

Eccles on his estate at Mill Hill. In 1860 the Mill Hill Congregational Church was opened; the former chapel, devoted to the purposes of a day and Sunday school, was enlarged in 1885 and 1903.⁵⁹ Another church was opened at Cherry Tree in 1887.⁶⁰

The chapel of the United Methodist Free Church at Waterfall was erected in 1861 and has since been enlarged.⁶¹ There is a Primitive Methodist chapel in Bentham Street.

The Roman Catholic church of St. Peter-in-Chains, Mill Hill, was founded in 1889.

WALTON-LE-DALE

Waleton, xiii cent.; Waleton in le (la) Dale, usual since A.D. 1300.

The township lies on the south side of the River Ribble to the south-east of and almost opposite to the town of Preston; to the west and south it is bounded by the hundred of Leyland, the River Lostock and the tributary Clayton Brook forming the division on the latter side for some distance. The River Darwen flows through the north-eastern part of the township before falling into the Ribble, the two waters inclosing the village of Walton-le-Dale in a long peninsula. Ordinary tides flow a short distance above the point where the north-western boundary terminates in the River Ribble. The greater part of the township does not exceed 100 ft. in elevation above the ordnance datum; the highest ground reaches 300 ft. in the southernmost point. The area is 4,683 acres, and the population in 1901 numbered 11,271 persons,¹ of whom the larger part were at Bamber Bridge and Higher Walton. In the greater part of the township the subsoil consists of the Bunter pebble beds, but on the eastern side there are small areas of the Millstone Grit, Lower Coal Measures and Permian rocks. The soil is a rich loam.

Two main roads converge at the village and cross the river by Ribble Bridge, a stone bridge of three arches built in 1782, 50 yds. above the site of an older erection; the road from Manchester and Chorley crosses the River Lostock at Bamber Bridge and passes through the village of that name and Brownedge; that from Blackburn passes through Higher Walton. An inferior road connects with the main road from Preston to Clitheroe at Samlesbury. The Liverpool, Blackburn and Accrington line of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company passes through the southern part of the township, with stations at Lostock Hall and Bamber Bridge; from the latter place a branch line called the Bamber Bridge and Preston extension runs through Preston Junction to Preston, and from it a branch line passes over Walton Moss to connect with the main line of the London and North Western Railway Company; a branch of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal terminates on Walton Summit, and used to be connected with Preston by a tram line which passes through the village of Bamber Bridge.

The land consists principally of meadow and pasture; there is some arable, and in the lower ground a considerable amount of market gardening is carried on; there is a fair amount of woodland scattered over the township.²

A local board was formed in the year 1877, but under the provisions of the Act of 1894 the township is now governed by an urban district council of twelve members, and for urban purposes is divided into four wards.

The Working Men's Institute was erected in 1881 at the charge of Mr. Richard Calvert, who also furnished it with books and fittings.

The principal industry is cotton-spinning, carried on at Flats Mill in the village; there is also a water corn-mill.

Bamber Bridge is a populous village distant 2 miles south from Walton-le-Dale; it contains three extensive cotton manufactories. The hamlet of Brownedge, where there are iron-works, is a mile north on an eminence. School Lane is another hamlet. The village of Lostock Hall, formerly called Cuerden Green, is 2 miles west of Bamber Bridge. There is a cotton-spinning factory there also.

Higher Walton, formerly called Moon's Mill, is a village situated a mile east from Walton-le-Dale on the Blackburn road. There are two cotton factories, also yarn and piece dyeing works. Darwen Bank, standing in its own grounds of 70 acres, occupies an eminence near the village from which extensive and beautiful views of the neighbourhood may be obtained. Prospect Hill, the residence of Mr. William Gent, occupies a similar position.

Traces of a Roman station of minor importance were found here in 1855 by men employed in the repair of the highways during excavation for gravel of a large mound known as the 'Plump,' and two or three years later during excavations made in a garden 150 yds. to the south-west of the mound. A variety of miscellaneous articles were found, including pottery and coins. It has been suggested that the station was the Rigodunum of Ptolemy.³

In 1253 the boundaries of Walton against the township of Brindle, and in 1283 against Cuerdale, were for the first time properly defined by perambulation.

In answer to their petition pontage for five years was granted in 1302 to the bailiffs and good men of 'Walton-in-la-Dale' for building and repairing the bridges of Ribble and Derwent, to be collected from goods intended 'for sale passing over or under them.' A similar grant for two years was made to the commonalty of Blackburnshire in 1339 for the repair of Ribble Bridge. Again in 1400 pontage was granted for three years, renewed in 1403 for a similar period, for the repair of Ribble Bridge and for the construction of a stone bridge by the old one which had been broken by floods and ice.⁴

A number of Walton people were indicted and fined in 1323 for having stolen the goods and chattels

⁵⁹ Nightingale, *Lancs. Nonconf.* ii, 88-92, with view. ⁶⁰ Ibid. 109.

⁶¹ Abram, *Blackburn*, 585.

¹ The *Census Rep.* 1901 gives 4,658 acres, of which 44 acres are inland water; there are also 21 acres of tidal water and 3 of foreshore.

² The agricultural returns for 1905 give arable land 199 acres, permanent grass 3,684 acres, woods and plantations 115 acres.

³ *Trans. Lancs. and Ches. Hist. Soc.* viii, 127-40; *ibid.* 352; Watkin, *Roman Lancs.* 203-5.

⁴ *Parl. R.* i, 104b; *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, p. 54; 1338-40, p. 301; 1399-1401, p. 374; 1401-3, p. 236. Cf. Fishwick, *Preston*, 34. The waters of Ribble and Derwent were described in the petition to Parliament as together 70 perches wide.

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of people fleeing from the Scots at Lostock Bridge about Midsummer the preceding year.⁵

The following field-names occur—Merstalknoll, Shuttlingfeld, Wyndebonkfeld, Nelfelt, Edolf Acre, Brounecge,⁶ Mosvale, Suthale, Priding, Schipingflat, Alderthlegh and Huddefeld, possibly so called from one Huttemon, whose son Roger lived temp. Edward I; and these local features—Closbroke, Evesbroke, Bradleybroke, Holmesnape, Holynsape, Thingeschawbroc and Bymbrig, the ridge or 'rigg' of one Bimme, whose son Roger held lands in the time of Robert Banastre on the north side of Burnulgate, the road leading to Brindle, and adjoining the Eves Brook and the oxgang lands. The name, being eventually applied to the bridge over the little River Lostock, took the form of Bamber Bridge, and has now extended to the district on the north side of the bridge.

The following seneschals of Walton have been noted :—

Thomas Banastre, *ante* 1291
Gilbert de Haydock, temp. Edw. I
William de Hesketh, *ante* 1291
William de Blackburn, 11 Edw. II
Richard de Bradshagh, 13 Edw. II
Gilbert de Southworth, 17 Edw. II
Matthew de Haydock, temp. Edw. II

There are traces of four or five ancient crosses.⁷ The folk-lore of the district has nothing distinctive.⁸

Leland writes of this district :—' Within a mile of Preston I cam over Darwent River, the which at Penwardine parochie, a celle to Evesham, goith into Ribil. This Darwent devidith Lelandshire from Anderness (*sic*) and a mile above, beyond the place wher I passid over Darwent, Mr. Langton dwelith at Walton-on-Darwent and is baron of Newton in Macrefeld. . . Half a mile beyond Darwent I passid over the great stone bridge of Rybill having a v great arches.'⁹

During the Civil War there were two skirmishes at Walton, the first on 15 August 1644, when the Parliamentary forces under Col. Nicholas Shuttleworth took prisoners Lord Ogilvy and Col. Huddleston of Millom Castle; the second on 15 August 1648, when Cromwell defeated the Royalist forces under the Duke of Hamilton and Sir Marmaduke Langdale. In this engagement the Royalists made a stubborn stand on Ribble Bridge, but were ultimately driven over Darwen Bridge and up the hill above Walton Town. Their artillery and transport with the duke's baggage were taken standing upon Walton Copp. Charles II also passed over Ribble Bridge in his march through Lancashire in 1651.¹⁰

In 1681 William Pulford, gent., obtained damages against the commonalty of Blackburnshire for trespass against the statute of hue and cry after he had been attacked by two malefactors in the lane leading between Walton and Bamber Bridge.¹¹

Writing about 1685 Dr. Kuerden thus refers to

the objects of interest on the highway between Bamber Bridge and Ribble Bridge :—

Passing the Lostoc Water at a fair stone bridge parting Leyland from Blackburn Hundred you meet with the other road from Chorley to Preston, and on your left the ancient seat of Walton of Little Walton, but now belonging to Mr. Ratcliff Ashton son of Mr. Ashton of Cuerdale. About half a mile further is another road from Brindle to Preston and shortly after you come to Walton, and leaving Walton Hall on the left, belonging to Sir Charles Houghton, you cross the Derwent at a large bridge which is 20 yds. between the springers, then enter Walton Cop for half a mile well rampyr'd with stone. On the right is a great road from Blackburn to Preston. At the end of the Cop you pass over a stone bridge where the Scotch army was first routed under Duke Hamilton by Cromwell.¹²

He describes Ribble Bridge as 'one of the stateliest stone bridges in the north of England.' It was the abandonment of the defence of this bridge which proved fatal to the Jacobite forces in 1715, and led to the surrender of the Earl of Derwentwater to Generals Wills and Carpenter.

The Mock Corporation of Walton founded in 1701 was not a Jacobite institution, but a social club patronized by those of the county gentry who sought occasions for convivial meetings. The officers included a mayor, deputy mayor, recorder, bailiff, chaplain, serjeant, physician, and mace-bearer; among other officers appointed during the early years of the institution were those of house-groper, jester, poet laureate, champion, huntsman or master of the hounds, sword-bearer, in 1708 a slut-kisser, and in 1711 a custard-eater, besides many others. Four staves covered with silver bands, on which are inscribed the names of the corporate officers for each year, and two silver-headed wands preserved at Cuerden Hall, remain of the once more numerous regalia. The 'moot hall' was held at the Unicorn Inn, near Darwen Bridge, and among the many notable persons who served the office of mayor were Thomas Duke of Norfolk (1709), James Earl of Derwentwater (1711), and Viscount Molyneux (1740). No records were kept after 1796. Many years later they were rescued from destruction at the hands of frequenters of the 'Unicorn' by Sir Philip Hoghton, bart., who removed records and regalia to Walton Hall, then his residence. In 1834 the regalia were removed to Cuerden Hall, the records remaining in the hands of Sir Henry de Hoghton, bart.¹³

Several noteworthy men have been natives of the township, including Edward Baines, the author of the history of the county, first issued in 1836. He was born in 1774, and became a journalist, editing the *Leeds Mercury* in 1801. He was M.P. for Leeds 1834-41, and died in 1848.¹⁴ Roger Baxter, S.J., 1784-1827, was a missionary in Maryland, and wrote historical and controversial books.¹⁵ Thomas Brindle, D.D., 1791-1871, established Priory Park College, near Bath.¹⁶ Joseph Livesey, 1794-1884, was famous as a temperance advocate; he lived chiefly in Preston; his *Autobiography* was published in 1881.¹⁷

⁵ Coram Reg. R. 254, Rex m. 42, 52 d. Ellen de Plesington lost £10 worth of goods, the Abbot of Holme Cultram and Patrick de Curwen lost ten oxen; others lost £10 worth of cows and mares at Anderton.

⁶ The dyke called Brown Edge, extending to Dene Brook, is mentioned in a grant by Richard de Cliff to his son John in 1306; Add. MS. 32106, no. 516.

⁷ *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Soc.* xviii, 58-9.

⁸ *N. and Q.* (Ser. 4), vi, 211.

⁹ Leland, *Itin.* v, 83.

¹⁰ *War in Lancs.* (Chet. Soc.), 55, 65-7; *Civil War Tracts* (Chet. Soc.), 262, 288. See also Carlyle, *Cromwell's Letters*, no. 64; Broxap, *Civil War*, 167.

¹¹ *Exch. of Pleas*, Trin. 33 Chas. II, m. 20.

¹² *Local Glean. Lancs. and Ches.* i, 212. See further in the account of Prestoo.

¹³ H. H. Barker, *Mock Corporation* (Blackburn, 1874).

¹⁴ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*; Gillow, *Bibl. Dict. of Engl. Cath.* i, 157.

¹⁶ Gillow, *op. cit.* i, 297; he became a Benedictine in 1811.

