later Thomas Gidlow was elected coroner; *GG*, no. 1608. He died 28 Oct. 1606, holding various lands and the Lee in Aspull of Miles Gerard of Ince, by a rent of 14s. and 12d.; also 12 acres and the water-mill of the king, as of the late Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. Thomas his son and heir was aged thirty-three years; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 73.

William Kenyon, who died in 1557, held part of the old Hospitaliers' lands in Aspull by the gift of Robert Gidlow; John his son and heir was sixty years of age in 1586; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xiv, no. 27.

²³ *Vint.* of 1613 (*Chet. Soc.*), 50. The last-named Thomas Gidlow recorded it; his son and heir, another Thomas, being then twenty years of age.

The elder Thomas died about 1618-19, but the age of his son Thomas is given as only twenty-two years; *Kuerden, loc. cit.* no. 23. Thomas Gidlow contributed to the subsidy in 1622; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 162.

²⁴ Towneley, *GG*, no. 1613 15. Risleigh Hey and a stile called the Merrel are mentioned; also a lane called 'a certain little lane' which led to Aynsough Lane, going north to Aspull Moor.

²⁵ John son of Thomas de Houghton, or Houghton, of the Westhoughton family, had two messuages and land in Aspull in 1377; *Final Conc.* ii, 25. John son of Thomas de Houghton was defendant in a claim for dower in 1351 and 1352; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R.* 1, m. v d. and R. 2, m. 2.

A Ralph Houghton of Kirkless married Margery daughter of Richard Molyneux

Aspull Moor and Pennington Green, and so to Wigan.²⁵

The Houghtons of KIRKLEES long continued in possession;²⁶ Ralph Houghton in 1653 renounced his faith in order to secure his lands.²⁷ The Bradshags, already mentioned,²⁸ the Lathoms of Wolfall,²⁷ and the Lowes²⁹ also held lands here. Later families were the Rigbys²⁹ and Penningtons.³⁰

of Hawkley; *Vint.* of 1567 (*Chet. Soc.*), 109. For a plea of 1554-5 by

Roger Heigham claiming against Ralph Houghton lands called Smyrreels and Gromerscroft in Aspull see *Ducatus Lanc.* (Rec. Cum.), ii, 184.

Richard Houghton acquired lands in Aspull, Ince, and Wigan from Christopher Kenyon and Margery his wife in 1572, and made a settlement in 1577; *Lancs. and Ches. Rec.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 255; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 34, m. 138; *ibid.* 39, m. 13. Ralph Houghton was purchaser in 1593; *ibid.* *bdlc.* 55, m. 200. He was one of the 'comers to church but no communicants' in 1590; Gibson, *Lydfate Hall*, 146.

Richard Houghton of Kirklees in 1616 married Bridget daughter of Adam Mort; *Dugdale, Vint.* (*Chet. Soc.*), 211. Richard son and heir apparent of Ralph Houghton of Kirklees in Aspull was a trustee for William Heaton in 1619; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 160. The succession of the various Richards and Ralphs is not quite clear; for Clemence Simpson, formerly wife of Ralph Houghton, in 1604-5 claimed an interest in the Great Scraps in Aspull; she had formerly had a writ of dower against Richard Houghton, uncle to Ralph, Thomas, and Anne Aspull, Christopher and Margaret Kenyon; *Duchy of Lanc. Plead. Hil.* 2 Jan. I, *bdlc.* 221.

A 'Mr. Ralph Houghton of Kirklees' was buried at Wigan 12 Aug. 1643.

²⁶ 'By some omission or mistake' his estate was in 1653 ordered to be sequestered; he had never 'acted against the State,' had subscribed the engagement, but was also required to take the oath of abjuration. He was conformable, but being infirm asked for more time; and afterwards took the oath. The sequestration was discharged in 1654; *Royalist Comp. Papers* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iii, 293; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, iv, 3124.

²⁷ In 1343 John de Ince, John son of Henry de Tyldesley, and Robert son of Robert de Hindley were charged with having overthrown the house of William son of Adam de Bradshagh at Aspull, and shot at him; *Assize R.* 430, m. 18 d. 20 d. 26.

In 1473 Henry Bradshagh held a messuage of the lord of Manchester, by rent of 2d. and 2d. for ward of the castle; *Mamecestre*, 480. The name of William Bradshagh of Aspull occurs in a list of the local gentry compiled about 1512. William Bradshagh contributed to the subsidy of 1541, 'for £20 in goods'; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 143. For his will see *Lancs. and Ches. Wills* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 187.

James Bradshagh in 1568 was deforciant of fourteen messuages in Aspull, Wigan, Hindley, and other places; Humphrey Bradshagh was one of the plaintiffs; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 30, m. 75. Roger Bradshagh was a purchaser or feeoffee in 1583; *ibid.* *bdlc.* 45, m. 122. He was reported as 'soundly affected in religion' in 1590; Gibson, *Lydfate Hall*, 246.

