

Grimshaw Origins In Lancashire County, England

With Selected Family Lines

Part A. Origins and History

Part B. Selected Family Lines



Version 2.0

Prepared By:

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August 1999

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Note: The Grimshaw Coat of Arms and Crest on the cover are from Taylor, Sharon, 1982, *The Amazing Story of the Grimshaws in America: Halbert's, Inc.*, 63 p.+

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Preface

Grimshaw is an English name extending back to the time when surnames were just beginning to be used. Grimshaw descendants have had a very interesting history going back to those origins, possibly as early as 1000 AD. Two aspects of the Grimshaw family are interesting to many of us with this unusual surname – the origins and history of the name (and family) locally in Lancashire County, and the “radiation” of the family within England and throughout the world as expressed in its many family lines. This report includes two parts to address both aspects.

The information and references in this report come from many sources, some of the most important of which are as follows:

- The University of Texas Library, Austin, TX
- Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
- Latter-Day Saints (LDS) Library, Salt Lake City, UT
- Libraries at Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Halifax and Keighley
- LDS Family History Centers in Austin
- Purchases from used book outlets
- Information available on the Internet
- Texas State Genealogical Library
- Networking with other Grimshaw researchers
- Limited local interviews

The information on Grimshaws presented in this report provides a framework. I am confident that much additional detail will be uncovered – it will be included in future versions of this report. In particular, there is a great deal of opportunity for further investigation of the family lines, fitting them together, and connecting them back to the original Grimshaw family line.

My grandfather Grimshaw, Walter, died in South Dakota (where I was born) even before my father, Claude, was born, and I grew up having no contact with Grimshaw relatives. Thus my learning about this very interesting family has come later in life. My first research foray occurred in about 1970, when I visited the Library of Congress and discovered the booklet by Skeet (see Section 26 of this report). I gathered more information at the LDS Library in 1975. I made a brief, half-day visit to the Grimshaw location in 1987, and a second visit of several days in April, 1999. It was during this second visit that I found many of the references cited in this report. I also had the privilege of visiting Wolfe Island in the “dead of winter” in January 1999 with Barbara Bonner.

But the main insights that I have gained into the Grimshaw family history have come from discussions with, and materials provided by, other Grimshaw researchers. I owe them a great debt. In particular, I want to thank Barbara Bonner and Terry Grimshaw Micks for their help and information on the Wolfe Island Grimshaws. Carol Anderson and Rosemarie Karlen not only provided information, materials, and insight into the South Dakota branch of Grimshaws, but also steered me in the right direction to Wisconsin and Wolfe Island in the first place. Their aunt, Lyra Hodgin, was the “family chronicler” for the South Dakota Grimshaws before her death in 1996; she provided initial information on the history my immediate Grimshaw family in the mid-1980s. Bob Grimshaw, in California, and Red Grimshaw, in North Carolina, both have been very insightful and have provided much information. So have Barbara Alteman and Jerry Brewin, both in Alberta.

My wife, JoAnne, has not only been very supportive (or at least tolerant!) of my fixation on this topic for the past several months, but also provided invaluable assistance during our April 1999 research trip to Lancashire County.

I prepared, and distributed to several interested Grimshaw researchers, an earlier report¹ about the origins of the Grimshaw name. I believe that many of them found it helpful. I knew that it was “naïve” when I wrote it (and, thankfully, said so in the report); I just didn’t know how much! But, then, that’s “how it is” in pushing back ignorance, step by step. Nevertheless, I can’t help but wonder how, in the months and years ahead, ignorant I will feel then that I still am now.

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¹ Grimshaw, Thomas W., 1998, Origin of the Grimshaw Surname: Austin, Texas, November 1998, Privately Published, 24 p.

1. Origin of the Grimshaw Surname

Grimshaw is an English name whose earliest origins were in Lancashire County just south of Blackburn (Figure 1). The name goes back to the time when surnames were beginning to be used in England. Surnames were derived from several sources, including geographic locations, means of livelihood, and spiritual or religious associations. Grimshaw appears to fall in the latter category.

The history of England, extending back before the initial Roman invasion of 55 B.C., is one of a succession of invasions of peoples from the European continent, especially the northern, Scandinavian areas. Among the invaders were the Vikings, whose descendants gave rise to the Grimshaw surname. Rogers² provides an excellent description of the early Viking origin of Grimshaw in England:

Viking attitudes to the whole natural world seem to show a people, still close to nature, who combine superstitious veneration with a down-to-earth practical respect for the countryside. The special tree or grove often had some significance as a sacred place.... Christianity sometimes stands accused of pessimism because of its emphasis on a happy life after death may lead its followers to accept present miseries; nevertheless, it seems raging optimism, when compared with the ancient Viking belief in prospect of the ultimate extinction of mankind, in a cataclysmic struggle of good versus evil: evil, in the form of a snake coiled round the world-tree, would prevail, and final darkness would prevail, and final darkness settle on all in a 'twilight of the gods'.

It would be absurd to try to assess to what extent Vikings adhered to the letter of such beliefs, but they colour Viking place-names. Grimr, a recurrent personal name in place-names, had ambivalent overtones; sometimes it seems to have signified the god Odin, thought to go about disguised in a grim mask. At other times it seems to stand as a nickname for the devil. Possibly some forlorn unpromising site was dubbed 'devil's settlement', or the place might have pagan associations.... (Grimr) forms an element of –

GRIMSHAW - Grimr's wood, and GRIMTHORPE – Grimr's outlying farm.

Additional information on the early origins of the Grimshaw is provided by The Hall of Names³ (Figure 2):

History researchers have examined reproductions of such ancient manuscripts as the Domesday Book (1086), the Ragman Rolls (1291-1296), the Curia Regis Rolls, The Pipe Rolls, the Hearth Rolls, parish registers, baptismals, (and) tax records. They found the first record of the name Grimshaw in Lancashire where they were seated from very ancient times at Grimshaw, some say well before the Norman Conquest and the arrival of Duke William at Hastings in 1066 A.D.

... this notable English family name, Grimshaw, emerged as an influential name in the county of Lancashire where the name was anciently found..... The Grimshaws were led to join King Richard in 1190 on his Crusade to Jerusalem and later, during the 14th century, the Grimshaws were amongst the English armies who fought back invasions from Scotland.

In summary, the Grimshaw name originated among the descendants of Vikings in England. It extends back at least to 1190 and likely goes back before the Norman invasion of 1066.

² Rogers, K.H., 1991, *Vikings & Surnames*: York, England, William Sessions Limited, p. 15-16.

³ Hall of Names, 1994, *The Ancient History of the Distinguished Surname Grimshaw*: Hall of Names, Inc., Certification No. 943320-12.10H-11680, 1 p.

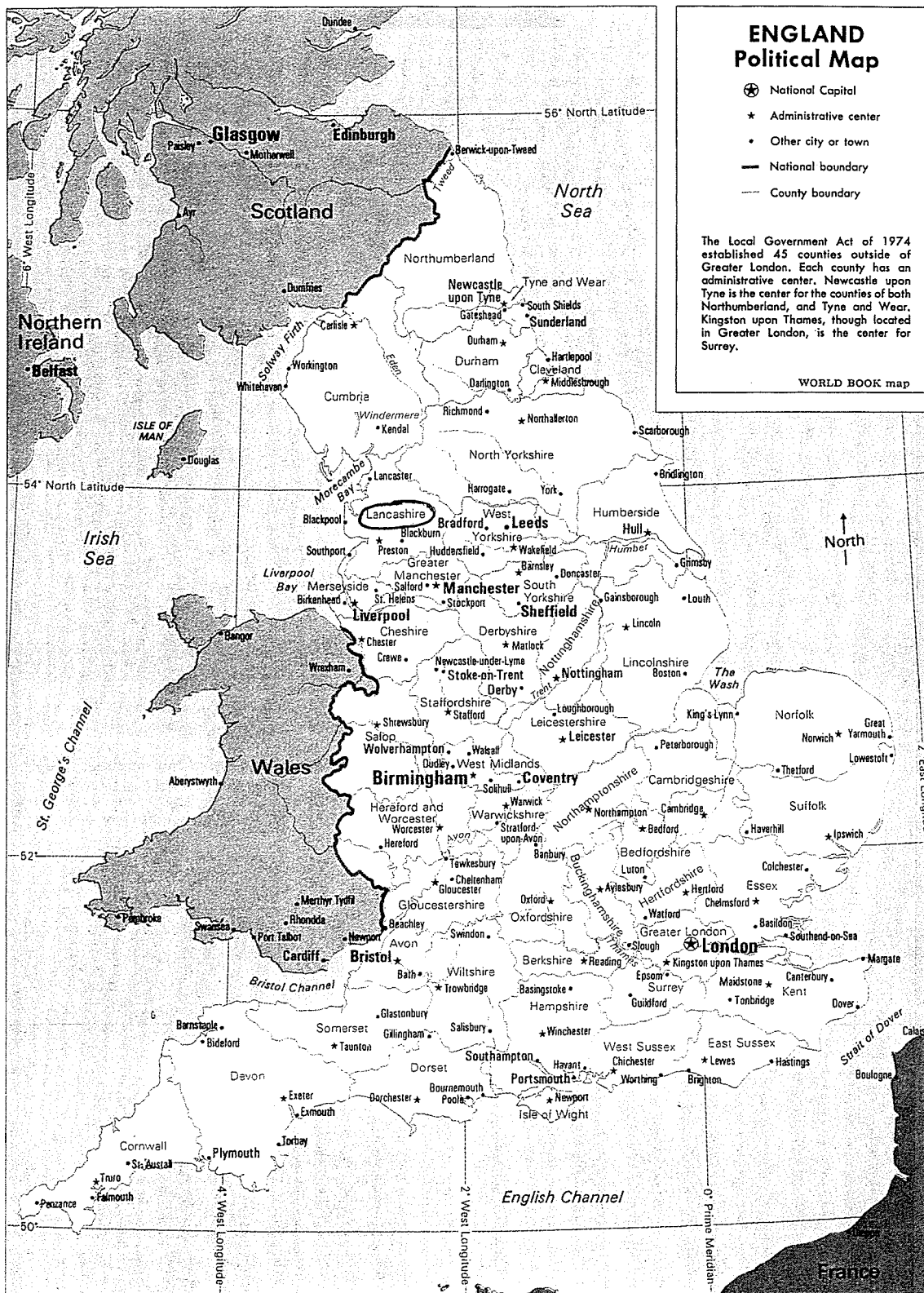
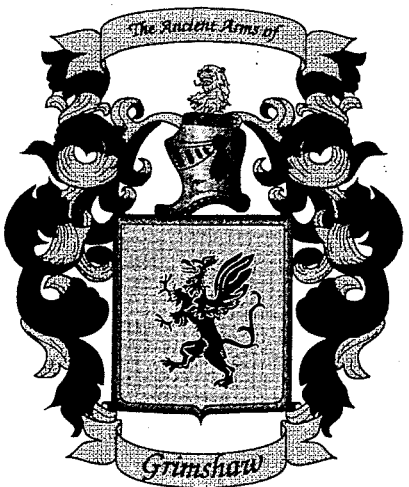


Figure 1
Location of Lancashire County (circled) in England



The Ancient History of the Distinguished Surname Grimshaw



he Saxon Chronicle, compiled by monks in the 10th century, now reposes in the British Museum. It is a history of the Saxon settlement in England.

History researchers have examined reproductions of such ancient manuscripts as the Domesday Book (1086), the Ragman Rolls (1291-1296), the Curia Regis Rolls, The Pipe Rolls, the Hearth Rolls, parish registers, baptisms, tax records. They found the first record of the name Grimshaw in Lancashire where they were seated from very ancient times at Grimshaw. some say well before the Norman Conquest and the arrival of Duke William at Hastings in 1066 A.D. Throughout the centuries your name, Grimshaw, occurred in many records, manuscripts and documents but not always with your exact spelling. From time to time the surname was spelt Grimshaw, Grimshawe, Grimshor, Grinshaw, Grimshore, Grinshore, Gremshaw, Grimshall, Grimeshaw, Grimsshaw, Grinshaw, Grenshaw, and these variations in spelling frequently occurred, even between father and son. Scribes and church officials, frequently spelt the names phonetically. As a result the same person would be recorded differently on birth, baptismal, marriage and death certificates.

The Saxon race gave birth to many English surnames not the least of which was the surname Grimshaw. The Saxons, invited into England by the ancient Britons of the 4th century, were a fair skinned people their home was the Rhine valley. They were led by two brothers, General/Commanders Hengist and Horsa. The Saxons settled in the county of Kent, in southern England. During the next four hundred years they forced the Ancient Britons back into Wales and Cornwall in the west, and Cumberland to the north. The Angles occupied the eastern coast, the south folk in Suffolk, north folk in Norfolk. Under Saxon rule England prospered under a series of High Kings, the last of which was Harold.

In 1066, the Norman invasion from France occurred and their victory at the Battle of Hastings. In 1070, Duke William took an army of 40,000 north and wasted the northern counties, forcing many rebellious Norman nobles and Saxons to flee over the border into Scotland. The Saxons who remained in the south were not treated well under hostile Norman rule, and many also moved northward.

Nevertheless, this notable English family name, Grimshaw, emerged as an influential name in the county of Lancashire where the name was anciently found. For those interested in further research of the early history of the surname we recommend the ancient Harleian Manuscripts which are in the archives of the British Museum. These Manuscripts are a Catalogue of the Herald's Visitations between 1510 and 1600 et seq. This distinguished surname Grimshaw of Grimshaw and Clayton is recorded in MS 1437 (folio 28) and many others too numerous to document here. The Grimshaws and were led to join King Richard in 1190 on his Crusade to Jerusalem and later, during the 14th century, the Grimshaws were amongst the English armies who fought back invasions from Scotland. For their service to the crown they were rewarded with several estates in Lancaster, The New House, in the forest of Pendle, Andershaw Lodge, Clayton and property near Preston. Notable amongst the family at this time was Grimshaw of Lancaster.

During the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries England was ravaged by plagues, famine, and religious conflict. Protestantism, the newly found political fervour of Cromwellianism and democratic government, and the remnants of the Roman Church rejected all non believers. The changing rule caused burnings, hangings and banishments of all sects and creeds. Many families were freely "encouraged" to migrate to Ireland, or to the "colonies". Some were rewarded with grants of lands, others were banished.

The families who migrated to Ireland became known as the Adventurers for land in Ireland. Protestant settlers "undertook" to keep their faith, being granted lands previously owned by the Catholic Irish. There is no evidence that this distinguished family migrated to Ireland, but this does not preclude the possibility of their scattered migration to that country.

The New World offered better opportunities and some migrated voluntarily. Some left Ireland disillusioned with promises unfulfilled, but many left directly from their home territories. Some also moved to the European continent.

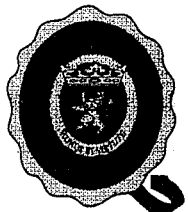
Members of the family name Grimshaw sailed aboard the huge armada of three masted sailing ships known as the "White Sails" which plied the stormy Atlantic. These overcrowded ships such as the Hector, the Dove and the Rambler, were pestilence ridden, sometimes 30% to 40% of the passenger list never reaching their destination.

Amongst the first settlers in North America, which could be considered a kinsman of the surname Grimshaw, or a variable spelling of that family name was William Grimshaw who was farming in Virginia in 1656 and another Grimshaw had established himself in Maryland a few years earlier in 1698; Judith Grimshaw settled in Georgia in 1737; the family also settled in Pennsylvania in the 19th century.

From the port of entry many settlers made their way west, joining the wagon trains to the prairies or to the west coast. During the American War of Independence, many loyalists made their way north to Canada about 1790, and became known as the United Empire Loyalists.

Contemporary notables of this surname, Grimshaw, include many distinguished contributors, General Henry Grimshaw who has fought in Burma, Malaya, Kenya, Suez, and kept the peace in Cyprus as Commander of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Research has determined the above Coat of Arms to be the most ancient recorded for the family surname Grimshaw.

Figure 2



2. Location of Grimshaw Origins in Lancashire County, England

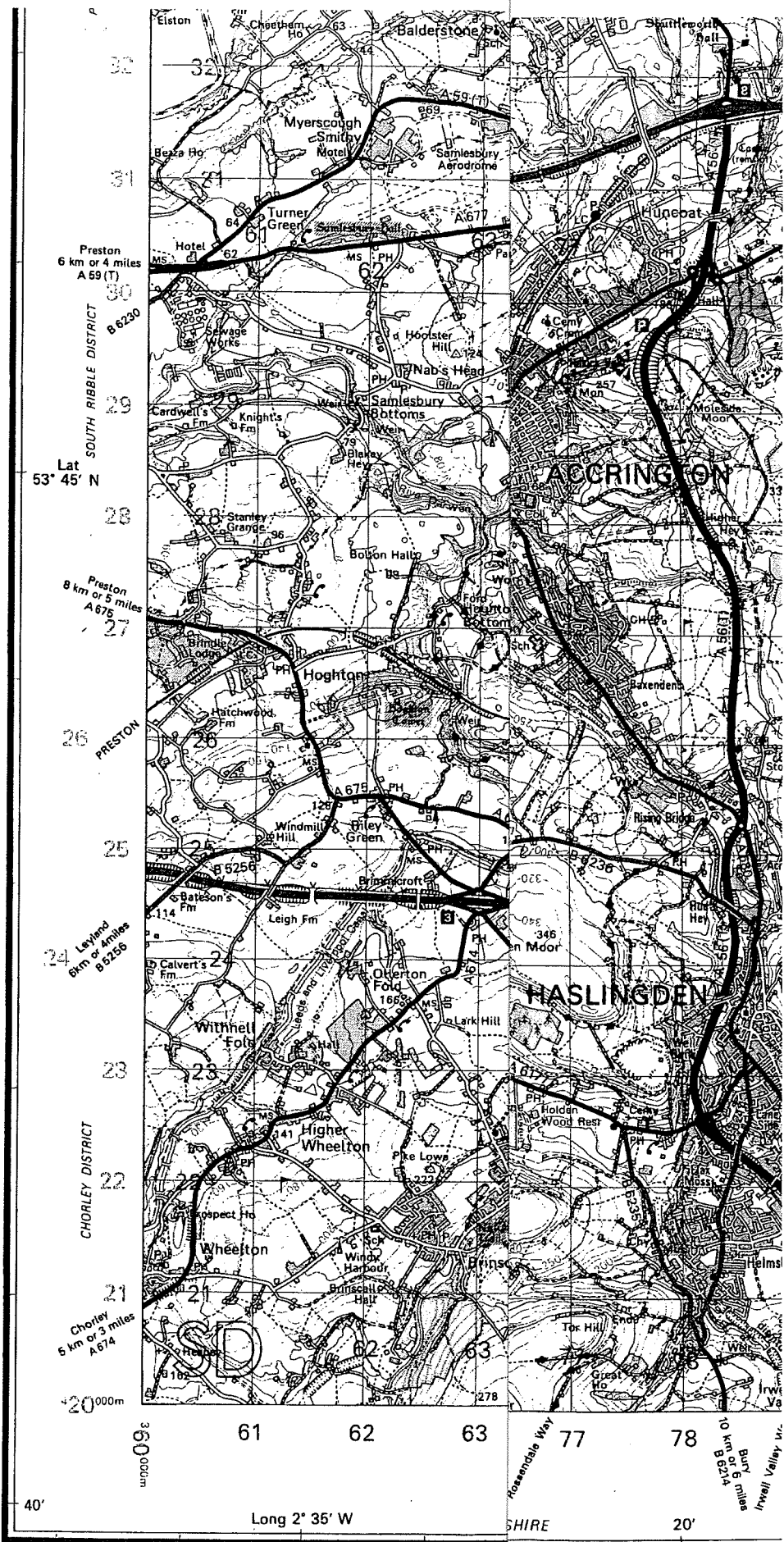
The original Grimshaw location is just south of Blackburn, near Darwen, in Lancashire County, as shown on the (British) Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale map⁴ (Figure 3). Another location that was very important in early Grimshaw history is Clayton-le-Moors, which is northeast of Blackburn and is also shown on Figure 3. The original Grimshaw family lived at the Grimshaw location from its origins until the mid-1300s, when the family relocated to Clayton-le-Moors about six miles to the northeast.

Larger-scale maps (described below) show that Grimshaw is actually in two parts – Lower and Higher Grimshaw. Lower Grimshaw is located on a stream called Hoddleston and then Waterside Brook in its upper reaches, Grimshaw Brook in the middle portion, and Davyfield brook in the lower reaches. This stream also forms the boundary between two ancient, small townships – Eccleshill Township to the west and Yate and Pickup Bank Township to the east. Grimshaw is located on the west side of the stream just inside Eccleshill Township.

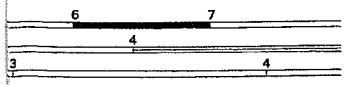
⁴ British Ordnance Survey, 1998, Landranger Map Series, Sheet 103 (Blackburn and Burnley), scale 1:50:000, 1 sheet

Figure 3
(following page)

Location of Grimshaw and Clayton-le-Moors (Circled) on British Ordnance Survey Map
Landranger Map Series, Sheet 103, Blackburn and Burnley



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3. The Earliest Recorded Grimshaws and Their Descendants

One of the first, and most important, published works on early Grimshaw families was “The History of Whalley” by Thomas Dunham Whitaker⁵. A descendant chart of the earliest recorded Grimshaw family as published in Whitaker (v. II, p. 274-275) is shown in Figure 4. Richard Trappes-Lomax⁶ published a history of Clayton-le-Moors that includes a Tabular Pedigree of Grimshaw (Figure 5) based on some of the same sources that were used by Whitaker. The main sources are the summaries of the visitations of the king’s representatives (heralds) in 1567 (Flower), 1613 (St. George), and 1664-5 (Dugdale) prepared by F.R. Raines.^{7,8,9}

These records indicate that the earliest Grimshaw on record, Walter, was living about 1250 and was descended from the Eccleshill Grimshaws described above on the origin of the Grimshaw name. If the Grimshaw location and family were in existence at the time of the Norman invasion in 1066 (as described above), the first Grimshaw on record in 1250 was derived from a family already 200 years old. The Grimshaws who joined King Richard on his 1190 Crusade to Jerusalem (see Figure 2) would likely have been one or two generations earlier than the Walter who was living in 1250.

It appears that the fortunes of the Grimshaws improved in 1345-47, when Adam, the fifth generation on record (after Walter), married Cecily Clayton, daughter and heiress of Henry de Clayton, whose family owned the Clayton-le-Moors estate. Adam’s son, Henry, divided the Clayton-le-Moors estate with Henry de Rishton and his wife, Margaret, who was co-heiress to the estate with Cecily. The Grimshaws resided at Clayton Hall, and the Rishton part of the estate was later centered at Dunkenhalgh. Apparently, the Grimshaws also kept their holdings in Eccleshill.

Beginning with Adam, a total of 11 generations of Grimshaws lived at Clayton-le-Moors before the male heirs ran out. Rebecca Heywood, daughter of Mary Anne Grimshaw and John Heywood, married Richard Lomax in 1715 and Clayton-le-Moors passed into the Lomax Family after 370 years in the Grimshaw family. Figure 4 includes the pedigree of the Lomaxes through about 1870.

From Walter Grimshaw through Mary Anne Grimshaw Heywood, about 65 descendants were born, of which about 43 were male. Although not all had families due to early death and other reasons, there were probably at least 25 to 30 potential “lines of Grimshaws” to spring from this original branch. Part B of this report includes selected lines of Grimshaws, both those that can be traced back to this original line and some that have not yet been connected.

⁵ Whitaker, Thomas Dunham, 1872, *An History of the Original Parish of Whalley, and Honor of Clitheroe* (Revised and enlarged by John G. Nichols and Ponsoby A. Lyons): London, George Routledge and Sons, 4th Edition; v. I, 362 p.; v. II, 622 p. Earlier editions were published in 1800, 1806, and 1825.

⁶ Trappes-Lomax, Richard, 1926, *A History of the Township and Manor of Clayton-le-Moors, County Lancaster*: Chetham Society, Second Series, v. 85, 175 p.

⁷ Raines, F.R., ed., 1870, *The visitation of the County Palatine of Lancaster, made in the year 1567*, by William Flower, Norroy King of Arms: Chetham Society, Old Series (First Series), v. 81.

⁸ Raines, F.R., ed., 1871, *The visitation of the County Palatine of Lancaster, made in the year 1613*, by Sir Richard St. George, Norroy King of Arms: Chetham Society, Old Series (First Series), v. 82.

⁹ Raines, F.R., ed., 1872-1873, *The visitation of the County Palatine of Lancaster, made in the year 1664-5*, by Sir William Dugdale, Knight, Norroy King of Arms: Chetham Society, Old Series (First Series), v. 84, 85, 88.

Figure 4
(following two pages)

Descendant Chart of the Original Grimshaw Family as shown in Whitaker¹⁰
(Fourth Edition, 1872)

¹⁰ Whitaker, Thomas Dunham, 1872, *An History of the Original Parish of Whalley, and Honor of Clitheroe* (Revised and enlarged by John G. Nichols and Ponsoby A. Lyons): London, George Routledge and Sons, 4th Edition; v. II, p. 274-275.

