

A
HISTORY
OF
COPPULL

By
Hubert Walsh

**This limited edition of two hundred copies was produced by
the Sunday School of St John the Divine, Coppull on the
twenty fifth anniversary of the Coronation of H.R.H. Queen
Elizabeth 2nd, June 1978**

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widow of the late Hubert Walsh.**

Introduction to History of Coppull

I was approached by Michael Fisher from Canada, Online Parish Clerk for Coppull and other villages in this area. Michael had discovered the book written by the late Hubert Walsh and wanted to know if he could be given permission to publish the work on his web site.

Some time ago, Hubert had given me permission to abridge, from this book, his history of Coppull Parish Church in order for me to use it in our branch project, (transcribing the registers of the church). He was quite proud of the fact that I wished to use his work and of course he was given an acknowledgement.

I rang Mrs Walsh, the widow of Hubert and explained the situation to her. She decided that Hubert would be pleased to allow his work to be placed on the On-Line Parish Clerk (OPC) web site.

Because the book was typed in 1978 (before the common use of PCs) and it had been copied using a Gestetner or similar duplicating machine, my copy was not of good enough quality to be scanned or photo-copied successfully.

I decided to re-type Hubert's work. In doing so, a couple of errors were discovered and these have been noted in the new copy as an extra, but leaving Hubert's original work intact.

I have also taken the liberty of including a page showing all the village churches.

My intention is to ask the local schools and the libraries if they would like a copy of this to keep with their original one.

A copy of it, together with our original, will be placed in our Research Centre in Astley Hall, Chorley.

Typed by	Mrs Rita M. Platt – Secretary/Ref. Librarian Chorley Branch Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society
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Rita M Platt
May 2005

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A History of Coppull, Lancashire

By

Hubert Walsh

The place name Coppull is a pleonastic name. That is, a name in which both the first and second elements of the name have the same meaning. The name means a “Copped Hill” or a “Hill rising to a peak”.

Various spellings of the place name Coppull have been in use. In the 13th century Cophulle and Crophull were used. Cophull was used in the 14th century and in 1444, the modern spelling of the name occurs.

The village of Coppull is situated on the 300ft. contour and is bounded to the North by the Clancutt brook, to the East partly by the River Yarrow, partly by field boundaries, the Eller brook and the Moss Ditch. The Southern boundary of the village is by a stream, the same stream having different names in different parts of the village. At the Eastern end of Coppull, that part of the stream is named Buckow brook. The central portion of the brook is known as Hic-Bibi brook, whilst that part of the brook to the West is called Stars brook. (Incidentally, this stream is one of five streams in Great Britain, and the only one in Lancashire, which flows away from the sea towards the hills). The Western boundary of Coppull consists of a series of field ditches and the Whittle brook. Whichever way one enters Coppull by road or by rail, a brook has to be crossed.

The village covers an area of 2,402 acres and has a population (1971 census) of 7,184. In the 13th century Coppull and Worthington were classed as one township, known as Coppull-cum-Worthington.

The Subsidy Roll of 1542 gives the number of houses in Coppull and Worthington as 45. Estimating five persons to each household, this would give an estimated population at that time of 225.

In the Hearth Tax Returns of 1670, 67 houses are given and using the same method, this would give a population of 335.

In 1754, the Rev. E. Smalley, Rector of Standish (1760 – 1779) conducted a Census throughout the Parish of Standish. (The ancient Parish of Standish consisted of 11 townships, of which Coppull was one). According to Rector Smalley's Census there were 86 families living in Coppull, which would give an estimated population of 480.

Ten years later in 1764, Rector Smalley carried out another Census, and there were 96 families in Coppull, with an actual population of 484.

Rector Perryn in 1779 gives the following for Coppull:-

<u>Number of Families</u>		<u>Inhabitants</u>
Church of England	74	376
Church of Rome	11	72
Dissenters	2	12
Quakers	5	24
Mixed	4	---
Total	96	484

It will be seen that between the years 1774 and 1779, the population of Coppull remained static, or else Rector Perryn was using the Rev. Smalley's Census.

The Census Returns for the year 1851 give Coppull's population as 1107, one hundred years later (1951) the population had risen to 5657.

An interesting Census was compiled by the Rev. Wm. Hodgson, Curate at Standish in the year 1832. For the Township of Coppull these are the figures given to the questions that were asked:-

1.	Number of families that have a Bible	103
2.	Number of families that only have a Testament	30
3.	Number of families entirely destitute of Holy Scriptures	13
4.	Number of families that have Family Prayer	1
5.	Number of persons who profess themselves Church of England	770
6.	Number of persons who profess themselves Church of Rome	103
7.	Number of persons who profess themselves Dissenters	3
8.	Number of persons who can read or are under instruction	559
9.	Number of persons who cannot read	317
10.	Number of persons regularly attending place of worship	139
11.	Number of persons who generally attend a place of worship once a day	122
12.	Number of persons who occasionally attend a place of worship	180
13.	Number of persons who seldom or never attend a place of worship	291
14.	Number of children under 5 and those too infirm to attend	144
15.	Number of persons who should have received Sacrament according to 112 Canon	480
16.	Number of persons who should have received Sacrament at some period	124
17.	Number of persons over 16 who have never received Sacrament	356
18.	Number of persons under 16	396
19.	Number of persons under 7	138
20.	Number of children attending day school	65
21.	Number of children attending Sunday School	142
22.	Number of illegitimate children	11
23.	Number of males	464
24.	Number of females	412
	Total population	876

The Church at Coppull

In the year 1068, two years after the Norman Conquest, the lands which are now known as Lancashire were given by Duke William of Normandy to one of his henchmen, Roger Pictavensis, or Roger of Poictou.

A few years later, Roger was banished from the Kingdom for conspiring with Robert, the elder son of William 1 for the overthrow of the King. On the death of William the Conqueror, war broke out between Robert and his younger brother, William Rufus. Roger of Poictou abandoned the cause of Robert and threw in his lot with William Rufus, and by this act Roger regained possession of his estates.

Roger, whose family were patrons of the Abbey of St Martin of Sees in Normandy, gave in 1094 a number of churches and chapels, together with the Priory Church of St Mary of Lancaster, to the Abbey of St Martin of Sees. In his gift to St Martins, Count Roger also gave, besides the churches and chapels, other properties, including some fisheries on the River Lune.

There were about 20 churches or chapels in this gift, amongst them the church at Croston and the church at Eccleston. One of the churches given by Roger Pictavensis was in the words of the deed “et ecclesium de Crophill” meaning a church at Crophill.

There is a tradition that a church existed at Coppull in the 11th century. According to Canon Raines, at the time of the Norman Survey.

Croston's Edition Baine, History of Lancashire, Vol.5, page 464, identifies Crophill with Coppull. Dr. W. Farrer in the Victoria County History, Vol.2, page 291, disputes this and says that Cropwell-Butler in the county of Nottinghamshire was intended.

In his book “Lancashire Pipe Rolls”, Dr Farrer says that the church at “Crophill” was of the same dispensation as “Wikley” and Cotegrave”, two other churches named in the St Mary's register.

Dr Farrer identifies Wikley as Wakerley in Northamptonshire and Cotegrave as Cotgrove in Nottinghamshire. The name Tunstead also occurs in the Pipe Rolls in connection with these place names. Dr Farrer identifies this with Tunstead in Lincolnshire.

Whiteley, or as it is pronounced in dialect “Wikeley”, is on the Standish, Wigan boundary. There is said to have been a church of an early tradition in this area, on the site of Abbey Farm at Arley.

John Ogilby's Strip Map of the 17th century shows a “Congrove Hall” to the East of the road leading from Standish to Coppull, and “The Grove” is shown on the 1846 Ordnance Survey Map and is a name which is in present day use at Standish. The church at Standish has an 11th century tradition. There is a Tunstead at Charnock Richard, also the name Tunstead applies to an area of Wigan, near Lamberhead Green.

The personal names “Grellet” and “De Burgh” are associated with the place names Crophill and Wikeley. Thomas De Burgh occurs in connection with Crophill when he answers to the Roll of the Great Pipe for a fine of 20 marks.

With regard to Wikeley, Hawise De Burgh, daughter and co-heir of John De Burgh, brought this estate by marriage to Robert Grellet, 7th Baron of Manchester.

Coppull and Worthington were held of the Grellets, the Lords of Manchester and the De Burghs took their name from Burgh now part of Chorley, but up to recent times it was an estate in the ancient parish of Standish.

