BOLTON of SEFTON

On 15 June 1761 Henry Aspinwall (1740—after 1786), a husbandman of Melling township in the south-west Lancashire parish of Halsallwas married at Melling chapel by banns to Ellen Bolton, daughter of Anthony Bolton of Melling and sister of Henry's brother-in-law John Bolton.

The earliest Bolton traced in the direct line seems to be Ellen's great-great-grandfather Richard Boulton of Sefton (died 1653/4), whose oldest surviving son was Nicholas Bolton of Sefton (1623/4--?1672)

Origins

This Bolton family seems first to occur in Sefton parish (perhaps at Litherland) in the late sixteenth century. The name seems to be locative, from one of the many places so named.[1]

Richard Bolton and Catherine

In 1593—1594 Richard Bolton of Sefton was presented as a recusant and in 1594—1596 (together with Nicholas Bolton, Richard was a Sefton lessee.[2]

In 1604 one Richard Bolton was presented at Sefton for secret marriage to Eleanor.[3]

Richard Boulton of Sefton, husbandman, who was perhaps the father of Margaret (baptised at Sefton 29 April 1616); Robert (22 July 1618); John (31 January 1620); **Nicholaus (21 February 1623/4)**; Richard (16 March 1626/7); Ann (2 March 1632/3); and **Anthony (2 March 1635/6).** John and Henry, sons of Richard Bolton of Sefton were buried there on 11 August 1641 and 6 November 1656.

It was doubtless Richard senior who was buried at Sefton on 7 March 1653/4 and his wife was probably the Catherin Boulton buried there on 14 May 1656.

Nicholas Bolton and Katherine

Nicholas, son of Richard Bolton of Sefton was born in 1623/4 and was married to Katherine, perhaps *c.* 1645–6, when the Sefton registers were neglected.

Nicholas' father Richard died in 1653/4 and on 20 December 1654 a new lease of a messuage in Sefton and Altcar lately occupied by 'Richard Boulton of Sefton, husbandman, deceased' was made to Nicholas Bolton of Sefton, husbandman by the lives of Nicholas and Katherine his wife and the old lease surrendered.[4]

Nicholas seems to have had sons Richard and Nicholas (baptised at Sefton on 5 November 1654 and 11 July 1658) and Robert: he may also have been the father of Ellen (buried 10 August 1667). Robert Bolton of Thornton was buried at Sefton on 13 December 1708. *[Another Robert Bolton of Lydiate was buried at Sefton on 7 October 1690].*

The hearth tax returns show Nicholas Bolton at Sefton with two hearths in 1662 and **1666.**[5]

Nicholas Boulton of Sefton (whether father or son) was buried there on 19 February 1672.[6]

Richard Boulton of Sefton was buried there 12 October 1698: administration (with an inventory appraised on 25 October) was granted to his wife Catherine. Caterine Boulton, widow [of Richard] of Windles Green, Sefton made her will on 14 November 1698, bequeathing 6d to her daughter-in-law Caterine Boulton, 1s to the wife and children of her son Nicholas and 1s to her son Robert. The sole executrix was to be her granddaughter Ellen Ackers, daughter of James Ackers: to Ellen she left 'all the residue, she being my support in my destress and misrey' . Administration was granted on 14 December 1699 to James Ackers, Ellen being in the West Indies.[7]

Anthony Bolton senior of Melling (died 1707)

In 1704 Anthony Bolton of Cunscough, Melling took a lease from the Ince Blundell estate of New Close on Melling Moor. The lives were those of his son John (baptised 28 December 1699) and Anthoney Boulton (baptised at Sefton, 2 June 1700), son of his 'brother' Robert.[8] [We shall see that this must surely mean 'nephew'].

On 27 February 1706/7 Anthony, senior made his will as an 'aged' yeoman of Melling. He required his executors to add new lives to the lease of his part of Melling Moor from among the children of his 'nephew' Robert (except Anthony) and those of his brother Richard and sister Ann Landsdale. He also left £3 for a school in Melling. An inventory was appraised by George Bradley, yeoman of Melling.

Anthony, junior is described as his 'godson', as son of his nephew Robert and 'grandson of my brother Nicholas Bolton'. It thus seems clear that this Anthony, senior was the son of Richard Boulton of Sefton, baptised there on 2 March 1635/6.

