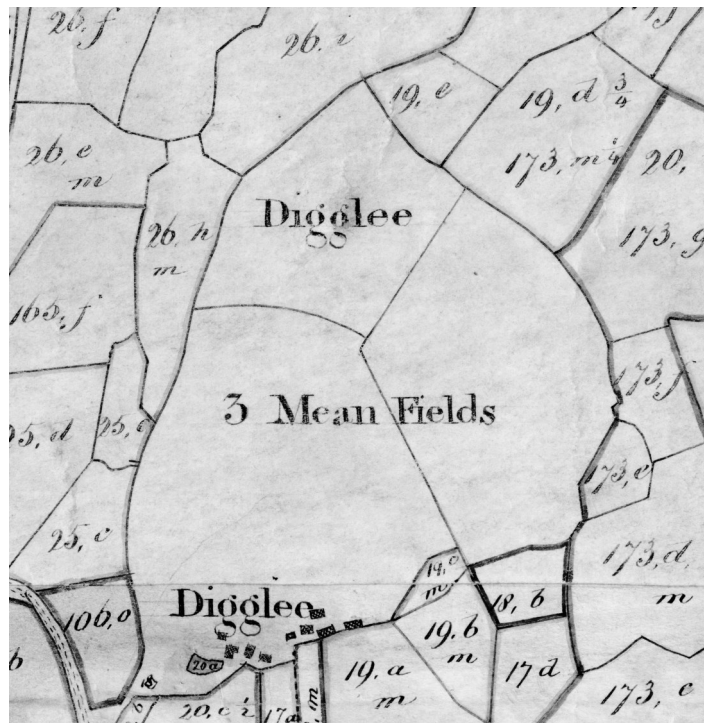


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IN SEARCH OF THE EARLY WRIGLEYS

Neil Barrow

ORIGINS OF THE NAME

In 1379 William del Wryggleghe was one of the men in Saddleworth paying the poll tax. Five centuries later in 1881 the highest concentration of Wrigleys was in Saddleworth. In the intervening period there always seem to have been Wrigleys in Saddleworth. Did the family have its origins here?

Wrigley like many Saddleworth surnames is locational; the family living at or near the Wrig lea or *leah*. The second element is clear being a pasture or meadow.¹ It occurs in other early Saddleworth place names such as Fernlee, Shawlee and Diglee. The meaning of the first element has been subject to various speculations. Harland suggested it comes from *wrygan*, Anglo-Saxon to cover or clothe² or, Ammon Wrigley wrongly suggested, from *hrycg*, ridge.³ The simple suggestion of wriggle: a twisting, bending *leah* is perhaps most plausible, especially given local topography. However “wriggle” is not recorded in English until the fifteenth century.

Wrigley as a place name does not exist in Saddleworth and being a landscape feature, like Broadbent, rather than a specific place, like Schofield, the name could have originated in more than one place. There is a nearby Wrigley place name and it is recorded before the surname. Wrigley Head in Failsworth is mentioned in a boundary of Manchester in 1322.⁴ Additionally an earlier undated deed refers to Wrigley in an area which is clearly to the south of Wrigley Head.

‘William de Notton, Alward de Awnley and William de Werneth demised to Richard de Byron their claim to a parcel of waste near the Redebrook, and another; in future there should be free common up Harestoneshurst syke to the higher part of Bradley and up Bradley syke between Wrigley and Bradley to Mossbrook; also in the higher moiety of Bradley; Byron Chartul[ary]. no. 22/29. The date is earlier than 1220; among the witnesses were Robert and Geoffrey de Byron.’⁵

Some of these names have been lost but Bradley Bent is in Hollingwood and Bradley syke (ditch or brook) ‘...between Clayton and Oldham’ is Broadfield brook.⁶

Elsewhere there is a Wrigley brook flowing into the River Roch at Heywood and nearby to the north, a Wrigley Carr, Wrigley Fold near Mottram and a Wrigley field name in Over Alderley, Cheshire.⁷ All of these are first recorded long after the appearance of the surname and are

¹ M. Gelling, *Place-Names in the Landscape*, (London, 1984), p. 199.

² John Harland, ‘Mamecestre Remains, historical & literary, connected with the Palatine counties of Lancaster and Chester’, *Chetham Society*, vol. 56, 1861.

³ Ammon Wrigley, *The Wind Among the Heather*, (Huddersfield, 1916), p. 103. Whilst, in English, a word may lose an initial W before R it never acquires one: information from David Denison, Manchester University.

⁴ Mamecestre, p. 395.

⁵ ‘Droylsden’, in William Farrer and J Brownbill (eds), *A History of the County of Lancaster: Vol. 4*, (London, 1911), pp. 282-287, British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol4/>, pp 282-287 (accessed September 2018 & similarly other web references).

⁶ Mamecestre, p. 427.

⁷ J.McN. Dodgson, *The Place-Names of Cheshire, Part I, Macclesfield Hundred*, (Cambridge, 1970) pp. 103 & 313.

unlikely origins of the surname. This is the place name evidence and surname authorities Reaney, McKinley, Redmonds and Hanks, have linked the surname to Wrigley Head.⁸

THE EARLIEST REFERENCES

Lancashire

The first record of Wrigleys in Lancashire is in 1381 when Thomas de Wrigle of Chadderton pays the poll tax. In 1438 John of Wrigley and Geoffrey the Tales(ur) are recorded holding an estate at Thornham and Buersill Head under Richard de Barton (the Lord of the Manor) of Middleton, the elder, esq.⁹ In 1442 Alice Wrigley is one of the tenants of Richard de Rediche at Heton super Fawfeld, (now Little Heaton) near Middleton.¹⁰

John Wrigley at Prestwich pays the Lay Subsidy in 1543.¹¹ In 1550 Joshua Wrigley and later, in 1554, Henry Wrigley, both of Chamber, Oldham, have interests in land on the Langley estate.¹² A later Henry Wrigley buys Langley Hall in 1631 and it is claimed the ‘... family had resided on that property since the conquest.’¹³

In Manchester Thomas Wrigley is appointed by the Court Leet as ‘loker’ (inspector) of whitemeat in 1560 and three years later his wife is fined 4^d for forstalling in the market.¹⁴

When the parish registers start to appear in the sixteenth century Wrigleys are seen to be established in Middleton and nearby.

Bury	1591
Manchester	1578, 1582-83, 1586-87, 1591-93
Middleton	1548, 1564-65, 1576, 1585, 1587, 1588x2, 1590x2, 1591, 1593x2, 1595, 1597-99
Rochdale	1584, 1585x2, 1588, 1592, 1595x2, 1599x2 ¹⁵
At Oldham, where the registers date from 1558, there are none.	

The strong presence of the Wrigleys in the Middleton area finds further evidence in the Middleton manor Court Rolls. During the reign of Henry VIII James and John Wrigley appear regularly for not carrying out their obligation to repair roads. They are living in the vicinity of Gorsty Law (later Gorsty Hill). This place name is lost but other places in the court rolls indicate where it must have been. In 1525 the Court is requiring them to repair ‘the King’s highway at Gorstelaw’ and in 1535 John is fined for not repairing a gate [or road] between ‘Gorsty Hill and Stake Hill at Maden Spring’. In 1538 he is fined again for not doing so. In 1542 John again appears before the Court this time for making an affray with William Hilton.¹⁶ Maden Fold is shown on the OS 1851 6" map on the main road between Middleton and Rochdale and Stakehill is less than two miles to the south.¹⁷ See Figure 1. This is the same area where the Wrigleys held an estate in 1438 and just south of Balderstone whose

⁸ Patrick Hanks, Richard Coates, and Peter McClure (eds), *The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names in Britain and Ireland*, (Oxford, 2016); Richard McKinley, *Surnames of Lancashire*, (1981); Percy H. Reaney, *A Dictionary of British surnames*, (1991); George Redmonds, *A Dictionary of Yorkshire Surnames*, (Donnington, 2015).

⁹ Greater Manchester County Record Office (GMRO), Assheton of Middleton papers, E7/5/1/24.

¹⁰ Manchester University, Crutchley Muniments, CRU/105.

¹¹ Subsidy Roll, Salford Hundred, 1541 in James Tait, ‘Taxation in Salford Hundred 1524-1802’, *Chetham Society*, Vol. 83 NS, (1924).

¹² Rochdale Local Studies Library, Langley Hall Estate papers, F/LAN/1/1 & F/LAN/1/2.

¹³ Robert Benton Seeley, *Memoirs of the life and writings of Michael Thomas Sadler*, (1842), p. 3.

¹⁴ J.P. Earwaker (ed.), *The Court Leet Records of the Manor of Manchester: From the Year 1552 to the Year 1686, and from the Year 1731 to the Year 1846*, Vol. 1, (Manchester, 1884), pp. 57 & 264.

¹⁵ Lancashire parish registers available at <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Search/indexp.html>.

¹⁶ GMRO, Assheton Family papers, Middleton Manor Court 1525, E/7/1/5 & 1535, E/7/1/10; 1538 E/7/1/12; and 1542, E/7/1/14. I would like to thank Mike Buckley for his help in reading these and other Tudor documents.

¹⁷ Ordnance Survey, 6in to 1 mile, Lancashire, sheet 88, (1851).

IN SEARCH OF THE EARLY WRIGLEYS

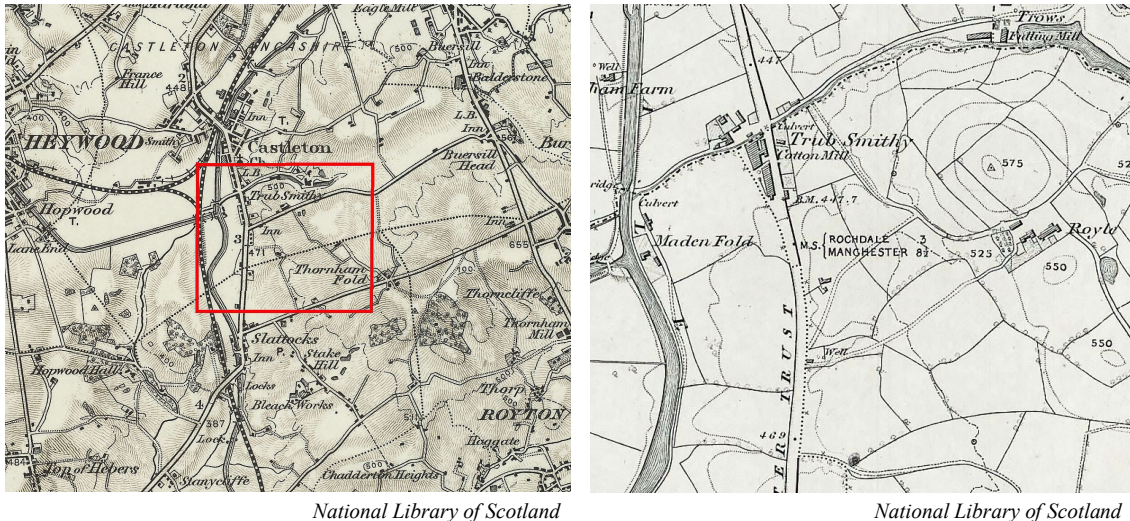


Figure 1. Maps: 1 inch showing Balderstone & Buersill Head (north east) & Stake Hill (central) Maden Fold (not shown but immediately west of Trubb Smithy as shown on 6 inch map).¹⁸

resident, Henry Holt, is indicted in the Manor Court in 1525 for taking water from Thomas Wrigley's land.

Saddleworth

In Saddleworth the Wrigleys seem to have had a continuing presence from 1379, when 'Willelmus Wryglegh' and his wife are recorded as paying the Poll Tax.¹⁹ In 1397 the Staley Rental lists William Wrigley (possibly the same William), as a tenant at will and in 1430 Agn[es] de Wrygley and Roberte de Wrigley are mentioned; a note also mentions a payment to Robert Wrigley for 'settynge rayllez'.²⁰

In 1455 Robert Wrigley, then in his 97th year, and apparently once a resident in Friarmere, was a witness providing evidence about the Friarmere tithes.²¹ In the same year Henry Wrigley, husbandman, of Saddleworth along with other Saddleworth men, is pursued in the courts for a debt.²²

At the dissolution of Roche Abbey in 1539 it was recorded that John Wrigley leased half of a farm at Old Tame, then called Asshenbench, otherwise Thoome, from Roche Abbey by deed dated 20th May 1524 for the term of twenty years at an annual rent of 40s 6d.²³ The other half of Asshenbench (probably New Tame) being leased by Ralph and Christopher Cheetham from 1515 for a term at 29 years at the same rent. The Cheetham holding appeared to be in mortgage to a certain Henry Wrigley and included land in Denshaw described as having been formerly held by Robert Wrigley. So it appears that the Wrigleys were probably well established in Denshaw as well as Old Tame at end of the fifteenth century.

John Wrigley and his descendants continued their tenancy of Old Tame in 1543, following the Dissolution, under the later owners and were in occupation at the division of Friarmere in

¹⁸ Ordnance Survey, 1 in to 1 mile, sheet 85, (1896) and 6 in to 1 mile, Lancashire, sheet 88, (1851).

¹⁹ The National Archives (TNA), E 179/206/49.

²⁰ Lancashire Archives (LA), W.M. Bowman's notes on the *Rental of Assheton, Staley, Longendale and Sadyllworthe Frythe* (Staley Rental), DDX 350/48.

²¹ LA, DDHU 53/7 quoted in Mike Buckley, 'The origins and evolution of a Pennine Township: medieval and early modern settlement in Saddleworth' in Nigel Smith (ed), *History in the South Pennines The Legacy of Alan Petford*, (Hebden Bridge, 2017), p. 253.

²² TNA, CP 40/776, m. 431. I would like to thank Victor Khadem for providing this reference.

²³ TNA, E318/Box11/468.

1553.²⁴ Their descendants continued as tenants at Old Tame into the eighteenth century, purchasing the freehold of the estate in 1649. See Pedigrees 1 and 2.²⁵

Also in 1539, at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Richard Wrigley of Saddleworth was renting land from Kirklees nunnery at an annual rent of 6s 8d.²⁶ Together with other former monastic land this was granted to Richard Andrewes and William Ramsden by Henry VIII on the 30th July 1543. It was then described as being in the several occupations of John, James, Reginald and Edmund Wrygley. A few months later, on 31 December, Andrews and Ramsden sold the land to the four Wrigleys, it to be held of the king by the fortieth of a Knights fee and an annual rent of 8 pence.²⁷ By 1590 the freehold appeared to be in the hands of Richard Wrigley of Diglee, the son of James Wrigley, and steward of the manor. The family continued there under William Ramsden into the seventeenth century and beyond. See Pedigree 3 and 4.

At a later date Wrigleys appear in the parish registers in the Colne Valley:

Almondbury	1594
Huddersfield	Marsden, 1597, 1599. ²⁸

Derbyshire

But Wrigley as a surname is first recorded not in Saddleworth but in Derbyshire when in 1327/8 'Wills de Wriggeley' at Brampton, near Chesterfield, paid the Lay Subsidy.²⁹ The family continued to have a presence in the county; in 1502 Thomas Wrigley was granted a close and, also, gave up a close to Geoffrey Wrigley at Ashleyhay. Soon after, in 1515, Geoffrey surrendered his cottage and close at Ashleyhay.³⁰

The Wrigleys continue to be found in south Derbyshire during the rest of the century. In 1563 Thomas Wrigley is a servant of the Revell family of Ogston and Carnsfield.³¹

In 1556, during Mary's reign, Ralph Wrigley was appointed priest at Kirk Langley by Henry Pole, Lord of the Manor, he having previously been incumbent at Withcote, Leicestershire, Pole's main residence. Pole's father was from Chesterfield and he had acquired Kirk Langley in 1522 through his marriage to the Twyford heiress.³² Ralph was still the incumbent in 1584 in Elizabeth's reign.³³

The parish registers³⁴ show the family's presence in the area:

Ashbourne	1576, 1593, 1595x2, 1596
Bradley	1595
Doveridge	1576
Heanor	1560, 1563, 1567, 1572, 1596
Longford	1538, 1540, 1547, 1550, 1559, 1567-68, 1570, 1573-74, 1577, 1579-80, 1582, 1584-85

²⁴ Saddleworth Historical Society Archives, H/JH/CAB, Julian Hunt papers, Friarmere file, Partition of Friarmere between Arthur Assheton and Roger Gartside, 1553.