Dr. Farrer accepts that Crophill was held of Henry 11 in the 12th century, but held the viewpoint that the statements made by the Earls of Derby in the 16th century – “That Coppull was held of the King and His Duchy” as erroneous.

In the 13th century Standish Deed (Deed No. 31 Mrs Tempest's Abstract), Coppull is spelt Crophill. To change the meaning of a place name to that which means something entirely different is said to be bad etymology. In this particular case, to change the word “Hill” to that of “Well” is simply not on.

Whether the church at Crophill was the church at Coppull or at Cropwell-Butler will never be known, but from the evidence given it will be seen that the claim of Coppull is not entirely without foundation.

A chapel certainly existed at Coppull before the Reformation, for in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII a man named Rowland Kirby sought sanctuary at Coppull chapel when the Hue and Cry were after him, and the Constables were trying to arrest him. Sanctuary must have been granted to Rowland Kirby, for the evidence states that the "Constables were resisted".

In a marriage covenant of 1520, between Richard Worthington of Blainscough and James Anderton, there is a proviso that the former might bequeath land at Preston to the annual value of 13s.4d "for the use of a priest forever to say a Mass in the Chapel of Coppull". This Contract of Marriage was being made on behalf of Peter Worthington of Blainscough, who was six years of age at the time, and he was being contracted to marry Isabel, daughter of James Anderton of Euxton.

At some time in the 16th century the chapel ceased to be used and fell into decay. No further mention of a church at Coppull is made from the year 1520 until the Parliamentary Inquisitors visit to Coppull in 1650, during the Commonwealth period.

Colonel Chisnall offered a site for a proposed new church ... "Near to where the old Hall of Chisnall formerly stood, and he would allow stone towards the building and assign a convenient churchyard and a freeway for the carrying of corpses from the Copply Moor unto the Mossy Legh". When the Parliamentary Inquisitors had conducted and completed their enquiries they made their report.

"There was formerly an ancient chapel near unto a place called the Cow-Moss and we present that a church be erected in Coppull on the same place where the old Hall of Chisnall formerly stood and the residue of Coppull aforesaid to be annexed to the newly erected church and be made a distinct parish and a road to be allowed by Edward Chisnall Esq. of Chisnall, owner of the inheritance, and that he allow stone towards and for the building of the same church, and assign out a convenient churchyard for the burying of corps".

This offer of Colonel Chisnall's was not taken up, for a new Chapel at Coppull was built at Chapel Hillock near the site of the "Antient" chapel at Cow-Moss.

With regard to the building of the chapel, a number of statements have been put out which are at variance with each other as to the date when the chapel was built and the purpose for which it was used.

In a statement drawn up by William Turton, Rector of Standish in 1715, for the information of Bishop Gastrell, Bishop of Chester, and in which statement he mentions the impiety, intrigue, and tyranny of the rulers of Coppull Chapel. This is what the then Rector of Standish had to say ... "The chapel was built after the year 1641 in the times of the Great Rebellion, when Dr. Brideoak, the then Rector of Standish was forced to give place to one Latham of the Parliament's nomination. At the Restoration, Dr. Brideoak was restored to Standish and made Bishop of Chichester and this chapel was never used as at first designed for a "Dissenting Meeting House".

A statement put out by the Rev. John Hollingsworth, Vicar of Coppull from 1851 to 1906, says – "That the chapel at Coppull had been built to provide a pulpit for Dr Brideoak on his ejection from the living at Standish".

Sir Edward Chisnall, son of Colonel Chisnall, wrote to the Bishop of Chester, on the 7th December 1715 – “That the chapel was built in 1654 or 1655 and a pulpit, reading desk and seats therein, had been made by the inhabitants of Coppull”.

In his notes on Chester, Bishop Gastrell writes – “This chapel was built about Anno 1651 by William Crook, the inhabitants contributing labour etc; and afterwards by money for seats, reimbursing him most of his charge. It is not consecrated but never used for Dissenters Meetings”. Vide Rev. Mr Haydock’s Acct. Anno 1715.

A statement made by William Crook says – “That the chapel was built in 1654 as a Dissenters Meeting House and was used as such and that the Bishop and Rector had nothing to do there as the building was unconsecrated”.

Arising from these disputes between Mr Crook and the Rectors of Standish and the words of Rector Turton’s letter to the Bishop. – “There followed some sharp agitation, many squabbles, breaking open of doors and taking possession and repossession of the chapel between them”.

Mr Crooke afterwards pretended to make over his rights of Trusteeship to Lord Willoughby de Parham, a man who enjoyed a great reputation amongst the Presbyterians, and who broke open the doors on Mr Crooke’s behalf. On being made acquainted with this the Bishop of Chester declared – “That whatever rights the parties might have to an unconsecrated building, they could authorise no clergyman to preach in his Diocese without his licence”. Mr Crooke declared he would have a licence from the Justices of the Peace to make it a Presbyterian Meeting House.

The deeds and money were in Mr Crooke’s hands and he was shortly afterwards killed in a duel by Captain Buckley of Buckley.

These accounts were written in 1715, but it will be seen that since the rebuilding of the church some 60 years previously, the church at Coppull had gone through a stormy period of its history.

After the Restoration of the Episcopacy in 1660, the church appears to have been served from the Parish of Standish, when the curate of Standish preached once a month at Coppull. The interest of two hundred pounds had been left to Coppull Chapel to maintain an Orthodox Protestant Preacher and the villagers of Coppull by voluntary contributions made up the £10 competency for him. Thomas Walkden was Curate at Coppull in 1688.

The Rev. William Haydock, who was one of the Haydock brothers of Bogburn Hall, Coppull had succeeded Dr. Brideoak as Rector of Standish, and the inhabitants of Coppull requested Mr Haydock to place Mr Ingham as Curate at Coppull.

On the death of Rector Haydock in 1713, a number of the inhabitants of Coppull wrote to Rector William Turton who succeeded Rector Haydock, complaining of Mr Ingham and desiring his removal. In 1715, Rector Turton wrote to the Bishop of Chester informing him – “That during the last year or two, Mr Ingham gave great offence by his immoral life, and the Solemnization of Clandestine Marriages”. The Bishop of Chester, afterwards Archbishop of York, ordered Mr Ingham “To desist until his Lordships pleasure be further known”.

Despite this order from the Bishop and acting on orders from William Crooke and Sir Edward Chisnall, Mr Ingham continued to officiate at Coppull Chapel. Sir Edward

Chisnall wrote to the Bishop of Chester – “That for the 10 years past Mr. Thomas Ingham had served the Cure and constantly received the prayers of the church every Sunday and gives good content in his sermons and that the interest of £200 out in Bond in my name was constantly paid to the said Mr. Ingham, besides contributions from his hearers”.

The church wardens at Coppull then presented Mr Ingham for Clandestine Marriages, open drunkenness and for officiating having neither licence from the Bishop nor permission from the Rector of Standish.

Owing to these disputes the chapel was closed and was later turned into a common stable.

In 1729, the King nominated Thomas Orret as Curate by lapse and in January of the following year John Norcross was nominated by Lord Willoughby de Parham. Sir Henry Houghton nominated George Hargreaves. These appointments were referred to the Bishop of Chester who decided that the patronage of the living should be invested in the Rector of Standish.

In 1733 Mr. Hargreaves became undisputed Curate of Coppull. During his incumbency the Bishop of Chester granted a faculty dated 1758 for rebuilding and enlarging the chapel.

It was stated “That the old chapel having been entirely pulled down and the old seats and stalls having been removed, a larger and more convenient church was built, with new seats and pews arranged in regular and uniform manner”. A grant of £400 was obtained from Queen Anne’s Bounty, and this, together with the £200 previously mentioned, purchased the Titles of Elston in the Parish of Preston.

The Chapel of 1758 was a Georgian building of hand-made brick complete with a lantern bell tower. (The remains of the older Commonwealth Church can be seen in the stonework at the bottom of the North wall of the church).

Mr Hargreaves died in 1763 and the Crooke family again revived their claim to appoint the Parson, and they nominated Mr. Benjamin Cooper, but he died before he was licensed by the Bishop. The Rector of Standish then nominated the Rev. Richard Dewhurst who held the living for 30 years.

His successor was the Rev. Joseph Taylor, headmaster of Eccleston School, and he was incumbent for 46 years. During his incumbency a gallery was erected in the church, capable of accommodating 150 persons. This gallery was built in 1816 by public subscription and was for the use of singers, Sunday school scholars and teachers.

