LATHAM of Knowsley and Whiston

[SEE ALSO: POTTER, ASPINWALL, KENWRICKE, LYON, LEVER, MASCY]¹

In 1668 DAVID POTTER, eldest son of GERRARD POTTER of Whiston and Windle (both townships in the south-west Lancashire parish of Prescot) married (H)ANNA LATHAM, youngest child of JOHN LATHAM of Whiston and of his wife SUSANNA ASPINWALL.

(H)anna Latham’s descent can be traced with certainty through five generations to EDMUND LATHAM (fl. 1477/8–1489) of Riding Chapel, Knowsley (in Huyton parish, adjacent to Prescot) and his wife PETRONILL MASSEY (fl. 1510). The descent can be summarised as follows:

(H)ANNA LATHAM (died 1706/7) was a daughter of JOHN LATHAM of Whiston and his wife SUSANNA ASPINWALL (died 1677).

JOHN LATHAM (1606–1676) was the eldest surviving son of HENRY LATHAM of Whiston (1572–1652) and of his wife ISABEL KENWRICKE (died 1643/4).

HENRY LATHAM (1572–1652) was one of three sons (probably the eldest) of ANDREW LATHAM of Whiston (fl. 1559/60, 1562; died by 1575) and his wife THOMASINE LYON (died 1590).

ANDREW LATHAM (fl. 1559/60, 1562) was a younger son of GEORGE LATHAM (c. 1462–c. 1547) and of his wife ELIZABETH LEVER (fl. 1551/2).

GEORGE LATHAM (c. 1462–c. 1547), (described variously as of Huyton, of Knowsley, Wolfall and Heyhurst [Highhurst] (all in Huyton) and Irlam (Eccles), but clearly also holding land at Rivington), He is shown (as ‘George Latham of Irlam, knt’) in St George’s Visitation of 1613, a son of EDMUND LATHAM and of his wife PETRONILL MASSEY. George also occurs in the pedigree of Lever of Little Lever in Flower’s visitation of 1567 as ‘... Lathom of Irlam [recte Irlam], co Lancaster, gent’, the husband of Elizabeth Lever.

EDMUND LATHUM is shown by the 1613 pedigree as the younger son of THOMAS LATHUM.

THOMAS LATHUM’s descent remains essentially a matter of conjecture, but his possible origins will be explored below.

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BEGINNINGS

While it is not possible to present firm evidence of THOMAS LATHUM’s parentage, it can certainly be said that Latham/Lathom/Lathum families had begun to proliferate in south Lancashire by the sixteenth century, especially around Lathom (Ormskirk), Knowsley, Torbock and Huyton (all in Huyton), Whiston and Rainford (Prescot), Billinge (Wigan), Allerton (Childwall) and Parbold and that most of them seem to descend from HENRY DE LATHOM,² otherwise Henry Fitz-Siard (fl. temp. Henry II),³ who was lord of Torbock, Lathom, Knowsley, Huyton, Roby (Huyton), Burscough (Ormskirk), Parbold and other Lancashire manors and father of Robert de Lathom, the founder of Burscough Priory. Henry de Lathom was a son of SIWARD FITZ-DUNING and grandson of DUNING (fl. temp. Conquest).⁴

It seems clear that the surname Latham originated at Lathom, in Ormskirk parish.⁵

It was the opinion of the nineteenth century genealogist Ormerod that the Lathams of Irlam were ‘in all likelihood a branch from Mosborough or Parbold’.⁶ Some other signs point to descent from the Lathams of Astbury, near Congleton in Cheshire.

The most important sources for the generations earlier than George Latham are the pedigrees entered in the sixteenth and seventeenth century visitations of Lancashire; the evidence of heraldry and of Towneley’s
‘Evidences of the Lancashire Gentry’; the records of land tenure; and the testimony of George Latham’s direct descendant Samuel Finney, given in the 1730s to Seacombe and published in his *History of the House of Stanley*, together with the careful analyses of these claims made by George Ormerod.  

THE PEDIGREES

Flower’s visitation of 1567 contains a pedigree of ‘Lever’, showing the husband of ELIZABETH LEVER (GEORGE LATHOM) as ‘... Lathom of Irland [recte Irlam], co Lancaster, gent’. Flower also gives a pedigree of ‘Dichfield of Ditton’ (Prescot), showing the marriage (in 1543) of Margery Ditchfield with George Lathom, eldest son and heir of GEORGE LATHOM.

St George’s visitation of 1613 includes a pedigree of ‘Lathum’, including six generations from THOMAS LATHUM, through EDMOND LATHUM and his son GEORGE LATHUM ‘of Irlam, kn’ to George Lathom, junior of Irlam and his son and grandson Thomas and Edmond. St George also includes a pedigree of ‘Latham’ (of Mosborough).

Dugdale’s visitation includes separate pedigrees for ‘Lathom of Whiston’ (1665) and ‘Latham of Irelam’ (1 December 1664) (and another for ‘Lathom of Perbold’). The Whiston line makes clear the relationship between the Lathoms of Whiston and Irlam. It begins with ‘Sir GEORGE LATHOM of Irelam’ and shows six generations through ANDREW LATHOM of Whiston and his brother George Lathom of Irlam, to Andrew’s son HENRY LATHOM of Whiston and then to JOHN LATHOM of Whiston and his third daughter ANNE LATHOM and her brother Henry Lathom (Dugdale’s informant) and finally, to Henry’s children. For ‘Latham of Irlam’ Dugdale begins only with Thomas Lathom (son of George Lathom, junior of Irlam) and shows four generations to Thomas’ great-grandson Thomas (then 18).

Hunter’s *Familiae Minorum Gentium* includes a pedigree of ‘Latham’, beginning with ‘Sir GEORGE LATHAM’. Croston’s edition of Baines *History of Lancashire* and Ormerod in his *Collectanea* both include a pedigree of ‘Latham of Irlam’ drawing chiefly on St George and Dugdale and showing nine generations beginning with THOMAS LATHUM and continuing to the extinction of the Latham line at Irlam and Hawthorne at the end of the seventeenth century.

HERALDIC EVIDENCE

Arms were granted to Lancashire Lathom families at the seventeenth century visitations. In 1613 those of ‘Lathom’ were ‘Or, on a chief indented azure, three plates’; in 1664 those of ‘Latham of Whiston’ and ‘Lathom of Irelam’ were exactly as ‘Lathom’ in 1613, with ‘over all a bendlet, gules’. Croston’s description of the arms of Lathom of Irlam is ‘Or, on a chief indented, azure, three plates, argent; over all a bendlet, gules’. Owen and Lilly’s 1634 visitation of Essex has a pedigree of Lathom of Sandon ‘descended from Latham of Lancs’, with the arms ‘Or on a chief indented azure three plates, the centre one charged with a martlet sable, a crescent for difference’, together with a crest based on the preying eagle.

It is certainly true that the grants of all these arms show at the least that the heads of those families believed themselves to have a common descent from the parent line; that they were able to make a convincing case to the heralds; and that the granted arms suggest a direct descent from the very beginning of the main Lathom line and beyond.

In particular the ‘chief, or, indented azure’ adopted by the Lathoms by the mid-thirteenth century (and common to all the Lathoms) seems to be the indented golden shield of the Botelers of Amounderness, descendants of the saxon Orme of Ormskirk and immediate ancestors of the Lathoms.

The chief ‘charged with three plates/bezants’, also common to all the Lathoms, is the shield with three circles (identified as ‘argent’ by Dugdale in 1664) by which the Lathoms distinguished themselves from the Botelers: it was entered in 1613 as the arms of the Lathoms of Irlam and of Parbold. The ‘bendlet gules’ ‘over all’ is the red diagonal strip across the shield, by which the Lathoms of Irlam and Whiston further
distinguished themselves from other Lathoms in 1664. We should note that the arms of the Lathoms of Astbury, seen in the church there in 1579, were surmounted with the same 'bendlet gules'.

[Hervey's visitation of 1558 visitation shows the Essex Lathoms (including those of North Ockendon and Upminster) as descended from Sir Robert Lathom of Lathom through his son Philip Lathom of Congleton: they used a 'sable martlet' in place of the 'bendlet gules'.]  

SEACOMBE’S CLAIMS

Five and six generations after Henry de Lathom came Thomas de Lathom (died 1370) and his heir Sir Thomas (died 1382), whom some authorities (including Seacombe) have confused with one another. It was the claim of Seacombe and of his informant Samuel Finney that the Lathams of Irlam (and thus of Whiston) were directly descended in the male line from one Sir Oskatell Lathom, an illegitimate son of Sir Thomas.

Sir Thomas had an only daughter Isabel de Lathom (died 1414), who married Sir John Stanley (died 1413/14): from them the great line of Stanley and of the earls of Derby descends. A sixteenth century Stanley legend identified the younger Thomas with a foundling ‘Oskell Lathom’, adopted by a childless elder Sir Thomas as his heir and duly fathering Isabel and all the house of Stanley. Seacombe (instructed by descendants of the Lathams of Irlam) maintained that when Sir Thomas died in 1382, he left not only his legitimate daughter Isabel, but also a natural son Sir Oskatel de Latham, on whom he had settled 'the manors of Irlam and Urmston ... in ... Lancashire ... with several other large tracts of lands and demesnes ...; also the manor of Hawthorn ... and other lands and tenements in the county of Chester'. Seacombe went on to claim that Sir Oskatel had chosen Irlam as his seat and that his progeny had remained there without interruption until the time of Cromwell. Seacombe goes on to link the arms of the Lathams of Irlam with the ‘eagle and child’ of the Stanleys and of the foundling legend.

The ‘Stanley [of Alderley] papers’ make similar claims in a descent of ‘Latham of Latham’, showing Sir Thomas as ‘lord of Latham and Knowsley’, husband of Isabella Venables, brother of Edward Latham of Parbold and dying in 1384. Sir Thomas’ daughter and heir is here shown as Isabella, wife of Sir John Stanley (died 1413) and then of Sir Geoffrey Worsley. Sir Oskatel Latham is identified as a base son of Sir Thomas by Mary Oskatel and is called ‘ancestor to the Lathams of Earlham’.

There is no doubt that Seacombe is describing the same branch of the Lathams as that shown by the pedigrees of ‘Latham’, ‘Latham of Irlam’ and ‘Latham of Whiston’ as descended from George Latham. Nor is there any question that the heirs of this line did indeed hold lands in Irlam, Hawthorne and other places. Yet Seacombe’s claims were clearly shown to be groundless by George Ormerod in his Parentalia and in his article in Collectanea.

He first details carefully the descent from Thomas Lathom to Sir Thomas his heir in 1370 and then shows, not only that there is no evidence for the existence of the illegitimate Sir Oskatel, but that Sir Thomas was succeeded in 1382 by a legitimate son and heir Thomas. This Thomas died in 1383 and was himself succeeded in all the main Lathom estates by a posthumous, but legitimate daughter Ellen, who was sued for possession by Isabel Stanley, claiming an entail.

Ormerod then shows that Seacombe’s heraldic evidence for his claim is nonsense. Seacombe claimed that the Lathams of Irlam had as a crest the ‘eagle and child’ of their supposed ancestor Sir Thomas de Lathom; that this device directly illustrated the circumstances of Sir Oskatel’s birth and inheritance; and that the Latham Irlams retained in their possession a signet given by Sir Oskatel and bearing the ‘eagle and child’ motif. Ormerod shows that the Lathams of Irlam were granted no crest with their arms in 1613 and 1664; and that in any case the ‘eagle and child’ was shown in some painted windows at Astbury as the crest of the younger sons of Sir Robert de Lathom living long before the alleged birth of Sir Oskatel; and that ‘In some form or other, that bird was the bearing of Lathom from the very earliest usage of crests by knightly families.’ Thus Ormerod shows that the arms of the Lathams of Irlam suggest descent from the parent branch at a much earlier period.
Seacombe records how often Samuel Finney had heard his [great] aunt Mary Latham (died 1728/9) describe the regular visits of Charles, earl of Derby to her brother Thomas Latham (born c. 1646) and that she ‘never heard [Lord Derby] when speaking to him, or of him, call him by any other name but the top of his kin’ and that ‘The family well knew his lordship’s reasons for that familiarity’. Yet this alleged close kin connection had occurred fully 300 years before! Ormerod rightly dismisses this as ‘probably mere good-humoured levity’ on Lord Derby’s part and ‘pity for the son of his father’s friend’. Seacombe’s claims come only from a family’s oral tradition and Mary Latham was certainly not competent to speak of ‘facts alleged to have occurred in the fourteenth century, and otherwise unsupported’. No documentary evidence can now be found which links the Lathams with Irlam before 1529–30 or with Hawthorne before 1621. No connection with neighbouring Urmston can be found at all, although the Lathams had an ancient interest in lands at West Leigh, which were held under the Urmston family. Seacombe explains that the family’s estates were sequestrated under Cromwell and that ‘many ancient deeds and records ... were all rifled away, and eternally lost’.

In *Parentalia* Ormerod lists ‘acknowledged collateral lines of Lathom, branching off before this time, resident at Torbock, Mosborough and Parbold in Lancashire; others were of Huyton and Irlam, the last of which has been most unnecessarily illegitimatised by Seacome’s exploded narrative’. Ormerod also deals at length with the line of Latham of Astbury. He felt that while Irlam itself might have descended in the female line from the Latham heiress Elena, it was ‘in all likelihood a branch from Mosborough or Parbold; which last pedigree is defective at the time when the Irlam pedigree commences’.

**LAND TENURE**

The Lathams of Whiston and Irlam held lands at Knowsley (Huyton); Irlam (Eccles); Huyton; Rivington (Bolton); and Whiston (Prescot) by the sixteenth century. There are sufficient links between the land holding patterns of this family and the very early holdings of the principal Lathoms, to suggest that there may indeed have been direct links between them.

Among witnesses to land transactions in south west Lancashire in the fourteenth century there occurs frequently Sir Thomas de Latham:

Sir Thomas the younger also occurs. A little later Thomas de Latham occurs as a witness to similar transactions.

**THOMAS LATHAM OF THE PEDIGREES**

It may be helpful first to follow the 1613 visitation and examine THOMAS LATHAM, said to have been the father of two sons, of whom EDMOND LATHAM was the younger. Since Edmund was born by c. 1441, we should probably project a birth date for Thomas Latham of c. 1410/c. 1420 (some 30 years or so after the death in 1383 of Sir Thomas de Lathom, reputed father of Sir Oskatel).

Several references might fit Thomas Latham (fl. perhaps c. 1410–c. 1480), the reputed father of Edmund. The visitation of Essex (1558) shows one Thomas Lathom as a younger son of Hugh Lathom and grandson of Philip Lathom of Congleton. Thomas of Latham was a frequent witness to Molyneux estate deeds for Fazakerley, Kirkby, Litherland, Sefton and Walton from 1428/9–1444. Thomas de Latham occurs in the duchy chancery rolls of 1431. In 10 Henry VI (1431–2) Thomas de Latham was escheator in Lancashire. In 1439 Thomas Latham was a witness to a Torbock deed. The patent roll for the palatinate of Lancaster in 25 Henry VI (1446–7) records the lease for 20 years of a croft and toft in Whiston (‘forfeited of late by Robert Hondson of Fenay’) to ‘Thomas Lathom, esq.’ at 3s 6d per annum.