²⁵ I would like to thank Mike Buckley for compiling Pedigrees 1 to 6.

²⁶ TNA, SP 5/2/189-195, Kirklees Nunnery York: list of nuns; rental and survey of demesnes, 1539; S.J. Chadwick, 'Kirklees Priory', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, vol. 16, (1902), p. 346.

²⁷ Leeds University Library, Special Collections: MS/DEP/Wentworth Woolley Hall/, Brotherton/8 Item 6.

²⁸ B. Clarke (compiler), *Huddersfield Parish Registers 1562-1662*, (1986).

²⁹ Rev. J. Charles Cox, 'Derbyshire in 1327-8, being a lay subsidy roll', *Journal Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, vol. xxx, (1906), p. 83.

³⁰ Herbert Jeayes Issac, *Descriptive Catalogue of Derbyshire Charters in Public and Private Libraries and Muniment Rooms*, (Derby, 1906), p. 13.

³¹ C.J. Williams, The Revell Family of Carnfield, *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, vol. 91, (1971), p. 145.

³² Charles Cox, *Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire*, vol. IV, (Chesterfield, 1879), pp. 268-9.

³³ Clergy of the Church of England Database at theclergydatabase.org.uk; Joan D'Arcy, 'Late Medieval Catholicism and the impact of the Reformation in the Deanery of Derby, c.1520 to c.1570, PhD thesis, University of Nottingham, (1996).

Netherseal	1578, 1579, 1583, 1586, 1588, 1593-94
Selston, Notts.	1565, 1584
Kegworth, Leics.	1574-75, 1577, 1580, 1582, 1584
Rolleston, Staffs.	1570, 1586

The registers also confirm that the spelling Rigley belongs to the same family, the earliest use being at Frolesworth, Leicestershire in 1540.

THE LONGFORD CONNECTION

The registers, even allowing for there being several entries for one family, show the Wrigleys well established in two areas: around Manchester and south Derbyshire. Are they the same or separate families?

In Derbyshire the Wrigleys are particularly evident in Longford, west of Derby. This was held by the Longfords, one of the leading gentry families throughout the medieval and Tudor periods. Longford, was acquired in the twelfth century when Nicholas FitzNigel de Gresley, of Longford, Stretford, married the heiress Margaret FitzErcald of Bubden, which became known as Longford.³⁵ By the fifteenth century they held twenty-two estates in Derbyshire, and estates in Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire.

‘These Longfords are to be found all over the country; from Hathersage to Whitwell, from Topley to Pinxton. No matter whether a manor or a messuage, if it was to be had, they were there. Then, again, from Sir Nicholas, who married Anne Butler in the thirteenth century, to Nicholas, the husband of Elizabeth Okeover in the sixteenth, they were ever on the track of women with dowries.’³⁶

The family had extensive connections with south-east Lancashire. They held the extensive manor of Withington from the mid-thirteenth century after Nigel de Longford (d. 1276) married Cecelia the heiress of the Hathersage family. Sir Nicholas (c.1373-1415) was sheriff of Lancashire.³⁷ His daughter Joan married Sir John Stanley of Knowsley and he became the guardian of Ralph the next Longford heir. Sir Ralph Longford's daughter Elizabeth married Sir Edmund Trafford and her sister married his brother William. Nicholas the eldest son married Margery Trafford.³⁸ The Lancashire connection went back further. Edward, a younger son of Ralph possessed Longford in Stretford. This, not the Derbyshire Longford, was the original family estate held from the Norman period, until, along with Withington, it was sold in 1580 to Nicholas Mosley.³⁹

After moving to Longford and giving the place its name, the family continued to have strong links with south-east Lancashire through continuing land holdings and marriages. Lancashire men such as William de Salford, John Medilton, and Robert Midduliton in 1508 were priests at Longford and Robert Prestwyche in 1553 at neighbouring Kirk Langley.⁴⁰

The Longfords had substantial estates. These included Brampton recorded in 1371⁴¹, Basford in Nottinghamshire and Normanton acquired in 1390⁴², and Rolleston places where Wrigleys are recorded.

³⁴ International Genealogical Index at familysearch.org.

³⁵ Wingfield Longford, D.D., Rector of Sefton, ‘Some Notes on the Family History of Nicholas Longford, Sheriff of Lancashire in 1413’, *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, vol. 86, (1934), p. 48.

³⁶ Joseph Tilley, *The Old Halls, Manors and Families of Derbyshire*, vol. 3, (1899), p. 85.

³⁷ Wingfield Longford, ‘Some Notes on the Family History of Nicholas Longford.’, p. 61.

³⁸ Ibid, p. 65.

³⁹ Ibid, p. 70.

⁴⁰ Cox, *Churches of Derbyshire*, p. 269.

⁴¹ Manchester University, Crutchley Muniments, CRU/18.

⁴² Crutchley, CRU/230; Rosie Bevan, ‘A Study of a Medieval Knightly Family: The Longfords of Derbyshire, Part 1’, *Foundations*, vol. 1, no. 4, (2004), p. 219.

The family are well established in Longford by the sixteenth century, regularly appearing in the Longford Court rolls as jurors and in rentals as tenants.⁴³ Ralph Wrigley is the miller and when he bequeaths the mill to his son Ralph in 1571, Ralph Wrigley, the long serving priest in neighbouring Kirk Langley, acts as a witness as he does for the will of Thomas Wrigley of nearby Shirley.⁴⁴ He, or another Ralph, possibly Thomas' nephew, mentioned in his will, leases a holding at Shirley in 1598.⁴⁵

Ralph, the priest, had been appointed in Mary's reign but had subscribed in 1559 accepting the Elizabethan Religious Settlement. How far this was genuine might be questioned: at Longford Bishop Bentham found there were '... proud and pevysh papists stowt and bolde' and the Longford family held onto their Catholic faith and were impoverished by the fines they incurred as recusants. But Ralph was still incumbent in 1583 and in 1586 there were nine recusants committed at Longford.⁴⁶ Another Wrigley, Roger, is a priest at Prestwich in 1549 and curate at Oldham between 1563-75.⁴⁷ He makes his will at Bolton in 1577 and amongst one of his many bequests is 20 shillings to the poor of the parish of Saddleworth. He too may have held onto the Catholic faith as he would seem to have been the private priest of the Orrells of Turton, a strong Catholic family.⁴⁸

When Hugh Wrigley of Beamans Lane in Hopwoode, (between Heywood and Middleton) husbandman takes out a lease there in 1586 one the three lives is Margaret daughter of James Wrigley of Selsson, Basford, Nottinghamshire.⁴⁹ The family had been established here for some time being recorded in the registers and Robert Wrigley was accused of forcible entry and seizure of timber at nearby Greasley in a court case of 1547-53.⁵⁰

Thus by the end of the sixteenth century there are groups of Wrigleys in the north Manchester area and in south Derbyshire and a scattering elsewhere.⁵¹ The link between them would seem to be the Longford family which maintained strong interests in both areas. But as yet there is no conclusive evidence. Ralph which recurs as a Christian name in Derbyshire does not occur in Lancashire or Saddleworth. Some Wrigleys were sufficiently educated to attain priestly or administrative positions which may have enhanced their mobility. But none had sufficient wealth to be taxed in 1524 or 1563 in the Salford Hundred.⁵²

⁴³ Crutchley, CRU/276.

⁴⁴ Lichfield Diocesan Record Office, wills of Ralph Wrigley, 1571 and Thomas Wrigley, 1577.

⁴⁵ Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, Record Office, 26D53/349.

⁴⁶ D'Arcy, *Late Medieval Catholicism*, pp. 278, 270 & 281.

⁴⁷ Giles Shaw (ed), *Oldham Annals*, part 1, (Oldham, 1903), p. 19; and 'The parish of Prestwich with Oldham' in *A History of the County of Lancaster*, vol. 5. (originally published by Victoria County History, London, 1911), at <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol5/>, pp92-108#fn141.

⁴⁸ LA, WCW Supra, will of Roger Wrigley.

⁴⁹ LA, DDHP/14/35.

⁵⁰ TNA, Court of Star Chamber, STAC 3/1/19.

⁵¹ One example is in Buckinghamshire where an Elizabethan court case shows Elys Wrigley holding land in Little Missenden: *Calendars of the Proceedings in Chancery, in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth* Vol 3 (1832) at <https://books.google.co.uk/books>. He had been appointed vicar in 1561 and was still there in 1604: Colin W. Field, *The Province of Canterbury and the Elizabethan Settlement of Religion*, (Robertsbridge, 1973), p.157; George Lipscomb, *The History and Antiquities of the Country of Buckingham*, vol. 2, (London, 1847), p. 397; under as variety of spellings in C.W. Foster, 'The State of the Church in the Reigns of Elizabeth and James I as Illustrated by Documents Relating to the Diocese of Lincoln', vol. 1, *Lincoln Record Society*, vol. 23. (1926). Intriguingly, Ellis is also favoured by the Saddleworth Fold Wrigleys. The Wrigleys are still at Little Missenden in 1613 when William's son James is apprenticed to a London blacksmith: London Apprenticeship Abstracts, 1442-1850, available at findmypast.co.uk.

⁵² Subsidy Roll, Salford Hundred, 1524 & 1563 in James Tait, 'Taxation in Salford Hundred 1524-1802', *Chetham Society*, vol. 83 NS, (1924).

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

In the next century, rather than being dependant on the chance survival of documents, there are comprehensive and comparable lists of inhabitants arising from requirements by the authorities. Using these we can get an indication of where the Wrigleys were living by the 1660s.

The Oldham Assessment of 1641 comprehensively lists the male inhabitants of Oldham, Chadderton, Royton and Crompton, the constituent townships of the Chapelry.⁵³ Not a single Wrigley is listed.

The Protestation Return of 1642 required every householder and inhabitant over 18 to sign a Protestation, expressing a resolve 'to maintain the religion, established against Romish innovation, to protect the King's person, the freedom of the Parliament & the rights & liberties of the subject, &c.'⁵⁴ The following names appear in the local parishes.

Oldham	Miles Wrigley.
Middleton	Henry Wrigley, sen; Henry Wrigley, jun; James Wrigley, sen; John Wrigley, sen; John Wrigley, jun; Edmund Wrigley, sen; Edmund Wrigley, jun, and at Hopwood: Richard Wrigley.
Salford	Henry Wrigley; James Wrigley.
Bury & Radcliffe	Radcliffe Wrigley; Edmund Wrigley; John Wrigley.
Prestwich	Henry Wrigley at Heaton; John Wrigley.
Rochdale	Samuel Wrigley; Hugh (Rigley); at Butterworth: Francis Wrigley.
Almondbury	George Wrigley.
Saddleworth	John Wrigley; Robert Wrigley; John Wrigley; James Wrigley; George Wrigley; Elize Wrigley.
Ashton-under-Lyne	None.
Manchester	None.

In 1655, among the inhabitants of Hopwood were Henry Wrigley; James Wrigley; James Wrigley, sen, and John Wrigley.⁵⁵

In a list of those who took the Oath of Allegiance in 1661 were:⁵⁶

Manchester	Edward Wrigley, and Francis Wrigley.
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The Hearth Tax of 1666 being based on properties gives a better indication of the number of Wrigley families.⁵⁷

Bury	Edward Wrigley; widow of Richard Wrigley.
Oldham	Benjamin Wrigley of Chamber Hall. ⁵⁸
Middleton	Henry Wrigley.
Prestwich	Roger Wrigley; Alice Wrigley.
Ashton-under-Lyne	None.
Rochdale	None.

⁵³ Giles Shaw (ed), *The Assessment Levied in the Year 1641 of Oldham, Chadderton, Royton and Crompton*, (Oldham, 1904).

⁵⁴ Parliamentary Archives, HL/PO/JO/10/1/95/17/ (Manchester), /18 (Manchester), /13 (Middleton), /38 Saddleworth).

⁵⁵ Henry Fishwick, 'Lancashire and Cheshire Church Surveys 1649-55' *The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, vol. 1 (1879), p. 43 available at <http://rslc.org.uk/out-of-print-publications/>

⁵⁶ List of those who took the Oath of Allegiance at the Court held 7 October, 1661 in *The Court Leet Records, Manor of Manchester from the Year 1552 to the Year 1686, and from the Year 1731 to the Year 1846. Vol. IV. From the year 1647 to 1662*, (Manchester, 1857), p. 306.

⁵⁷ TNA, E179 250 11, Salford Hundred.

⁵⁸ His and the Langley Wrigleys' families originated in Salford: Edwin Butterworth, *Historical Sketches of Oldham*, (Oldham 1856), pp. 26-27.

IN SEARCH OF THE EARLY WRIGLEYS

Saddleworth (1664) Friarmere: John Wrigley de ould tame; John Wrigley.
Lordsmere: Robt' Wrigley; Elias Wrigley de Brownhill;
Elias Wrigley; James Wrigley; Widd' Wrigley.
Quickmere: None.
Shawmere: None.

Elsewhere in the West Riding Wrigleys only appear locally at Golcar but also at Ecclesall, Selby and Pontefract (Rigley).⁵⁹

Even allowing for omissions in the records, the Wrigleys are still predominantly settled in the same areas providing further evidence for their early ancestry. The presence in Middleton falls between 1642 and 1662 leaving Saddleworth with the largest population. The 1881 census, which has been comprehensively analysed, shows the families still heavily concentrated and from these the present day Wrigleys and Rigleys are descended.

In Saddleworth the Tithe for 1669 adds to the Hearth Tax data and shows the Wrigley families.⁵⁷

Old Tame: John Wrigley.
Midgemoor: John Wrigley; Robert Wrigley.
Diglee: James Wrigley.
Brownhill: Elias Wrigley; Alice Wrigley, widow.
Saddleworth Fold: Ellis Wrigley.

It is from these families that the Saddleworth Wrigleys are descended although, as yet, the relationships between them are still undetermined.

The Wrigleys settled at Midgrove early in the seventeenth century and their descendants continued here until the end of the eighteenth, a branch of the family settling in Netherton, near Huddersfield at this time. See Pedigree 5.

Similarly, towards the end of the sixteenth century, they acquired a lease on a farm at Saddleworth Fold. The early descent of the family is unclear and there may be a linkage with the Diglee family through George Wrigley who died in 1656 and who appears to have acquired the tenant rights to Saddleworth Fold which passed to his son Ellis. Two other sons, acquired the freeholds to Upper Hollingreave and Doctor House, Scouthead. The Hollingreave family established Wrigley Mill, and the Doctor House descendants, Scouthead Mill and Scouthead Church. See Pedigree 6.

⁵⁹ David Hey et al (eds), *Yorkshire West Riding Hearth Tax Assessment Lady Day 1672*, (2007).

DISTRIBUTION OF WRIGLEY SURNAMES IN 1881

An analysis of the surnames in the 1881 census returns enables the distribution of Wrigley surnames to be plotted by location.