¹⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

BLACKBURN HUNDRED

BLACKBURN

Alfred Borron Clay, 1831-68, attained distinction as an historical painter.¹⁸

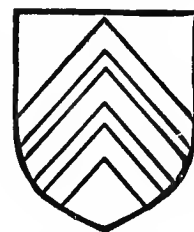
WALTON, comprising two plough-MANOR lands, formed part of King Edward's demesne of Blackburn Hundred in 1066, and twenty years later of the demesne of Roger de Busli and Albert Grelley, who had leased the manor with the remainder of the hundredal demesne, having remitted the rent for three years to allow the farmers to re-stock and restore these lands to cultivation.¹⁹ Soon afterwards the manor passed with the hundred to the Lacys of Pontefract and by Henry de Lacy (1146-77) was granted with Mellor, Eccleshill, Little Harwood, Over and Nether Darwen to Robert Banastre to hold by the service of one knight, rendering 10s. yearly at Midsummer for ward of Lancaster Castle, of which sum 4s. was contributed by this manor.²⁰

The descent of the Banastres and of their successors the Langtons having been given in the Feudal Baronage,²¹ it is only necessary to add here a few additional notes more immediately relating to Walton. In 1253 Robert Banastre brought proceedings in the King's Court against Peter de Burnhull for felling trees in Walton Wood, and in consequence a perambulation was ordered to fix the bounds between Walton and Brindle.²² The abundance of wood in the northern and eastern parts of the township at this date indicates the aptness of the name 'weald tūn.' Banastre obtained in 1257 a charter of free warren here, and in 1278 took action against four of the principal freeholders who had withdrawn their suit from Walton Mill, but they denied his title to the mill.²³ He married in 1269 Alesia relict of Philip de Legh of co. Stafford and daughter of Robert de Grendon of Grendon and Shenstone in the same county, and by this union acquired some small interest in that county.²⁴

Many grants of land were made by Robert

Banastre to free tenants in Walton between 1260 and 1291, creating the numerous free tenancies which distinguish this township.²⁵

After the acquisition of the manor by his marriage with Alesia Banastre,²⁶ John de Langton obtained in 1301 a grant for a market on Thursdays at Walton and a yearly fair on the eve, day and morrow of St. Luke the Evangelist (17-19 October). From the Earl of Lincoln he obtained remission of the demand of puture for his foresters when passing through Walton, a privilege afterwards confirmed to John de Langton in 1318 by Thomas Earl of Lancaster.²⁷ Upon the collection of the subsidy levied



LANGTON. *Argent three chevrons gules.*

in 1332 Walton was assessed at 46s., of which sum John de Langton paid nearly a third, whilst Henry, William and Geoffrey Banastre, John de Walton, James de Lostock and Adam de Balshagh each paid 3s., William de Colville, Alexander de Langley and John del Redding each 2s., representing the principal freeholders.²⁸ In 1342 Robert de Langton, kt., settled upon his son John the rents and services of all the free tenants and leaseholders in the manor, who at this time were required to do suit to his mill by grinding their grain there, to make four appearances yearly at the halmotes, to be subject to the 'birlagh,' and to be 'justisable' as they had always been before that time.²⁹ He died in 1361, having made a liberal provision for his younger son Robert, ancestor of the Langtons of Lowe in Hindley.

John de Langton, living in 1355, predeceased his father, leaving a son Ralph, who succeeded his grandfather in 1361, being then of full age.³⁰ He had

¹⁸ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

¹⁹ *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 286b.

²⁰ Kuerden MSS. Coll. of Arms. The grant comprised Waletun, Meluer, Hecelshul, Harauda and the two Dereuents for the service of one knight's fee. Witnesses, Richard son of Gubalt, William son of Aldelin, William de Federstun, Hugh son of Lefwin, Edward his brother and Richard de Arches.

²¹ *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 366-75.

²² *Cur. Reg. R.* 149, m. 11; Close, 37 & 38 Hen. III, 68, m. 9d. The marriage to Alice daughter and heir of Gilbert Woodcock of Cuerden, alleged by Dr. Kuerden and repeated in *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 372, must be disregarded.

²³ De Banco R. 23, m. 5. They were Henry Banastre, Henry son of Ralph le Blound, Geoffrey Banastre (Warine in roll 28, m. 41) and Henry Laghmon.

²⁴ De Banco R. 6, m. 47; Staff. Hist. Coll. vi (1), 61; xvii, 295. Scolastica, possibly a daughter of Robert de Grendon, brother of Alesia, married John de Grendon and had lands in Walton-le-Dale; Allote or Elysote, apparently another daughter, married a Walton free tenant, and her descendants held lands here for several generations; Hoghton D. in Add. MS. 32106.

²⁵ Add. MS. 32106, no. 520 et seq.; Kuerden MSS. (Coll. of Arms), vols. iii-iv, W. Between 1213 and 1219 Thurstan Banastre purchased for 15 marks

the rights in the manor of Mabel and Hawise daughters of Emery de Berneville; Hoghton D. 453. Before 1232 Thurstan Banastre gave land here to William de Perpont, who gave it to Richard son of Robert de Hindley, and he to Henry the clerk son of Walter son of Geoffrey de Walton for 6d. rent and a pair of white gloves. Alan, seneschal to John constable of Chester, attested both charters; Hoghton D. 374, FF 252. Infeudations had been made before Robert Banastre's time to the families of Coleville and Amelcote.

Walter de Walton by his marriage with Allota de Grendon had besides Henry the clerk a daughter Ameria, heir to her brother. She married Gilbert of the Forest, and gave this land to Henry son of John de Blackburn and Ellen his wife to hold of Robert Banastre for 7d. rent; Hoghton D. 841. It descended with other lands of the Blackburns in the manor.

²⁶ Edmund of Lancaster granted the marriage of Alice kinswoman (i.e. granddaughter) and heir of Robert Banastre to 'our very dear friend John de Langton' for 250 marks by deed dated at London on Sat. after SS. Simon and Jude (1293 or 1294) and sealed with yellow wax, bearing three lions passant with a label in chief; Dods. MSS. cliii, 136.

²⁷ Chart. R. 29 Edw. I (94), m. 12; Hoghton D. 583.

²⁸ *Exch. Lay Subs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs.

and Ches.), 78. The other freeholders were Hugh de Haydock, John de Blackburn, John de Grendon, John de Hanshaw and Henry son of Henry (Laghmon) each 12d., and Adam de Windybank and William Gerstan each 18d.

In 1332 John de Langton, chivaler, sued the chief freeholders in Walton for trespass, viz. Henry Banastre, John son of Henry de Blackburn, John son of Geoffrey de Walton, John de Hanshawe, Alan de Eccleston, John de la Haye, Henry son of Matthew de Haydock and Hugh his brother, Adam de Kenyon the younger and Richard de Lauton; Coram Rege R. 288, m. 101.

Two years later the Abbot of Evesham complained that he had been disseised of 100 acres of moor and pasture in Farington by the tenants of Walton, viz. Robert son of John de Langton, Hugh de Haydock, John son of Geoffrey de Walton, Alexander de Langeley and John his son, James de Lostock, Henry son of Henry de Blackburn, Geoffrey Banastre, John de Hanshaw and John de Glendon; Coram Rege R. 297, m. 93.

²⁹ Hoghton D. 599. The names of the free tenants (36) and leaseholders (32) are fully set out.

³⁰ Lands in Balshagh in Walton were given to the younger Robert in 1334; Hoghton D. 599. The manor of Hindley, half the manor of Golborne, and lands in Walton, which were settled upon the

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licences for his oratory at Walton in 1367, 1372 and 1374, and as 'Rauf de Langeton, baroun of Neweton,' was a witness in the Scrope and Grosvenor case in 1386.³¹ He had licence for oratories in his manor-houses at Newton and Walton in 1378, and died in 1406, leaving issue by his wife Joan daughter of William Radcliffe of the Tower, who survived him, a son Henry, then aged forty, upon whom he had settled lands in Walton in 1391 worth £20 a year on the occasion of his son's marriage to Agnes daughter of John de Davenport.³² Henry died in 1419, leaving Ralph his eldest son, then twenty-three years of age, who probably received knighthood after the fall of Meaux in 1422, in which year he is described as knight.³³ He married Alice, whose parentage is unknown, and died in 1431, Henry his son being then but twelve years old.³⁴ Henry died in 1471, his son Richard being of full age and married before 20 April 1467 to Isabella daughter of Peter Gerard of Brynn.³⁵

Richard Langton was made a knight by Lord Stanley in Scotland in 1482 and died in 1500, Ralph his son being twenty-six years of age and already married during his father's lifetime to Joan daughter of Christopher Southworth of Samlesbury, kt.³⁶ Ralph Langton, esq., settled his estates in 1503 and by will bequeathed 20 marks 'towards the making and repairing of the Low church if the parishioners will build the same.' He died the same year, leaving Richard his eldest son, aged nine years, who died in 1511 during his minority, his brother Thomas being then aged fourteen years. Joan Langton, having acquired the wardship of her sons, sold it shortly before her death in 1504 to Edward Stanley, kt.,³⁷ afterwards created Lord Mounteagle, who married Thomas Langton to his base daughter Elizabeth.³⁸ Thomas was made a knight in 1533, had licence with his second wife Anne, base daughter of Thomas Talbot, in 1545 for an oratory to be erected in their

manor-house of Walton, and was sheriff in 1556 and 1567.³⁹ He died in 1569, Edward his eldest son and his issue having predeceased him before 1558, when the family estates were entailed upon Leonard, then his eldest son and heir. Leonard died before his father, leaving issue by his wife Anne daughter of Thomas Leyburn of Cunswick, co. Westmorland, and relict of William Singleton, an only son, Thomas Langton, heir to his grandfather in 1569, and then aged eight years.⁴⁰ Thomas was contracted in marriage during his minority to Margaret daughter of Richard Shireburne of Stonyhurst, from whom he was divorced in 1580 when he married Elizabeth second daughter of John Savage of Clifton, kt., by whom he had no issue. Owing to various encumbrances upon his estates he alienated the manor of Walton in 1597 to Messrs. Sweeting and Hobbes, clothworkers of London,⁴¹ but this transference may have been connected with the fatal affray at Lea Hall in 1589 and the complications which that misfortune brought upon the last of the line of Langton, barons of Newton.⁴²

After this fatal conflict Langton and some forty-seven other persons were arrested and indicted for murder before special sessions of the justice summoned for the purpose, but three jurors only appeared.⁴³ No presentment could therefore be made. After abortive proceedings extending over more than two and a half years the Earl of Derby recommended to Cecil Lord Burghley the petition of those indicted, praying for their release, and deprecated further proceedings on the ground that some of the defendants were illiterate and unable to plead, whilst others 'are so great in kindred and affinity and so stored with friends as, if they should be burnt in the hand, I fear it will fall out to be a ceaseless and most dangerous quarrel betwixt the gentlemen that any county of her Majesty's hath this many years contained.'⁴⁴ It is probable that Langton made peace with Mr. Hoghton's widow by the payment of a large sum of

elder Robert and his issue by Margaret his wife, in 1335 descended to the Langtons of Lowe; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 194. For the inquest after Robert's death see *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 98. His manor of Walton comprised a chief messuage, 80 acres of land worth 100s., 20 acres pasture 20s., two water-mills and a fishery 80s., rents of free tenants, 104s. 9½d., at Christmas and St. Giles, rents of tenants at will £9 17s. 4d. Sum, £25 2s. 1½d.

³¹ Lich. Epis. Reg. Stretton, v, *passim*. *Scrope and Grosvenor R.H.*, 389.

³² Lich. Epis. Reg. vi, 140. Henry Langton and Agnes his wife had licence for their oratories in 1401; *ibid.* 146. *Inq. p.m.* in Towneley MS. DD, no. 1501. Walton was worth 20 marks a year in 1426.

³³ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 137; Hoghton D. 618. James Langton, a younger son of Henry Langton, was described as 'clerk' in 1413, and about sixteen years old when he had a dispensation to hold a benefice with cure in a cathedral or collegiate church; *Cal. Papal Letters*, vi, 412. He became parson of Wigan in 1432.

³⁴ Alice married secondly Richard second son of Hamon Masey of Rixton, and obtained a bond in 1431 from Richard Shireburne, Nicholas Butler of Rawcliffe and Hamon Masey of Rixton

for assignment of her dower; *Dep. Keeper's Rep.* xxxiii, App. 40.

³⁵ Hoghton D. 624. Tenements and free reots in Walton settled upon Isabella by Henry Langton are recited in Duchy of Lanc. *Inq. p.m.* iii, 101.

³⁶ Shaw, *Kts. of England*, ii, 19; Duchy of Lanc. *Inq. p.m.* iv, 45. ³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *First* (Chet. Soc. xcvi), 12.

³⁹ In 1542 some trouble arose within the lordship of Penwortham through Sir Thomas' steward assembling certain of his master's tenants in harness arrayed for war, to wit, 'in jack, sallet, bowe, arceer, swords and other waypons defensible' on horseback and on foot, ready to attend Sir Thomas to Berwick for service in Scotland, but forbidding them to wear the 'rede rose' or serve the king under the rule of Henry Farington, kt., the king's steward of Penwortham. He commanded them instead to wear Sir Thomas's badge of 'the madiashead' (his crest), and serve under him; *Duchy Plead.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 185.

In 1549 Sir Thomas, Marmaduke Tunstall and Piers Legh, kts., were commissioned by Prince Edward to furnish sixty meo of their tenants and others to serve as pioneers and to 'playe the souldyeres' in Scotland. Two out of fifteen persons appointed to serve from Walton refused to do so or to contribute towards the levy for their charges; *ibid.* iii, 89.