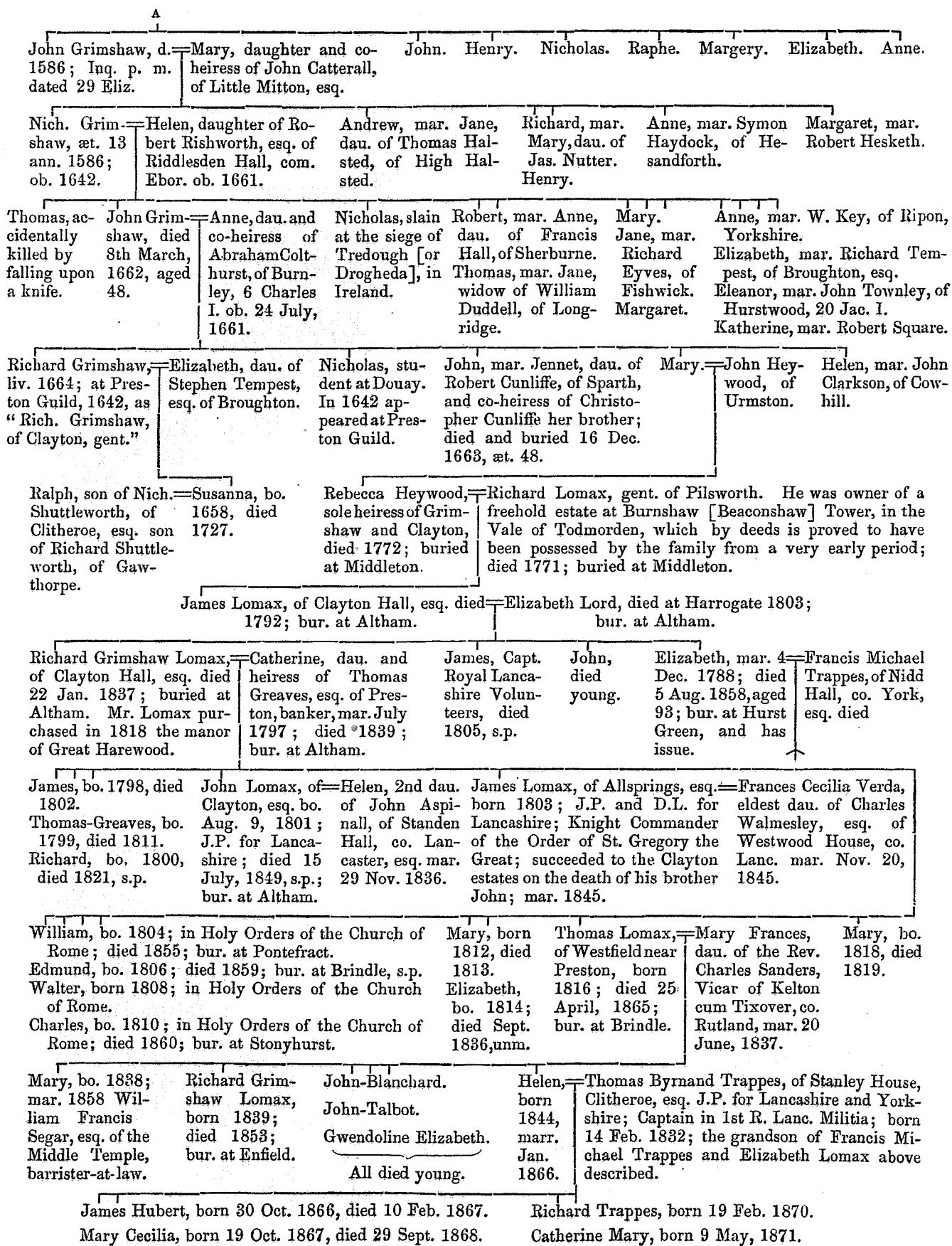


Figure 5
(following page)

Tabular Pedigree of Grimshaw as Depicted in Trappes-Lomax¹¹, 1926

¹¹ Trappes-Lomax, Richard, 1926, A History of the Township and Manor of Clayton-le-Moors, County Lancaster: Chetham Society, Second Series, v. 85, p. 34.

Whitaker's descendant chart of this original Grimshaw line was subsequently re-published in Foster's¹² "Pedigrees of the County Families of England" in modified form. It is shown as "Pedigree of Grimshaw, now Lomax, of Clayton" and includes the Lomax Coat of Arms (Figure 6). It is included here because many Grimshaw researchers have discovered it before having found Whitaker's publications, and Foster is not especially diligent about giving credit to the sources of the pedigrees published in his book.

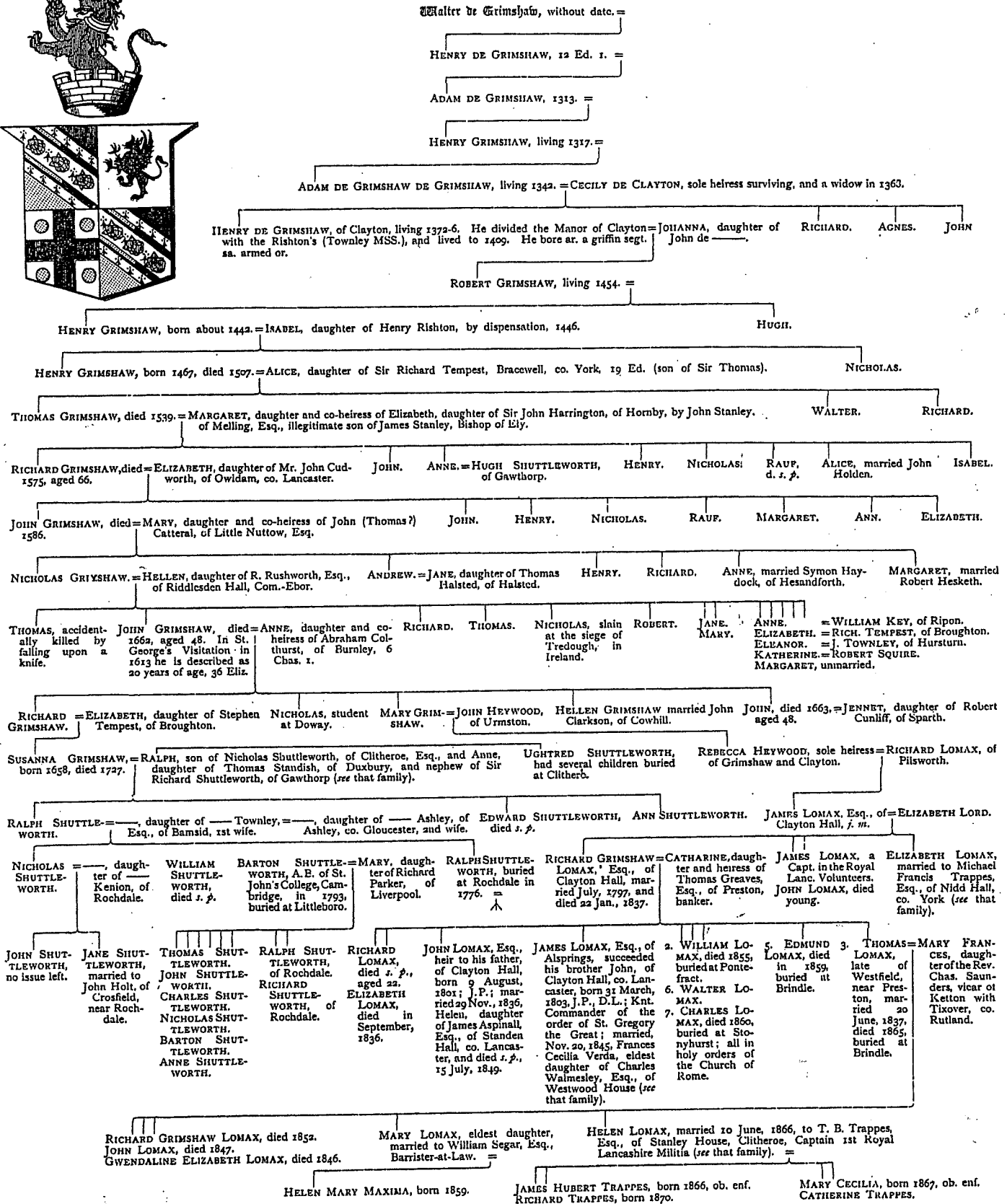
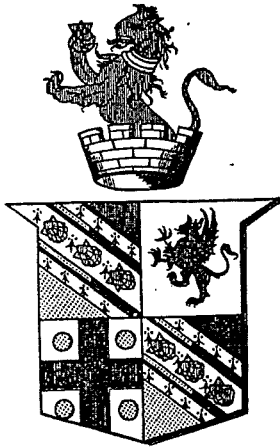
¹² Foster, Joseph, 1873, Pedigrees of the County Families of England, vol. 1 – Lancashire: London, Head, Hole & Co., unk. p.

Figure 6
(following page)

Pedigree of Original Grimshaw Family Line as Depicted in
Foster's¹³ "Pedigrees of County Families o England"

¹³ Foster, Joseph, 1873, *Pedigrees of the County Families of England*, vol. 1 – Lancashire: London, Head, Hole & Co., unk. p.

Pedigree of Grimshaw, now Lomax, of Clayton.



4. The Grimshaw Serpent Tale – A Romantic (But Untrue) Explanation of the Origin of the Grimshaw Surname

Charles Owen¹⁴, in an early quasi-scientific book on snakes and other serpents, made reference to a large serpent that dwelled near Pickup Bank and was killed by a chap named Grimshaw. The front page and two other relevant pages of Owen's book are shown in Figure 7. The text is presented below in more readable form:

cxxxi. I am informed by some persons, who had it by tradition from ancient people, that formerly there was in this country a monstrous serpent of four or five yards long, and thicker than a common axle-tree of a cart, and very mischievous, preying upon lambs, etc. Its chief residence was in a wood near *Pickup Bank*, a few miles from *Blackburn* in *Lancashire* called *Ouse Castle*, where there is yet a little spot of ground called *Griom's Ark*, which is a deep cavern, situated among rocks in a wood, from whence it was seen to come out and bask itself on a sunny bank.

The picture of this serpent is drawn with wings, two legs, and talons like an eagle, which is in some ancient houses (and particularly at *Clayton Hall* near *Dunkinhal*) by which it appears to be very large and furious.

It is said one _____ *Grimshaw*, Esq., proprietor of that hall, shot the monster with arrows, and had an estate offered him for that good service done to his country, which he refused, and only desired that he might have a passage through that wood to a township he had on t'other side of it, which was granted, the title to which is found in ancient writings. By another hand I am informed, that it was supposed to be a *griffin*, which is a bird of prey, and of the eagle kind, which, I take to be the *Ossifrage of Moses*, and mentioned in *Levit. xi*.

There is also a fabulous *griffin*, represented with four legs, wings, and a beak; the upper part of an eagle, and the lower a lion. They conjecture it to watch over golden mines and hidden treasures. This bird was consecrated to the sun, therefore the chariot of the sun was represented as drawn by a set of griffins.

This *poetic griffin* is frequently seen in ancient medals, and is still bore in coat-armour. The ancient and honourable family of the *Guillims* blazons it rampant, alleging any very fierce animal may be so blazoned as well as a lion. It is observable that in the front of *Clayton Hall* are two figures drawn in plaster in the form of a coat of arms: on the right side of the escutcheon is a figure with wings, four feet and a tail twisted in the form of a serpent. The like figure is drawn in plaster in several ancient houses in that neighbourhood, which go under the name of the *Griffin's Picture*, and the sign is used at Public Houses. There is a place in that wood called the *Griffin's Ark*.

N.B. This seems to carry some probability with it, since eagles are voracious creatures, and very destructive to fawns and lambs, especially the black eagle, which is of a lesser size than the other.

In some of the *Scots Islands*, the natives observe, that this eagle fixes its talons between the deer's horns, and beats its wings constantly about its eyes; several other eagles flying at the same time on both sides, which puts the deer upon a continual run, till it fall into a pit, or down a precipice, where it dies, and so becomes a prey to the enemy (Martin's Description of the Western Islands of Scotland, Edit. ii. p.7)

This story has led some to conclude that the Grimshaw surname was derived from the woods where the serpent dwelled. This interpretation is untenable, however, because the chap who killed the snake was already named Grimshaw, and he was already living at Clayton Hall. As noted, the Grimshaws did not move to Clayton-le-Moors until about 1345, when the name was probably already more than 300 years old.

¹⁴ Owen, Charles, 1742, *An Essay Towards a Natural History of Serpents in Two Parts*: London, Printed for the Author, Sold by John Gray, at the Cross-Keys in the Poultry, near Cheapside, 240 p.

Figure 7
(following three pages)

Charles Owen's Natural History of Serpents¹⁵ –
Relevant Pages for the Grimshaw Serpent Story

¹⁵ Owen, Charles, 1742, *An Essay Towards a Natural History of Serpents in Two Parts*: London, Printed for the Author, Sold by John Gray, at the Cross-Keys in the Poultry, near Cheapside, p. 144-145

AN
E S S A Y
TOWARDS A
NATURAL HISTORY
OF
S E R P E N T S :
IN TWO PARTS.

- I. The First exhibits a general View of SERPENTS, in their various Aspects; such as their Kinds, Bulk, Food, Motion, Propagation, Coverture, Colours. In which is inserted a short Account of Vegetable, Mineral, and Animal Poison, particularly that of the SERPENT; and its Cure in various Nations; where also the SERPENT is used as Food and Phyfick.
- II. The Second gives a View of most SERPENTS that are known in the several Parts of the World; described by their various Names, different Countries, and Qualities.

Illustrated with COPPER-PLATES, Engraved by the
BEST HANDS.

III. To which is added a Third Part; containing Six DISSERTATIONS upon the following Articles, as collateral to the Subject.

1. Upon the PRIMEVAL SERPENT in PARADISE.
2. The FIERY SERPENTS that infested the Camp of ISRAEL.
3. The BRAZEN SERPENT erected by MOSES.
4. The DIVINE WORSHIP given to SERPENTS by the NATIONS.
5. The ORIGIN and REASON of that MONSTROUS WORSHIP.
6. Upon the ADORATION of different Kinds of BEASTS by the EGYPTIANS, with divers Instances of the same Stupidity in other Nations.

The whole intermix'd with Variety of ENTERTAINING DIGRESSIONS, PHILOSOPHICAL and HISTORICAL.

By CHARLES OWEN D. D.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the AUTHOR.

Sold by JOHN GRAY, at the *Cross-Keys* in the *Poultry*, near *Cheapside*.
M.DCC.XLII.

that is inclined to the moist, for twenty-four hours. This seems to differ from the *American Rubeta*.

CXXX. THE *Serpent de Boa* is another of the monstrous kind; called *Boa* from *Bos*, the *Latin* word for an Ox, which it devours at once: The young ones, which grow to a great Bulk, are nourished by sucking the Cow.

IN the Emperor *Claudius's* time, in one of them that was killed, they found a Child that was whole. In *Calabria* are some monstrous Animals, not unlike these, says the Historian; who adds, that not many Years ago a certain Bishop speaks of a large mischievous Serpent, that was shot near *St. Archangel*, whose Jaws were almost two Palms long, the Portraiture of which is yet seen in a certain Temple there*.

CXXXI. I AM informed by some Persons, who had it by Tradition from antient People, that formerly there was in this County a monstrous Serpent of four or five Yards long, and thicker than a common Axle-tree of a Cart, and very mischievous, preying upon Lambs, &c. Its chief Residence was in a Wood, near *Pickopbank*, a few Miles from *Blackburn* in *Lancashire*, called *Ouse-Castle*, wherein there is yet a little Spot of Ground, called *Griom's-Ark*, which is a deep Cavern, situated among Rocks, in a Wood, from whence it was seen to come out, and bask itself on a funny Bank.

THE PICTURE of this Serpent is drawn with Wings, two Legs, and Talons like an Eagle, which is seen in some antient Houses, (and particularly at *Cayton-hall*, near *Dunkin-hall*) by which it appears to be very large and furious.

IT'S said, one — *Grimshaw* Esq; Proprietor of that Hall, shot the Monster with Arrows, and had an Estate offer'd him for that good Service done to his Country, which he generously refused, and only desired he might have a Passage thro' that Wood to a Township he had on t'other side of it, which was granted, the Title of which is to be found in old Writings. By another hand I am informed, that it was supposed to be a *Griffin*, which
is

* M. Antonius Cuccinus Episcopus Anglonensis ad Thomastum—in Agro S. Archangeli. In *Jonstonus*; in *Verb.*

is a Bird of Prey, and of the Eagle kind, which, I take to be the *Ossifrage* of *Moses*, and mentioned *Levit. xi.*

THERE is also a fabulous *Griffin*, represented with four Legs, Wings, and a Beak; the upper part like an Eagle, and the lower a Lion. They conjecture it to watch over golden Mines and hidden Treasures. This Bird was consecrated to the Sun, therefore the Chariot of the Sun was represented as drawn by a Set of *Griffins*.

THIS *poetick Griffin* is frequently seen in ancient Medals, and is still bore in Coat-Armor. The ancient and honourable Family of the *Guillims* blazons it rampant, alledging any very fierce Animal may be so blazon'd as well as a Lion. It is observable, says my Author, that in the Front of *Clayton-hall* are two Figures drawn in Plaister in the form of a Coat of Arms; on the right side of the Escutcheon is a Figure with Wings, four Feet, and a Tail twisted in the Form of a Serpent. The like Figure is drawn in Plaister in several ancient Houses in that Neighbourhood, which go under the Name of the *Griffin's Picture*, and the Sign is used at Publick-houses: There is a Place in that Wood called the *Griffin's-Ark*.

N. B. THIS seems to carry some Probability with it, since Eagles are voracious Creatures, and very destructive to Fawns and Lambs, especially the black Eagle, which is of a lesser Size than the other.

IN some of the *Scots Islands*, the Natives observe, that this Eagle fixes its Talons between the Deer's Horns, and beats its Wings constantly about its Eyes; several other Eagles flying at the same time on both sides, which puts the Deer upon a continual Run, till it fall into a Pit, or down a Precipice, where it dies, and so becomes a Prey to the Enemy*.

CXXXII. IN some of the Western Islands of *Scotland* are several Serpents: There is one that is *yellow* with brown Spots, and another with *brown* Spots; but that which is the most poisonous, is the *black and white spotted*, three or four Foot long.

THE Remedies are such as these: The Natives cut off the Head of the Serpent that gives the Wound, and apply it to the Place as the best Remedy: Others, by the Application of new
 U
 Cheese,

* *Martin's Description of the Western Islands of Scotland*, Edit. ii. p. 7.

Referencing the origin of the Grimshaw surname, Trappes-Lomax¹⁶ (p. 8) says:

According to E. Eckwall's¹⁷ *Place Names* the name Grimshaw is derived from Grima = a spectre, and shaw = a wood, and means "haunted grove." He mentions another Grimshaw in Cliviger.

Trappes-Lomax then goes on to say in the next paragraph:

The following literary curiosity is printed in Whitaker's *Whalley*, ii. 403, from *A Natural History of Serpents*, by Charles Owen, D.D., 1742, quarto, p. 144: "I am informed by some persons, ...

and then goes on to quote part of the excerpt from Owen's work. He thus, in my opinion, leads the unsuspecting to conclude (wrongly) that the snake is the spectre in Eckwall's "haunted grove." Interestingly, Trappes-Lomax also leaves out most of the part of Owen's excerpt that indicates that the monster might be a griffin rather than a snake.

As a side note, Eckwall's¹⁷ interpretation of the origin of the Grimshaw surname does differ from that of Rogers¹⁸ (see Section 1):

Grimshaw: *de Grinshare* 1265 LI^{*}, *de Grymeshawe* 1284 LAR^o. As there is a Grimshaw also in Cliviger, it is somewhat difficult to believe that the first element is the O.N. (Old Norse = Old West Scandinavian) pers. n. *Grimr*. Perhaps it is O.E. (Old English) *grima* "spectre." If so, Grimshaw means "the haunted grove."

^{*}LI: *Lancashire Inquests, Extents, and Feudal Aids*. Ed. W. Farrer. Record Soc. xviii, liv.

^oLAR: *Lancashire Assize Rolls*. Ed. Col. John Parker. Record Soc. xvii, xlix.

But Eckwall doesn't explain why the presence of a Grimshaw in Cliviger (a location just south of Burnley, about 11 miles northeast of Eccleshill) would preclude the name from being of Old Norse (i.e., Viking) origin. Eckwall gives no basis to believe that the Cliviger Grimshaw is not derived from the Grimshaws of Eccleshill and Clayton-le-Moors. Therefore, I see no reason at this time not to accept Rogers' explanation of the Viking origins of the Grimshaw place name and, thence, family name.

¹⁶ Trappes-Lomax, Richard, 1926, *A History of the Township and Manor of Clayton-le-Moors, County Lancaster*: Chetham Society, Second Series, v. 85, 175 p.

¹⁷ Eckwall, Eilert, 1922, *The Place-Names of Lancashire*: Chetham Society, Second Series, v. 81, p. 76.

¹⁸ Rogers, K.H., 1991, *Vikings & Surnames: York, England*, William Sessions Limited, p. 15-16.

5. The Grimshaw Coat of Arms and Crest

The Grimshaw coat of arms is dominated by a griffin, a mythological creature that is half lion and half eagle. The crest consists of two lions' heads arranged back to back. Burke's General Armory of England, Scotland, and Ireland provides the following description:

"Ar. a griffin segreant sa. beaked and legged or. Crest - Two lions' heads, erased, collared, and endorsed, ppr.", where

Ar. =	Armed; all birds which have talons and bills that aid them to seize and rend their prey, are in blazon said to be armed when those weapons differ in tincture from their bodies.
griffin =	An imaginary animal, the upper half that of an eagle, and the lower half that of a lion.
segreant =	Applied to a griffin when erect, with wings endorsed.
sa. =	salient -- The posture of an animal leaping on its prey.
or. =	The tincture of gold or yellow.
erased =	Forcibly torn from the body, a head, limb, or other object erased, has its severed parts jagged like the teeth of a saw.
endorsed =	addorsed -- Placed back to back.
ppr. =	proper -- Applied to every animal, vegetable, etc., when borne of their natural color.

Fairburn¹⁹, p. 218, provides the following very similar descriptions:

Grimshaw, Lanc., a griffin, segreant, sa., beaked and membered, or. Pl. 67, cr. 13.

Grimshaw, Eng., two lions' heads, erased, (collared,) and addorsed, ppr. Pl. 28, cr. 10

Figure 8 shows the griffin and the lions' heads as depicted in Plate 67 and 28 in the Fairburn reference. Perhaps one of the most accurate renditions of the combined coat of arms and crest was published by Taylor²⁰ (Figure 9). A version is also shown in Figure 2, but there is only one lion's head in the crest.

Pollard²¹ (p. 25) provides additional detail on the Grimshaw arms as follows:

Adam de Grimshaw, living in 1314, married Cecily de Clayton, sole heiress of Clayton-le-Moors. The Grimshaws had as their arms, a griffin segreant (wings back to back) on a silver shield. They had their pedigree and arms sanctioned in the 1613 Visitation of the Heralds.

It is likely that there is a relationship between the Grimshaw coat of arms and the Charles Owen tale of the serpent described in the preceding section, but the exact nature of this relationship is not very clear. Owen first describes the creature as a "monstrous serpent of four or five yards long," but then also says "by another hand I am informed that it was supposed to be a Griffin, which is a bird of prey"... Whether it be a "serpent drawn with wings, two legs, and talons like an eagle," or a half-lion, half-eagle griffin, Owen indicates "It is observable, says my author, that in the front of Clayton Hall are two figures drawn in plaster in the form of a coat of arms..."

¹⁹ Fairburn, James, 1986, *Fairburn's Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland*: Poole, England, New Orchard Editions, 599 p.

²⁰ Taylor, Sharon, 1982, *The Amazing Story of the Grimshaws in America*: Halbert's, Inc., 63 p.+

²¹ Pollard, Louie, 1978, *Great Harwood Gleanings*: Lancashire County Library and Leisure Committee, unk p.



Figure 8

Grimshaw Crest (above) and Coat of Arms (below) as Depicted in Fairburn²², 1986

²² Fairburn, James, 1986, Fairburn's Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland: Poole, England, New Orchard Editions, 599 p.



“Ar. a griffin segreant sa. beaked or. legged or.
Crest - two lions’ heads, erased, collared, and endorsed, ppr.”

Figure 9
Grimshaw Coat of Arms and Crest as Depicted in Taylor²³, 1982

²³ Taylor, Sharon, 1982, *The Amazing Story of the Grimshaws in America: Halbert’s, Inc.*, 63 p.+

Thus it is clear that the coat of arms with the griffin was in use by the Grimshaws at Clayton Hall prior to Owen's work in 1742. Pollard's indication that the Grimshaw arms were sanctioned in 1613 sets the date further back to that year. Since the Grimshaws moved from Eccleshill to Clayton-le-Moors in about 1345 and the serpent-killer was from Clayton Hall, the event must have happened after that time. However, it cannot be deduced from this information just what happened at Griom's Ark, which Clayton Hall Grimshaw was involved, the exact timeframe of the event (which could have been estimated had Owen known or indicated the Grimshaw's first name), when the coat of arms came into use, or how the serpent grew in mythological terms into a half-lion, half-eagle griffin.

Undoubtedly, an event occurred which somehow gave rise to the Grimshaw coat of arms with its prominent mythological griffin and, subsequently, to Owen's story. The event probably happened when the Grimshaw from Clayton Hall was making a trip through Pickup Bank to Eccleshill, where the Grimshaws still had land holdings (the "township he had on t'other side of it."). One thing we can say for certain -- it is more likely that the creature was a big snake than a griffin!

The mystery has intrigued others, as indicated by the following paragraph from Ainsworth's History of Altham and Huncoat²⁴ (p. 241):

The Grimshaw family are still commemorated in Huncoat by the sign of the Griffin's Head, the crest of the Grimshaws. A Natural History of 1742 gives an account of the griffin which appears as the arms of the Grimshaws. This monster was stated to haunt a wood near Pickup Bank called Ouse Castle, in which is a cavern anciently known as "Griom's" or "Grim's Ark." It was stated that a member of the Grimshaw family valiantly went forth to encounter the monster, and succeeded in shooting it with arrows. For this service he had an estate offered him, but refused, only desiring that he might have right of passage through that wood to a neighbouring township on the other side. His wish was granted, and the title is declared to be found in ancient writings. Although the story is only legendary, it supplies a solution to the arms borne by the Grimshaw family.

Huncoat is a former manor located about 1-1/2 miles southeast of Clayton Hall. Here again, we find interesting inconsistencies – for example, the reference to the griffin as a head and as being in the crest rather than a full griffin in the coat of arms. Note also that the monster is referred to only as a griffin, and no reference is made to a serpent or snake as is clearly made in Owen's original work. Where Trappes-Lomax "conveniently" leaves out reference to the griffin, Ainsworth does so for the serpent!

²⁴ Ainsworth, Richard, 1932, History and Associations of Altham and Huncoat: Accrington, Wardleworth Ltd. Printers, unk p.

6. Brief History of the Eccleshill and Clayton-le-Moors Area

Events in the Blackburn region of Lancashire County, including the Grimshaw locations in Eccleshill and Clayton-le-Moors, reflect the history of England, which is characterized by a series of invasions from the mainland to the east. The Blackburn area was occupied by Brigantes prior to the initial Roman invasion by Julius Caesar in 55 B.C. Permanent Roman occupation occurred when the emperor Claudius sent an army to Britain in A.D. 43. Ribchester, which is located 7 or 8 miles northwest of Grimshaw and Clayton-le-Moors, was a Roman fort that dates from about A.D. 79²⁵. The Roman Road, which passes within a few hundred yards west of Grimshaw in Eccleshill, led from Manchester to Ribchester during the Roman occupation. The Roman garrison was pulled out of Ribchester toward the end of the 300s.

