

THE HISTORY  
OF THE  
COUNTY PALATINE AND DUCHY  
OF  
LANCASTER

BY THE LATE EDWARD BAINES, ESQ.

*THE BIOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT BY THE LATE W. R. WHATTON, F.S.A.*

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## CONTENTS OF VOLUME II.

HUNDRED OF BLACKBURN.	PAGE
THE HUNDRED.—Dimensions and Divisions—Translation of “De Statu Blagborneshire” . . . . .	1
WHALLEY PARISH.—Extent and Situation—The Name—Townships, etc., contained in it—Ecclesiastical Matters —Old Halls—Life of Thomas Dunham Whitaker, LL.D.—Life of John Woolton, bishop of Exeter . . . . .	4
<i>Borough of Clitheroe.</i> —Clitheroe Castle—Members of Parliament—The Church—Life of James King, R.N., LL.D.—List of Clitheroe Charters and Documents—Little Mitton—Downham—Twiston—Great Mearley— Pendleton—Chatburn—Worston—Wiswell . . . . .	13
<i>New Church in Pendle,</i> Ancient Chapelry.—Rough Lee Booth—Admergill—Barley-cum-Wheatley—Wheatley Carr—Goldshaw Booth—Old Laund Booth . . . . .	25
<i>Colne,</i> Ancient Chapelry.—Roman Station—Manor—Church—Town—Barrowford—Foulridge—Trawden Forest —Great Marsden—Little Marsden . . . . .	26
<i>Burnley,</i> Ancient Chapelry.—Early History—Church—Town—Habergham Eaves—Life of Charles Towneley, F.R.S.—Briercliffe-with-Extwisle—Worsthorne—Cliviger—Life of Dr. William Whitaker—Red Hallows or Reedley Hollows—Local Annals . . . . .	31
<i>The Forest of Rossendale.</i> —Extent—Early History—List of Vaccaries . . . . .	44
<i>Newchurch in Rossendale,</i> Ancient Chapelry—Wolfenden—Bacup . . . . .	46
<i>Haslingden,</i> Ancient Chapelry.—Church—Town—Henheads—Dunnockshaw—Higher Booths—Lower Booths —Rawtenstall . . . . .	49
<i>Church,</i> Ancient Chapelry.—Oswaldtwisle—Huncote—Yate-cum-Pickup-Bank . . . . .	52
<i>Altham,</i> Ancient Chapelry.—Clayton le Moors—Accrington . . . . .	54
<i>Padiham,</i> Ancient Chapelry.—Higham Booth—Heyhouses—Simonstone—Hapton—Read—Life of Alexander Nowell, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's—Life of Lawrence Nowell, M.A., Dean of Lichfield . . . . .	57
<i>Bowland with Leagram</i> . . . . .	63
BLACKBURN PARISH.—List of Townships—Ecclesiastical Matters—Charities—Grammar School—Blackburn Aca- demy—Public Works—Trade and Manufactures—Municipal Government—Parliamentary—Local Annals— Livesey—Tockholes—Over Darwen—Life of Edward Harwood, D.D.—Eccleshill—Lower Darwen—Little Harwood—Rishton—Great Harwood—Billington—Dinkley—Salesbury—Balderstone—Cuerdale—Walton- le-Dale—Samblesbury—Pleasington—Life of Henry Ainsworth—Witton—Mellor—Ramsgreave—Clayton-le- Dale—Wilpshire . . . . .	65
CHIPPING PARISH.—Antiquity—Church—Curious Font—Thornley cum Wheatley . . . . .	95
MITTON PARISH.—Aighton—Chaigley—Bailey—The Sherburnes—Stonyhurst College . . . . .	100
RIBCHESTER PARISH.—Roman Station and Antiquities—Church—Charities—Alston and Hothersall—Dilworth —Dutton—Stydd Chapel . . . . .	104

### HUNDRED OF LEYLAND.

THE HUNDRED.—Ancient and Modern Divisions—Parishes and Townships—Dr. Kuerden's Account . . . . .	112
CROSTON PARISH.—Mawdesley—Bispham—Bretherton—Ulnes Walton . . . . .	114
HOOLE PARISH.—Separation of Hoole from Croston—Little Hoole . . . . .	120
CHORLEY PARISH . . . . .	123
RUFFORD PARISH . . . . .	128



	PAGE
TARLETON PARISH . . . . .	131
HESKETH-WITH-BECCONSALL PARISH.—The Heskeths—William Fleetwood . . . . .	133
LEYLAND PARISH.—Euxton—Heapey—Whittle-le-Woods—Wheulton Withnell—Hoghton—Hoghton Tower— Cuerden—Life of Richard Kuerden, M.D.—Clayton-le-Woods . . . . .	135
ECCLESTON PARISH.—Heskin—Parbold—Wrightington . . . . .	146
PENWORTHAM PARISH.—The Bussels—Penwortham Priory—Howick—Hutton—Farington—Longton . . . . .	151
BRINDLE PARISH . . . . .	156
STANDISH PARISH.—The Standish Family—Dr. Henry Standish—Standish with Langtree—Shevington—Worthing- ton—Adlington—Anderton—Coppull—Duxbury—Charnock Richard—Welsh Whittle—Heath Charnock . . . . .	159