⁴⁰ Hoghton D. 833; *Inq. p.m.* xiii, 41. Sir Thomas' will is printed in *Lancs. Wills* (Chet. Soc. old ser. ii), 246. He desired burial in the south side of the chancel 'in the parish church of Lawe among my ancestors there lying,' bequeathed £20 towards the repair of the church, to his grandson at twenty-one years his gold chain, a standing cup of silver with cover being gilt, 'whereupon ys graven this worde carlome,' other silver plate, utensils, instruments of husbandry and all his harness and armour, also many legacies to kinsfolk and servants, among whom even his ploughboys were not forgotten.

⁴¹ Hoghton D. ii, 383; *Pal. of Lanc.* Feet of F. bdlc. 58, m. 43, by which John Dalston and Frances his wife, Thomas Langton, Thomas Fleetwood and Richard Fleetwood conveyed the manor and other estates to John Sweeting and William Hobbes.

⁴² See *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 374.

⁴³ Whitaker, *Whalley* (ed. 1876), ii, 334 n.

⁴⁴ Baines, *Lancs.* (ed. 1836), iii, 347. 8 Mar. 1594-5, Thomas Fleetwood had a writ of *amoveas manus* for the manors of Newton, Walton-le-Dale, Wigan, Mellor, Eccleshill, Over and Nether Darwen, Cuerden, Makerfield and Little Harwood, and the advowson of Wigan Church, late of Sir Thomas Langton, kt.; *Fine R.* 37 Eliz. pt. ii, no. 45.

money, raised doubtless by a mortgage of estates already encumbered, and that this led to the subsequent alienation of the manor.⁴⁶ Thomas Langton was made K.B. at the Coronation of James I, and dying at Westminster in 1604,⁴⁶ was succeeded in the barony of Newton by his kinsman Richard son of Thomas Fleetwood of Colwick.

Soon after acquiring the manor Messrs. Sweeting and Hobbes appear to have conveyed it to Richard Hoghton with other dependent manors in the hundreds of Blackburn and Leyland,⁴⁷ and in this family it has descended to the present owner, Sir James De Hoghton, bart.

Walton Hall was pulled down in 1834. It had previously undergone alterations which gave it a modern appearance, being a large structure of brick and stone with projecting gabled end wings and classic porch in the centre, in the pediment of which was the Hoghton coat of arms.⁴⁸

Court rolls of the manor have been preserved from 1625 to 1766, and rentals, &c., from 1659.

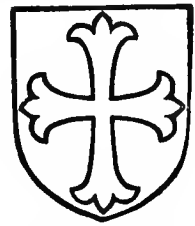
BANISTER HALL, also called Darwen Hall, lies in the northern part of the township towards Cuerdale and not far from the northern bank of the River Darwen. The estate probably represents a feoffment to a kinsman by one of the early lords of Walton. Henry Banastre had lands in Cuerdale and Walton in the early part of the reign of Henry III; Richard his son occurs in 1246 and 1248 and was the father of Henry, the elder, and Geoffrey, contemporaries of Robert Banastre, their chief lord.⁴⁹ Henry had sons, Henry the younger and William, both contributors to the subsidy levied in 1332, and Richard, who married Alice daughter of Roger son of Adam de Preston, and was ancestor of the Banastres of Preston.⁵⁰

Henry Banastre frequently occurs as one of the principal freeholders here from 1318 to 1348, and was one of the overseers appointed in 1343 to prevent the taking of salmon in the close season in the waters of Lune, Wyre, Ribble and Mersey.⁵¹ By his wife Matilda he had issue John his successor, who appealed John son of Henry de Blackburn of Walton in 1340

for the death of Ralph his brother, was pardoned for taking part in the great riot at Liverpool in 1345 on condition of serving in Gascony, was appointed one of the keepers of the peace in the county in 1350, and was returned the same year as one of the freeholders in Walton.⁵² In 1367 he passed his estates to feoffees, who conveyed them in 1372 to John Banastre, apparently son of the last-named John. As John Banastre, esq., he contributed to the poll tax of 1377, and was father of

Richard Banastre of Altham and probably of John Banastre of Walton, gent., who occurs from 1407 to 1432.⁵³ The descent of the family cannot be traced with certainty during the 15th century, but about 1460 John Banastre of Derwyne gave puture to the sheriff in respect of this estate.⁵⁴ According to Flower's *Visitation* Lawrence Banastre of Darwen Hall was the father of George, who contributed to the subsidy of 1523-4 upon lands here, and by Janet daughter of Lawrence Ainsworth of Pleasington, gent., had Lawrence and other sons.⁵⁵

Lawrence Banastre of Darwen Hall married Jane daughter of Richard Hoghton, kt., and with his son and heir Richard is named among the out-burgesses at Preston gild in 1542.^{56a} He died in 1558, leaving Richard his second but eldest surviving son, then aged seventeen (*sic*) years. Richard married Isabel daughter of Piers Farington of Farington, gent., and attended Preston gild in 1562 as an out-burgess with sons Thomas, Lawrence, George and Henry. As 'Richard Bannister, gent., of Darwin Hall *alias* Bannister in Walton' he was named as a debtor of £15 in the will of his uncle Alexander Hoghton, esq., in 1581.^{56b} He died before the date of Preston gild in 1582, at which five of his sons were present, including Thomas the eldest, with his sons Richard and George. Thomas married Alice daughter of Peter Stanley



BANASTRE. *Argent a cross patonce sable.*

⁴⁶ A survey of part of the Walton lands of Thomas Langton was made in 1596; Duchy of Lanc. Special Com. 548.

⁴⁶ An inscription copied by Dodsworth, formerly in Wigan Church, since removed to Duxbury Hall, describes him as 'a gentleman that many times tugged with extremities and made warre with the worst of misfortunes'; Abram, *Blackburn*, 710.

⁴⁷ Although nominally the manor passed at this time to Richard Hoghton, the actual owner for many years was the mortgagee. In 1624 Sir Gilbert Hoghton petitioned the House of Lords to require Sir William Cockayne to show his account of receipts from the manor and, being satisfied of his claims, to re-convey it to Sir Gilbert; *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* iii, App. 30.

An alienation of the manor in 1633 by Sir Gilbert Hoghton, bart., Thomas Standish of Duxbury and Edward Wrightington of Wrightington to Philip Earl of Chesterfield and John Byron, K.B., afterwards Lord Byron, who released his right to the earl in 1646, was no doubt connected with the marriage of Sir Gilbert's eldest son Richard to Sarah daughter of the Earl of Chesterfield; Hoghton D. 996.

⁴⁸ Abram, *Hist. of Blackburn*, 723. There is an engraved view of the hall after G. Pickering, as it stood shortly before its removal, in Baines' *Lancs.* (ed. 1836), iii, 348. A lead statue of King William III was taken to Hoghton Tower, where it now stands in the upper courtyard. Another building called Walton Hall was subsequently erected a short distance north-west of its site.

⁴⁹ Cuerdale D. Kuerden MSS. (Coll. of Arms), iv, K.; Hoghton D. 1362, 1440. In 1278 Robert Banastre took proceedings against Henry Banastre of Walton, Henry son of Ralph le Blound, Geoffrey Banastre and Henry Laghmon to compel them to do suit at his mill of Walton; De Banco R. 23, m. 5; 28, m. 41.

⁵⁰ *Exch. Lay Subs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 78; Hoghton D. William son of Henry Banastre of Walton and Henry son of Richard Banastre of Preston were among those appealed by Adam son of Hugh de Clitheroe in 1313 for the death of Roger his brother; *Cal. Pat.* 1313-17, p. 53. Henry Banastre of Preston was pardoned in 1318 as an adherent of Earl Thomas; *ibid.* 1317-21, p. 233.

⁵¹ Hoghton D.; *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 172.

⁵² *Coram Rege R.* 321, Rex m. 14 d.; *Cal. Pat.* 1343-5, p. 530; 1348-50, p. 533; Rentals and Surv. R. 377, m. 4. John Banastre of Walton, gent., was outlawed in 1447 for felony and treason committed at Newton in 1439; Pal. of Lanc. Chan. Misc. bdl. 1, file 8, m. 15. In a petition for a grant of his goods and chattels he is described as of Church; *ibid.* m. 17.

⁵³ Hoghton D. In 1389 John Walton of Farington was pardoned for having broken out of prison at Winchester, where he was confined upon suspicion of abducting a damsel of the queen's bedchamber whilst staying with Robert de Veer; *Cal. Pat.* 1388-92, p. 20. John Banastre, yeoman of the household to Edward III, had a grant of an annuity of 100s. in 1376 which was confirmed in 1378 and 1399; *ibid.* 1377-81, p. 153; 1399-1401, p. 73.

⁵⁴ MS. at Huntroyde.

⁵⁵ *Visit.* (Chet. Soc. lxxxi), 35; Subs. R. Lancs. bdl. 130, no. 82.

^{56a} *Preston Guild R.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 19.

^{56b} Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xi, 58; *Visit.* of 1567, p. 35; *Guild R.* 28; Abram, *Blackburn*, 727.

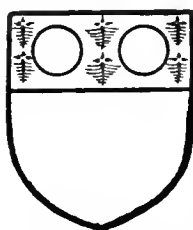
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of Bickerstaffe. In 1590 he joined his brothers Lawrence and George in the alienation of the estate to Edward Walmsley, gent.,⁵⁷ younger son of Thomas Walmsley of Showley, esq., who died in 1604 seised of 'Darwyn Hall,' otherwise Banister Hall, which he held of Thomas Langton, kt., in socage, leaving Thomas his son aged nine and a-half years.⁵⁸ Thomas married Frances daughter of Edward Stanley of Moor Hall, by whom he had an only daughter Anne, the wife of Radcliffe Hoghton. She died in 1641 seised of this estate, her uncle Edward Walmsley being her heir.⁵⁹ In 1649 he obtained the discharge of the estate from sequestration, he having been in 'the first war'; his fine was £114. In 1655 he petitioned for the discharge of other lands in Walton sequestered for the recusancy of Frances wife of his brother Thomas Walmsley, she being then recently dead.⁶⁰ He held the hall and demesne in 1662 under a free rent of 18d. to the lord of the honor of Clitheroe,⁶¹ and died in 1673, when his nephew William Winckley of Billington succeeded to the estate as eldest surviving son and heir of Thomas Winckley by his wife Rosamond eldest daughter of Edward Walmsley the elder. He married Isabel daughter of Robert and sister and co-heir of William Elston of Brockholes. Upon his death in 1703 he was succeeded by his eldest surviving son Edward,⁶² who sold the estate in 1739 to John Atherton of Preston, who devised it by will in 1768 to his son John.

The estate was purchased about 1800 by William Assheton of Downham and Cuerdale, whose great-grandson Mr. Ralph Cockayne Assheton of Downham is the present owner.

The south front of the old hall has been rebuilt in brick, but the original exterior remains on the north side.

LITTLE WALTON. This estate was probably



WALMSLEY. Gules on a chief ermine two harts.



ASSHETON of Downham. Argent a mullet pierced sable.

created by a feoffment of one of the early lords of Walton. William de Walton,⁶³ living in 1253, was father of Geoffrey, whose son John had a grant from William son of Gilbert de Brockholes of lands in Walton, which the latter held by the feoffment of Robert Banastre for 5s. 6d. rent.⁶⁴ In 1327 William son of Geoffrey de Walton was pardoned for the death of Richard Torbock. John de Walton contributed to the subsidy levied in 1332,⁶⁵ and died about 1348, leaving issue William his heir and Henry, clerk to Earl Henry of Lancaster and Archdeacon of Richmond from 1349 to 1359. William de Walton recovered possession of a third part of the manor of Huyton in 1358, was living in 1376, when he vested his lands in Walton and Cuerden in trustees, and left issue Henry—who contributed to the poll tax of 1379, had licence in 1383 for his oratory at Walton,⁶⁶ and died without issue—and John, who negotiated a marriage for his son William in 1396–7 to Emma daughter of Thomas Bradley of Chippingdale.⁶⁷ William the son was still a minor in 1401, and died without issue, his brother Henry continuing the succession. He was an out-burgess at Preston gild in 1415, brought a plea in 1448 against John Bradley of Chipping, gent.,⁶⁸ and had issue James who married, before 1467, Joan younger daughter of Nicholas Singleton, and was an out-burgess at Preston gild in 1459.^{69a}

Richard eldest son of James Walton married Elizabeth daughter of James Moresby before 1490 and died in 1519, when William his son and heir paid relief at the court of Walton for his lands in Walton and Cuerden.⁶⁹ He died about 1552, leaving by Joan his wife Thomas, his successor, who survived his father only a few years, and died about December 1555, having had issue by Jane his wife a son William, whose wardship was sold to Thomas Langton, kt., in January 1556. William Walton was an out-burgess at the Preston gilds in 1562, and, with sons Thomas and William, in 1582 and 1602; he was assessed to the subsidy granted in 1599 in respect of his lands here,⁷⁰ and died soon after



WALTON. Argent a chevron gules between three falcons' heads erased sable.

⁵⁷ Guild R. 41; Harl. MS. 1549; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bde. 52, m. 129. The estate was described as consisting of twenty messuages, 470 acres of land, pasture, &c., and 40s. rent in Walton.

⁵⁸ Lancs. Inq. p.m. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 29.