After the Roman withdrawal, the inhabitants that remained behind, the Britons, were overrun by the Angles and Saxons from the Continent, mostly from between the Rhine and Denmark. Christianity arrived in England during this period, from A.D. 350 to 500. The Anglo-Saxon invasion apparently included the Lancashire area.

Viking raids began in the 700s and by 850 had become an invasion. "From Norway the Vikings conquered southern Scotland and the Hebrides, the Isle of Man, Cumberland and Lancashire, and finally Ireland..." (Halliday²⁶, p. 34). No doubt it was the descendants of these Vikings that initiated the Grimshaw name as described in Section 1.

The next major historical event that affected the area was the defeat of England by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Although the system of manorialism was apparently in place in Lancashire prior to the arrival of the Normans, they greatly enhanced and expanded the system. The region around Blackburn ("the Blackburn Hundred"), was included in the Honour of Clitheroe, a grant to Roger of Poitou. Later it was given to Ilbert de Lacy, lord of Pontefract, and "The hundred with the Honour of Clitheroe followed the descent of the barony of Lacy..." (Farrer and Brownbill²⁷, v. 6, p. 232). Both the Eccleshill and Clayton-le-Moors locations that figured so prominently in the early history of the Grimshaws were in the lands held by Lacy. During this period, the manorial system was developed extensively throughout the area. Eccleshill was associated with the manor at Mellor, and Clayton-le-Moors was derived from the manor of Altham.

²⁵ Hodge, A.C., and J.F. Ridge, 1997, Ribchester – A Short History and Guide: Preston, England, Carnegie Publishing, Ltd., 12 p.

²⁶ Halliday, F.E., 1995, England – A Concise History: London, Thames and Hudson, 240 p.

²⁷ Farrer, William, and J. Brownbill, 1911, A Victoria History of the Counties of England – Lancashire, v. 6: London, Univ. of London Inst. Of Historical Research (Reprinted by Dawsons of Pall Mall.)

7. Geologic Context of Eccleshill and Clayton-le-Moors

Both Eccleshill and Clayton-le-Moors, the most important locations to the early Grimshaw family, are located in the northern part of the Lancashire Coalfield as described by Edwards and Trotter²⁸. Both locations are underlain by sedimentary rocks containing mineable coal seams. These rocks are of the Upper Carboniferous series and are referred to as the Lower Coal Measures in England. They consist of interbedded shales and sandstones as well as coal seams. The beds are relatively flat-lying but are disrupted by frequent high-angle (near vertical) faults²⁹.

The Millstone Grit underlies the Upper Coal Measures and crops out elsewhere in the Blackburn region. It has not only been quarried in the past for millstones, but it has also been an important source for building stone in Lancashire County. Also, Pendle Hill, which is described below in Section 22, is made up of (underlain by) the Millstone Grit.

Edwards and Trotter²⁸ (p. 42) describe the Coal Measures as follows:

In the Pennine region the Coal Measures rest conformably on Millstone Grit, which their lower beds closely resemble. But the bulk of the Coal Measures are of somewhat different character from the Millstone Grit: rhythmic deposition is still apparent, but sandstones are thinner and finer grained; marine bands are uncommon, non-marine shell-beds very common; plant-debris is ubiquitous and seams of coal are thicker and more abundant. It seems that the subsiding area of deposition became silted up at frequent intervals to give rise to extensive flats at sea-level: vegetation colonized these flats and formed dense forests; the continuing subsidence drowned these forests and entombed their bulky residues (which subsequently were converted into coal seams) under fresh deposits of deltaic mud which again built up to sea-level. Periodicity in deposition continued until 3,000 to 4,000 ft. of measures with numerous workable coals had accumulated...

The rhythmic character of the sedimentation noticed in the Millstone Grit persists throughout the productive Coal Measures, but in these the persistent elements of the rhythm are the ... coal seams (which) vary in thickness between a thin film and 14 ft., with most falling within the limits of 2 to 6 ft. They are classified as bituminous coals...

The Eccleshill and Clayton-le-Moors area was subjected to glaciation during the Pleistocene ice age, and the bedrock is overlain in much of the area by glacial deposits (till, also called "boulder clay") of varying thickness up to several tens of feet. Glacial outwash (sand and gravel) also occur in small patches, including along Grimshaw Brook.

During a brief field excursion at and around the Grimshaw location in April, 1999, I observed shale and sandstone outcrops of the Coal Measures, as well as a coal mine opening, in the creek bed and cut banks of Grimshaw Brook. The overlying glacially-derived boulder clay was also found to be pervasive in the area. In many places near the creek where the slopes are steep, the boulder clay is in very active mass movement down the slopes.

²⁸ Edwards, W., and F.M. Trotter, 1954, *British Regional Geology – The Pennines and Adjacent Areas*: Dept. of Scientific and Industrial Research, Geological Survey and Museum, 3rd edition., 86 p. (Based on previous editions by D.A. Wray.)

²⁹ Geological Survey of England, 1927, Sheet 76, Solid (Bedrock), Scale 1" = 1 mile.

8. Grimshaw History at Eccleshill

As noted above, the Grimshaw location and family originated in Eccleshill. Located in Blackburn Parish, Eccleshill “was another member of the knight’s fee granted about 1165 by Henry de Lacy to Robert Banastre...” (Farrer and Brownbill³⁰, p. 279).

Abram³¹ (p. 596-597) traces the history of Eccleshill from its earliest inhabitants:

From the early period when Eccleshull was...an appurtenance of the lords of Walton, to the present date, its lands have been possessed by sundry proprietors. The first resident owners of the soil bore the township’s name for a surname. They were benefactors to Stanlaw Abbey about the date 1250-1270. Robert de Eccleshull gave to the monks of that convent one perch of land “in his vill of Eccleshull” for the site of a barn, lying on the “west side of the Bruderudying between Hoddisdenebrok [Hoddlesden Brook] and the Mill of Eccleshull.” A little later, after this donor’s death, Matilda, relict of Robert de Eccleshull, quit-claimed to the Abbey of Stanlaw her right in the land he gave in the vill of Eccleshull. Henry de Eccleshull, who occurs in 1214, perhaps was the father of the above Robert.

I conjecture that the De Eccleshull family were akin to the Grimshaws, who succeed them in this possession. In 1276 or 1277, Richard de Grymeshagh³² gave to the monks of Stanlaw half an acre of land in the vill of Eccleshull, contained in a croft called Bymmecroft, with easement and liberty to take timber there in his (donor’s) lordship. Grymeshaw was a tenement in Eccleshill beside the stream below Hoddlesden, and the family that named itself from this place of settlement became, *temp.* Edward III., lords of half the manor of Clayton-le-Moors by marriage of Adam de Grymeshaw with Cecelia, daughter and heir of John de Clayton. Thereafter, the Grimshaws dwelt at Clayton Hall, but they retained the estate in Eccleshill for many generations. It was found part of the inheritance of the heir of Thomas Grimeshawe, after his death, in 1540; and John Grymshaw, who died in 1587, also was found on the *Inq. post mort.* to have held these ancestral lands in Eccleshill. I have not found when the estate passed from this family. They had it still in 1650, when, in a Rental of Blackburn Wapentake, it was found that “Grimshall Hall” in Eccleshill paid 6d. yearly to that court, and “Mr. Grimshaws tennants” there 1s. yearly.

Farrer and Brownbill³⁰, in describing the history of Eccleshill, indicate that it passed through several families, including the Eccleshill family

“...until 1554, when John Moore, esq., and Anne his wife passed by fine to Richard Grimshaw fourteen messuages with lands in Eccleshill. These estates, including the manor, descended in the Grimshaw family of Clayton-le-Moors until after the death of Richard Grimshaw about the year 1672.” (Farrer and Brownbill, v. 6, p. 279).

Thus the Grimshaw family, which originated in Eccleshill probably before 1066, apparently increased their holdings substantially in 1554. The family continued to hold land there until at least 1672, more than 300 years after they moved to Clayton-le-Moors. The “manor” referred to in the quote apparently included the land and not a manor hall, as no description of a hall has been found.

³⁰ Farrer, William, and J. Brownbill, 1911, *A Victoria History of the Counties of England – Lancashire*, v. 6: London, Univ. of London Inst. Of Historical Research (Reprinted by Dawsons of Pall Mall.)

³¹ Abram, W.A., 1877, *A History of Blackburn, Town and Parish*: Blackburn, J.G. & J. Toulmin, 784 p. (republished 1990 by T.H.C.L. Books, Blackburn, Lancashire, England)

³² Note in Figure 4 that this Richard was the son of Walter, the first Grimshaw on record, and brother of Henry, the first-born and heir. Thomas and John, further down in the paragraph, can also be found in Figure 4 with death dates only and with a difference of a year.

A detailed map³³ of the Eccleshill area (Figure 10) shows that Grimshaw is actually in two parts – Higher Grimshaw and Lower Grimshaw Farm. Other notable nearby features are Darwen, Roman Road, Yate and Pickup Bank Township, Belthorn and Hoddleston.

During March 1987, I made a brief stop at the Grimshaw location, and in April 1999 I made a more extended visit of several days in the area. On both occasions I took photos at the location, some of which are shown in Figures 11 and 12. Roman Road, a prominent feature described above, and a sign at the boundary of Eccleshill Township are shown in Figure 11. The farmhouse at Upper Grimshaw is shown in Figure 12 with a plaque that is near the door of the house.

³³ British Ordnance Survey, 1996, Explorer Series, Map 19, West Pennine Moors, Scale 1:25,000



Figure 10
 Detailed Map³⁴ of the Eccleshill Area, Showing the Grimshaw Location (circled)

³⁴ British Ordnance Survey, 1996, Explorer Series, Map 19, West Pennine Moors, Scale 1:25,000 (reduced here), 1 sheet

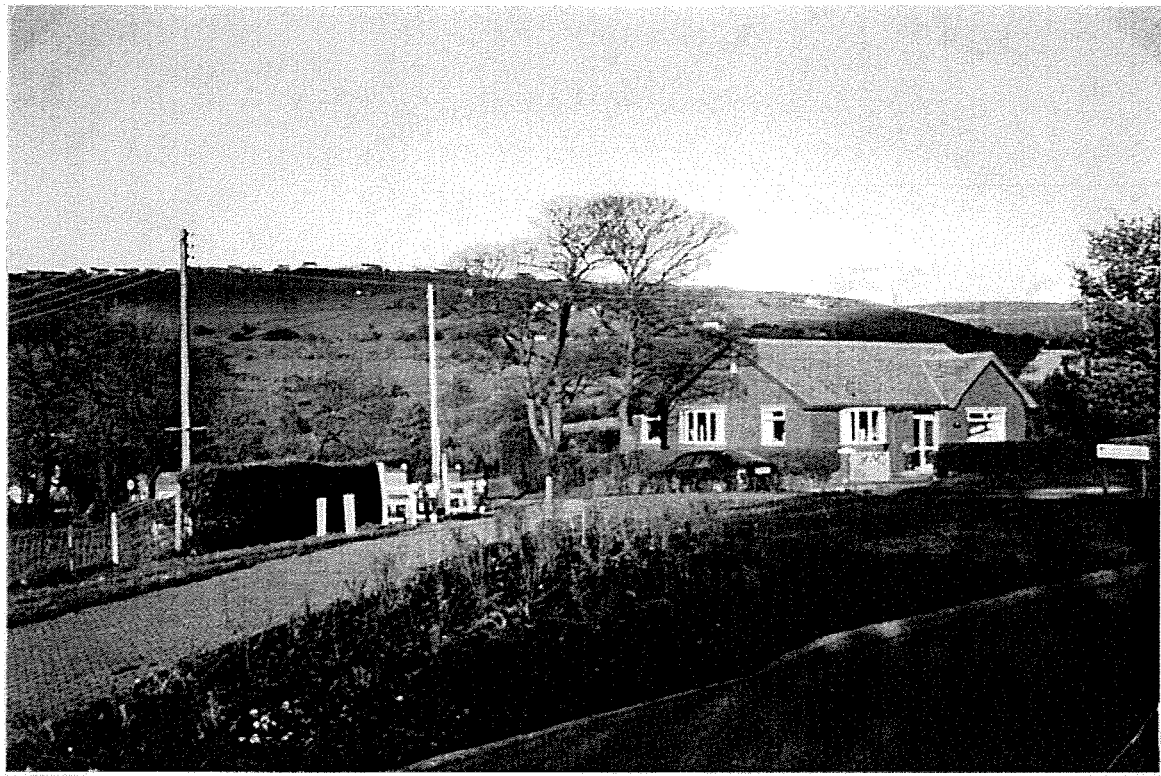
a. Roman Road – Photo
Taken During Previous
Visit in 1987



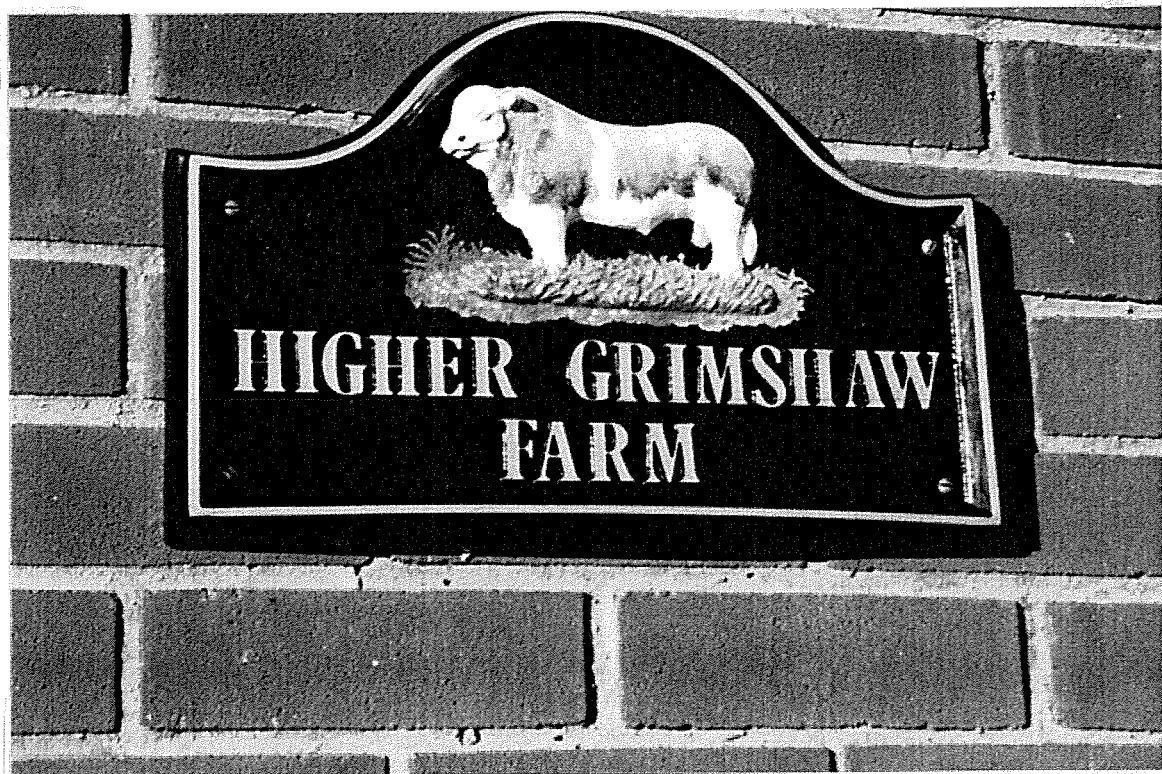
b. Sign at Boundary of
Eccleshill Township



Figure 11
Landmarks in Eccleshill Township,
Location of Grimshaw



a. Farmhouse at Higher Grimshaw Farm



b. Plaque Near Door of Farmhouse.

Figure 12
Upper Grimshaw Location

9. Industrialization and Coal Mining At and Near the Grimshaw Location in Eccleshill

The central part of England, including Lancashire County, was the cradle of the Industrial Revolution, which has both fueled the advance of Western (and world-wide) civilization in the modern era and brought mankind to the realization of the limits of the earth as well as the need to re-define our relationship to the planet. Almost nowhere else have the social and environmental costs that accompany the benefits of natural resource development and industrialization been in greater evidence than in the area around Blackburn.

The Grimshaws had the good fortune to be “in the right place at the right time” to witness the unfolding of the Industrial Revolution. Both Eccleshill and Clayton-le-Moors have a substantial history (and legacy) of the early industrial period.

The earliest industry at the Grimshaw location in Eccleshill was apparently started there in order to take advantage of the water power of Grimshaw Brook for processing cotton. Development at the location began in about 1782, when a water-powered carding and spinning factory was built.³⁵ Steam power was later added, and the mill was used for processing cotton until 1872.

The 1846 Ordnance Survey “Six-Inch” map³⁶ (Figure 13) shows Grimshaw Bridge crossing Grimshaw Brook, and Grimshaw Bridge Factory (Cotton) is shown just east of the brook (on the Pickup Bank side). The farm shown on Figure 12 is indicated on the Six-Inch map as “Grimshaw’s”. Another cotton mill, Water Side Mill, is shown about one-half mile upstream from Grimshaw, and other mills can also be seen on the map.

In 1872, the old cotton mill site was converted to a paper mill. A large envelope factory, called Grimshaw Brook Mill, was added after World War II. The paper mill has been closed (but remains standing), apparently in the 1990s, but the envelope operation was still active at the time of my site visit in April 1999. Figure 14 shows two historical pieces of paper-making equipment still at Lower Grimshaw. The piece at the entrance to the envelope factory is a “Kollergang Stone”, dating from about 1900, which is described as follows on a sign below the stone:

This stone was used for grinding wastepaper and rag pulp in preparation for the early process of paper manufacture. It was part of the original equipment at the Waterside Paper Mill, Darwen, Lancs. when this mill was purchased by Chapman & Co (Balham) Limited in 1937.

The equipment near the building is a paper making cylinder which is described as follows:

This M.G. paper making cylinder was manufactured in 1888 by Bentley & Jackson Ltd., Bury, and is believed to be the oldest cylinder of its kind in the world. Originally supplied to a Mr. J.L. Hastings. No records are available of its history till 1931 when Henry Cooke & Co (1932) Ltd. took over “The Falls Paper Mills” at Milnthorpe, Westmorland where it was already installed. In 1940 it was acquired by “The New Waterside Paper Mills Ltd.” and used for making envelope M.G. papers and cellulose wadding continuously throughout the Second World War till 1956 and thereafter as a predryer till 1967.

³⁵ Herbert Parkinson Limited, et al., Sponsors, 1992, *Industrial Heritage – A guide to the Industrial Archeology of Darwen, Including Hoddleston, Yates & Pickup Bank, Eccleshill and Tockholes*: Bridgestone Press, Printed by Caxton Printing Co., Accrington, 72 p.

³⁶ British Ordnance Survey, 1846, Sheet No. 70 (Lancashire Sheet), Scale 6” = 1 mile, 1 sheet

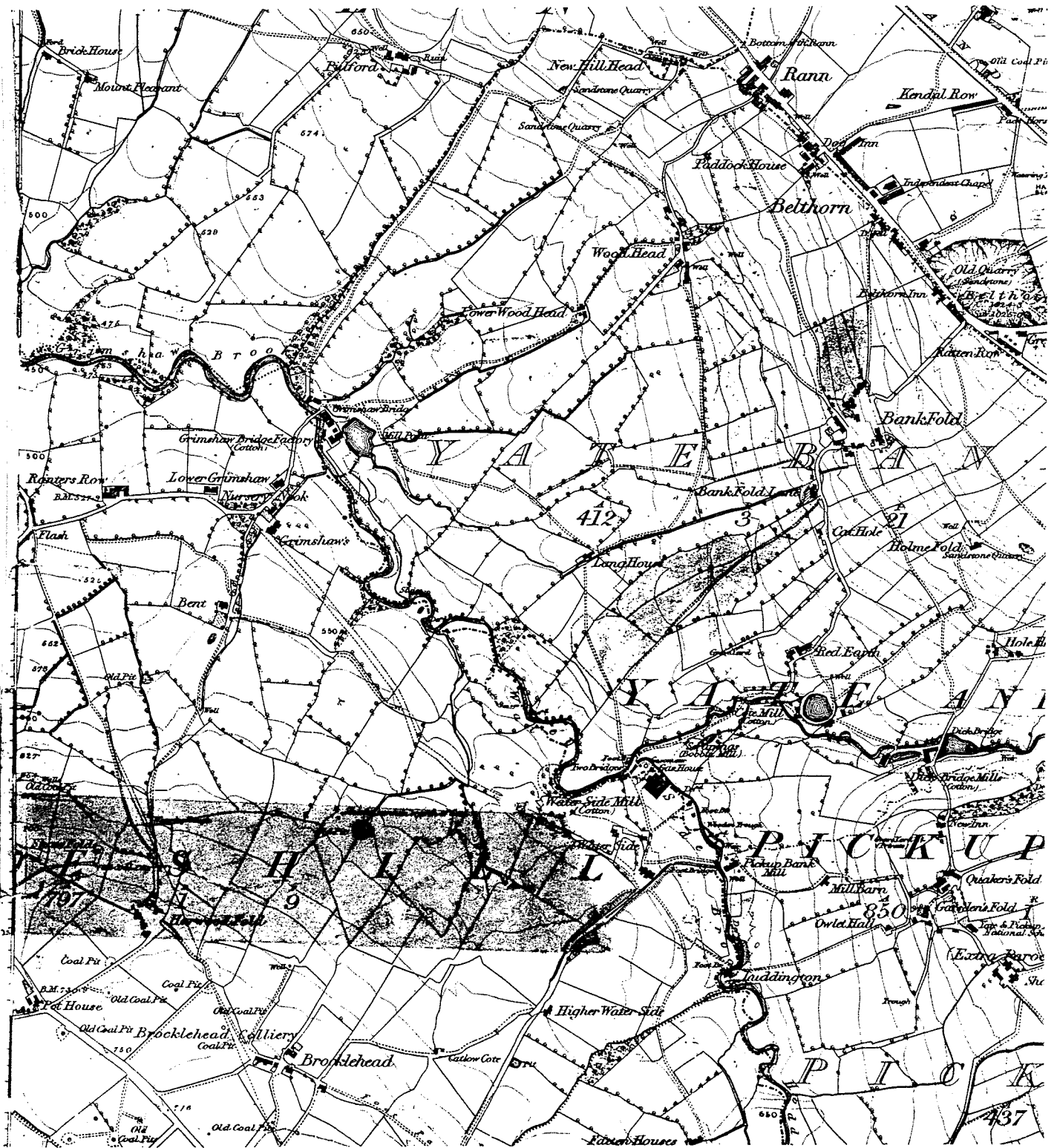
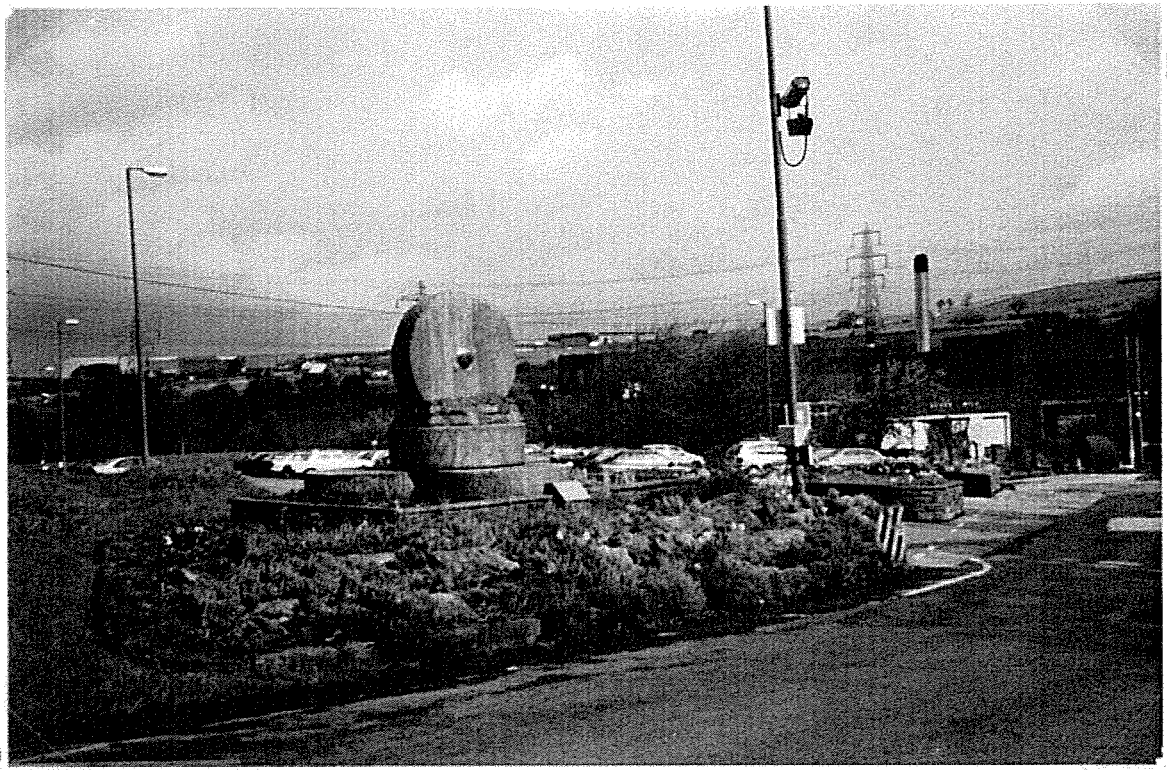


Figure 13

British Ordnance Survey “Six-Inch” Map³⁷ of 1846 Showing Cotton Mill at Grimshaw and Coal-Mining Facilities at Brockleshead

³⁷ British Ordnance Survey, 1846, Sheet No. 70 (Lancashire Sheet), Scale 6” = 1 mile, 1 sheet



a. "Kollergang Stone" at Entrance to Lower Grimshaw



b. Paper Making Cylinder in Front of Grimshaw Brook Mill, Paper Envelope Plant

Figure 14
Paper Mill Artifacts at the Lower Grimshaw Location

Figure 15a shows another legacy of the industrial heritage of the Grimshaw location – a solid waste landfill that is located on Grimshaw Brook just upstream of the paper mill and envelope factory.

As noted in Section 7, Eccleshill is underlain by coal-bearing strata of the Upper Carboniferous, and coal has been mined in the township probably since not long after it was settled. Given their holdings and economic interests in Eccleshill, it is highly likely that the Grimshaws were heavily involved in coal mining in the township. Abram³⁸ (p. 490) reports that:

Coal has been got in Over Darwen, Eccleshill, Tockholes, and Lower Darwen at least three centuries, very probably for a longer period, and the presence of this mineral fuel has during the interval compensated the inhabitants of these townships for the barrenness of most of the soil of the district. Traces of old abandoned pits and workings are found in many places upon the hill-sides.