## HUNDRED OF WEST DERBY.

THE HUNDRED.—Formerly Divided into Three Hundreds—Divisions, Parishes, Townships . . . . .	169
WIGAN PARISH.—Early Manorial Descents—Parliamentary Charters—Ecclesiastical Matters—Events during the Civil War—Charities—The Town—Aspull—Haigh—Orrell—Dalton—Up Holland—The Priory—Pember- ton—Winstanley—Billinge—Abram—Hindley—Ince—Life of John Leland, D.D. . . . .	171
LEIGH PARISH.—Pennington—Bedford—Astley—Tyldesley—Life of Sir Thomas Tyldesley—Atherton—Chow- bent—Dorning Rasbotham's notes . . . . .	193
WINWICK PARISH.—The District of Makerfield—Identification with the Maserfield of Bede—Winwick with Hulme —Houghton, Middleton, and Arbury—Southworth and Croft—Culcheth—Kenyon—Lowton—Golborne— Haydock—Ashton in Makerfield—Father Arrowsmith's hand—Newton: its Ancient Barony—Members of Parliament—The Castle Hill—Prehistoric Remains . . . . .	204
WARRINGTON PARISH.—Roman Antiquities—The Butler or Botiler Family—Monastic Remains—The Friary— Share in the Civil War—The Rural Deanery—Church—Charities—Warrington Academy, etc.—Parliament- ary—Municipal—Burtonwood—Poulton with Fearnhead—Woolston with Martincroft—Rixton with Glaze- brook—Life of Thomas Percival, M.D., etc.—Life of Thomas Barnes, D.D. . . . .	219
PRESCOT PARISH.—Church—Charities—Manor—Curious Manorial Customs—Eccleston—Rainford—Windle with Hardshaw—St. Helen's—Parr—Sutton—Rainhill—Bold—Whiston—Cronton—Widnes with Appleton— Farnworth—Life of William Smith, bishop of Lincoln—Sankey—Penketh—Cuerdley—Ditton . . . . .	241
CHILDWALL PARISH.—Much Woolton—Little Woolton—Hale—Hale Wood—Speke—Garston—Allerton—Waver- tree . . . . .	257
HUYTON PARISH.—Torbock—Roby—Knowsley—Account of the Stanley Family—Also of James Stanley, bishop of Ely, and Sir John Stanley of Honford—Croxtheth Park . . . . .	268
WALTON-ON-THE-HILL PARISH.—West Derby—Everton—Kirkdale—Bootle cum Linacre—Fazakerley—Kirkby —Simonswood—Forniby . . . . .	284
LIVERPOOL PARISH.—Near to the Esmedune of Domesday—The Corporation Seal . . . . .	293
<i>Historical Annals</i> , in full to 1760—Abstract, 1760 to 1868 . . . . .	294
<i>Ecclesiastical</i> . . . . .	324
<i>Municipal and Parliamentary</i> . . . . .	334
<i>Commercial</i> . . . . .	358
<i>Educational, Literary, and Charitable</i> . . . . .	369
<i>Miscellaneous</i> , and <i>Lives of Liverpool worthies</i> —William Roscoe; Thomas Raffles, D.D.; William Rathbone; James Currie, M.D.; Sir William Brown, bart.; Mrs. Hemans; Matthew Gregson; James Parke, Lord Wensleydale . . . . .	376
TOXTETH PARK (Extra Parochial).—Life of Jeremiah Horrox . . . . .	382
THINGWALL (Extra Parochial) . . . . .	387
SEPTON PARISH.—Account of the Molyneux Family—Lunt—Ince Blundell—Little Crosby—Great Crosby— Litherland—Waterloo—Orrell and Ford—Aintree—Netherton—Thornton . . . . .	389
AUGHTON PARISH . . . . .	400
ALTCAR PARISH . . . . .	405
ORMSKIRK PARISH.—Bickerstaffe—Skelmersdale—Lathom—Siege of Lathom House—Burscough—The Priory— Scarisbrick . . . . .	407
HALSALL PARISH.—Down-Holland—Lydiate—Maghull—Melling . . . . .	420
NORTH MEOLS PARISH.—Southport—Birkdale—Martin Mere—The Flora of Southport . . . . .	427

HUNDRED OF AMOUNDERNESS.

	PAGE
THE HUNDRED.—Its Name—Ancient Lords—Leland's Account—List of Parishes and Townships . . . . .	434
PRESTON PARISH.—The Ancient Guild—Customal of Preston—Charters—Historical Sketch—Preston's part in the Civil War—The Rebellions of 1715 and 1745—Trade and Manufactures—Ecclesiastical—Charities—Parliamentary—Preston Guilds—Law Courts—Public Buildings—Institutions—Extent of the Parish—Lea, Ashton, Ingol, and Cottam—Broughton—Broughton Tower—Barton—Haighton—Elston—Grimsargh-with-Brockholes—Ribbleton—Fishwick—Local Annals . . . . .	437
KIRKHAM PARISH.—Freckleton—Warton—Bryning-with-Kellamergh—Ribby-and-Wray—Westby with Great and Little Plumpton—Weeton—Medlar and Wesham—Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton—Great and Little Singleton—Hambleton—Little Eccleston with Larbrick—Treales, Roseacre, and Wharles—Clifton with Salwick—Newton—Goosnargh—Whittingham . . . . .	482
LYTHAM PARISH . . . . .	503
BISPHAM PARISH.—Bispham with Norbreck—Layton with Warbreck—Blackpool—Southshore . . . . .	507
POULTON-IN-THE-FYLDE PARISH.—The Fylde—Traces of Roman and British Occupancy—Church—Charities—Thornton—Rossall—Great and Little Carleton—Great and Little Marton—Hardhorn with Newton—Staining—Life of Dr. William Allen, Archbishop and Cardinal . . . . .	512
ST. MICHAEL-LE-WYRE PARISH.—Upper Rawcliffe with Tarnacre—Out Rawcliffe—Great Eccleston—Elswick—Wood Plumpton—Inskip with Sowerby . . . . .	521
GARSTANG PARISH.—Barnacre with Bonds—Greenhalgh Castle—Holleth—Cleveley and Forton—Winmarleigh—Cabus—Nateby—Pilling—Pilling Moss—Kirkland—Catterall—Bilsborough—Claughton . . . . .	527
LANCASTER PARISH (the outlying Townships in Amounderness).—Fulwood—Myerscough—Bleasdale—Preesall with-Hackensall—Stalmine-with-Stainall . . . . .	539

HUNDRED OF LONSDALE.

THE HUNDRED.—Parishes and Townships of Lonsdale North of the Sands—Parishes and Townships of Lonsdale South of the Sands—Lonsdale as it appears in Domesday Book—The Ancient Forests of Lancashire . . . . .	544
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LONSDALE SOUTH OF THE SANDS.