⁵⁹ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xxx, 13. Thos. Walmsley of Banister Hall, gent., died in 1637 and was buried at Low church. His will is in Lancs. Wills (Chet. Soc. old ser. liv), 193.

⁶⁰ Cal. Com. for Comp. iii, 2037.

⁶¹ Hon. of Clitheroe Surv. MS.

⁶² Piccope MS. Pedigrees (Chet. Lib.), ii, 287; also deeds, &c., ibid. iii, 218, 264, 400. Among the Forfeited Estates Papers (W 36) is a decree of 1718 rejecting the claim of Thomas Winckley on behalf of Thomas Winckley, a minor. This claim set forth that Edward Winckley had in 1700 released to Thomas Winckley the son the capital messuage

called Banister Hall, &c., Swansey House in Whittle and other lands.

⁶³ Among the Walton deeds in Harl. MS. 2042, fol. 165, are a number relating to the manor of Grendon (co. Staff.). About 1368 William de Walton of Grendon granted his manor of Grendon to John Curteys and others; ibid. 165. He sealed with a lion rampant.

⁶⁴ Curia Reg. R. 149, m. 11; Walton D. Kuerden MSS. Coll. of Arms, iii, W 49. Many deeds relating to this family will be found in Harl. MS. 2042, fol. 163b sqq. and Kuerden's MSS. iii, W 1–80.

⁶⁵ Cal. Pat. 1327–30, p. 186; Exch. Lay Subs. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 78.

⁶⁶ Cal. Close, 1346–9, p. 521; Hoghton D.; Lich. Epis. Reg. Stretton, v, fol. 36b. Letters dismissory were granted in 1367 to Henry de Walton, literate, to all orders; ibid. 18b.

⁶⁷ Walton D. W 40; Kuerden fol.

MS. (Chet. Lib.), fol. 55. In 1401 John son of William de Walton and others were bound to Thomas Bradley of Chippingdale in 40 marks to secure to him the wardship of William son of John son of William de Walton; Harl. MS. 2042, fol. 165b.

⁶⁸ Pal. of Lanc. Plea R. 11, m. 6 d.; 35, m. 5 d.

^{69a} In 1460 the 'heir of John of Walton in le Dayle' gave pature to the sheriff; MS. at Huntroyde.

⁶⁹ Walton D. W 80, W 84 in Kuerden MSS. (Coll. of Arms), iii.

Richard Walton passed his lands in Walton and Cuerden to feoffees in 1492; D. penes Mr. Vawdrey.

John younger son of Richard Walton was of Kembill and Lacock (co. Wilts.); Genealogist (new ser.), xiii, 27.

⁷⁰ Walton D. W 86–97; Guild R. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 27, 42, 57; Lay Subs. Lancs. bde. 131, no. 274.

1610. Thomas his heir married Priscilla daughter and heir of John Cottam of Tarnacre, and died in 1619, leaving William, who was an out-burgess at the gild of 1622, with sons William, John and James, and grandsons Thomas and Christopher, sons of William the younger.⁷¹ William Walton died shortly before 1626, when his heir was assessed to the subsidy granted 1 Charles I for his lands here.

William Walton was an out-burgess at Preston gild in 1642, with brother John, son Thomas and grandson John. He died a few years later. His son Thomas suffered the sequestration of his estates for recusancy, but obtained a lease of two-thirds from the county commissioners in 1653.⁷² He paid hearth tax in 1666 upon five hearths. Mortgaging his estate in 1682 to John Leigh of Preston, he failed to redeem it and was obliged to alienate.⁷³ Dr. Kuerden, as quoted above, notes 'the ancient seat of Walton of Little Walton, but now belonging to Mr. Ratcliffe Ashton, son of Mr. Ashton of Cuerdale.'⁷⁴ The estate has since descended in the line of Assheton of Downham and Cuerdale, like Banister Hall.

The house at Little Walton, or Bamber Bridge, is an ancient structure with central porch and gabled wings, the walls showing traces of a timber framework. On the entrance gate-post is the date 1675.

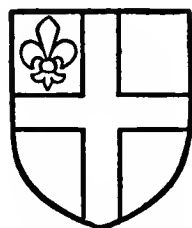
There were numerous offshoots from this family, including the Waltons of Marsden Hall, of Midge Hall in Myerscough, of Preston, and of Little Hoole.

The family of Haydock and their successors, the Leghs, long held lands here. Thurstan Banastre

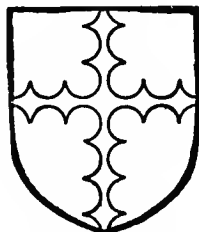
1298, when Praers gave the whole estate to Matthew son of Gilbert de Haydock.⁷⁵ The estate descended like Haydock and Bradley in Burtonwood, and was held by the Leghs in the 16th century of the Langtons for 6s. 1d. rent and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cummin.⁷⁶ A John Legh was assessed to tax in 1666 upon three hearths, and in 1662 the heirs of Legh paid a puture rent of 1s. to the honor of Clitheroe.⁷⁷

A portion of the estate appears to have passed to Richard le Serjeant of Walton, about 1400, by his marriage with Amabel daughter and heir of Hugh de Haydock. The estate of Law House was in the possession of the Serjeant family in 1461.⁷⁸ The name is of frequent occurrence until the middle of the 17th century. Before 1650 Richard Serjeant of Middleforth died possessed of Hanshaw Hall in Walton, which passed to his seven daughters and co-heirs. In 1662 the heirs of Richard Serjeant paid 14d. puture rent to the honor of Clitheroe for 'Manehouse'—that is, Mosney House.⁷⁹ Leonard Serjeant, descended from another branch of this family, died in 1640, leaving several daughters his co-heirs, of whom Katherine was the wife of Richard Sharrock. William Sharrock, probably a kinsman of Richard, suffered forfeiture for recusancy, but petitioned in 1653 for a reversal, alleging that 'God by His marvellous light has discovered to your petitioner the deep and erroneous ways of the Popish religion wherein he was bred.' He had taken the oath of abjuration, and was a frequenter at church.⁸⁰

LOSTOCK HALL. An estate which took name from the River Lostock was in the possession of a family bearing the name temp. Edward II. It descended to James de Lostock, living 1332 and 1350, whose daughter Magote, or Margery, may have brought it in marriage to a Banastre, for John Banastre was described as of Lostock from 1402 to 1429, William and his sons John and Richard in 1459, John 1469 to 1479, and William in 1504.⁸¹ In 1548 Richard Banastre conveyed tenements in Walton, Preston and Lea to Thomas Fleetwood, gent., and Barbara his wife. In 1561 Mr. Fleetwood passed the manor of Lostock in Walton to feoffees, who reconveyed it in 1574 to William Fleetwood son of Thomas by his second wife Bridget Spring. William Fleetwood sold the manor with a free fishery in Lostock Water to Roger Burscough, who conveyed it in 1595 to Peter Burscough, gent.,⁸² and he in turn in 1611 passed it to Thomas Burscough, who died in 1616 seised of Lostock Hall, holden of Richard Hoghton, bart., by 16s. rent, leaving issue an only daughter Elizabeth, aged eighteen months.⁸³ In 1662 Andrew Dandie paid



HAYDOCK. *Argent a cross sable, in dexter chief a fleur de lis of the last.*



LEGH. *Gules a cross engrailed argent.*

gave Bradley in Walton to Henry de Bispham son of Warine de Walton, who regranted it to William son of Adam de Praers. Robert Banastre gave land by Bradley Brook to his clerk Philip of Chester, which Avice de Raby daughter and heir of John the clerk of Chester gave to William de Praers shortly before

⁷¹ *Visit.* (Chet. Soc. lxxxii), 100; Invent. at Chester; *Guild R.* 83.

⁷² *Lay Subs. Lancs. bdle.* 131, no. 317; *Guild R.* 118; *Cal. Com. for Comp.* iv, 3131. In 1655 Thomas Anderton of Horwich petitioned for the discharge of part of the estate of which he was trustee for Thomas Walton's brother Christopher, then deceased, and sister Dorothy; *ibid.*

⁷³ *Lay Subs. Lancs. bdle.* 250, no. 9; Abram, *Blackburn*, 730. See also the account of Lower Holker in Cartmel and *Misc.* (Cath. Rec. Soc.), v, 153.

⁷⁴ Kuerden MSS. The Osbaldeston estate in Walton passed to Ralph Assheton and his son Radcliffe with the manor

of Cuerdale in 1614; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 312, m. 9 d.

⁷⁵ Legh D. in Raines MSS. (Chet. Lib.), xxxviii, 239.

⁷⁶ *Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m.* viii, 10; xv, 38. Warine Banastre had enfeofed Alured Craitate of land by Bradley Brook for the render of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cummin, probably temp. John; Legh D. Raines MSS. xxxviii, 299.

⁷⁷ *Lay Subs. Lancs. bdle.* 250, no. 9; Clitheroe Surv. of 1662.

⁷⁸ Legh D.; Hoghton D. 548.

⁷⁹ Hoghton D. FF 542; Clitheroe Surv. Hanshaw was held of the lord of Walton by 3s. rent. John de Hanneshagh occurs in 1332 and Richard de Hanne-

shawe in 1350; *Lancs. Subs. (Rec. Soc.)*, 78; *Rentals and Surv. R.* 377, m. 4.

⁸⁰ *Cal. Com. for Comp.* iv, 3059.

⁸¹ Hoghton and Walton D.; *Guild R.* 12; *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 97, m. 4 d.

⁸² *Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdles.* 13, m. 124; 23, m. 65; 36, m. 181; 39, m. 35; 57, m. 74.

⁸³ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 36. Reignold and Peter Burscough bequeathed £40 to the poor of Walton out of the corn tithes of Walton, Whittle and Cuerden, part of which was withheld by the Sequestration Committee in 1653; *Cal. Com. for Comp.* ii, 906-7.

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a rent of 12*d.* to the lord of Clitheroe for his lands called Lostock, and in 1666 William Dandy paid tax upon three hearths here.⁸⁴ He died in 1676 described as of Lostock. Andrew Dandy of Lostock and William his son were out-burgesses at Preston gild in 1682.

The *PEDDER HOUSE* estate was the property of a family of the same name, of whom William Pedder held his tenement of Richard Langton in 1502 under a free rent of 3*s.* In 1662 John Jackson paid a rent of 12*d.* to the lord of Clitheroe for Pedder House, and in 1666 was taxed for four hearths.^{84a}

RIDING HOUSE was the home of the family of that name. John son of John del Ridding occurs temp. Edward I, John del Ridding in 1332 and John son of Richard del Ridding in 1363. John Ridding, the elder and younger, and William Ryding conveyed four tenements here to James Mason *alias* Stopford and William Stopford in 1582. William Stopford of Ulnes Walton died in 1617 seised of a tenement in Walton, held of Robert Banaster of Passenham, co. Northants, kt., as feoffee of Gilbert Hoghton, kt. William Stopford his son was aged twenty-three years. In 1622 he was an out-burgess at Preston gild with his two sons.⁸⁵ In 1662 Nicholas Norris paid 12*d.* rent to the lord of Clitheroe for Riding House.

LEMON HOUSE was the seat of an ancient family who were probably hereditary judges or law men of the court baron of Walton. Thurstan Banastre gave land here in the time of John or early Henry III to Kandelan son of Robert, and it afterwards passed to Adam son of the Laghmon who occurs in 1246.⁸⁶ Others of the line are Henry (1278 and 1292), Henry son of Henry Laghmon or Laweman (1332), Robert son of Henry (1347), Robert and Ralph sons of Richard son of Robert (1415-23). Robert Lemon had Ralph, and in 1504 John Lemon and Robert his brother occur. James Lemon of Walton, brother of Edmund of Preston, was father of William, an alderman at Preston gild in 1622; Henry his son was an in-burgess in 1642, and William son of Henry a councillor of the gild in 1662 and alderman in 1682. As William Lemon, gent.,⁸⁷ he sold the Lemon House estate in 1663 to John Woodcock the elder, descended from the family of Woodcock of Cuerden Green. His grandson John Woodcock alienated the estate before 1742.⁸⁸

Other estates that may be named were Stone House, owned in 1662 by Thomas Shawe, Knowles (probably Knowsley) House by Henry Catterall and Kellet House by Daniel Chaddock.⁸⁹ The Chorley, Hesketh, Cuerdale (later Osbaldeston) and Garston families held lands here from the 14th to the 16-17th

centuries. In the 13th and 14th centuries lands in Balshagh were held by a family bearing that name. Woodley was in the possession of John de Blackburn of Woodley temp. Edward I. It descended through several generations of the family, and was granted by William de Blackburn of Mawdesley in 1371 to John de Blackburn of Garston.⁹⁰ Probably both these estates passed into the possession of the chief lord during the 14th or 15th century. The Colevill family were tenants of the Banastres from an early period. William son of Avise de Colevill occurs in 1246, John temp. Edward I, William contributed to the subsidy of 1332, whilst another William was the father of John, living until about 1428, whose daughter and co-heir Margaret married first Richard Maunsell before 1387 and subsequently Thomas de Estham, from whom descended Arthur son and heir of Richard Estham, who sold lands called Brodfeld and Schetylyngfeld to Thomas Langton, kt., in 1536, and six years later alienated his whole estate in Walton to Sir Thomas.⁹¹ In 1666 Francis Eastham and Henry Serjeant paid tax for five hearths on behalf of 'Mr. Lees,' probably Richard Legh of Lymc.⁹²

The Maynes were long the property of the Faringtons of Worden. The Chorleys of Chorley were the owners of two messuages known as 'Claughton's' and as 'Serjeant's' in the 16th and 17th centuries, which long descended with their other estates.⁹³

The church of *ST. LEONARD* stands *CHURCH* in a picturesque situation on the crest of a tongue of high land between the Ribble and Darwen, three-quarters of a mile to the east of their junction. The road to Samlesbury passes close to the building on the north side, from which there is a fine prospect over the Ribble valley, and on the south the ground falls less precipitously to the village of Walton on the old high road between Preston and Blackburn in the valley of the Darwen. The building consists of a chancel 27 ft. by 18 ft., nave 60 ft. by 42 ft., with north and south transepts each 28 ft. by 16 ft., and west tower 13 ft. 3 in. square, all these measurements being internal. There are also a low vestry on the north side of the tower and shallow north and south porches at the west end of the nave. Only the chancel and tower, however, are ancient, and they belong to an early 16th-century building,⁹⁴ the nave of which was pulled down and rebuilt in 1798 in a poor Gothic style,⁹⁵ to which deep transepts were added in 1816. The building was restored in 1856, but the nave being in a more or less ruinous condition at the beginning of the present century it was pulled down and a new one erected in 1905. Owing to the graves being close on all sides the new structure had to be made almost exactly the same on plan as that which it replaced.⁹⁶

⁸⁴ Clitheroe Surv.; Lay Subs. Lancs. bdle. 250, no. 9.