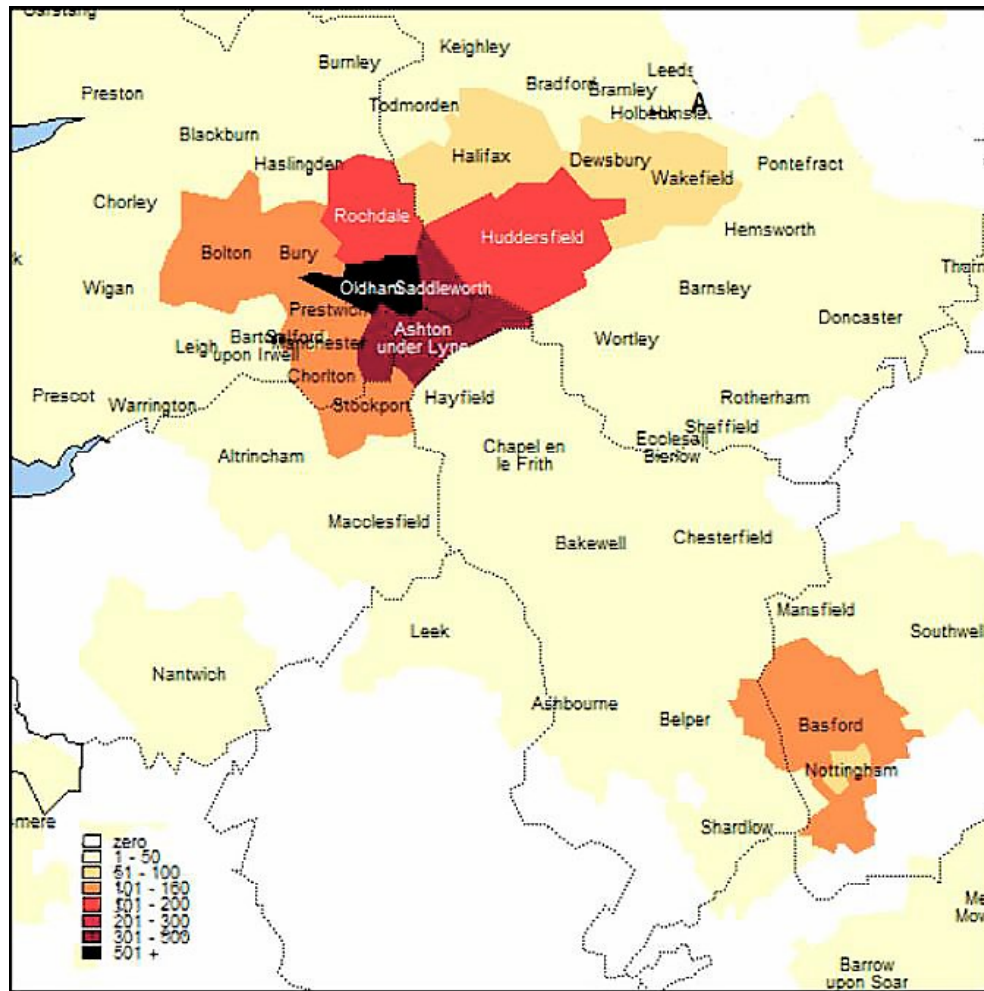
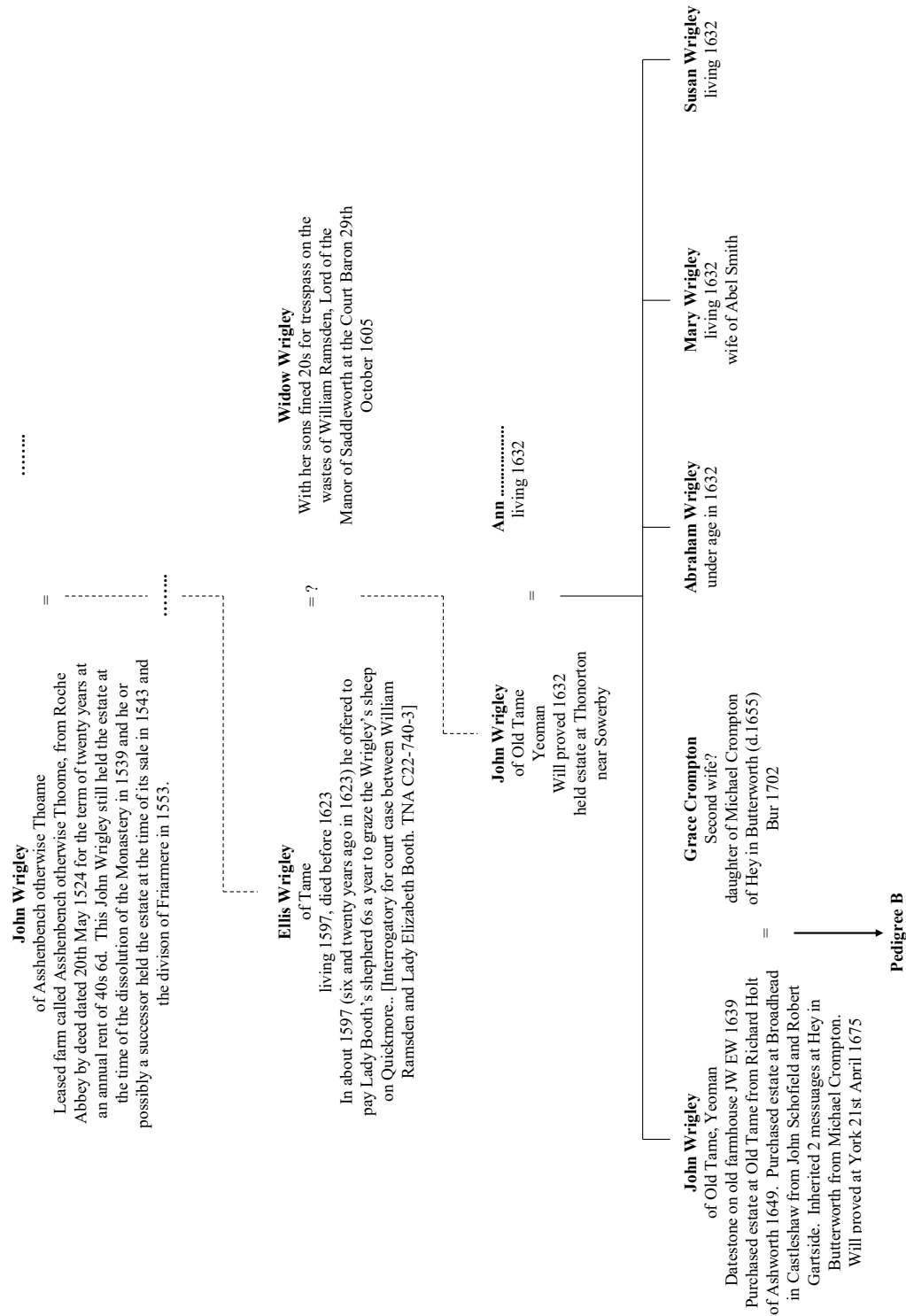


Figure 2. Wrigley and Rigley name bearers in the 1881 census.⁶⁰

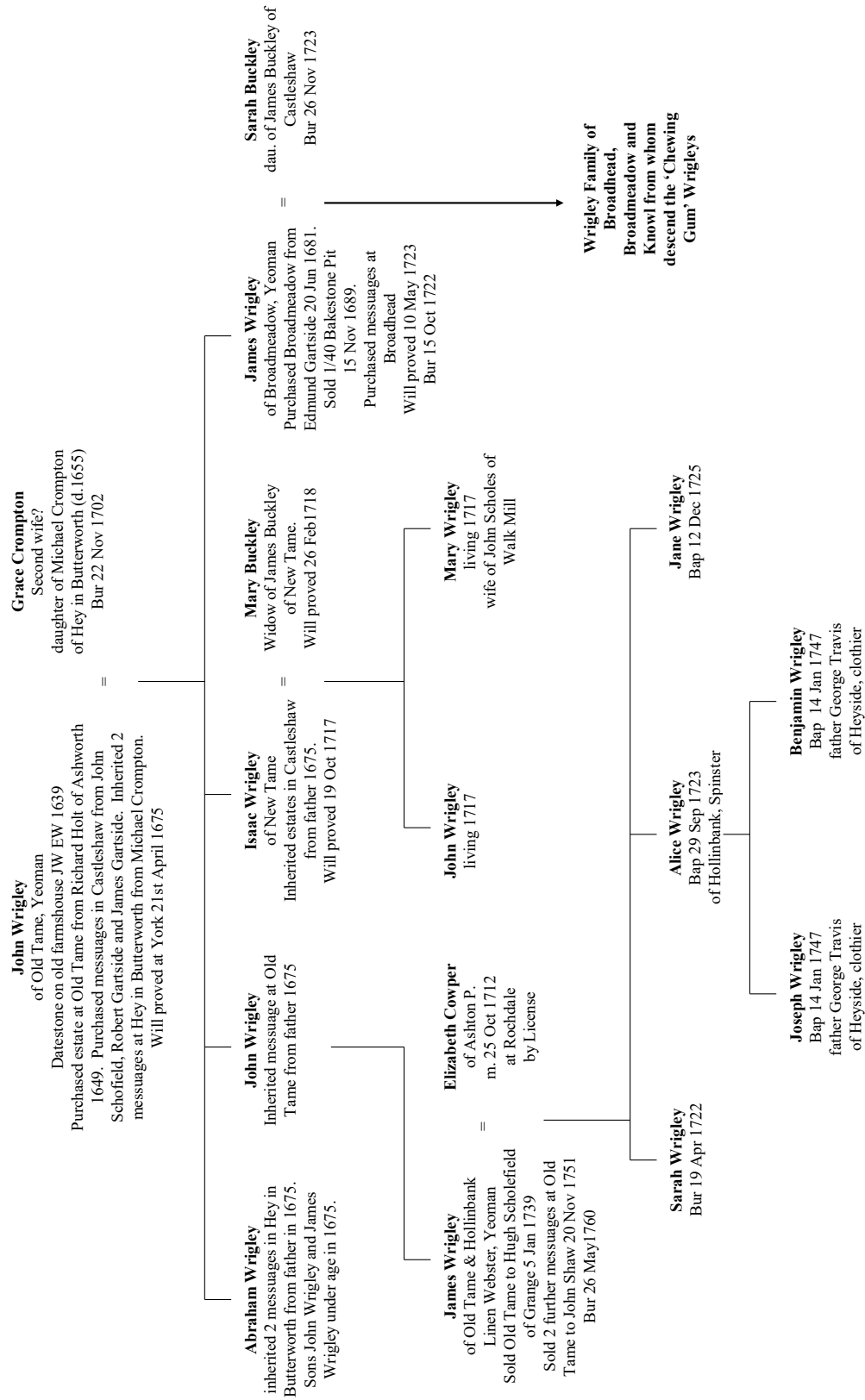
In total 3790 occurrences of the surname Wrigley were recorded and an additional 410 occurrences of the spelling Rigley. Saddleworth, Oldham, Ashton, Huddersfield and Rochdale dominate with 1940 occurrences (51%). Saddleworth, with 420 occurrences, has the highest concentration. The spelling Rigley occurs heavily in Basford, Notts. with 125 occurrences, 31% of the total.

⁶⁰ Archer Surname Atlas, (Archer Software, 2003) cdrom, www.archersoftware.co.uk.

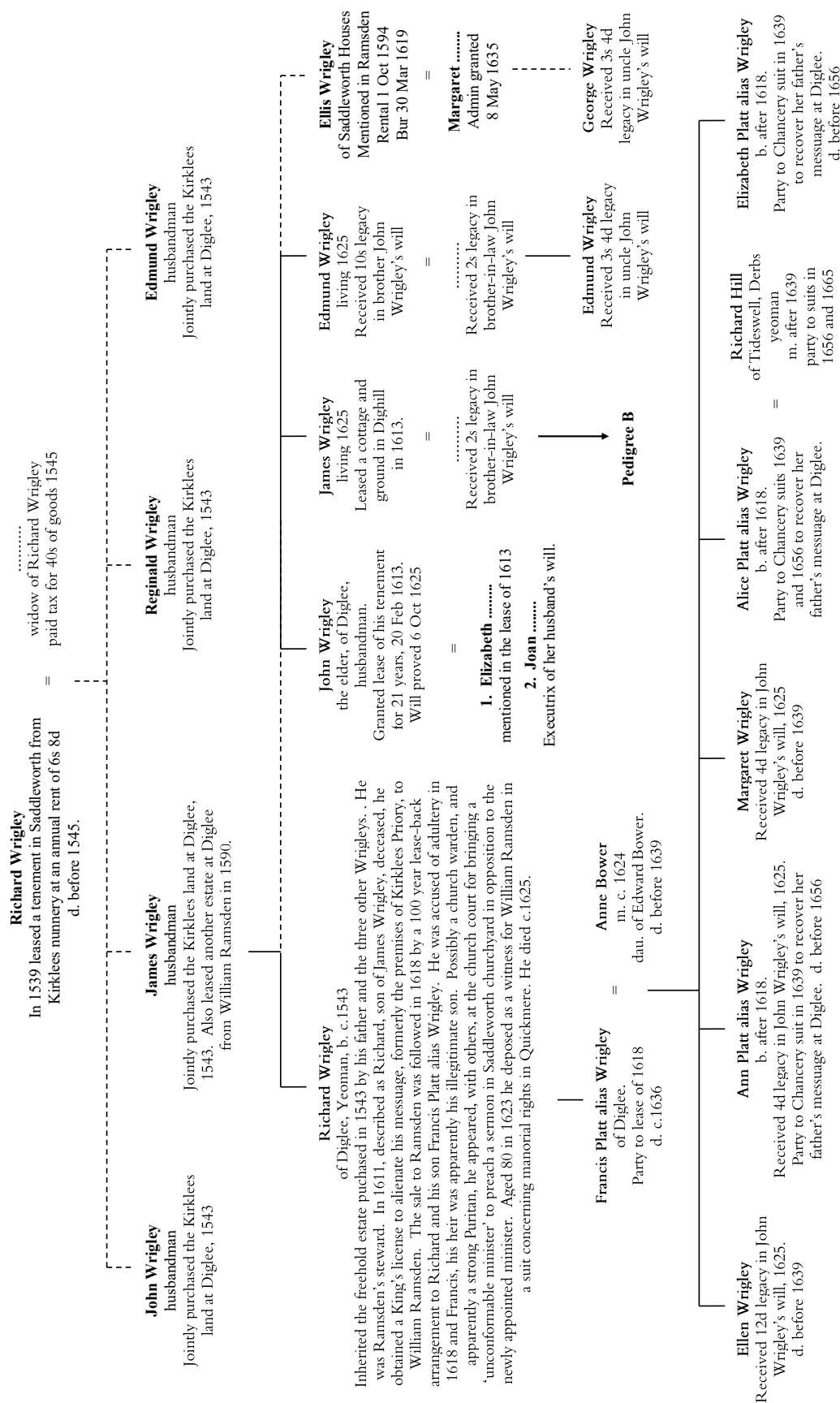
PEDIGREE 1 - THE WRIGLEY FAMILY OF OLD TAME, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE (A)