LANCASTER PARISH.—Ancient Dimensions—Rivers—Roman Station and Remains—The Wery Wall—The Runic Cross of Lancaster—Ancient Lords of the Honor—Early History—The Fishery of the Lune—The Borough—Members of Parliament—The Castle—Monastic Foundations—Ancient Survey and Deeds—Leland's Description—Parish Church—Other Places of Worship—Charities—Lancaster's Share in the Civil War—Public Buildings and Institutions—List of Townships in the Parish—Skerton—Poulton, Bare, and Torrisholme—Heaton with Oxcliffe—Middleton—Overton—Thurnham—Cockersand Abbey—Ashton with Stodday—Aldcliffe—Scotforth—Over Wyersdale—Caton—Littledale—Quernmore—Bulk—Gressingham . . . . .	548
COCKERHAM PARISH.—Cockerham Priory—Ellel—Forton—Cleveley—Parts of other Townships . . . . .	587
HEYSHAM PARISH.—The Village—Ancient Saxon Chapel—Church, etc. . . . .	592
BOLTON-LE-SANDS PARISH.—Slyne with Hest—Stapleturne—Nether Kellet—Over Kellet . . . . .	595
WARTON PARISH.—Warton Crag—Yealand Conyers and Yealand Redmayne—Silverdale—Priest Hutton—Borwick—Carnforth . . . . .	600
HALTON PARISH.—Roman and Saxon remains—Halton—Aughton . . . . .	607
CLAUGHTON PARISH . . . . .	610
MELLING PARISH.—Ancient Encampment—Account of the Montebejon Family—Church—Hornby—Hornby Castle—Priory—Farleton—Roeburndale—Wray with Botton—Wennington—Arkholme with Cawood . . . . .	613
TUNSTAL PARISH.—Overborough—Roman Station—The Church—Cantsfield—Thurland Castle—Leck—Burrow with-Burrow . . . . .	620
BURTON IN KENDAL PARISH (part) . . . . .	624
TATHAM PARISH . . . . .	625
WHITTINGTON PARISH . . . . .	627
THORNTON IN LONSDALE PARISH (part) . . . . .	628



## LONSDALE NORTH OF THE SANDS.

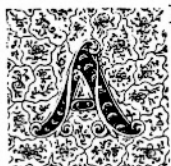
	PAGE
THE LIBERTY OF FURNESS.—Manors in the Liberty—Furness Abbey—History of the Abbey—List of Abbots— Description of the Abbey—The Minerals and Mines of Furness . . . . .	629
ALDINGHAM PARISH.—Upper Aldingham—Lower Aldingham—Leece—Gleaston—Gleaston Castle . . . . .	639
URSWICK PARISH.—Old Manorial Customs—Urswick Stone Walls—Much Urswick—Little Urswick—Adgarley with Stainton—Bardsea . . . . .	643
DALTON IN FURNESS PARISH.—Dalton Castle—Church—Town—Life of George Romney—Yarlside—Hawcoat— Walney Island—The Peel of Fouldrey—Barrow—Above Town—Ireleth Chapelry . . . . .	647
PENNINGTON PARISH . . . . .	652
ULVERSTON PARISH.—General Description—Manorial Descents—Church—Charities—Town—Conishead Priory —Egton with Newland—Lowick—Blawith—Church-Coniston—Torver—Subberwaite—Osmotherley— Mansriggs . . . . .	654
KIRKBY-IRELETH PARISH.—Dunnerdale and Seathwaite—Seathwaite Chapel—The “Wonderful Robert Walker” —Broughton . . . . .	663
COLTON PARISH.—Formerly a Parochial Chapelry of Hawkshead—East Colton—West Colton—Nibthwaite— Haverthwaite, Finsthwaite and Rusland . . . . .	667
HAWKSHEAD PARISH.—Streams—Lakes—Church—Grammar School—Claife—Satterthwaite—Monk-Coniston— with-Skelwith—Life of Edwin Sandys, Archbishop of York . . . . .	670
CARTMEL PARISH.—Description of Morecambe Sands—The Construction of the Railway across the Sands—The Town of Cartmel—The Priory—Grant and Protection from Pope Gregory IX. (translation)—Priory Church —Grammar School—Charities—Lower Allithwaite—Holy-well—Kirkhead Cavern—Lower Holker—Upper Holker—Staveley—Cartmel Fell—Upper Allithwaite—East Broughton—Grange—Life of Edmund Law, D.D., Bishop of Carlisle . . . . .	675

## APPENDIX.

APPENDIX I. <i>Lord Hyde's List of those who have held the Duchy of Lancaster, etc. (abridged)</i> . . . . .	689
APPENDIX II. <i>Perambulation of the Forests (translation)</i> . . . . .	691
APPENDIX III. <i>The Lansdowne Feodary (translation)</i> . . . . .	692
APPENDIX IV. <i>A List of Papists who Registered their Estates in 1715</i> . . . . .	696
APPENDIX V. <i>Various Creations of Orders, etc. (Lancashire)</i> . . . . .	699
APPENDIX VI. <i>Cotton; Annals of the Cotton Manufacture; the Cotton Famine</i> . . . . .	700
APPENDIX VII. <i>Electoral Statistics of Lancashire</i> . . . . .	712
APPENDIX VIII. <i>The Chetham Society</i> . . . . .	714
ERRATA AND ADDENDA . . . . .	716
INDEX . . . . .	719

THE  
HISTORY OF LANCASHIRE.

HUNDRED OF BLACKBURN.



AFTER Salford Hundred, the next great and manufacturing division of the county of Lancaster is the hundred of Blackburn. This hundred is twenty-four miles in length, from the western part of Walton-le-Dale, in the parish of Blackburn, to the eastern boundary of the forest of Trawden, in the chapelry of Colne; and seventeen miles in breadth from the northern boundary of the parish of Chipping to the southern boundary of the parish of Blackburn. It consists of the five parishes of

Whalley—Chipping—Mitton—Ribchester—and Blackburn.