It may be that he made an earlier marriage and that his wife and any children died. It certainly seems that it was Anthony ('of Barton, yeoman') who took out a licence on 5 February 1697 to marry Elizabeth Pye, an Aughton spinster.[9] The marriage eventually took place at Aughton on 13 July 1697, when Anthony was c. 61. Their children Ann and John were baptised at Melling on 21 November 1698 and 28 December 1699. Anthony's wife Elizabeth died in 1700 and was buried at Melling on 27 July. Their daughter Ann was buried on 16 August 1700.

Anthony, senior died in 1707 and was buried at Melling on 2 April leaving his only child John a 7-year-old orphan. John was apprenticed in 1714 to Samuel Parr, an Ormskirk mercer.[10]

Anthony Bolton and Ann

Anthony Bolton was baptised at Sefton on 2 June 1700, a son of Robert Bolton (nephew of Anthony, senior). He was cited as a life in the lease of Melling Moor taken in 1704 by Anthony, senior.

Anthony married Ann by 1730 and as a yeoman of Melling had children baptised there: Thomas (28 February 1730/1 to 22 December 1747); ?John (*c.* 1732–1804); Mary (18 February 1732/3); Robert (16 March 1734/5); Ellin (14 August 1737–12 May 1740); Ellin (5 April 1741); and Michall (4 September 1743).

Of these, John (a husbandman, who was buried as a yeoman on 31 March 1804) married Elizabeth Aspinwall (buried 12 January 1779) at Melling on 2 January 1759, with Daniel Aspinwall and Joseph Ratliff as witnesses; Mary Bolton (spinster, Halsall) married James Prescot, a Burscough shoemaker at Ormskirk on 13 October 1751; Robert (a wheelwright) married Mary Blakeley, spinster at Melling on 11 August 1760, with Henry Aspinwall as a witness; Ellin married Henry Aspinwall in 1761. A third daughter married William Hunt.

There was a lease to Anthony Bolton of Melling, yeoman on 8 May 1735.[11]

In **1732** Thomas Fowler of Great Crosby, yeoman bequeathed 20s to each of the children of Anthony Bolton.[12]

Ellen Bolton and Henry Aspinwall

Ellin Bolton was baptised at Melling on 5 April 1741, 'daughter of Anthony Bolton of Melling, yeoman'. On 15 June 1761 Ellin married Henry Aspinwall (brother of her brother John's wife Elizabeth) by banns at Melling.

Deaths of Anthony and Anne Bolton

The township accounts of Sefton, Netherton and Lunt record a payment of 2s to 'Anthony Bolton's wife' on 10 April 1751.[13]

'Anne, wife of Anthony Bolton, yeoman of Melling' was buried there on 6 November 1761.

[On 19 September 1759 there was an order for the maintenance of Edward, bastard son of Anthony Bolton, husbandman and Jane Tyrer.[14] On 11 July 1761 Anthony Boulton, shoemaker married Jane Woods, spinster by licence at Sefton.[15] 'Matthew, daughter [sic] *of Anthony and Jane Bolton was baptised at Maghull on 24 July 1763.]*

Anthony Bolton appears as a leaseholder at Melling in 1763–71.[16] and 1767.[17] In 1769 a survey of the Molyneux estate shows Anthony holding Jump Butts Heys at Melling.[18] On 20 February 1771 Anthony Boulton of Thornton witnessed the will of William Abraham of Thornton.

On 11 July 1780 Anthony Bolton and James Aspinwall, yeomen of Melling and the fathers of Ellen and Henry Aspinwall were served with an order by the quarter sessions at Lancaster and the overseers of the poor for Lathom, requiring them to support their grandchildren Margaret (*c.* 9), Michael (*c.* 7), Alice (*c.* 5) and Henry Aspinwall (*c.* 2), who were 'poor persons and by reason of their infancy ... not able to work and are now chargeable' to Lathom township. Each was to pay 2s per week.[19]

On 19 June Henry Aspinwall had been committed to prison. The gaol delivery list carries the entry 'run away and left his wife and children chargeable to the township of Lathom'. At first Bolton and Aspinwall refused to pay and another order was made at the sessions in Ormskirk on 17 July. Anthony Bolton's payment was 'mitigated' to 8d per week and James Aspinwall was discharged at the end of the sessions.[20] It is clear that Anthony and James were living only 20 minutes away from one another.[21]