On the death of Mr. Taylor in 1839, the Rev. Henry Worsley Jackson was appointed and in 1840, he appealed to his parishioners to raise funds to put the building in a good state of repair and raise the ceiling.

By an order in Court dated 1842 a district was formally assigned to the Church, consisting of the three townships, Coppull, Charnock Richard and Welch Whittle. Up to this time Coppull had been a Chapel of Ease to Standish.

Coppull was given Parish status under the Blandford Act of 1856.

In 1861, Mr. James Darlington undertook the restoration of Coppull Chapel, when the tower and chancel were added. Mr. Darlington also provided the church with an organ. The restoration of the church was completed in 1862.

In 1912, the parish was divided into two parts, and in that part to the West of the main line railway, a fine new church was built, and dedicated to St. John the Divine. The donors of this church were James Darlington and his brother-in-law, Alfred Hewlett, who were coal owners in Coppull.

Coppull Old Parish Church, "Th' owd Church" is one of a very small number of churches in the country which have no dedication. During its long history this church has had its ups and it has had its downs, but there it still stands, still serving the spiritual needs of the community.

The Manor of Coppull

The first mention of the Coppull family occurs in 1215, and it is probable that they were a branch of the Worthingtons of Worthington, who were said to be an ancient family in 1212.

Little is known of the Coppull family, but in 1236, Richard, son of Thomas de Coppull, was one of the earliest benefactors to Burscough Priory, granting lands called Perburn. Perburn is the old name for the Hic-Bibi brook. The area of this grant of land may be identified with that area known as Coppull Moor.

The bounds of the grant are described thus: - "Beginning where the Blacklache descends into Perburn, up Northwards to a cross in the old ditch of Coldcotes, along the ditch to a cross on the High Road of Watling Street, along the street to a cross on the Perburn over against the course of the great spring of Langtree and so along the thread of the Perburn to another cross and the said Blacklache". To this were added all the grantors part of the waters of Perburn, appertaining to four Oxgangs Panage in the woods of Coppull and other Easements.

The Seal shows a bird and the signature is Ricardi de Cophul, (The capital 'R' in the signature having faded away).

In these old deeds the bounds are usually described in a clock-wise direction and once a starting point has been established, it is comparatively easy to trace the bounds on the ground. In this particular case the starting point is the extreme South West boundary of the village, near Tunley Chapel. Walk northwards along the Western boundary to the old ditch near Wet Oaks Wood. The bounds of the grant then follows the Northern boundary until it meets with the Whittle brook just to the North of Elmhurst Farm. Keeping to the South side of Blainscough Hall walk eastwards until the Bridle path from Coppull to Standish is met with.

This is the High Road of Watling Street, the ancient Roman Road which runs from Warrington to Walton, near Preston. Following the Bridle path south, as far as Hic-Bibi Well (the great spring of Langtree) and so along the thread of the brook to the starting point.

This then is the extent of the grant of land, made by Richard de Coppull back in the 13th century.

The name "Grange" means the farm of the Monks, and the house on Coppull Moor known as "The Grange", would get its name from the fact that this land was part of the Burscough Priory estates.

At the time of Edward 1 (1239 – 1307) a grant of land in Coppull was made to Henry de Burghat the rend of a barbed arrow and sixpence.

One of the John de Coppulls' in the 15th century must have had the reputation of being a good fighting man, for he represented the Earl of Derby at the jousts. He was one of the Earl of Derby's champions.

The Manor of Coppull was held by the Coppull family until 1461, but in 1458 – 9, the Harrington family had some claim on the Manor.

In 1459 The Wars of the Roses were resumed between the Houses of Lancaster and York. Thomas Stanley supported Richard, Duke of York, the leader of the House of York. Richard, Duke of York was slain at the battle of Towton. In 1461, Edward IV drove Henry VI from the throne and thus became the first Yorkist King. James Harrington of Hornby was said to have held two of his nieces captive at Hornby Castle. (It is said that these captive children were the origin of the story of the Babes in the Wood).

Edward IV caused these nieces to be sent for and made wards of Thomas Stanley. At the battle of Bosworth in 1485, Thomas Stanley changed sides and supported the cause of Henry VII, Thomas, having married Lady Margaret Beaufort, the widow of Edmund Tudor. Lady Margaret was a descendent of John O' Gaunt and was the mother of Henry VII, so through his marriage to Margaret Beaufort, Thomas Stanley became stepfather to Henry VII.

Edward Stanley, the son of Thomas Stanley, married Anne Harrington. John Stanley, the nephew of Thomas married the other Harrington sister.

It was in 1461 that Thomas Stanley acquired possession of the Manor of Coppull and in 1508 Edward Stanley was granted the Manor of Coppull by Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby. In 1513, Edward Stanley fought at the Battle of Flodden and so distinguished himself that he was created Lord Monteagle by a grateful Henry VIII.

James Browne occurs as lessee of the Manor in 1590, and in 1600, the Manor of Coppull was sold by the Earl of Derby to Alexander Rigby, of Burgh. In 1750 it was in the possession of a family named Livesey and in 1820 the Manor was sold to John Hodgson of Ellerbeck, who had been Member of Parliament for Wigan from 1802 – 1820. His son James Alexander Hodgson represented Wigan as MP from 1820- 1831.

The Hodgsons of Ellerbeck were relatives of the Haydocks of Coppull. Cousin Edward Hodson (sic) of Duxbury was mentioned in Roger Haydock's Will.

Jane Hodgson, sister of John Hodgson, married Richard Cardwell of Blackburn and her younger son, Edward, became principal of St Alban's Hall, Oxford, and was a noted 19th century Church Historian.

John Cardwell, brother of the above named Edward, had a son also named Edward, who was born at Liverpool on the 24th July 1813, and was thus the grandson of Jane Hodgson of Ellerbeck.

Edward Cardwell was educated at Winchester and Balliol, where he obtained a double first. He was called to The Bar in 1838 and entered Parliament as a "Peelite" in 1842, being the MP for Clitheroe. In 1845 he was Financial Secretary to the Treasury and in Lord Aberdeen's Administration in 1852 he was President of The Board of Trade, but

without a seat in the Cabinet. Since 1847 he had been Member of Parliament for Liverpool. He lost his seat in 1852, but in 1853 he was elected MP for the City of Oxford, which Constituency he represented for the next 30 years.

He was a man of great administrative talents and one of the most brilliant politicians of the 19th century. Strange as it may seem, there does not appear to have been any official biography of his life and his work. Whilst President of the Board of Trade, he completely re-organised that Department of Government and he was also responsible for piloting the Codification of Merchant Shipping Law through Parliament.

He resigned with the Peelites in 1855, but in Lord Palmerston's administration of 1859 he was chief Secretary for Ireland, and was made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1861 – 1864. He had previously refused Lord Palmerston's offer of the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer. In 1864 he became Secretary for the Colonies, remaining at the Foreign Office until the fall of Lord John Russell's Ministry in 1866.

Under Gladstone he became Secretary for War and he held this position from 1868 to 1874. It was during this period as Secretary for War that Edward Cardwell carried out the Army Reforms which bear his name, the Cardwell Reforms. Edward Cardwell abolished the purchase of commissions; he also abolished the purchase of promotion. For the other ranks he introduced the short service engagement, where a soldier engaged for so many years with The Colours, and so many years with The Reserve. He also introduced the linked battalion system and organised regiments on a county basis. Edward Cardwell carried these reforms through Parliament practically single-handed. With the connivance of William Gladstone, the Prime Minister, he presented Parliament with a fait accompli, the reforms had been signed by the Queen, with two notable exceptions. One was the Cavalry. The Cavalry was the special preserve of the aristocracy and the landed gentry. These people were a law unto themselves and they would brook no interference in their privileged position. The Cavalry carried on much as it had done before. The second exception was the Commander in Chief of the Army who was appointed by the Queen. The Duke of Cambridge had been appointed Commander in Chief by the Queen in the 1850s and he was to remain as Commander in Chief for upwards of another 20 years after the army reforms had been passed.

The Cardwell Reforms were to stand Britain in good stead in the Boer War and also in the First World War, but Parliament and the top people never forgave Edward Cardwell for the way he pushed the reforms through Parliament.

When the Gladstone Ministry resigned in 1874, Edward Cardwell left Parliament a broken man. He was snubbed and ostracised, and he was never to take any further part in public life. On his resignation in 1874, he was raised to the Peerage, and became the first Viscount Cardwell of Ellerbeck, also the last. He retired to his estate at Ellerbeck and died at Nightingale House, Heath Charnock in 1886.