These parishes, consisting of seventy-nine townships, form the upper and lower divisions of Blackburn Hundred, and for parochial and police purposes are thus arranged:—

*Upper Division.*

1. WHALLEY PARISH.—New Accrington, Old Accrington, Altham, Barley and Wheatley Booths, Barrowford Booth, Higher Booths, Lower Booths, Briercliffe with Extwisle, Burnley, Chatburn, Clitheroe, Cliviger, Colne, Downham, Dunnockshaw, Foulridge, Goldshaw Booth, Habergham Eaves, Hapton, Henheads, Heyhouses, Higham Booth, Huncoat, Ightenhill Park, Great Marsden, Little Marsden, Mearley, Little Mitton, Newchurch Deadwin Clough Bacup and Wolfenden, Old Laund Booth, Padiham, Pendleton, Read, Reedley Hollows Filly Close and New Laund Booth, Roughlee Booth, Simonstone, Trawden, Twiston, Whalley, Wheatley Carr, Wiswell, Worsthorn, Worston, and Yate with Pickup Bank (44 townships, etc., besides 5 in the Lower Division).

*Lower Division.*

2. BLACKBURN PARISH.—Balderston, Billington, Blackburn, Clayton-le-Dale, Cuedale, Lower Darwen, Over Darwen, Dinkley, Eccleshill, Great Harwood, Little Harwood, Livesey, Mellor, Osbaldeston, Pleasington, Ramsgrave, Rishton, Salesbury, Samlesbury, Tockholes, Walton-le-Dale, Wilpshire, and Witton (23 townships, etc.)
3. CHIPPING PARISH.—Chipping, and Thornley with Wheatley (2).
4. MITTON PARISH (Part of).—Aighton Bailey and Chaigley (1).
5. RIBCHESTER PARISH.—Dilworth, Dutton, and Ribchester (3, besides Alston in Amounderness Hundred).
6. WHALLEY PARISH (Part of).—Bowland with Leagram, Church, Clayton-le-Moors, Haslingden, and Oswaldtwisle (5, etc., besides those in the Upper Division).

According to an ancient document on the early state of this hundred, supposed to have been written in the fourteenth century (1347) by John Lyndelay, abbot of Whalley, entitled “De Statu Blagborneshire,”<sup>1</sup> the

<sup>1</sup> This very long document is in not very intelligible Latin. The following is a translation of it:—

CONCERNING THE STATE OF BLAGBORNESHIRE.<sup>2</sup>

The first foundation of the church of Whalley by Augustine, archbishop of Canterbury, and of other churches within the limits of Blagborneshire. Succession of Deans in the same. Appropriation of the same, and grant to the Monks of Stanlawe, by John de Lasey; with many other things most worthy of note. (From authentic writings, late in the possession of Ralph Assheton, Bart.)

Be it remembered, that in the time of Ethelbert, king of the English, who began to reign A.D. 1096, the blessed Augustine, the Apostle of the English, sent by the blessed Pope Gregory, in the third year of his papacy, at the instance and request of the said king, preached in England, and taught the Christian faith. There was at Whalley in Blagborneshire a certain parish church built in honour of all saints, in the cemetery of which church were certain stone crosses then erected and called by the people the crosses

<sup>2</sup> This document might with more propriety be named “The Deanery and Parish of Whalley, its Deans and Possessions.”—H.

of the blessed Augustine, which under the same name exist there to this day; and the above-named church was called, at that time, “The White Church under the Legh.” Within the bounds and limits of the same parish church were comprised, at the time, all Blagburnshire and all Boland, and so it endured for many years. After these things, the devotion of the faithful increasing, and the number of believers in those parts being augmented, there were built other three churches in Blagborneshire—namely, the church of Blagborne, the church of Chepyn, and the church of Ribchester—the parishes of these churches being distinct, and marked out by certain limits on all sides, as they have continued to be to the present time, and are well known to all in those parts. In these times, while the said churches had thus been built, there was not, in Blagborneshire, at Cliderhowe, or elsewhere, a castle built, nor any chapel whatever besides the above-named churches, nor any lord who had ever claimed the patronage of the said churches, or of any of them; but each rector held and possessed the land and vill in which his church was situated, as the endowment of his church; and governed his church, so endowed, as if it were his own patrimony and inheritance; and freely appointed his successor from among his sons or friends, acceptance or institution by the bishop of Lichfield then taking place; and, for a long time, the rectors of Whalley and of Blagborn were for the most part married men, and the lords of vills. And those of Whalley were called deans, not parsons—



Christian religion was established here under the authority of Pope Gregory I., in the century that followed the departure of the Romans, and churches were erected in the parishes of Whalley, Blackburn, Chipping, and Ribchester, about the year 596. Of the inhabitants of this region, then including the parish of Rochdale, it is said, in the same account, that they were few, untractable, and wild, and that there were great multitudes of foxes and destructive beasts, while the place itself was in a manner inaccessible to men; that, owing to these causes, the diocesan bishop of Lichfield and his officials relinquished the whole jurisdiction of ordinaries in the parishes to the rectors or deans, who held and possessed the lands and townships in which their