In 1440 one Thomas de Lathom was witness at Huyton to an indenture granting land at Thingwall to William de Roby. On 22 January 1450/1 ‘Thomas de Lathom of Knowsley the elder’ granted land to William Norris the elder. In 1460 Norris granted lands at Garston and Allerton to ‘Thomas de Lathom of Knowsley’. In 1461 one Thomas Lathom de Knowsley was a witness to a deed concerning Thomas Lathom de Knutsford and his son Nicholas. Nicholas and Thomas of Knutsford seem to belong to the Lathams of Astbury, already mentioned.
In 1464–7 there are several references to Thomas de Lathm involved in pleas of debt in the Widnes court rolls.41 On 15 February 1467/8 Oskell Latham and Thomas his brother (both chaplains) were witnesses to a Westhead deed.42

In 1468/9 ‘Thomas Latham sq arm of Wolfalle’ received and granted back the messuages and lands at Halewood of Alice (née Garston), widow of John Latham: ‘Robert Latham, esq’ was a witness: this Norris deed (together with that of 1460) suggests a link between the Lathams of Knowsley, Huyton and Whiston and those of Allerton and Parbold.43 In 6 Henry VII (1490–1) there was a settlement of Halsnead at Whiston on the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Lathom of Allerton with Piers, son of Thomas Wetherby of Halsnead.44 The inquisition post mortem of Robert Lathom (11 Henry VIII, 1519–20) found that he had held land at Allerton, Parbold, Wrightington, Wivelton and Walton.45

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In May 1472 ‘Thomas Latham’ and in 1498 ‘Thomas Lathom, gen.’ were parties to grants of Ditton family land at Ditton, Prescot: lands with which the Lathams of Whiston were to be involved in the seventeenth century.46 After 1475 Thomas Latham married Margaret, widow of John Ogle, esq. In 1462/3 Ogle (a son of Sir Robert, first Lord Ogle, who died in 1469) had joined with Roger Booth (brother of the last rector) in leasing Prescot rectory from King’s College, Cambridge (lay rectors of Prescot from 14..). Ogle was dead by 25 August 1475, when his widow joined in a new lease. Latham was dead by 1497.47 In 1550 Humphrey Ogle, clerk of Nether Heyford, Oxfordshire (aged 80), testified that 40 years before (i.e. c. 1510), his mother Margaret Lathom had been joint farmer with him of Prescot rectory.48 A rental of tithes in c. 1480 showed ‘Thomas Laneham’ paying 53s 4d at Whiston.49

The Ogle Roll includes a copy deed of 1482 showing one Thomas Latham with land and a tenement at Whiston, held under Thomas, son of John Travis of Whiston and a deed of 3 August 1480 by which Travers conveys to Bold the lands of Thomas Latham and of all other free tenants in Whiston.50 According to Croston:

The Lathoms are said to have anciently owned and inhabited Whiston Hall, a venerable building, now a farmhouse. The tradition is probable, for in 8 Richard II (1384–5) Thomas Lathom had estates in this township, which descended through several generations to Thomas Lathume in 27 Henry VIII (1535)[April onwards];52 and the Torbocks, of whom the Lathoms were a branch, were at a very remote period possessed of Rudgate in this manor, near Prescot.53

Since Whiston Hall lay right on the boundary between Huyton and Whiston and very close to that of Knowsley, there may not always have been consistency in describing the place of residence of its occupants.

In October 1491 a Norris rental of Huyton included ‘Thomas Latham’ as one of 12 free tenants (Latham paid 8d, compared with John Bellurbye’s 4s 7½d and John Ogle’s 9d).54 There are abundant sixteenth century references to the land-holdings of ‘Thomas Lathom’ in Huyton and Whiston,55 but all are at least a generation too late: they may well relate to an elder brother of Edmund and to that brother’s successors. It may thus have been Thomas Latham’s elder son ‘Thomas Lathom of Wolfall’, who was one of the gentry of West Derby hundred in 1512 and who died on 1 April 1515 seized of a capital messuage and three other messuages with 180 acres in Wolfall (held of Thomas Wolfall); a messuage and 56 acres in Rainford (held of Edward, lord Derby); two messuages and 90 acres in Aspull (held of Sir Thomas West); one close and an acre in Wigan (held of Richard Kighley, the rector); three closes of land called ‘Tende’ lands in Whiston (held of the heirs of Thomas Traves and worth 28s 8d per annum); three messuages and 70 acres in Glest (held of John Eccleston); two messuages and 50 acres in Sutton (held of the heirs of John Sale of Burtonhead); a messuage and 32 acres in Ormskirk (held of the prior of Burscough); a messuage and 10 acres in Eggergarth (held of Thomas Scarisbrick); and a messuage and 20 acres in Hindley.56 A deponent in 1598 testified that he used to collect chief rents for Lord Derby as lord of Gleast from four charterers, including Mr Coney ‘for his lands late the lands of one Latham’.57

EDMUND LATHAM
We may now turn to Edmond Latham, the ‘younger brother’, said by St George to have been a son of Thomas Latham and father of George.

Edmund was probably born by c. 1441. He can probably be identified with the Edmund Latham, who in 1467 with Sir Peter Legh bought for 20 marks a messuage and 20 acres in Wolston and Fernyhed.58

St George records that Edmond married Petronill Massey, daughter and heiress of George Massey of Rixton. This marriage probably took place by 1462.59

The Mascy and Barton Families

George Mascy of Rixton occurs in 1435/6, 1438, 1448, 1454, in 1462 (when he was an executor of Hamon Mascy) and in 1473 and 1477/8.

On 9 January 1435/6 Hamon le Massy, father of William and George, granted to George a mediety of his Cheshire lands for life: William confirmed this grant on 19 January.60

The palatinate patent roll of 1438 records a commission of 23 June to William Mascy of Rixton, Richard le Mascy, George le Mascy and six others ‘to arrest and bind over to keep the peace towards John de Hawardyn, Elena, late wife of John de Statham’, Thomas, Ralph and Richard de Statham and five others.61

According to St George, George Mascy’s wife was Katharine, daughter of Oliver Barton of Cheshire. It has been suggested that this was probably Oliver de Barton (born c. 1385), who succeeded his nephew in the estates of Barton, Cheshire in 1435–6.62

It is equally likely however that Oliver Barton’s connections were with Barton-on-Irwell, so close to Irlam, West Leigh, Glazebrook and Hope Carr. This link is suggested on 6 March 1448, when George Mascy was a deforciant (with Oliver Barton, his alleged father-in-law) in the sale for 100 marks of six messuages and 316 acres in Barton, Irlam, Rivington and West Leigh.63

In August 1454 the prior of Birkenhead made a joint lease of the priory’s lands in Bowdon (Cheshire) for 30 years to Thomas Massy (rector of Warrington) and Hamon, Richard and George Massy of Rixton. The lease carried the duty of chancel repairs at Bowdon, together with repair of the tithe barn at Hale and a 17s annual payment to the rector of Wilmslow, Cheshire.64

In November 1462 George Mascy was witness to a declaration giving a life interest in lands at Rixton and Altrincham to Joan, widow of his brother Hamon and in February 1463/4 to another granting lands at Rixton and Thelwall to Alice Botiller, with remainder to his nephew Hamon Mascy.65

Married by 1462, Edmond and Petronilla Latham seem to have had two sons: George (born c. 1462) and William (born by c. 1490).

In 1473 one Richard Gelybrand was awarded a tenement in ‘the Bonke Street’, Liverpool between those of Thomas Molyneux and Edmund Lathom.66

Oliver Barton was married to Eleanor, who acted on ‘St James Day’ (25 July) 1473 against Edmund Latham and George Mascy to regain her third part of land in Barton. The palatinate plea roll records the claim of ‘Ellen’ to a third of five messuages, 200 acres of land, six acres of meadow, 40 acres of wood, 100 acres of moss, and 1000 acres of pasture, which had been her dower. Edmund and George claimed that Oliver had never been seized of such an estate.67 On 6 August 1474 there was a writ to the sheriff to take into the king’s hands the lands in question.68 In Lent 1474/5 Ellen continued the claim, but against Giles and George Latham.69

On 12 March 1477/8 Edmund Latham joined with George Mascy and others as trustees receiving feoffment
of Cheshire lands in Statham (Lymm), which had belonged to John Hurst, deceased. In January 1483 Edmund Latham was a witness when George Mascy’s nephew Hamon Mascy bought all the premises in Glazebrook of John, son of Thomas Comberbach, deceased.

In August 1485 came the battle of Bosworth and the accession of Henry VII: in October the king’s stepfather Thomas, Lord Stanley was created earl of Derby.

On 23 September 1486 the new king granted a number of ‘annuities, for life … out of the issues of the county palatine of Lancaster … in consideration of good and faithful services’. These included five marks to ‘Edmund Lathom’; £4 each to ‘William Latehum and Thos Lathom’; and awards to three members of the Massey family.

By 1486 too, we have clear evidence linking Edmund Latham with both Knowsley and Rivington. In that year ‘Edmundum Lathom de Ryding Chappell senior’ was in dispute with Robert Pilkington, lord of Rivington (died 1508) and John Crosse of Lever. Edmund was bound in the sum of £40 to ‘stand and obey the doome and awarde of Thomas Atherton and Piers Orrell esquire, arbitrators elected’ for Pilkington.

Ryding Chappell was St Leonard’s, south of Riding Hill, now in Knowsley Park. Bound as a separate gathering in the cartulary of Burscough Priory is a sixteenth century survey of the ‘Terra Sancti Leonardi de Knowsley’, recording ‘all the lande of the house of Burscogh that lys by Rydyng Chapell in the paroch of Huyton by the metyng of Sir William Layland knight [of Morleys, Leigh], Wm Lathom jentilman, Elys Gorsuch, Thos Halsall and Robert Halsall, cum aliis’.

On 5 April 1488 Robert Latham, Thomas Latham and Edmund Latham (together with Mr Ric. Lincolne, Dr Rauff Eccleston, Oliv Sale and Henr Standysch) were among those present at Prescot for an inquiry by the court of wards and liveries into the lands of the Parr family of Parr, in Windlee (Prescot).

[In 1488 the king wrote to ‘his entirely beloved father [-in-law] the earl of Derby’ (whom he had by now appointed chief steward of the duchy of Lancaster) charging him to increase the yield on the duchy of Lancaster lands at Congleton held by Robert Latham and others].

In April 1489 a writ was issued for the arrest of ‘Edmund Latham de Riding Hill, gentleman’ and William Makan(d), a Burscough miller, who together owed £20 in rent to Hector, prior of Burscough. There were to be five further writs in this case in the ensuing twelve months.

By 1496 Eleanor Barton had died intestate and her administrator, Henry Sale of Hoppehall [Hopecarr Hall, Leigh] made another attempt to recover her estate from Edmund Lathom. In Lent 1497 at the Lancaster assizes, Edmund Lathom ‘nuper de Knowesley, gentilman’ was summoned to answer a complaint by Henry Sale, administrator of the goods of Edmund’s mother-in-law Ellen, widow of Oliver Barton.

On 20 February 1500/1 George Lathome ‘filius et hered. Edmundi Lathome de Knowseley’ entered into a bond concerning the lands of Hamnet Harrington and John of Bellerby in Huyton. We shall see that Joan Bellerby was later described as the wife of George Lathom. In c. 1468 John Bellerby was described as ‘of Whiston’. In 1507–8 (23 Henry VII) there were actions and counter-actions in the plea rolls between Hamnet Harrington and ‘Lathom’.

[Thomas, first earl of Derby died in 1504 and was succeeded by his grandson Thomas, as second earl].

In 2 Henry VIII (April 1510–11) ‘Petronilla nup uxr Edi Latham’ sought permission in the feodary court of Widnes to settle out of court in a plea of debt against John and Grace Bolde, executors of John Barnes.

In August 1511 George and William, sons of Edmund Lathome acted at Lancaster sessions for Thomas Hesketh, esquire.

We shall see that Edmund’s son George Latham when involved in pleadings over land in Irlam in 21 Henry
VIII (April 1529–10), was described as ‘George Latham of Knowsley’.

Meanwhile at nearby Wolfall Thomas Latham (whom we have suggested as the possible elder brother of Edmund and heir of Edmund’s father Thomas) was succeeded in 1515 by his widow Joan. Joan died c. 1524, when their lands passed to the heir Thomas Latham (c. 1496–1546), who had been 19 on his father’s death in 1515.89

A Huyton rental of Hamonis Harrington in 152490 has Thomas Lathom and John Ogle as two of seven free tenants (with 15 at will): that of 1535 has ‘heirs of Thomas Lathom’.

‘Thomas Latham’ (junior) died in 1546 holding the same lands as his father.91 Towneley describes him as ‘Thomas Lathom de Parbold’, but this is surely mistaken: the name is illegible in the original inquisition.92

Thomas was succeeded by his heir Thomas (born c. 1543), who eventually married Frances and sold the lands in 1573–80.93

OTHER INCIDENCES OF EDMUND LATHAM

In 1381–294 one ‘Edo de Lathum senr’ joined Nicholas le Norreys de Halsnade [Whiston] in testifying in a wardship dispute.95 ‘Edm. de Lathom’ occurs as one of those enfeoffed in the inquisition post mortem of ‘Thos. f. Tho. de Lathom mil. defunct’ in 1383: ‘Tho., son of Ric. de Lathom’ was one of the jurors.96 One Edmund Latham graduated at Cambridge in 1493.97

Gilbert Latham

An important further connection is suggested when one Edmonde Lathm occurs as next of kin and overseer of the will of Gilbert Latham, archdeacon of Man and founder of Prescot Grammar School.

Gilbert, who graduated at Cambridge in 1511–12 and was thus probably born in the 1490s, took his M.A. in 1515–16 and was a proctor in 1517–18.98 From at least 1526–1535 Gilbert was one of the six prebendaries of the college of secular priests at Stoke-by-Clare in Suffolk; holding the third stall on the south side of the choir. Stoke was a small, but wealthy foundation, with a prior, six prebendaries, eight vicars and five lay conducts: by the reign of Henry VIII it was in the patronage of the queen consort.