Figure 13 shows clear evidence of coal mining still underway in 1846 (the date of the map) south of Grimshaw near Brocklehead, where several coal pits and a “Brocklehead Colliery” are indicated.

The coal was apparently used in part for iron smelting in Eccleshill Township. Abram³⁸ references iron smelting in another description of Eccleshill (p. 596):

The soil is poor and the situation bleak. The local coal measures extend underneath the land, and the Eccleshill coal mines have been worked at least three centuries. Extensive iron-smelting works have been erected recently in the township. A branch railway for mineral transit from Hoddlesden to the junction with the Lancashire and Yorkshire line from Bolton to Blackburn traverses the hill-side in Eccleshill.

The dismantled railway can be seen on current maps of the area (see Figure 10), and the abutments for the railway bridge over Roman road are still in existence (Figure 15b). Additional detail on the history of the railway is given in the Industrial Heritage description for the area.³⁹

The Hoddlesden branch of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway was authorized by an Act of 1872 and opened in 1876.

Although there were hopes that the single track would be used for passenger traffic, these were never realized, and the line was used for freight throughout its life.

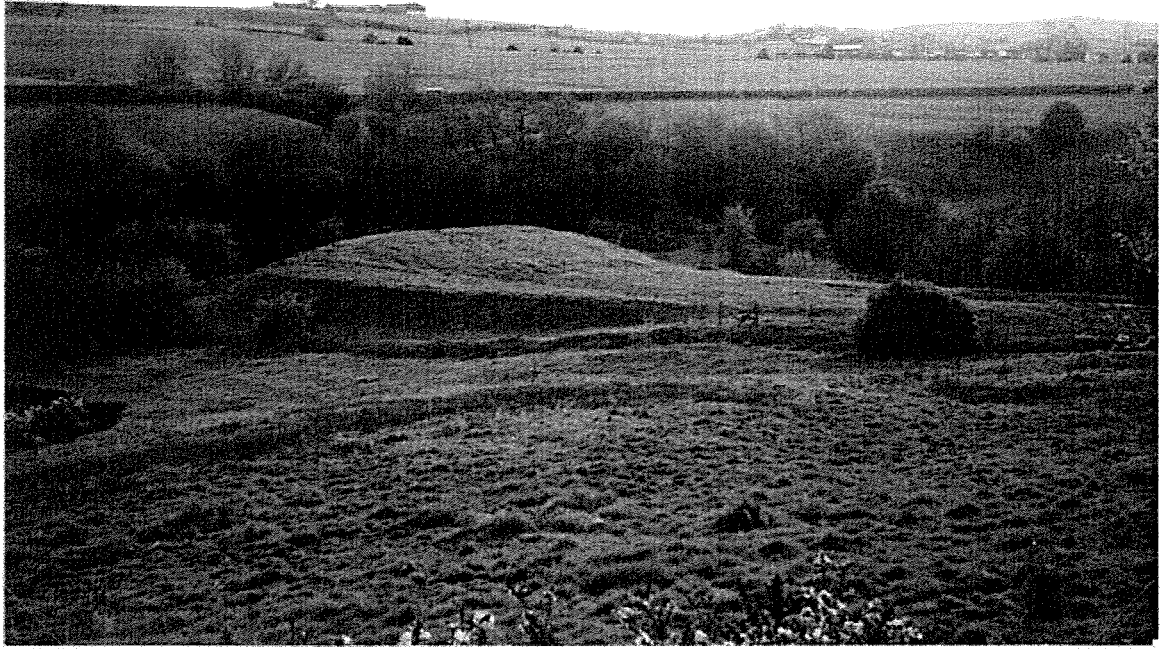
The original line included a siding to Bullough’s Waterside Fire Clay Works, and in Hoddlesden itself a goods yard and a branch to the pipe works.

In 1908 a circular loop was constructed at Whitebirk Brick & Tile Works, and after 1950 traffic terminated at this point. The surviving section of line was finally abandoned in 1962.

Remains: the course of the railway can be traced as cuttings and embankments throughout much of its length. At Hoddlesden the site of the goods yard is now used as a garage.

³⁸ Abram, W.A., 1877, *A History of Blackburn, Town and Parish*: Blackburn, J.G. & J. Toulmin, 784 p. (republished 1990 by T.H.C.L. Books, Blackburn, Lancashire, England)

³⁹ Herbert Parkinson Limited, et al., Sponsors, 1992, *Industrial Heritage – A guide to the Industrial Archeology of Darwen, Including Hoddleston, Yates & Pickup Bank, Eccleshill and Tockholes*: Bridgestone Press, Printed by Caxton Printing Co., Accrington, 72 p.



a. Landfill Associated With Paper Mill and Envelope Making Plant at Grimshaw Location



b. Bridge Abutments on Roman Road for Former Hoddlesden Railway Branch

Figure 15
Legacies of the Industrial Revolution in Eccleshill

10. Did The Grimshaw Serpent Live In An Old Coal Mine?

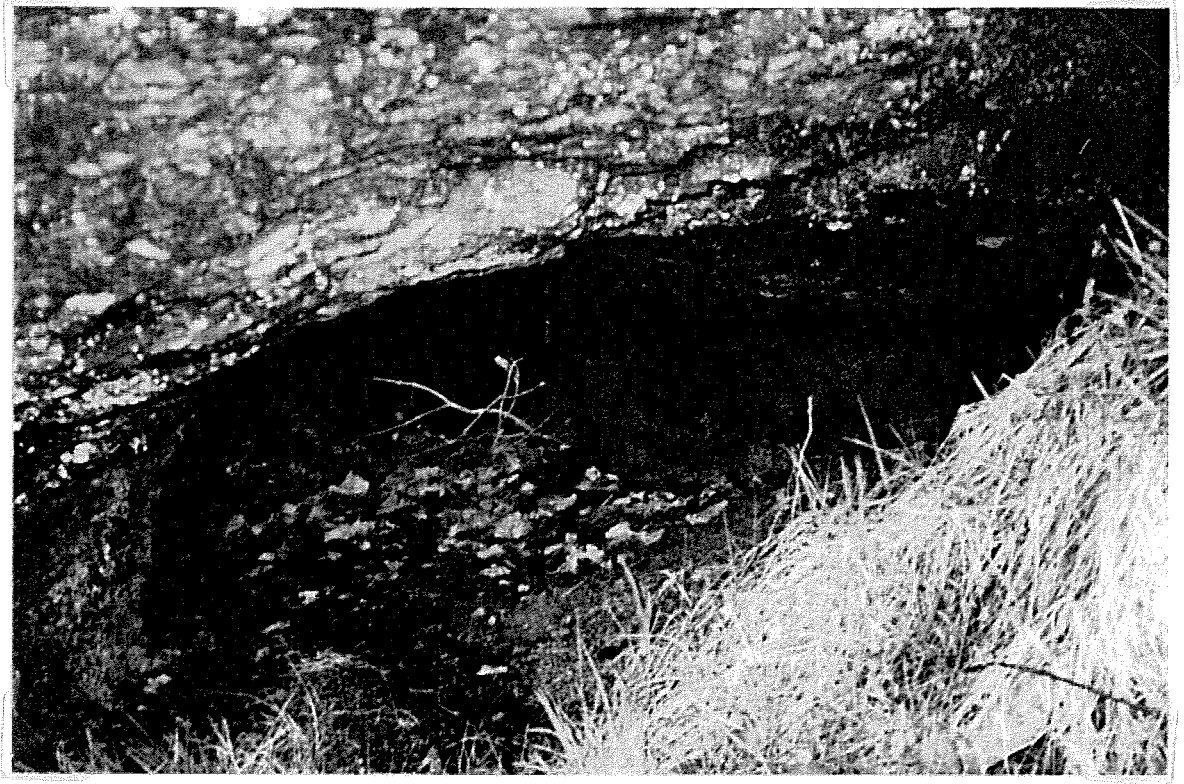
One of the difficulties of Charles Owen's story of the killing of a large serpent by a Grimshaw from Clayton Hall (Section 4) is explaining the existence of deep cavern in a geologic setting of sandstone, shale and coal beds. In describing the snake-killing incident, Owen says:

Its chief residence was in a wood near Pickup Bank, a few miles from Blackburn in Lancashire called Ouse Castle, where there is yet a little spot of ground called Griom's Ark, which is a deep cavern, situated among rocks in a wood, from whence it was seen to come out and bask itself on a sunny bank.

Since caverns are generally found in limestones, and certainly not in sandstones and shales (see Section 7), it is difficult to explain Owen's assertion. As noted above, I confirmed sandstone and shale outcrops in the creek during a visit to Grimshaw and nearby Luddington Hall in April 1999.

The date of the serpent incident, and the beginning of the use by the Grimshaws of the griffin on a coat of arms, cannot be established, but it could have been as late as 1613 (when the Grimshaw arms were sanctioned). Coal mining is known to have been underway in Eccleshill at least since the 1500s or 1600s (most likely earlier, perhaps going back to the early dates of settlement according to Abram⁴⁰). Mine voids were therefore likely to have been in existence by the time of the serpent-killing event. Given the geologic setting, a mine void is much more likely to be found in Eccleshill than a "traditional" large cavern. Figure 16 shows a mine void on the banks of Grimshaw Brook at Luddington Hall about a mile upstream from Grimshaw on the Pickup Bank side of the brook. It is perhaps one among many candidates for the location of Griom's Ark.

⁴⁰ Abram, W.A., 1877, *A History of Blackburn, Town and Parish*: Blackburn, J.G. & J. Toulmin, 784 p. (republished 1990 by T.H.C.L. Books, Blackburn, Lancashire, England)



a. Close-up View of Mine Opening at Luddington

b. View of Same Mine Opening Across Grimshaw Brook

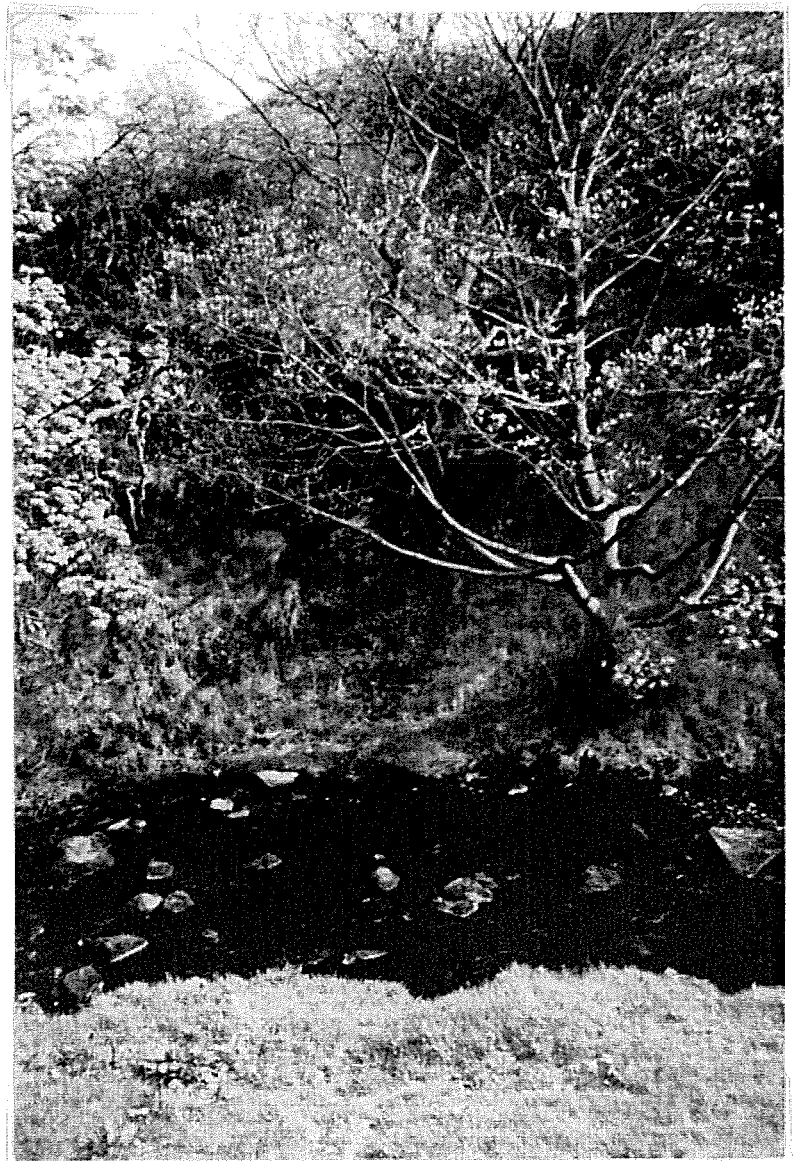


Figure 16

Griom's Ark? Griffin's Ark?
Did the Grimshaw Serpent Live in
an Old Coal Mine Opening?

11. Grimshaw History at Clayton-le-Moors

Clayton-le-Moors, like Eccleshill, was part of the Lacy holdings after the Norman conquest in 1066. Following the manorial practices of the time, the manor (considered a part of nearby Altham) passed to the family of Leofwine, lord of Altham, and then to the family and descendants of Henry de Clayton. As noted previously, Clayton-le-Moors then passed into the Grimshaw family when Adam Grimshaw married Cecily Clayton in 1345-47 (see Figure 4). Because Cicely shared her inheritance with a sister, Clayton-le-Moors was divided by Adam's son, Henry, with Henry Rishton, husband of Margaret, who was the niece of Cicely. (Whitaker, in Figure 4, erroneously shows Margaret as Cicely's sister). The subsequent history of Clayton-le-Moors was then in two parts – the Grimshaw (then Lomax) part, which was centered around Clayton Hall, and the Rishton part, which was later centered around Dunkenhalgh.

A detailed map of the Clayton-le-Moors area is given in Figure 17; it includes several notable features for the history of the area, including Accrington, Rishton, Altham, Hyndbyrne Bridge, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and Oakenshaw. The locations of Clayton Hall and Dunkenhalgh are also shown.

The Grimshaw family apparently had a rich history during their tenure at Clayton-le-Moors from 1345-47 until the manor passed to the Lomaxes in 1715. This history is summarized well by Ainsworth⁴¹ in his description of the old homesteads of the Accrington area. The relevant parts for Grimshaw history are the descriptions of Clayton Hall, Sparth Hall, Dunkenhalgh, Oakenshaw and Ringstonehalgh. These descriptions are included in Excerpt A (at the back of this booklet) because they convey some of the richness of early Grimshaw history. It is most interesting to read this excerpt while at the same time referencing Whitaker's Grimshaw descendant chart in Figure 4.

Clayton Hall (the pre-existing version) was built in 1772 and substantially added to in 1847 and 1887. During World War II, it was used to house servicemen. It did not withstand the ravages of time, however, and was demolished in 1977. The current owner of the site has built a new home in recent times that appears to be a substantial replica of the former Clayton Hall, although what has been built to date replaces only a portion of the original mansion.

Dunkenhalgh is still in existence and has been acquired by one of the larger hotel chains in England, MacDonald Hotels, and is operated as an upscale hotel. I found the accommodations very comfortable during my stay there for several days in April 1999.

⁴¹ Ainsworth, Richard, 1928, *The Old Homesteads of Accrington & District, Embracing Accrington, Baxenden, Stonefold, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Clayton-le-Moors, Great Harwood, Rishton, Hapton, Huncoat, Read, Simonstone, Altham, Whalley: Accrington, Wardleworth Limited*, unk p.

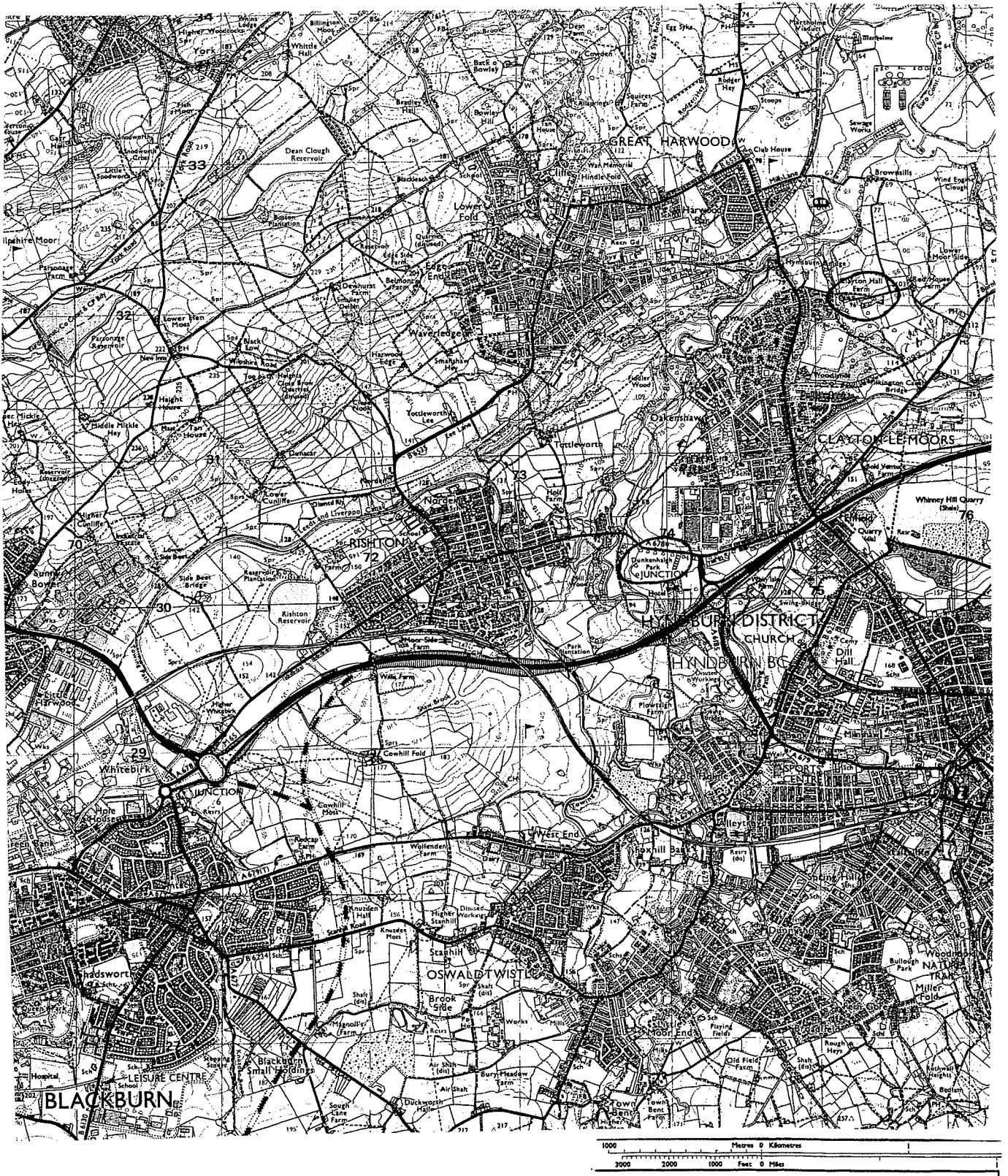


Figure 17

Detailed Map⁴² of the Clayton-le-Moors Area, Showing the Clayton Hall and Dunkenhalgh Locations (circled) and Several Other Landmarks

⁴² British Ordnance Survey, 1996, Explorer Series, Map 19, West Pennine Moors, Scale 1:25,000 (reduced here)

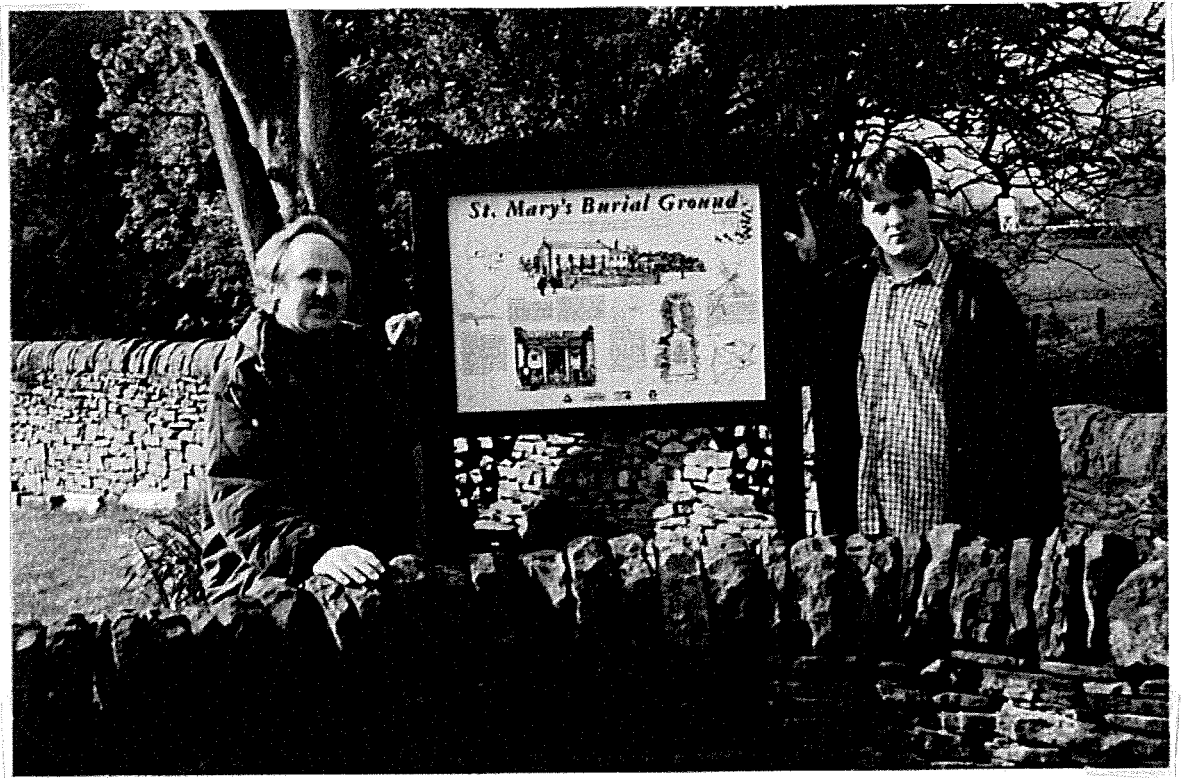
The main line of Grimshaws that lived at Clayton-le-Moors for more than 300 years were apparently Roman Catholics and remained within the faith despite the sometimes intense anti-Catholic pressures, prejudices and penalties (see, for example, the story of John Grimshaw and Jennet Cunliff in Excerpt A.) The influence of Catholicism continued at Clayton-le-Moors after the estate passed from the Grimshaws to the Lomaxes. St. Mary's church was built at Clayton-le-Moors in 1819, as described on a descriptive marker (Figure 18) at the cemetery on Clayton-le-Moors where the church used to stand:

St. Mary's, Enfield, as it was sometimes called, was built on land given by R.G. Lomax of Clayton Hall, whose family inherited the ancient Catholic estate of the Grimshaws of Clayton Hall. People came from outlying places such as Accrington, Church, Rishton, Great Harwood and Padiham. This church became the mother church to several modern ones.

The church was opened on July 11, 1819. Father Charles Brooke, S.J. was the first Parish Priest. As Clayton-le-Moors developed, St. Mary's Church became increasingly inconvenient. This and the incursion of dry rot and the corrosive effects of nearby industry caused the demise of the building, and it was demolished in 1959.

A new church was built on Devonshire Drive, Clayton-le-Moors. The last interment in the cemetery took place in 1974.

More information on the history of the Lomaxes at Clayton-le-Moors is given in Section 14 below.



a. Descriptive Marker of the Restored Cemetery and Former Church Location

b. Grave of Grimshaw Descendant Richard Grimshaw Lomax

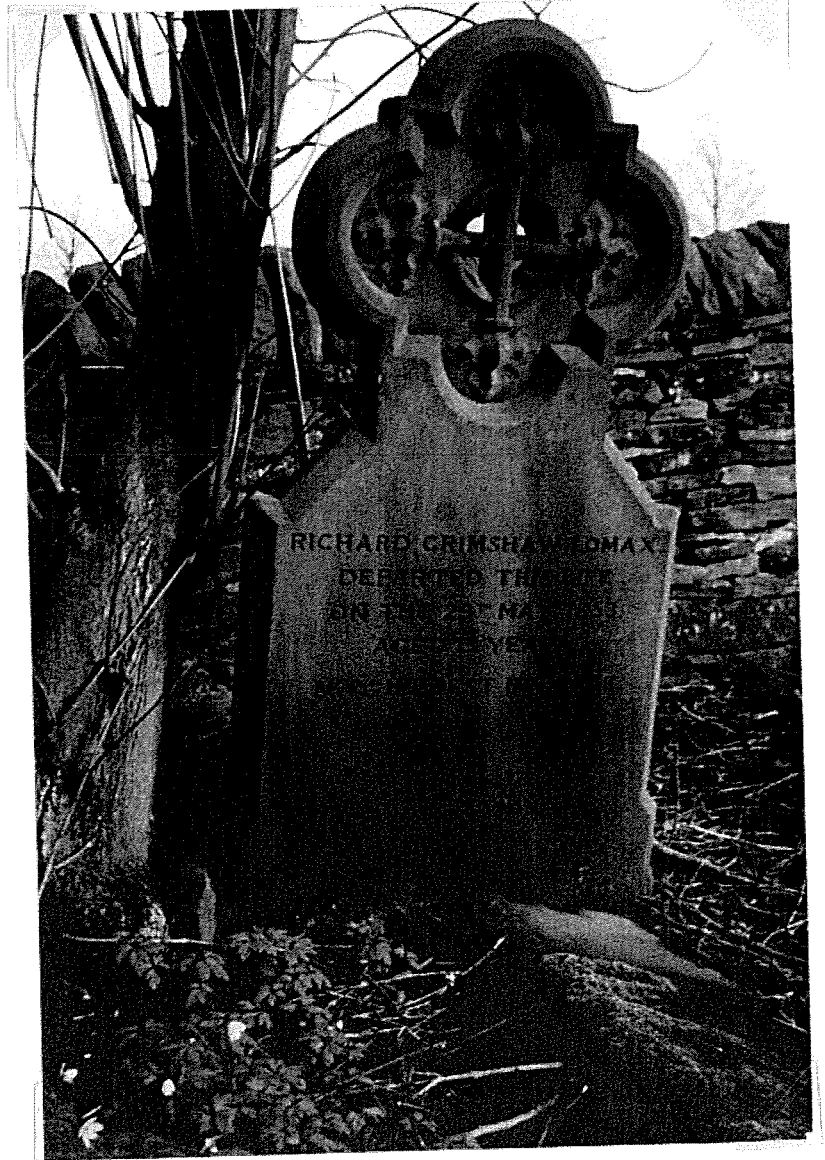


Figure 18

St. Marys Roman Catholic Cemetery
Located on Clayton-le-Moors

12. The Industrial Revolution at Clayton-le-Moors

Clayton-le-Moors was very heavily involved in the early industrial development of Lancashire County, with primary emphasis on textiles. The industrial history of Clayton-le-Moors is well described by Rothwell⁴³ and includes the following summary of the textile industry:

As in the neighbouring towns of Accrington, Church, Rishton and Great Harwood, cotton manufacture was the pre-eminent industrial trade of Clayton-le-Moors, providing employment for a large percentage of the township's population. The primary site was Oakenshaw Calico Printworks, initially commenced by Peel, Yates & Company, but later associated with Richard Fort and Brothers. This company, through one of its partners, John Mercer, made a significant contribution to the nineteenth century textile industry and bequeathed to the trade the important process of mercerisation.