Through his grandmother, Jane Hodgson, he became Lord of the Manor at Coppull and in the same way as the Ellerbeck Estate, the Manor of Coppull descended to the Trustees of the late Lord Cardwell.

Blainscough

The name means "Blaina's Wood". The first element 'Blaina' is a patronymic or personal name, whilst the second element is from the Old Norse Scog'r or from the Danish 'Scov' which means wood.

Blainscough gave a surname to one of the local families, one of whom Robert de Blaynnecoh is mentioned in 1310. The line terminated with Adam de Blainco.

In the 14th century the estate was settled by the Worthingtons, a branch of the Worthington family at Worthington. William de Worthington was in possession of Blainscough in 1340 and the family seem to have prospered.

In 1388 Thomas, the son of William Worthington received a licence for an Ovatory (sic) [surely oratory]? or Private Chapel at Blainscough. Ralph, son of Thomas de Worthington occurs in 1396, and he is followed by his son Richard, who was in turn succeeded by Henry with whom the recorded pedigree begins... After the Reformation Peter increased the family estate, and some land was held of the Earl of Derby at a rent of 2s.9d and a pair of gloves yearly.

Other land was held of Edward Worthington of Worthington at an annual rent of two shillings.

Thomas, the younger son of Peter, was educated at Oxford University, taking his BA degree in 1570. He later went to Douai in France, to the Catholic College to study for the Priesthood. The College at Douai was opened in 1568, and it was here that Thomas Worthington was ordained.

He came on the English Mission in 1578, and in 1584 he was tutor to four of his nephews, Thomas, Robert, Richard and John, sons of his elder brother Richard who was heir to the Blainscough estate.

He also said Mass in the private chapel for the Catholics of the neighbourhood. Early in 1584 it was reported to the Queen's Ministers 'That Mr. Worneton (Worthington) he keeps a Jesuit in his house which is his brother, and Mass is openly said in the house'.

The priest hunters were after him. They came to Blainscough, but Thomas Worthington had gone, taking his four nephews with him. They had gone to the house of Mr. Sankey of Great Sankey near Warrington. The hunters followed, arriving at the house at 3 o'clock in the morning, they took the three younger brothers prisoner, but Father Worthington and Thomas, the eldest son, made their escape.

The brothers who were made prisoners were taken to Manchester, but they later escaped and made their way to the continent. Robert died at the age of 17 in 1585. Richard died on the 8th June 1589 when he was 16 years of age. Both these boys died in exile. John the other brother became a priest, later to become a Jesuit.

In the meantime Father Worthington and his nephew Thomas made their way to London only to be captured at the house of Richard Wood of Islington.

Father Worthington was sent to the Tower, and 12 months later he was banished from the country. The nephew Thomas escaped to the continent taking up residence at Louvain.

Richard Worthington, the father these four brothers, died in prison on the 25th September 1590, and Thomas, who was living in Louvain succeeded to the Blainscough Estate. Two thirds of his estate was taken into the Queen's hands for his recusancy and for his "contempt in going out of the land into the parts beyond the sea". He was also heavily fined and money was taken from his rents to pay the fines. Eventually he married Mary Allen, daughter of George Allen, the elder brother of Cardinal William Allen.

On the accession of James 1 in 1603, Thomas Worthington received a pardon, but he continued to live at Louvain where his children were born. One of his sons became a priest and two of his daughters became nuns. Thomas died in exile at Louvain in 1619.

Father Worthington, who was banished to the continent in 1585, went to Douai where he became president at the college, but caused a disturbance by his subservience to The Society of Jesus. He later went to Rome where he wrote a number of Catholic books. In 1613 he joined the Ovatory(sic) [oratory]? of St. Philip Neri. In 1616 he returned to England and died at Biddulph in Staffordshire in 1626.

John Worthington one of the four brothers who became a Jesuit priest, served with the Royalist forces during the Civil War and was taken prisoner. He died in 1652. Another younger brother, Lawrence, also became a Jesuit, having received his training on the continent.

William, who inherited Blainscough on his father's death in 1619, held some of his lands of Edward Rigby at a rent of 2s.9d and a pair of white gloves annually. (It will be remembered that the Rigbys of Burgh were Lords of the Manor at this time).

William Worthington fought in the Civil War and he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Ormskirk in August 1644. His death occurred in 1665.

Another Thomas Worthington, who was born in 1671 – died 1754, became Prior of the Dominican Priory at Bornhem.

In a list of Popish recusants drawn up by Rector Haydock of Standish in 1706 under the entry Coppull, it states "Mr. Worthington, his wife, his son and three children. His son is in prison and the estate is much indebted". The estate was mortgaged to Robert Holt of Wigan in 1717 by Richard Worthington, who was outlawed as a Jacobite after the rising of 1715, and in 1732 the Blainscough's estate was sold to Robert Holt by Thomas Worthington, son of the above named Richard.

Thomas was the last of the Worthingtons to live at Blainscough, and after this the family fell into obscurity. Thomas died at Hooton in 1742.

In 1836 Blainscough was the property of George Case of Liverpool. Later in the 19th century it was in the possession of the Glovers and at the present time it is the home of the Hart family.

Blainscough Hall was a moated site and traces of the moat can still be seen.

CHISNALL

Old spelling 'Chisenhale'. 'Hale' is from the old English 'Health' meaning a nook or corner. 'Chisen' means cheese, therefore the 'Nook where the cheese is made'.

The Chisnall family held land in Coppull from an early time. Roger and John de Chisenhale are mentioned in 1277. In 1292 John de Chisenhale recovered some land in Worthington and in 1336 Robert de Chisenhale granted to Sir Henry Whaley, Rector of Standish, 3 acres and 29 perches of meadow in Worthington, the plot of land being situated between Le Caucee and Le Poliford. In 1347 a dwelling house and land was settled on Roger, son of Roger. A Sepulchral slab in St. Wilfrid's Standish, records the death of Maud de Chisenhale in 1380.

There is little record of the family for over a century, but John Chisnall, who died in 1525, was found to hold lands in Coppull and Worthington, partly of the Earls of Derby at a rent of 2s.0d.

A pedigree was recorded in 1567. Edward Chisnall, who by his marriage to Margaret Worthington, added an estate in Shevington. Their son, who was also named Edward, played a distinguished part with the Royalist Army in the Civil War.

On the south pier of St. Wilfrid's Church at Standish is an elaborate marble monument which was erected by his son, Sir Edward Chisnall of Chisnall. The monument has a Latin inscription, which translated reads:-

Here lies interred Edward Chisnall of
Chisnall Esq., He had command of a company,
under King Charles the Martyr. He was a
brave defender of the Monarchy, and learned
his religion.
At the siege of Lathom House he boldly took from
the rebels a fire vomiting mortar,
By the Catholic History which he wrote.
He still defends the Church of England,
Truly catholic in his teaching.
He died on the 5th March, 1653, in the
year of his age 35
His eldest son Edward Chisnall of Chisnall,
Knight, mindful of such great piety and courage,
Erected this monument.

There are notices of Edward Chisnall in 'Civil War Tracts' and in 'War in Lancashire'. On the 26th April 1644, together with Captain Fox, he stole out of Lathom House at about 4 o'clock in the morning, took possession of the Parliamentarians trench, scaled their ramparts, and by the strength of his arms lifted up a great Mortar and dragged it back to Lathom House. This is the background to the story 'fire vomiting mortar' mentioned in the text of the monument.

On another occasion he decoyed the enemy to the gates of Lathom House then with a company of his troops he rushed out and inflicted great slaughter on the enemy. It is also recorded that on another occasion, he sallied out through the gates of Lathom House and stole the enemy's food.

There are two tablets recording Edward Chisnall's commissions. The King Charles Commission, amongst other things say 'By these presents do Nominate, Constitute and Appoint you to be Colonel of Regiment of Horse, consisting of six hundred to be divided into six equal troops'.

Prince Rupert's Commission has this to say, 'I do by this commission Constitute, Ordain and Authorise you to be Colonel of one Regiment of Foot, consisting of eight companies and one thousand soldiers besides officers'.

For anyone wishing to read the full text of these commissions, they will be found in the publication by Standish Local History Group, on St. Wilfrid's Church Standish.

Prince Rupert's Commission was made at Lathom House in 1644, during the first Civil War. On being commissioned Colonel of Foot, Edward Chisnall marched away from Lathom House with Prince Rupert's army and was taken prisoner at the battle of Marston Moor.