By 1526 Cardinal Wolsey already saw the college and its large income as ripe for dissolution, but Queen Katherine as patron had already taken steps to protect the college at the time of the bishop’s personal visitation at Stoke, which began on 12 July 1526.99 Gilbert Latham and the prior (Dr William Greene)100 were the only members absent: they had been cited to appear and it emerged that Greene had incited his colleagues to stay away. During the visitation, a letter arrived announcing that Wolsey (or his commissary) would also carry out a visitation of the college, clearly with the intention of finding serious fault: this visitation was scheduled for 1 August. Wolsey’s letter perhaps impelled the bishop to act severely. Greene was ordered to appear before the bishop at Norwich on 20 August and when he failed to comply, he and Gilbert Latham were both ‘pronounced contumacious’.101

Greene, nevertheless, remained prior until 1529 (when he was succeeded by Robert Shorton). On 14 August 1535 Thomas Cromwell wrote to Shorton asking for Gilbert Latham to be restored to his college dividends. Shorton refused, alleging that the canons had only spent £4 on repairs in a year and a half and that Gilbert had got £17 into his own hands: ‘this cannot be suffered’. Shorton died on 17 October 1535 and was succeeded as dean by Matthew Parker, who carried out reforms in 1537 in the hope of saving the college from dissolution: it was nevertheless suppressed in 1548.102

By 1 January 1535/6 Gilbert’s ‘kinsman’ Hugh Latham (who was in the earl of Derby’s service) was writing to his cousin Thomas Lathom at Grays Inn and to Thomas’ brother Gilbert, by now master of St Katherine’s hospital, near the Tower of London, seeking their good offices in defending him to Cromwell: he stood accused of predicting the dissolution of Woburn Abbey, while on a journey to Lord Derby’s Middlesex seat at
Gilbert’s mother ‘and all your friends in our country’ were ‘in good health’. 103

On 26 March 1537 the king granted Gilbert exemption from payment of first fruits on the annual value of the lands of St Katherine’s. Gilbert had been granted custody of the hospital lands by ‘the Queen consort Joan’ (Jane Seymour, mother of the future Edward VI) and she had persuaded the king that ‘the said hospital is too much burdened with the support of poor men and women to be able to sustain such payments’. 104

Gilbert made his will on 4 October 1544: in it he left money for a priest to sing at Prescot (the parish church of Whiston) for his father and mother and provided for a brother Thomas Latham, a cousin Hugh Lathom (whose four daughters received £10 each for their marriages), one Margery Lathom and Elizabeth Traves, his sister’s daughter (£20 for her marriage). Other relatives mentioned were Margery Laylande and Elynor Gye. Edmonde Latham received £5 and was appointed one of the overseers.

William Latham who died in 1545 asking to be buried at Stoke by Clare and mentioning ‘Master Gilbert Latham’ twice in his will, was perhaps a brother. William’s wife was Blanche. He was doubtless the ‘M. [? Magister] Lathum buried at Stoke on 29 September 1545’. 105 In 1545 John Latham, son and heir of William was tenant of all the lands in Prescot which were his father and grandfather’s. 106

On 2 March 1546 Gilbert was still ‘master, keeper and governor’ of St Katherine’s, when an inventory was taken. 107 He was succeeded on 2 November 1549 by Sir Francis Flemyng, a layman. 108 Gilbert seems to have died at Stoke?

Gilbert Latham’s will was not to be proved until 1552. 109 It transpired that he had not chosen his executors well, as it was later alleged that one had died and that the other had ‘gathered together’ as much as possible of the deceased’s goods (which amounted in total to £1000) and gone overseas. What remained was then seized by Gilbert’s successor as ‘parson of Swanscombe’ against whom Edmond Latham (as the will overseer and Gilbert’s cousin) petitioned in chancery, claiming to be a ‘poor scholar dwelling aboute Oxford’. 110

It was perhaps Gilbert’s cousin Hugh Latham, who was born c. 1492 and as a tenant to Lord Derby at Knowsley, testified in a dispute in 1555–6. 111 One Hugh Lathom occurs in the Widnes court rolls in .... 112 Hugh Lathom, chaplain occurs in 1486 as a grantee of lands at Formby from Letice, widow of Thomas Norris of Speke 113 and again in 1493. 114 Hugh Lathom, yeoman of Eccleston in 1538 115 and Hugh Lathom of Knowsley were listed in the subsidy roll of 1546. 116 Hugh Lathom, gent. occurs in the Prescot court rolls in 23–38 Henry VIII. 117

[There seems just a possibility that George, William, Edmund, Gilbert and Thomas were all sons of Edmund and Petronilla Latham].

One William Latham was buried in Prescot church in 1534–5. His death was reported by the manor court in 1534–5. 118

We may note also that of the Latham family of Billinge, Henry and Elizabeth occur in 1496; 119 George Latham was buried at Prescot in 1542/3; Thomas Latham had a daughter Elizabeth baptised at Prescot in 1555; 120 and Ann Latham, widow of Billinge (will 1584, buried Upholland) had grandsons Edmund and William and sons William and Peter and daughters Ellen and Margaret Lathom. Thomas Latham of Billinge died in 1594: his will was to Thomas, William, Ellen, Alice and Ann (children of his brother Robert). 121

Another important link may be John Lathom of Prescot. He held £6 6s in land in 1523–4. 122 A divorce action in 1568 concerned his son Henry, who married Isabel Orrell als Lathom of Lathom at Turton when they were eight and seven. 123 [Henry, son of John Latham of Rainford was baptised in January 1550/1; and ‘Here’, son of John Latham in September 1561]. [The Lathoms of Prescot include the line of Lathom of Mossborough (Rainford): among the jurors in the palatine assize court were Henry of Mossbrough, gent. in 1493 124 and John in 1507; John died in 1543/4.]

Gilbert and Thomas Latham’s land holdings at West Derby suggest that theirs was the same family as that
holding land there 80 or so years later. The death of John Lathom, gent., of West Derby was reported to the
manor court in 1598, when his heir Richard, then 11, was admitted to his messuage at Ackers End. John’s
widow Jane served as an officer of the manor court in 1603/4.126

GEORGE LATHAM AND JOAN BELLERBY AND ELIZABETH LEVER

According to St George, Dugdale and Baines, George Latham was of Irlam (township of Barton, parish of
Eccles). He was 64 in 1526–7 and was born to Edmond and Petronill Latham c. 1462. George was married to
‘Johane Bellarby of Huyton’, who was dead by the time of an action in chancery in c. 1533–1538.

Evidence was then given that George Latham and his late wife Joan Bellarby had four daughters (two of
them already married): these were Jane, Barbara, Maud and Parnell, all born between c. 1483 and c. 1520.127

The 1567 visitation claimed that George Latham [had subsequently] married Elizabeth, second daughter of
Robert Lever of Little Lever (visitations from 1613 onwards name her, certainly incorrectly, as Margaret
Lever). George’s wife is named as Elizabeth in 1526, 1542 and (after his death) in 1547 although in 1542 we
shall see that she was described as ‘Elizabeth Lathom spynster, alias dict. uxor. de George Lathom’.128

George’s eldest son and heir George was married in 1543 and in 1547 acted in association with George,
senior’s ‘wife’ Elizabeth, who seems here to be his mother. Any marriage between George, senior and
Elizabeth would thus have had to take place before c. 1522.

We have seen that George Latham is variously described as of ‘Irlam’; ‘Knowsley’; ‘Huyton’; ‘Heyhurst’;
‘Wolfall’; and that he held inherited land at Rivington. Knowsley, Heyhurst and Wolfall were all within
Huyton parish and all of them, together with Whiston Hall (where the Lathams are also thought to have
lived) are in effect adjacent to one another and the names are probably interchangeable as descriptions.

Although Seacombe’s account of the grant of Irlam to the Lathams in c. 1380 cannot be trusted, there are
very early links between lands at Rivington and at Barton/Irlam. “The Lathom estates in Rivington and
elsewhere seem to have been inherited from the Westleigh family”.129 One Edmund Latham held lands in
Barton in 1218–19130 and Keurden included lands of Edmund Latham at Barton in his copy of a feodary of
Rivington.131

In 1344 Roger, son of Roger de Westleigh and Emma his wife made a settlement of one fifth of the manor
of Rivington and a quarter of an oxgang in Barton-on-Irwell in favour of their son Richard and his wife
Ellen.132 In 1347 Roger de Westleigh of Irlam and Ellen his wife and Adam de Birkenhead of Wigan claimed
a quarter of two messuages in Rivington against Robert de Rivington et al.133

George Latham is said to have been married first to Joan Bellerby, who was seized in her own demesne of 30
acres of land in Huyton. George and Joan had daughters Jane, Barbara, Maud and Petronilla. On Joan’s
death, her land came to George (with the reversion to their daughters), but he neglected it, exploited the
mines and allowed the buildings to decay.134

George Latham first occurs in the records in 1500/1 as son and heir of Edmund Latham of Knowsley.135 In
1521 Thomas Hesketh of Rufford recorded in his will that on 18 August 1511 at the Lancaster sessions
‘George Lathome, knight (sic), son of Edmund Lathome and William Lathome, son of the said Edmund’
acted together with Sir William Molyneux, Sir Henry Halsall and Sir William Leylond to recover against him
the manors of Rufford and Great Harwood, an action which continued on 11 June 1512.136

George Lathom’s brother William also occurs in 1526 as a witness for George. Towneley draws a brief
pedigree, based on a deed of 4 Henry VIII (1512–13) showing Edmund Latham as the father of two sons,
George and William.137

[Thomas, second earl of Derby died in 1521 and was succeeded by his son Edward, as third earl].
In 1512–1513 George Lathom was granted half of Kilncroft at Wolfall, Huyton by Nicholas Tyldesley (later his son-in-law). George also occurs at Huyton in association with Thomas Wolfall. The 1525 subsidy roll for Huyton shows George Lathome paying £4 4s. In 1526–7 George Lathom was a ‘freeholder dwelling at Huyton’ ‘aged 64’, when he gave evidence in a dispute over the Copt Holt at Rainhill. In .... George Lathom occurs in the Widnes rolls in a dispute with Edward Haydock/Charnock.

Concerning Rivington it was alleged by George Lathom, junior in 1595 in reply to a suit by the Pilkingtons, that he was ‘seized of some good and perfect estate of inheritance in fee simple or fee tayle by ancient descent from his ancestors’. Witnesses were produced who had known George Lathom, senior and who testified that George Lathom senior, gent had been taken to be lord of a quarter of Rivington town and of half the wastes and had died so seized.

On 24 November 1526 George Latham of Huyton and Elizabeth his wife came to an agreement in a ‘variance’ with his tenant Thomas Greene and Richard Pilkington, lord of Rivington (1488–1551) concerning Meldesfield in Rivington ‘of the inheritance of the said George’. George’s witnesses were William Latham, John Leaver of Little Leaver and Nicholas Tyldesley, whilst Ralph Orrell and Laurence Ashawe stood for Pilkington.

The will of Hamnet Harington, esq. of Huyton proved on 30 January 1527/8 named as his executors John Eccleston, esq; George Latham; and Rauffe Burye, gents; and as overseer Sir William Leyland. Harington’s cousin was Nicholas, son of Richard Tyldesley. Harrington left a tenement to Robert Gernett’s wife.

Although no Latham occurs in the list of freeholders at Irlam in 1524 (or 1543), a connection with Irlam is clear by 21 Henry VIII (1529–30) when ‘George Latham of Knowsley, gentilman’ occurs in the duchy of Lancaster pleadings. He is here shown to be ‘seised in his demesne as of fee among other lands and tenements’ of one messuage and 20 acres of land in Irlam. It was alleged that George Latham had denied the life interest of the family of Edmund Hey, his lessee and had demised it to another. According to Croston, Irlam Hall was an Elizabethan mansion occupied by the Travers family, passing by the time of Edward VI to ‘Sir George Latham’.

George Latham seems to have been associated with land at Whiston by c. 1527: his servant and ploughman John Hey testified in 1581 that he had known two of George Lathom’s closes at Whiston for 54 years. The Prescot churchwardens accounts for 1529–30 record the payment by George Latham of 4d ‘of the ley of Quiston’ (the church rate for Whiston township).

Hey also testified that ‘aboute 50 yeres ago’ (i.e. c. 1531) George Latham declared one of his closes at Whiston to belong to Mr Bolde of Bolde and the other to the King. Parcyvall Smyth said in his deposition that ‘above forty yeres ago’ (i.e. c. 1541 or earlier) he was present when ‘George Lathom, knight’ had come into the close furthest from the lane to Liverpool and found ‘certen persons gettynge coales’. He ‘toke them upp’, saying that it was the king’s land.

George Latham was one of the three lords of Rivington manor holding four of the 20 acres of waste at the enclosure in 1536 (compared with Richard Pilkington’s 13 and James Shaw’s three). By 1533–1538 George’s daughters Jane and Barbara had married Nicholas Tyldesley and Richard Stanley (gentlemen) and together with their husbands and their two unmarried sisters Parnella (Petronilla) and Maulde Latham, they brought an action in chancery against their father. Some 70 acres of land in Huyton had come to him in right of his late wife Johane. He had neglected it and laid it waste by coal mining and the daughters now claimed their mother’s inheritance. These proceedings continued in the Lancaster assize court in Lent 1539, in an action for rents unjustly detained by ‘George Latham of Huyton, senior’.

In Lent 1541 (and thereafter in Assumption 1541 and Lent 1542) ‘George Lathom, gent.’ was among those empanelled as a juror in the Lancaster palatinate court.

In the Assumption term 1542 ‘Georgi Lathom de Heyhurst in paroch de Huyton in com Lanc, gen.’ was sued
in the palatinate court by Peter Stanley for damaging his lands at Whiston by cutting down trees and brushwood. Linked in the plea was ‘Elizabeth Lathom de Heyhurst, spynster, alias dict Elizabeth Lathom uxor de Georgi Lathom’. A distraint was granted on all their lands in Lancashire, but the sherrif’s note on the writ indicates that they satisfied the court and were discharged.\(^{155}\)

George and Elizabeth Latham’s children were: George Latham, esquire of Irlam; Edmund; Andrew Latham of Whiston; and two daughters. One Dorytie Latham was buried in Prescot church in 1549.

By a marriage settlement of 22 April 1543 George Latham, senior of Huyton (then c. 81) gave a portion of his lands there to his heir George, junior on the latter’s marriage with Margery Ditchfield, daughter of John Ditchfield of Ditton\(^{156}\) (died 1545, inquisition) and his wife Catherine (died 1552?), daughter of Richard Byrkenhed.