Canal Mill, Enfield, an impressive spinning and weaving factory built in 1835, was a noteworthy event in the introduction of the cotton industry to Clayton-le-Moors, but the real growth of the town came between 1851 and 1865 when Joseph Barnes actively encouraged the foundation of mills and factories on the Oakenshaw estate.

The final stages of the industry's development came in the years just before 1914 when two large weaving sheds were erected in the town. Clayton's cotton trade suffered alarmingly after 1920 and by 1935 only three mills remained in production. Spinning ceased entirely during 1933 and cotton weaving became extinct in 1960.

According to this reference, no fewer than 16 textile-related sites have been identified in the Clayton-le-Moors area.

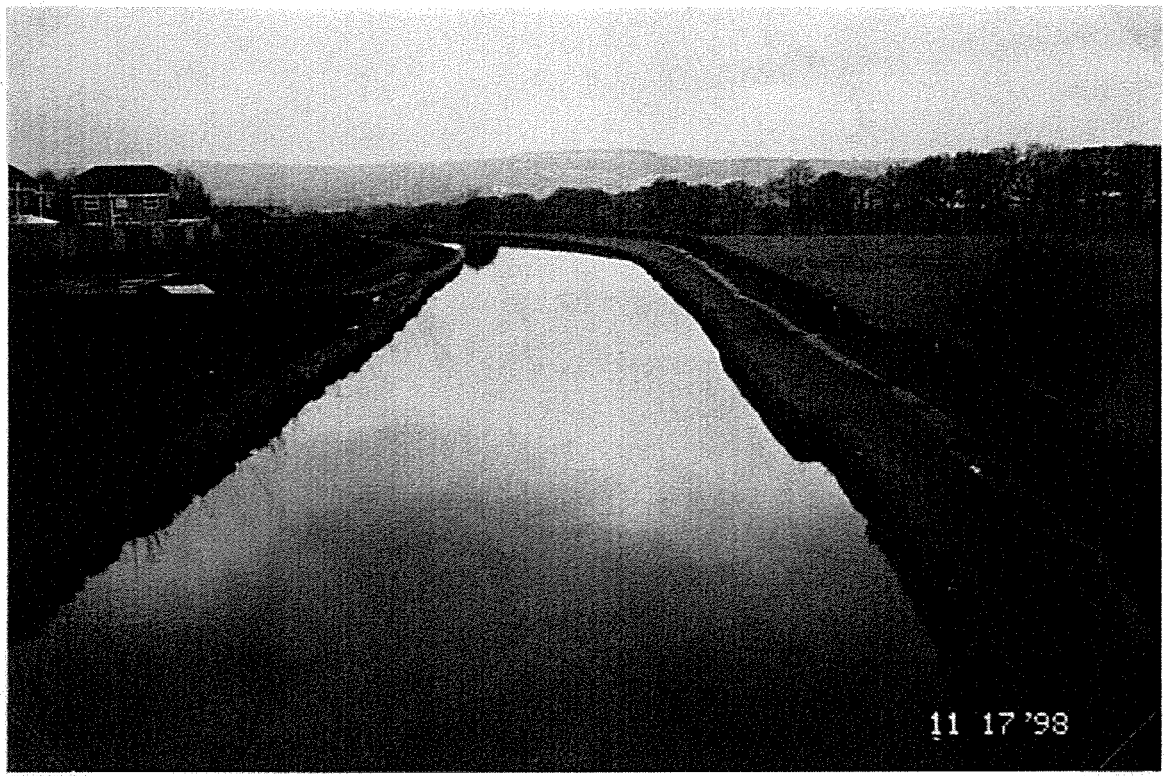
A major artifact of the Industrial Revolution in Clayton-le-Moors is the Leeds & Liverpool Canal which was opened from Burnley to Enfield (in Clayton-le-Moors) in 1801 (Figure 19). It was apparently the major artery for the transport of cotton to the Blackburn area for spinning, weaving and other textile manufacturing activities. Much of the cotton may have entered the port of Liverpool from the American South. Rothwell⁴³ (p. 17) provides the following description of the canal:

The Burnley to Enfield stretch of the canal was engineered in 1799 and opened in 1801. By 1808 the waterway had been extended to Church but final completion did not occur until 1816.

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company had its local depot at Enfield Bridge where warehouses and offices were constructed in 1801-02. Lime Kilns (owned by the Waltons of Altham) were sited west of Whalley Road close to Victoria Mill, while there were various coal wharfs to the east of the bridge. Among the early occupants were the Altham Colliery Co., James Lomax and the Peels (prior to the opening of Church Wharf). Later tenants of the wharfs included various local coal merchants and the Accrington Gas Co.

The later mills and factories also had canal side facilities, including warehouses which gave direct access to the waterway.

⁴³ Rothwell, Michael, 1979, *Industrial Heritage – A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Clayton-le-Moors*: Hyndburn Local History Society, Printed by Caxton Printing, Accrington, 18 p.+



a. Westward View of Leeds and Liverpool Canal from Highway A678 Bridge



b. Bridge Across Leeds and Liverpool Canal for Highway A678, Near Site of Moorfield Pit Disaster (Note plaque, described below)

Figure 19
The Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Clayton-le-Moors

The canal apparently had a major economic impact to the Blackburn area when it was constructed, as indicated by Aspin⁴⁴ (p. 6) in his description of the completion of the canal to Blackburn in 1810:

Towns many miles inland now began to take on the airs of seaports, and Blackburn, watching the advance of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal across East Lancashire, provided itself with a 'commodious stone warehouse... a basin so wide that six barges of 40 tons burden each may lie abreast, and three cranes to hoist the goods into the upper rooms.'

When the canal was opened in June 1810, giving the town a direct link with Hull, the ceremony was so impressive that the *Blackburn Mail* declared, 'Never since this publication was first started has it been in the power of any editor to record so pleasant a scene.' Some twenty-seven vessels made the inaugural journey from Clayton-le-Moors and there were four bands on board to entertain the passengers.

The social ills that accompanied the Industrial Revolution included high unemployment, low wages and the lack of a social "safety net" which led to great suffering, and even starvation, among the textile workers in Lancashire. Clayton-le-Moors was the location of some of the social unrest that occurred, including the power-loom riots of 1826, as described by Aspin⁴⁰

On 24 April rioting began in East Lancashire and continued for three days. Twenty-one mills were attacked and more than 1000 power looms destroyed. Many of the rioters who marched on the first day from Clayton-le-Moors through Accrington to Blackburn were 'armed with pikes. There were two armed with guns, some with hammers, others with iron balance balls with wood handles driven into them, some with hatchets and picks. There were about sixty pikemen.' Thomas Duckworth, a 16-year-old Haslingden handloom weaver, who rose early that day to turn the grindstone on which the rioters sharpened their pikes, recalled in later life:

Cotton weaving got to starvation work in 1826. I don't think anyone would make above 9s. a week, work as hard as they could. Food was dear – salt 4d. a pound, broken sugar 8d., lump sugar 1s. But working people didn't use much sugar. They had porridge and milk. I have had porridge twenty-one times a week... All farmers had loom shops and they fancied the power-loom was going to starve them to death.

That morning we set off to the loom-breaking. When we had got on the road we saw horse soldiers coming towards us. There was a stop then. The soldiers came forward, their drawn swords glittering in the air. The people opened out to let the soldiers get through. Some threw their pikes over the dyke and some didn't. When the soldiers had come into the midst of the people, the officers called out, 'Halt!' All expected that the soldiers were going to charge, but the officers made a speech to the mob and told them what the consequences would be if they persisted in what they were going to do. Some of the old fellows from the mob spoke. They said, 'What are we to do? We're starving. Are we to starve to death?' The soldiers were fully equipped with haversacks and the emptied their sandwiches among the crowd. Then the soldiers left and there was another meeting. Were the power-looms to be broken or not? Yes, it was decided, they must be broken at all costs.

Hunger and despair drove these men and women to desperate acts, which were accomplished with a fearlessness that astonished all who witnessed them.

⁴⁴ Aspin, Chris, 1995, *The First Industrial Society – Lancashire, 1750-1850*: Preston, England, Carnegie Publishing Ltd., 250 p.

At least one family of Grimshaws was heavily involved in the business that grew out of the Industrial Revolution, as described in the following excerpt from Crossley⁴⁵ (p. 113-116):

JAMES GRIMSHAW. (Died 1st September, 1873; Aged 72 Years).

Commercially and in public service, James Grimshaw, of Owl Hall the calico printer of Plantation Mill, contributed materially in the moulding of Accrington. Sound in judgment, ever wishful to help in, every good cause, he filled many offices with profit to the community. He was trusted by all sections, revered by hosts of townsmen. He was a man of slender build and-medium height, with an iron-grey beard and resolute face, yet a kinder and more sympathetic employer and citizen it would be difficult to find. A native of Oswaldtwistle, he came of a long-lived stock. His father, Joseph Grimshaw, died in 1846 at the age of 81 and his mother attained her 84th year....

As a boy James Grimshaw worked at Foxhill Bank Printworks, but came to Accrington with his father when quite a youth. He was employed at Plantation Mill Printworks as a block printer for some years. His steady character and aptitude for business attracted the attention of his employer, Mr. Denham, and he was promoted to the position of foreman. Subsequently Mr. Denham took him into partnership, and on that gentleman's death, about 1840, Mr. Grimshaw took the management of the business along with his sons, Joseph and John, and the firm became known as James Grimshaw and Sons. In later years Joseph and John commenced business on their own account, and some years before Mr. Grimshaw's death the works were carried on by Mr. William Denham Grimshaw, another son.....

JOHN SMALLEY GRIMSHAW. (Died 27th September, 1896, aged 68 years).

Mr. James Grimshaw had three sons; Joseph, the eldest, became a colliery proprietor at Stoneclough, near Bolton; John Smalley lived at Huncoat for many years and was engaged in several businesses; and William Denham carried on the Plantation Works. Like his father, John Smalley Grimshaw, of Woodside House, Huncoat, filled many public offices. For a time he was at Broad Oak Mill, then became partner with Mr. John Riley at Hapton Chemical Works. He and others built Highbrake Mill, Huncoat. Mr. Grimshaw became associated with a number of industrial concerns in Burnley. He was first chairman of Burnley Paper Works and of Sandygate Mill, and served on other directorates. Huncoat had great attractions for him; he filled all the public offices in turn; was first chairman of the Parish Council and was also a Poor-Law Guardian. He was created a county magistrate in 1878 and was appointed chairman of the local Bench on the death of Mr. George Walmsley. He was a Liberal in politics (though not in harmony with the party on Home Rule) and was identified with the New Church. A reserved man, he was not fond of public platforms, but he was good to the poor.

WILLIAM DENHAM GRIMSHAW. (Died 12th May, 1923; aged 92 years).

Born in Accrington, William Denham Grimshaw spent several years as a young man in the South of France, acquiring the best available knowledge of the calico printing industry, and there he made the acquaintance of many with similar interests who afterwards became heads of printworks in various parts of Europe. A clever chemist, he spent a great deal of his time in the laboratory, and research work in colours was with him not only a profession, but a hobby. His studies in this direction produced some very important results, employed to useful purpose in the carrying on of his firm's business....

Gifted with a splendid memory, Mr. Grimshaw had many interesting recollections of old Accrington. In the early part of his business career, when he had to go to Manchester, he travelled by pony to Bury, and there took the stage coach to his destination. returning to Accrington by the same method. He was familiar with the stirring events in the history of the cotton trade, and his experiences of the plug-drawing riots and other disturbances were most interesting.

⁴⁵ Crossley, R.S., 1930, *Accrington Captains of Industry: Accrington, Wardleworth Ltd.*, unk p.

13. Coal Mining at Clayton-le-Moors

Coal mining has apparently been going on in and around Clayton-le-Moors for almost as long as at Ecclehill, extending back to the 16th and 17th centuries. According to Tootle⁴⁶ (p. 5), "The first recorded instances of coal being mined in Clayton-le-Moors and Altham was in 1641. John Grimshaw let the coal seam at Clayton to Henry Towneley and Nicholas Towneley, of Royle for 18 years." Coal mining at Clayton-le-Moors became more extensive after the Grimshaws had been replaced by the Lomaxes in 1715; it was described by Rothwell⁴⁷:

Towards the end of the 18th century the Lomax family of Clayton Hall was operating a number of shafts into the Arley seam, particularly in the Sparth and Brownsills districts of the township. These were continued by the family until about 1858 when James Lomax abandoned the workings, apparently as a result of increasing Government legislation. Minor reworking was undertaken by Edward Pilkington in the Holme and Moorside areas at end of the 19th century but by 1899 colliery operations in the town were extinct.

Three specific collieries were described in this reference – Hyndburn Bridge Colliery, Clayton Collieries and Moorside (probably should be Moorfield) collieries.

An important event associated with coal mining at Clayton-le-Moors was the Moorfield Pit Disaster on November 7, 1883 in which 68 men and boys were killed (one victim was age 10, three were 11, and three were 12) by a coal mine explosion. A description of the event by Tootle⁴² (1998) is given in Extract B at the end of this booklet. The victims included two Grimshaws:

Grimshaw, John aged 20, of 81 Henry St., Church. He was one of the last four to be recovered on the Sunday. He may have been living with his grandparents. On the death of his grandfather, William, in October, 1895, his grandmother was classed as a widow and began to receive support from the fund. John was buried at the Wesleyan Church, Mount Pleasant, Oswaldtwistle.

Grimshaw, Thomas aged 26, of Church Lane, Clayton-le-Moors. He left a wife, Agnes, and a daughter, Nancy Alice b. 9-6-1882, who was listed in the Relief Fund Register as Agnes. The child died 2nd December 1885 aged three. The family later moved to 37 Union Rd., Oswaldtwistle. Mrs. Grimshaw married John Hughes of Church Lane, on 15th December 1884. Tomas was buried at the Wesleyan Church, Mount Pleasant, Oswaldtwistle.

In addition, another Grimshaw was injured:

Grimshaw, William of Church. Died 8 August 1894. Someone made a claim for relief and was awarded 5/- (25p) per week. This was stopped in October 1889, reinstated at 2/6 (12 ½ p) and increased in 1895.

A plaque on the A678 bridge over the Leeds and Liverpool Canal (see Figure 17) near the Moorfield Colliery site reads as follows:

This plaque is to commemorate the tragic death of 69 men and boys at the Moorfield Colliery disaster on 7th November 1883

The number of deaths is probably 68, as reported in Tootle, rather than the 69 reported on the plaque.

⁴⁶ Tootle, Henry, 1998, *The Moorfield Pit Disaster*: Blackpool, Landy Publishing, 64 p.

⁴⁷ Rothwell, Michael, 1979, *Industrial Heritage – A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Clayton-le-Moors*: Hyndburn Local History Society, Printed by Caxton Printing, Accrington, 18 p.+

14. Clayton-le-Moors under the Lomaxes

Clayton-le-Moors flourished and expanded after the Lomaxes took over in 1715; most of the growth during the Industrial Revolution took place during their tenure. They expanded their holdings to include much of Great Harwood. The large estate continued until it was sold at auction in 1925. Pollard⁴⁸ summarized the history of the Lomaxes as follows (this narrative is most interesting if reference is made simultaneously to Whitaker's descendant chart in Figure 4):

The name of Lomax was to be found in many parts of South East Lancashire by the time of Henry VIII, and it was the Pilsworth branch of the family whose descendants became Lords of Clayton-le-Moors and Great Harwood.

Richard Lomax (born 1688) eldest son and heir of James Lomax of Pilsworth married Rebecca Heywood (1715), a descendant of the Grimshaw family of Clayton-le-Moors. Rebecca's mother was the daughter of John and Jennet Grimshaw of Sparth, and from them she inherited the Clayton Hall Estate in 1728.

[Editor's note: Whitaker, in Figure 4, shows Rebecca's mother as the sister, not daughter, of John who married Jennet; Trappes-Lomax, in Figure 5, agrees that Rebecca's mother was the daughter of John and Jennett]

James the eldest son of Richard and Rebecca was born in 1717, and in 1753 they put him in possession of the Clayton Estate, never having lived there themselves. James prospered, working coal mines in Clayton and leasing land in Great Harwood for the same purpose. When the Nowell's of Read put up for sale the Lower Town of Great Harwood in 1770-1773, James Lomax was the chief buyer. He rebuilt Clayton Hall in 1772. He became a convert to the Roman Catholic Church about 1769. Local tradition says that he had become friendly with the Petre's Chaplain at Dunkenhalgh, and that the latter gave him some superior brandy. This led him to inquire into the religion of the country of its origin, the enquiry or the brandy or both led to his conviction of the truth of Catholicism. From this time onwards, the Lomax family embraced the Roman Catholic faith.

Richard Grimshaw Lomax, his eldest son succeeded him. He married Catherine Greaves, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Greaves of Preston. They lived at Clayton Hall. Richard extended his coal mining interests, leasing more land in Great Harwood from Sir Thomas Hesketh. When any property came on the market in Great Harwood, Richard Grimshaw Lomax was the buyer. In 1819 the Upper Town of Great Harwood was valued by Sir Thomas Hesketh, and put up for sale. Richard Grimshaw Lomax bought it. Richard and Catherine had twelve children, ten sons, and two daughters. All his sons who survived were educated at Stonyhurst College, and three of them became priests. He died in 1837 and was buried at Altham.

John Lomax the fourth son born to Richard and Catherine succeeded to the estate. He was born in 1801. He married Helen, daughter of John Aspinall of Standen Hall. He improved and enlarged Clayton Hall. He died in 1849, and was also buried at Altham. John and Helen had no children, and his brother James succeeded him.

More is known about James Lomax than any other Lord of the Manor of Great Harwood, because he lived in the town some time and devoted so much of his time and interest to it. He was born in 1803 and built Allsprings, Great Harwood, in 1838. Whilst at Allsprings he married Frances Cecilia Verda, eldest daughter of Charles Walmesley of Wigan. On the death of his brother (1849), James Lomax became the owner of 3,400 acres of land in Lancashire. 2,865 acres of this was in Great Harwood and the rest was in Clayton-le-Moors and Hurst Green. There was still some land in Great Harwood owned by a few families who had bought it at the 1770 sale, and if it came up for sale again, James Lomax snapped it up. Eventually with the exception of a few acres, he owned the whole of the land and farms in Great Harwood. His daily occupation was to go round the farms. He had the management of them in his own hands.

It was during his lifetime that great changes took place. Great Harwood grew from a village, whose inhabitants earned their living by farming and hand loom weaving, into a small cotton manufacturing town.

⁴⁸ Pollard, Louie, 1978, Great Harwood Gleanings: Lancashire County Library and Leisure Committee, unk p.

The population numbered 1,659 in 1801, and by the time he died in 1886 it had reached the 9,000 mark. The fact that nearly all the land belonged to him, was a deciding factor in most of the changes that took place. The line of the railway was influenced by the fact that he owned the land through which it had to run. With the building of new mills, shops and houses land was leased in a different way. The old method of leasing land for one, two or three lives died out and the practice of paying a ground rent for 999 years took its place.

James Lomax was a man of courage with many sides to his nature. He lost his right hand in Ms youth, in an accident. When asked how he coped with the surgery of the time, he answered 'I said three Hail Mary's and told them to cut away'

James Lomax who had been educated at Stonyhurst College was a great benefactor there, giving bursaries for prizes, and he also donated L2,000 to the extensions of the building. He had so much affection for his college that he missed attending only two speech days in 75 years.

He died at Clayton Hall on 25th March 1886, at the age of 82 years, and was buried in the Lomax vault, near the Lomax Chapel of Our Lady and St. Hubert's Church. Full details of the funeral were printed in the Blackburn times, 3rd April....

His wife died in 1891 and was buried in the family vault at Our Lady and St. Hubert's Church.

James and Frances Cecilia Berda had no children, the only one in the large family of Richard Grimshaw Lomax to have issue was the youngest son Thomas. His daughter Helen, and his granddaughter Helen Mary Maxima (Mrs. David Howell) jointly succeeded to James Lomax's estates. They inherited the Clayton Hall Estate in 1886 when he died, and Allsprings Estate on the death of his wife in 1891.

Helen, (James Lomax's niece) married her cousin Thomas Byrnan Trappes of Stanley House, Clitheroe. The wedding took place at Our Lady and St. Hubert's Church on 10th January 1866. Mr. Thomas Byrnan Trappes died in 1891 and after his death Helen took the additional name of Lomax....

Helen Trappes Lomax died 15th June 1924, and was buried at Hurst Green. She was succeeded by her eldest surviving son Richard.

Richard Trappes Lomax was born in 1870, he married (1894) Alice, Daughter of Basil T. Fitzherbert of Swynnerton, Stafford. He was a Captain I the 3rd Battalion K.O. Royal Lancashire Regiment, and served with them in South Africa 1900-1901. He joined the Lancashire Hussars in 1914 as Captain, becoming Major in 1915. He had eight sons, his eldest son was a Captain in the Scots Guards and served with them in the war 1914-1918.

In 1925 the Clayton Hall Estate which included Great Harwood was sold by auction. The sale was spread over three days, the land in Clayton-le-Moors being sold first. In Great Harwood, farms, houses and plots of land were sold, and in addition public houses, and ground rents for nearly all the houses and buildings in Great Harwood were auctioned. It was not an opportune time for selling. Some of the lots remained unsold, but the rest were bought by many people in different walks of life.

It was the end of a way of life which had been bound up with the Lords of the Manor for nearly 900 years.

It is interesting to note that Richard Trappes-Lomax's history of Clayton-le-Moors⁴⁹ was published by the Chetham Society in 1926, not long after the large estate was liquidated in 1925. The Clayton-le-Moors Lomax coat of arms shown in Figure 6 is described as a combination of the preceding Grimshaw, Clayton and Lomax (earlier family) arms:

The Lomax coat of arms registered in Burke's "General Armory" is a combination of the three families. The shield is quartered, displaying the Lomax arms in the first and fourth quarter. The Grimshaw arms in the second and the Clayton arms in the third. The crest over the shield is described as "out of a mural crown a demi lion – gu – (red) collared and holding an escallop."

⁴⁹ Trappes-Lomax, Richard, 1926, A History of the Township and Manor of Clayton-le-Moors, County Lancaster: Chetham Society, Second Series, v. 85, 175 p.

15. Clayton-le-Moors in About 1790

Trappes-Lomax⁵⁰ published a map inside the front cover of his book which showed Clayton-le-Moors as he understood that it existed in about 1790. This would have been at the time of the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution, which was to have such a large impact on the area. This map (Figure 20) includes both the Grimshaw portion (including Clayton Hall) and the southern (Rishton) portion, including Dunkenhalgh. Hyndburn Bridge (called Hyndham Bridge), Sparth Hall, Oakenshaw, and Ringstonehalgh are also shown. The roots of Clayton-le-Moors as a manorial estate are indicated by the “patchwork quilt” pattern of agricultural land use.

The incipient influence of the Industrial Revolution is indicated by the Canal (the Leeds and Liverpool Canal), by the Cannal Pit (coal mine) in parcel 38, and by the “Engine Fields” near the Cannal Pit at the north end of the manor. The date of this map is thus probably more accurately placed sometime after 1801, the year that the Leeds and Liverpool Canal was completed through Clayton-le-Moors (see Section 12).

⁵⁰ Trappes-Lomax, Richard, 1926, *A History of the Township and Manor of Clayton-le-Moors, County Lancaster*: Chetham Society, Second Series, v. 85, 175 p.

Figure 20
(following page)

Map of the Clayton-le-Moors Area As It Existed in About 1790 (From Trappes-Lomax⁵¹, 1926)

⁵¹ Trappes-Lomax, Richard, 1926, A History of the Township and Manor of Clayton-le-Moors, County Lancaster: Chetham Society, Second Series, v. 85, 175 p.

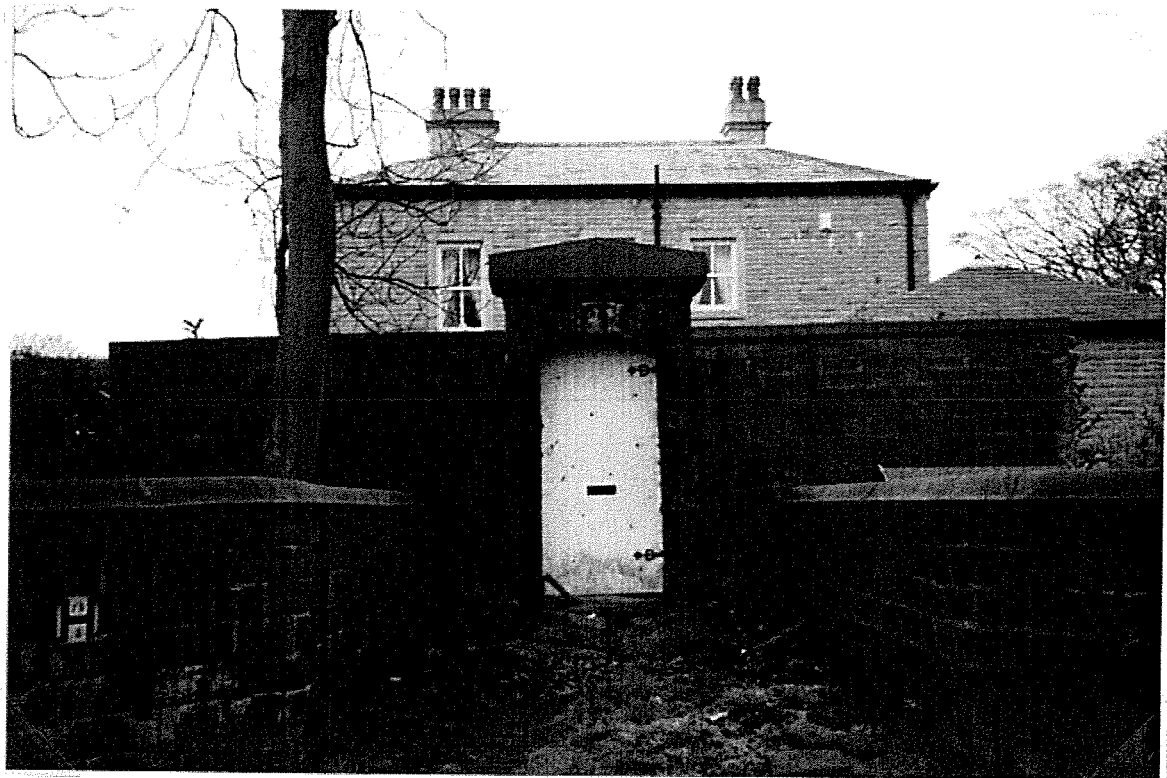
16. Clayton Hall and Dunkenhalgh in 1999

As noted, the previous Clayton Hall was demolished in 1977⁵², but a new Clayton Hall which has a similar (if not replicated) appearance has been built at the site of the previous hall. Figure 21 shows the new hall and the gate of the previous hall. One of the previous out-buildings on the north side of Clayton Hall, now restored as a dwelling, is shown in Figure 22. Dunkenhalgh, the “other (Rishton) hall” of Clayton-le-Moors, is now operated as a hotel and is also shown in Figure 22.

