

# THE WORTHINGTON FAMILIES OF MEDIEVAL ENGLAND

by

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Lancashire, and ten miles north of Blainscough.

Richard presumably married late in life, for it was another fifteen years before his father Peter prepared for "Richard, his sonne & heir apparent" to marry Alice, daughter of John Ashton, Esq., of Banforlong. According to the Blainscough abstracts, John Aston and others made a bond for £40\* to Peter for performance of the marriage covenants. (See Appendix D.) Perhaps the marriage never took place, or Alice may have died in child birth, because Richard in fact married Agnes, daughter to Nicholas Rishton of Donkenhall in Lancashire some time between 1505 and 1513. This Rishton family of which Nicholas was head was a cadet line of the Rishtons of Rishton, having emanated from a younger son born towards the end of the thirteenth century.<sup>29</sup> Since about 1322 they had enjoyed full ownership of the quasi-manor of Donkenhalgh, an estate lying in the south east of Clayton-le-Moors. They also held a moiety of the manor of Clayton itself.

This was Agnes's second marriage as she had previously married a member of the Holcroft family. Her marriage to Richard Worthington had taken place by 1515 as in that year they both appear in an entail of Richard's estates in Coppull and Wrightington. Richard Rishton and Hugh Adlington were the trustees, and the entail included the heirs of Richard and Agnes, or failing them, the right heirs of Richard. (See Appendix D.) As the grant was by Richard it seems that he had already succeeded to his father's estate.

Another Blainscough abstract records how, in 1518, Richard Worthington of Blainscough leased a messuage and tenement in Wrightington to Edward Crane and his wife for the remainder of both their lives. The property had previously been in the tenancy of Alexander German.

In 1521 Richard Worthington of Blaynescoghe, son of Peter Worthington Armiger, was granted Brindhil by Thomas Hesketh Armiger. (See Appendix D.) According to the Blainscough abstract it was 4 years later when Thomas Hesketh made a letter of attorney to William Charnock to give quiet possession to Richard Worthington.

Both "Richard Worthington" (presumably of Worthington) and "Richard Worthington of Blainscough" paid as landowners to the subsidy of 1525.<sup>30</sup>

At some unknown time during the reign of Henry VIII – between 1509 and 1526 – Richard was involved in a pleading at the court of the Duchy of Lancaster.<sup>31</sup> The two bills of complaint by Thomas Wrightyngton of Wrightyngton in Lancashire are badly drafted and the sequence of events is difficult to follow. However, there had been a quarrel between Thomas and a Roland Kirkeby who was then in prison

\*Equivalent to 2,400 man-days of agricultural labour.

"ward at lawe" and "in the castell at lawe"). According to the bills of complaint 4 people, by request of Roland Kirkeby and with the support of the Worthington of Blainscough, distrained a horse and mare from some of Thomas Wrightyngton's land then in the tenancy of John Nichols, and drove them to the king's fold in Mirestogh. Thomas recovered the animals the next day but some hours later they were taken again and driven to a place unknown. They were found after a further 4 days but, after being retrieved, five cows were driven from Thomas's land. On another occasion, it was claimed, Roland Kyrkby had caused 21 persons to enter some of Thomas's land in Walsh Whitill in Lancashire with force and in riotous manner with the intention of destroying barley which had been sown by the tenants. The 21 persons were

Ivan Worthington	Rauff Bolton
Thomas Kyrkbe	John Bollyng
James Sharpe	Ric Harryson
Ric Worthington	Alexandre Parker
Hugh Hunghall	X'y'ofre Parker
Edward Worthington	Henry Laylond
Nicholas Wright	Thomas Hecpey
John Moores	Roger Charnok
Rob't Burstoghe	Henry Burstoghe
Will'm Burstoghe	John Worthington
Thomas Godehurst pr'st	

(John Worthington cannot be placed, but Edward and John Worthington were presumably Richard's younger brothers.)