George Latham and Margery Ditchfield married at Farnworth on 18 June 1543: they had children Thomas (1543/4–1615) (baptised at Farnworth on 20 March 1543/4); Katharine (1545–1628); John (1546/7–1622) (baptised Farnworth 14 March 1546/7); Henry (died 1627/8); and another daughter.\(^{157}\)

Death of George Latham (1543/7: 35 Henry VIII–1 Edward VI)

We have seen that George Latham, senior was alive in April 1543, at the time of his son’s marriage settlement, but he does not occur in the Huyton subsidy roll of 1546.\(^{158}\) He was certainly dead ten months after the accession of Edward VI, when on 24 November 1547 his widow Elizabeth ‘late the wife of George Latham of Heyhurst’ and his son George let to farme for 22s per annum to Jane, daughter of Richard Pilkington for Elizabeth’s life ‘a messuage in Rovington called the Heyforthe House at the Deane Heade, now in the occupation of Margaret Greene, widow’.\(^{159}\) This was ‘Hyefurth House at Dene Head, part of the Latham estate’ at Rivington, still called Lathams, near Butter Cross in the Dene Head Lane.\(^{160}\) The first edition ordnance survey and tithe maps indeed mark ‘Lathams’ on Dean Head Lane at Rivington. ‘Heyhurst’ was almost certainly Highhurst (now Hurst House) at Huyton.\(^{161}\)

In the Lent legal term of 1548/9 two writs involved the Lathom family: one concerned an action by Richard and George Pilkington of Rivington against George Lathom.\(^{162}\) In another ‘Pernella Lathome, widow’ moved against her brothers-in-law and sisters Richard and Barbara Stanley, Henry and Matilda Torbock and Nicholas Tyldesley in the matter of lands in Huyton.\(^{163}\)

A writ of 18 August 1550 related to a 2s per annum ‘parcel of land in Whyston now or late in the tenure of George Latham’.\(^{164}\)

The pedigrees agree in describing George Latham, senior as a knight of the reign of Edward VI\(^ {165}\) and he is clearly described as ‘Sir George’ in evidence given over 30 years after his death in a land case at Whiston by Percival Smyth (who knew him), by John Hey (his servant and plough-man) and by Thomasin Worrall (his daughter-in-law). However no Lathom is listed in Shaw’s \textit{Knights of England}\(^ {166}\) from 1500–1558 and he is not so described in the lease by his widow in 1547 or in Rivington depositions of 1595–6. In a pedigree of Lever noted by Piccope he is shown as ‘Sir George Latham’. It seems extremely doubtful that he was ever a knight.

Elizabeth Latham (widow of George, senior) and George, junior were involved in suits from 1549–1551 with Richard Pilkingon concerning Moldesfield and other lands in Rivington.\(^ {167}\) At issue in 3 Edward VI\(^ {168}\) were the Goosehey and the stopping of the Backstandenbrooke: in 4 Edward VI it was Moldesfield, the Lowe and the Marled earth and trespass on and through Oldefield, Marled Field, Langworth, Hard River Yate, Colepyte Yate, Moldesfield and in Bulloghes More in Anderton. On 23 January 1551/2 Elizabeth (‘Elizabeth Lathom vid. dudum ux. Georgii Lathom nup. de Huyton, generos. defunct.’) and George conveyed Moldesfield to Laurence Asshaw.\(^ {169}\) In 1558 the will of Laurence Asshawe of Shaw (Flixton), esq. included a bequest of 10 marks each to George Latham of Irlam, gent. and to ‘Elisabethe sometyme his (sic) wiff of Lathome of Mosbarrowe’.\(^ {170}\)
While our chief interest lies in George Latham’s younger son Andrew Latham of Whiston and his family, it may be helpful to look first at George’s elder son and heir, George Latham, junior of Irlam.

In 1554 George Latham and his brother-in-law Hamlet Ditchfield sold to George Pemberton the manor of Burtonhead in Sutton (Prescot), with other lands in Sutton, Bedford and Whiston. George Latham (of Irlam) and Ditchfield (of Ditton) were ousted in 1562–3 from the capital messuage and 200 acres at Halsnead, of which they had been enfeoffed by George Pemberton of Halsnead, their brother-in-law [died c. 1558]: James Pemberton, George Wetherby and Isobel Pemberton [George’s widow] were refusing to give up the deeds. In the same year George Lathom, Hamlet Ditchfield and George’s brother Andrew Latham refused to relinquish deeds to the manors of Burtonhead in Sutton (Prescot) and Graveoak in Bedford (Leigh), of which James Pemberton (nephew of James Pemberton) claimed to be seized in fee: Pemberton now had no record of the dates of the deeds: he didn’t know whether they were in a sealed box or a locked chest. Pemberton appealed to the duchy court against the attempted dispossession.

In 1565 ‘George Lathom, gent’ was a burgess of Liverpool. ‘George Lathom’ was cited for failing to appear at the Liverpool great portmoote on 26 October 1568. On 13 September he was a witness for a partition of lands at Maghull (Halsall).

In 1569 ‘George Lathom, gen.’ was involved with John Stanley in an action against ‘Peter Stanley, arm.’ concerning seven messuages in Bickerstaffe, Aughton, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale.

George Latham was said at his grandson’s inquisition in 1640 to have held a fourth part of Rivington under the Crown (when the Pilkingtons held five eighths and the A[shaws of Heath Charnock one eighth]), together with two messuages and 16+14+20 acres; a third of the manor of Irlam with seven messuages and 90 acres held under Cecil Trafford; two messuages and 35 acres in Bedford, Leigh under John, earl of Bridgewater; two acres in Westleigh under Richard Urmston; and ‘one burg etc’ in Liverpool under the king: there was said to have been a settlement in 1570. There was a further settlement of lands in Irlam, Rivington, Bedford, Westleigh and Liverpool in 1582. In 1597 George Latham was ordered to pay £4 to George Pilkington, then lord of Rivington.

One ‘Elizabethe Latham’ was buried at Prescot on 25 October 1573.

On 24 March 1588 George Latham of Irlam paid an Armada subscription. In April 1588 ‘absentees from Eccles Church’ included ‘the wife of George Latham, gent—in Ireland [recte Irlam].’ George Latham, junior was a freeholder at Barton in 1563 and at Irlam Hall in 1600: in that year he also held land at Newton Lane, Manchester.

In 1590 George was appointed an overseer of the will of Thomasine Werrall of Whiston, widow of his brother Andrew. In 1601 George Latham of Irlam demised land in Pownall fee, Wilmslow to John Hulme, a tanner.

George junior’s wife Margery died in 1593 and was buried at Eccles on 12 October. George made a will on 5 March 1601/2, died in 1602 and was buried in Eccles church on 21 December 1602. His will was proved on 11 March 1602/3. Now lost, but recited in the Manchester court leet records it provided for legacies to his own family, but also of 40s each to ‘Henry Lathum of Whiston and his two sisters’ [i.e. George’s nephew Henry and nieces Margaret Garnett and Dorothy Appleton, three of the five children of George’s brother Andrew Latham of Whiston]. His [lost] inventory ‘contains a long list of the gentry of Lancashire and Cheshire to whom he had advanced sums of money, amounting in the whole to a considerable sum’.

Of George, junior’s brother Edmund we know only that according to Dugdale he had no surviving male issue in 1665. The family of George’s younger brother Andrew Latham of Whiston are examined in detail below. Of George’s two sisters we know only that both were alive in 1601/2, at the time he made his will.
George, junior’s death immediately set in motion suits and quarrels over money between his descendants.

**Thomas** Lathom (1543/4–1615) George, junior’s heir married Elizabeth, daughter of John Ashton of Bamfurlong after a marriage settlement made on 20 November 1582. Their children were Richard, John, Jane, Edmund and Catherine. ‘Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Latham, gent of Bedford’ was cited for recusancy in 1590. Thomas received an allotment of 50 acres on the Rivington waste in 1614: he died in 1615 and was buried at Eccles on 1 June. Thomas’ will made bequests to five children: there was a gold ring (for Edmund), two bedsteads in the painted chamber, a silver spoon and a tenement in Liverpool. In 1623 Thomas’ brother John was to leave bequests to ‘my sister Lathom of Bedford’ and ‘her two sons Richard and John’.

Thomas’ heir was Edmund (c. 1583–c. 1637). He married c. 1614 Jane, daughter of Richard Legh of Swineyard, in High Legh, Cheshire: Jane died c. 1630 and was buried at Wilmslow. Edmund succeeded to Hawthorne on the death of his uncle John Lathom in 1621. He married secondly Margaret, daughter of Edward Morecroft of Swanscoe Park, at Macclesfield on 17 January 1631/2. Thomas and Elizabeth’s other children were John (died 1661/2); Richard (fl.1621); Jane (fl.1615); and Catherine (fl.1615).

**Katharine** (1545–1627/8) was George and Margery’s elder daughter: she married Thomas Massey of Whickleswick (Trafford Park). They had daughters Dorothy, Elizabeth and Anne. Thomas Massey died in 1576 and was buried at Eccles. His will made in 1576 and proved in 1576/7 made reference to his ‘father-in-law George Latham’, ‘brother-in-law Richard Hunt’ and to his three daughters. Katherine then married by 1587 Edward, younger son of Sir Urian Brereton of Handforth. Edward died in 1605/6 and was buried at Eccles on 29 January. Katherine received a bequest from her brother John in 1623 and died at Whickleswick and was buried at Eccles on 23 September 1628. Katherine’s will (made in 1619) included reference to the debt owed by her uncle Edmund to his nephew Henry.

**John** Latham of Wilmslow (1546/7–1622) was George’s second son. In 1604 John and his younger brother Henry accused their nephew Edmund Hunt of stealing more than £3000. John Latham of Sale was fl. 1610. John Latham married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Tatton of Wythenshawe at Didsbury on 25 May 1617 and died ‘gent of The Hawthorne, Wilmslow’ without issue in 1622. His will included bequests to his sister Katherine Brereton, his sister-in-law Elizabeth Lathom of Bedford (and her two sons Richard and John) and a further reference to the debt owed by his uncle Edmund Latham to his nephew Henry. Later in 1622 John Latham’s widow married by licence George Mainwaring of Marthull, son of Sir Randle of Little Peover.

**Henry** Latham of Whickleswick died in 1627/8. His will, drawn up in 1621, showed that the debt of his uncle Edmund was still unpaid. Henry was buried at Eccles on 1 February.

**Another daughter** of George, junior married Richard Hunt of Manchester, gent. (son of Richard Hunt of Hunt Hall, the head of one of the oldest and wealthiest Manchester families). ‘Richard Hunt, gen., householder’ was buried at Manchester parish church on 8 December 1587: his will mentioned his ‘father-in-law George Latham’ and his ‘brother-in-law Edward Brereton, esq’. ‘Ellyne, widow to Richard Hunt’ was buried at Manchester on 12 March 1587/8.

The last Lathams of Irlam

**Edmund** Latham (c. 1583–c. 1637) of Irlam, heir of Thomas Latham and grandson of George, had eight children by his first wife Jane Legh: Margaret was baptised at Eccles on 28 December 1617 and Thomas on 25 August 1620. Jane Latham was buried at Wilmslow 26 June 1630.

**Edmund** (1616–1652) of Irlam and Hawthorne his heir, was baptised at Flixton on 20 December 1616 and married there 2 July 1640 Jane (1619–1688/9), eldest daughter of Peter Egerton of Shaw in Flixton. They had five children, of whom Jane was buried at Flixton on 2 January 1688/9. Edmund, the eldest son was
born at Flixton, but died in infancy and was buried at Flixton on 22 August 1641.

**Thomas** Latham (c. 1646–1691+) of Irlam and Hawthorne (second son of Edmund and Jane) was the last heir male. In 1657 a burgage rent in Liverpool was paid by Richard Norris of Formby for Mr Lathom of Erlam; in 1666 'Mr Lathom' had six hearths at Irlam; and in 1668 Mr Latham of Erlam paid for Norris house in Dale Street.\(^{190}\) He married Mary Ashurst at Ormskirk on 31 October 1667. In 1680 Thomas granted to his mother Jane Latham of Hawthorn, Irlam Hall, Bedford Hall and his messuages in Rivington, Anglesark, Manchester and Audenshaw, in payment of his debts.\(^{191}\) Mary Latham was buried at Eccles on 1 June 1684. Three daughters survived them, among whom the heiress was Jane, who married in 1693 John Finney of Fulshaw Hall, Cheshire.

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Towneley records a Lathom pedigree commencing with Robert and Katherine Lathom de Lathom, who had two sons. These were the heir Thomas Lathom (died 46 Edward III)\(^{192}\) and John. **Thomas had two sons, his heir Sir Thomas Lathom and Edmund Lathom. Sir Thomas' heir was Thomas Lathom (died 7 Richard II)\(^{193}\) husband of Jo. and of Mabel/Isabel Pilkington (fl.7 Richard II). Thomas' heir was Ellen. However Piccope's fuller version has Sir Robert de Lathom (died 1324) and his son Thomas (died 1365–6), husband of Eleonora as the ancestors of Sir Thomas de Lathom (died 1371–2) and Edwardus Lathom de Parbold. **Sir Thomas de Lathom is shown as the father of Thomas de Lathom (died 1384).\(^{194}\)
ANDREW LATHAM AND THOMASINE LYON

George and Elizabeth Latham’s youngest son Andrew (born after c. 1522) married c. 1560 Thomasine, daughter of George Lyon of Eccleston. It seems likely that George Latham died by November 1547 and that Andrew succeeded him in his Whiston lands.

Andrew Latham is first found in Prescot parish (doubtless at Whiston) in 1560 when the churchwardens went ‘to fotche a sawe at Andrew Lathum’. In October 1560 he was elected one of the ‘eight men’, to appoint and supervise the churchwardens and decide on the church ‘leys’. On 21 November 1561 Andrew Latham joined Edward Law, vicar of Huyton (and others) as an appraiser of the estate of George Darlynton of Roby: Andrew’s signature appears on the document.

In 1562–3 he joined his brother George and Hamlet Ditchfield in refusing to relinquish deeds to the manors of Burtonhead in Sutton (Prescot) and Graveoak in Bedford (Leigh). When James Pemberton failed to appear in this case in the Hilary term 1564, an ‘attachment’ was awarded against him.

It was testified in 1581 that Mr Richard Bold’s father Richard (‘not longe before his death’) had discharged Andrew Latham from one of his closes in Whiston ‘sayinge he shulde occupye none of his lande’ and refused to receive his rent.

It was almost certainly Andrew who was the ‘Andrew Lathum’ buried in Prescot church towards the end of the 12 months ending on St Catherine’s Day (15 November) 1570, despite Dugdale’s claim that he died ‘about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth’. Andrew’s wife Thomasine subsequently married Nicolas Werrall (perhaps the ‘Nicholas Wyrrall’ who held lands at West Derby in 1561), who predeceased her: he may well have been the ‘Nyicholas Wirrall’ buried in Prescot church on 12 February 1575/6.

Andrew and Thomasine had three sons George, Paul and Henry and two daughters Margaret Garnett (1560/1–1641); and Dorothy Appleton (1562/3–1632). Dugdale lists the sons in the order Paul, George and Henry, while Thomasine’s will lists them twice, first in the order Henry, George and Paul and then as Paul, George and Henry. It seems certain, however, that Henry was the youngest child, born in the last year of his father’s life.

Margaret Garnett
Margaret, daughter of Andrew and Thomasine Latham was baptised at Prescot on 20 March 1560/1 and married Robert Garnett of Whiston on 27 August 1580. They had children Oliver (born 1581, perhaps died by 1590); Thomas (fl. 1590); Richard (fl. 1590); Evan (born 1585/6, fl. 1632); James (born 1594, fl. 1632); John (fl. 1632); Henry (fl. 1632); and Ales (fl. 1590 and 1632). Robert Garnett died a Whiston yeoman in 1632 and was buried at Prescot on 26 April. His will (witnessed by Henry Latham) spoke of his brothers-in-law William Browne and Edmund Lyon and his children Evan, James, John, Henry and Ales. Margaret died in 1641 and as ‘widow Garnett, Whiston’ was buried in Prescot Church on 13 May 1641.