Margaret Bradshagh, daughter of Roger Hindley, was in 1598 found to have held lands in Aspull called the Several or Inland of Miles Gerard by the hundredth part of a knight's fee; and other lands of Roger Hindley. Elizabeth Bradshagh, her daughter and heir, was only a year old; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xvii, no. 43.

Roger Bradshagh was a freeholder in 1600; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc.), i, 247. The same or a later Roger contributed to the subsidy of 1622 as a landowner; *ibid.* 162. He died 17 June 1625, holding three messuages and cottages and lands in Aspull of Edward Mosley, as of the manor of Manchester, by the tenth part of the eighth part of a knight's fee; also other messuages and lands in Hindley; William and John were his sons by his first wife, living in 1619, and Edward by his second wife Ellen; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xxvi, no. 52.

There is a short pedigree of these Bradshags in *Dugdale, Vint.* 54.

About the end of the 17th century Nathaniel Molyneux had lands in the Hall of Bradshaw in Aspull, Westhoughton, &c.

²⁸ The Atherton family may have derived their holding here as also in Hindley from a grant by Adam de Hindley. In each township it seems to have descended to the Lathoms of Wolfall. The evidence, however, is defective.

In 1420 Thomas de Atherton and Margery his wife were deforciant of eight messuages in Aspull, &c.; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 5, m. 16. In 1473 Thomas Lathom of Knowsley held of the lord of Manchester a messuage in Aspull, in right of his wife, daughter and heir of Henry Atherton of Prescott, by the rent of 3d. with 3d. for ward of the castle; *Mamecestre*, 481.

The Lathoms, as the inquiries show, held the lands here till the end of the 16th century, when Thomas Lathom and Frances his wife disposed of them; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 36, m. 158, 250.

²⁹ Robert Law or Lowe in 1473 held a messuage of the lord of Manchester, by a rent of 3d. and 3d. for castle ward; *Mamecestre*, 481.

³⁰ Alexander Rigby of Middleton in Gossnargh, who died in 1621, held land in Aspull of Thomas Gerard by a rent of 10s. 8d.; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iii, 456, 458. His son, Joseph Rigby 'of Aspull,' Parliamentary officer, to whom it had been bequeathed, is named in the pedigree in *Dugdale, Vint.* 245; *Dier. Nat. Biog.* Joseph and Alexander Rigby were clerks of the peace under the Commonwealth; *Pal. Note Bk.* iv, 144-5. The father, Major Joseph Rigby was, however, accused of 'impeding profits,' by trying by threats to secure the lands of 'pajists and delinquents' for himself under value; *Cal. of Com. for Compounding* i, 371. The son, Alexander, was said to have joined Lord Derby in 1651; *Cal. Com. Advancing Money*, iii, 1455.

³¹ In addition to those already named Robert Pennington, Robert Gorton, Roger Rycroft, and John Ainscough were free-

A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

In 1626 the landowners contributing to the subsidy were Roger Hindley, the heirs of Roger Bradshaw, Thomas Gidlow, and Ralph Houghton. The two last-named, as convicted recusants, paid double.⁵⁵

The hearth tax roll of 1666 shows that 135 hearths were charged. The most considerable houses were those of Richard Green, nine hearths; Peter Orrell and James Dukinfield, eight each; Major Rigby and Thomas Molyneux, seven each; and Edward Gleast, six.⁵⁶

John Roscow of Aspull compounded for his estate under the Commonwealth.⁵⁷ Besides Thomas and Richard Gerard of Highfield, the following 'papists' registered estates here in 1717:—James and Roger Leigh, Thomas Cooke, and Robert Taylor.⁵⁸

The land tax returns of 1797 show the landowners

to have been Robert Holt Leigh, Sir Richard Clayton, and others.⁵⁹

In connexion with the Established Church St. Elizabeth's was built in 1882 by Mr. Roger Leigh. The patronage is vested in trustees.⁶⁰ There is also a licensed chapel known as Hindley Hall chapel.

There are Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist, and Independent Methodist churches.

The adherents of the ancient faith were formerly indebted to the lords of the manor for the mission established at Highfield; the Jesuits were serving it in 1701.⁶¹ In 1858 the permanent church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception was erected⁶²; and more recently services have been commenced at New Springs.

WINWICK

NEWTON
HAYDOCK
WINWICK WITH HULME
ASHTON

GOLBORNE
LOWTON
KENYON
CULCHETH

HOUGHTON, MIDDLETON,
AND ARBURY
SOUTHWORTH WITH
CROFT

The ancient parish of Winwick lies between Sankey Brook on the south-west and Glazebrook and a tributary on the north and east, the distance between these brooks being $4\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 miles. The extreme length of the parish is nearly 10 miles, and its area 26,502 acres.