⁵² Pollard, Louie, 1978, Great Harwood Gleanings: Lancashire County Library and Leisure Committee, unk p.

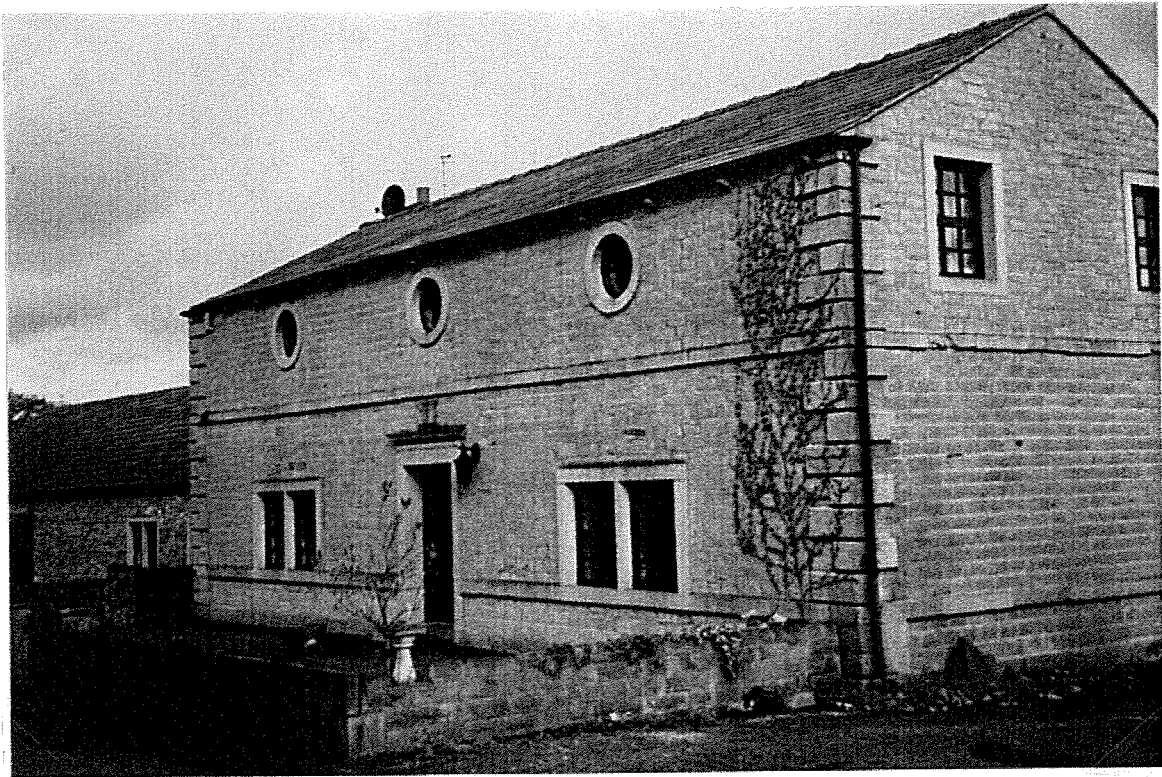


a. Front (Northward) View of New Clayton Hall



b. Southward View of Gate or Doorway from Previous Clayton Hall

Figure 21
The New Clayton Hall



a. Former Out-Building Located at Clayton Hall Site



b. Dunkenhalgh Hall, Now Operated as a Hotel

Figure 22
Clayton Hall and Dunkenhalgh Buildings

17. Publications By and About Grimshaws

Through the long history of the family, several members of the Grimshaws have published books and other works of note. They have also been the subject of books by other authors. A sampling of publications by and about members of the Grimshaw are is as follows:

Grimshaw on Saws⁵³. A book published in Philadelphia about 1880 that covers everything you ever wanted to know (and more!) about saws for cutting wood and other materials.

Adkinson Grimshaw⁵⁴. Reproductions, with descriptions, of the major works of this noted artist who was most active from the 1870s to the 1890s. He was born in Leeds in 1836.

Moses Grimshaw – a Story of Lancashire Life⁵⁵. A fictional work consisting of an account of an idealized life of the successful Lancastrian Englishman at the end of the Victorian era, in the author's (Poulton's) opinion. A serious work at the time, it seems more like entertainment from the perspective of the late 1990s. Of note, however, is the author's selection of Grimshaw as the name of his idealized Lancastrian, indicating the standing of the Grimshaw name, or at least its identification with Lancashire County.

Beatrice Ethel Grimshaw is described in Section 23 below in Part B. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica Online article about her, "she traveled extensively among the islands of the Pacific and the East Indies and made detailed studies of local legends and customs. She wrote more than 33 novels and travel books based on these experiences, of which the best known is the novel, The Red Gods Call (1910). Another important novel is The Victorian Family Robinson (1934), and her travel books include From the Fiji to the Cannibal Islands (1907)." Future editions of this report will include specific references.

William Grimshaw of Haworth. At least four biographies^{56,57,58,59} have been written for this well-known evangelist of the mid-1700s; he and his family are described in more detail in Section 25 below.

⁵³ Grimshaw, Robert, 1880, Grimshaw on Saws, Concerning the Details of Manufacture, Setting, Suaging, Gumming, Filing, etc.; Care and Use of Saws; Tables of Gauges; Log Measurements; Lists of Saw Patents, and Other Valuable Information: Philadelphia, Claxton, Remsen, and Haffelfinger, 159 p. (Republished by Astragal Press, Morriston, NJ, date not indicated).

⁵⁴ Robertson, Alexander, 1988, Atkinson Grimshaw: London, Pahidon Press Ltd., 127 p.

⁵⁵ Poulton, Norman, 1896, Moses Grimshaw – a Story of Lancashire Life: London, Elliot Stock, 240 p.

⁵⁶ Hardy, R. Spence, 1860, William Grimshaw, Incumbent of Haworth, 1742-63: London, John Mason, 286 p.

⁵⁷ Cragg, George C., 1947, Grimshaw of Haworth: London, The Cnaterbury Press, 128 p.

⁵⁸ Baker, Frank, 1963, William Grimshaw, 1708-1763: London, The Epworth Press, 288 p.

⁵⁹ Cook, Faith, 1997, William Grimshaw of Haworth: Edinburgh, Scotland and Carlisle, PA, Banner of Truth Trust, 342 p.

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Author's Biography

Thomas Walter Grimshaw (Tom) was born on March 23, 1945 in Chamberlain, South Dakota, the son of Claude Walter and Phyllis Lorraine Rogers Grimshaw. He grew up through the fifth grade in Oacoma, near Chamberlain, and from the sixth grade through high school in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He graduated in 1963 from Washington Senior High School in Sioux Falls. He then attended the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and received a B.S. degree in Geological Engineering in June, 1967.

Tom attended graduate school at The University of Texas at Austin (UT) starting in 1967 and received an M.A. degree in Geology in January 1970. He then served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1970 to 1972, and attained the rank of Captain. After completing his Army tour of duty, Tom returned to UT for further graduate study and received a Ph.D. in Geology in 1976. A son, Stephen, was born to a previous marriage in 1976, but he died in 1981 from an attack of viral encephalitis. A daughter, Anna, was born in 1979 and is currently a student at UT.

Tom worked for Radian Corporation, in the field of Environmental Geology and as a manager, from 1976 to 1987. He then moved to International Technology Corporation (IT) as manager of the Austin office and then as director of a major Systems (computer hardware and software) development project. He was Associate Director for Environmental Programs at the Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin (the Texas State geological survey) from 1994 to 1997. He and JoAnne Snow were married in January 1994. Tom returned to IT in 1997 as Director for Mergers and Acquisitions and is now Director for Organizational Development.

Tom has lived in Austin, Texas since leaving South Dakota in 1967 to pursue graduate studies at UT (except for the two years in the Army). He first became interested in the origin of the Grimshaw name in about 1970, but his current high level of interest started in the Fall, 1998.

Excerpt A. Summary of Grimshaw History at Clayton-le-Moors as Presented in Ainsworth, 1928

Excerpt A
(following pages)

Summary of Grimshaw History at Clayton-le-Moors as Presented in Ainsworth, 1928⁶⁰

Note: This excerpt contains a portion of the text from p. 308-343. It includes parts of the descriptions of Sparth, Clayton Hall, Dunkenhalgh, and Oakenshaw and Ringstonehalgh. In the interest of brevity and relevance to the Grimshaw family history, Many of the paragraphs have been omitted. Also, the photos in the original work have not been included. The reader is referred to the original work by Ainsworth for the full text and photos.

⁶⁰ Ainsworth, Richard, 1928, *The Old Homesteads of Accrington & District, Embracing Accrington, Baxenden, Stonefold, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Clayton-le-Moors, Great Harwood, Rishton, Hapton, Huncoat, Read, Simonstone, Altham, Whalley: Accrington, Wardleworth Limited*, p. 308-343.

SPARTH

...The name Sparth is not peculiar to Clayton-le-Moors, as there is also a place of that name near rochdale. According to Ekwell's "Place Names," it is old Norse, meaning a tail, strip, or narrow piece of land.

On the division of the Manor of Clayton in 1376 Sparth became the possession of the Rishtons of Dunkenhalgh, later divided into Nearer and Further Sparth...

The original Further Sparth House appears to have been first built and occupied by one of the numerous branches of the Rishton family, from Dunkenhalgh. In 1529 Henry Rishton of that place demised the land and tenement of Sparth to Robert Cunliffe. It was purchased from Ralph Rishton by Christopher Cunliffe in 1556, who died in 1578, and his wife, Grace, two years later, in 1580...

Christopher Cunliffe left his estate to his son Robert, who was born in 1563, and died previous to 1620...

Robert, Christopher's son and heir, aged 11 years, 5 months and 17 days, inherited the estates on his father's death, and was the most interesting of the male representatives of the Cunliffes who inherited Sparth. He was the first Member of Parliament from this district. He had several daughters, the eldest named Jennet, and a son, Christopher.

Robert Cunliffe, gentleman, was about 40 years of age when the Civil War broke out in 1642. He joined the Parliamentary interest in East Lancashire with heartiness, but served more in civil than in military spheres. On April 1st, 1643, he was nominated one of the Committee of Sequestration for Lancashire...

Robert Cunliffe, M.P., was a ruling elder of the Reverend Thomas Jollie's Church at Altham, established in 1649 when the Presbyterian system of Church Government commenced. Independents in many parts of the country were powerful enough to choose or obtain a minister of their own persuasion. So the Reverend Thomas Jollie, who became one of the ablest leaders and founders of Nonconformity in East Lancashire, was appointed minister at the early age of 21.

In the Church Book of Altham is the following register of Mr. Cunliffe's death, which took place at the close of the year in which he was called to sit in the Little Parliament. He died while still a member.

December 4th, 1653. Died, Mr. Robert Cunliffe, Member of the High Court of Parliament, Justice of the Peace, and member of this Church.

He valued himself more on the last account than the other, and first lived desired, and then died lamented.

These words were written by Thomas Jollie, the Altham pastor.

After the death of her father, Jennet Cunliffe was prominent in a transaction recorded in the proceedings of the Puritan Church at Altham, which savours of what would now be accounted intolerance, but in those days the common sentiment of enmity among Puritans and Roman Catholics forbade social alliance or intercourse between members of the opposed systems of religion.

Jennet Cunliffe, like her father, was a member of the Independent Church at Altham. This Puritan maid was wooed, and not without success, by John Grimshaw, a younger son of Richard Grimshaw of Clayton Hall. The Grimshaws of Clayton Hall were as firm Roman Catholics as the Cunliffes had been staunch Puritans. John Grimshaw's addresses to the Puritan maid and co-heiress of Sparth were regarded with horror, first condemned, then forbidden by the Church of which Jennet was a member.

Love knows no barriers, or laws of ecclesiastical prohibition, and Jennet Cunliffe, refusing to give up her lover, was, after many fruitless remonstrances, and exhorted by all the eloquence that her pastor, Jollie, could command, expelled from the Church in the following curious formula

Jennet Cunliffe, for keeping company with a Papist, and promising him marriage, against the advice of the Church, founded on the Word of God, and persisting in it, after admonitions, was cast out of communion in the ensuing form:

I do, in the name and with the power of the Lord Jesus and in the name of the people of God, cast out Jennet Cunliffe out of the Church, and deliver her up to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

This was pronounced by Jollie in Altham Church, and hence-forth Jennet Cunliffe was an outcast and a pariah, whom everyone had to shun. No one had to have any dealings with her, or even have conversation with her. No helping hand of sympathy and consolation could be extended to her by any of her neighbours under pain of themselves coming under the ban. If she died during the period of interdict Christian burial would be denied. The cross road or near some wayside cross was a fit place for the burial of one who was outside the pale of the Church.

This occurred at the close of the year 1655. That the alliance between these two lovers was consummated is proved by the pedigree entry in "Dugdale's Visitations" in 1664 :-

John Grimshaw married Janet, daughter of Robert Cunliffe, and co-heir to her brother, Christopher Cunliffe, of Sparth.

Christopher Cunliffe, Jennet's only brother, died about 1656. The Altham Church book records the entry, in 1656, "Mr. Cunliffe's male issue extinct, and his estate likely to fall to a Papist. So it would when Jennet, wife of John Grimshaw, became sole heir by her brother's death. However, the good fortune of this member of the Grimshaw family was short-lived. According to a statement recorded in the notebook of Thomas Jollie, whom naturally John Grimshaw hated, on account of the treatment meted out to his wife (no doubt the feeling was mutual) he was an agent in expelling Thomas Jollie from Altham Church on the Act of Uniformity coming into force in 1662 during the reign of Charles II. It would appear that John Grimshaw died of intemperance in 1663 :-

Mr. John Grimshaw, being one who shutt me out, of the publique place, dyed in the prosecution of his most debauched practices, and with unspeakable horror.

The date of his death was December 14th, 1663.

With the return of Charles II. and passing of the Act of Uniformity (1662), the troubles of Thomas Jollie, the Puritan divine of Altham, began. He was ejected from the Church where he had ministered for so long. He refused to conform and for conscience sake had to suffer terrible persecution, and time and time again incarcerated in Lancaster Castle and other prisons. He has placed on record in his notebook, upon the passing of the Conventicle Act, that a squadron of horse soldiers were sent to the village of Altham, that they behaved very rudely in the house of one of his people where a conventicle, as a meeting of Nonconformists was called, was being held. Jollie was seized, and set behind a soldier on horseback without boots and hat, and carried toward York, detained one month without fire in the depth of winter. Once, when taken to Preston, he was tried before the notorious Judge Jeffreys. Jollie was an active and earnest man, beset with many difficulties. His notebook is chiefly remarkable for the curious picture it gives of the religious tone of the times, and the prevailing belief in the constant intervention of providence, especially in confounding the enemies of Jollie and his colleagues. He had the habit of seeing in every escape the direct hand of God, and in every

calamity that overtook his enemy the clear judgment of God.

The Conventicle Act of 1664 required that not more than five Dissenters should at any time meet for religious purposes, while the Five Mile Act of the year following (1665) forbade Dissenting ministers to come within five miles of any town. Jollie bought Wymondhouses on the slopes of Pendle, just above Pendleton, and in 1688 built his little Chapel there, but it was not until 1689, upon the passing of the Act of Toleration, in the reign of William III, that the days of persecution ceased, and in that year Sparth was also licensed for preaching for the use of his old congregation at Altham.

Sparth was then in the possession of Jennet Grimshaw, who as Jennet Cunliffe had suffered persecution at the hands of Jollie. She generously forgave her persecutor, who himself had suffered so much, and allowed her old home to become the meeting place for Jollie and his people, so that they might worship in peace. It was from this early band of people gathered at Sparth that the Nonconformity of our district owes its inception, and Thomas Jollie may be justly regarded as its pioneer.

Thomas Jollie died in 1702. His life, despite its narrowness and bigotry, is a wonderful story of patient labour in well doing, untiring activity, strenuous endeavour, and loyalty to conscience, amid unceasing, pitiless persecution, and oft-recurring domestic tragedies that would have crushed many a man to the earth. It is a story that can hardly be too often told. The old man sleeps in the peaceful God's Acre where first his ministry was exercised. No memorial marks the spot, nor does any material vestige of his little Church exist at Wymondhouses, except the stone bearing the date which now adorns the Jollie Memorial Chapel at Barrow, near Whalley.

Further Sparth was heavily charged when Jennet Grimshaw had possession. She was unable or unwilling to pay, and her sisters took legal action against her. Jennet was for a time committed to Lancaster Castle for contempt of court or debt. A partition was made, when Jennet got a fifth. The other sisters sold their interests to the second sister, Isabella, wife of Richard Cottam.

Having ejected Jennet Grimshaw, and having secured their four-fifths of Sparth, they were not long in finding themselves in financial difficulties.

The son, Robert Cottam, was under age when he succeeded.

Jennet Grimshaw died in 1692. Her burial is recorded as taking place at Altham on the 19th of December

of that year, thus closing a life which added a romantic interest to the home and district in which she lived. After her death, as recorded in the notebook, a Mr. Tumley was raised up to save Sparth...

Later residents of Sparth House have been Robert Clegg, until his death, and continued as a residence by his widow, a period from 1839 to 1887; Jonathan Hindle Calvert, of the Oakenshaw Print Works; Major Richard Trappes-Lomax; and the present owner.

CLAYTON HALL

The ancient Hall of Clayton in the 16th century was a two-storey building with gables and high pitched roof. The principal front faced south and the domestic buildings adjoined. The present mansion dates from 1772, classic in style and is slightly more to the east of the old house. The south front consists of a centre and two wings. Two wings run back northwards from the centre blocks, and the wings of the south front consist of a ground floor only.

Additions were made at the north end of the northeast wing by John Lomax in 1847; an ante-room was converted later into a Chapel by James Lomax. A further addition was made, about 1887, by the erection of a block running east from the south end of the kitchen block. It is not known when the present garden was made on the east of the house, but the old garden was on the south side, sloping towards the stream, now covered. The decorative plaster work on the ceilings of the principal rooms, in the Adam's style, is the best feature of the interior of the hall. The work is claimed to have been done by the same foreign craftsmen who decorated the large hall of Towneley, about the same period.

The first of the Claytons was Henry, son of Hugh, the Saxon. Clayton was a mesne manor under Altham, conveyed by Hugh to his son, sometimes called the Clerk of Clayton, and known as Henry, Parson of Altham. He was a member of the Grand Inquest for the Wapentake of Blackburn in 1211. In 1220 there was another Henry de Clayton, also Clerk and Parson of Altham, which had been founded by Hugh, the Saxon. There was another Henry, whose brother, Thomas de Clayton, was grantor of Oakenshaw, while another brother had lands near the Calder from both his father and brother. There is a Hugh de Clayton mentioned in the reign of Edward I. (1284).

In a deed of this period there is mention of the 2-reat stones that then formed the boundary at Clayton at

various points. In another deed of Edward III (1365-6) the bounds of Altham and Clayton-le-Moors began at the Cross.

John de Clayton, juror on the inquest after the death of the Earl of Lincoln in 1311, had lands released to him near Vereclough as lord of Clayton. He also settled half the manor and mill upon his son, Henry, and Matilda his wife. Mention of this Henry appears several times in the Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey. He is described as Henry de Clayton, super-Moras. He was witness to one deed of quit claim of land in Billington in 1335, and in the same reign of Edward III was one of the jurors in an inquest at Clitheroe concerning the tenure of lands in Billington. Henry de Clayton was evidently a busy man, for there are several deeds bearing his name about this period. One of the Whalley deeds bears the name of Henry de Clayton, son of John de Clayton, super-Moras. The mill at Hyndburn is again mentioned, as also are disputes with the Heskeths of Martholme in 1360.

This Henry was last of the Claytons of Clayton-le-Moors, having no male issue, and at his death, in 1361, the estate went to two daughters, Cecily and Alice, joint heiresses. Cecily, the elder, married a member of the Grimshaws of Grimshaw.

The St. George visitation records Adam Grimshaw, of Grimshaw (temp. Edward III.) married (Cecily), daughter and heir of Henry Clayton of Clayton-super-Mores, Co. Lancaster.

Alice married De Legh; it was her daughter Margaret who married Henry-de-Rishton, and conveyed the mother's share of the Manor to the Rishton family.

The following is an abstract of a title deed to a record concerning these alliances in the Harlean MSS

Indenture between Henry Grimshaw and Cecily, daughter, and one of the heirs of Henry-de-Clayton, super-Mores upon the one hand, and Henry-de-Rishton, and Margaret, his wife, grand-daughter, and another of the heirs of the foresaid Henry-de-Clayton, 40th year Edward III, 1366.

Witnessed by Henry-de-Shuttleworth, Richard-de-Rishton, Henry-de-Standen, Richard-de-Rishton, the younger.

The document is interesting as showing how the manor of Clayton came to be divided. From that time onward Clayton had to all intents and purposes two manor houses - Clayton Hall and Dunkenhalgh. The last male representative in the direct line was living in 1349, for in a document known as the Lansdowne Feodary of that date is written "Henry de Clayton" holds the eighth part of one knight's fee of the Duke

of Lancaster in Clayton- which his ancestors formerly held. "His daughter, the wife of Adam Grimshaw, was living in the year 1369.

The carrying of weapons in, medieval days led to serious disputes, for in 1465, Henry Grimshaw was implicated. in the manslaughter of Robert Bynnes, of Altham. The Sheriff sent a warrant to the Constable of Altham for the arrest of Robert Bynnes. Henry Grimshaw was assisting at the arrest and killed Robert Bynnes with his lance, from which charge he was cleared, being done in the execution of his duty.

The next in descent was Robert Grimshaw, who was contracted to marry, before he was born, Joan Hacking, of Aughton, which brought Hacking estate into the family. Then followed, in 1468, Henry, who married Isabel Rishton. At the latter part of the 15th century another Henry, who married a daughter of Sir Richard Tempest, of Bracewell, succeeded. He had three sons, Thomas, Walter, and Richard. The heir, Thomas, married Margaret, daughter of John Stanley of Lathom, Esq.

Our own district was well represented at the Battle of Flodden Field, 9th September, 1513, and among those who fought was the lord of Clayton Hall, Thomas Grimshaw, who made his will previous to joining the forces. He lodged a sum of money with the Abbot of Whalley to accumulate for his three daughters.

The Battle of Flodden Field occurred on the invasion of England, while Henry VIII. was in France. The centre of the English line was hard pressed, when the Lancashire men, under Stanley, mounted the hill and fell upon the Scottish right, which, utterly broken by the shock, fell reeling back upon the rear of the Scottish centre.

The attack of the Lancashire lads led to the fall of King James IV of Scotland, and decided the battle in favour of the English. Several old ballads refer to the part the Lancashire men played.

James Stanley, brother of the first Earl of Derby, was Bishop of fly and Warden of Manchester Collegiate Church. His son, John Stanley, was knighted on the field of battle, and we may be sure that Thomas Grimshaw, of Clayton Hall, his son-in-law would bear himself as bravely as his father-in-law. under whose command he was on that famous day.

*With lusty lads, liver and light,
From Blackburn and Bolton-in-the-Moors,
With children chosen from Cheshire;
In armour bold for battle drest,
And many a squire and gentleman
Were under Stanley's streamer prest*

We have, no evidence of the loss sustained, that day by the Lancashires, but among those who returned was the lord of Clayton. Sir Edward Stanley their commander, who bore the crest of the eagle, was proclaimed Lord Mouteagle in 1514. His arms are on the Abbot's House of Whalley Abbey.

All this affords a glimpse of the part our district played in the national life of the period.

Thomas Grimshaw had five sons -- Richard, the heir; Henry; Nicholas, of Milnrow, near Rochdale; Ralph; and John, later of Wigan; the last-named dying without issue. And there were daughters, Anne, who married Hugh Shuttleworth, son and heir of Nicholas Shuttleworth, Esq., of Gawthorpe, on October 20th, 1540. A panel at Gawthorpe Hall displays the initials of the pair and the date 1577. She died in 1599 and was buried at Padiham Church. Dorothy married Lawrence Ainsworth, of Pleasington; Alice married John Holden, of Chaigeley; Isabel married Robert Morley, of Billington and Dinckley; Elizabeth married Gilbert Walsh, of Aughton.

In the great levy of arms in 1574, the next representative, Richard Grimshaw, was called upon to supply one coat of mail, one long bow, one sheaf of arrows, one calivar, one schuil, and one bill. He died in 1575, aged 64. His son, John, lived at Clayton Hall at the time of the Heralds' Visitation in 1567. He married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Catterall, of Little Mytton, who died in 1577.

The estates of Little Mytton were divided between the daughters, Dorothy Sherburne, previously married to a Whipp, and Mary Grimshaw, of Clayton Hall, whose husband died in 1587.

John Grimshaw in 1584 granted to, Nicholas, his son and heir, "all bedstocks, tables, gold signet ring, one great meal ark in the granary, two arks in the brewhouse and one in the barn, one long chest in the parlour, one great pot (my father's gift) and all armour, one brazen mortar and pestle, one feather bed, one mattress, two bolsters, three coverlets, two pairs of blankets, and two pairs of sheets."