King Charles' Commission was made during the second Civil War. He received his commission of Colonel of Horse, only a few days before the battle of Worcester of September 1651, when he was again taken prisoner by the Parliamentary troops, fined £800 and had his estate sequestered.

In 1653 he wrote the 'Catholike History in defence of the Reformed Church of England' At the end of the book the printers apologise for the numerous printers errors, occasioned by the 'uncouth character of the author's hand whose remote abode admitted on no intercourse to instruct me therein'. He died on the 6th March 1653, and was succeeded by his son Sir Edward Chisnall, who was Whig Member of Parliament for Wigan 1688 - 89 and who represented Preston as a Tory in 1690. His daughter and eventual heir married Stephen Hammerton of Hellifield Peel in Yorkshire.

THE HAYDOCKS OF BOGBURN

Previous to the Reformation in 1536 – 1539, the Haydocks were the tenants of Burscough Priory at an annual rent of 3s.0d. Their estate was known as the Perburn estate, and took its name from the Perburn brook which was the old name for the Hic-Bibi brook. This estate formed part of the grant of land given by Richard de Coppull in the 13th century to Burscough Priory. In 1512 Hugh Haydock was a tenant of his mother, Catherine, one of the heirs of John Perburn. John Haydock is mentioned as a freeholder in 1600, and on his death in 1622, his son and heir was Roger, who was seven years old at the time. Roger Haydock married Alice Nightingale, and seven children were born of this marriage, five sons and two daughters. John Haydock the eldest son became a Quaker Minister and Preacher, and served the Quaker Movement in England, Scotland, Ireland and America. In 1679 John married Ellen Milner of Burton Grange, near Barnsley, Yorkshire. He was a prisoner in the Fleet prison, London in 1702 and died in Lancaster Gaol in 1719. His body was brought home to Coppull, and was buried in The Friends Burial Ground at Standish.

Roger the second son also became a Quaker evangelist, and was to be imprisoned many times for his beliefs. His longest period of imprisonment was at Lancaster Castle, from the 15th September 1675 to the 13th February 1679. It was said of him, 'He was a man of good appearance in a manly carriage and deportment, that some might mistake him who knew him not. He was a man that had good will for all and I believe it was pleasant for him to be doing good. I heard him say upon occasion, "We have enough, let not the poor want". He was good and out of the treasure of his heart he brought forth good things'.

These are statements made about Roger Haydock by his contemporaries. One of his favourite expressions was 'To walk in truth was better than to talk of truth'. In 1682 he married Eleanor Lowe, and went to live at Warrington. Roger Haydock was a great friend of William Penn, who gave his name to the state of Pennsylvania in America. He was a guest at Williams Penn's marriage to Hannah Callowhill at Bristol in February 1696. He died on the 10th May in the same year and was buried in The Friends Burial Ground at Grayston, near Penketh, Warrington.

In July 1687, Roger Haydock moved from Warrington to Brick Hall at Penketh. He was a Quaker Minister for nearly 25 years, and, as his brother John records, 'Notwithstanding

his imprisonments, sickness and weakness of body and family, he travelled by sea and by land, by computation thirty two thousand, seven hundred and twenty seven miles, and ministered in two thousand, six hundred and nine meetings or churches'.

In 1697 John Haydock wrote a brief account of the life and travels of his brother Roger, and this biography was included in the collection of writings of Roger Haydock, and was published by John Field of London in 1700.

William Haydock, the third brother, was educated at Sidburgh (sic), [Sedbergh?] School and St. John's College, Cambridge. (St. John's was one of the colleges founded by Lady Margaret Beaufort). He entered the ministry of the Church of England and became Rector of Standish in 1678, and served the parish until his death in 1713, a period of 37 years. A brass under the altar at Standish bears the Haydock Coat of Arms (a cross with a Fleur de Lys in the first quarter, and the Haydock crest, a moorhen). The brass tells us that William Haydock gave the altar table and also a singers' gallery.

Very little is known of the fourth brother, Henry. He was baptised at Standish in March 1665/6 and apparently became a merchant in Liverpool.

Robert, the youngest brother was born at Coppull in 1660, and entered the Quaker Ministry when he was 27 years of age. He was married to Eleanor Shaw at Penketh in 1692 and settled at Liverpool where he is described as 'Merchant'. He was said to be a very able Minister and travelled in many parts of the country, and made many preaching visits to London.

Some of the Irish Haydock Quaker families are said to be descended from the Haydocks of Perburn. John Haydock who was Mayor of Belfast in 1640, Roger Haydock, Mayor of the same city in 1720, and Alderman Roger Haydock of Liverpool who died in 1878 claimed descent from the Haydocks of Coppull and bore their arms.

Memorial tablets to the Haydocks in Coppull St John's and Standish St Wilfrid's Churches were the gift of Mr. R.R. Haydock of Milton, Massachusetts, USA and commemorate Lieut. George Haydock of the US forces who was killed in the First World War This American branch of the Haydocks are descendants of the Haydocks of Bogburn Hall.

HESKIN FELL

Heskin Fell of Coppull is described as a Linen Webster or weaver, and is said to have employed a number of servants and apprentices in the weaving trade. His name is said to be derived from the name of a neighbouring hamlet, Heskin.

Heskin Fell was cousin to Judge Fell of Swarthmoor Hall in Cartmell. Judge Fell was married to Margaret Fell, and Swarthmoor Hall was the centre of the Quaker cause. After the death of Judge Fell, Margaret Fell married George Fox, the founder of the Quaker Movement.

Heskin Fell was born in Coppull on July 22nd 1640, and along with Roger Haydock he suffered much imprisonment because of his beliefs. His first imprisonment was at the House of Correction, Manchester, and he was imprisoned at Lancaster Castle with Roger Haydock from 1675 to 1679. On his release, Heskin Fell became a Quaker Minister and preached in Scotland, Ireland and Holland. In later years he suffered from poor health "Being often afflicted with the gravel which caused him to keep much about the house". He died on the 29th February 1720 aged 80 years. His son, Israel Fell, was also a Quaker

Minister who suffered for his beliefs, and his daughter, Rebecca, married James Winstanley who ministered in Cheshire, Yorkshire and the West of England.

THE PRESCOTTS

Alexander Prescott, the son of William Prescott of Coppull became a London goldsmith. In the year 1608 he presented to the Church at Standish a Communion Cup and Cover. The cover when inverted is used as a Paten, and is inscribed 'Holy things for Holy men'. The cup has an inscription from 1 Cor. XI 28.29 the same Alexander Prescott also gave to the Borough of Wigan its earliest insignia of office of the Mayoralty.

In 1631 Richard Prescott died holding a messuage in Coppull being called 'Haltes House'. His daughter, who married Richard Crooke, died in 1637 holding Holt House and lands in Coppull. Holt House can be identified with Holt Farm off Wigan Lane, Coppull.

Descendants of this family later emigrated to Canada, and one member of this family became Governor of Newfoundland. A colliery which used to exist in the vicinity of Holt Farm was named the 'Newfoundland Pit'. Whether it took its name on account of General Prescott's governorship is not known.

It is of interest to note that during the Ecumenical Toronto Conference held in the early 1960s, the recent Bishop of Blackburn (Dr. Claxton) stayed at the home of Miss Grace Prescott, a descendant of this family.

THE DARLINGTON FAMILY

James Darlington was born on the 11th November 1827 at Rigby House Adlington. Rigby House is on Adlington Common and is just off Wigan Lane Coppull.

The father of James Darlington was a Cheshire man, Joseph Darlington, who in 1812 married Margery the daughter of William Fisher of Park Hall Charnock Richard. Their marriage took place at St Wilfrid's Standish.

Joseph Darlington through his influence with the Claytons, the Lords of the Manor at Adlington, was able to provide a church and school at Adlington. St Paul's Church and school, which were built in 1839.

N.B I think Hubert got the above facts wrong. St Paul's church was only consecrated for worship on 24th January 1885. Christ Church was consecrated for worship on the 26th June 1839. St Paul's was built because Christ Church was no longer big enough to accommodate all the inhabitants of Adlington. The school mentioned is Adlington National School.

James Darlington was educated at private schools, and afterwards by a private tutor, the Rev. Henry Worsley Jackson, incumbent at Coppull, 1839.

The Darlington family possessed considerable mining properties in Coppull and Charnock Richard. Welch Whittle Colliery, Blainscough Colliery, John Pit and the Springfield Pit. Mr Darlington's brother-in-law, Mr Alfred Hewlett became one of the foremost authorities on mining in Britain.