In April 1783 Anthony, son of Anthony Bolton 'starved to death in a watercourse in the night at Melling': he was buried on 25 April.[22]

Anthony Bolton made his will on 5 September 1786, leaving his Melling lands to his son John for life and then to his grandson Thomas. There was to be £10 for his son Robert and 1s each to his sons-in-law Henry Aspinwall, William Hunt and James Prescot: the executors were to be Anthony's son John, Curate Tatlock of West Derby and James Langton of Lydiate.[23]

The 1787 land tax returns show Anthony paying £1 7s 9d for his own land (for which [his son] John paid the identical tax in 1790.[24] The 1822 return suggests that the Bolton property was next to that of Henry Ledson at Spencers' farm.[25]

'Anthony Bolton, husbandman, Melling' died in 1788 [aged 88] and was buried there on 2 May. His will was proved on 13 May.

Anthony's son John Bolton

Anthony Bolton's son John (*c.* 1732-1804) occurs as a Melling freeholder in 1792 ('60') and 1799 ('67') and Anthony's son Robert in 1792 ('55').[26] The 1797 Molyneux estate survey shows Jump Butts Heys (his father's former holding) leased to John.[27] John Bolton, yeoman made his will on 26 February 1803: he left his Melling messuage held under Bootle of Lathom to his sons William, Michael, Nicholas, William, James and John and his daughter Peggy, wife of William Barnes of Melling. John's son William and daughter Peggy were to be executors and the witnesses were George Rowe, Edward ?Deare and Edward ? Elliott.

John died at Melling in 1804 and was buried there on 31 March: his estate was sworn under £100 and the will was proved on 2 February 1805. John's sons continued to farm in Melling.

Anthony Bolton, husbandman and Ellen Langton, spinster were married at Melling after banns on 8 December 1788. James Bolton, husbandman and Margaret Barnes were married at Melling by licence on 20 June 1790.

Antoney and Thomas, sons of Antoney Bolton, labourer were buried at Melling on 11 and 24 March 1808 and Catrine, daughter of James Bolton, a Maghull farmer on 3 June 1808. On 10 December 1816 John Bolton, farmer married Mary x Rawlinson, spinster at Melling after banns.

T.M. Steel
(last revised 31/05/10)

COPIES IN AUTHOR'S COLLECTION

Will: Anthony Bolton, 1707
'Papists' Estates' (98), pp. 142--143
Land Tax returns, Melling: 1781 & 1790

OTHER NOTES

The location of the Bolton family property may be deduced from the census returns. In 1841 Anthony Bolton (born at Melling in *c.* 1814) was a shoemaker next to Melling House Farm on the Waddicar side: his son Anthony was bap. Melling 28 May 1842.[28] Anthony Bolton at Bank Farm, Kirkby in 1851 (37) was born at Melling (*c.* 1814). The 1846 rate book describes this as Cunscough Lane. In 1851 John Bolton (born *c.* 1809) was an agricultural labourer next to Spencers Farm. In 1871 John Bolton (born 1823) was a railway labourer at Waddicar Lane.
One Nicholas Boulton was parish clerk of Walton on 25 February 1649: J. Brownbill, 'Royalist Composition Papers, VI, ii', *R.S.L.C.*, 95 (1941).
In 1755 Anthony Bolton was paying 7s to the Molyneux estate for 'part Bartons': L.R.O., DDM 12/49.
In 1718 at Litherland Nicholas Bolton was paying 10s 7d and 1s 3d marsh rent: L.R.O., DDM 12/45. In the same year freeholders at Litherland included William Bolton, senior and junior.
Richard Bolton of Downlitherland and Richard, William and Henry his sons were *fl.* **?:** DDM/38/82
In 1725 there was lease of Carr Meadow in Ford to Nicholas Bolton of Litherland, by the lives of his son Henry and others (in exchange for a life): L.R.O., DDM 38/118.
In 1679 Robert Bolton of Downlitherland, cooper had a son William; a daughter Ellen Fairclough of Netherton; a son Thomas and a daughter Alice Bolton.
John Bolton was paying land tax at Melling in 1781 and 1790.
John, son of Anthony Bolton of Aintree (Sefton) was born c. 1776 and buried at Sefton in 1784.
John Bolton of Thornton was buried at Sefton in 1791.
Amongst the Molyneux papists' estates in 1717 were those at Downlitherland (Maghull), to William Bolton by the lives of Alice Bolton and others (p. 142); at Downlitherland and Lunt to Nicholas Bolton by the lives of Henry Bolton and others (p. 143); and at Downlitherland to Richard Bolton by the lives of William Bolton and his brother Henry, tenanted by William Bolton (p. 143).
On 23 October 1689 Anthony Bolton appraised the inventory of Margrett Evanson of Sefton.
In 1613 Nicholas Bolton of Much Woolton made a deposition: C.R.O., DRCh
In 1625 there was a marriage licence for Nicholas Bolton and Letitia at Walton.
There was a licence 1613 for Robert Bolton of Walton and Jane Mercer (marriage at Childwall).