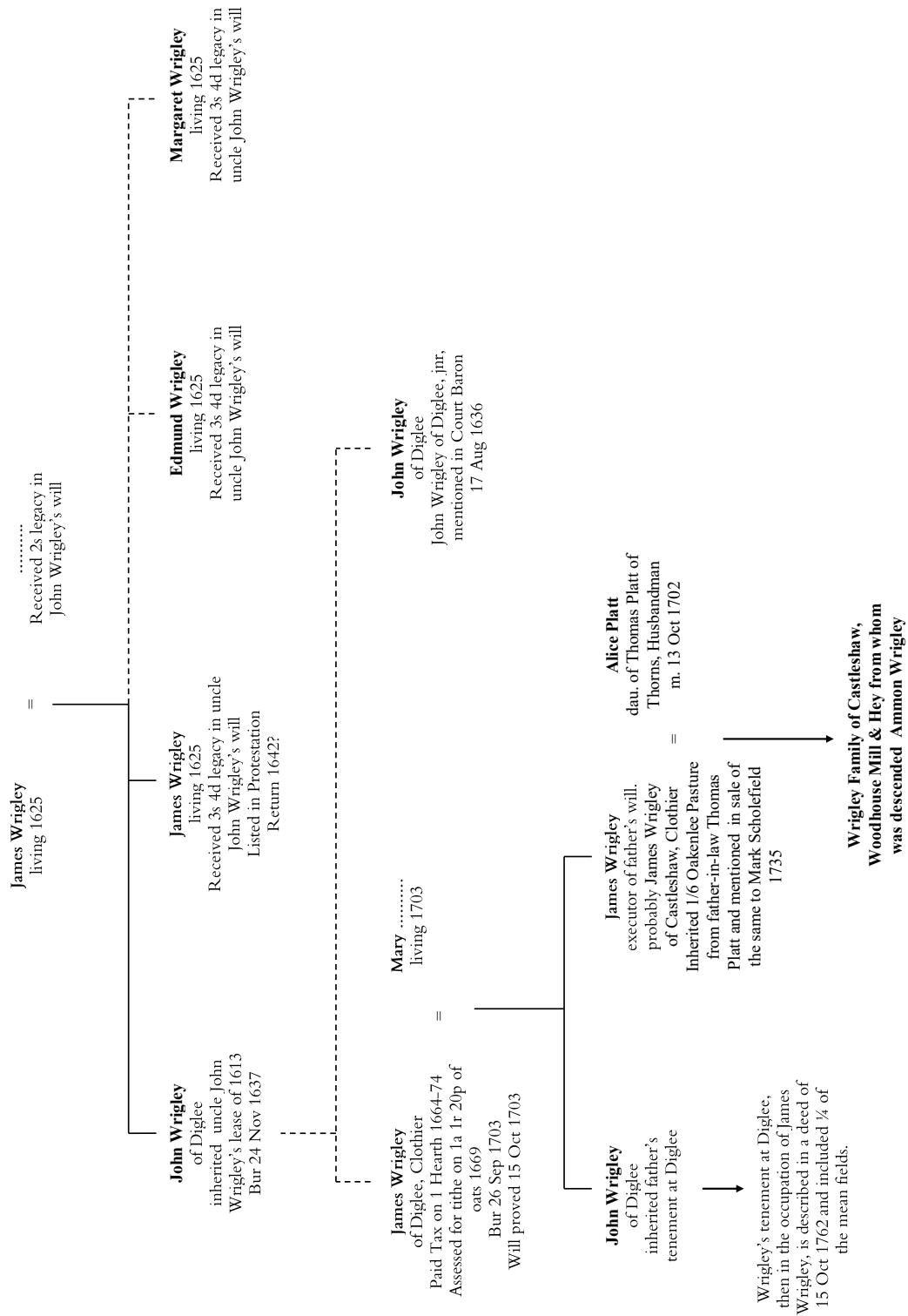
PEDIGREE 2 - THE WRIGLEY FAMILY OF OLD TAME, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE (B)



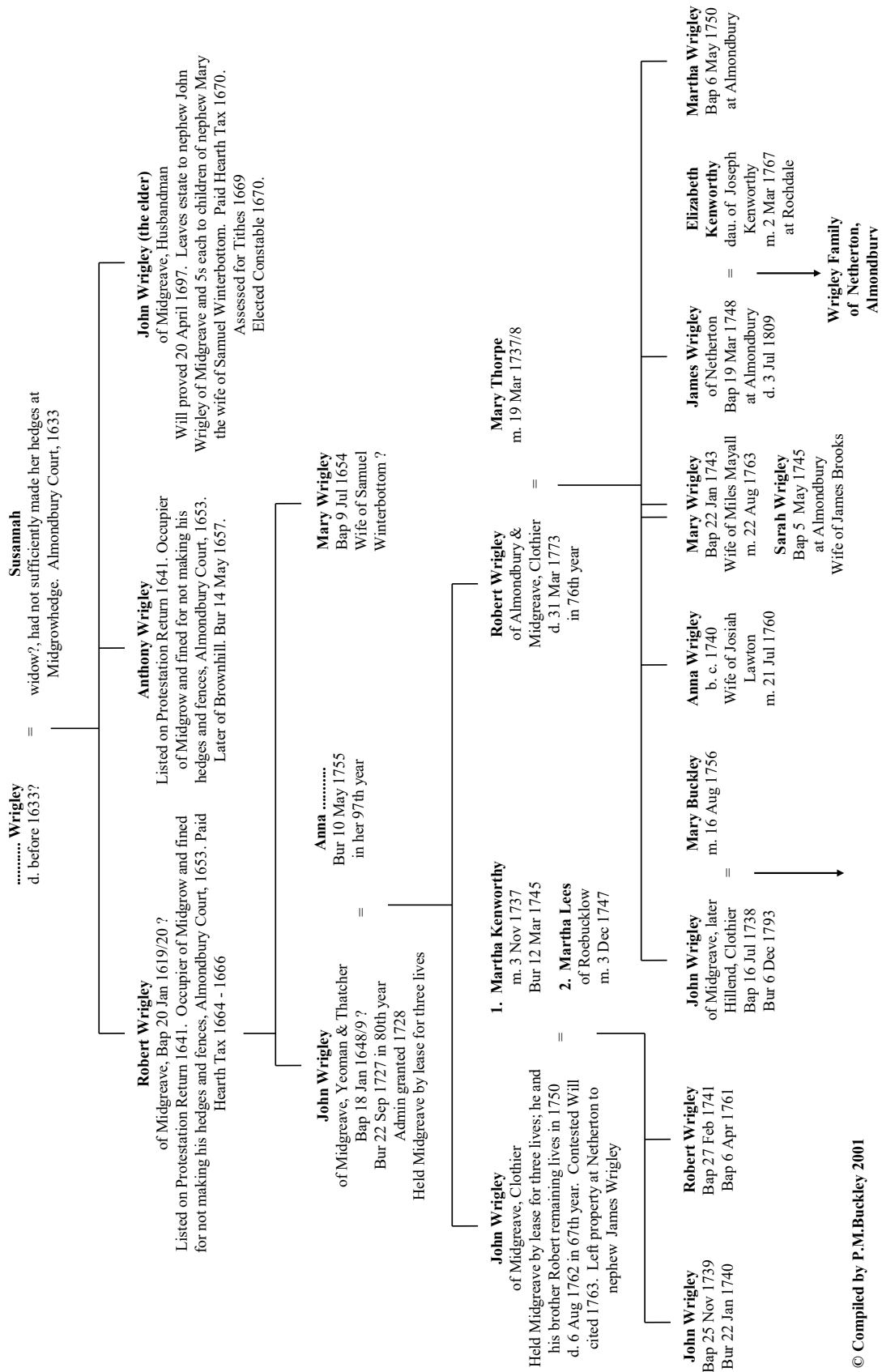
PEDIGREE 3 - THE WRIGLEY FAMILY OF DIGLEE, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE (A)



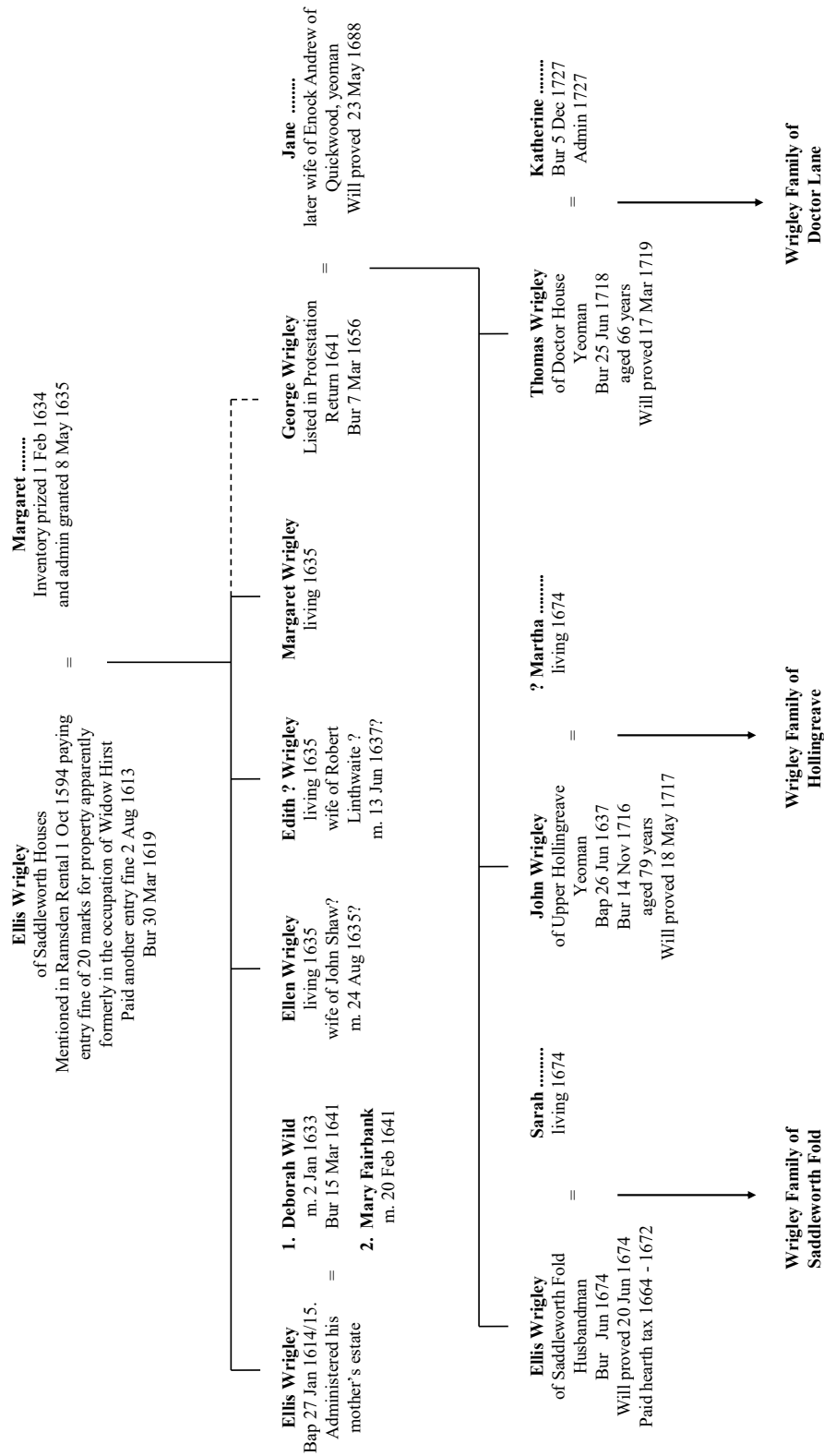
PEDIGREE 4 - THE WRIGLEY FAMILY OF DIGLEE, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE (B)



PEDIGREE 5 - THE WRIGLEY FAMILY OF MIDGREAVE, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE



PEDIGREE 6 - THE WRIGLEY FAMILY OF SADDLEWORTH FOLD, SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE



DIGLEE - AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE STRUCTURE AND EXPLOITATION OF A SMALL MONASTIC ESTATE

Mike Buckley

Robert de Stapleton to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St James of Kirkeleys. Eight acres &c in Sadelworthe housebote and haybote &c &c saving to him and his heirs “feris forestae meae et omnibus aliis dignitatibus forestae”.

- *Whitaker's History of Whalley, Vol 2, (1872), p 437*

MONASTIC GRANTS IN SADDLEWORTH

This briefest of references by T.D. Whitaker in the early nineteenth century is the only evidence of this grant of land to Kirklees Nunnery. Whittaker states the charter was in the hands of R.H. Beaumont of Whitley, himself a keen antiquarian and collector. Records of this Cistercian Priory provide no insight into the location of the land, nor its use¹ and a search of the Whitley Beaumont Records in the West Yorkshire Archives at Huddersfield² have failed to locate the original deed, neither does it appear in any on-line archive catalogues. The exact nature of the grant, its purpose, location and its subsequent history has, to date, been entirely speculative.

In fact the whole history of this land is clouded in uncertainty and later controversy. This study examines the context of the grant, its probable purpose, the location of the land concerned and attempts to unravel something of its history during the Middle Ages and Early Modern period. Its subsequent history in the eighteenth century and beyond, is somewhat firmer and was documented by Julian Hunt in his 1987 article in the Bulletin.³ In his article Julian Hunt links the Kirklees land to a three field system at Diglee in Saddleworth. The evidence for this will be further examined here.

Robert de Stapleton was Lord of The Manor of Saddleworth in the first part of the thirteenth century. During this period what had been seigniorial forest was being settled and enclosed and several of Stapleton's charters granting land within the boundaries of the forest are recorded.⁴ Among these were four grants to monastic and religious institutions, one of which was this grant to Kirklees Priory.

Robert's father, William de Stapleton had obtained permission to build a chapel in Saddleworth, and under Robert, what had been a seigniorial chapel, became a parochial chapel within the parish of Rochdale and a second grant by Stapleton of 13 acres of land was made to support a chaplain.⁵ A third grant, in two parts, was to the Augustinian priory at Nostell.⁶ The first part of this was for summer pasturage for 40 cattle with the right of entry and exit to the pasture. The second part was a grant of 3 acres of land for use of the priory's tenants or keepers of the pasture, together with pasture rights for a further 10 cattle with their young. In a fourth grant Hillbrighthope, a large area to the north of Saddleworth, which subsequently became known as Friarmere, one of Saddleworth's four medieval divisions, was given to

¹ S.J. Chadwick, 'Kirklees Priory', *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, vol. 16, (1902) pp. 317-368.

² West Yorkshire Archive Service (WYAS) (Huddersfield), Whitley-Beaumont Collection.

³ Julian Hunt, 'Common Arable Farming at Diglee', *Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin (SHSB)*, Vol. 17, No. 4, (1987), pp. 56-61.

⁴ M. Buckley, 'The origins and evolution of a Pennine Township: medieval and early modern settlement in Saddleworth' in Nigel Smith (ed), *History in the South Pennines The Legacy of Alan Petford*, (Hebden Bridge, 2017), pp. 231-282.

⁵ M. Buckley, 'Early Saddleworth Records 1', *(SHSB)*, (2009), Vol. 39, No. 2, pp. 53-54; W.A. Hulton, *The Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey*, Chetham Society, 4 Volumes, Vol. 10, (1847), pp. 148-149.

⁶ M. Buckley, 'Early Saddleworth Records 2', *SHS Bulletin*, Vol. 39, No. 3, (2009), pp. 72-75.

Roche Abbey by Robert de Stapleton; pasture rights probably having been granted earlier by Robert's father William.⁷

Comparing now the three small grants: it is clear that they have much in common. All three refer to land, 13 acres in the case of the chaplain's grant, 8 acres in the grant to Kirklees and 3 acres in the Nostell grant. Arable land is implied, distinct from meadow or enclosed pasture; 'terre arabilis' is specifically stated in the grant for the chaplain. All three grants include the right to take wood for building, burning and fencing making clear that in each case the land was to be built on and occupied with a dwellinghouse. In all cases hunting rights were reserved to the grantor. As was usual with grants to religious bodies, in the Chaplain's grant and the Nostell grant it is stated that the land was to be held in frankalmoign (pure and perpetual alms) which involved service to be rendered to Stapleton in the form of prayers for his soul and other members of his family. It seems safe to assume that this was also the form of tenure of the Kirklees grant.