In 1845 James Darlington went to reside at Allison Hall Charnock Richard, and whilst living at Charnock Richard used to conduct cottage services, often by the light of a candle or oil lamp.

Largely through his efforts a new school was provided in 1858 and in 1860 a new church was consecrated, Christ's Church. Mr Darlington then set about providing for a vicarage.

In 1861 James Darlington married Frances Radcliffe at the newly consecrated church.

The Radcliffes were of ancient lineage, and the Earls of Sussex and the Earls of Derwent Water were branches of the Radcliffes.

Both Mr and Mrs Darlington were Sunday school teachers and always willing to enlist others into the cause.

In a collection of hymns printed at Rugby in 1885 and entitled 'Hymns selected by the teachers of Charnock Richard Sunday School'. Hymn No. 100 is by James Darlington and the first line is 'Israel's God to thee we raise'.

In 1862 Coppull Old Parish Church was restored by the Darlington family and the tower and chancel were built.

In the late 1860s the Darlington family moved from Charnock Richard to Bedworth in Warwickshire, a county for which James Darlington was later to become High Sheriff but he never forgot Coppull or Charnock Richard. In 1874, together with his brother-in-law Alfred Hewlett, he provided for a new school at Coppull Moor.

On the death of his wife in 1897, James Darlington provided the Alms Houses and private chapel at Charnock Richard. After the death of his wife he left Bourton Hall and took up residence at 'The Hill'. Lutterworth and the tradition of Darlington hospitality was carried on at Lutterworth.

Whilst in the Midlands, James Darlington continued building and restoring churches and many other worthy projects were the result of his benefactions. The crowning glory of a long life, and he was 84 when he started the scheme, was the building of the Church of St. John the Divine, Coppull. Again his co-donor in this enterprise was Mr. Alfred Hewlett. Not only did they provide a handsome building but they also provided the necessary equipment for Church work and Divine worship, bells, organ, plate etc;

Coppull St John's was one of the last of the great neo-gothic churches. A church built in the Edwardian period but built in the Victorian tradition.

James Darlington died on the 17th February 1918 in his 91st year. It was said of him, that he was great-hearted, open-handed, genial and courteous, and was accessible to anyone. It is also said of him that, like King David, he would not offer to the Lord that which cost him nothing.

ALFRED HEWLETT

Alfred Hewlett was a well known figure in the mining world, being a director of the Wigan Coal and Iron Company.

He was also a keen educationalist. In 1874 he joined with James Darlington in the giving of a new school at Coppull Moor.

As the chairman of the governors of the Wigan Mining and Mechanical School (founded 1858), in 1879, to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, he originated the idea of making the school into a college. The Wigan Mining and Technical College.

He was made a Freeman of Wigan in 1901.

Before moving to Haseley Manor Warwickshire, the Hewletts lived at The Grange on Coppull Moor.

METHODISM

Methodism was late in coming to Coppull, although the village had a strong non-conformist tradition.

A Preston local preacher, Mr Hodson, who was a traveller in tea, called at the home of Mr and Mrs John Eastham one day in 1845 and was invited to preach at Coppull. Services were held at Pear Tree Farm, Clancutt Lane. Progress was slow but gradually a congregation was built up and a Sunday school was begun by a Miss Taylor of Wheelton. The first Sunday school anniversary being held in Mr Joseph Ellis's barn.

Joseph Agar Beet, who had come to Coppull to learn mine management, took part in these services and was later to enter the Ministry and become one of the leading theologians of his day.

In 1859 a Chapel was built in Chapel Lane near the entrance to the Horsenuts footpath, which is still called Chapel Yard. A choir was formed by Mr Henry Eastham and the singing was accompanied by Joseph Mellors on his bass fiddle. This instrument was later replaced by a harmonium which Mr Ben Ellis used to carry from his home every Sunday. On the 11th July 1902 the foundation stone of the present building was laid and the Chapel was opened on Good Friday 1903.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS

The Primitive Methodists also opened a new chapel on Preston Road in 1903. Services had first started at the home of a member who lived in Preston Road and later transferred to a house in Spendmore Lane. Increasing numbers compelled the congregation to seek new premises and Mr Frank Smallshaw offered the use of a storeroom over his shop in Spendmore Lane. Services were held in this room until the new chapel was opened

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

Although Coppull had always had a proportion of Roman Catholic families, up to the beginning of the 20th century any person of that faith had either to walk to St Gregory's at Weld Bank or St Marie's at Standish. In the early 1900s a Roman Catholic day school, St Oswald's was built on Spendmore Lane and church services were held in the classrooms.

Largely due to the efforts of Father Thomas Clarkson (then curate priest at Weld Bank); the Church of St Oswald was built in 1927. The architecture of the Church is of pleasing

design and Byzantine in style. The architect is said to be the same person who designed Coppull St John's, Dudley Newman of Westminster.

COPPULL BAND

The Coppull Band was originally founded in 1888 by public subscription. One of the founder members, Mr William Rodgers of 'The Grange' Coppull, later became Mayor of Wigan and the Coppull Band had the honour of leading the Mayoral procession.

Mr Tom Jolly was the first conductor; the place of rehearsal was at the old brick croft on the Cow Moss Estate.

Later a Band Room was built in Moss Lane (what is now Dickinson Bros. Builders Merchants) and this Public Hall was the centre of many village activities, dances and concerts etc;

Before St John's church was built, Sunday evening services were held in the band room, the morning service being held at Coppull Moor School.

Soon after its formation the Coppull Band was entering contests and in the early 1900s came second to Black Dyke Mills at Dumfries.

The late 'Billy' Halliwell had his first success with Coppull Band and on the strength of this; he would tutor the band for a nominal fee whenever they were preparing for a contest.

Coppull Band is still a subscription band and since its formation has had its ups and its downs. The band has had its fat years and it has also had its lean years, but the band is still in existence, still providing a useful amenity for the village.

INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

PLACE NAME MEANING

BIRKACRE The field where the Birch trees grow

BURGH Fortified Place

CHARNOCK Is a Celtic name. The first element is derived from the old Welsh 'Caer' meaning fortified place.

YARROW River names are usually Celtic in origin. 'Yarrow' is derived from the old Welsh 'Garriano meaning Rough River. This corresponds to the Gaelic 'Garbh Abh' which means the same.

Coppull is a village with a long industrial tradition. Agriculture has played and still plays an important part in the economic life of the area.

Deed No. 2 in the Calendar of Standish Deeds dated c1240 is a grant of land from Richard de Chernock (as pronounced in dialect) to William de Worthington who had married Elene de Charnock, sister of the above named Richard. In this grant, Richard gives a house called Birkaker and a piece of land beginning in the middle of the stream of

Culmariclough. (That is the old name of the little stream which joins the Yarrow at Plymouth Cottages, near Plymouth Bridge at the bottom of Dob Brow and Butterworth Brow), following the said clough, (the little valley which runs by Lower Burgh) to the Wetelache (Wet Lake) which can be identified with Plock Farm on Chorley Moor, following this lache, (Burgh Lodge) as far as Burgsclough, (the little valley at Burgh) and by it to the middle of the stream at Yarrow, that is, down at the Coppull/Chorley boundary, which runs through the big lodge at Birkacre. Before the lodges were made this was a stream) and so to Culmariclough as first named. To hold of me and mine heirs, freely and quietly, peaceably and honourably with all liberties etc; and with common of pasture for all their animals and men residing upon the said tenement, with wood for building and burning and fencing, for all their tenants in all the woods in the vill of Chorlea. And with 12 cows and all their young for 5 years, and six mares and all their young for 4 years, and with 3 swine and all their young for 3 years, and with Hawk and Hive, and mill and all other easements. Moreover I have granted to all men dwelling upon the land of Birkaker acquittance of pannage for all their pigs, and common in the woods of Chorlea.

Rent, a grain of pepper at the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, for all services.

The witnesses to this document were Thomas de Brindle, Peter his son, Wavine de Walton, Henry de Langtree, Adam de Duxbury, Richard de Adlington, John de Coppull and Adam the Clerk.

In other words, Richard de Charnock who was Lord of Chorley had set up his sister and his brother-in-law as farmers. Lower Burgh is said to be the second oldest farm in Lancashire.

The brother-in-law, William de Worthington would probably be a younger son of the Worthingtons of Worthington, and would have no inheritance of his own.

This deed makes the first mention of a mill at Birkacre.