The highest ground is on the extreme north-west border, about 350 ft.; most of the surface is above the 100 ft. level, but slopes down on three sides to the boundaries, 25 ft. being reached in Hulme in the south. The geological formation consists of the Coal Measures in the northern and western parts of the parish, and of the Bunter series of the New Red Sandstone in the remainder. Except Culcheth, which belonged to the fee of Warrington, the whole was

included in the barony of Makerfield, the head of which was Newton.

The townships were arranged in four quarters for contributions to the county lay, to which the parish paid one-eighth of the hundred levy, each quarter paying equally:—(1) Winwick with Hulme, half; Newton, half; (2) Lowton and Kenyon, half; Haydock and Golborne, half; (3) Ashton; (4) Culcheth, two-thirds; Southworth and Croft, a third. To the ancient 'fifteenth,' out of a levy of £106 9s. 6d. on the hundred, the parish contributed £8 3s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., as follows:—Newton, £1 10s.; Haydock, 10s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Ashton, £2 14s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Golborne, 8s.; Lowton, 15s. 8d.; Culcheth, £1 8s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; Southworth and Croft, 9s. 2d.; Middleton with Arbury, 6s. 8d.

holders in 1600; *Misc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 249, 251.

Robert Pennington contributed to the subsidy in 1622; *ibid.* 162. Pennington Hall is still marked on the map.

Robert Gorton purchased a messuage &c. in 1581; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 43, m. 129. He died 1624, holding a messuage and lands in Aspull of Edward Mosley, lord of Manchester, by the twentieth part of the eighth part of a knight's fee; James, his son and heir, was aged forty and more; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xxvi, no. 48. James died soon afterwards; *ibid.* xxvi, no. 11.

Roger Ryecroft seems to have purchased part of the Lathom holding; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 36, m. 250. He died 15 Dec. 1612 holding of Miles Gerard, as of the manor of Aspull; his eldest son William having died before him he was succeeded by his grandson, Roger Ryecroft the younger, son of William; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), iii, 314.

Thomas Shaw and Alice his wife, and John Ainscough and Ellen his wife, were deforcians of a messuage and lands in Aspull in 1392; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 54, m. 67. Miles Ainscough of Aspull was a juror in 1619; *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 127.

John son of Henry del Ford of Aspull recovered land here from Robert son of Richard de Ince and a number of others, including John de Buckshagh, in 1356; *Duchy of Lanc. Assize R. 5, m. 29.* Emma de Buckshagh, who had been 'swived' for felony and died in 1401, held as widow of William Buckshagh some land here of Robert de Hulton and Katherine his wife, in right of the latter. Ellen daughter of William de Buckshagh was the heir, and twenty-two years of age in 1404; *Lancs. Inq. (Chet. Soc.)*, i, 79, 80.

The Suttons and Gorsuches of Scuriebrick also held land here, as appears by their inquisitions. Edward Gorsuch had a dispute as to lands called Amoll and Brandearth in Aspull in 1639; *Execd. Dep.* 26.

Hugh Swansey of Chorley was in 1567 found to have held lands in Aspull of William Gerard of Ince by a rent of 4d.; Robert was his son and heir; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xi, no. 29. Robert Swansey and Anne his wife, and Edward their son and heir apparent, were deforcians of lands in Aspull four years later; John Ainscough was one of the plaintiffs; *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdlc.* 33, m. 146.

Peter Catterall of Shevington (1583)

had held part of the Hospitallers' lands by a rent of 18d.; *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* xiv, no. 70.

A yeoman family named Peraberton held land under the Hindleys. They became Quakers, suffering accordingly, and emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1682, being among the earliest settlers; *Friends' Misc.* (Phila.), vii; *Life of John Peraberton*.

⁵⁵ *Lay Subs. R. bdlc.* 133, no. 312, Lancs.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.* bdlc. 250, no. 9, Lancs.

⁵⁷ *Cal. of Com. for Compounding*, ii, 1151.

⁵⁸ *Engl. Cath. Nonjurors*, 153.

⁵⁹ R. H. Leigh possessed Hindley Hall, Bank House, Leyland's and Morris's; the devisees of James Hodson had Halliwell and Leylands, the same and — Doncaster had Kirkless; Sir R. Clayton had Gidlow Hall, and Sir John Smith Bradshaw Hall.

⁶⁰ Bridgeman, *Wigan Ch.* (Chet. Soc.), 784; *Lond. Gaz.* 24 Apr. 1883.

⁶¹ Poley, *Rec. Soc. Jesus*, v, 320; Fr. Richard Moore was in charge, with an allowance of £5. Soon after him Fr. John Bennet was there until his death in 1751; *ibid.* v, 323; vii, 50. At this time 'Mr. Fazakerley' is named as the owner or tenant of Highfield.

⁶² *Salford Dioc. Cal.*