Meadow land, a necessity for dairy farming, is not mentioned, but was probably part of the common pasture to which all tenants had access and at this time was almost certainly managed in common. The 13 customary acres (probably nearer 20 statute acres⁸) was a generous grant for the maintenance of a single person, the 8 acres and 3 acres, less so, but clearly then deemed adequate, particularly when combined with pasture rights and access to external meadow land. Both parts of the Nostell grant and the Chaplain's grant include pasture rights within the common pasture, the boundaries of which are recited. It is significant that all the land granted was within these boundaries indicating that the pasture was only partially open and that areas had already been enclosed.⁹ Both the Nostell grants and the Kirklees grant permit assarting or the making of enclosures. Due to the brevity of the Whittaker extract no mention is made of pasture rights in the case of the Kirklees grant, but it seems very probable that these were included with a limitation on the numbers of animals involved. Without such rights the farming of the land would not have been viable.

As to the purpose of the grants, in all three cases the general purpose was the welfare of the soul of the grantor after his death and probably those of his ancestors and family. The specific purpose in the case of the Chaplain's grant, was to provide accommodation and a means of sustenance for the chaplain and in the case of the Nostell grant, accommodation and sustenance for the keeper of the Priory's cattle. No specific purpose can be inferred from the Kirklees grant other than to provide a source of income in the form of rents.

In summary then it seems clear that the Kirklees grant was arable land that was intended be built on and occupied by tenants and probably came with rights in the common pasture.

MEDIEVAL REFERENCES

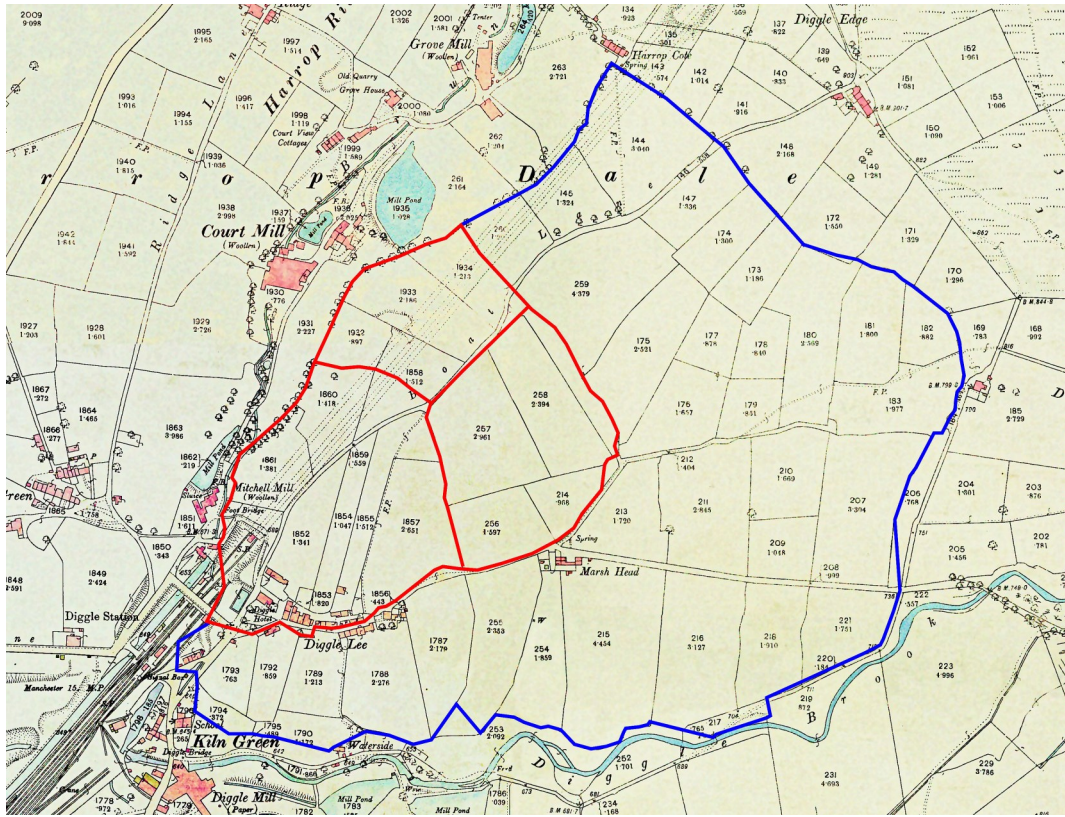
The absence of manorial or monastic rentals and accounts for the 300 years following this grant to Kirklees Priory preclude any meaningful account of the land during the Middle Ages. But there are a few scant references to the priory and to Diglee which provide some insights. The first of these was undated but was either late in the thirteenth century or early fourteenth.

⁷ The grant, which probably took place c.1245, was afterwards the subject of considerable litigation between the Abbey and various interested parties. Following an extended court case between the Abbey and Stapleton's successor, William de Scargill, the earlier grant was recited and confirmed in a subsequent agreement between Scargill and the Abbey in 1311. Stapleton effectively gave up all his rights over the land - the grant was comprehensive including 'all buildings, woods and meadows, feedings, waters, pastures and all appurtenances, and other things under the earth and above the earth, with the whole forest and all other liberties to the said forest belonging', J.H. Aveling, *History of Roche Abbey*, (Worksop, 1870), p. 132.

⁸ The glebe lands were surveyed in 1822 as 19¼ statute acres.

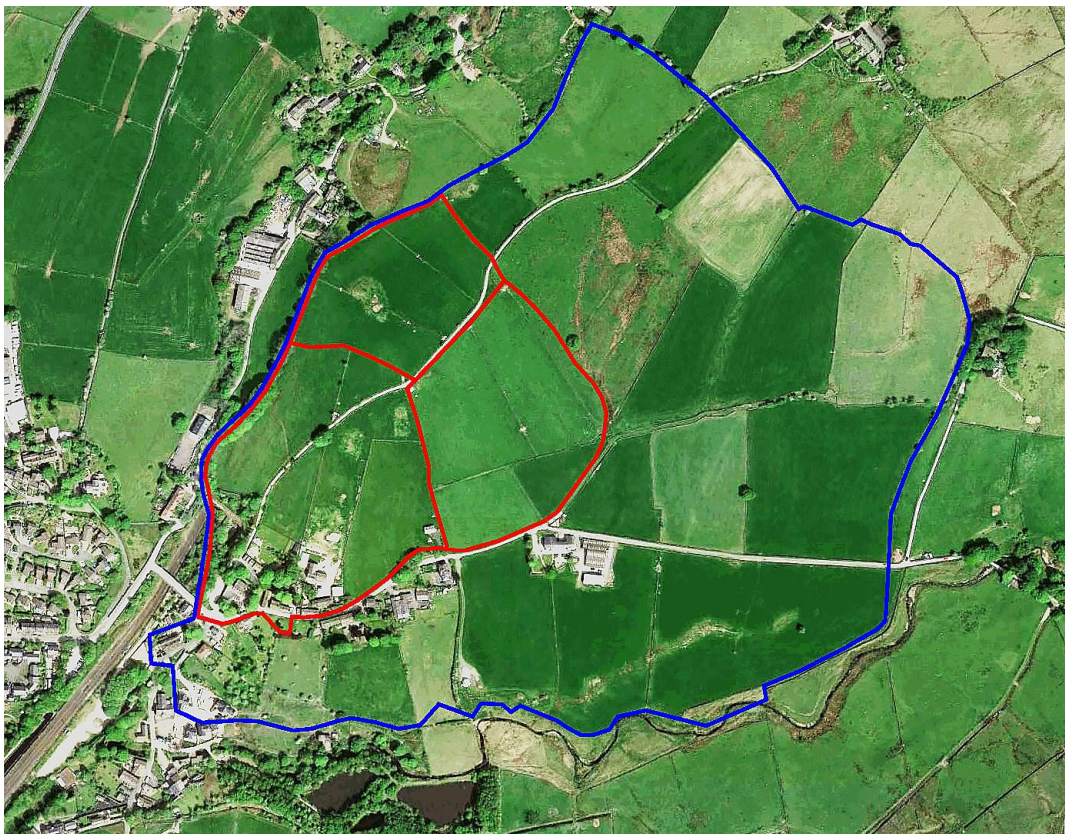
⁹ For the extent of the common pasture and its steady enclosure in the thirteenth century see Buckley, 'The origins and evolution of a Pennine Township', pp. 240-245.

DIGLEE



Mapping Saddleworth 1

Figure 1. Diglee and the surrounding area in 1892/4



Google Earth

Figure 2. Recent aerial view of Diglee and the surrounding area

The then Lord of the Manor, Raol le Botiler granted to John son of Robert de Staveley:

‘all the lands and meadows which William of the Sykes once held in Sadelworthfrithes, which lies in a place called Dygel, and pasture for 20 goats in Harop and Dygel and for all other his cattle in the common pasture of Sadelworth; also wood for burning, enclosing, and building, by permission of the forester – rendering yearly a kid or 4d. To hold for life of John.’¹⁰

The words Dygel and Diglee need some clarification. Diggle then, as it does today, implied a wide area to the east of Harrop Dale, while Diglee was a settlement within it, with its own clearly defined boundaries. The fact that it was the only significant settlement here up to the end of the eighteenth century can only mean that references to grants of land in Diggle at this time were land at Diglee. Figure 1 shows the area around Diglee taken from the 1892/4, 1:2500, Ordnance Survey map.¹¹ A recent aerial view of the same area is shown in Figure 2. In both cases the boundary of Diglee is edged in blue and a group of fields above the hamlet, which were earlier referred to as the Three Mean Fields, are edged in red.

After the rebellion of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster against Edward II and his defeat at Boroughbridge in 1322, his estates within the Honour of Pontefract were confiscated. An account of the revenues from the confiscated estates was produced by the King’s officers and included was a list of Saddleworth tenants and their rents.¹² The list of twenty eight names appears to contain both freehold tenants as well as tenants at will (all the latter apparently holding tenancies for life) but the distinction between the two is not at all clear in the list. The following two entries appear:

‘12d from the rent of the Prioress of Kirkleghe for 10 acres of land which they hold freely there at the same term.[Pentecost]’ and

‘8½d from the rent of Robert de Diggelegh for 1 messuage and 1½ acre of land which he holds freely there at the same term [Pentecost].’

Further references appear in the Stayley Rental, drawn up at the end of the fourteenth and early fifteenth century. The rental included rents collected in Saddleworth on behalf of Lord Lovell, then Lord of The Manor of both Saddleworth and Stayley. His steward, collected rents within both manors, as well as some rents in Saddleworth and elsewhere that belonged to the manor of Stayley. The rental was examined by Elizabeth Bowman in the 1960s but its whereabouts is presently unknown and we now only have her brief notes which she deposited in the Lancashire Record Office.¹³ Despite the incompleteness and untidiness of the notes which mix up rents from Saddleworth, Staley and elsewhere without always making clear which apply, the following can be extracted:

Rental of Longdendale & Sadylworth Fryth 21 Ric II (1397/8)
In the free tenants list, although not identified as such : ‘Prioressa de Kirklez’
Rental for Longdendale & Sadleworth Fryth 9 Hen IV (1407/8)
Free Tenants: Inter alia, Prioressa de kyrkleghez

Also of possible relevance, among the tenants at will listed in the 1397/8 rental is ‘Willielmo Wrigley’. He also appears on the Poll Tax of 1379 where, with his wife, he is taxed 4d.¹⁴ This is the first time the name Wrigley appears in the district.

THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Kirklees Priory escaped dissolution under the Lesser Monasteries Act of 1535 but the Prioress, Joan Kyppes, surrendered it to the King under the second act of 1539. There were

¹⁰ Lancashire Archives (LA), Finch, Johnson & Lynn, Solicitors of Preston Collection, DDL 569.

¹¹ M. Buckley, D Harrison & A. Petford (eds), *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. 1, (Saddleworth Historical Society, 2007), pp. 133, 137, 138 & 142.

¹² The National Archives (TNA), Contrariants’ Roll 1322-3, SC 6/1145/21.

¹³ LA, Notes on the Stayley Rental by Elizabeth Bowman, DDX 350.

¹⁴ TNA, Poll Tax, 1379, Morley Wappentake, ER179/206/49.

then eight nuns. After the property had been surrendered, a survey of the possessions of the dissolved monastery took place in November 1539, showing a very modest annual income of £29 18s 9d.¹⁵ Among the properties and tenants listed was:

‘Saddylworth: Richard Wrygley holds a tenement with appurtenances under the common seal and valued per annum 6s 8d.’

This is the earliest evidence linking the Wrigleys to the Kirklees lands. No details of the lease are given and over the next four years similar brief entries record the 6s 8d rent from Saddleworth, payable in two equal payments of 3s 4d at Michaelmas and Pentecost.¹⁶ The property remained in the hands of the King until 1543 when the buildings and demesne lands of the monastery were sold to John Spencer. In addition the bulk of the possessions of the monastery were sold soon afterwards to William Ramsden of Longley, near Huddersfield, an upwardly mobile local yeoman. He was partnered in this by Richard Andrewes of Hayles, Co. Gloucs, Esq, who probably financed the sale. Ramsden applied to the King to sell the land early in 1543 and the assessment and valuation of the land for the sale included:

‘Richard Wrigley holds and farms a tenement with appurtenances for a term of years under the common seal of the late prioress at an annual rent of 6s 8d payable in equal portions at the aforesaid festivals’ [Pentecost and Martinmas]¹⁷

The King’s letters patent authorising the sale was dated 3 July and included:

‘A tenement with appurtenances in Saddleworth, Go York, late belonging to the said Prioress now or late in the tenure of Richard Wrigley or his assigns.’¹⁸

The deed of sale, dated 30 July, has not survived but is recited in a later grant¹⁹ including, surprisingly:

‘Land and tenement in Saddleworth lately belonging the Kirklees Priory in the separate tenures of John, James, Reginald and Edmund Wrygley, and of annual value of 6s. 8d.’

This was followed in December by a sale from Ramsden and Andrews to the four Wrigleys:

‘to John, James, Reginald and Edmund Wrygley, co. Yorks, husbandmen, land and tenement in Saddleworth in the occupation of the said Wrigleys.’²⁰

The two references in July 1543 are at odds; the king’s letters patent repeats the earlier description of the property as in the occupation of Richard Wrigley; this was no doubt reciting the term of Wrigley’s lease. On the other hand, a few weeks later, in the deed of sale it is described as in the separate occupation of the four different Wrigleys. It would seem that Richard Wrigley had recently died; in fact his widow was assessed 40s 2d in goods in the lay subsidy of 1545.²¹ Following his death, a new lease would have been required reflecting the change in occupation, but it seems unlikely this ever occurred as the new owners appear to have been motivated to sell their newly acquired lands at a profit rather than maintain a customary rental. What is clear is that from 1543 the former Kirklees land was in the separate ownerships of the four Wrigleys.

In 1590 the Manor of Saddleworth was sold by Marmaduke Tunstall to William Ramsden’s son, John Ramsden, and his grandson another William Ramsden.²² John Ramsden died soon after the sale and the new lord of the manor, the grandson William Ramsden, recorded lists of tenants and rents in his personal account book.²³ Comparing the two full lists of 1590 and

¹⁵ TNA, SP 5/2/189-195.