After the death of Robert de Burgh in 1423, and having no male heir, the estate of Burgh descended to the three daughters of Robert Burgh. The estate was divided into three parts, 'Thridings'. A quit rent of 6d being due to Henry Charnock.

Burgh passed to Ellen wife of Ralph Molyneux (alias Ugnall) of Coppull.

Birkacre went to Margaret wife of Richard Ashton and the third part represented by Lower Burgh went to Alice wife of James Standish of Arley. Lower Burgh later passed to the Standish's of Standish and from them to the Crooke family of Coppull.

In 1561 Burgh was bought by Alexander Rigby of Arley.

Dr Kuerden in 1690 mentions "Two halls called Burgh one belonging to Alexander Rigby and the other to Justice Crooke".

At the time of the division of the Burgh estate in 1423 a Walk Mill was mentioned. This name suggests that a textile trade was being carried on at Birkacre at this time.

As was seen earlier Heskin Fell was in business as a linen weaver in the middle of the 17th century.

Even earlier in 1336 John de Coppull had granted power to Robert de Burgh “to raise and make an attachment to his mill so that Robert may turn the course of the water of Yarroo”.

John Chadwick bought the estate of Burgh and Birkacre in 1727. At this time there was an iron working industry in the Birkacre Valley. This consisted of two forges and a slitting mill. The forges were named High and Lower Forge and the slitting mill was for the making of iron bars.

The machinery for these iron works would be driven by water power. The water wheel at Lower Forge was in use until the early 1900s. Lower Forge had been incorporated in the mechanics shop at the Birkacre works, and if any work was required to be done when the main steam engine was not working, then the water wheel would be used as an auxiliary power to work the lathes, milling machines or other machinery in the mechanics shop.

John Chadwick, who had taken over the industry at Birkacre, was a man who today would be called an entrepreneur, or a tycoon. He was a man who had a finger in all sorts of enterprises. Coal, Mines, Textiles, Agriculture. He even had a number of ships sailing out of Liverpool, probably exporting the results of his enterprise.

On the 29th November 1777, Richard Arkwright together with his partners, Thomas Walshman, Jedediah Strutt, Samuel Need and John Cross, leased the newly erected spinning mill at Birkacre from John Chadwick, together with High and Lower Forge, a corn mill, Grimes coal pit, Cottages, outbuildings and land, at a lease of £150 per annum.

Birkacre was one of the first purpose built manufactories, or factories, to be built in Lancashire, and it was said to employ over 400 people.

On the 4th October 1779 the Mill was destroyed by rioters. An account of this can be found in the Annual Register dated 9th October 1779.

Josiah Wedgwood the famous potter, who was in the vicinity of Birkacre on that day, in a letter dated 4.10.1779 had this to say:-

“On the same day (Saturday) in the afternoon, a capital engine or mill in the manner of Arcrite’s and in which he is a partner, near Chorley, was attacked; but from its peculiar situation they could approach by one passage only, and this circumstance enabled the owner with the assistance of a few neighbours to repulse the enemy, and to preserve the mill for that time. Two of the mob were shot dead upon the spot, one drowned and several wounded. The mob had no firearms and did not expect so warm a reception. They were greatly exasperated and vowed revenge. Accordingly they spent all Sunday and Monday morning collecting firearms and ammunition, and melting their pewter dishes into bullets. They were now joined by the Duke of Bridgewater’s colliers to the number we are told of 8000 men, and marched by beat of drum and colours flying to the mill where they met with a repulse on Saturday. They found Sir Richard Clayton guarding the place with 50 invalids (Army pensioners) armed; but this handful were by no means a match for enraged thousands and contented themselves with looking on whilst the mob completely destroyed a set of mills valued at £10,000”.

In the House of Commons the damage was estimated at £4,400 and the mill was said to be the largest of 10 burned at this period.

The riots at Birkacre were introduced into a play which was going round the theatres in 1874 and the play was called 'Arkwright's Wife'. (Francis Espinasse, Lancashire Worthies page 466).

In 1781 a new mill was built by Edward Chadwick, brother of John, who was now dead; and the buildings were leased to four partners for 21 years. The partners were Joseph Bolton, Joseph Mort, John Mort and William Croft and they were engaged in the trade of cloth dyeing and finishing. This business failed in 1782 and Wheelers Manchester Chronicle dated 12th October 1782, advertises the sale of the leasehold rights in Birkacre, House, Printing shops etc., the sale of machinery, wheels, calendars, printing tables, also the sale of bleaching equipment, Madder, Vitriol etc;

John Mellor was finishing cloth at Birkacre in 1790 and on his death in 1828 he was found to be insolvent and the creditors sold the machinery up.

In the year 1831 the lease was taken up by the Block Printers Union and worked for about two years under the management of Ellis Piggot, the secretary of the Union. These producer co-operatives date back to the latter part of the 18th century, and about 1830 to 1832 there were over 100 of these producer co-operatives in existence, of which, Birkacre was one. The distributor co-operatives began with the Rochdale Pioneers at Toad Lane (T'owd Lone) in 1844.

In 1842 the name of the firm at Birkacre is given as Caleb Dawson and Co.

Mr John Thom joined Birkacre Company in 1852 and the name of the firm was McNaughton, Potter and Co. Mr Thom was reputed to be a fine chemist and is said to have invented a method of extracting oil from shale. The result of this invention was the building of the Coppull Oil Works which were situated on the West Bank of the Yarrow about 100 yards upstream from the Birkacre Works. The site of the Coppull Oil Works is still known as 'The Oil Field'. The oil works closed down sometime between 1870 and 1880.

Birkacre Mills went under the name, McNaughton, Thom and Co. in 1874 and on the death of Mr Thom the business was carried on by his sons. The Calico Printers took over the printing side of the business in 1899 and two years later the Bleachers Association took over the bleaching side.

During the depression of the 1930s, these firms closed Birkacre down, and since that time the buildings were used by the Ministry of Supply and other firms for storage purposes. The buildings were finally demolished during the 1960s.

From the burning of Arkwright's mill in 1779 to the building of The Ring and Mavis Mills in 1906 and 1908, no cotton spinning was carried on in this village.

Hand loom weaving had been carried on in the village from an early time. The last house in Coppull where hand loom weaving was done was Fiddlers Nook Farm in Jolly Tar Lane.

Power loom weaving has never been attempted in Coppull.

Being primarily a mining village, in Coppull, coal was king.

John Halliwell who was mining coal in Coppull and Charnock Richard in 1722 mentions in his journal that the Bone and Yard seams crop out in the bed of the River Yarrow and this outcrop of coal can still be seen in the bed of the Yarrow today.

The ease with which the coal could be got in the Whetstone and Birkacre valleys probably means that coal mining was carried on at a very early date.

The earliest written evidence relating to the Wigan coalfield concerning coal is a Shevington deed of 1350 when the rights of 'Fyrstone' (firestone) and secole (sea coal) are reserved. About the same time coal was being mined at Haigh Hall.

John Halliwell also states that 'Nicholas Heskin was getting cannel in the Lane in 1590', the place indicated being near Welch Whittle Mill. In a deed of 1620 concerning the sale of lands at Coppull and Charnock Richard, the mineral rights of coal and cannel are reserved.

In 1728 Halliwell was using a water wheel on the Syd brook (the brook which runs through Chisnall Wood and Welch Whittle) and he was using this water wheel to pump out the water from his pit in that area. The baskets of coal were drawn up the pit by a horse drawn whim gin.

He also mentions the pit of Ralph Lowe, near Park Hall Charnock Richard which was 72 yards deep and the horse went round 4½ times to draw up a basket of coal.

The 'Deep Hole' pit near the Syd brook at Chisnall was shown as disused on the 1846 Ordnance survey map. The shaft of this pit was about 6 to 8 feet wide and was lined with dry stone walling, which gives an indication of an 18th century origin. It may have been one of the pits where John Halliwell carried out his mining operations. The local name given to the field where the pit was situated is 'Burn Flat'. This shaft was filled in, in 1966.

There were said to have been 18 coal mines in the Birkacre and Whetstone valleys, and John Halliwell remarks on the excellent quality of the coal from Burgh and Birkacre. Some of the names of these pits are still known to us, Drybones, Grimes, Ellerbeck, Burgh brick and coal, Duxbury Park, Birkacre, Coppull Hall, but the names of others have been lost.

A gravestone in Coppull churchyard recalls an explosion of fire damp which took place at Coppull Hall Colliery on the 20th May 1852 and in which 36 men lost their lives.