^{84a} Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. iii, 101; Clitheroe Surv.; Lay Subs. Lancs. bdle. 250, no. 9.

⁸⁵ Hoghton D. 554, 850; Pal. of Lanc. Feet of F. bdle. 44, m. 91; Lancs. Inq. p.m. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 72; *Guila* R. 85.

⁸⁶ Kuerden MSS. ii, 250; *Assize* R. (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 28.

⁸⁷ Hoghton and Walton D.; Plea R.; Fishwick, *Preston*, 225-34; *Visit.* (Chet. Soc. lxxxv), 184.

⁸⁸ Abram, *Blackburn*, 735.

⁸⁹ These all paid rents to Clitheroe in 1662; Surv.

⁹⁰ Hoghton D.; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 180.

Osbaldeston stands near the road leading from Walton Church to Moon's Mill. It was rebuilt in 1661 by William and Dorothy Osbaldeston, as recorded by their initials and the date on a stone over the porch. ⁹¹ Hoghton D.

⁹² Lay Subs. Lancs. bdle. 250, no. 9.

⁹³ *Farington* P. (Chet. Soc.), 106. John son of Robert de Langton, kt., gave these tenements in 1363 to William de Chorley and Ralph his son for a rose

yearly. Members of the Serjeant family held them from 1507 until well into the 18th century; *Chorley Surv.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 29-32.

⁹⁴ The chapel was rebuilt temp. Henry VIII; Abram, *Hist. of Blackburn*.

⁹⁵ Glynn, *Churches of Lancs.* 21. The 18th-century church was remarkable for its two lofty pulpits, one on each side of the chancel arch, each with a conspicuous iron staircase.

⁹⁶ *The Builder*, 24 Feb. 1906. The architect was the late Mr. John P. Seddon, this being the last work carried out by him.



WALTON-LE-DALE CHURCH

The chancel is small and low, with a pointed window of three trefoiled lights and tracery over at the east end. The walls are built of gritstone in large blocks and have a moulded plinth, but there are no angle buttresses, and the work is of a very plain character. There is a segmental-headed window of three lights, the centre one cinquefoiled and the others trefoiled, north and south, and on the south side a priest's door with pointed head, now built up. The chancel was restored in 1864, when a new roof was erected, the floor tiled and new stalls inserted. It belongs jointly to the Assheton and De Hoghton families, the north side to the former and the south side to the latter. The chancel arch is modern.

The nave, being modern, has no antiquarian interest. The walls externally are of local Hoghton stone and internally are faced with Runcorn stone, and the roof, which is of one wide span with hammer-beam principals, is covered with green slates. The style is that of the 15th century with embattled parapets to the walls, the transepts having twin gables facing north and south. There is a gallery at the west end approached by a stone staircase from the north porch, and containing the organ and quire.

The tower, like the chancel, is built of gritstone, and has a moulded plinth and square buttresses of eight stages at its west angles, with a projecting vice in the south-east corner. The west door is pointed, with continuous mouldings to jambs and head, and above is a three-light four-centred pointed window with tracery and label. The belfry windows are of three plain lights with trefoiled tracery above under a four-centred arch and external label and the walls finish with an embattled parapet. The north and south sides are plain below the belfry windows, but there is a large clock-dial on the south and west. The tower arch is pointed, of two chamfered orders continuous to the ground.

On the north wall of the chancel is a plaster panel dated 1634 emblazoned with the arms of Assheton of Cuerdale (a shield of six quarters), with helm, crest, mantling and motto and the initials of Ralph Assheton. There is also a brass to Sarah wife of Ralph Assheton, who died in 1700. On the south side is a somewhat similar but smaller and undated panel with the arms of Hoghton, with helm, crest, mantling and motto. Below is the inscription: 'The south part of this chancel belongs to Sir Gilb^t. Hoghton K^t & Barn^t. Builder.' There is also a brass plate inscribed: 'By the appointment of S^r Charles Hoghton B^t Deceased this Plate of Brass is here affixed to intimate to all Persons whatsoever that it was his desire nobody for time to come should be buried under this Seat or Pew belonging to the Hoghtons where his remains are interred. Except the Lady Hoghton his Relict if she so desire. Anno Dom. 1710.'

There is a separate monument to the said Sir

Charles and his wife Mary, daughter of Viscount Massarene, who died in 1732, but the most interesting of the Hoghton memorials is a brass to Cordelia Hoghton, who died in May 1685, 'a pure virgin espoused to the man C^t Jesus,' with a long rhyming inscription.⁹⁷ There are also memorials to Sir Henry Hoghton, bart. (d. 1795), Major-General Daniel Hoghton, who died in battle at Albuera in 1811, Sir Henry Philip Hoghton (d. 1835), Sir Henry Bold Hoghton (d. 1862), buried at Anglesea near Gosport, Hants, and Sir Henry de Hoghton (d. 1876), buried in the Bold Chapel, Farnworth.

The old font is circular and apparently of 17th-century date, with two bands of 'egg' ornament on the bowl, and a fluted stem. It has some interesting masons' marks. All the other fittings are modern.

The ancient peal of four bells was replaced in the 18th century by a ring of six bells, one dated 1760 and four 1761, all by Lester & Pack of London. The sixth is by Pack & Chapman, 1780, and is inscribed with the name of the minister and wardens of the year.⁹⁸

The plate consists of two chalices, a paten and flagon of 1790, the paten inscribed 'The gift of William Assheton, esq., of Cuerdale, to the church in Walton, Anno Dom. 1790'; and a paten presented by the parishioners in 1889 to commemorate the incumbency of the Rev. J. C. Kershaw.

The registers begin in 1653.

The graveyard is principally to the east and south of the church, and extends down the south slope of the hill. The oldest dated gravestone is 1628. On the south side of the church is a pedestal sundial dated 1788.

About the year 1166 Henry de ADVOWSON Lacy, when granting to Henry the clerk of Blackburn the church of that place, included in the grant the chapel of Walton, which belonged to that church. Afterwards, when John de Lacy, constable of Chester in 1228, was about to confer upon the monks of Stanlaw the half of Blackburn Church which belonged to Adam son of Henry de Blackburn, the latter at the request of his superior lord resigned to the monks the chapel of Walton with the glebe, tithes and obventions pertaining to it, and secured for Richard son of the Dean of Whalley, who then possessed the chapel, a promise of preferment in lieu thereof.⁹⁹

At least as early as the time of Richard I the right of sepulture belonged to it, with oblations on notable feast days, and both great and small tithes, as to a parish church. In 1236 the monks successfully petitioned for pontifical authority to take away these liberties and annex them to the mother church.¹⁰⁰

In 1267 it is described as Low Chapel—'Capella de la Lowe'¹⁰¹—so named by reason of its striking

⁹⁷ It is given in full in Canon Atkinson's Notes to Glynne's *Churches of Lancs.* 22.

⁹⁸ The inscriptions are: (1) 'Lester and Pack of London, fecit 1760.' (2) (3) (4) 'Lester and Pack of London, fecit 1761.' (5) 'Mr. Nicholas Walmesley and Mr. John Cooper, Ch. Wardens, 1761. Lester and Pack, fecit.' (6) 'Pack and Chapman of London, fecerunt London, 1780. Revd. I. Atkinson, minister. R. Heydock and Wm. Serjeant, Ch. Wardens.'

⁹⁹ *Whalley Couch.* 72-83. For this release John de Lacy was to give Richard son of Geoffrey, Dean of Whalley, an annuity of 20 marks until provided with a better benefice; Adam was to receive yearly on the day of the patron saint (St. Leonard) a besant, and to be relieved from all burdens charged upon his moiety of Blackburn Church. If Richard died before Adam, the chapel of Walton was to revert to Adam.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.* 83-4, 90. The chapel was confirmed to Stanlaw in *proprius usus*.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.* 105, 114. On 26 April 1283, the day following the birth of Prince Edward at Carnarvon, the monks of Stanlaw obtained the king's licence to receive from Robert Banastre 10 acres of land adjoining Low Chapel and the right to have common of pasture throughout the township, to run thirty swine in Walton woods at mast-fall time without pannage, and to take timber and wood for building and burning, and for making houses, heys, and hedges, and repairing the same. At this time the monks had

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position on a slight eminence overlooking the wooded slopes of Ribblesdale.

In 1347 John son of Robert de Langton, kt., and four other principal parishioners were farming the 'manor' belonging to the chapel under the abbey for £40 per annum.¹⁰⁷

In 1459 a commission was directed by the Bishop of Lichfield to the vicar of Prescot to inquire and report about the alleged pollution of the burial yard of Low Chapel by violence and the effusion of human blood. The occasion of the pollution is not stated.¹⁰⁸⁻⁴ Four years later William Livesey bequeathed his body for burial in the cemetery of St. Leonard of Low, and his best beast for mortuary, directing that light and other emoluments should be paid to God and the church of Low on his burial day without delay or device.¹⁰⁵

In 1526 the chief inhabitants of Walton issued a declaration that neither in their days nor their ancestors' were 'dede corse presauts or mortuaries' ever paid within the town or parish of the Low to the monastery of Whalley, as lately demanded by Abbot Paslew.¹⁰⁶ The accounts of the abbey for 1536 confirm this by recording one item of profit only from Low Church—'De stipite sancti Leonardi 6s. 8d.'¹⁰⁷ In 1537 at the suppression of Whalley the chapel with the tithes belonging to it was valued at £27 11s. 2d., and the following year was leased with the rectory of Blackburn to Richard Breame for a term of thirty years. In 1547 it passed with the rectory of Blackburn to Archbishop Cranmer and descended with it to his successors.¹⁰⁸

In 1552 a chalice, vestment, cope and four bells, one being cracked, were delivered to the curate and church reeves.¹⁰⁹ The visitation lists record two names as serving the chapel in 1548 and three in 1554, but afterwards only one.

In 1559 the Earl of Derby, by direction of the Privy Council, ordered the arrest of Thomas Heavanson, the curate, for having publicly said mass, aided and abetted by more than forty parishioners.¹¹⁰ This was during the time of Thomas French's ministration as curate, so that possibly the latter name has been incorrectly recorded. In 1563 as curate of Low he was one of the signatories to the Act of Supremacy, and in 1568 was admonished before the Earl of Derby as to his future conduct.¹¹¹

It does not then appear how the chapel was served for about thirty years. In 1592 the curate was censured for leaving the parishioners destitute of service because he was absent. In 1601 the chapel was served by a reader, and no sermon had been preached there for a twelvemonth. In 1622 there was a preacher, but he was unlicensed, did not wear a surplice, come to church on holy days, bow at the Name of Jesus, or stand up at the creed.¹¹²

During the Interregnum Richard Redman, the minister, received £40 a year from the Committee for Plundered Ministers. The commissioners of 1650 found 'Law,' a parochial chapel distant 9 miles from the parish church of Blackburn, with the townships of Walton and part of Cuerdale, containing over 200 families, annexed to it. The vicars of Blackburn had formerly paid the minister £4 per annum, which had been detained for three years, whilst the order of the committee made in 1647 had not been made effective, so that there was no maintenance and no minister. The inhabitants petitioned that it might be made a parish with competent endowment. The tithe of the chapelry was then worth £119 and the glebe £52 per annum.¹¹³ The proposal to make Walton and Cuerdale a separate parish was still under discussion in 1658.¹¹⁴

In 1665 the incumbency was vacant; in 1671 there were nine Papists, and proceedings were in process against William Farington of Worden and several others for non-payment of church lays, which they subsequently acknowledged. Since the Restoration the chapels of Low and Samlesbury had been served by one curate, and in 1683 were said to be well and constantly served by a curate nominated by the vicar of Blackburn and licensed by the bishop, all the offices being performed every other Sunday for the inhabitants of Walton and Cuerdale at Low Chapel.¹¹⁵ In 1689 the curate was in receipt of about £43 per annum 'by an extraordinary charity of my lord of Canterbury' and a maintenance out of the vicarage of Blackburn.¹¹⁶ A report made to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty in 1714 states that the number of inhabitants in the chapelry lay 'between four and five thousand souls which daily increase by reason of the great manufacture of linen cloth in those parts'; there were four or five conventicles of Papists, one of Presbyterians, and one of Anabaptists.¹¹⁷

a dwelling-house at the Low; *ibid.* 117. Later it is described as a manor and a grange, where the monks sometimes stayed; *ibid.* 119-21. In 1345 Geoffrey son of John de Walton-in-le-Dale gave them land called 'Johanruyding,' adjoining the orchard at their manor of the Low; Towneley MS. *Whalley Couch*. 418.