¹⁶ TNA, Minister Accounts, SC 6/HENVIII/4523 (32-33 HenVIII) & 4525 (33-35 Hen VIII); DL 29/4567 & 4568.

¹⁷ TNA, Particulars of Grants, E 318/1/22.

¹⁸ TNA, Letters Patent, C 66/725.

¹⁹ See 19 below.

²⁰ University of Leeds, Brotherton Library, Special Collections, Wentworth-Woolley Papers (WWP), Box 8/6.

²¹ TNA, WR 207/186.

²² University of Leeds, Brotherton Library, Wentworth-Woolley Papers (WWP), Box 8/6.

1591 with later notes and entries of rent payments and entry fines it is possible to establish a tenorial picture of Diglee in 1590.

There were then four manorial tenants at Diglee who held land by short term lease.

James Wrigley who paid an annual rent of 3s 8d
Richard Wrigley an annual rent of 5s 8d
John Schofield an annual rent of 3s 8d
and John Broadbent an annual rent of 3s 7d.

In addition Richard Wrigley paid an additional manorial rent of 2s as well as an annual chief rent of 3s 4d for freehold land at Diglee. A group of Diggle tenants also paid 3s 4d for an unspecified freehold property.

What is significant is that the four tenants were paying rent for leased manorial land; the rental, however, provides no insight into the former Kirklees land purchased by the four Wrigleys in 1543. But what is significance is that there were four tenants and, with the exception of Richard Wrigley, they were paying roughly equal rents for what might reasonably be assumed were roughly equal sized holdings. This correlates with the fact that after 1543 there were four Wrigleys sharing the former Kirklees land. However, as will be mentioned later, caution must be exercised in assuming the Wrigleys were farming the freehold themselves, they could merely have been joint purchasers. That two of the manorial tenants were Wrigleys is also evidence possibly linking the manorial and freehold holdings.

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

In 1639 the three grandchildren of Richard Wrigley launched a suit in the Chancery Court against Sir John Ramsden, Lord of the Manor of Saddleworth and some of his tenants. In dispute were their rights to property in Diglee which they claimed had been inherited from their grandfather, Richard Wrigley. With no apparent conclusion the case was re-opened in 1656, this time against Ramsden, and his successor to the manor, William Farrer, and some of his Diglee tenants. Following a judgement in favour of the plaintiffs a final suit was brought by them against Farrer in 1665, this time over the interpretation of the court decree in their favour.²⁴ Despite the claims and counter-claims by both sides, the depositions of witnesses help establish a credible history of the Diglee settlement. It seems that Richard Wrigley was the son of James Wrigley, mentioned in the 1590 rental; this James probably being the sole survivor of the four Wrigleys who had purchased the former Kirklees land in 1543. Richard, in 1590, and until his death in about 1625, was acting as Ramsden's bailiff, collecting manorial rents. After his death, Richard's land passed to his illegitimate son and sole heir, Francis Wrigley alias Platt.²⁵ Francis was not trusted by his father to look after the estate and it was said by witnesses and the plaintiffs that he was 'an ynprudent man and was likelie to sell it and make it away'. As a consequence, in 1611 Richard obtained a license from the King to sell to William Ramsden.

His plan was to sell his inherited freehold estate to Ramsden and lease it back on a long lease with conditions that it could not be sold outside the family. Surprisingly, this did not happen immediately, and it was not until 1618 that the transfer took place - perhaps triggered by the

²³ WYAS (Kirklees), Ramsden Collection, DD/RA/F/4a. A detailed transcript of the rental and accounts with notes can be found in P. Hurst (ed), *Sadelworth, Garsomes, geld rents and gould*, (Privately printed, 2011).

²⁴ TNA, Platt alias Wrigley v. Ramsden, Harrop, Shaw & Bradbury, C 2/ChasI/P81/40 (1639); Same Parties, C 2/ChasI/P77/35 (1639); Same Parties, C 2/ChasI/P796/40 (c.1640); Same Parties, (Interrogatories), C 22/141/32 (1641); Hill v. Ramsden, Farrer, Bradbury, Shaw, Broadbent & Harrop, C 5/29/117 (1656); C 5/32/52 (1656); Same Parties, (Interrogatories), C 22/790/42 (c.1656); Hill v. Farrer & Bradbury (Interrogatories), C 22/795/30 (1665). I am grateful to Victor Khadem for bringing these Chancery cases to light and for his transcriptions of the bills, answers and depositions.

²⁵ For a family tree of the Diglee Wrigleys see N. Barrow, 'In Search of the Early Wrigleys', *SHSB*, Vol. 50, No. 1, (2020). pp. 1-15, Pedigrees 3 and 4.

DIGLEE

birth of grandchildren. The lease was for a term of 100 years at a token rent of 4d.²⁶ As the family had feared, Francis acted very imprudently. He first assigned the lease to his father-in-law and brother-in-law in trust for his daughters but then afterwards sold the lease back to William Ramsden's successor, Sir John Ramsden, retaining only a life time interest. To add to the difficulties he allowed Sir John to let part of the premises to two others. After years of litigation, the court finally upheld the sole surviving daughter's claim on the land. However, there remained doubt as to whether the families ownership applied to the whole of the freehold land in dispute or just a quarter share. The witnesses supported William Farrer, the new lord of the manor's claim, that the family only held a quarter of the whole. Either way, William Farrer ended up acquiring the land from the family and becoming the undisputed owner of the whole freehold, which was then merged into the manor.

DIGLEE

The King's licence of 1611 to alienate the Wrigley freehold to William Ramsden provides irrefutable proof that the Kirklees land was at Diglee.

'All that messuage, land, tenement, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, and other hereditaments in Saddleworth with appurtenances, late parcel possession of the late monastery or priory of Kirklees, Co York. which descended to the same Richard after the death of his father James who held it in Capite.'²⁷

What is not clear is where the freehold was in Diglee and whether James held the whole of the land granted to the four Wrigleys in 1543 or just one quarter, as claimed by Sir John Ramsden's witness, Edmund Schofield in 1641:-

'the lands called diglee in the pleadings mentioned now in question which was a fourth part of diglee and the Inheritance of James Wrigley deceased herein named is worth forty shillings a yeare and no more.'²⁸

This was re-iterated in William Farrer's own deposition in 1665:-

'Severall tymes the Examinant [William Farrer] offered the plaintiff Richard Hill that he the said Hill should enjoy in Common with the other tenants (in respect the land is not divided but occupied in Common) All that parte of Digley which was the said James Wrigleys Inheritance being one undivided fourth part of the Ancient lands in Digley.'²⁹

The land in question was then tenanted by Thomas Bradbury, a party to the suit, and the conclusion that must be drawn from Farrer's statement is that the other three quarters of the freehold land were then in the hands of other tenants of Farrer. Other witnesses supported this. Edward Hanson in 1641 stated that:-

'hee knowe the foure houses in Sadleworthe (which as this deponent was yesterday told) are called the diglee and hath sene diverse closes which hee thinketh do belong to the said foure houses or some of them.'³⁰

By some means therefore, in addition to Francis Platt alias Wrigley's freehold, Farrer had acquired the freehold of the other three quarters of the former Kirklees land granted to the

²⁶ University of Leeds, Brotherton Library, 'Lease from William Ramsden of Longley, Esq., to Richard Wrigley of Diglee, yeoman, and Francis Platt (alias Wrigley), his reputed son, messuage at Diglee, late in the occupation of James Wrigley, father of Richard Wrigley, for the term of 100 years, at a yearly rent of 4d, 13th February 1617/8, Special Collections, WWP, Box 8/6, MS [Deposit] 1946/1.

²⁷ TNA, C 66/1861/45.

²⁸ TNA, 'Depositions of witnesses taken at Mottram in the County of Chester 16 September 1641', Testimony of Edmund Broadbent, of Diglee, husbandman aged about 80 and [original decayed], Platt alias Wrigley v. Ramsden et al., Interrogatories and Depositions, C 22/141/32.

²⁹ TNA, 'The severall examinations of William Farrer esquire and Thomas Bradbury taken at the house of Edmund Goddard in Mottram in the County of Chester 10 April, 17 Charles II [1665]', Hill v. William Farrer and Thomas Bradbury, Interrogatories and Depositions, C 22/795/30.

³⁰ TNA, Testimony of Edward Hanson of Netherwood house in the countie of Yorke, gent., aged about 59. Platt alias Wrigley v. Ramsden et al., Interrogatories and Depositions, C 22/141/32.

Wrigleys in 1543. How this took place remains a mystery. There appears to be a clear line of descent of the quarter granted to James Wrigley. But what of the other quarters held by John, Reginald and Edmund Wrigley? For them to have sold their land they would have had to have a license from the King. No such licenses exist and a list of homagers of the king drawn up in James I reign still listed tenements and land held by John, James and Reginald Wrigley in Saddleworth - clearly no notice of change of ownership had been notified to the Crown.³¹ It seems likely that this transfer of ownership had taken place informally many years before the dispute, possibly in the time of the Tunstall lords of the manor.



Mapping Saddleworth II, pp. 35-36

Figure 3. Diggle Enclosure in 1770

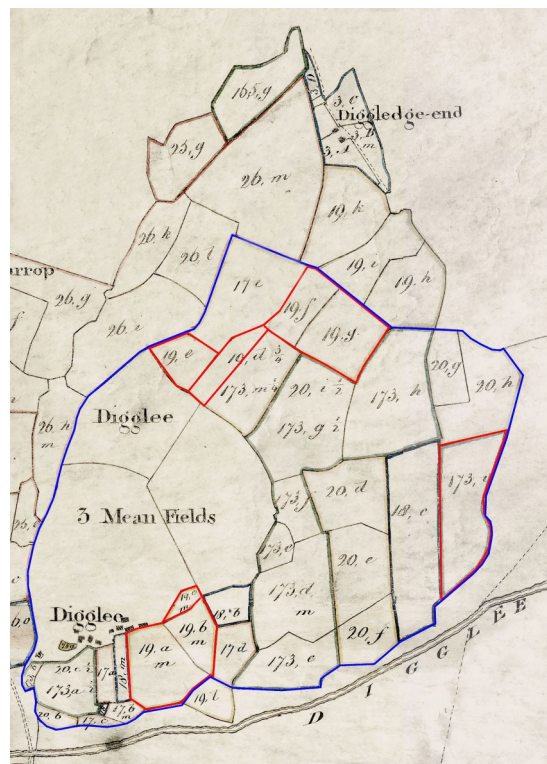


Figure 4. The boundaries of Diggle and the fields leased by Richard Wrigley in 1590

Now addressing the issue of where the freehold was. The depositions of 1641 make it clear that it lay somewhere in Diggle. Figure 3 is the Diggle area shown on the map of James Farrer's estates surveyed in 1770.³² Fields 19h,i and k, known as the Intakes, were clearly late edge of settlement and it has been argued that such names are typical of late 16th or early 17th enclosure.³³ The area of Diggle as it would have existed in the 16th century is therefore the land within the blue line in Figure 4, an area of approximately 85 acres. In 1770 it was held as five separate farms centred on the hamlet of Diggle, each holding being interspersed across the whole area, rather than each farm owning a distinct block of land. In addition to the individual fields each farm also held land within the three mean fields and in the 1770 survey the acreages of each were given, totalling just short of 25 acres. Sales of these farms, which took place in 1791 at the time of the break up of the manor, and an earlier lease of one of them in 1751³⁴ indicate that these shares were spread across the three fields. The name 'mean fields'

³¹ TNA, Homagers in Agbrigg & Morley Wapentakes, undated, DL 43/10/1.

³² M. Buckley, D. Harrison, V. Khadem, A. Petford, & J. Widdall (eds), *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. 2, (Saddleworth Historical Society, 2010), pp. 35 & 36.

³³ See Buckley, 'The origins and evolution of a Pennine Township', pp. 237 (Figure 5) & 244.

and the fact that the holdings were interspersed is reminiscent of a classical common three field system. This conclusion is supported by a lease of land at Diglee in 1633 from Sir John Ramsden to two of the Diglee farmers of:-

‘Foure doles of lande lyinge in a close called coateflatt conteinige by estimacion two dayes worke with a plowe more or lesse, and also two parcels of land, thone of them lyinge in a close above the dwellinge howse of ffrancis wrigley alias Platt of diglee aforesaid and thother lyinge in a close called greatley head, both the said parcels conteinige likewise by estimacion two dayes worke with a plowe more or lesse.’³⁵

Julian Hunt concluded:-

‘That there are three fields in Diglee divided into doles or strips for ploughing suggests rotation of crops with one or two of the fields left fallow in any section. The doles would be marked by wooden or masonry meres or markers but when the fields were fallow it could be grazed by any of the farmers’ cattle.’³⁶

As William Farrer had stated in 1665 that the freehold land, of which Francis Wrigley held a quarter, was not divided but was occupied in common, and as the three Mean Fields are the only sizeable block of land in Diglee, it seems clear that the three fields must have been the original Kirklees land and the enclosures surrounding the three fields the manorial land rented to the four farmers in 1590.

In 1590 there were three apparently equal size manorial farms, and a fourth, apparently larger, held by Richard Wrigley at a higher rent. The interrogatory and depositions in 1641 reveal the names of the fields in Richard Wrigley’s holding:-

‘7. Whether doe you knowe or have credibly heard that Richard Wrigley and ffrancis Platts (alias) Wrigley deceased in the Interrogatory named did in their life times occupie and enjoye certeine grounds in Saddleworth (other then the diglee in the pleading mencioned) yea or no and whether are the said grounds by their particular names to witt the Overlee the Nether lee, the Warth, the Newheyes, the Harlawehhead, the Little marshe, the Furthermarshes, the lands above the Mearestones, the Nabend, the Roodland, the Lanes, the Newings, and the New Inge head.’³⁷

Some of these fields fall outside Diglee but four of them can be identified from the names in the 1770 survey; they are shown in Figure 4 edged in red. That Wrigley paid a higher rent than the other three farmers can perhaps be explained by the extra manorial land he held elsewhere. As will be argued later, there is no evidence that the other tenants held land outside Diglee and so from the rents we might conclude that the three other tenants farms were roughly equal in area and Wrigley’s manorial land in Diglee was the same size as the others. Also, since Wrigley’s holding in Diglee can be mapped on to the fields in 1770, that the enclosure pattern in 1590, and earlier, was largely the same as in 1770. Identifying each of the holdings in 1590 however is not straightforward as some considerable re-assignment of holdings had taken place in the 17th and 18th centuries. But, with a fair degree of confidence, this is possible.

Two events in the seventeenth century led to a major reorganisation of the holdings. The first was Francis Wrigley’s decision to dispose of his freehold estate. This was apparently with the

³⁴ WYAS (Wakefield), Registry of Deeds, Lease, James Farrer to George Platt of Diglee, Messuage at Diglee called Wrigley’s in the occupation of James Wrigley with, inter alia, ¼ part of three field, also a Barn formerly a dwellinghouse at Diglee called Shay’s with, inter alia, ⅛ of two large fields called the Great Field and Broad Lee and 3 parts of a ½ of Cote Flat, CK 570 772; see also 15 Oct 1762, AX 149.

³⁵ WWP, Lease for 21 years from Sir John Ramsden of Longley to Edmund Broadbent and Edmund Shaw of Diglee, husbandmen, 7 May 1633, Box 8/6.

³⁶ Julian Hunt, ‘Common Arable Farming at Diglee’, p. 57.