[1] C.W. Bardsley, *A Dictionary of English & Welsh Surnames* (London, 1901), p. 116; P.H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of British Surnames* (London, 1976), p. 40
[2] Roll 2 [61], *Catholic Record Society* [hereafter *C.R.S.*], 57 (1965) & rot. 11 [4], *C.R.S.*, 61 (1970)
[3] **Cheshire Record Office**
[4] Lancashire Record Office [hereafter L.R.O.], DDM 19/54
[5] One Richd Boulton also had a hearth at Thornton & one at Litherland: the National Archives [hereafter T.N.A.], E 179/250/**? [see also /8 & /11 (1663 & 1664)]**
[6] Nicholas Boulton of W. Derby was bur. Sefton 3 Sept. 1728 (admin.); Nick. Boulton of Litherland was bur. there 1 Jul. 1729. Richd Bolton of Litherland was bur. Sefton 14 Oct. 1670; Richd Boulton of Ince Blundell 4 Feb. 1671/2 & 15 Dec. 1686; Robt Bolton of Sef. was *fl.* 1681, 1683 & 1693; Robt of Thornton 1685 & 1695 (d. 1708*)*
[7] Wits Diana x Brugell & Jn Jackson. For wills, inventories & administrations to 1858: L.R.O., WCW/[name]/[place]/[year]
[8] L.R.O., DDIn/59/23 (Melling with Cunscough leases)
[9] Bondsman Joshua Cooper. For m. lic. allegations & bonds: C.R.O., EDC/8/[name]/[year]
[10] Also *fl.* Melling at this time was Jn Boulton, whose children were bap. there: Wm (5 Jul. 1695); Margt & Mary (22 Aug. 1697), Mary (22 Oct. 1699). The first Mary 'dau. of Jn Boulton, husbandman' was bur. 24 Aug. 1697. Jn Boulton was bur. 11 Mar. 1719/20. Richd, Wm & Wm Bolton all signed the oath roll at Sefton 1696: W. Gandy (ed.), *Lancashire Association Oath Rolls* (London, 1985), p. 30
[11] L.R.O., DDIn 59/40 (Blundell of Ince Blundell, Melling leases)
[12] Crosby Lib., C 352 SEF WIL [T. Williams, ed., *The Township Accounts of Sefton, Netherton & Lunt, 1718–1831*, I–II (Thornton, 1966)
[13] Williams, *Township Accounts*
[14] L.R.O., QSP 1785/8
[15] Wits: Thos Rice & Mgt Mercer
[16] Merseyside Record Office, 920 WBL/3/1 (Weld Blundell papers, book of rents)
[17] L.R.O., DDIn 63/57 (rental, Blundell estate)
[18] L.R.O., DDM/14/12; see also DDM 49 (a conveyance of chief rents, including 6d for 'Jamblet Heys' in tenure of Anth. Bolton)
[19] L.R.O., QSB/1 (Jul. 1780)
[20] L.R.O., QSP/2117/35* (10 Jul.); /2165/19 (17 Jul.)
[21] L.R.O., QSP/2117/35*
[22] L.R.O., QSP/2165/28
[23] Anthony marked: wits Ben Whitehead, Martha Fogg & Jas Langton
[24] Anthony does not occur in 1781 return, which has Jn Bolton paying £1 5s 1d for the 1787 & 1790 land
[25] L.R.O., QDL/WD/55; in 1781 Jn paid £1 5s 1d; the same land was owned 1795 by Jn Bolton, but occupied by Jas; see also T.M. Steel, 'Ledson of Melling'
[26] L.R.O., QDF/2/25, 69 (W. Derby hundred)
[27] L.R.O., DDM/14/13
[28] T.N.A., HO 107/**512/6, f. 5**