¹⁰⁷ Add. MS. 10374, folio 2, quoted in Whitaker, *Whalley* (ed. 1876), ii, 312.

¹⁰⁸⁻⁴ Lich. Epis. Reg. Skirlaw, v, fol. 124; Hales, x, fol. 124b.

¹⁰⁹ Towneley MSS. C 8, 13 (Chet. Lib.), fol. 85ob.

¹¹⁰ Houghton D. FF 350. The signatories were: George Bannaster, gent., William Walton, Edmund Longley, Ralph Osbaldeston, Thomas Straytharren, Arthur Estham, Thomas Wackley, Roger Boulton, Law. Estham, Edmund Lemmon, Vane Catteral, John Woodcock, Nicholas Bawmber, Thomas Henryson, George Dilonson, Thomas Knoll, John Brerys, John Jackson, Alex. Woodcock, and

Law. Crichlow, all of Walton; John Woderose and William Clayton, of Cuerdale; Law. Thornley and Richard Smith, 'of Cuerdale, in the parish of the Law.'

¹⁰⁷ Towneley MS. Whalley, 312. The amount may include 'Purifications at Padiham.'

¹⁰⁸ *Whalley Couch*. iv, 1246. The tithe was collected in Walton and Cuerdale; Lambeth MSS. M.sc. vol. xiii, no. 21.

¹⁰⁹ *Church Goods* (Chet. Soc.), 119.

¹¹⁰ Abram, *Blackburn*, 737. Ralph Clayton the informant, who had been actuated by 'myslyke of theise lewde doyngs,' was to receive adequate protection against the indignation of the people.

¹¹¹ Gibson, *Lydiate Ha.*, 200; *Chet. Sheaf* (ser. 3), i, 34.

¹¹² Presentments at the visitations.

¹¹³ *Commonw. Ch. Surv.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 160; Whitaker, *Whalley* (ed. 1876), ii, 328-9.

¹¹⁴ *Pand. Min. Accn.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 242, 264.

¹¹⁵ Visitation P. at Chester; Lambeth MSS.; Abram, *Blackburn*, 738. The endowment was then constituted as follows:—From the vicar of Blackburn, £4; marriage dues, 30s.; interest of Mr. Henry Houghton's benefaction of £50, 50s.; promised yearly by Chas. Fleetwood (farmer of the Blackburn tithes), 40s.; Walton-in-le-Dale promises £4 yearly; Mrs. Assheton of Cuerdale contributes voluntarily £4; Walton township desired to inclose 20 acres of common worth £10 yearly for the curate, but Mr. Lee of Croston opposed it.

During Mr. Abbot's tenure of the curacy Mr. Dandy of Little Walton conditionally promised to purchase 3 or 4 acres of common for the benefice; Mr. Assheton of Cuerdale undertook to continue his subscription indefinitely if no tithe hay was demanded from him; *ibid.*

¹¹⁶ Lambeth MSS.

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.* in *Blackburn*, 738. Endowment: Out of Blackburn vicarage, £4; one-sixth of the clear rent of the arch-

About 1720 Bishop Gastrell found that divine service was performed in the forenoon of one Sunday and afternoon of the next in summer time; on alternate Sundays in winter, the curate also serving Samlesbury Chapel. Sir Henry Hoghton, bart., elected one warden, the minister and principal inhabitants the other.¹¹⁸ In 1834 the value was £156; it is now given as £310.¹¹⁹ The vicar of Blackburn is patron. The chapelry was constituted an ecclesiastical parish in 1837, but has since been divided.

The following have been curates of Low Chapel:—
to 1228 Richard son of Geoffrey Dean of Whalley

- c. 1250 William, clerk of the Lawe¹²⁰
- oc. 1280 Adam, chaplain, and William, clerk of the Lawe¹²¹
- oc. 1322–30 John del Lawe, chaplain¹²²
- oc. 1332 William, clerk¹²³
- c. 1341–5 Hugh de Pocklington¹²⁴
- oc. 1359 Robert de Kirkham (?)¹²⁵
- oc. 1439–45 Edward Farington¹²⁶
- oc. 1541–65 Thomas French¹²⁷
- oc. 1592 William Wall
- oc. 1601 Lawrence Waddington
- oc. 1609 Peter Makinson¹²⁸
- oc. 1622 — Inskip
- oc. 1629 Robert Osbaldeston
- 1646 Richard Redman¹²⁹
- oc. 1651–3 William Heald¹³⁰
- 1676 Thomas Abbot, M.A.
- 1688 William Colton¹³¹
- 1703 John Hull¹³²
- 1721 William Vaudrey, B.A.¹³³
- 1763 John Shorrocks, B.A.
- 1803 Edmund Stringfellow Radcliffe,
B.C.L.¹³⁴ (Brasenose Coll., Oxf.)
- 1826 John Clay
- 1827 Randal Henry Feilden
- 1832 Henry Walter McGrath, M.A.
(T.C.D.)¹³⁵
- 1838 Robert Hornby, M.A.¹³⁶ (Downing
Coll., Camb.)
- 1853 John Brookes
- 1857 James Clegg Kershaw, M.A.¹³⁷ (Em-
manuel Coll., Camb.)
- 1889 Seymour Frederick Harris, B.C.L.¹³⁸
(Worcester Coll., Oxf.)
- 1908 Edward John Middlecott Davies

bishop's lands in Thornley, £5 6s. 8d.; augmentation given by the archbishop out of the rectory of Blackburn, 46s. 8d.; one-tenth of the clear rent of Mr. Crook's estate at Whittingham, 22s.; interest of Mr. Hoghton's benefaction, 55s.; total, £15 10s. 8d.

¹¹⁸ *Notitia Cestr.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 290.

¹¹⁹ *Manch. Dioc. Dir.*

¹²⁰ *Whalley Couch.* i, 127.

¹²¹ *Ibid.* 105.

¹²² *V.C.H. Lancs.* ii, 456 'Forestry'; Kuerden MSS. Cuedale D. no. 68.

¹²³ Assize R. 428, m. 3. He was presented at Preston assizes for wounding Richard son of William Brown at Chorley.

¹²⁴ Hoghton D. 541; FF 249.

¹²⁵ *Ibid.* FF 110.

¹²⁶ Sir Edward of Farington, parish priest of Low, and thirteen other parishioners 'senden hele in our Lord God

everlasting' and testify that 'Jankin of Walton swere on the mass boke at the pulpit in the Law Kirk' on Sunday next before 'St. Nicholas' Day the bishop' (in 1436) that he had made no feoffment to son William, and only a jointure of 40s. yearly to his wife Johan, and that Harry his son was his heir; Walton D. 91; Harl. MS. 112, fol. 114.

¹²⁷ Visitation Bks. at Chester.

¹²⁸ He was then sick and decrepit. Inventory filed at Chester the same year.

¹²⁹ He was a member of the Presbyterian classis in 1646; afterwards at Overton near Lancaster.

¹³⁰ *Plund. Min. Accts.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 107, 249.

¹³¹ He was also in charge of Samlesbury, but seems to have resided at Walton.

¹³² Alexander Bagot was stipendiary curate 1717–21.

There was anciently a small chapel or oratory at the bridge over the Ribble. In 1365 John, called the hermit of Singleton, had licence to have divine service in the chapel at the foot of Ribble Bridge, on the Walton side, for three years.^{138a} In 1383 the abbot and convent demised to Ralph de Langton and Thomas de Clayton, chaplain, for a term of thirty years the chapel standing on Ribble Bridge with all oblations and the books, vestments of the altar, a chalice, images, wax and other belongings, rendering 3s. 4d. yearly and prayers for the abbot and convent, for Ralph and Joan his wife, their ancestors, heirs, and children, and all benefactors of the chapel living and dead. Clayton received licence in 1387 to celebrate in the chapel at the end of Ribble Bridge 'beyond the bank of Ribble,' and in his oratory within his mansion house at 'Clecton,' probably Clayton-le-Dale, at the bishop's pleasure.

A story has been preserved how Edward Kelley (1555–95) the alchemist, a friend of Dr. John Dee, held converse with the corpse of a poor man which he and Paul Waring, his companion in such deeds of darkness, had disinterred a few hours after burial in Low churchyard, and from whom by incantations they elicited information as to passages in the life and the manner and time of death of a young nobleman, then in ward of the relater of the story.^{138b}

In 1689 Walton Hall was licensed as a meeting-place for Presbyterians under the ministration of Thomas Key.¹³⁹ A Presbyterian chapel existed here at the close of the 17th century; in 1719 Sir Henry Hoghton erected a new chapel, described in a return of Dissenting chapels made in 1772 as then Congregationalist, where the congregations of Preston and Walton met alternately. Soon afterwards the society became Unitarian, and early in the 19th century ceased to use the chapel, which was turned into cottages and attached to the endowment of the Unitarian chapel, Preston. The building stands in the rear of the main street of Walton village; the burial-ground attached has long been obliterated.¹⁴⁰

In 1784, and again in 1790, during his last journey in this part of England, Wesley paid brief visits to Walton in connexion with members of the society who worshipped at the chapel in Little Walton, afterwards called Bamber Bridge. A Wesleyan school-chapel was opened in Walton-le-Dale in 1868

¹³⁸ The church papers at Chester begin with this incumbent. He retained the curacy till his death, but had a second nomination—to Walton and Samlesbury—in 1727.

¹³⁴ He had been assistant curate since 1798, and was incumbent of Burnley 1817–26.

¹³⁵ Rector of St. Ann's, Manchester, 1817. ¹³⁶ Vicar of Bayston Hill 1853.

¹³⁷ For an account of the church and its minister about 1870 see A. Hewitson, *Our Country Churches*, 26–9.

¹³⁸ Author of a *Digest of the Institutes of Gaius*, &c.

^{138a} Lich. Epis. Reg. Stretton, v, 13.

^{138b} Weaver, *Ant. Funeral Monuments*, cited in Hardwick's *Preston*, 149.

¹³⁹ *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.* xiv, App. iv, 231.

¹⁴⁰ Abram, op. cit. 742; Nightingale, *Lancs. Nonconf.* i, 9–21.

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in a building converted out of cottages. It was replaced by a new building in 1882.¹⁴¹

The ecclesiastical parish of All Saints, Higher Walton, was formed in 1865 out of the parish of St. Leonard, Walton-le-Dale.¹⁴² The church, standing on an eminence overlooking the village, upon a site given by Mr. Miles Rodgett, was erected in 1861-2 from the designs of Mr. E. G. Paley; a tower, containing seven bells, and spire were added in 1871.¹⁴³ In the church are several stained-glass windows erected to the memory of members of the Rodgett family. The registers date from the year 1862. The living is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Manchester and vicar of Blackburn alternately.

There is at Higher Walton a Wesleyan chapel, built in 1869-70 to replace the preaching room opened as early as 1813.¹⁴⁴

The ecclesiastical parish of St. Saviour, Bamber Bridge, was formed in 1842 as a district chapelry out of the ancient parish of Blackburn,¹⁴⁵ and was further enlarged in 1869 by the transfer of Cuerden township from the parish of Leyland for all ecclesiastical purposes.¹⁴⁶ The church was erected in 1836 upon land given by the late Robert Townley Parker, and was enlarged in 1882. The registers date from 1837. The living is a vicarage in the gift of the vicar of Blackburn. St. Saviour's Institute, erected in 1903, contains reading and recreation rooms. The ecclesiastical parish of St. Aidan was formed in 1897 from the parishes of St. Leonard, Walton-le-Dale, and St. Saviour, Bamber Bridge. The church was erected in 1895; the living is a vicarage in the gift of the Bishop of Manchester. The mission church of St. James, Lostock Hall, was built in 1891 as a chapel of ease to St. Saviour's.

A Methodist Society has existed at Bamber Bridge since 1763. Soon after that date services were held in the house of Mr. William Livesey, and about 1784 in the old hall at Little Walton, as this village was then called. In 1821 the Wesleyan chapel was built, in which services were held until the erection of the present Wesleyan Methodist chapel in 1877.¹⁴⁷ There is also a Wesleyan Methodist chapel at Lostock Hall, built in 1875.