Here we have some idea of the degree of comfort enjoyed in those days. Evidently the feather bed represented a degree of the amenities of life.

Nicholas, the next heir, married Ellen Rishforth, of Riddleden, and was living at the time of the next Heralds' Visitation in 1613, his eldest son, John, being then 20 years of age, who married, in 1626, Ann Coulthurst, of Burnley. The Recusancy Laws were then in force, and on that account his own and his mother's estates were sequestered, and Clayton Hall was let to a Preston linen draper.

Nicholas and Helen also had a son, named Nicholas, who was killed at the siege of Drogheda, Ireland, and a daughter, Katherine, who married Robert Squire, of Great Harwood. Squire's Farm derives its name from the family.

There are interesting particulars about this time concerning the working of coal at Clayton. In 1641 John Grimshaw let for 18 years the coal seam at Clayton to Henry Towneley and Nicholas Towneley, of Royle. In 1652 the coal getters or hewers were paid 4-1/2d per quarter, and the drawers 3d. Bankman and his partner for winding and finding sledges, shovels, and other things, 3-1/2d per quarter. There remained 4d per quarter for profit to the owners.

Nicholas, brother of John Grimshaw, was sent to Douay to be educated for the priesthood. As a Roman Catholic he would be disqualified by the law of the country, as it then stood, from succeeding to his brother's landed estates.

Richard, the other brother, married Elizabeth Tempest, of Broughton; their son John is mentioned in connection with Sparth on account of his marriage with Jennet Cunliffe. Richard married for his second wife Elizabeth Shuttleworth, of Clitheroe.

A daughter, Susannah, married Nicholas Shuttleworth, of Clitheroe, a younger branch of the family of Gawthorpe. They lived at Clayton Hall. Nicholas Shuttleworth was an avowed Jacobite, and supported the Stuart cause in the Rebellion of 1715, when the Jacobite forces surrendered at Preston. For the part he played he was attainted for treason, July 24th, 1716. Their tomb is in Altham Church.

John Grimshaw, son of Jennet and John, the last male representative, left a daughter or sister, Mary Anne, who married John Heywood, of Urmston. By a settlement the estate passed to her issue, namely, Rebecca, who married Richard Lomax. Nicholas succeeded in 1715, and died 1719. The estates were at that time hopelessly involved.

A "Natural History" of 1742 gives a legendary story of how the Griffin came to be on the Arms of the Grimshaws. This monster was said to haunt a wood near Pickup Bank called Ouse Castle, in which is a cavern anciently known as Griom's or Grim's Ark."

One of the Grimshaws shot the monster with arrows, and had an estate offered him for that service, which he refused only desiring that he might have a passage through that was to a township on the other side of it, which was granted.

The story is too good to be true, but it gives one solution to the Griffin on the escutcheon of the

Grimshaw family, and whose head gives the name to at least one hostelry in Huncoat.

The Lomax family for many generations held a freehold estate and the residence of Brunshaw Tower in the Cliviger gorge. Their son, James Lomax, married, and their family were Richard Grimshaw Lomax, the heir, James and John, and a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Michael Francis Trappes, of Nidd Hall, Yorkshire.

The manor of Great Harwood was acquired by the Lomaxes from the Nowells, of Read, in 1772, the year Clayton Hall was re-built.

Richard Grimshaw Lomax married, in 1787, Catherine, daughter and heiress of a Preston banker. He purchased Martholme and the remaining portion of Harwood manor from the Heskeths. He died in 1837. His heir, John, born in 1801, married in 1834, Helen, daughter of John Aspinall, of Standen Hall. They had no children. On the death of John Lomax, July 15th, 1845, his next brother, James, succeeded him in the Clayton Hall estates. He married in 1835 Frances Cecelia, eldest daughter of Charles Walmsley, of Westmount, near Wigan, who built Allsprings in 1839, before he succeeded his brother. At his own expense he erected, in 1859, the beautiful Church, designed by the younger Pugin, in Great Harwood, dedicated to St. Hubert and Our Lady. The Church, along with the Presbytery, and school, cost more than £7,000.

James Lomax was noted for his pack of otter hounds, which he maintained from 1829 to 1871. His diary, "Otter Hunting," was published in 1892, and a second edition issued in 1910. He died 25th March, 1886, and was interred at St. Hubert's Church, Great Harwood.

Helen Lomax, daughter of Thomas Lomax, succeeded to her uncle's (James Lomax) moiety of the Clayton Hall in 1886, the other moiety going to her niece, Mrs. D. Howell, and to Allsprings in 1891. Born at Cadley, near Preston, in 1844, she married her cousin, Thomas Byrmand Trappes, of Stanley House, Clitheroe, 10th January, 1866, at St. Hubert's, Great Harwood. T. B. Trappes died in 1891, and his widow took the additional name of Lomax in 1892. Helen died 15th June, 1924, and was interred at Hurst Green, being succeeded by her eldest surviving son, Major Richard Trappes Lomax, J.P., who served with the Royal Lancaster Regiment in South Africa, 1900-01, and joined the Hussars in 1914 as captain, becoming Major 1915. In 1926 the Chetham Society published his History of Clayton-le-Moors, "which the author of this volume is deeply indebted to for more complete and accurate pedigrees of the families

that owned the old homesteads and mansions of Clayton-le-Moors. The volume ranks Major Richard Trappes Lomax as the Historian of Clayton, and for those who wish to pursue the subject further gives - detailed accounts of pedigrees.

Thomas Byrmand Trappes-Lomax, the eldest of his eight sons, is a captain in the Scots Guards, and served with his regiment in the Great War 1914-18.

DUNKENHALGH

One of the finest mansions, and one that has figured prominently in the history and romance of the district, is Dunkenhalgh. Although the present mansion is only of early 19th century date, its predecessor was a fine example of the Elizabethan era...

There is a tradition that Dunkenhalgh owes its origin to an old Scottish raider, of the name of Duncan, who thought it more desirable to settle on this spot than to return to his native land. Certainly there was a family of the name of Dunkenhalgh living there at a very early period, as the accounts of the de Church family, of Church Hall, show...

As Henry de Clayton died before March, 1375, without male issue Henry de Rishton obtained from Robert de Eves the wardenship of land and services of frank tenants, which belonged to Henry de Clayton, during the minority of Margaret, daughter of Matthew de Legh, and Alice, who was Henry de Clayton's daughter. Henry in the same deed engages to marry Margaret. This he did, and by marrying one of the heiresses of Clayton Henry Rishton acquired the whole of the Dunkenhalgh estate in Clayton, and manorial rights not attached to Dunkenhalgh or perhaps to the Rishton estate.

Dunkenhalgh was originally a small freehold estate, like Tottleworth, and others in the district, never having more than a courtesy right to be named a manor. Its later importance was due to its hall becoming the manor house of the Rishton moiety of Clayton.

In 1376 Henry de Rishton, representing his wife, and Henry de Grimshaw, of Clayton Hall, divided the lands in Clayton and Huncoat. The deed is full of interesting place names, showing that Enfield is a corruption of Hyndfield (from Hyndburn), and that coal was worked there 500 years ago. The deed is endorsed "Partition of the Manor of Clayton," and bears the seals of Henry de Rishton, 1379. Three years later, Henry de Rishton gave to his son, Henry,

the quarter of Rishton township, with Cowhill, under condition of his paying to the Duke of Lancaster (John of Gaunt) ten pence per year, for castle ward of Clitheroe. Richard married Margaret Holt, of Studleigh, Warwickshire, and acquired that estate in 1414...

John Rishton sold Dunkenhalgh in 1556 to his kinsman, Ralph Rishton, of Powthalg, for 800 marks and an annuity of £10. He in turn sold it in 1571 to Thomas Walmsley, the famous judge. The signature of Thomas Walmsley first comes into these papers in 1563. In the 1571 indenture we have the release from Ralph Rishton of Dunkenhalgh, Anna, his wife (nee Nowell, daughter of Roger Nowell, of Read), and Roger, his son and heir, to Thomas Walmsley and Richard, his brother, of the mesne and mansion of Dunkenhalgh. Later, in February, 1581, judge Walmsley purchased from the Talbots, Cowhill, Whitebirk, and Side Beet in Rishton. The bulk of Tottleworth was not added to the Dunkenhalgh estates until 1819.

Thomas (Judge) Walmsley was born at Showley in 1537. He was made a judge of the Common Pleas in 1589, and knighted by James I. In 1603, Sir Thomas Walmsley, Kt., continued a judge for 25 years, during which time he went the round of all the Circuits in England except Norfolk and Suffolk.

Amassing wealth by his legal practice, he acquired by purchase, between 1570 and 1610, a number of estates, among them the Manors of Clayton and Rishton, and the estate of Dunkenhalgh, which he made his family residence. Although he is stated to have acquired the Manor of Clayton, it is probable that it would be only one-half of the Manor, which had been in the possession of the Rishtons.

Judge Walmsley married Anne, daughter of Robert Shuttleworth, of Hacking, and thus acquired Hacking Hall, which he rebuilt. He also rebuilt and enlarged Dunkenhalgh. 'The gatehouse appears to be the only portion of his work left, and this has been restored.

The Walmsleys were staunch Roman Catholics, and Judge Walmsley appears to have obtained special licence from Queen Elizabeth to have a priest for his private Chapel at Dunkenhalgh. He died, at the age of 75, in 1612, having lived under five monarchs -- Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth, and James I, and was interred in the South Chapel of the old Parish Church of Blackburn. A magnificent monument was erected to his memory, but it was destroyed during the Civil War of 1642...

Bartholomew Walmsley ... died in 1701... Francis, his only son, succeeded him, at the age of five, but only lived a few years. He was succeeded by his

sister, Catherine, the last of the Walmsleys of Dunkenhalgh. Her life reads like a romance. She married at the age of 15, Robert, seventh Baron Petre, in 1712. In "The Diary of a Cavalier, written by one of the Tyldesleys, of Myerscough, there are a few interesting glimpses of this young couple. Her married life was short, she being left a widow the year following. Shortly after her husband's death a son was born, and he succeeded to the estates...

Both the Walmsleys and Petres had their private Chapel and Chaplain, which also served a wide district around Dunkenhalgh until the erection of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel, Clayton-le-Moors, in 1819. The vestments and plate were removed there from Dunkenhalgh.

The park of Dunkenhalgh, or Dunklaw, as it was very often named at one time over 600 acres in extent, has been considerably curtailed. It was at one period famous for its deer. It still contains some, fine oak, lime, beech, and, other trees, while the old yew walk reminds us of the fashion in gardening in Jacobean days. There are several ancient stones in and about the grounds, including a very curious sundial, and by the well are grouped a number of querns and mortars. There is also a stone slab with the figure of an angel, bearing a shield with the Paslew Arms. This was formerly built into the walls of a house at Elkar.

Through the lower part of the grounds flows the River Hyndburn, and there is also a small ravine. From the stone bridge a passage proceeded to another bridge, near the old kitchen gardens, known as the "Boggart" bridge. This brings us to the story of the "Dunkley Boggart," which old residents spoke of with bated breath. In our grandfathers' time many a fearful and furtive glance was cast around by people compelled to pass Dunkenhalgh after nightfall. Not "for love or money" could anyone be prevailed upon to pass that way at the "witching hour of midnight" on Christmas Eve. This "ghost" or "boggart" is supposed to appear every Christmas Eve in the form of a young lady, dressed in a winding sheet, who moves among the trees and by the site of the bridge, then disappearing. The story goes that in olden times, when the Petre family were in the hey-day of their glory, they had a young French lady as governess to the children, known to 'all the countryside as Lucette. One Christmastide there came a dashing young officer, a relative of the family, who fell in love with Lucette, soon found a way to woo her, and gained her affections, but never intended to marry her. The deceiver rode away after he had accomplished the ruin of the governess, and promised to return. But the promise was as false as the lips that uttered them. Poor Lucette realised that Dunkenhalgh was no place

for her, and to her home in France she dared not go. Often did she wander about in the gloaming, through the glades where her false lover and she had often walked. Her reason failed at last, and one stormy night she wandered to the bridge, under which the river was rushing in torrents. In a delirium of wild despair and frenzy she threw herself over the parapet of the bridge, into the river. Such was the fate of poor Lucette; but her lover did not escape. He was killed in a duel by her brother, who thus avenged the death of his sister. Her ghost is still said to haunt the scene of her unfortunate love on Christmas Eve.

OAKENSHAW AND RINGSTONEHALGH.

Anyone walking along Sparth Road from Whalley Road and taking the path forward toward Dunkenhalgh, Pass buildings of absorbing interest; it is the most historic road in Clayton-le-Moors. From Clayton Hall at one end to Dunkenhalgh at the other, we pass the Sparth, with its halo of romance and story of the early struggles of Nonconformity, continued by the old Baptist Chapel at Oakenshaw now demolished and still later linked by the early beginnings of Methodism, commenced in one of the cottages in Stocks Row, which latter received its name from the stocks being once situated there...

Another interesting old landmark, which, alas, is falling into decay, is Ringstonehalgh, and yet another old homestead inseparably linked with it, which has disappeared, is the old homestead of the Grimshaws of Oakenshaw.

The Fort Arms. links us with that well-known family, while Ellison Fold was one of the earliest homes of the Ellisons.

In the early part of the 19th century Oakenshaw is described as a little town of modern cottages, but there was still standing in the place an old-fashioned house, much the worse for wear from age and neglects, built from its appearance in the 16th century. It had small mullioned windows, gabled roof, with porch and chimneys to match, the home of the Grimshaws of Oakenshaw for many generations.

In a document dated 1720, it is asserted that the Grimshaws had enjoyed an estate which was freehold, as proved by writings, for 330 years. That would bring their ownership of the estate to the year 1390. They branched from the Grimshaws of Clayton, bearing the same arms. Oakenshaw was granted by Henry de Clayton to his younger son, Thomas (circa 1220) for a rent of twelve pence in silver.

Richard Clayton in 1365, granted it to his daughter, Alice, for her term of life, for the rent of a Red Rose. Evidently the Red Rose of Lancashire had even then a significance. Twelve years later William de Oakenshaw released it to John, third son of Adam de Grimshaw, of Clayton Hall, who married Elizabeth Aspden. He died previous to 1407, when his widow was granted all the lands in Oswaldtwistle, which had been her gift.

Roger succeeded to Oakenshaw, and died on war service in France, having made his will previous to leaving, as was usual in such instances. Several generations followed, one, Nicholas, having copyhold lands in Accrington.

The first member of whom anything of interest is known is Thomas Grimshaw, of Oakenshaw, born between 1630 and 1635. He married, October 26th, 1658, Mary, daughter of John Sagar, of Habersham Eaves, and sister of Charles Sagar, Master of Blackburn Grammar School, and later a notable Nonconformist divine. By her Thomas Grimshaw had a daughter, Jennet. His wife died young and he married a second time, 14th May, 1663, Isabel Hargreaves. By this marriage he had four sons: Nicholas, born January 4th, 1664; John, born September 15th, 1669; Richard, born March 25th, 1672; and Thomas, born March 5th, 1675. There were also three daughters: Rebecca, born February 15th, 1666; Isabel, born May 5th, 1679; and Anne, born May 5th, 1681.

Thomas Grimshaw, of Oakenshaw, died in 1700, and his will was proved at Chester in that year. The testator names a copyhold estate he had at Huncoat, which his sons, John and Thomas, were authorised to sell and to pay certain sums of the proceeds to testator's daughters. He left all his capital messuage, called Oakenshaw, to his sons, John and Thomas, in trust for his grandson, Thomas, son of testator's eldest son, Nicholas. This latter, Nicholas of Oakenshaw, yeoman, died in 1742. John Grimshaw his brother, died at Padiham in 1703, and Thomas, the younger brother, in 1744, having previously sold his estate at Higham Booth to his nephew, Thomas Grimshaw, of Heyhouses. Interesting particulars of the eldest daughter of Thomas Grimshaw are recorded in the Church Book of Altham, from the pen of her second husband, the Rev. John Jollie. She married for her first husband John Livesey, who died in 1708, to whom, she bore sons. One of them, John, is referred to by Mr. Jollie:

August 5th 1719. Our son-in-law, John Livesey, married to Margaret, the daughter of John Hamer, of Bradahaw. He brought her to Ringstonehalgh in the September after.

Rebecca married for her second husband the Rev. John Jollie, the Dissenting minister at Sparth. He was the nephew and successor of the Rev. Thomas Jollie. The marriage is referred to, under the date January 25th, 1713: "Pastor was married to Rebecca Livesey (widow) at New Church in Pendle Forest by Thomas Ellis, curate. The banns were first published at Colne, but before this, on the sixth of the same month, he (the Pastor) had the consent of the Church and their advice to marry.

Ringstonehalgh was the residence of the Rev. John Jollie, but he says: "My wife and I, with brother Thomas and our daughter, left Ringstonehalgh at Martinmas, 1719, and came to Oakenshaw.

Thou knowest our wanderings: we are strangers on earth and sojourners, as all our fathers were.

He records November 17th, 1720: "My dear wife departed this life." His memorial of her states that:

She was born at Oakenshaw in Clayton-le-Moors, 1666, Candlemas, of an ancient family, that had enjoyed an estate 330 years, as appears from old writings, but how long before we cannot tell. The said family, beside this estate, had others considerable, and were reputed greatly. She was the eldest daughter of Thomas and Isabel Grimshaw. After she grew up she went to hear the most famous preachers in the Church of England with a design to edify her soul. Once going to Whalley Church to hear the anniversary sermon of Sir Ralph Assheton, she got wet; this brought a great cold and sore illness. This was when she was about 19 or 20 years old. When she was badly, Agnes Cottam, a neighbour, came to see her, and told her that old Mr. Jollie would preach at Altham on such a day. This was the beginning of Liberty. She went, and liked the sermon very well. Some weeks after she went to hear Mr. Jollie at Wymond Houses. She continued under Mr. Jollie, a ministry, and was soon after taken into communion by Mr. Jollie, with her parents' consent. She received an offer of marriage from Mr. John Livesey, a neighbour. When both of them were in their 30th year (about 1696), they were married. They had two sons and two daughters in ten years. Her husband, John Livesey, died May 19th, 1708.

January 1st, 1712. Rev. John Jollie went to reside at her house, and a year after they were married. That year they resided at Ringstonehalgh. Her going to Bolton to be with her son Samuel was thought to be the cause of her fatal illness. She was taken ill whilst at Bolton. She returned home, and died a fortnight afterwards on Thursday, November 17th, 1720.

Before her death she gave directions concerning her affairs' and desired her husband, Mr. Jollie, "being unfit for housekeeping," to live with her brother, Thomas Grimshaw, at Oakenshaw. She spoke of her children by her first marriage, Rebecca, her eldest daughter, who married Rev. James Burgess, minister at Darwen and afterwards of Greenacres Chapel, and Dorothy, Thomas, and John Livesey. She had a Christian interment in her first husband's grave, as she desired. Mr. John Jollie preached a funeral sermon for his wife at Sparth, November 27th, and Mr. Burgess, her son-in-law, also preached. Her husband survived her five years, as recorded in the Church Book. The learned and faithful Pastor Mr. John Jollie, died June 27th, 1725, and was interred at Altham, where his gravestone may be seen.

Ringstonehalgh is earliest mentioned as the residence of Adam de Ringstonehalgh, whose daughters quit-claimed the state to Henry de Clayton in 1352.

"Nether" and "Over" Ringstonehalgh are mentioned, in 1376, as lying between Dunkenhalgh and Oakenshaw Clough. Two centuries later Thomas Duckworth held Ringstonehalgh from judge Walmsley, in 1597. His son, Richard Duckworth, a carpenter, whose will was dated 2nd June, 1631, left forty shillings towards making a bridge at "Feenses Ford." This legacy no doubt had the effect of stimulating the authorities to erect the bridge over the Calder, best known in more recent times as Cock Bridge.

"To the poor of Altham and Clayton, ten shillings; and to the poor of Accrington, six shillings and eightpence, "was also left by Richard Duckworth.

Thomas Duckworth lived at Ringstonehalgh in 1653, and died December 24th of that year.

Ringstonehalgh receives its name from the Ringyards, or movable fences, set up at different seasons of the year. It is still a part of Dunkenhalgh estate.

The old house of Ringstonehalgh, which is so intimately connected with the history just recorded, now used as outbuilding for the farm adjoining, is in a very neglected and dilapidated state, and practically in ruins. There are few interesting features, except the mullioned windows on the side facing Mercer Park. The glass has been destroyed, as well as some of the mullions. It would seem that ere long it will become even as its owner in bygone days:-

*How loved, how honoured, once avails thee not,
To whom related, or by whom begot,
A heap of dust alone remains of thee,
'Tis all thou art, and all the proud shall be.*

Oakenshaw Calico Print Works were originally commenced before 1792, by the first Jonathan Peel, who sold them before that year to Messrs. Fort, Taylor & Bury. Fort became sole owner in 1811, and they were retained by the family until August, 1851, when sold to Joseph Barnes for L18,000.

John Mercer was connected with Oakenshaw when he became famous as a chemist and partner, 1815 to 1848.

Excerpt B. The Moorfield Pit Disaster of 1883

Excerpt B
(following pages)

The Moorfield Pit Disaster of 1883⁶¹

Note: A portion of Tootle's booklet is included, with focus on the facts of the coal mine, the explosion event, and the people who lost their lives. The individual testimonies, the brief biographies of the victims, and the description of the Relief Fund are not included.

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(EPILOGUE)

THE VICTIMS

⁶¹ Tootle, Henry, 1998, *The Moorfield Pit Disaster*: Blackpool, Landy Publishing, 64 p.

THE MOORFIELD COLLIERY EXPLOSION, 7th NOVEMBER 1883.

*'A man who has no interest in the past, has
no interest in the future, And lives for the
day alone.'*

The first recorded instances of coal being mined in Clayton-le-Moors and Altham was in 1641. John Grimshaw let the coal seam at Clayton to Henry Towneley and Nicholas Towneley, of Royle for 18 years. In 1652 the coal getters or hewers were paid 4½ d. per quarter, the drawers 3d; the banksman and his partner received 3½ d. per quarter for winding and finding 'sleddes, shovels, and other things'. There remained 4d. per quarter profit for the owner.

Between 1880 and 1890, there were no less than 22 major pit disasters in Britain, resulting in the deaths of 1,741 men and boys, many of them as young as ten years old. Many of the boys who died in the Moorfield Pit explosion were under the present school leaving age and today some of them would still be attending their junior school. In the case of John Thomas Hall, aged 15, he was his mother's sole means of support.

The 19th century attitude to life and death in the mining fraternity is hard for the modern mind to grasp. It would be wrong to suggest that life was cheap; the men went into the mines knowing the dangers to which they were exposing themselves. The owners chased their profits, resisting change and modernisation and the men had their wages to earn, working in conditions that put their life on the line every time they entered the pit. Both men and masters cut corners when it came to safety.

MOORFIELD COLLIERY

The Colliery and its Ventilation.

The colliery at Altham was originally named Altham Colliery and it is not known when it was renamed Moorfield. It was situated to the right-hand side of the A678 Blackburn to Burnley road, going towards Padiham, half a mile from the present traffic lights at the Hare and Hounds Hotel, Clayton-le-Moors. The entrance to the pit-yard was by the side of Pilkington's Bridge, which carried the main road over the Leeds and Liverpool canal. Pilkington's Bridge was known locally as 'Dickie Brig'. Moorfield Colliery has always been referred to as 'Dickie Brig Pit'. Very little remains of the original pithead buildings, most of the buildings still standing date from the years after the disaster in 1883.

The sinking of the Moorfield Pit began July 1879 and was completed in July 1881. The shaft was within 20 yds (18.3m) of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Water

from the canal began to pour into the shaft during the sinking and to hold it back the shaft was lined with a cast iron 'tubbing'. It was then continued down 678 feet, (207m) to the 36- inch thick (1m) Upper Mountain seam.

Originally the mine would be worked as a single shaft pit, the shaft being divided down the centre by a 'brattice' (a wooden partition with the seams between the planks sealed with pitch). Air would travel down one side of the brattice, circulate round the workings, and return up the other side. There were several ways of creating a circulation of air. By using a furnace at the base of the upcast side of the shaft to create a draught of air, by using natural ventilation, or by windmill. It is not clear which one was in use at Moorfield at this time.

In 1862, at the Hartley Colliery, near Newcastle-upon-Lyne, the cast iron beam of the pumping engine broke away and fell into the shaft, taking the brattice and cage with it. The shaft was completely sealed, thereby entombing 204 men and boys. In 1864, a law was passed outlawing single shaft mines. As with many Acts of Parliament, the owners found ways to avoid complying with them. Numerous single shaft mines were still working years after the Act was passed. Many of the owners claimed they could not justify the cost of sinking a second shaft, and that they would have to work the mine until it could be linked-up with the workings of another colliery. This could have been the situation at Moorfield.

The colliery was owned by W. E. Taylor of the newly formed Altham Colliery Co. In 1868, the company was taken over by a partnership between James Barlow, the second Mayor of Accrington and J. J. Rippon, who also had an interest in the Great Harwood Colliery Co. The company also owned the Martholme and Whinney Hill collieries. James Barlow bought out Rippon's interest in the company in 1868. He extended his mining interests further when he bought out the Rippon family's interests in the Great Harwood Colliery Co. in 1892.

It was around 1868 that the shaft at Moorfield was taken down a further 173 feet (53m) to the 28inch (711mm) thick Lower Mountain seam. Two stone drifts, 8ft. (2.45m) wide and 7ft (2.13m) high, were driven 1,200 yards (1,100m) from the base of the shaft to the shaft at Whinney Hill. One of the drifts, known as 'Billy Brow', became the engine plane, or main haulage road, along which ran an endless chain haulage system. It was powered by a twin-cylinder steam engine situated at the base of the Whinney Hill shaft. The steam for the engine was provided by the boilers on the surface and piped down the shaft.

The other drift, the return airway for both collieries, was the travelling road for the men. The roadway had 264 steps cut into the floor to help the men to climb the 1 in 6 incline. Originally there was a metal handrail down the centre of the road, to separate the men coming on shift from those going off. This enabled the men to pass each other without getting in each other's way.

One of the shafts at Whinney Hill then became the upcast shaft for both collieries. A furnace at the base of the shaft provided the draw for the ventilation, which worked on the 'split ventilation system'. The second shaft at Whinney Hill acted as a downcast for one section of the mine workings, the Moorfield shaft being the downcast for the other.

The shaft at Moorfield had the brattice removed and was fitted out with two double-decked cages. Each deck could carry four, 21 inch (914mm) high tubs, each with a capacity of 4-1/2 cwt. (228.6kg), or when 'man-riding' (i.e. carrying sixteen men, eight to a deck.)