the cause of which is thought likely to be, that at the time of the founding of this church, and through times long subsequent, the people of those parts were so sparse, and so untamed and wild, and moreover, there was such a multitude of foxes and hurtful beasts, and the place also seemed so inaccessible to men, that alike the bishops for the time being, and their officials, left and continually committed the whole jurisdiction (pertaining to the office of common deans) over the ordinaries of these parishes, to the aforesaid rectors, on account of the inconveniences specified; the more difficult and weighty causes, indeed, being reserved for the bishop. Wherefore from this office of dean, which they successively and continuously exercised, they were called by the people not rectors but deans; and in this manner the churches were managed till the time of King William the Conqueror—to wit, for 470 years; and, after the time of the said King William the Conqueror until the Lateran Council (A.D. 1215), as sufficiently appears from ancient and true chronicles. Who held this lordship of Blagbornshire before the time of the said King William is not stated with certainty in the chronicles. Common opinion holds and asserts, that as many as were the villis or mansions, or the manors of men, so many were the lords, not only in Blagbornshire, but also in Rachdale, Tottington, and Boland, and all the adjacent neighbourhood, of which none was held from another but all in chief from the lord king himself. Be it remembered, that the rectors of Whalley were married men from of old time, and were called deans, not rectors or parsons; and that they held the said church, together with the church of Rachedale, as by a certain right of inheritance. So that always the son to the father, or the brother to the brother, or other relative nearer by right of kin, succeeded hereditarily in the possession of the said churches—namely thus, that a dean of Whalley dying, immediately his son, or brother, or other relative to whom the hereditary right of these churches belonged, offered himself to the lord of Blagbornshire as the next heir of these churches, and letters testifying this being received from the lord, sent to the bishop other priests serving in the said churches and their chapels, with letters from himself and from the lord, for the succession of the cure of the parishioners, or at least for license and power to administer the canonical sacraments in these churches and chapels. And in this way the aforesaid churches were governed down to the Lateran Council. And be it known, that the first rector or dean of the church of Whalley of whom mention is found in the register of the diocessans of Lichfield, or the memory of whose name is in the chronicles or amongst the people, was called Spartlingus, styled “Dean of Whalley,” to whom succeeded Liwlfphus Cutwolfe, his son and heir, called “Dean” of the same church. After him succeeded Cudwolf, dean of the same church. To him also succeeded Henry, the elder heir, in like manner dean of the same church. After whom Robert, his son, also dean of the same church; and to him succeeded Henry, younger son and heir, dean of the same church. To him succeeded William, dean. After him succeeded Geoffrey the elder, in like manner dean of the same church. This Geoffrey (Galfridus) the elder married the daughter of Sir Roger de Lascy, then Lord of Blagbornshire. To this Geoffrey also succeeded Geoffrey the younger, his son and heir, dean of the same church, to whom succeeded Roger, also his son and heir, who is the last who is called dean of the church; nor afterwards was hereditary succession permitted in the deanery or in the possession of the forenamed church, which, as stated above, was wont to be occupied of old time by married men and hereditary succession; the Lateran Council held at that time [A.D. 1215] preventing it, by imposing chastity upon all clerks and rectors of churches.

Therefore the said Roger lived continently, and caused himself to be promoted to the sacerdotal order. And considering that ecclesiastical benefices, according to the ordinance of the foresaid council, ought not thenceforward to be held by hereditary grant, and willing to please the noble man, Sir John de Lascy, earl of Lincoln and lord of Blagbornshire, his kinsman, and to transfer to him, and confirm to him and his heirs, the right of patronage over the whole of his church of Whalley and its chapels, ceded the rectory and deanery of his foresaid church to the said earl and his heirs, as much

as in him was, and assured this the more manifestly, by retaining to himself only, by the assent of the bishop, the vicarage of the same church; wherefore the earl presented to the parsonage of the said church of Whalley a certain clerk of his, Peter de Cestria. Which said Peter became the first nominated parson of that church; and on the presentation of the same lord the earl, was, by the bishop of Lincoln, Alexander [de Savensby, A.D. 1224-1240], admitted to the same parsonage and canonically instituted and inducted, and thenceforward he held the same church, and possessed it for the whole of his life—to wit, for fifty-nine years and more. Nethertheless the same Peter, for the time of the said Roger, had of the forenamed church only 50 marks [£33 : 6 : 8] of yearly pension, in the name of his rectory; and the same Roger had, while he lived, the whole of the rest of the benefice, in the name of his vicarage, as sufficiently appears in the letters of presentation and institution of the said Peter, and in the ordination of the bishop thereon made. To this Peter, succeeded, in the aforesaid parsonage, the religious community called the abbot and convent, formerly of Stanlaw, recently of Whalley, and they entered into the manor of Whalley (Sir Gregory de Norbury being then abbot) on the 7th of the ides of April, 24th Edw. [I.] (7th April 1296), in the forty-seventh year of the age of the Lord Henry de Lascy, earl of Lincoln, A.D. 1296, leap year, dominical letter G, etc. Be it known that the said Geoffrey the younger, dean of Whalley, had a certain brother named Robert, to whom the same Geoffrey gave the chapel of Alvetham, in the name of vicar of Whalley, as appears by the muniments thereon made. Which Robert, being afterwards promoted to the church of Rachedam [Rochdale] in the name of its vicar, gave the aforesaid chapel to a certain Henry, son of the son of Hugh de Clayton, his grandson [or nephew] in the name of the said vicar, as the writings thereon made testify. Therefore the above-named Peter de Cestria, after he had acquired the entire rectory of the church of Whalley, restored by means of a lawsuit the said chapel of Alvetham to its right and former property, as of his church of Whalley, before the prior of St. Fredeswyde of Oxford, the judge sub-delegated in this matter by the dean of Warwyk, principal delegate deputed by the Apostolic See; before whom the said Peter legally obtained and recovered the same chapel by decisive verdict—namely, on the morrow of Ash Wednesday (February 14) 1241; and so the same chapel has continued from that time to the present, as a chapel dependent on and belonging to the same church.

The aforesaid Roger the dean, considering that ecclesiastical benefices, according to the ordinance of the foresaid council, ought not to be occupied by hereditary succession, desirous to provide for a certain brother of his named Richard, afterwards called of Townley from his patrimony of Whalley, at least in part, as he could not wholly, gave to the same Richard the chapel of St. Michael in the castle, at Cliderow, by the assent of Sir Roger de Lascy, lord of Blagbornshire, whose kinsman he was, together with the oblations and issues assigned to the same chapel. He gave also to the said Richard the vill of Townley, which the heirs of the same Richard yet hold, and his manor of Coldecotes, all which were of the patrimony of the deans of Whalley. But the said Peter, after he had acquired the entire rectory of the church of Whalley, on the death of the said Roger the dean, claimed again of the said Richard the same chapel, as a right and part of his church, as abovesaid, and obtained it from him. Geoffrey the dean gave to a certain servant named Elias, for his homage and service, all the land of his which was Ralph Proudote's, with all its appurtenances; and moreover he gave also to the same Elias all his demesne land on the east side of the road leading from Wiswall to Reved [Read], with the newly-reclaimed land, and all the land which he might reclaim from the said road in Garecloghes, saving to the said dean his wood, to have and to hold, to the said Elias and his heirs, of the church of Whalley, and of the dean and his successors, rendering to them yearly 3s. for all services at the Feast of All Saints (Nov. 1), etc. All which said lands, etc., Dean Peter received and restored to his church from Robert Snelleshou, as is more clearly shown in the deeds thereon made. Geoffrey the dean gave 7½ acres in Reved to a certain Luke, harper [or player

livings were situated; and that this state of things continued for 470 years, until the reign of William the Conqueror.