The English Benedictines are known to have had missions in Walton and the adjacent Cuerden from the end of the 17th century.¹⁴⁸ These were partly broken up by a government seizure in 1718, but a priest is found at Little Mossa in Walton in 1724. The seat of the mission became finally settled at Brownedge, Bamber Bridge, about 1770,¹⁴⁹ and a chapel seems to have been built in 1780, succeeded by the present St. Mary's in 1826.¹⁵⁰ A school-chapel of Our Lady and St. Patrick was opened at Walton in 1855-6, and the present church was built in 1880. There is a cemetery.¹⁵¹ The chapel of St. Paulinus, Lostock Hall, was opened in 1892, and became an independent mission in 1902. The

Benedictines still serve Brownedge and these off-shoots. There is a convent of Sisters of Charity of St. Paul.

Before 1672 the children of Walton *SCHOOL* were taught in the chapel of Low, but in that year Sir Richard Hoghton gave land on which a school was erected, free only to the inhabitants of the town. Peter Burscough had given £100 in 1624, the interest to be applied to the master's salary. During a vacancy of the mastership in the time of the Civil War this sum was augmented to £130. Other benefactors were Mr. Andrew Dandy, citizen of London, £100; Thomas Hesketh of Walton, £20. The school in School Lane, near Bamber Bridge, stands on a site taken in exchange for the old premises in 1870, and is conducted as a public elementary school.¹⁵²

Peter Burscough of Walton, yeoman, gave by will in 1624 £10 per annum, which is now paid out of the tithes of the township of Cuerden by the improprators, for the relief of the poor of Walton. This charity, with which is now included another of £2, founded by Thomas Crook of Abram in 1688, is distributed to the aged poor on Good Friday, and is therefore called the Good Friday Dole. The number relieved averages seventy-two, and each receives 3s. The Shutlingfields estate was devised by William Gradell in 1735, apparently for the use of the poor of Walton and Brindle, subject to certain life interests. The estate was sold in 1868, and out of the proceeds £1,300 consols were purchased as the share of Walton, of which the interest is applied yearly for the relief of certain pensioners chosen by the trustees, and at present numbering about twenty-six persons. The Red Lion trust was founded in 1874 to ensure to children in the parish thorough instruction in the Catechism, liturgy and principles of the Church of England.¹⁵³

CUERDALE

Kiuerdale, xii-xiv cent.; Keuerdale, xiv-xvi cent.; Cuerdall, xvi-xviii cent.

The township lies between the Rivers Ribble and Darwen to the north of Walton-le-Dale on a slight ridge of ground, varying from 150 ft. to 170 ft. above the ordnance datum, which slopes down to the banks of the two rivers. A detached portion of the township called Cuerdale Hey lies between the townships of Samlesbury and Hoghton, south of Beasting Brook. The subsoil is the pebble beds of the Bunter series, except over a very small area on the south-east, where it consists of the Permian rocks. Towards the River Ribble a large area is covered by alluvial deposits. The township covers an area of 684 acres, and the population in 1901 numbered 51 persons, occupying nine houses.¹ The land consists of fertile meadows and pastures with woodland upon the steep bank above the alluvial ground.² The main road from Blackburn

¹⁴¹ Abram, op. cit. 743.

¹⁴² *Lond. Gaz.* 7 Feb. 1865.

¹⁴³ See A. Hewitson, op. cit. 132-6.

¹⁴⁴ Abram, loc. cit.

¹⁴⁵ *Lond. Gaz.* 20 Sept. 1842.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.* 10 Aug. 1869. See A. Hewitson, op. cit. 144.

¹⁴⁷ Abram, op. cit. 742.

¹⁴⁸ This account is based on Mr. Glanville's statement in *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xlii, 160-1.

¹⁴⁹ There were many convicted recusants in the time of Charles II; *Misc.* (Cath. Rec. Soc.), v, 153-5. The number of known 'Papists' increased from 499 in 1717 to 823 in 1767; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xviii, 216. Bishop M. Gibson confirmed 165 in 1784; *ibid.* xlii, 160.

¹⁵⁰ A. Hewitson, op. cit. 137-44, gives a description of it about 1870.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.* 128.

¹⁵² Nearly the whole of the endowment has been lost under circumstances detailed in the *Rep. of Endowed Charities*, 1904, p. 33.

¹⁵³ *Ibid.* 32-6.

¹ The *Census Rep.* of 1901 gives 689 acres, of which 19 are inland water.

² The agricultural returns of 1905 were arable land 1½ acres, permanent grass 603 acres, woods and plantations 52 acres.

and Clitheroe to Walton-le-Dale passes through the township, a lane branching off to Higher Walton. The noted Cuerdale hoard of silver coins was discovered in 1840 whilst repairs were being done to the bank of the Ribble a short distance below Cuerdale Hall.³ Some relics of early man have also been found here.⁴ The township forms part of the ancient parochial chapelry of Low Church or Walton-le-Dale. A wayside cross formerly stood near the centre of the township.⁵

In 1662 the puture rent for the township amounted to 3s. 4d. and was paid by: Richard Coope 5d., Thomas Thornley's tenement 5d., John Smith 3d., John Marsden 2d., Richard Seedall 4d., George Blakey 4d., Thomas Worthington 2d., John Dave 1d., Margaret Bruer, widow, 1d., Abraham Ernsshaw 1d., George Coope 2d., Robert Blakey 3d., paid by the constable 7d.

Cuerdale was rated as one plough-land, was charged with the sum of 11s. 10d. to the subsidy of 1332, and contributed to a 'fifteenth' 11s. 6d. out of £37 1s. 7d. charged upon the hundred.⁶

The first possessor of whom mention *MANOR* is found was Warine de Kiuerdale, living in the time of Henry II, Richard I and John, of whose charters two have been recorded.⁷ He had a numerous family, Gilbert, who afterwards held half the manor, and Gospatric, Peter, Richard and Siegrith, to each of whom he seems to have given a share of the remainder. Gilbert eldest son of Warine attested with his son Alexander the charter of Hugh Bussel granting North Meols to the ancestor of the Singleton family, which was also attested by Richard de Vernon the sheriff (1189-94).⁸ Alexander son of Gilbert died before 1246, and was father of another Gilbert,⁹ who was one of the jurors from this hundred at a special county court held at Lancaster that year.¹⁰

Alexander de Cuerdale son of Gilbert occurs from 1246 to 1284. He acquired various portions of the

township from his kinsfolk, the most important acquisition being that of half the manor from Ellen daughter of Adam son of Gospatric de Cuerdale in 1285.¹¹

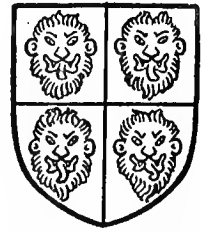
A few years earlier, and whilst Gilbert de Clifton was seneschal of Blackburnshire, he obtained from the Earl of Lincoln remission of the yearly service of 10s., which appears to have been paid as farm of the fishery within the manor.¹²

Alexander his son occurs in 1296, 1305 and 1311 holding the manor of the Earl of Lincoln by the rent of 10s. at St. Giles.¹³ By his wife

Mary he had sons Robert and Geoffrey, and died before 1323.¹⁴ Robert held the manor in 1327,¹⁵ but died soon after without issue. His brother Geoffrey occurs in 1306 and in 1311, when he held a moiety of Over Darwen in right of his wife Alice, but he died before 1314.¹⁶ His widow afterwards married William Lawrence, and was living in 1356.¹⁷

John de Cuerdale son of Geoffrey and Alice attained his majority about 1330, and two years later contributed to the subsidy.¹⁸ He gave lands here and in Walton of 5 marks yearly value to Whalley for the health of his soul, and was buried in the 'new conventual church' there on 20 October 1345. Six months after his death the manor-house of Cuerdale was totally destroyed by fire.¹⁹ By Dionisia his wife, who afterwards married John de Barton of Barton in Amounderness, he had issue two daughters, Alice, who married Edmund son of John Lawrence of Ashton, near Lancaster, and Joan, who married Thomas de Molyneux.²⁰

Thomas son of Thomas Molyneux of the Edge in Sefton was a man of some notoriety. He inherited the Edge in Sefton, Northbrook in Walton-on-the-



CUEROALE. Quarterly argent and sable four leopards' faces counter-changed.

³ *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 258; *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Soc.* iv, 332.

⁴ *V.C.H. Lancs.* i, 233.

⁵ *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Soc.* xviii, 58.

⁶ *Bk. of rates, MS. penes W. Farrer.*

⁷ To his son Peter he gave 1½ oxgangs of land in Cuerdale and 20 acres of land, viz. 10 acres of assart land and 10 acres of underwood lying between Aldeschale-cloht and Longesnape cloht, in free thegnage by the yearly service to the grantor and his heirs of 22½d. at St. Oswald; Kuerden MSS. (Coll. of Arms), iv, K 9. The service was proportionate to the thegnage service of 10s. which Warine paid to the lord of Clitheroe.

⁸ Farrer, *Lancs. Pipe R.* 378. Gospatric son of Warine de Cuerdale gave to Gilbert his brother half an oxgang of land with the sixteenth part of the vill rendering 7½d. at St. Oswald. Alexander de Cuerdale and Gilbert his son were witnesses. Kuerden MSS. K 9. Gilbert was probably brother of the half blood to Gospatric, Peter and Richard.

⁹ *Ibid.* K 14. Before 1230 William de Osbaldeston demised to Avice daughter of Gilbert de Cuerdale for her life 2 oxgangs of land in Cuerdale, namely, one which Alice the grantor's mother formerly held and one which Adam her brother (probably Adam son of Gilbert de Cuerdale) had held; *ibid.*

¹⁰ *Lancs. Assize R.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 61.

¹¹ In the house of the friars minor of Preston in 3 Edward I an agreement was made that Alexander de Cuerdale should give Ellen daughter of Adam de Cuerdale for her right in half the vill of Cuerdale 8 marks, besides 2 marks to the Chapel of the Lawe; Kuerden MSS. (Coll. of Arms) ii, 2566. Ellen released her right in half the manor with the feudal adjuncts which her ancestors had held of Alexander's ancestors, including the service of Adam Francis of 1 oxgang of land; *ibid.* iv, K 9; K 14. Ellen had brought a plea of novel disseisin against Alexander at the assizes at Lancaster in 1284; *Lancs. Assize R.* (Rec. Soc. xlix), 187; *Assize R.* 1268, m. 12 d.

Alexander also acquired from Adam son of Robert de Cuerdale an eighth part of the manorial mill; from Roger son of Henry son of Baye his right in the vill and wastes, saving the right to common of pasture and turbary which Alexander had demised to his other free tenants; Kuerden MSS. K 8; from Richard son of Henry de Cuerdale lands and the sixteenth part of the mill; *ibid.*; and divers other lands from other persons.

¹² *Ibid.* K 9.

¹³ *De Lacy Compotus* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 107; *Inq. p.m.* 4 Edw. II, no. 51.

¹⁴ Dods. MSS. cxlix, fol. 41. On 17 Oct. 1321, at Balderston, he settled his lands in Balderston upon Richard de Balderston and Alice his wife, sister of the grantor.

¹⁵ Lansdowne Feodary in Baines, *Lancs.* (ed. 1870), ii, 692, correcting the date.

¹⁶ Kuerden MSS. ii, 257b end; *Inq. p.m.* 4 Edw. II, no. 51.

¹⁷ *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 112, 149.

¹⁸ *Exch. Lay Subs.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), 75. The heir of Geoffrey de Cuerdale paid 40d. for respite of his suit at Clitheroe Court in Dec. 1323; *Court R.* (Rec. Soc. xli), 52. He had a daughter Joan who as Joan daughter of Geoffrey de Cuerdale in 1377-8 released to Thomas Molyneux and Joan his wife her right in the manor and family estates; Towneley MS. OO, no. 1532.

¹⁹ Add. MS. 10374, fol. 142; Whitaker, *Whalley* (ed. 1876), ii, 335.