Each ventilation system was separated by a series of doors, operated by the 'door tenters', to prevent the air being diverted from its course or the foul air mixing with the clean. The door tenters were the youngest of the boys employed in the pit. They would sit by the air door, and when they heard a 'drawer' coming along with a tub, they would open the door to let him through and close it again behind him. Should a drawer 'get himself without light', by accidentally extinguishing his lamp, he would take the lamp from the door tenter and leave the younger boy to sit hour upon hour in total darkness. For a ten-year-old this must have been a terrifying experience.

James Barlow sent for his son-in-law, George Watson Macalpine, at the time working as a marine engineer in Paisley, Scotland. He asked Macalpine to run the colliery company for him. Macalpine consented on the condition that he could buy the company out of his salary to which James Barlow agreed. Sir George made his final payment on the 5th July 1897 when James Barlow was on his deathbed. The Macalpine family were to retain their interest in the mines until nationalisation in 1947.

The Cause. Methane at Moorfield.

On the morning of the 7th November 1883, when the first of the men descended the shaft at Moorfield Colliery, they were entering an atmosphere which was primed like a bomb waiting to explode. All the elements were there, ready and waiting. In one of the headings off the No. 2 level, gas was issuing from a 'rig', or fault, which cut across the coalface. Four hours later this gas would be ignited to create a flash,

which would set off the main explosive element, the coal dust. The coal dust had accumulated over the years, coating the walls, roof and timbers from the working places to the shaft. The men carried the Davy Safety Lamp into the pit with them. This was the fuse which was to set in motion the terrible force of the explosion; it would claim the lives of 68 men and boys.

Contrary to general belief, Sir Humphrey Davy was not the first man to invent the flame safety lamp. There had been several attempts to create a lamp which had the two essential ingredients; sufficient light when traveling and working and a barrier between the flame and the atmosphere. Many lamps had been invented, both in Britain and abroad, with a certain amount of success. Dr. William Reid Clanny invented the first practical lamp in 1813, for which he was awarded the Silver Medal by the Royal Society of Arts in 1816. His second improved lamp of 1817 gained him the Gold Medal from the Society. Both the lamps were large and needed an additional man to work them while the collier hewed the coal.

George Stevenson, a self-educated colliery engineer, tested his first lamp, the Tube and Slide lamp, at Killingworth Colliery, County Durham in 1815. For his work on the lamp, Stevenson was awarded £1000, raised by public donation, and the colliers gave him a silver watch.

Also in 1815, Sir Humphrey Davy scientifically investigated the properties of 'methane', a gas which results from the decay of organic matter. It is an odourless, colourless, hydrocarbon gas, which forms an explosive mixture when combined with air.

Although non-poisonous in itself, if a man was caught out by a sudden inrush of gas and was unable to get out of the workings fast enough, he would soon be overcome and suffocate. In earlier times a miner's first warning of the presence of gas was when he lost his light, as the gas snuffed out his candle. The gas was known to the miners as 'firedamp'. With a mixture of between 5% and 15% methane in the atmosphere, the flame in the safety lamp would begin to rise and flare. This in turn would heat up the wire gauze and make it glow. If any attempt was made to move the lamp it would ignite the surrounding gas. When the conditions in a mine were wet, the resulting explosion would remain localised, badly burning and killing anyone in the vicinity. Should the mine be a dry mine (i.e. a mine free of water seepage), the sudden explosion and flash of methane would set off a chain reaction. The 'waft' of the explosion would lift the coal dust along the roadway and the flash would ignite it. The resulting explosion would roar along the mining galleries as if through an

enormous gun barrel, burning and breaking men and materials alike, until it exhausted itself up the shaft with a report like a gigantic cannon. This is what happened at Moorfield Colliery on that November morning in 1883.

Davy discovered the principle of surrounding the flame with a cylinder of wire gauze, so fine that it would not allow the flame to pass through it to ignite the gas outside the lamp. This allowed lamps to be relatively light and easy to carry. With the introduction of safety lamps and improved ventilation, the miner was able to carry on working in a much gassier atmosphere. He would suffer from severe headaches and sickness of the stomach, but he would be able to carry on working and finish his shift without losing his light.

The three men refused to patent their individual inventions. When asked if he was going to cover his invention with a patent, Sir Humphrey replied: 'No, my good friend, I never thought of such a thing, my sole object was to serve the cause of humanity, and, if I have succeeded, I am amply rewarded in the gratifying reflection of having done so.'

Over the years many attempts were made to improve the safety lamp, all using Davy's fine gauze principle. They all had one thing in common, "they were lethal." If the Davy Lamp was held in a current of air containing methane which was travelling at six feet (2m) per second or passed through a pocket of the same mixture, the flame would rise in the lamp. The gauze would become hot and glow like an old-fashioned gas mantle. In extreme cases the lamp itself would explode.

As the 19th Century progressed, better ventilation systems were introduced, allowing shafts to be sunk to a greater depth and mine workings to extend over a larger area. Within these deeper seams, methane, the curse of the miner, was to be found in greater quantities.

Coal Dust. The Essential Ingredient.

It has often been asked why there was no mention of the coal dust at the inquest, but the answer is no mystery. The advance of mechanical haulage, and the movement of tubs along the roadways, resulted in the production of vast amounts of fine coal-dust. However, for many years, the danger of this coal-dust went unrecognised by the coal mining industry. When the danger was first brought up in the middle of the 19th century, it was disputed whether it did, or did not, contribute to mine explosions, and the argument went on for many years.

In 1844, the investigations of Michael Faraday revealed the part played by coal-dust in producing explosions. Dr. (later Professor) William Galloway, of Cardiff, continued experimenting in a search for the causes of colliery explosions. He stated that: "It is coal-dust which carries the flame with disastrous effects along the roads of a colliery." This conclusion was far from being in agreement with established theories and was so unpopular that he was forced to resign as a junior Inspector of Mines. The Royal Commission of 1881, after forty years of evidence of the involvement of coal-dust in mine explosions, failed to reach a definite conclusion. Therefore insufficient attention was paid to the part played by the coal dust in the Moorfield explosion.

With the explosion at the Altoft Colliery in Yorkshire, and the loss of 22 lives in 1886 (three years after the Moorfield disaster), attention was once again focused on the danger of coal-dust.

William (later Sir William) Garforth, inspected the workings where the explosion had occurred and, from the evidence that he found, concluded that coal-dust had been the main cause of the explosion. To prove his theory, he built a section of enclosed mining galleries on the surface at Altoft Colliery, in which he carried out a series of experiments into the explosive properties of gas, coal dust, and air mixtures. These experiments proved conclusively the explosive character of coal-dust/air mixtures, even in the absence of methane. Had this evidence been available at the Moorfield inquest, I believe there would have been a different culprit named for the deaths of the 68 men and boys, although the verdict would probably still have been the same.

THE INQUIRY INTO THE MOORFIELD COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

15th, 16th, 21st and 22nd of November, 1883

The inquest was first held at the Greyhound Hotel, where the room was found to be too small. The venue was moved to the Hare and Hounds and then to the Mechanics' Institute, Clayton-le-Moors. The Coroner was Mr. H. J. Robinson, assisted by his clerk Mr. Wardle. Superintendent Eatough represented the police. The jury foreman was Joseph Walker, although the jury changed from day to day. There is a list of sixteen men sworn in as members of the jury, twelve of whom would be selected each day. The sixteen men were: Joseph Walker, the foreman; John Croasdale Kenyon; Henry Bretherton; Charles Dawson; Jacob Pilkington; Joshua Hacking, James Broadley; Sutcliffe Johnson; John William Briscall; Thomas Hargreaves; John Fletcher; James Wilson

Bateson; William Green Marshall; Henry Leach Wilson; William Horrocks and John Greenwood.

The first death to be inquired into was not a direct victim of the explosion. It was to enquire into the death of Mr. John Frederick Seddon, manager of the Martholme Colliery. Mr. Seddon was a member of the rescue team. He had been underground for most of the day and was on his way home to Great Harwood. He accepted a lift in Dr. Cran's two wheeled carriage. On the journey the back-band broke and Mr. Seddon was thrown out onto the pavement, landing on his head. He had died instantly. The Jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

Mr. Smith, the undertaker, gave evidence that of the 61 men accounted for at this time, 37 had died from burns and injuries, 18 had been suffocated by 'afterdamp', 6 from burns only. Four had been brought out alive but had since died from the effects of burns and injuries...

Rescue And Repair Well Under Way - Problems Occur

Up to this time the exploration had been made from Whinney Hill, but at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon the Moorfield shaft was repaired sufficiently for one of the cages to be worked. By 10 o'clock that night, most of those forming the first shift had left exhausted.

One of them, Mr. J. F. Seddon, the manager of Martholme Colliery, was thrown out of the carriage he was travelling home in and was killed. About this time, Mr. Martin, the Area Inspector of Mines, arrived and joined the explorers. A telegram summoned Mr. Dickinson, The Chief Inspector of Mines, from the Home Office. He arrived early on the Thursday morning, when the second shift was coming out. Having inspected the platform and landing plates, which had been blown upwards by the force of the explosion coming out of the shaft, he left the Organisation of repair work to Mr. Macalpine, the colliery owner. He went below, accompanied by Mr. Martin and Mr. Pickup, the owner of Dunkenhalgh Colliery, both of whom had already spent considerable time underground with the search parties.

The broken tubs had been cast on one side in the Jig Brow and one line of tramway re-laid for the passage of tubs and riding sledges which were the only form of quick travelling in the low workings. Brick setters had commenced rebuilding the stoppings at one side of the Jig Brow and new air doors were being prepared.

By bratticing air forward and putting tarpaulin screens in the openings, steady progress was being made in dislodging the gas, pure methane. The return air, containing the displaced methane, was having to pass through the fires of the ventilating furnaces. This was the cause of some anxiety, in case the air and gas reached the fires mixed at the right proportions to be explosive. The flow of foul air was controlled at an air door, where fresh air was available to dilute it at some distance from the fires. The firedamp further in became difficult to move, and stood like a wall. The stoppings were rebuilt part of the way into No. 2 Level, and doors set at the Jig Brow, which increased the air pressure. The gas, instead of moving into the return airway on the rise side, began to back out against the intake air in the level, passing the man placed in front for testing with the Davy lamp. The gas forced its way along the level, driving back the search party.

It was decided to move the men out of the district for two hours, and give the air a chance to clear the gas. The ventilation furnaces were checked, and after some discussion, it was decided to keep them lit. This would not have been an easy decision to make as there was tremendous risk involved. Should there be a sudden surge in the pressure of gas and it reached the furnaces undiluted, the resulting explosion would have totally destroyed the underground workings, killing everyone below ground. The force expelled from the shaft would have wrecked the headgear and killed anyone in the vicinity.

The Source Is Found

By Friday, the second day after the explosion, the main source of the gas was discovered. The roof had collapsed in two places at a small fault. At the innermost of these falls, gas was issuing with a noise like steam rushing through water. The issue of gas was more than the air could dilute. While the search was proceeding elsewhere it had to be left uncleared. Another issue, of a comparatively small quantity, was gurgling out from the same fault in the floor of a cut-through. The brick and mortar stopping had remained standing, while the stoppings in all of the other cut-throughs were blown out.

On Saturday, the third morning after the explosion, Mr. Dickinson, William Hope and Mr. John Higson, who had been called in by the owner, visited the far end of No. 2 Level. They tried to clear the gas from the main blower but the issue was too strong for the air to clear. They could not approach the place where it was issuing except in the dark without their lamps. They also had to hold their breath to avoid being suffocated. The small blower was cleared through a vent in the stopping.

The gas from the large blower so fouled the return air in that part of the workings where the remainder of the bodies lay, that extra fresh air had to be diverted before the bodies could be recovered. The exhausting work went on, shift after shift. By Sunday, the fourth morning, the last of the bodies was reached and brought out. As far as trying to clear the blower would allow, the ventilation was then restored to its usual courses. On Tuesday 20th November parts of the mine were re-opened and forty getters returned to work.

The inquest came to an end on the Thursday 22nd November. The Coroner, in summing up, said he calculated that there were thirty-three men at the shaft bottom before the explosion took place. It was a pity that Bickerstaff, the hooker-on, did not take any notice of them. A suggestion had been made that the manager had given orders that no person had to leave; but Bickerstaff himself contradicted that. If he had sent up the men many lives might have been saved.

The jury retired for 30 minutes then returned their verdict: We find the deceased Thomas Macintosh and others received certain injuries at Moorfield Pit, Altham, by reason of an explosion of gas on the 7th instant of which they died, either at the pit or at their own homes, that in the opinion of the jury the explosion was caused by a sudden outburst of gas, but how that was exploded there is no sufficient evidence to show."

It was three weeks before there was any noticeable decrease in pressure from the 'blower'. Two months afterwards the load noise had ceased and the gas had become diluted a short distance from the source.

Shot Firing at Moorfield.

There seems to be some doubt as to when shot firing was carried out at Moorfield. Under the Coal Mining Acts in force at the time, it was illegal to fire shots while other men were in the pit. John Waine gave evidence that William Yates was the only shotfirer and that shots were always fired before the miners entered the pit. He admitted that blasting powder was carried down at the same time as the first shift men. Why, if not to be used?

William Gregory contradicted this, saying he had heard shots fired after breakfast within the last three months. He also said: 'Many shots had been fired in the last six to seven months. 'Asked how he knew, he replied that he had heard and smelt them. Whenever shots were fired in the pit a cloud of acrid smelling smoke would travel along the airways. Modern day explosives give off a strong smell of ammonia which is used as a flame depressant.

William Swales stated that he had heard shots being fired early in the morning, or just after breakfast, but not on the morning of the explosion. When asked, he told the inquest that he had heard shots being fired within 100 yards of the top of the jig. He said they were fired by William Yates and James Osbaldeston. He stated that he had heard shots being fired within the last week.

James Macintosh, the manager of Whinney Hill stated that shots were always fired before the men commenced work. He said that, as far as he knew, Yates and Wayne were the only shotfirers and that if there was a good amount of blasting it was carried out on the night shift.

The Question Of Lamps. Some Light Is Cast Upon the Subject

Speculation and rumour were rife as to what had caused the explosion. There were several letters published in the local papers in the following weeks. Unfortunately, they are far too long to be included in this book. People with a coal mining background brought to the fore arguments as to the possible causes of the explosion and the advantages and disadvantages of the safety lamp.

At Moorfield, as at most other pits, the men cleaned and tried their own lamps at home. The lamps would be inspected before the men went down the pit. There were several ways in which the lamps could be locked, usually by using a copper rivet. It is not stated just how this was done at Moorfield, although it was probably by using a key. The firemen and the shotfirers were able to open their lamps with a key. It was illegal for an ordinary miner to open his lamp underground and risk an explosion. If caught in the act a man could be fined or imprisoned. With this in mind it was still common practice to open a lamp to re-light another's lamp. On the same day as the explosion, a miner at Aspen Colliery, Church, was found to be working with an open lamp. This was sometimes done to obtain a better light. He was later taken to court, where he said it was common practice at that particular pit. Aspen Colliery was a very wet pit, which reduced the chances of a large explosion. If a pocket of gas exploded it would be contained, the wet conditions would prevent the coal dust catching fire. He was fined 40s (L2) and costs, or a month's imprisonment in default of payment.

James Yates aged 16 of Church Lane-Ends was an assistant banksman at Moorfield. (It is not known if he was related to Tim or William Yates who were both killed). He told the inquest that on the morning of the explosion it was his job to inspect the miners' lamps before they descended the shaft. He did not

inspect the firemen's lamps. They had already gone down the pit before he came to work. He said that all the firemen had keys including Wayne and Yates, to allow them to open their lamp to light the fuse when shotfiring.

John Bickerstaff, the onsetter, also had a key. This would not be unusual as the bottom of the downcast shaft would have been a designated lighting station. The area around the base of the shaft was illuminated by using open gaslights with glass chimneys, similar to those used in the houses of that time.

John William Thomson worked as a jig tender at the top of the jig brow, but he was not working on the day of the explosion. He said that there was no lamp station at the top of the jig brow, but he had a key and he had opened men's lamps when they had gone out and re-lighted them from his own. He said that he did this with the authority of the firemen and the manager.

All in all, it would seem that procedures at Moorfield were no different from any other colliery at that time. Terrible risks were taken and history reveals that the lives of thousands of men and boys were needlessly thrown away.

The Aftermath, and Organisation on the Pit Top

The scene at the base of the Moorfield shaft immediately following the explosion must have resembled a scene from 'Dante's Inferno'; the injured calling for help as they lay in total darkness amongst the dead and dying. As they attempted to escape the suffocating afterdamp and choking smoke, several of the men and boys fell into the 'sump hole' below the shaft. Fortunately, all but one of them was rescued, mainly by the efforts of John Bickerstaff, the hooker-on.

Attempts were made to signal for the cage to be lowered, but the cage had been jammed in the shaft by the force of the explosion. The walking injured then began to make their way up the Billy Brow, to the Whinney Hill shaft, and on the way they were met by James Mackintosh, the manager at Whinney Hill.

The evacuation of the Whinney Hill men was already in progress. The hookers-on, William and John Pickup, had been driven out of the pit by the initial onslaught of afterdamp and smoke. Richard Wilton and others acted as hooker-on, and got the men and boys out of the pit.

Word soon spread and before long people began flocking to the pit, many of them the wives and mothers of those trapped below. Among these was William Rushton who had a grocer's shop close by.

He had worked at the pit for nearly twelve years, retiring the previous summer due to poor health. Accompanied by two other local men, Alfred Marsden and Thomas Clough, he went down the pit to help in the rescue. On their way down Billy Brow, they met Thomas Hamriding and two or three boys. Hamriding declined their offers of help. He told them to go on, that there were others who needed help. He said he would make his own way out. He later died of his injuries. Rushton went as far as the Moorfield shaft from where he helped to bring out some of the injured. Not a well man himself, he then went home exhausted, leaving the rescue to younger and stronger men.

The owner, Mr. Macalpine, was on his way to work when he was informed of the explosion. He arrived at Moorfield and realising that nothing could be done there, drove to Whinney Hill and took charge of the rescue operation at the pit top. His wife and two female servants soon joined him. They brought with them bed linen and lint for dressings, and began to attend the injured as they were brought out of the pit. A nursing sister from Blackburn Royal Infirmary assisted them.

'The two local doctors, Tattersall and Illingworth, managed the best way they could as the first batch of injured came out of the pit. Help arrived with Drs. Geddie and Ruttie of Accrington. As the day drew on, Drs. Milne and Dearden of Clayton, Dr. Monaghan of Accrington and Dr. Lyons of Oswaldtwistle arrived at the colliery to render help.

As the injured were brought out, they were taken into the warmth of the engine house, where they were given hot sweet tea. Those fortunate enough not to be too severely injured had their wounds dressed and were sent home wrapped in blankets.

One of the men brought in was so badly burnt and disfigured that even the colliers were unable to identify him. Deep in shock he was unable to speak. One of the waiting women came forward and said: 'Yeah, that's Stevy Stepps' (i.e. Stephen Clough) - She was right. He later died of his injuries.

Samuel Halstead, when brought in, did not seem to be badly injured but he was in shock and very agitated and kept asking: 'Where am I?' When told he asked: 'Oh! where is my boy?' He was told: 'The boy is safe', and this seemed to calm him down.

At about 1.30 p.m. winding ceased at Whinney Hill, as the last of the living were brought out. The day was bright, sunny and warm, a mercy to all those who stood and waited. As time went on, speculation went through the crowd that the rescue work had ended, and that only the dead remained below.

Several clergymen mixed with the crowd giving solace, taking names and addresses, with a promise that if only they would go home they would be sent word the instant there was any news. The majority of the women preferred to wait. The police presence was limited to Sergeant Stroyan and P. C. Burns. The crowd grew larger as the afternoon passed. Police reinforcements arrived from Accrington and the County. When it was deemed advisable to clear the pit bank, Supt. Eatough took command of the operation.

Below ground, the bodies were being conveyed up the Billy Brow to the Whinney Hill shaft. The winding of the dead began about four o'clock. The first were laid out in the blacksmith's shop at the colliery. As each successive cage came to the surface the heart-rending sobs of the women could be heard above the sympathetic murmur of the crowd. The relatives were held back as each body was taken into the smithy. The bodies were laid out on boards about a yard off the floor and covered in white sheets.

Their swollen and disfigured faces had to be washed and about twenty candles dimly lit the place. After a time, the relatives were admitted in twos and threes. One poor soul, arriving late and breathless, inquired if her husband was among them. On being told they had just brought him up, she completely broke down.

If the men recognised a body as they laid it out, they would inform the waiting relatives, who would then be taken in to formally identify it. There were sobs, wailing, and often piercing screams, as each corpse was identified. After a time the smithy could hold no more. Others were taken to a shed by the side of the Greyhound Inn, but this could only accommodate six bodies. A large wooden building at Bracewell's Timber Merchants, opposite the Greyhound, was then brought into use as a mortuary and all the corpses were transferred there.

About ten o'clock in the Thursday morning attempts were made to get the Moorfield shaft back in operation. A large bucket known as a hoppet was attached to a wire rope passing over a single pulley above the centre of the shaft Thomas Woodhouse, the colliery blacksmith, with an assistant, was then lowered down to where the cage was jammed in the shaft. After several attempts, they freed the cage and it was lowered to the base of the shaft, where it was detached from the rope. The rope was then wound up and coiled onto the drum of the winding engine. The other undamaged cage was freed at 5.30 p.m. When it was deemed safe the rescuers went down at 8.00 a.m. to begin the gruesome task of winding up the remaining dead. The work of the recovery teams was now somewhat eased by not having to transport the

dead on sledges up the Billy Brow. Councillor James Maden, a mason and builder, of Richmond Hill, Accrington, who had been working on the surface at Moorfield, took over the responsibility of despatching the bodies to the death house at Bracewell's yard. At one o'clock that night, the winding of the dead ceased for a time. Twenty-one bodies had been raised at Moorfield and eighteen at Whinney Hill. By late Friday evening, forty-four dead had been brought out, seventeen were still unaccounted for, and three of the injured had died at home. The last of the sixty men and boys killed in the mine were recovered on Sunday. Three of the men brought out alive had already died, and a further five were yet to die from their injuries.

Many of the bodies were so burnt they were beyond recognition. They had to be washed and cleaned before they could be viewed. Most of them could only be identified by their clothing or personal items found in their pockets. One of the men had a shilling and an orange in his pocket. His family kept them as a memento until the orange had dried and shrank to the size of a walnut. One man did not realise he was washing the body of his own son until a friend pointed it out to him. Two women laid claim to the same body and it was only resolved by counting the number of false teeth the man possessed. One father, David Cronshaw, had the heart-breaking task of identifying and claiming the bodies of his three sons: James 27, Thomas 25 and Jackson 20. He also had another son, James H. Cronshaw who was badly injured. It was not uncommon in those days for children to share the same Christian name along with a middle name. What the initial H. stood for, and what name James usually used, I have been unable to trace.

(EPILOGUE)

For many years in the main room of the Greyhound Hotel at Altham West, there was a framed list of those who lost their lives in the disaster. In 1994 this list was removed to Altham parish church. Mr. Terry Woods, a calligrapher from Oswaldtwistle created an illuminated scroll of the dead, which is now in the library at Clayton-le-Moors.

A plaque was affixed to stone-work of Pilkington's Bridge (Dickie Brig) to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the disaster in October 1993 by a former Hyndburn Mayor Councillor Mrs. Cathleen Thom.

Coal mining ceased at Whinney Hill in 1932. The shafts were left open to ventilate the workings at Moorfield. They were later filled in and capped off. A large housing estate has been built on the land once

occupied by Whinney Hill colliery, and the NORI brick works. The site of the shafts can be found on the right of the road going up to Whinney Hill from the traffic lights at the Greyhound Hotel. Directly above the entrance to the estate a small area has been fenced off and trees have been planted directly over the shafts.

In 1948, the year after the nationalisation of the coal industry, work in the Lower Mountain seam ceased. The following year the workings in the Upper Mountain seam were abandoned, bring coal production at Moorfield to an end. The shaft has been capped off but not filled in.

The coking plant stayed in production until 1962 when it was forced to close due to heavy trade losses, 253 men losing their jobs. Apart from a few buildings, the site was cleared by the late 1960s. It is now an industrial trading estate.

THE VICTIMS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
Almond, Cuthbert	12	Leeson, Joseph	12
Almond, John	20	Macintosh, Thomas	56
Alston, Thomas	16	Macintosh, Thomas Henry	35
Ashworth, James	39	Mackrell, William	21
Atherton, James.	10	Mahon, John	15
Bentley, John	32	Mahon, Michael	13
Blackburn, Thomas	23	Metcalf, Thomas	33
Broadley, James	40	Osbaldeston, James	37
Broadley, Westwell	28	Osbaideston, Richard	12
Brown, Waddington Walter	23	Ormerod, John	41
Clegg, George	18	Perry, Mathew Henry	17
Clegg, Henry William	19	Riding, Aaron	10
Clough, James	27	Riley, Robert	17
Clough, Steven	19	Rushton, John	27
Coles, Walter Henry	32	Rushton, Lawrence	27
Crabb, John	40	Rushton, Robert	44
Cronshaw, Jackson	21	Rushton, William	14
Cronshaw, James	27	Scholes, James	19
Cronshaw, Thomas	25	Shorrock, John	19
Crossley, Henry	11-	Smith, John Edward	11
Edge, John	16	Smith, Thomas	45
Edge, Thomas	14	Tapper, George	18
Gorton, Robert	30	Taylor, James	35
Grimshaw, John	20	Taylor, Thomas	29
Grimshaw, Thomas	26	Taylor, William	24
Grimm, William	26	Taylor, Wilson	29
Hall, John Thomas	15	Thornton, Joseph	24
Hamriding, Thomas	36	Threfall, John	46
Haworth, Job Whittaker	11	Threfall, Robert	25
Haworth, Robert	36	Tillotson, Thomas	28
Haworth, Rothwell	34	Tomlinson, Peter	19
Haworth, William Henry	32	Walsh, Thomas	27
Hollin, William	25	Yates, Timothy	29
Jones, William Edward	13	Yates, William	46

Grimshaw Origins In Lancashire County, England
With Selected Family Lines

Part B. Selected Family Lines

Version 2.0

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Note: The Grimshaw Coat of Arms and Crest on the cover are from Taylor, Sharon, 1982, *The Amazing Story of the Grimshaws in America*: Halbert's, Inc., 63 p.+

Grimshaw Origins in Lancashire County, England, with Selected Family Lines by Thomas W. Grimshaw, v. 2.0, August, 1999