It was also at this colliery that Timothy Hackworth's locomotive 'Sans Pareil' which took part in the Rainhill trials of 1829, finished up its useful working life. From 1849 to 1844 (sic) [1854]? it was used as a pumping engine at Coppull. Later the engine was used to haul coal wagons on a mineral railway which ran from the Coppull Hall Colliery to join the main line at Clancutt.

The engine was taken from Coppull and placed in the Science Museum at South Kensington, where it can still be seen today.

The years between 1850 and 1892 saw the sinking of a number of deep mine shafts. John Pit, Springfield Pit, Blainscough, Hic-Bibi, Darlingtons, Ellerbeck, Birkacre, Pearson & Knowles, (later named the Wigan Coal & Iron and later still the Chisnall Hall Colliery).

Over the years these mines gradually became worked out. It is on record that there were over a thousand coal mines in the Wigan coal field. Today there are none, the last pit to be closed in this extensive coal field was Chisnall Hall Colliery at Coppull.

The closing of Chisnall Hall Colliery marked the end of an era. To commemorate this occasion, a special service was held in the Church of St John the Divine, Coppull. A replica of a pit head winding wheel, together with a miner's safety lamp, the gift of the management and workers at Chisnall Hall Colliery, was dedicated and is used as a Sanctuary Lamp (now electrified).

Owing to the subsoil of Coppull being chiefly clay, brick making has played its part in the economy of the village. Traces of early brick making can be found in a field off Coppull Hall Lane. The name Burgh Brick and Coal is evidence of this industry, also the name Brickcroft still survives for a piece of land situated between Mavis Drive and Mill Lane. There was also a Brickcroft near the 'Spy bank' a corruption of 'Spile Bank' or 'Spoil Bank'. Bricks were also made at Hic-Bibi until well after the Second World War

Messrs. Harrison's were also making bricks at Coppull Moor up to a few years ago. The brick works at Coppull Moor were started by Mr Platt who lived at Hawthorn House in Coppull Moor Lane. The kilns were built to a Continental pattern and Dutch or German engineers were brought over to Coppull to supervise the construction.

Apart from the basic industries of the village, there were also a number of ancillary crafts which were essential to the main industries. Blacksmiths, wheelwrights, coach and body builders, building contractors and so on.

An agreement dated 16th May 1678, gives consent to Edward Prescott of Coppull, blacksmith, 'To build and arrecte one Bay of Building adjoining to his smithy in Coppull Moore, after the arrecting of the same, to become tenant upon reasonable consideracion'. This agreement is between Edward Prescott and F. Rigby and is witnessed by William Standish and Thomas Worthington.

There was a smithy on Coppull Moor up to the end of the 19th century, when the smithy was converted into a pair of dwelling houses. The houses being numbered 321 and 323 Preston Road and the house numbered 325, which was a narrow brick house sandwiched between 323 and the stone row was probably the extension to the smithy made in 1678. No 325 has now been pulled down. Preston Road was one of the earliest turnpikes in Lancashire and this road had replaced the old Roman Road at Hic-Bibi, which had been in use up to Commonwealth times. At this time, 1678, the Industrial Revolution was beginning to get under way and there would be an increase in traffic along the turnpike. This would probably have meant more work for the blacksmiths, hence the extension to his smithy.

In this area near the smithy, there was a small complex of industry. To the rear of the smithy was a wheelwright's shop, together with a saw pit, the wheelwright living at No. 5 Glovers Cottages. Numbers 3 and 4 Glovers Cottages were a hand loom weaving shop and providing warehouse facilities for the 'Putter-Out of Pieces'. The 'putter-out' would buy the yarn and this would be woven in the weavers own homes, the putter-out paying the weaver a contract price for his work. The putter-out would then sell the woven goods and take his profit on the transaction. The stone houses on Preston Road, which were pulled down about twenty years ago, were hand loom weavers cottages and the occupants of these cottages would provide the workforce for the putter-out of pieces.

There were other smithies in Coppull. One was at the top of Sunny Brow on Chapel Lane. Another stood on the triangular piece of ground at the junction of Mill Lane, Kimberley Street and Regent Street. This smithy was the camping place for the men who lived in that part of the village, and many questions regarding politics, religion or sport were settled by the men sitting on the workbench. If Jack the blacksmith or Luke his striker wished to clear the smithy, then they would send the red hot sparks flying in the direction of the bench.

In an industrial village there was always a background noise. The rattle of clog-irons on the pavement, whistles blowing starting or finishing times. The mid-morning or early evening whistles were known as the 'jackbit' whistles. Jackbit was the term used for the meal break. There was the shunting of the coal wagons as they were brought along the various mineral railways to the sidings on the main line. This cacophony of background noise let people know that work was taking place, and life was being lived.

EDUCATION

The first mention of a school in Coppull was a building in the North East corner of the Black Field. The Black Field is on the East side of Coppull Old Parish church. The North East corner of this field was known as School Croft. In 1812 it was on lease to James Ainscough and 30 years later, the lessee is Edward Calderbank.

In 1816 it was stated that, 'A Sunday School has been established in this Chapelry containing 200 children who cannot conveniently be accommodated with seats in the Chapel'.

Another school was kept by James Longworth in a cottage at Millstone Platt. There was also a Dame School at number 6 Glovers Cottages, Coppull Moor.

A National School was built in 1817 when the Rev. Joseph Taylor was incumbent at Coppull. Before coming to Coppull the Rev. Taylor was headmaster at Eccleston. At the same time, the Rev. Richard Perryn was Rector at Standish. Richard Perryn was a great believer in education, having influenced quite a number of schools throughout the townships of the Parish of Standish.

THE ORAL TRADITION

Some local traditions persist, which have been handed down by word of mouth from one generation to the next and for which, no documentary evidence can be found. Local field names, names by which footpaths are known, e.g. Taylors footpath. The footpath between Blainscough Hall and Taylors Farm on Spendmore Lane. The 'Revenue' footpath near Tunley Chapel at Chisnall. Netherley Fields footpath between Blainscough and Coppull Moor Lane. Platt Fields between Chapel Lane and the railway subway. One hundred and fifty years ago, Ivy House on Spendmore Lane was known as Todd's.

Local tradition has it that the name Hic-Bibi was given to the well of that name by Oliver Cromwell. Hic-Bibi well was one of three Holy Wells in the 'Layland Hundred' and the name Hic-Bibi means 'Drink Here'. Seeing that the land surrounding the well was Monastic land, it is most likely that the Latin name was given by the Monks. There would probably have been some notice by the well to inform travellers on this ancient highway that the water was fit to drink.

Dark Lane bridge on the boundary between Coppull and Standish has the reputation of being haunted by 'Pongi', a big black dog with eyes as big as saucers, and should you ever set eyes on this dog then your number is up, for this is the big black dog of Satan. Our ancestors were superstitious people, and even today a lot of people 'touch wood'. Touching wood is a survival of the old habit of placating the ancient Pagan Gods of the woodlands, should you make a promise to yourself which you may not be able to keep.

The land adjoining 'Pongi' bridge was also part of these monastic lands, and, at the dissolution of the monasteries the monks put out the stories of these hauntings to keep people away, because they fully expected to be back in possession. The Grange is in this area, and the monks would not want anybody else taking over. The monks never came back, but the superstition lingers on.

Another house which had the reputation of being haunted was on the edge of the wood at Burgh. In this house, now completely demolished, a duel is said to have taken place between a Royalist and a Parliamentary soldier during the Civil War. The haunting is supposed to be a ghostly re-enactment of the fight.

The name 'Gibbet Hey' was known to old inhabitants as that part of Preston Road coming from Barkers Bridge on the Coppull/Charnock Richard boundary towards The Oak Tree. 'Ye Olde Oak Tree' is supposed to get its name from the fact that the hanging tree used to be at Gibbet Hey. A story is told that Thomas Stanley, Lord of the Manor at Coppull, was riding past one day in company with friends, and seven dead men were hanging from the tree. One of the company remarked on this to Sir Thomas and he is said to have replied, "Oh aye it's been a good harvest this year".

On moonlit heath and lonesome bank,
The sheep beside me graze.
An' yon the gallows used to clank
Fast by the four crossways.

A careless shepherd once would keep
The flocks by moonlight there,
And high amongst the glimmering sheep,
The dead man stood on air.

These two verses are from a poem by A. E. Houseman, and hanging in chains was called "Keeping sheep by moonlight"

Life was not always so grim in the village; life had its light moments.

Other stories could be told.

Some day Some other time