Dorothy Appleton
Dorothy was baptised at Prescot on 5 February 1562/3 and married Edward Appleton of Farnworth. Their children were Henry (baptised at Farnworth, 12 July 1596); William (30 July 1598); Robert (25 August 1602); and John (3 November 1605). Edward made his will in favour of his wife and four sons as a yeoman of Widnes on 8 March 1616/7 and was buried in Farnworth church on 13 March. Dorothy was buried in church on 5 December 1632.

Paul
‘... the son of Andrew Latham’ was baptised at Prescot on 27 October 1567. This was perhaps Paul who matriculated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 1585 and was a fellow in c. 1594.
George
George was still in apprenticeship in 1590 and was thus born probably after 1569. Both Paul and George are shown by Dugdale as dying without issue.

Henry
Henry, the youngest child was born c. April 1570–c. April 1571 (he declared his age in April 1598 as '25'; on 7 October 1618 as '47'; and on 3 April 1649 as '78'); his father Andrew died in the year ending November 1570. ‘Henry, the sonne of Andrewe Laytham’ was baptised at Prescot on 5 April 1572, at the age of 12/23 months.

On 29 September 1581 Thomasine Werrall made deposition to a ‘commission to devide the Queenes landes wthin the mannor of Whiston from the landes of Richard Bould esquier’ (land formerly held by the Lathams). At issue were two adjacent closes, divided by ‘one old hedge or ditch’, totalling three acres and bounded on one side by ‘one brooke descending by the said two closes’ and on the other by the land of Mr Peter Stanley. On the northern side was ‘one lane in Whiston leading towards Liverpool’. Both closes had been farmed by ‘George Lathom, knight’, by his son Andrew Latham and now by Andrew’s widow Thomasin Worrall: all the evidence suggested that the northern part was Sir Richard Bold’s land and the southern part belonged to the Crown.

It seems very likely that these closes were those on the western boundary with Huyton and immediately south of the junction of the present Pottery Lane and Whiston Lane and named Little and Big Kings Earth on the 1770 map.

The 1585–6 churchwardens accounts refer to ‘the wief of Andrewe Lathum’, from whom 20d was received for ‘one hundredte of bricke’.

Thomasine Werrall, widow of Whiston made her will on 30 May 1590, asking to be buried in Prescot church. She left all her goods and leases to her son Henry, who was to pay her funeral expenses and legacies. George was to have £10 ‘when his prentishippe is come upp’; Thomasine’s son Paule and son-in-law Robert Garnett were each to have 4os; there was 6s 8d each to her nieces and nephews Thomas, Richard, Evane and Ales (four children of Robert Garnett) ‘to goe fforward with’. There was 13s 4d for Thomasine’s son-in-law Edward Appleton, whose wife Doritie received half her linen clothes. Margaret Garnett was to have her best gown and the rest of the linen clothes. Thomasine noted that she had already paid all the ‘childs parte of goods’ to her sons Paul (plus £13) and George (plus £10); and to Robert Garnett. She listed debts, amongst which were £28 10s to Edward Appleton and £3 to her brother Robert Lyon. Her executors were to be her three sons, with her brother Thomas Lyone and her brother-in-law George Latham (of Irlam) as overseers. Symond Garnett and George Lyon were among the witnesses.

‘Thomasin, ux. Nic’ Werrall of Whiston’ was buried at Prescot on 27 June 1590. An [undated] inventory was taken by Richard Harden, Thomas Garnett, Raphe Houghton and Alexander France. In the sum of £64 the inventory indicates mixed farming, with crops of barley (three acres); root vegetables (two acres); hemp and flax. The animals were a yoke of oxen, five ‘cays’ [cows], three bullocks, three stirsks, five calvers, a mare, 15 sheep, three swine and two pigs. There were carts, wains, wheels and ploughs. In the house were 20s-worth of silver spoons; 33s-worth of pewter (including three candlesticks); brass pots and pans; bedstocks and a truckle bed; chairs, boards and benches; together with meat, butter, salt, cheese, wool and fuel. The will was proved on 28 September.

HENRY LATHAM AND ISABEL KENWRICKE

Henry, son of Andrew Latham of Whiston (born in 1570–1571) was baptised at Prescot on 5 April 1572, a year or two after his father’s death.

Henry was executor to his mother Thomasine Worrall at her death in 1590 and received all her leases and goods. ‘Henri Latham’ was owed 12d by Henry Ditchfield of Whiston at his death in 1591.
Henry Latham married Isabel Kenwricke at Prescot on 22 December 1594. Isabel was a daughter of the catholic recusant Christopher Kenwricke of Rainhill, but although Christopher and his family were being arraigned as recusants at this time, Henry and Isabel's sons and daughters were all to become enthusiastic puritans and protestant dissenters.\textsuperscript{211}

Henry and Isabel Latham of Whiston had children Dorithi (baptised at Prescot on 5 October 1595); Edward (26 August 1597, died young); Thomasin (14 August 1599, \textit{fl.} 1648); Ellen (28 December 1601); Elizabeth (7 March 1603/4, \textit{fl.} 1648); John (born at Whiston in 1606, baptised 25 May); Paul (10 June 1609); Suzan (Susanna, 1612–1668), (22 August 1612); Andrew (died 1651).

It was probably Henry who was churchwarden of Prescot in 1597/8.\textsuperscript{212} In April 1598 Henry Lathom of Whiston appeared at Huyton church as a deponent in a dispute between his father-in-law Christopher Kenwricke and William Beesley.\textsuperscript{213} He was one of Prescot's eight men in 1601/2.\textsuperscript{214} In 1607 Henry Latham was one of the appraisers of the estate of his cousin John Lyon of Eccleston, tanner. The post-1610 seating arrangements in Prescot church show in the south aisle the seat of Henry Lathom and John Ackers. In 1616 Henry was a supervisor for the will of his brother-in-law Edward Appleton, yeoman of Farnworth; and in the same year a witness to the will of Henry Ashton of Farnworth.

Together with John Lyon of Whiston, Henry Latham of Whiston, yeoman was enfeoffed by George Georgeson \textit{als} Dam of Whiston (died 1619) on 6 March 1613/14, in respect of all his premises, to be disposed of after his death according to his will.\textsuperscript{215} Henry was a warden of Prescot school in 1617: together with Gerrard Potter he made his accounts in Prescot church on 8 August: both were schoolwardens again in 1619.\textsuperscript{216} Their grandchildren Anna Latham and David Potter would later marry.

In 1621 Henry Latham and Edward Deane, 'well-beloved friends' of George Wetherby of Halsnead, acted as his attorneys in a lease renewal to John Litherland: 'John Lathom' was a witness. In 1623 Henry was a witness for William Browne of Whiston in proceedings with Norris of Speke.\textsuperscript{217} The Whiston muster of 1625 included 'Harrie Lathom' with one musket. In 1633 Henry was a witness of the will of Edward Deane. Henry was an elector of Prescot parish in 1640.\textsuperscript{218}

Of Henry and Isabel's children, John married a daughter of a well known Puritan, Paul and Andrew both became Puritan preachers and Thomasin was the mother and grandmother of nonconformist clergy. It was perhaps for this reason that none of the four were married at Prescot.

**Thomasin** (1599–1681) married Thomas Risley (1588–1670), gent., of Poulton with Fearnhead (Warrington). Thomas Risley, senior was buried at Warrington on 14 October 1670. His widow, Thomasin was buried there on 26 July 1681.\textsuperscript{219} There were two sons John (1628–1661) and Thomas (1630–1716). John ('of Pembroke College, Oxford') died on 14 January 1661.

Thomas, junior was born on 27 August 1630, baptised at Kenyon Newchurch and educated at Warrington Grammar School. A Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford he was compelled to surrender his fellowship on account of non-conformity on 24 August 1662 and yet was ordained deacon and priest on 10 November of that year. Thomas married Catherine and had sons Thomas and John (1690–1743). He built Risley Chapel c. 1707 and performed service there. Author of \textit{The Cursed Family}, based on the books of Proverbs and Jeremiah, he died 'of a considerable age' on 20 January 1715/16 and was buried at Risley: his will (proved 13 January 1727/8), spoke of an indenture concerning a messuage at Culcheth made in 1685–6 between various parties including 'John Lathom [his uncle], son and heir of Henry Lathom of Whiston, gent.'\textsuperscript{220} The young John Risley became minister of Risley Chapel, in his turn.

**Ellen** (born 1601) married John Ashton of Newton.\textsuperscript{221}

**Elizabeth** (born 1603, \textit{fl.} 1648) married Roger Roscowe of Tonge, almost certainly the eldest son of James Roscow of Tonge, who died in 1623, asking by his will to be buried 'with his ancestors' at Bolton church.\textsuperscript{222}

**John** (1606–1672) married Susanna Aspenhall by 1636 (see below).
Paul (1609–1663) was Henry and Isabel's second surviving son. Educated at All Souls College, Oxford, matriculating on 18 November 1631 and graduating B.A. 1631/2 and M.A. 1636.²²³ Curate of Douglas in 1644, he was elected parson of Standish in 1645 by a meeting of parishioners, but was not able to displace the rector until 1649.²²⁴ Paul was appointed one of the 11 ministers on the Lancashire committee for ordinations in 1645. He was described in 1650 as a 'godly, orthodox and painful divine'.²²⁵ In 1648 he first gained an interest in the old Tyldesley lands at Ditton.²²⁶ In 1656 Paul was one of those committed to the tower of London by Cromwell after jealousies had broken out between the independents and presbyterians. Paul was to be ejected from Standish at the restoration.²²⁷

Paul married by licence at Middleton on 9 December 1645, Mary, daughter of Richard Assheton, esq. (died 1618) and of his wife the Hon. Mary Assheton. Mary was sister to Major-General Raphe Ashton (died 1650/1), esq. of Middleton (the eminent parliamentary commander, whom Paul served as chaplain).

Paul and Mary had children Theodore (born 1649); Henry (matriculated at St Edmund Hall, Oxford 1669/70); Paul (a fustian weaver of Bolton, died 1703); Mary; and probably John (born c. 1660, matriculated 1676).²²⁸ On 3 September 1663, shortly before his death at Ditton, Paul left his six-hearth property there in trust to John and Henry Latham of Whiston and to Thomas Lyon of Wolfall.²³⁰ By his will of 1663 Paul left 40s to his brother John for a mourning cloak and a messuage in Poulton Lanshott (?Lancelyn, near Bebington), Cheshire to John and his son Henry in trust for Paul's younger children. Paul was buried at Farnworth on 27 October 1663.

Susanna (1612–1668) married John Barker of Halewood at Childwall in 1634. They had children baptised at Hale Chapel: John (5 November 1635); Ellin (20 January 1637/8); Elizabeth (5 April 1640); and Thomas (13 June 1641). In 1653 John Barker, tanner of Halewood joined with Thomas Lyon of Wolfall, gent. in the assignment by the Ogle family of a capital messuage, by the appointment of Paul Lathom, rector of Standish.²³¹ 'Susan, wife of John Barker of Halewood' was buried at Hale on 11 August 1668; 'John Barker of Halewood' was buried on 17 June 1668; ‘John Barker of Halewood’ was buried on 17 June 1662. John’s administration with inventory was granted in 1672.

Andrew (c. 1613/17?–1651) was Henry and Isabel’s youngest son. He matriculated on 12 December 1635 and was educated at All Souls’, graduating in 1637.²³² He went as minister first to Coley, near Halifax as a ‘young man, very hopeful and pious’. Andrew was at Coley ‘nine or 10 years’: ‘godly man’ he was ‘congregational in principle, but never acted as an independent’.²³³ Andrew married first Jane Boyle of Westercroft at St Peter’s, Leeds on 7 October 1640. After Jane’s death and the besieging of Halifax by Fairfax in 1645, Andrew fled to Bury and was appointed to succeed the rector, ejected on 24 April.²³⁴ Here he married Martha, daughter of Thomas Baines of Halifax. Andrew died a clerk at Bury in 1651 and Martha survived him.²³⁵

By his will of 8 May 1648, Andrew left bequests to various ministers and £5 to the President of the College of Cambridge, Massachusetts ‘to advance the Gospel among the poor Indians of New England’. Certain books in English he left to his ‘honoured and aged father’ [Henry]. Five divinity books in Latin went to his brother Paul and all his school books to his nephews Henry and Paul [sons of Paul or John]. There were further bequests of 40s each ‘as a token of true love’ to his sisters Thomasine, Elizabeth and Susanna and to his sisters-in-law Anna, Elizabeth and Marie. His brother John and father-in-law Baines were to be executors. The will was proved in London on 14 June 1651.²³⁶

‘Issabella ux. Henrici Latham’ died in 1643/4 and was buried in Prescot church on 21 March (called ‘Isabell, wife of Henry Lathom of Whiston’, in the churchwardens accounts).²³⁷

On 3 April 1649 Henry (by then 78) appeared at Prescot to give evidence in the case in which John Kenwricke, (his late wife’s brother) sought to claim on the Northamptonshire estate of Richard Kenwricke, son of his wife’s cousin, for moneys intended 50 years before to go to a ‘free schoole’ in Prescot.

‘Henry Lathom’ died at Whiston in 1652 and was buried at Prescot on 2 November. No will survives.
JOHN LATHAM AND SUSANNA ASPENHALL

John Latham was born in 1606. There is no record of him attending Oxford university, as his younger brothers were to do. He is recorded in the 1625 muster as his father’s armour-bearer. On 11 December 1629 the inventory of Thomas Pyke of Prescot, yeoman showed that he owed 6s to ‘Mr John Lathom’. John was married by 1636 to Susanna, daughter of ‘Edward Aspenhall of Aspennhill, Lancashire’. This was Edward Aspinwall, formerly of Aspinwall (Scarisbrick) and then of Toxteth Park, one of the founders of Toxteth Independent Chapel and a prominent non-conformist, who died in 1633.

John and Susanna Latham’s children were Henry (1636–1692) (baptised 30 September 1636 at Prescot); Paule (baptised at Prescot 11 January 1637/8); Sarah; Mary (baptised at Prescot 3 February 1639/40); twins Edward and Andrew (baptised at Prescot 22 May 1642, Edward died in childhood); Jonathan (1644–1647) (baptised at Huyton, buried at Prescot 1647); Anne/Anna/Hannah (baptised at Huyton 11 October 1646).

In 1639 John Lathom witnessed a lease of the Westhead in Whiston from George Wetherby to Browne. In 1641 John Lathom of Whiston, gent. was granted a lease from Lord Derby of the four acre Great Gorsey Hey in Whiston, by his life and those of his sons Henry and Paul.