³⁷ TNA, Platt alias Wrigley v. Ramsden et al. Interrogatory on the part of the defendants; these field names were confirmed in the testimony of Edmund Broadbent, of Diglee, C 22/141/32.

agreement of Sir John Ramsden. The lease of 1633 of parts of Wrigley's share of the Mean Fields to Broadbent and Shaw was part of this. Also, in 1665 Thomas Bradbury was occupying part of the Mean Fields, so presumably he also had received part of Wrigley's share. The defendants Bradbury, Shaw and Broadbent in the court cases would appear therefore to be the recipients of Wrigley's former freehold land. The question then remains - what happened to Wrigley's manorial leasehold land? It did not pass to the plaintiffs in the case so either Wrigley was still occupying it, or had assigned the lease or sub-let it; but in either case it must have reverted to Ramsden after Wrigley's death, which we are told occurred in about 1636. The most likely candidates to acquire the leasehold land would have been the recipients of the Wrigley's freehold estate. In fact, all of Wrigley's manorial holdings in Diglee were acquired by Bradbury and Shaw. There is no evidence that the fourth defendant, David Harrop acquired any of the freehold land. But there may be a reason why he was included in the list of defendants which will be considered later.

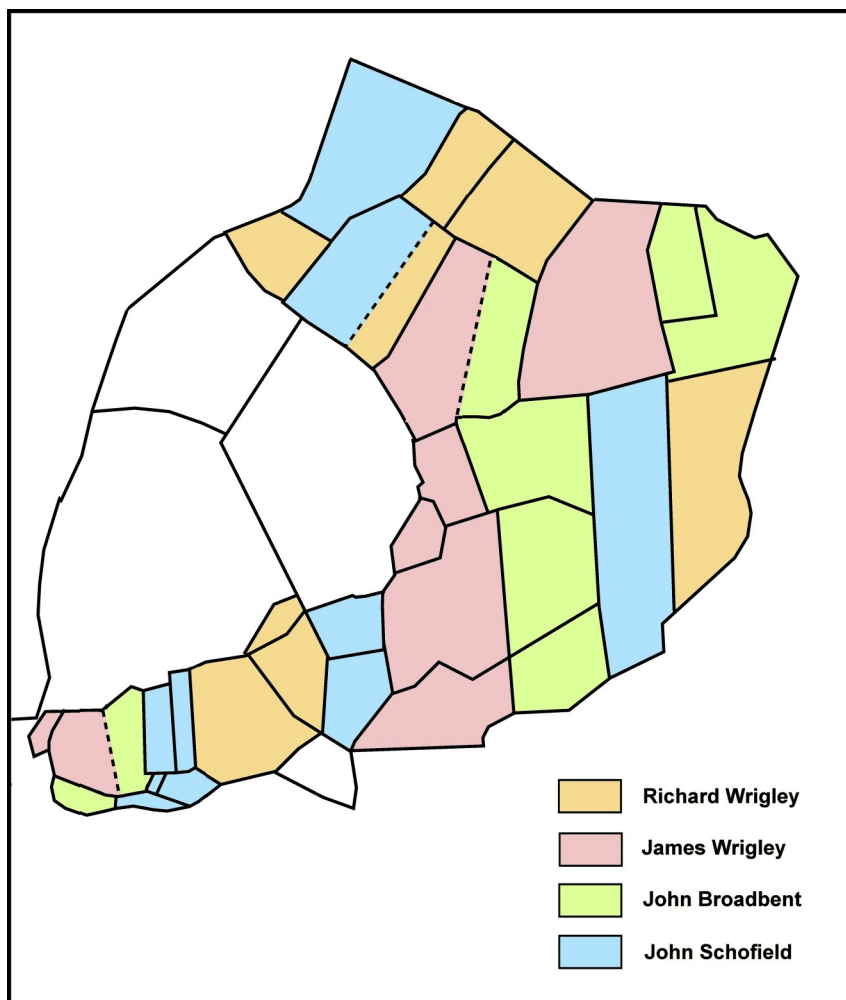


Figure 5. Manorial farms at Diglee in 1590

Edmund Shaw and Thomas Bradbury were new arrivals in Diglee. The first mention of Edmund Shaw is in 1612 when he paid £7 16s 3d for a lease for a new house at Diglee; but land is not mentioned. Thomas Bradbury only appears in the 1630s, at the time Wrigley was disposing of his land. Broadbent already had what must have been a quarter of Diglee and the family had had this in 1590. His descendants share of the mean fields and the manorial land

amounted to no more than a quarter in 1770 so it appears he disposed of that he had acquired jointly with Shaw in 1633, mostly likely to Shaw.

The second event to change the pattern of land tenure was the fragmentation of the 1590 estate that had been held by John Schofield in 1590. This had taken place by the 1660s when the 1669 list of those paying tithes shows the Schofield descendant with a much smaller holding than other Diglee farmers.³⁸ Bradbury acquired half their share of the Mean Fields and probably also field 19d; the rest of the Schofield holding was divided into two farms, numbers 17 and 18 shown on the 1770 map.

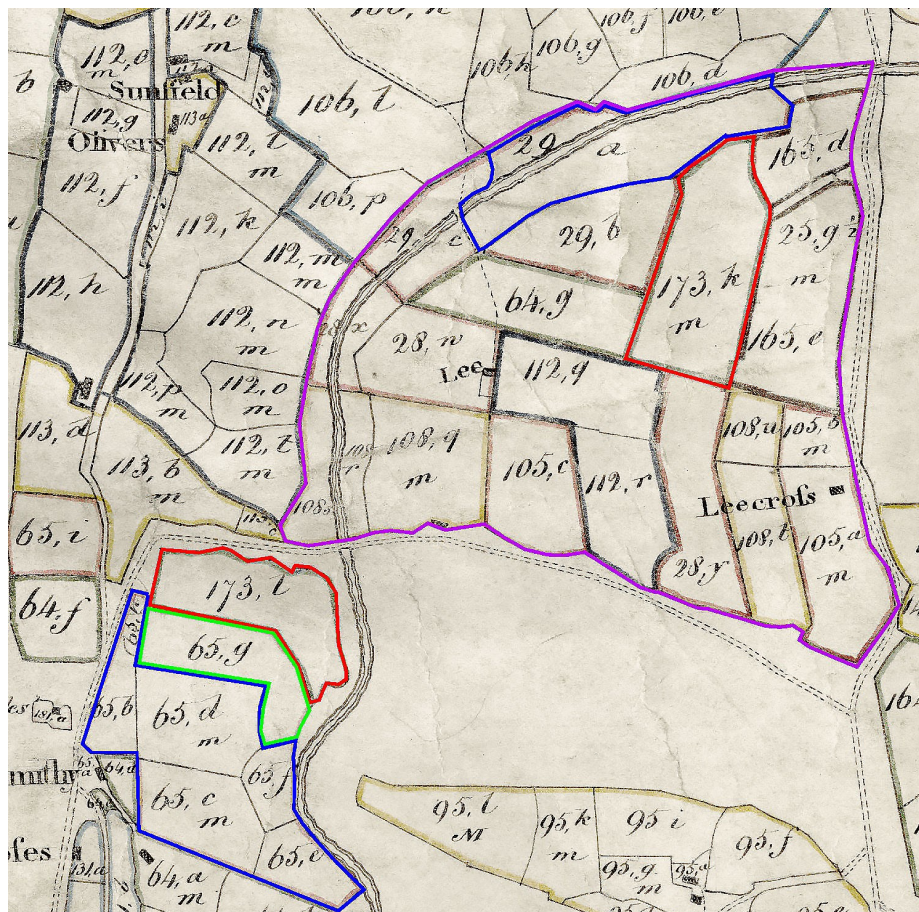


Figure 6. Land held by the Wrigleys in the Lee and at David's Smithy

Two farms continued unchanged to 1770, that held by another Wrigley family and that held by the Broadbents (numbers 173 and 20 respectively on the 1770 map). However, the Wrigleys estate had earlier been augmented with the Shaw holdings in Diglee so number 173 includes both estates.

Working backwards from the 1770 holdings, and allowing for these changes, a picture emerges of the four original holdings and the original quarter shares in the Mean Fields with each tenant holding one quarter of each field. The estates are approximately equal at 15½ acres with the exception of the Broadbent holding which is 1 acre less in size (it is significant that in 1590 Broadbent paid 3s 7d rent while the others 3s 8d). The make up of the original four estates is illustrated in Figure 5.

³⁸ Julian Hunt, 'Saddleworth Tithes in 1669', *SHSB*, Vol. 14, No. 2, (1984), pp. 20-25.

A remaining issue to consider is the land held by the Diglee tenants outside of Diglee itself. Below Diglee is an area of meadow land called the Lee; this shown on the 1770 map³⁹ in Figure 6 where the area is outlined in violet. Probably once a common meadow, it was partitioned at an early date between the farms in Harrop Dale. As indicated earlier it was reported that Richard Wrigley had held manorial fields called The Overlee, the Netherlee and the Wharf; these can probably be accounted for by 29a, the Wharf in 1770 and 173k Shaw Lee in 1770. As its name indicates it was then in the tenure of the other Wrigley family's successors at Diglee but had earlier been acquired as part of the Shaw estate which in turn had probably been part of Richard Wrigley's manorial holding prior to the 1630s. It seems therefore that Richard Wrigley was the only Diglee tenant holding land in the Lee.

In addition to land in the Lee, Richard Wrigley held other land elsewhere; these fields were listed as the Nabend, the Roidlands, the Lanes, the New Ing and the New Ings Head. Field 173l in 1770, lined in red in Figure 6, was called the Nun Ing and was part of the former Wrigley estate. *Ing*, a Scandinavian element meaning small meadow, is not common in Saddleworth and it seems that New Ing and Nun Ing are almost certainly one and the same. This field is adjacent to the tenement called David's Smithy, numbered 65 on the map. There are seven fields in all belonging to this estate (excluding an Intake above the lane), and six of these have Nunning in their name. As well as two Nunnings, there is a Crooked Nunning, a Nunning Head, a Little Nunning Head and a Nunning Bottom. Part of the estate, Field 65g, lined in green, was called the Crooked Nunning and like 173l appears to have once been part of the former other Wrigley Diglee holding (Nun Ing and a Crooked Nun Ing are listed in the 1751 Diglee lease referred to above). It seems very likely then that the rest of number 65, edged in blue on the map, were the fields that had once been Richard Wrigley's and that the both Richard Wrigley and James Wrigley in 1590 each held part of what later became David's Smithy. The name is significant, as the farm was once in the tenure of David Harrop, a blacksmith, one of the defendants in 1639. Because of the field names, it seems plausible that David's Smithy was once a separate area of meadow land held by the nuns of Kirklees. Was it part of the former Kirklees land and therefore, in addition to the three Mean Fields, part of Richard Wrigley's freehold? Perhaps this was the issue being tested by the 1639 interrogatory and why Harrop was one of the defendants in the case. The witnesses however clearly deposed that this was not the case - the land having been part of the manor in the Tunstalls' time (before 1590).

MEDIEVAL DIGLEE

With a clearer picture of Diglee at the beginning of the seventeenth century some inferences can be made of its nature during the period of monastic ownership.

The field pattern in 1770 and the disposition of the land of the four farms reveal some clues to the evolution of the settlement. The field boundaries indicate a chronology of enclosure. The shape of enclosures and field names in 1770 are illustrated in Figure 7. The three Mean Fields were clearly the first to be enclosed together with the boundary round the whole settlement. Following this, the area of crofts and small meadows below the housing (coloured green) were probably the next development leaving the rest of the enclosed land (coloured grey and pink) as an open pasture. At an early stage, and possibly contemporary with the original Diglee enclosure, is the division between the area called the Marsh (coloured pink and the land above (coloured grey). Three of the fields in the land above the settlement are called the Hey, perhaps a name applied to the whole area before sub-division. The preponderance of such areas in Saddleworth has been shown to be a feature of medieval early enclosure.⁴⁰ The final

³⁹ Buckley et al, *Mapping Saddleworth*, Vol. 2, p. 40.

⁴⁰ Buckley, 'The origins and evolution of a Pennine Township', pp. 38-240; N. Smith, *Patterns in the Landscape: evaluating characteristics of the historic landscape in the South Pennines*, BAR British Series No. 604, (Oxford, Archaeopress, 2014), pp. 110-114.

DIGLEE

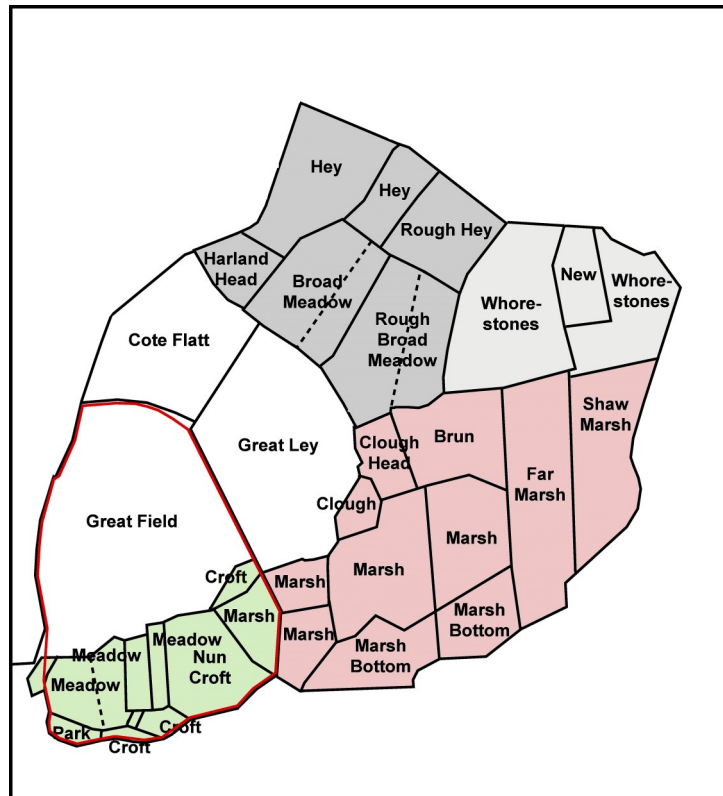


Figure 7. Field Names and Enclosure Chronology at Diglee

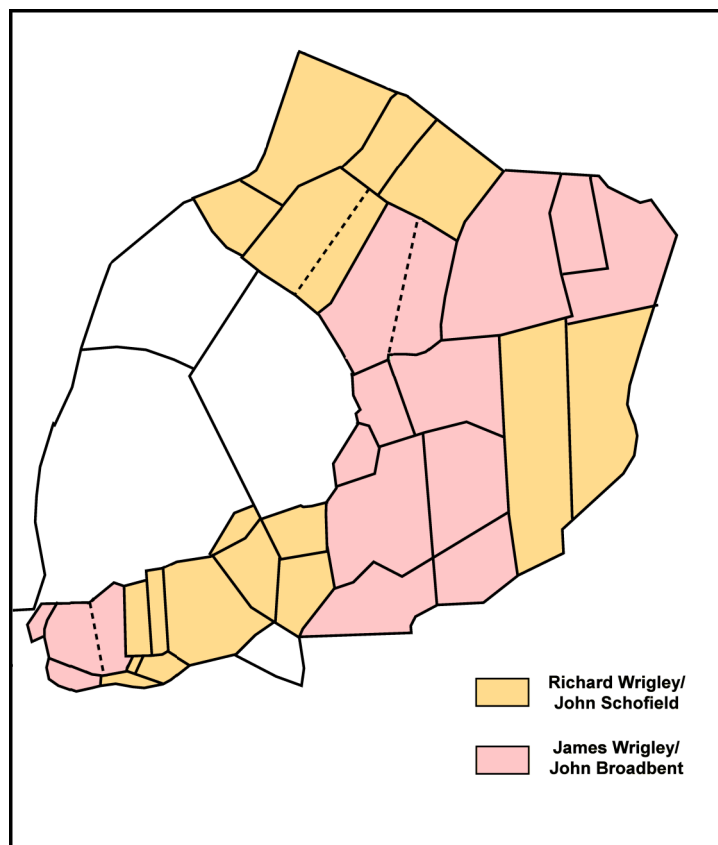


Figure 8. Early division of Diglee into two halves

sub-division appears to have been performed with a view to creating equal areas for the individual farms. The division of the Marsh into four units is perhaps the best example of this (Figure 5), but underlying this division into four is an earlier apparent division into two. This can be seen by grouping together the Richard Wrigley and John Schofield land and the James Wrigley and John Broadbent land. This is illustrated in Figure 8.