²⁰ There were legal proceedings long protracted between the husbands of Alice and Dionisia, the respective widows; Geoffrey and John de Cuerdale, and the husbands of Alice and Joan, daughters and co-heirs of John de Cuerdale, before their respective dowers and pourparties were settled; *De Banco R.* 347 (Trin. term, 1346), m. 226 d.; 349, m. 355 d.; 353, m. 379 d.; Duchy of Lanc. Assize

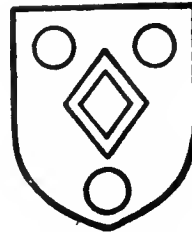
A HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE

Hill and other properties from his father, who had received them as a provision from Richard de Molyneux lord of Sefton, his father.²¹ He also acquired various small properties and in 1356 purchased from his wife's relatives their life interest in this manor and other settled estates.²² Thomas Molyneux, esq., contributed to the poll tax of 1379,²³ and the year following received pardon at the instance of the Duke of Lancaster with several of his neighbours for some felony which he had committed, and in 1386 went to Ireland in the retinue of Sir John de Stanley, kt.²⁴ The year following, on 20 December, he was killed at Radcot Bridge in Oxfordshire in the engagement in which the king's favourite Robert de Vere was defeated by the Earl of Gloucester.²⁵ His wife, by whom he had no issue, survived him and was living in 1394. His brother Richard died before 1368, leaving issue by Leticia his wife Thomas, who married Joan le Boteler and died without issue before 1388. Thomas de Molyneux had also two sisters, Emma the wife of Richard son of Nicholas Blundell of Crosby,²⁶ who left no issue, and Katherine, who in 1336 had been married to Alexander de Osbaldeston. In accordance with his will²⁷ this manor, half the manor of Over Darwen and other estates descended after the death of his wife to his sister Katherine, then the wife of Thomas Banastre of Osbaldeston, and at her death about 1410 passed to her grandson Thomas Osbaldeston, as stated in the account of Osbaldeston. About this time a mesne lordship of the manor was created in favour of Henry Langton of Walton-le-Dale, whose daughter Isabel was married to Thomas Osbaldeston's son and heir Geoffrey in 1410-11.²⁸ From that time the manor has been held by the Osbaldestons and their successors of the Langtons and their successors by fealty and the render of a red rose.²⁹ During the next two centuries the manor passed with the other estates of the Osbaldeston family, until alienated on 1 March 1614 by Edward Osbaldeston to Ralph Asheton of Lever and Radcliffe Asheton his son,³⁰ whose descendant Mr. Ralph Cockayne Asheton of Downham is the present lord of the manor and owner of part of the township.

Richard Asheton's house had twelve hearths liable to the tax in 1666, but no other had as many as



LANGTON. *Argent*
three chevrons gules.



OSBALDESTON. *Argent*
a mascle sable between
three pellets.

three; the total number of hearths in the township was twenty-five.³¹

CUERDALE HALL stands in a low situation near the south bank of the Ribble about a mile north-east of Walton-le-Dale, the principal front facing north to the river. The house, which is of two stories, is now divided into two and is of little architectural interest, so many alterations and additions having been made that the disposition of the original plan has been lost and the external appearance of the building completely changed. It appears to have been a 17th-century structure of brick and stone, some portions of which remain at the back, where two stone buttresses against the old brick wall probably mark the position of the hall. The north front seems to have had two projecting gabled end wings, the plan most likely following the usual type, but additions have been made at either end and a long wing built at the south-east corner at right angles to the main building. The house now has a quite modern appearance with plain brick gables and blue slated roofs, and the north elevation has been spoiled by the erection in front of a low one-story brick addition. The house is said to have been partly rebuilt in 1700 by William Asheton and an old oak staircase with turned balusters and square newels in the east wing may belong to this period. A panelled

R. 3 (1), m. 2 d. The final settlements were embodied in fines levied in 1353 and recorded in 1356; *Final Conc.* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), ii, 135, 148.

The Abbot of Whalley has licence to acquire lands here in 1346; *Cal. Pat.* 1345-8, p. 192. In the inquiry taken before licence was granted Alice and John were stated to hold the manor of Cuerdale of Isabella Queen of England by suit to the three weeks court of Clitheroe. They were at the time unmarried; *Inq. a.g.d.* file 281, no. 29 (20 Edw. III). An interesting and detailed description of the lands acquired by Whalley is given in *Add. MS.* 10374, fol. 142, and in *Whalley Coucher*. (Chet. Soc.), iv, 1139-43.

²¹ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 31. ²² Kuerden MSS. iv, K 9, no. 77. In 1350 Thomas son of Thomas Molyneux was indicted of the slaying of Adam son of Nicholas son of Geoffrey of Preston the previous year. Ellen Hobbedaghre of Cuerdale had received him into her house after the deed; Assize R. 443, m. 3. He was probably acquitted.

²³ Lay Subs. Lancs. bdle. 130, no. 28. There were twenty-four other contributors, all husbandmen or labourers, includ-

ing a spenser, 'coker', potter, ferryman, wright and 'carriour.'

²⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1377-81, p. 505; 1385-9, p. 156.

²⁵ *Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), i, 31.

²⁶ Cuerdale D. Kuerden MSS. iv, K 9; ii, fol. 256.

²⁷ Kuerden has preserved an abstract of his will in which he leaves his lands to his wife Joan for life, remainder to 'Thomelyn Molineux Richardson my brother' in tail-male, remainder to 'Thomelyn Gefreson of Osbaldeston' in tail-male with successive remainders to Thomas' brothers John and Richard; Harwood bequeathed to 'John Jeffrayson of Osbaldeston'; Thelwons to Over Darwen and Northbrook in Walton-on-the-Hill and other lands to other relatives; *ibid.* fol. 256b; iv, K 9. There is no record of any claim having been made to the manor by the next of kin of Joan de Cuerdale, but it is significant that in 1433 and 1434 Geoffrey Osbaldeston obtained releases from John son and heir of John Cuerdale and from Christopher Marsden, late of Swinden, in Great Marsden, of all their rights in the manor and other tenements here; Towneley MS. OO, no. 1503, 1516.

²⁸ *Ibid.* OO, no. 1547.

²⁹ *Lancs. Inq. p.m.* (Chet. Soc.), ii, 108; *Duchy of Lanc. various Inq. p.m.* In the inquest taken after the death of Edward Osbaldeston in 33 Eliz. he is stated to have held the manors of Cuerdale and Over Darwen of Thomas Langton, esq., in socage by fealty and a yearly rent of 9s.; *ibid.* xv, 40.

³⁰ *Pal. of Lanc. Plea R.* 313, m. 9 d.; 326, m. 17; Feet of F. bdle. 84, no. 13. Described as the manor of C. a water-mill, a fulling mill, 20 messuages, 800 acres of land, meadow and pasture, 200 acres of wood, heath and moss, and a free fishery in the Ribble and Darwen. In 1650 Elizabeth widow of Radcliffe Asheton of Cuerdale begged for the discharge of half a messuage here which her husband had leased for ninety-nine years or three lives to Edward Thornley and Robert and Thomas his sons, which had been sequestrated for the delinquency of Jane widow of Robert Thornley; *Cal. Com. for Comp.* 2413.

At this time the free rent, formerly 10s., amounted only to 11. 8d., which Richard Asheton paid in 1662 'for his demesnes at Cuerdall'; *MS. penes W. Farrer*.

³¹ Lay Subs. Lancs. bdle. 250, no. 9.

room on the south side, however, appears to be of rather later date, and there is another staircase with flat pierced balusters in the west wing. The building was allowed to fall into neglect when it ceased to be the residence of the Asshetons, and is now partly used as a farm-house. On the north side are two well-designed stone-cased gate piers with coupled Corinthian pilasters and urn ornaments; but the gardens no longer exist, though there are still traces of the great avenue of trees on the south side by which the house was approached from the high road.

The family of Cliff, probably descended from Richard a younger son of Warine de Cuerdale, held lands here which John de Elleslegh in right of his wife Alice daughter and heir of Richard del Cliff claimed in 1354 from the Abbot of Whalley, but unsuccessfully.³² Gilbert de Styholme was the grandfather of Richard, whose son was charged in 1353 with depasturing the crops of John son of Alexander de Longleigh in Cuerdale.³³ William Langley held at his death in 1592 a messuage here which descended to his nephew Robert Woodroffe of Walton-le-Dale.³⁴ Christopher Smyth died in 1589 seised of a small estate here which was held of John Osbaldeston, esq., in socage and descended to Edmund Smyth his son, who held of Radcliffe Assheton, esq., in 1620.³⁵ The subsidy rolls record no persons assessed on lands except the lord of the manor. In 1626 Robert Langton and William Cowpe were assessed upon goods.³⁶

SAMLESBURY

Samelesbure, xii cent.; Samelesbiry, Schamelesbyre, Schampelesbyri, Samplesbiry, xiii cent.; Samesbury, xiii-xvi cent.; Samlesbury, xiv-xx cent.

This rural township lies in Lower Ribblesdale, and extends from that river over undulating ground into the valley of the Darwen and upwards as far as Arley Brook in Woodfold Park, a distance of 3 miles. From this point the eastern boundary extends over the slope of Hoolster Hill, the highest ground in the township, to the village of Mellor Brook. To the north the Preston and Clitheroe road forms the boundary for some distance, but is not in the township. To the south the River Darwen and its tributary the Beasting Brook form the boundary until the hundred of Leyland is touched.

Towards Mellor Brook the subsoil consists of the Yoredale rocks, which extend south to Hoolster Hill, in the southern, central and northern parts of the Millstone Grit, and towards the Ribble of Bunter pebble beds. From Rowley Fold to Beasting Brook a small area of the Permian rocks occurs. The soil is generally of a clayey nature. There is some arable land and a considerable area of woodland in Seed Park and scattered over numerous ravines, but the land principally consists of meadow and pasture.¹ The area of the township is 4,379 acres, and the population in 1901 numbered 860 persons.²

The main road from Preston to Blackburn passes through the township, crossing the river at Brockholes Bridge; half a mile to the east of the village the main road to Clitheroe branches from it, and is again connected with it by a short link which turns south from Mellor Brook. In the opposite direction a country lane leads to Walton-le-Dale. The nearest railway station is at Hoghton on the Liverpool, Blackburn and Accrington line of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. The principal employment is agriculture; there are paper-mills on the River Darwen at Roach Bridge and Samlesbury Bottoms. The sewage disposal works of the Blackburn Corporation are within the township, and the Thirlmere conduits of the Manchester Corporation Waterworks pass through the middle of it, crossing the Ribble and Darwen upon aqueducts.

There is a parish council.

William Billington, operative, septic and poet, was born at Samlesbury in 1827. He worked in the cotton mills at Blackburn, and published volumes of poems in 1861 and 1883. He died in 1884.³

SAMLESBURY was held in the latter *MANOR* half of the 12th century by Gospatric son of Swain in thegnage by the yearly service of 12s. It is by no means improbable that he was a younger son of Swain son of Leofwin, lord of part of Hindley about the middle of the 12th century. In addition to his manor of Samlesbury he held half the manor of Alston in Amounderness, and in Salford Hundred half the manors of Harwood⁴ and Sharples, estates which his son Roger held in 1212 after Gospatric's death.⁵ Roger, having married Margaret daughter and heir of Walter son of Osbert (de Clifton) without the consent of the chief lord, Theobald Walter, was summoned in 1194 to answer

³² Duchy of Lanc. Assize R. 3 (1), m. 4 d.

³³ Kuerden MSS. iv, K 9; Assize R. 435, m. 32 d. In 1345 John Hare of Cuerdale and Diota relict of John de Cuerdale were charged with assaulting William de Longleigh; De Banco R. 345, m. 95 d.

³⁴ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xvi, 52. In 1668-9 John Woodroffe of Walton-le-Dale made complaint as to certain lands in Cuerdale and Walton and a burgage in Clitheroe which had been held by Robert Woodroffe forty-three years previously. Plaintiff was son of Christopher son of John Woodroffe, cousin-german and heir of the said Robert. The defendants were Richard Woodroffe of Wheelton (brother of plaintiff) and Robert Woodroffe of Samlesbury; Croxteth D.

³⁵ Duchy of Lanc. Inq. p.m. xxii, no. 40 (Rec. Soc. xvi, 154).

³⁶ Lancs. Lay Subs. bdle. 131, no. 317.

¹ The agricultural returns for 1905 give arable land 142 acres, permanent grass 3,645 acres, woods and plantations 132 acres.

² The new survey gives 4,384 acres, of which 76 are inland water.

³ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; Abram, *Blackburn Characters*, 219; Gillow, *Bibl. Dict. of Engl. Cath.* i, 212.

⁴ Kuerden MSS. (Coll. of Arms), iii, B 2.

⁵ *Lancs. Inq. and Extents* (Rec. Soc. Lancs. and Ches.), i, 16, 54, 58, 75. The great inquest of service made in 1212 records several feoffments made in the 12th century to Gospatric, whose son Roger held the tenements in 1212. They are (1) half a plough-land in Hindley, given in frank marriage to Gospatric by Swain son of Leofwin, which Roger son of Gospatric held in 1212 of Thomas de Burnhull; *ibid.* i, 75. (2) One plough-land in Lathom or its members which Siward son of Dunning, ancestor of the

Lathoms, gave to Gospatric for 4s. yearly service, of which Richard and John held 1 oxgang for 12d. and William de Stainford held 3 oxgangs for 3s. of Roger son of Gospatric in 1212; *ibid.* 16.

It is significant that the heirs general of Gospatric held three-fourths of the manor of Alston, which manor Thomas de Burnhull held in 1212.

Gospatric also had issue Richard, Alan, who married Amabel de Blakeburn, Ughtred the clerk of Whalley, to whom Geoffrey Dean of Whalley gave, and Roger de Lacy constable of Chester confirmed, Clerk Hill in Whalley (q.v.), and a daughter who married Geoffrey the younger, Dean of Whalley; *Whalley Couch.* (Chet. Soc.), 285-8.

Adam and Geoffrey Brun and Gilbert de Samelesbury were amerced in 1187 before Geoffrey de Lucy for withdrawing from pleas without licence; Farrer, *Lancs. Pipe R.* 69.