It seems likely that John and Susanna Latham lived at the property later known as The Lathams in Pottery Lane, Whiston (now the site of the Stadt Moers country park visitor centre). A beam removed from the house bears the date ‘1642’ and was seen in 1925 to carry also the initials ‘L. J and S’. It has been argued that the heart of this estate was purchased in two parts of 16 and four acres by George Georgeson from Sir Thomas Ireland (inheritor from Henry Blundell), Thomas Bold and others. After the deaths of Georgeson in 1619 and his widow Margaret in 1634, it is said to have been bought by Henry Lathom and a new house built.

In 1770 the estate belonged to James Gildart, for whom a survey map was made, showing ‘Lathams Intake’ and ‘Worrills’. A plan of the estate made in October 1814 for William Lees survives; there are also sketches of the house and plans of the estate made in 1826 when Lees was objecting to the line of the proposed Liverpool—Manchester Railway then being planned. ‘A picture of The Lathams ‘taken in the early days of photography’ shows it as a square brick house with a kitchen wing. From plans still in existence [1925] ... the building was of the manor house style of the early 17th century.’ Plans of the intended line of the Liverpool—Manchester railway (drawn in 1827) show the Lathams estate stretching an equal distance either side of the Huyton—Whiston boundary brook as far as the Molyneux—Seel lands on the west and Lord Derby’s on the east. Neither Ridings nor Whiston collieries were then included.

[Part of a royalist garrison of 500 men was quartered in Prescot at the end of October 1642].

John Lathom was a committed puritan and together with his brother-in-law Jerehijah Aspinwall it is clear that he supported Parliament’s cause in the civil wars. ‘John Lathom of Whiston, gent.’ was a sequestrator for the county committee of compounding, acting in the cases of Molineux of the Wood (23 November 1643), William Norris of Speke (with his kinsman Peter Ambrose, receiving £2230 between January 1642/3 and 21 June 1660), Katherine Parr and William Potter of Rainhill (25 December 1651). In 1644 John, his brother-in-law Jerehiah Aspinwall and George Deane were among some 200 ‘gentlemen, freeholders and other inhabitants’ of West Derby hundred (of the ‘well affected & godly pty in that country’) petitioning parliament for Colonel Moore of Bank Hall to be re-appointed Governor of Liverpool, with ‘power (upon occasion) to comand the godly pty in that county’; Richard Daye ‘pastor of Prescot’ and William Bell of Huyton were also among the signatories. The petitioners spoke of Moore’s ‘reality to the good cause ... against the adverse malignant party’.

‘John Lathom, gentleman’ and ‘George Deane, yeoman’ were among those appointed elders of the newly formed presbyterian classis of Warrington (which included Prescot) in 1646: Jerehijah Aspinwall was an elder of the Liverpool classis (which included Huyton). In the same year both were among the sequestrators appointed to collect tithes and dues at Prescot and to provide for the service of the cure, after
the desertion of Day (the vicar). In 1646/7 John Lathom executed a deed with George Deane and William Kendrick (probably his cousin). On 2 February 1649 John, together with George Deane, was witness to a further Wetherby–Litherland lease at Halsnead.

John Lathom was one of the ‘gentlemen of Prescot’ (responsible with the vicar for electing the ‘eight men’ and approving the accounts) in 1647, 1649–52, 1655–59, and 1662–3. He was one of the two Whiston surveyors for the two years from 1659 and was elected one of the ‘eight men’ in October 1659. John was one of those electing the churchwardens in April 1664.

Making his will on 22 February 1650 George Deane of Rainhill mentioned his mother Dorothy, his wife Ellen, sons Edward, Hamlett and Matthew, daughter Dorothy, sister Isabell Ackers, brother-in-law Thomas Tickle and late father-in-law Matthew Tickle. He appointed his wife as executrix and made overseers his son Edward and his ‘well-beloved friend and kinsman Mr John Lathom of Whiston’. On 20 July 1650 John Latham and George Deane of Rainhill bought ‘several messuages in Whiston and Halsnead’ with 23 acres of land from George Wetherby, gent (died August 1652 ‘a papist delinquent’). George Deane of Rainhill was buried at Prescot on 26 February 1650/1.

[Richard Day, the restored vicar of Prescot, had died on 11 April 1650: he was buried in the church].

John Lathom purchased a messuage and land in Huyton and portions of the Sheep Field at Whiston in 1649–53. ‘John Lathom of Whiston, gent’ was examined on 25 December 1651 in the case of Katherine, widow of Baldwyn Potter of Rainhill. In 1652 John Latham acquired the Ridings in Whiston from George Lyon.

On 2 February 1653 John Latham of Whiston, gent. sold to William Ashurst of Ashurst the messuages which he and George Deane (now deceased) had bought in 1650.

In the palatinate court in 1656 John Latham recovered from Gerrard Potter seisin of six messuages, a windmill and 64 acres in Tarbock, Cronton and Whiston, which Latham had acquired from Hugh Hunt 30 years before.

On 24 October 1656 there was a settlement before the marriage of John’s daughter Sarah with John Wood, eldest son of William and Margaret Wood of Hanging Bridge, Sutton. John Lathom was one of the parish electors at Prescot in 1655 and 1659. He was surveyor of Whiston for 1659–1661 and one of the parish’s ‘eight men’ for the year beginning October 1659.

After the restoration John Lathom continued to play a part in parish affairs. In October 1662 and April 1663 and 1664 he was one of the prominent parishioners at the public meetings to elect the eight men and the churchwardens.

Together with Peter Ambrose, John was sued in 1660 by Thomas Norris of Speke for the return of £2230 in confiscated rents, retained when they were sequestrators.

In 1662 John Latham had six hearths in Whiston (the third largest number, after Henry Ogle’s 10 and Henry Ashton’s eight). John’s son Henry, together with Elizabeth Browne and George Pemberton) had four, while Garrat Potter, whose heir was to marry John’s daughter Anna had two: John and George Lyon had three and two hearths respectively.

‘John Latham of Whiston gent.’ was a trustee for his brother Paul’s Ditton lands in 1663 and as part of this process leased various messuages in Ditton and a ‘small parcel called Plunterford’ from John Tyldesley of Ditton for five months on 27 April 1663.

On 25 August 1663 the archbishop’s visitation court at Warrington heard a complaint against John Lathom. On 15 September he wrote to the chancellor at Chester telling of an inquiry on 9 September by the commission for charitable uses held before the chancery court of Lancaster in the close of the assizes. John
had been accused of detaining since 1645 £11 due to Huyton church and school, together with the 18 years interest. He said he expected to be called before the duchy court in London, although he was 'in no way guiltie but persecuted of malice and illegallie proceeded agt.'

An inquisition in the case was taken at Prescot on 22 November 1664. The commission heard on 5 July that one Henry Ballard of Huyton, yeoman had died c. 1645, owing £8 to Huyton school. On 20 December 1645 John Latham of Whiston, gent. had stood possessed of £14 belonging to the grammar school and to Huyton church and had employed the money to his own use. On 7 July 1665 he was ordered to pay £19 3s 6d to the school and £7 2s 6d towards the repair of the church.

In 1664 John Latham occurs in a surviving court roll of the manor of Whiston as one of 27 freeholders. He was presented for encroaching on the lord's waste on the north side of his house and for a further offence below his house between Brownes Meadow Yate and 'Nann Brooke'. In 1666 and 1671 John had seven hearths in his Whiston house and another 'in a cottage'.

John Latham died at Whiston in 1672 and was buried at Prescot on 19 August. No will survives, although in the will of his son Henry (made in December 1687) there is reference to 'all the heyrolomes in and by my late father his last will': the heirlooms had been left to Henry and his heirs. Evidence supplied when Henry's will was contested 1692 speaks of a 'close copy' of John Lathoms will.

John's widow Susanna died at Whiston in 1677 and was buried at Prescot on 2 April.

JOHN LATHAM'S DAUGHTER ANNA & HER DESCENDANTS

We have seen that John and Susanna's daughter Anna (1646) married David Potter of Windle in 1668 (vide POTTER). The descent had been:

THOMAS LATHUM (born c. 1420/30)
EDMOND LATHOM (c. 1441–86+), husband of PETRONILL MASSEY
GEORGE LATHOM (c. 1462–1547) of Knowsley, husband of ELIZABETH LEVER
ANDREW LATHOM (1522++–70) of Whiston, husband of THOMASINE LYON
HENRY LATHAM (1570/71–1652) of Whiston, husband of ISABEL KENWRICKE
JOHN LATHAM (1606–72) of Whiston, husband of SUSANNA ASPINWALL
ANNA LATHAM (1646–1706/7), wife of DAVID POTTER of Windle

The descent then continued:

HANNAH POTTER (1669/78–1751), wife of WILLIAM SADLER of Eccleston:
MARGARET SADLER (1699+–1772), wife of ROBERT LYON of Rainford and Melling
GRACE LYON (1735–1824), wife of JOHN ASHCROFT of Aughton:
JOHN ASHCROFT (1776–1850) of Aughton, husband of MARY GUY of Aughton:
PETER ASHCROFT (1812–55) of Aughton, husband of MARTHA GUY of Aughton:
SARAH ASHCROFT (1854–1935), wife of JOHN CULSHAW of Ormskirk:
MARY FRANCES CULSHAW (1885–1971), wife of ALBERT EDWARD MOLYNEUX of Walton:
BRENDA MARY MOLYNEUX (born 1913), wife of THOMAS EATON STEEL of Liverpool:
THOMAS MOLYNEUX STEEL (born 1939).

JOHN AND SUSANNA LATHAM'S OTHER CHILDREN

John Latham's heir was Henry (1636–1690), a wealthy Whiston coal owner. He was party in 1656 to the marriage settlement of his sister Sarah and John Wood of Hanging Bridge, Sutton. Henry married (H)esther, daughter of Nicholas Stones, a lead merchant of Hemsworth (Norton), Derbyshire by 1659. Their elder sons John (24 July 1659); and Nicholas (31 March 1661) were baptised at Huyton; Nicholas died c. 1687–91. A daughter Ann was born c. 1663. The remaining children were baptised or buried at Prescot: Thomas (baptised 26 July 1665); Paul (buried 24 June 1667); Edward (buried 20 November 1671); Henry and Joseph
(baptised 16 June 1674); Jonathan (baptised 19 March 1677/8); Andrew (baptised 16, buried 23 September 1676); and Susanna (buried 11 May 1678).

Henry was surveyor of Whiston for 1661–2 and one of those electing Prescot’s ‘eight men’ in October 1662.\(^{277}\) We have seen that in 1662 Henry (with four hearths) had the fourth largest house in Whiston. It was doubtless Henry who was a trustee for his uncle Paul’s extensive lands at Ditton in 1663: \(^{278}\) he seems to have bought them from Paul’s son Henry Latham of Ditton, gent. in 1680.\(^{279}\) Henry Latham of Ditton gent. was involved in a struggle for possession of Paul Latham’s former lands there in 1677 and 1680/1.\(^{280}\) It is unclear whether it is Henry or his nephew who was described as ‘of Cawsey in Haughton, gent.’, when buying Tyldesley Hall and Bank House in Ditton for £1280 in 1680/1 and 1682).\(^{281}\)

Henry occurs as a freeholder and juror of Whiston manor court in 1664.\(^{282}\) He was elected a warden of Prescot School on 6 August 1670 and again on 18 October 1684 and 1689.\(^{283}\)

Henry’s wife Esther was left £100 in the will of her father and their seven surviving children each received £50.\(^{285}\)

Henry occurs as a freeholder and juror of Whiston manor court in 1664.\(^{282}\) He was elected a warden of Prescot School on 6 August 1670 and again on 18 October 1684 and 1689.\(^{283}\)

Henry is described as ‘gentleman’ in the parish registers from 1674. He occurs in the Prescot churchwardens accounts from 1677. On 23 November 1683 ladders for steeple repairs were borrowed from Rainhill Hall, ‘Mr Lathom’s’ and Prescot Hall. On 1 May 1684 Henry was elected treasurer to hold moneys raised by leys for the repair of the ‘steeple’ of Prescot church. In 1685–6 money was spent on ‘Mr Lathom’s men that brought a load of timber’. In 1686 it was estimated that the repairs would require expenditure of more than £600, it being ‘so very ruinous and decayed’.\(^{284}\)

In 1676 Henry’s wife Esther was left £100 in the will of her father and their seven surviving children each received £50.\(^{285}\)

Henry appears as Lord Derby’s tenant of land called Gorsey at Whiston in the 1678 call book of Knowsley. He was granted a further lease of Great Gorsey Hey in 1681 by his life and those of his sons John, Nicholas and Thomas.\(^{286}\) In 1680/1 and 1682 Henry Latham of Ditton, gent. conveyed property to Henry Latham of Whiston, gent. for £1280.\(^{287}\)

In October 1684 Henry was a witness of the will of his brother-in-law John Wood of Hanging Bridge. Also in 1685 Henry was one of those parishioners approving the churchwardens’ accounts at Prescot. ‘Mr Henry Lathom’ was churchwarden of Prescot in 1687–8 and again in 1688–9, when as ‘Henry Lathom, gent.’ he also witnessed a sacrament certificate.\(^{288}\)

Henry’s son John Lathom of Whiston (born 1659) bought Dragon House at Cronton in c. 1675. His father made a settlement of lands on John’s marriage. Henry was granted a lease by Hamlet Yates (who later married his daughter) ‘when it was recorded that it was the sellers desire to return to his business at Rotterdam’.\(^{289}\)

Henry’s will was made on 6 December 1687. It is clear that his main business interest was as a coal-owner and one of the witnesses was his servant Henry Forber who was ‘chiefly concerned in some coal works’ belonging to him.\(^{290}\) Henry Latham called to mind the ‘various hazzards the profession of my callinge and frequent jour[n]eys abroad subject mee unto’; he left to his eldest son John ‘all engynes or water guns, bucketts & chaines’, together with ‘timber prepared and utensils ... also unwrought iron and steele’; he also made provision for ‘evry of my colliers’. He left to his widow Esther his ‘pockett [?watch]’.

Henry’s executors were to release to his colliers ‘the fourth pte of all debts which they owe unto mee att my decease which may appeare to be lent moneys and not rents of house or grounds, pvyed they paye in the remayninge three pts[...]within six months’.

Of Henry’s property there is mention of ‘att home’ and ‘where I live’; Browns house (or New house); a
messuage and tenement in Whiston 'late purchased of Willm Ackers'; and Leys messuage and tenement held by life lease.

Henry's three youngest sons (14 and 10 when the will was made and 17 and 13 at his death) were to be 'sent abroad to schoole as soone as with conveniency they may (to Warrington, 291 Heskeyne 292 or as [his] trustees] ... may see good), indulgency in mothers being too often a prejudice to childrens educacon and my wyfe too fondly deer of her children’. He wishes them to 'keepe in the communion of the Church of England'. As they grow up the youngest sons are to have 'their owne sevrall free choices' (with the consent of their mother and brothers) whether to be 'placed unto trades or educated att the universitye'.