It is evident indeed from the authority of the Venerable Bede, that Paulinus, not Augustine, was the missionary of the North,<sup>1</sup> and so far this monkish MS. is in error; but strong confirmatory evidence, which Dr. Whitaker has traced with his usual acuteness and erudition, exists,<sup>2</sup> to prove that subsequently this early ecclesiastical history of Blackburnshire is correct, and it may be considered of sufficient importance to be preserved in an unmutated state.

The commissioners of William the Conqueror, in Domesday Book, say of Blackburn Hundred—

“King Edward held Blacheburne. There are two hides and two carucates of land: the church had two bovates of this land: and the church of St. Mary had in Wallei two carucates of land free from all custom. In the same manor there is a wood one mile in length and the same in breadth, and there was an acerie of hawks. To this manor or hundred belonged twenty-eight freemen, holding five hides and a half, and forty carucates of land for twenty-eight manors adjoining. There is a wood six miles long and four broad, and there were the abovesaid customs. In the same hundred King Edward had Hunnicot with two carucates of land, Waletune with two carucates of land, Peniltune half-a-hide. The whole manor, with the hundred, paid to the king for rent thirty-two pounds two shillings. Roger de Poictou gave all this land to Roger de Busli and Albert Greslet, and there are as many men who have eleven carucates and a half; they allowed these to be exempt for three years, and therefore they are not rated.”

Although Roger de Poictou, the original grantee at the Conquest, gave the hundred of Blackburn to Roger de Busli and Albert Greslet, yet on the defection of Roger de Poictou, his lands, including the hundred of Blackburn, reverted to the crown, and it was then presented by William the Conqueror to Ilbert de Lacy, knight, lord of the Honor of Pontefract, to swell his extensive possessions.<sup>3</sup> In 20 Edward I. (1292), Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, was called upon to show his right to possess the wapentake of Blackburne, and to free chace in all his fees in Blacelburneshyre, and to make attachments and distresses by his bailiffs,<sup>4</sup> to try felons, and to have fines and amercements in all his fees, etc. On this occasion he claims by usage *from the time of the Conquest*, and by confirmation of Henry III. the exercise of these baronial liberties, and a verdict was accordingly awarded in his behalf.<sup>5</sup> This decision shows conclusively that Dugdale is right in carrying the jurisdiction of the Lacies in the hundred of Blackburn up to the time of the Conqueror, and that Dr. Whitaker's hypothesis, which refers the first connection of that family with Blackburnshire to the time of Robert de Laci, is erroneous. It is also recorded in the “Book of Chronicles at Whalley,” that King William the Conqueror of England gave to Ilbert de Lacy, who came over with him from Normandy, and to his heirs, to possess by hereditary right, the lordships of Blackburn and Pontefract, as in the memorandum just cited. The marriage of Thomas, earl of Lancaster, to Alicia, the only surviving child of Henry de Lacy, A.D. 1310, transferred, as we have already seen, the possessions of the house of Lacy to the house of Lancaster. The temporary confiscation of the princely inheritance of Thomas, earl of Lancaster, threatened to involve the lords of the castle and house of Lancaster in ruin; but the restitution of those possessions to Henry the “Good Duke of Lancaster,” the father of Lady Blanch afterwards espoused to John of Gaunt, placed them on a more secure footing than before, and constituted them part and parcel of the duchy of Lancaster. On the death of John of Gaunt in 1399, his son and heir Henry Plantagenet, surnamed Bolingbroke, having assumed the throne of England, under the title of Henry IV., added this rich gem to the crown of his ancestors.

This succinct view of the descent of the baronial possessions of Blackburn Hundred, from the time of the Saxons to the elevation of the Plantagenets to regal power, will serve to abridge the details in the parish histories, which will now claim our attention.

on the cithara], to have and to hold of him and of the church of Whalley, etc. Afterwards the abbot and convent [of Whalley], considering that the aforesaid lands, etc., in the vill of Reved, were free alms, and of right belonging to their church of Whalley, and not the lay fee of Luke, and of the others who had held them successively, as of hereditary right, obtained a writ “de juris utrum,” against John the son, etc., and by plea in the court of the lord king recovered them, as appears in the chartulary of Whalley, title 20. In the time of John Lindelay, abbot, the tenth part of the manor of Reved was acquired.

<sup>1</sup> See vol. i. p. 12.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Whalley*, 3d. edit. p. 49, etc.

<sup>3</sup> *Historia Lacieorum*.

<sup>4</sup> By an indenture of 24th February, 25 Edward III. (1351), between Henry, earl of Lancaster, Derby, Leicester, and High Steward of England, of the one part, and the abbot and convent of Whalley, Gilbert de la Legh, John de Alvetham, and Richard de Townely, of the other part, the earl grants to the parties of the second part the bailiwick of the wapentake of Blackburnshire, with all its profits, commodities, and appurtenances—to wit, that they should find one horseman and two footmen, to be bailiffs, to execute

the office which belongs to the bailiwick, whom they shall present yearly before the earl's steward, to the Michaelmas Court at Clidderhowe, undertaking to do all things belonging to the office, and true account to render of all things relating to the bailiwick, as farm-rents, fines, and amerciements, and the provision of putures within the bailiwick, as completely as the bailiffs in the time of Sir Henry de Lacy, formerly earl of Lincoln, etc. Rendering yearly to the earl 5½ marks (£3 : 13 : 4) at Michaelmas. [Then follow covenants to distrain for arrears of rent, etc.] The indenture is dated, as above, at the manor of the Savoy, near London. The abbey (observes Mr. W. A. Hulton) continued to hold the one-fourth of the bailiwick [granted them by Edward III., 5th December 1362] until the Dissolution; and in the compotus of 1478 is an entry of 40s. received from the office. At this time they held one-fourth, the Townleys of Towneley one-half (one-fourth for Towneley and the other fourth for De la Legh), and the Bânastres of Alvetham the remaining one-fourth. The Townleys and the Waltons of Altham still hold the office, and till lately appointed a bailiff who attended at the court of the hundred.—*Whalley Abbey Coucher Book*, p. 1164.