The bills of complaint relate that a commission had been directed to certain justices of the peace in Lancashire who in turn directed warrants to the king's bailiff of the warpentake of Leyland and the constables of the county to attach Ric' Worthington of Blaynscoagh, James Sharpe and others. When the bailiff and constable went to arrest Richard, he resisted by taking refuge in Coppull chapple with more than 20 "affynyte persons":

"... the said Ric' Worthington by his extort power forceably resisted theym in the Chapell of Coppull the thrd day of May last past And w't force kept the said Constable out of the said chapell & wold not any wise obey the siad warrents nor the kyngs said offic's in executyng of the same saying that the said warrents were falsly forged by Mathewe Standish . . ."

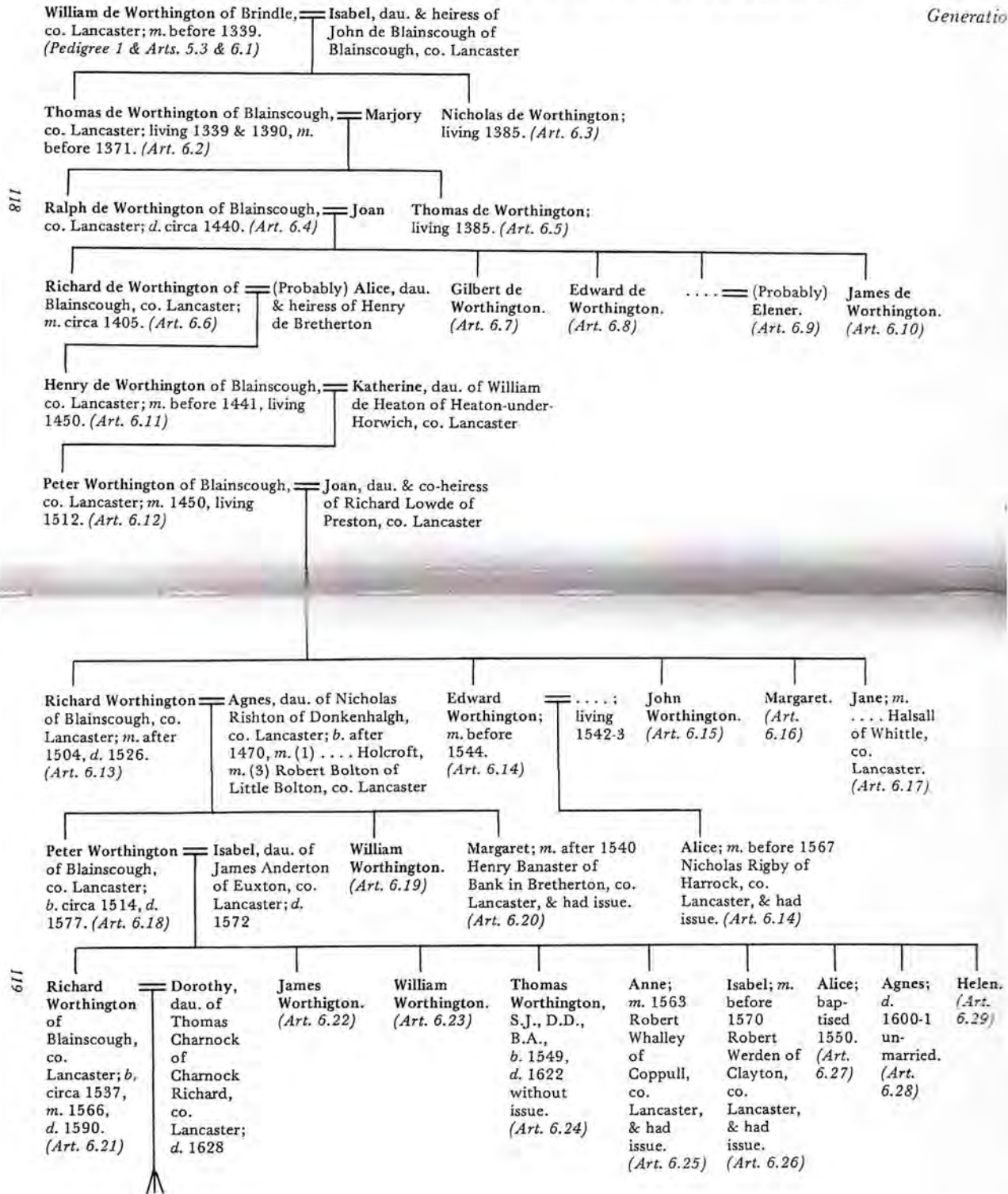
Richard and his affynytes kept the chapple until Henry Faryngton sneyer and Mathewe Standish – both justices of the peace – arrived on the scene. Richard then emerged:

"... but he would not suff'r any of his said affynyte to the number of xx p'sons & moo then & there beyng in the said chapell & contaned in the warrent which the said kyngs bailif & constable had, to obey the said warrent . . ."

Thomas Wrightington ended his pleading by asking the court to command the justices of the peace and the barons of the county palatine

PEDIGREE 3 – THE WORTHINGTONS OF BLAINSCOUGH IN LANCASHIRE

Generatio



to commit the said persons to wards in Lancaster castle until they would give sureties for future obedience.

Richard died on 22 December 1526 when his son Peter was only 12 years old. For the time being the estates must therefore have fallen under the wardships of the various superior lords. As Richard was a tenant-in-chief in respect of part of his lands, there had to be an inquest post mortem. It was held at Chorley on 25 June 1528. A translation of the Latin record reads:<sup>31</sup>

"Inquisition held at Chorley, co. Lancaster, 25 June 20 Henry VIII in the presence of James Wersley knt., Escheator co. Lancaster upon the oath of Henry Chernock esq., George Langworth, Thomas Agh . . . , John . . . senior, John Gelibson, Robert Bolton, Gilbert Bradshagh, William Forde, Nicholas Worthington, Richard Pilkington, Thomas Wrightyngton, Henry . . . , William Bradshagh, Thomas Gerard esq. and Robert Chernock.

Who say that Richard Worthington of Blayscogh when he died was seised in his demesne as of fee of 7 messuages, 60 acres of land, 40 acres of pasture, 20 acres meadow, 10 acres wood and underwood, and 40 acres moor and turbarie in the villis of Coppull, Brunhill and Turton.

And 2 messuages, 40 acres land, 20 acres pasture, 8 acres meadow, 6 acres wood and underwood, 16 acres moor and turbarie in Coppull were held of Edward Stanley, Earl of Derby, in socage and an annual rent of 1 pair of white gloves, value 1d. And the annual value etc. is 4 marks."

And 40 acres land with appurtenances in Brunhill were held of Thomas Gerard of Brynne esq. by fealty only.

And 40 acres land in Turton were held of Ralph Orell esq. by rent of 6d. a year. And annual value is 15s."

And the said Richard died 22 December 18 Henry VIII. And Peter Worthington is his son and next heir, and was aged 12 years and more at the time of this Inquisition."

The annual values were the sum's receivable by the crown. The extent of the estate described here totals 9 messuages and 380 acres. However, a record filed in the Duchy Court of Lancaster a few years later claimed that his estate included 7 messuages and 1,170 acres. (See Article 6.18.)

Some five years before his death Richard planned to bequeath land to the yearly value of 13s. 4d. † to the priests of Coppull chapel for prayers to be said for ever for the souls of Richard and his ancestors and successors. (See Article 6.18.) According to the Victoria County History Richard did not make the bequest; the chapel had no endowments at all and was not named in any of the church surveys of the Tudor period.

Richard's widow, Agnes, did not wait long before finding a new spouse. In the year after Richard's death three relatives and friends of the family entered into a bond of £100‡ for the fulfilment of the new covenants for the marriage of Agnes Worthington, widow, late wife of Richard Worthington of Blayscog to Robert Bolton of Little Bolton.

\*Equivalent to 144 and 40 man-days of agricultural labour respectively.

†Equivalent to 37 man-days of agricultural labour.

‡Equivalent to 5,400 man-days of agricultural labour.