A division into four would have made sense following the sale of the Kirklees land to the four Wrigley's in 1543 and this would have to have been with the agreement of the manorial lord. But this does not explain the role of the first Richard Wrigley who was the sole lessee from the priory up till this time. How could the manorial land then have been in halves? A possible explanation is that the settlement had long been farmed in two then in four, with the manorial farms holding separate manorial leases, but for convenience, the common land being held of the priory under a single lease to one individual who made private arrangements with the other three farmers in paying the rent.

From the beginning, the medieval references suggest more than one farm here. The grant to John son of Robert of Staveley of land and meadowland in Dygel, once held by William of the Sykes points to early manorial settlement at Diglee, and the mention of both the same John (then known as John del Shaw) and Robert de Diglee in 1322 would point to multiple Diglee tenancies at this date.

But what are we to make of the payment of rent to the Lord of the Manor by the Prioress of Kirklees in 1322, and later in the 1390s and early 1400s? In these later references it is made clear that she paid a chief rent, together with other freeholders for land held in perpetuity and this would make complete sense for an institution, rather than leases granted to individual prioresses. A chief rent of 3s 4d was payable by Richard Wrigley in 1590 and a further chief rent of 3s 4d by 'the several of Digle'; which can only mean the other tenants of Diglee.⁴¹ Were these payments a continuation of the chief rent paid earlier by the priory transferred to the Wrigleys in 1543 as her successors to the freehold? If so the Wrigleys were occupying freehold land previously held by the priory beyond the 8 acres granted to them by Robert de Stapleton. The implication of this is that the original grant of 8 acres had been augmented by the further purchase of land at Diglee by the Priory. The 26 acres of the three mean fields is far in excess of the approximately 12 statute acres represented by the 8 customary acre grant. The 10 customary acres (or about 15 statute acres) the prioress paid for in 1322 would account for the 26 acres of the three Mean Fields. The need for more land would no doubt have been driven by the need to support multiple tenants. The land outlined in red in Figure 7 possibly represents the extent of the original grant by Robert de Stapleton together with a small amount of meadow land rented by the tenant(s) from the Lord of the Manor. The enlargement of the freehold probably coincided with the enclosure of the pasture land that made up the later boundaries of Diglee.

Whether the Priory ever rented manorial meadow land is not clear. The names of the fields at David's Smithy remain a mystery.

If this analysis is correct it would suggest that the three field arrangement, very much a feature of the Middle Ages rather than Early Modern era, was adopted when the settlement was divided into four and that this took place at a much earlier date than the Dissolution.

CONCLUSIONS

A consideration of the claims and evidence provided by witnesses made in the seventeenth century court cases shows that Diglee was held in four separate farms at the end of the sixteenth century. The extent of these has been reconstructed by evidence provided at the

⁴¹ The chief rent paid by Richard Wrigley did not continue beyond the seventeenth century, however the payment by 'the several of Digle' did continue as a rack rent until the 1740s. This casts doubts as to whether the latter rent payment was a successor to a Kirklees chief rent.

DIGLEE

time, by seventeenth and eighteen century deeds and by the detailed survey of Diglee in 1770. The sixteenth century rent payments and eighteenth century survey show these were of equal size. Most of the land in Diglee was manorial and held on lease by these four farmers, however freehold land which had been held by Kirklees Priory was being farmed in common by the same four manorial tenants who held equal shares of the freehold. It is concluded that this freehold land was the three Mean Fields and that by various means the Lord of the Manor had added all this freehold to the manor by the 1630s.

The Wrigley family played a prominent role in the sixteenth century, farming at least two of the farms and purchasing the freehold land after the Dissolution. The William Wrigley mentioned in the poll tax of 1379 was very likely a tenant here. The fact that several of them shared in the purchase of the freehold need not imply that they occupied all the four farms and, as two of the manorial farms were occupied by other families in 1590, this would perhaps suggest otherwise.

A comparison of the size of the freehold in the sixteenth century with the original grant of 8 acres of land to Kirklees Priory in the mid thirteenth century implies the original grant had afterward been augmented by further land acquired from the Lord of the Manor. This is supported by chief rent payments made by the priory as early as 1322. A partition of the manorial pasture and meadow land at Diglee into two, and then in to four holdings, suggests that the same was happening with the arable freehold land and the working of this as a three field system suggests a medieval date for the split into four tenancies.

SUMMERSHADES PLEASURE GARDENS, GRASSCROFT

Peter Fox and Mike Buckley

Originally a farm located on the south side of Wharmton in Grasscroft. In the 1890s it became the popular Summershades Pleasure Gardens and Camping Site, a very popular venue for day trippers and groups, particularly from Oldham, who were able to travel by bus or the local Delph Donkey railway line stopping at Grasscroft station. A description of it in the 1930s gives a good impression of what it had to offer:

‘Ideally situated at 800ft above sea level with every convenience. All campers’ supplies including foodstuffs and fuel for primus stoves may be purchased in the grounds, and for those who prefer to have their meals ready cooked for them, there is the tea rooms with seated accommodation for over 500 people. All supplies and meals are sold at the very cheapest rate consistent with quality. Proof of its popularity may be gauged by the fact that last season 10,000 people visited the grounds.’

The first mention of Summershades was the township rating survey of 1822, when the farmhouse is listed as in the occupation of John Taylor and the two adjoining fields of Thomas Ammon Platt. But the early history of the site is largely the history of George Travis. He is first mentioned in 1835 as the young occupant of the farmhouse and a tenant of the Revd Mr Evans, the curate of Lydgate. The trade directory of 1838 lists him as a flannel manufacturer. But by 1851, in addition to his flannel business, he was also described as a farmer of 16 acres and a beer reseller. He was then living there with his wife Ann, and three young children. The role of the hand loom weaver was in serious decline during the 1850s and it comes as no surprise that by the next decade George Travis had abandoned his weaving business, and was concentrating on farming and running a beerhouse at Summershades. The latter appears to have been his main interest and he left in 1866 to become landlord of the White Hart Inn at Lydgate.

Little is known of what happened here in the next decade but a new chapter in its history began in 1879 when the property was sold to William Griffiths Hulme of Springhead, plumber. Described as a plumber in 1881 and 1891, Hulme was living at Summershade with his wife Athaliah and sister-in-law, Priscilla Schofield. He added to the estate in 1883 by purchasing another 2½ acres of land to the south, and by this time, as well as his plumbing business, he was keeping a temperance hotel. It must have been about this time that he had the idea of creating a pleasure gardens on the site, and perhaps the purchase of extra land was intended to facilitate this.

Adverts for the pleasure gardens appeared in the local papers and by the 1890s it had become a popular local destination.

SUMMERSHADE GARDENS GREENFIELD

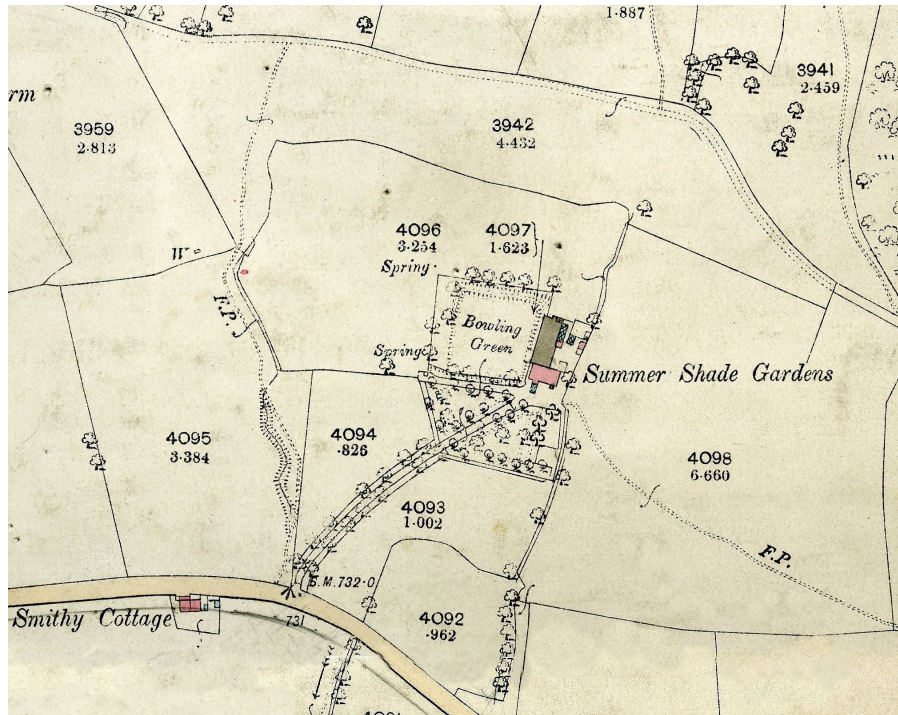
These Gardens are NOW OPEN DAILY. 15 minutes walk from Grotton Station and 10 from Greenfield Station. Excellent accommodation for visitors. Special terms for school and picnic parties. BAND for DANCING Every SATURDAY Evening at 7 o'clock. Bowling Green, Swings, Museum, Monkeys, Peacock, Pheasants &c. Good Stabling.

W.G. Hulme, proprietor

The *Oldham Standard* reported in 1893 that ‘Workpeople employed at Newroyd Mill, Waterhead, held a picnic at Summershades pleasure gardens, Greenfield.’ In 1897 the *Oldham Chronicle* described another happy occasion:

‘Scene at Greenfield Station ... when some 300 poor children from Stalybridge assembled on the platform previous to returning home. It seems they had been spending the day at Summershades - thanks to the kindly generosity of Stalybridge friends. The young folks seemed in the best of spirits, and it took the ladies who had them in charge all their time to keep them in order.’

SUMMERSHADES



Mapping Saddleworth II p. 185

Figure 1. Summershades shown on the 1:2500, OS Map of 1892/4



Saddleworth Museum Archives

Figure 2. Summershades c.1900

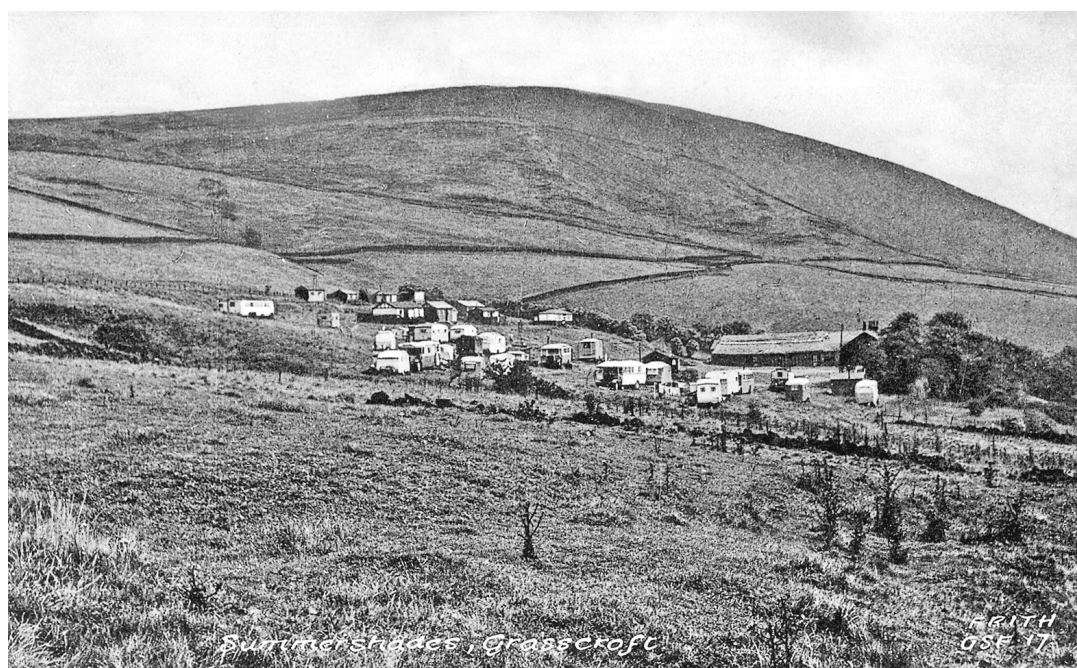
SUMMERSHADES

Figure 1 shows the layout of the site in 1892 and Figure 2 a view of the house, perhaps a decade or so later. The house was a substantial building, of three stories, with sash-windows and apparently built in two stages in the early years of the nineteenth century. It was not a modest farmhouse but more like a manufacturer's house of the 1830/40s. Could it have been built by Travis or an earlier owner? If it was Travis, he must have done very well in his early years as a flannel manufacturer. The large structure adjoining the house and oriented north-south was a wooden single storey building, presumably the dance hall and tea rooms. It can be seen in the 1930s view in Figure 3.

The popularity of the pleasure gardens under Hulme's management continued into the Edwardian Era and despite an unsuccessful attempt to obtain a license in 1903, Hulme continued in business until his death in 1907. The house and gardens were then put up for sale. The report in the local press describes the premises:

'There was a good attendance at the Swan Hotel, High Street, Oldham on Thursday evening, when Messrs T. J. Wild & Sons offered for sale the residence known as Summershades. Greenfield, now used as a picnicking establishment, and also the adjacent house, farm buildings, wooden dancing floor and tea rooms, greenhouse and outbuildings, and the garden and land belonging to the premises containing 6½ acres. The property which is freehold was sold to Mr E. Eastwood of Dukinfield for £1,250. Mr G. F. Tanner of Clegg Street, Oldham, was the vendor's solicitor.'

Edwin Eastwood, was a former chemist and druggist, turned farmer and cattle dealer. In 1911, described as farmer, he was living with his wife Sarah Ellen, a teacher, at Summershades. They ran the pleasure ground till at least 1917, but according to his obituary in the local press, he had apparently moved back to Duckinfield before his death in 1921.



Saddleworth Museum Archives

Figure 3. Summershades c.1930

He was succeeded as proprietor of Summershades by John Willie Wilkinson, who was here in 1922 and John Cameron in 1927. By the 30s it had become a popular camping spot with permanent caravans on the site. In 1942, the then proprietor Mr L.J.A. Dunkerley requested a licence from Saddleworth Urban District to use the site for 'moveable dwellings'. Clearly these were already well established as it was reported at the time that there were 'now more than 60 chalets and/or caravans' on the site. Figure 3 is a view of the site taken around this period.

SUMMERSHADES

The site continued into the 1950s and is fondly remembered today by at least one elderly Grasscroft resident who recalls many happy hours spent there as a child. The pleasure gardens eventually closed and nothing now remains. Housing has now been built on much of the site.

Sources

All newspaper cuttings are from Saddleworth Museum Archives and trade directory references are from a comprehensive list of Saddleworth trade directories available in both the Saddleworth Museum Archives and Saddleworth Historical Society Archives. Many of these are now available on a searchable database compiled by Peter Fox.



Figure 4. Children's Outing to Summershades 1935