<sup>5</sup> *Placita de quo Warr. apud Lanc.* 20 Edw. I. Rot. 9.



## WHALLEY PARISH.

FOR territorial extent no parish in Lancashire equals that of the original parish of Whalley. This great parochial division of the county comprehended, even in its dissevered state (in 1835) one borough and forty-nine townships (forty-four in the upper and five in the lower division of the hundred), as already enumerated, of which thirteen were chapelries. Its breadth, from the northern boundary in the township of Chatburn, to the southern boundary of the hundred in the forest of Rossendale within this parish, is fifteen miles; and its length, from the western boundary, in the township of Oswaldtwisle, to the eastern boundary, where the counties of Lancaster and York are separated by the division line at Wolfstones, in the forest of Trawden, is eighteen miles.

The name, like the parish itself, is Saxon, signifying a *Field of Wells*, expressed by the term *Walalæg*, on which point Dr. Whitaker, the elaborate and elegant historian of Whalley, says—"No term more strikingly descriptive could have been chosen: for, situated as Whalley is, upon a skirt of Pendle, and upon the face of those vast inverted mineral beds, popularly denominated the *Rearing Mine*, the earth, if drained, bleeds almost at every pore; and there are no less than six considerable springs within the immediate precincts of the village."

Having already shown<sup>1</sup> that the country between the Mersey and the Ribble was included in the Saxon kingdom of Northumbria, and not, as Dr. Whitaker contends, in the kingdom of Mercia, it is unnecessary to accumulate evidence upon this point; but if further proof were wanted, it is to be found in that passage of the Saxon Chronicle, in which it is recorded, "that in the year A.D. 798, a severe battle was fought in the Northumbrian territory during Lent, on the fourth day before the nones of April, at Whalley, wherein Alric, the son of Hubert, was slain, and many others with him." What we know further of the early history of Whalley before the Norman Conquest, is contained in the "Status de Blagborneshire," already inserted. In the Domesday Survey, the name of "Wallei" occurs, as held by Edward the Confessor, at which time the church of St. Mary existed, and appendent to it were two carucates of land.<sup>2</sup>

The original parish of Whalley, comprehending as it did four hundred square miles, was still more extended than that which at present exists, and included the parishes of Rochdale, Blackburn, Ribchester, Chipping, Mitton, and Slaidburn, with part of the district of Saddleworth. The boundary division at this early period consisted of the Ribble and the Hodder to the north, and the Tarne and the Chaw to the south. At what time Rochdale was dissevered from the parish of Whalley does not appear, but it was certainly before the termination of the deanery, in 1296, seeing that it appears as an independent parish in Pope Nicholas's valuation of 1288. The parish of Whalley is stated in the census of 1861 to have an area of 105,249 statute acres, and a population in that year of 167,456.

Townships.	Area in Acres.	Population in 1861.	Townships.	Area in Acres.	Population in 1861.
<i>Higher Division.</i>					
Accrington, New . . . . .	2480	11,853	Mitton, Little, with Henthorn } and Coldcoates }	1450	62
Accrington, Old . . . . .	740	5,835	Newchurch, Deadwin Clough, } Bacup and Wolfenden }	9650	24,413
Altham . . . . .	1406	410	Old Laund Booth . . . . .	410	423
Barley and Wheatley Booth . . . . .	2370	485	Padiham . . . . .	1917	5,911
Barrowford Booth . . . . .	1540	2,880	Pendleton . . . . .	2800	1,446
Booths, Higher . . . . .	2000	5,131	Read . . . . .	1490	531
Booths, Lower . . . . .	630	4,655	Reedley Hollows, Filly Close, } and New Laund Booth }	1360	423
Briercliffe with Extwisle . . . . .	4180	1,332	Roughlee Booth . . . . .	1320	424
Burnley . . . . .	1839	19,971	Simonstone . . . . .	900	325
Chatburn . . . . .	720	521	Trawden . . . . .	2510	2,087
Clitheroe and Castle . . . . .	2324	7,000	Twisden or Twiston . . . . .	849	141
Cliviger . . . . .	6160	1,770	Whalley . . . . .	1890	806
Colne . . . . .	4575	7,906	Wheatley Carr Booth . . . . .	200	46
Downham . . . . .	1870	292	Wiswell . . . . .	1410	465
Dunnockshaw . . . . .	350	167	Worsthorn with Hurstwood . . . . .	2800	865
Foulridge . . . . .	2450	988	Worston . . . . .	860	84
Goldshaw Booth . . . . .	980	406	Yate with Pickup Bank . . . . .	1360	1,111
Habergham Eaves . . . . .	4007	18,013			
Hapton . . . . .	3570	1,003	<i>Lower Division.</i>		
Henheads . . . . .	360	211	Bowland (part of) with Leagram . . . . .	7690	234
Heyhouses . . . . .	320	128	Church Kirk . . . . .	620	4,753
Higham with Westclose Booth . . . . .	1400	759	Clayton-le-Moors . . . . .	950	4,682
Huncoat . . . . .	960	839	Haslingden . . . . .	4420	10,109
Ightenhill Park . . . . .	752	161	Oswaldtwisle . . . . .	4770	7,701
Marsden, Great . . . . .	2890	2,180			
Marsden, Little . . . . .	1470	5,162			
Mearley . . . . .	1280	47			

<sup>1</sup> See vol. i. pp. 15 and 16.<sup>2</sup> See vol. i. p. 25.