Henry left bequests in money amounting to almost £1500, together with ten 'broad ppeeces of Gould' worth 22s each and thirteen gold guinea pieces worth 20s each. His widow also received £10 in silver which had been given to her by Henry's father. The will was witnessed by Henry's nephew William Halliwell of Wrightington (died 1738).

In January 1689 Henry Latham was executor for Timothy Aspinwall of Toxteth Park.

Henry Lathom, gent. of Whiston was buried in Prescot church on 21 May 1690. His will had requested that he be buried near 'where I interred my dear father and mother'. The churchwardens accounts record the burial of 'Mr Lathom' and expenditure on 'Mr Ather who preached the Sunday before Mr Lathom died'. 293

When Henry's will first came to be proved on 23 April 1691, his son John was awarded administration of the goods of his late brother Nicholas, 'of Whiston, merchant', who had died (aged 26–30) since the making of his father's will in 1687. There was then some dispute about Henry's estate, which necessitated depositions by the witnesses on 16 July 1691: the will was finally proved in September 1691, in favour of John.

John Latham seems to have inherited his father's colliery business: among the Norris papers is a receipt for coals signed by John Lathom. 294 Among the many bequests of lands and goods in his father's will, he received the heirlooms in his father's house, his signet ring, his 'sylver tankard whereon my coat of arms is engraved', the map of the world and 'one broad ppeece of Gould of xxixs'.

Henry's widow Esther was buried at Prescot on 29 March 1692.

John Latham was in contention over a pew in Prescot Church in 1695 and 1669. 295 He was elected a school warden in 1692, 1702 and 1706. 296 John Latham was of Hallowes, Dronfield, Derbyshire when he died without issue in 1713: his heir was Ann Morrow of Derbyshire. By 1731 her heir was a cousin Henry Lathom of Cavendish Square. 297 John died without assigning his 300 year interest in lands at Whiston, which were the subject a special grant of administration on 17 February 1813. 298

Henry's daughter Ann Lathom married Hamlett Yates by licence at Prescot on 28 January 1691/2. 299 Yates was executor for his brother-in-law John Lathom in 1713 and by 1731 was living at Aston Parkes, Cheshire. 300 Hamlet Yates of Great Budworth, Cheshire made his will on 18 January 1747. He 'died in England and left a daughter who went to live at Great Budworth'. 301 Limited administration of Yates' estate was eventually granted on 1 August 1820. 302

Paul (1637/8–87) was John and Susanna's second son. 303 He matriculated at Pembroke College in 1654 and became vicar of Warminster, Wiltshire in 1656/6 or 1660. On 3 October 1659 Paul married by licence Mary Morris of Battersea at St Martins le Grand, London: Mary died on 30 September 1660 and was buried in the sanctuary floor at Warminster on 2 October: a brass survives. As the 'new minister' of Warminster, Paul was presented at quarter sessions on 9 January 1660/1 for failing to use the prayer book.

On 4 December 1661 Paul (c. 30 [sic], of Warminster, clerk) took out a licence to marry Martha Esgote of Osterley, spinster at 'Brainford' [recte Brentford], Middlesex. 304 Their son John (born c. 1660) matriculated at Lincoln College in 1676, graduated B.A. in 1680 and became rector of Lawton, Cheshire in 1682: he died in January 1705 (administration and inventory). Martha Latham died in 1662.
Later in 1662 at Warminster Paul married Elizabeth Markes, daughter of Mr William Elderton of Warminster: their daughter Elizabeth was born c. 1663, but died at the age of five and was buried at Warminster on 26 June 1668. Paul became prebendary of Sarum in 1672. On 14 July 1681 he gave information at the Warminster sessions on 20–30 men who had worn blue ribbons in their hats and were thus thought to be supporters of the Duke of Monmouth: the Duke of York's colours were red. Paul died in 1687 and was buried at Warminster on 14 May.

Sarah (fl. 1687) was John and Susanna's daughter. She married John Wood of Hanging Bridge, Sutton in 1656: they had children William, John, Mary, Peter, James, Margrett, Esther and Sarah, all of whom were fl. 1684. Of these ‘Mary, daughter of John Wood’ was baptised at Prescott [n.d.] in 1664, Peter 'son of John Wood, Sutton' on 5 May 1667 and Sarah at St Helens on 16 September 1679, probably by the nonconformist minister 'Mr Greg'.

John Wood made his will in October 1684. He was buried at Prescott on 14 February 1687/8 and his inventory taken on 20 February (with David Potter, husband of his widow's sister Hannah, as an appraisor).

It was probably Sarah who was buried at Prescott on 29 June 1688, as ‘Sarah Woods, Sutton, widow’.

Andrew (1642–87+) was John and Susanna's youngest surviving son. He was also at Oxford. Andrew married Sarah: both were fl. 1687.

LATER GENERATIONS

A Whiston lease from Lord Derby in 1722 shows Henry Lathom aged 21 (born c. 1701) and John Lathom (born c. 1703) together with their kinsman George Potter (qv). The call books of Lord Derby's tenants at Whiston show in 1748 ‘John Lathom, gent, dead’ and ‘the heirs of John Lathom’ then regularly presented for failure to appear. The 1766 book has ‘John Lathom dead, Ann Latham, widow admitted’. ‘Ann Latham, widow’ appears in 1778, but not thereafter.

‘The last of the Lathams to reside at the Lathams sold it to James Gildart, a member of the Liverpool African Merchants Company ... Nearly all the wealthy families around Prescott speculated in the West African trade which was in oil, ivory and slaves’.

From 1772–1845 there were transactions involving ‘Lathams pew’ on the north side of the south aisle in Prescott church: the 1772 deed has George Potter as a witness.

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(revised 29 July 2010)
(1872), p. 175 (Latham of Irelam)*; p. 177 (Latham of Whiston)*; p. 176 (Latham of Perbold)*
Familiae Minorum Gentium (Ms 198), p. 459*
Liv. R.O., acc. 2187 (box 1) (Whiston court roll)*
Thos Latham of Chaddesden (inv., 13 Sept. 1558)* & Hugh Lathum (will to w. Sybbyll & ss Hugh, ...., Alys & Geo., 21 Oct. 1558):* Lichfield Record Office, B/C/11
L.R.O., WCW, Inv. of Thomasine Werrall, 1590*
Pedigree of Lathom of Lathom ... & of Lathom in Astbury (source unknown)*
Will of Thos Latham of Hornchurch, Essex (1593): Essex Record Office, D/AER 17/95*
Knowsley Archives, Dennis Mason's notes on Whiston: Georgeson's estate*
'Biographical Notices', II (1844), pp. 347--348*
C.L., Piccope mss., p. 370* (Dodsworth, f. 242)
C.L., Piccope ?, p. 31*; C.L., Piccope 7, p. 208*; C.L., Piccope 8, p. 170*
C.L., Piccope 8, p. 114 has f. 81 (7 H 8) Thos Latham ten under Yeland. Hugo L: est f & h, f. 33*
C.L., Piccope 8, p. 51 has 'Rex inspectimus qdda script testimoniale Thomae Lathom senr .... int. Thos Lathom senr, Wm de Atherton clericus, Jn de Eccleston, Ric Bold, Matteus de Rixton, Jn de Haydoke, Jn de Eltonhead, Wm s of Adam de Lyvpull, Jn Travers de Whiston, Jn de Raynesford, Rob s Adam de Parr & Rob de Lydiate salt in Dom. nos recog qd die Domenica px an fin .... 40 E 3*
V.C.H., (III), p. 422 (Westleigh, Leigh): early history of Westleigh (Adam de, etc)*
L.R.O., DDWI/box 41 (pt)/1/1401/1* (map of Gildart's, Whiston)*; another plan, after 1770 (Mason?)*
Photographs of beam at The Lathams & aerial view of area*.
Notes on History of Whiston, pp. 19, 20 (photo of Old Hall), 26, 27 & 27x*
W. Blinkhorn, article on Whiston Hall in The Eagle (Knowsley Libaries), pp. 23--25 & drawing*
M.K. Griffiths, article on Ridgate in The Eagle, (I), pp. 16--23 & (II) 21--28 & plan*
Knowsley Archives, DDPS 1/37 ('An abstract of Prescot School, 1610')*
V.C.H., III, p. 433 (Leigh)*; IV, p. 163 (Winwick)*; V , pp. 286-7 (Bolton, Rivington)*
Croston, III, pp. 272--273 (Pedigree of Latham of Irlam & Hawthorne)*
Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica, 'On the Stanley Legend', pp. 1--21*
Latham of Lathom & Lathom of Astbury, pp. 63--75*
Final Concords, pp. 114--115, 120--121 & 132--133*
T.N.A., PL 20/5/2* & 20/14/1*; 20/29/1*; 20/27/6*; T.N.A., PL 15/41*; 15/81*; 15/187*; 15/386*
T.N.A., DL 30/6/86*; DL 3/17/1832*; DL 1/5*; DL 44/314*; T.N.A., Cl/907/78*
Liv. R.O., (Eliz, late w. of Geo. Lathom)*
Letters & Papers, 27H8, pp. 2--3 & 26--27; 28H8, pp. 352--353*
Materials Illustrative of the Reign of Henry VII, pp. 35--37 & 286*
Manchester Archives, ?L1/47/5 re Rufford, Gt Harwood & Haltedon*
History of House of Stanley, pp. 24 & 42--55*
An Index of Lancs Heraldry, p. 113*
Hearth Tax, Whiston, 1662*
Notes & Queries, 'Notes on Mascy & Latham Pedigrees', pp. 201--206*
Prescot Reporter, 1925: J. Hoult, 'Story of the Lathams' I & II*
Croston (V), p. 23*
Liv. R.O., 920 MOO 340 & 341 (includes sigs of Jn Lathom & Geo. Deane)*
?St Helens Lib., photos of Deans' farmhouse, Rainhill*
'Lathom of Astbury, Cheshire',* Liv. R.O., DDCs/27/2 (Sketch & plan of 'Mr Lees' house', Whiston & railway plan & proposals)*
Whiston Tithe Map, 1842*
1st edn OS Map of Pottery Lane, Whiston*
Salford Lib., Local History Fact Sheet 1 (Irlam Hall)*
Miscellanea Genealogica & Heraldica, p. 276 (Risley)*
3 1154–1188
4 i.e., c. 1066
6 G. Ormerod, ‘On the Stanley legend & the House of Boteler, Fitz-Ailward, Lathom & Stanley, etc.’, Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica (London, 1841), VII, pp. 1–21, esp. 11–12
8 ‘Visitation, 1597’, C.S., 81, pp. 123*
9 ‘Visitation, 1613’, C.S., 82, p. 4* (Harleian, ms. 1437, f. 7)
10 ‘Visitation, 1664–5’, C.S., 85, pp. 175–177*
13 Ormerod, Collectanea, pp. 1–21*
14 Croston, Baines’ History, III, p. 272
17 Harleian Soc., 13, ‘Visitations of Essex’, W. Hervey, 1558, pp. 68–70. For the will of Thos Latham of Hornchurch, Essex (1593): Essex Record Office, D/AER 17/95*
18 Ormerod, Parentalia, p. 25; Collectanea, p. 4
19 Seacombe, House of Stanley, p. 25
20 Jn Rylands Lib., Manchester: Eng. Ms 716, ff. 43–47
21 Ormerod, Parentalia, pp. 56–7 & pp. 63–75; Collectanea, p.
22 Ormerod, Collectanea, p. 6. Thos de Latham, Joan his w. & Edwd their s. were pardoned for forest offences Feb. 1380; the execs of Thos de Latham occur May 1384; in Feb. 1385 there was an action against ‘Ellen, dau. of Thos, s. of Thos de Latham, chancellor, & Edwd de Latham, touching tenements in Knowsley’, etc; Sept. 1385 Sir Jn de Dalton was pardoned for m. Isabel, w. of Thos, s. of Sir Thos de Lathum, chancellor, & Edwd de Latham, touching tenements in Knowsley’, etc; Sept. 1385 Sir Jn de Dalton was pardoned for m. Isabel, w. of Thos, s. of Sir Thos de Lathom (tenant of Lathom manor by knight service) without lic., she having been assigned a 3rd part of the manor in dower: The National Archives [hereafter T.N.A.], PL 3/1 (111, 74, 69, 67, 61); PL 1/1 (71)
23 Ormerod, Collectanea, p. 7
24 She d. at ‘great age’ Fulshaw, Cheshire & was bur. Wilmslow
25 Ormerod, Collectanea, p. 11
27 Ormerod, Parentalia, pp. 72–73 (including a pedigree)
30 Lumby, ‘Norris Deeds’, pp. 9, 64, 104, 105, 109 (nos 45, 47, 287, 559, 586) [ B.L.], Add. Ch. 52111, 52116, 53085, 52117
32 Visitations of Essex, 1558, pp. 68–70; Thos de Lathom was a juror, Congleton court 1438–42 (T.N.A., DL30/5/63, Congleton roll)
33 Lancs Record Office [hereafter L.R.O.], DDM/30 [Fazakerley]/13 (grant, 1430); /14 (quitclaim, 1431); /17 (grant, 1433); /20 (grant, 1436); /35 [Kirkby]/14 (grant, 1428/9); /18 (grant, 1429/30); /38 [Litherland]/42 (lease, 1432); /44 (quitclaim, 1442/3); /46 [Sefton]/51 (exchange, 1431); /52 (grant, 1445/6); /55 (quitclaim, 1444); /51 [Walton]/47 (surrender, 1434)
Concerning Henry de Byrom & his s. Jn de Byrom: M.R.O., L1/51/9/8


Lumby, ‘Norris Deeds’, p. 192* (no. 1044) [B.L.], Add. Ch. 52975; M.R.O., L1/51/9/5


B.L., Add. Ch. 37234

T.N.A., DL 30/5/71 (Widnes roll, 4–6 Ed IV)

I.R.O., D/DSc/49/9


T.N.A., DL 25/1150 & 1152 (duchy, deeds, series I, m. settlement & grant, 6 Henry VII)

As did that of Thos Latham in 1596–7: Ducatus Lancastriae [hereafter Duc. Lanc.], I, part 1, calendar of inquisitions post mortem [hereafter i.p.m.] (London, 1823), pp. 21 & 65 (DL 7/5/7/1 & 7/17 [32])

I.R.O., D/DBl/42/162 (Ditton award, 1472); /42/170 (grant)

Bailey, ‘Prescot records’ (‘Leases of the rectory, 1453–1600’), pp. 4–6

T.N.A., DL 3/56 (G2)

Bailey, ‘Prescot records’, p. 25

M.R.O., L1/51/10/1

Thos was s. & heir of Sir Thos (d. 46 Ed III) & nephew of Ed Lathom of Parbold. Their parents were Thos de Lathom (d. 40 Ed III) & Eleonora; & their grandparents Sir Robt de Lathom & Katrina

T.N.A., DL 7/7 [6]; Duc. Lanc., I, part I, p. 30


Lumby, ‘Norris Deeds’, p. 192* (1045) [B.L., Add. Ch. 53088]. Farrer copies almost the same rental from the ‘Aston Hall Deeds’—it has ‘heirs of Thos Latham’ & of Jn Bellarbye (L1/51/9/5)

Among these a record of a ‘fifteenth’ subsidy (either 3 or 6 Henry VIII, 1511–1512 or 1514–1515) in which Thos Latham paid 3s 10d & Harr. Bellusbe 3s. 10½d; there were 8 other payers: (T. Heywood (ed.), ‘The Collection of a Subsidy in temp. Henry VIII’, Norris Papers, C.S., 9 (1846), p. 5*

Duc. Lanc., I, part 1, p. 30 (T.N.A., DL 7/4/61); M.R.O., Li/33/95 (inspectimus) (Farrer); V.C.H., III, p. 175

(1598 dep. Re Gleast, Derby & ‘one Latham’)


T.N.A., DL 30/6/86 (Widnes court roll, 1510–11)*

C.J. Glazebrook (ed.), A Schedule of Deeds....Manors of Rixton & Glazebrook (Northampton, 1975), p. 23 (Rixton deed W46 [XVI/1/46])

T.N.A., PL 1/5 (no. 38) (duchy patent roll, 1428, calendared D.K.R., 40, appendix, p. 538)

G. Ormerod, History of the County Palatine & City of Chester (London, 1892), II, p. 749

Farrer, ‘Final concords’, III, p. 114; see also T.N.A., PL 17/8

Glazebrook, Schedule, p. 24 (Rixton deed W51 [XVI/1/51]

Glazebrook, Schedule, p. 27 (Rixton deeds R11, 113–4, 117 [L.R.O., DDX/293/61–65]

Liverpool Record Office [hereafter Liv. R.O.], 920/MOO/574. Bonke [Bank] St is now Water St.