The parish church of Whalley, originally called the "White Church" under the Legh," is of high antiquity, as appears from the "Status de Blagborneshire," and from the crosses of Paulinus in the church-yard, erected about A.D. 625, to commemorate the introduction of Christianity into this county. The original edifice has totally disappeared. The present church was built about A.D. 1283, during the incumbency of Peter de Cestria, the first and only rector, a man of great ecclesiastical and political influence, who had in that year a grant of free warren in Whalley conferred upon him.<sup>2</sup> He was probably a natural son of John de Lacy; was provost of Beverley and rector of Slaidburn, and held the living of Whalley from 1235 to 1293.<sup>3</sup> The church, dedicated to St. Wilfrid (or to All Saints, according to Ecton and the Status de Blagborneshire), is in the deanery of Blackburn, in the archdeaconry of Manchester. From the Status de Blagborneshire, it appears that the patronage was originally in the lords of the soil, who appointed pastors to the cure after receiving instructions from the bishop of Lichfield. Its earliest priests were styled deans, not vicars, and the succession was hereditary. When the lordship of Clithero fell into the hands of the Lacies, soon after the Conquest, letters commendatory were given by that family upon every vacancy. With this changed constitution the deanery of Whalley subsisted down to the Lateran Council in 1215, when the marriage of ecclesiastics was finally prohibited. Whalley then became a rectory, in the presentation of John, constable of Chester. During that period, when wheat sold at one shilling a bushel, the living was valued at £66:13:4, and it was found, by Inquisition in 1296, that eight parts of the mother church of Whalley, the chapel of the town of Cliderhow, and the chapel of Dounom, belonged according to law and custom to the church of Blakeburn. After two successive appropriations it was degraded into a vicarage, and at the end of two centuries and a half, when the average price of wheat was 2s. per quarter, the living was valued at only £6:3:9.

From the Chartulary of the Monastery of St. John of Pontefract,<sup>4</sup> it appears that one of the ancestors of the earl of Lincoln, named Hugh de la Val, gave, along with the patronage of "Sleteburn," the patronage of the church of Whalley, and the chapelry of the castle of Clitherow, with tithes of the chapelry to the prior and convent of Pontefract by charter, and that they exercised the patronage for several presentations. Subsequently, an ancestor of the earl of Lincoln, Henry de Lacy, gave (1284) the patronage of this church to the abbot and convent of Stanlawe in Wirral, Co. Cestr., and increased the number of the monks from forty to sixty. These conflicting claims caused litigation and excited great popular commotions; and when the monks of Stanlawe came to take possession of the church, in the presence of the people, "who were not a few," they rose in resistance and exclaimed, "Out with you, ye Simoniacists!" Sir Roger de Meanland, the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, exasperated at this usurpation, moved an appeal and interposed a sequestration of 350 marks (£233:6:8) against the monks of Stanlawe, for which, after his death, they made satisfaction in the sum of £100 sterling, at which price they obtained possession of the said church, but the collation having been vacant for twelve years, the presentation devolved upon Pope Nicholas IV.<sup>5</sup>

The abbey of Stanlawe was thus in 1296 removed from that place to Whalley. The vicarage of the parish church of Whalley remained in the abbot of that religious house till 1537, when it was confiscated by the attainder of John Paslew, the last abbot. The inappropriate rectories of Whalley, Blackburn, and Rochdale, with the advowsons of their vicarages and dependent chapels, were (in fulfilment of an incomplete arrangement made between Henry VIII. and Archbishop Cranmer), conveyed to the see of Canterbury in exchange for more valuable church property, by Edward VI. by indenture on 1st June 1547.<sup>6</sup>

The primate continued to be the patron of the vicarage of Whalley, until its alienation to the trustees of William Hulme, esq., in 1846, although his Grace never exercised his right of nominating the curates to the chapels. In the last century the right of the vicar to the patronage of the chapels was established. Archbishop Juxon, *temp.* Charles II., reserved out of the rectory of Whalley, the Easter roll and surplice dues, which he gave to the vicarage of Whalley, and to the parochial chapelries, on condition that the incumbents of the latter should receive the same within their respective cures, and should pay the vicars of Whalley £42 a-year, in various proportions. This arrangement still exists.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.* built of stone, as distinguished from the darker coloured edifices of wood of an earlier date. Compare Bede, *Ecclesiastical History*, lib. iii. c. 4.—B. H.

<sup>2</sup> *Rot. Chart.* 12 Edw. I. n. 40.

<sup>3</sup> *Notitia Cestriensis*, note by Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 299.

<sup>4</sup> Extract from the charter of Hugh de la Val to the priory of Pontefract. In the possession of Sir Thomas Wedrington, *knt.* *Vide Rot. Chart.* p. 2, n. 1.

<sup>5</sup> So late as the reign of Edward III. the disputes respecting the right of presentation to the church of Whalley were agitated in the Duchy Court, from which the prior of Pontefract obtained a writ of *Quare impedit* against the abbot of Whalley, on the ground that the latter had unjustly prevented the presentation of a proper person. Subsequently, in 32 Edw. III. (1357) the prior released for

himself and his successors all the right which he had to the presentation of Whalley church. Dr. Kuerden's MSS. vol. iii. fo. W. 20 b. In the Heralds' College, London.

<sup>6</sup> By deed of exchange between Edward VI. and Archbishop Cranmer, dated June 1, 1547, the appropriate rectories of Whalley, Blackburn, and Rochdale, formerly regardant to the dissolved monastery of Whalley, and also all the chapels of Padigham, Clyderhow, Coln, Brunley, Church, Altham, Haslingden, Bowland, Penhull, and Rossendale, and the chapel of Clyderhowe, and all the chapels of Law, Walton, Samesbury, Saddleworth, and Butterworth, with the advowson of the right of patronage of the vicarages of the churches of Whalley, Blackburn, and Rochdale.

<sup>7</sup> *Notitia Cestriensis*, note by Rev. Canon Raines, ii. 301, 302.