T.N.A., PL 15/39 [m. 15] (common pleas, plea roll, 12 Ed IV) & see M.R.O., Li/50/30/5 (ff. 45, 26); f. 42? Li/50/37/1

T.N.A., PL 20/5/2* (common pleas, writ, 12 Ed IV, autumn) & PL 15/39; M.R.O., Li/50/31/1

T.N.A., PL 15/41* [m. 5d] (common pleas, plea roll, 14 Ed IV, Lent); M.R.O., Li/50/37/1

Glazebrook, Schedule, p. 30 (Rixton deed W63) [XVI/1/63]

Glazebrook, Schedule, p. 31 (Rixton deed, R131) D/Dx 293/18


His i.p.m. was held 1512; see also 1608/9–1609/10, i.p.m. Robt Pilkington, Rivington, 7 Jas 1 (Duc. Lanc, I, 1, p. 74; T.N.A., DL 7/70, no. 20)

B.L., Add. Ms 32107/1965 & 6 (Towneley, GG) & V.C.H., IV (London, 1891), pp. 287, 289 (Rivington): the refs are to the law term of Assumption 1 Henry VII (Aug. 1486); it is unclear why Edmund is here described as ‘senior’.

A travel writer describing Knowsley Park 1751 was to explain that ‘the riding hill’ was so named ‘because they used to stand there to see horse races formerly kept here’; J.J. Cartwright (ed.), ‘The travels thro’ England of Dr Richard Pococke ...during 1750, 1751 & later years’, I, Camden Soc., n.s., 42 (1888), p. 209; for the chapel, M.K. Griffiths, ‘The Chapel of St. Leonard ...’, The Eagle (n.d.), pp11–12*

In 1509 Leyland was appointed steward of Knowsley & custodian for life of Knowsley Park. His dau. Anne m. Henry Blundell of Crosby: there are links with the early Lathams of Ditton
208 Jn Platt, Jn Pinnington & Jn Houlte. Will proved 23 Apr. 1617

201 Richd Bold, Whiston, 23 Eliz.) (('insufficient' 1563: J.E. Bailey (ed.),

195 Brassey & 10 other Prescot clergy attended the visitation. In 1548 there were 1000 in the parish old enough to

176 Anderton, it is conveyed for Eliz.'s life

166 T.N.A., PL 17/44 (m. 42)

157 T.N.A., PL 17/15 (84–86)(feet of fines)

147 J.A. Twemlow, Liverpool Town Books (Liverpool, 1918), 1 (1550–70), pp. 449, 390

137 Jn Rylands Lib., Rylands charters 3419

127 T.N.A., PL 17/44 (m. 42)

117 T.N.A., PL 17/15 (84–86)(feet of fines)


97 T.N.A., PROB 11/142 (proved 26 Aug.)

87 T.N.A., PROB 11/142 (proved 26 Aug.)


67 In 1646 Jn Lathom of Irlam bound over to keep the peace towards Edmund Lathom of Irlam; Edmund

57 Noted by Ormerod, Collectanea, VII, p. 16 ['Armeda subs. 24 Mar 1588']

47 The Mss of Lord Kenyon, Historic Manuscripts Commission, 14th report (1894), appendix, part 4, p. 582, 
citing 'extracts from a memorandum book' ('profaning the sabbath', 15 Apr. 1588, f. 10d). 'Ireland' sometimes

37 For cmls Flixton to 1730: J. Perkins (ed.), 'The Register of Flixton, 1570–1730', 


17 J.P. Earwaker, Church Goods, 1552', II, (113), p. 82*

17 Bailey, 'Churchwardens accounts', pp. 49, 62

17 Darlynton’s will & inv.* For S. Lancs wills, invs & admons (Chester consistory) to 1858: L.R.O., WCW/ 

17 T.N.A., DL 1/50/37/4 (No.218)

17 L.R.O., L1/50/37/4 (No.218)

17 M.R.O., L1/50/37/4 (No.218)

17 L.R.O., WALE 29/229 (ancient deeds, Wales)

17 For cmbs Eccles to 1632: A.E. Hodder (ed.), 'The Registers of the Parish Church of Eccles, 1564–1632', 

17 T.N.A., PL 17/44 (m. 42)

17 T.N.A., PL 17/44 (m. 42)


17 T.N.A., PL 17/44 (m. 42)


17 T.N.A., PL 17/44 (m. 42)


17 T.N.A., PL 17/44 (m. 42)

Bailey, ‘Churchwardens accounts’, p. 99

Raines was surely mistaken in naming Richd Kenwricke as father of Isabel:

Bailey, ‘Churchwardens accounts’, pp. 126–129

T.N.A., DL 4/40/48*

Bailey, ‘Churchwardens accounts’, pp. 141

Knowsley Archives, Dennis Mason’s notes on Whiston: Georgeson’s estate;* Georgeson d. Apr. 1619: his will made 17 Feb. 1618/19 does not mention Lathom

Knowsley Archives, DDPs/1/37*

T.N.A., DL 4/40/48*

Liv. R.O., 920/NOR/2/508

L.R.O., PR 3404/4/1


Local Gleanings, Jul. 1877, p. 87


James had a w. Ellen & children Roger (still childless 1623), Ellis, Jane & Jas. Bolton parish register entries relate to Roger Roscowe of Tonge & Brightmet, but none seem to fit an Eliz. fl. 1648. Roger Roscowe of Tonge was churchwarden Bolton 1643 & bur. there 23 Mar. 1649/50. See also V.C.H., V, p. 249. The will of Jas Roscowe of Tonge was proved 1623: he mentions a s. and grands., but no Roger

Venn, *Alumni*, III, p. 884

V.C.H., VI (London, 1911), p. 189, nn. 8 & 9


L.R.O., DDBl/42/201


*For his will 25 Feb. 1650/1*

Venn, *Alumni*, III, p. 884

L.R.O., DDBl/42/205

L.R.O., DDBl/40/10

Venn, *Alumni*, III, p. 884

See: Capt. Hodgson of Coley, *Memoirs*

Croston, Baines, *History*, IV, p. 234

[At Coley] he was tabled at Peter Lee’s at Norwood Green; propounded motions of marriage to one Jane Boyle, brought up with John Lumme of Westercroft, who opposed it—she having a good portion. But when the old man was from home ... Mr Latham took her away, went to York, Leeds, and married her. [But he] enjoyed not his wife long ... he took a journey to London ...she was dead and buried on his return. He took on heavily. Then came the war, and he fled ... and he light to settle at Bury and joined with Mr A.Lt, they having means allowed them out of that sequestered parsonage: and within a year the banished people returned, but wanted their old minister ... though he [Latham] was generally beloved. Yet he stayed at Bury; married Mr Thomas Binns of Halifax’s daughter, by whom he had a daughter; but he fell sick of a consumption and died at Bury. He was congregational in principle a little before he died, though he had been otherwise ... never gathered a church or acted as an Independent. [He was] a plain and powerful preacher [and was at] Coley nine or ten years’ : J. Hunter, *The Rise of the Old Dissent* (London, 1842), pp. 83–84

T.N.A., PROB 11

L.R.O., PR 3404/4/1

Wm Bell, King’s preacher at Huyton since 1633, was elected vicar by a group of parishioners 1644 or 1645 (although Lawrence Starkie, vicar since 1615, seems to have remained undeprived until his d. 1652/3)

L.R.O., DDBl/box 22


L.R.O., DDK/box 88

See photograph of beam* & of last house on site (notes on History of Whiston)*; J. Hoult, ‘The Story of the Lathams’, *Prescot Reporter*, 7 Aug. 1925*

Married 1596, née Lyon

Knowsley archives, D. Mason’s notes on Whiston

L.R.O., DDBl/box 41 (pt)/1/1401/1*

Original in author’s collection*

L.R.O., DDCs/27/2

Hoult, ‘Story of The Lathams* *

L.R.O., DDCs

252 Liv. R.O., 920/MOO/341*
253 W.A. Shaw (ed.), ‘Minutes of the Manchester classis’, I, C.S., n.s. 20 (1890), p. 9 (also noted by Raffles, f. 645)
254 W.A. Shaw (ed.), ‘Minutes of the Committee for the Relief of Plundered Ministers’, I, R.S.L.C., 28 (1893), pp. 33, 41
255 L.R.O., DDWi/box 12/2 (see also 12/10)
256 Liv. R.O., 920/MOO/341*
257 W.A. Shaw (ed.), ‘Minutes of the Committee for the Relief of Plundered Ministers’, I, R.S.L.C., 28 (1893), pp. 33, 41
258 L.R.O., DDWi/box 9/1
259 In 1652 Dor. Deane of Rainhill, wid. had a dau. Katherine, m. to Richd Williams of Liverpool: L.R.O.,QSP/67/1
260 In 1629 Geo. Deane leased 27 acres of Rainhill for 41 years from the Lancaster family & in 1639 Jn Chorley of Rainhill leased a windmill to Geo. Deane, yeoman: Dickinson, Rainhill, p. 39; for a photograph of Deanes House, Rainhill, see Dickinson, p. 7. After Geo. Deane's death, Edwd had to petition for the restoration of his land, sequestered because of Jn Lancaster's recusancy: Stanning, ‘Royalist Composition Papers’, IV, R.S.L.C., 36 (1898), p. 54. A fragment amongst the Willis papers refers to a messuage,tenement& lands in Rainhill & Croston (42 acres) purchased by Edward Deane the great-g-g-g-g great uncle in 1614: L.R.O., DDWi/box 22
261 L.R.O., DDWi/box 9/1
262 ‘Deanes House Estate’ at Rainhill, Cronton & Whiston (all contiguous closes) was conveyed 1597 by Jas Pemberton to Edwd Deane, yeoman of Rainhill: L.R.O.,DDWi, box 89.
263 Liv. R.O., 920/PLU/Q (Whiston deeds); Acc 2187 (box 1) [86, Alice Leyland to Jn Lathom]
265 L.R.O., DDWi/box 22/4
266 T.N.A., C 93/61/2–3
267 Liv. R.O., acc. 2187 (box 1) (Whiston court roll).* ‘Nann Brooke’ may be the name of a landholder, for the same box contains a transaction 1651 between Peter Brooke of Reddish & Henry Browne of Whiston
268 T.N.A., E 179/250/6*; Jn also had 6 in 1663 (/250/8)
269 There were 6 hearths 1662
270 Liv. R.O., acc. 2187 (box 1) (Whiston court roll).* 'Nann Brooke' may be the name of a landholder, for the same box contains a transaction 1651 between Peter Brooke of Reddish & Henry Browne of Whiston
271 The puritan preacher Wm Bell continued as vicar of Huyton until the ejectment 24 Aug. 1662: he returned to preach at Huyton as a presbyterian 1672 & was bur. Huyton church 1683/4
272 Steel, ‘Churchwardens’ Accounts’, pp. 205, 211 (L.R.O., PR 3404/4/1, f. 170r & 175r; PR 2880/4/1, f. 331)
273 L.R.O., DDWi/box 7/8 (acquittance); /42/209 (conveyance)
274 Knowsley Archives, DDPs/1/37 (‘An abstract of Prescot School accounts, comencing anno 1610’)*; Bailey, Prescot Grammar School, p. 21
275 L.R.O., PR/2881/1
276 T.N.A., PROB 11/352 99 (proved 2 Nov. 1676)
277 L.R.O., DDK/box 88/lease R289/136
278 L.R.O., DDWi/box 42/208 (ejectment, 10 Oct.).
279 L.R.O., DDWi/box 42/208 (a deed of 1682 giving him the right to sue for possession at next assizes): /42/210 is ‘a deed to lead ye uses of a recovery inter Latham & Latham’
280 L.R.O., DDWi/box 42/207, 208, 210
281 L.R.O., DDWi/7/8 (acquittance); /42/209 (conveyance)
282 Liv. R.O., acc. 2187 (box 1)
283 Heskin Endowed School in Eccleston parish, founded as a ‘free gramar school’ 1597 by Sir Jas Pemberton of Eccleston (also alderman of London), which numbered Brasenose College, Oxford & the Goldsmiths’ Company on its governing body [see Gastrell, Notitiae; Return of Endowed Charities, County of Lancaster (London, 1908), pp. 93, 181, 187 (Eccleston); Earwaker, Local Gleanings, ii, p. 105]
284 L.R.O., PR 2881/1 (undated but almost certainly 1690–1)
285 Liv. R.O., 920/NOR/2/518 (coal receipts)
286 C.R.O., EDC 5/13 (1695)
Not 1716: DDPs/1/37 (‘An abstract of Prescot School accounts, commencing anno 1610’)
L.R.O., DDWi/box 22
L.R.O., DDWi/box 14
The lic.(21 Jan.) was for Prescot, Huyton or Farnworth
L.R.O., DDWi/box 22
Hoult, ‘Story of The Lathams’*
C.R.O., EDA 2/14, f. 91 (bishops act book)
Perhaps the s. of Thos Lathom, b. Rainford 1702
L.R.O., DDK/2103 (life lease register)
Hoult, ‘Story of The Lathams’
Hoult, ‘Story of The Lathams’*