(See Appendix D.) The three were Richard Rishton of Dunkenhagh, Esq., Richard Worthington of Worthington and Roger Rishton of Oswaltwesill, Gent. Robert Bolton, for his part, granted to Agnes "Howcroft" with lands in little Bolton for her life.<sup>32</sup>

Robert was Agnes's third husband, and she outlived them all. This is shown by one of the Blainscough abstracts which records that in 1556 Agnes Bolton, widow, the late wife of Robert Bolton of little Bolton, Esq., made a general release of a yearly rent of 11s. 1d." to her eldest son Peter Worthington of Blainscough. (See Appendix D.)

#### 6.14. Edward, and Alice his daughter

The second son of Peter and Joan was Edward Worthington. On 24 December 1521 Edward was appointed a trustee in the contract of marriage between his nephew Peter Worthington and Isabel Anderton. (See Article 6.18.)

The wife of Edward Worthington is mentioned as a landowner, contributing to the subsidy of 1542-3.<sup>30</sup> This subsidy had been granted by Parliament to King Henry VIII towards the cost of his military actions in Scotland against the forces of King James.

Could it have been this Edward Worthington who was mentioned as a chorister of the Collegiate Church of Manchester in 1547-8?<sup>33</sup>

Edward and his wife had one daughter, Alice, who married Nicholas Rigby of Harrock and raised a family. This marriage is shown in a pedigree of the Rigby family taken by William Flower at the herald's visitation of Lancashire in 1567.<sup>34</sup> The pedigree shows that Nicholas Rigby had married once before, and it describes Alice as daughter of Edward Worthington of Blaniskowe. Nicholas Rigby held the Harrock estate in Worthington as his ancestors had done since the thirteenth century, for in 1284 Henry de Rigby held the estate. The family held Harrock of the priory of the Knights Hospitaller in socage by a rent of a shilling a year. They also held other lands by a rent of 4d. and the Town Carr (or marsh land) by a rent of 2s. 6d.<sup>35</sup> From late in the fourteenth century until the early part of the seventeenth century all the heirs male were named Nicholas; for this reason it is often difficult to distinguish between different generations.

#### 6.15. John

The only evidence that a John Worthington was the third son of Peter and Joan is the pedigree recorded by the heralds at their visitation of Lancashire in 1567. (See Article 6.11.) There were at least three John Worthingtons at about this time. (See Articles 3.27 & 12.12.) Although

\*Equivalent to 25 man-days of agricultural labour.

there are many references to the name, it is not possible to ascribe them with any conviction.

#### 6.16. Margaret

Although Margaret is not shown as a daughter of Peter Worthington and Joan in the heralds' recorded pedigree of 1567, she appears as their elder daughter in the pedigree taken by Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms, during the visitation of 1664-5.<sup>36</sup>

#### 6.17. Jane

As both pedigrees indicate, Peter Worthington and Joan had another daughter Jane, who married into the Halsall family of Welch Whittle. The entry for her husband in the pedigree of 1567 reads ". . . Halsall of Whittle co. Lancaster, gent."

Welch Whittle is a small township adjacent to the west boundary of Coppull only a mile or two from Blainscough Hall. The Halsall family had owned the hall and land in Welch Whittle at least since 1455 when there was a partition of lands between John and Thomas Halsall. The family also held lands in Shevington, Coppull and other townships.<sup>36</sup> In the time of King Henry VII, James Halsall had been accused of felonies and murders; as a consequence his lands were forfeited for life.

### EIGHTH GENERATION – FAMILY OF RICHARD AND AGNES

#### 6.18. Peter

It will be recalled that Richard Worthington died when his son and heir Peter was only twelve years old. (See Article 6.13.) Peter's estate would then have fallen under the wardship of his superior lord for the duration of his minority. It was presumably to avoid the possibility of Peter's marriage falling under the same control that his parents arranged for a contract of marriage when Peter was seven years old – just five years before his father died. The girl was to be Isabel, daughter of James Anderton of Euxton in Lancashire; but the marriage covenants dated 24 December 1520 included the possibility of Peter marrying any other daughter of James Anderton. (See Appendix D.) The covenants provided that Richard should set up a trust to receive all his lands in Coppull, Worthington, Brindle, Turton and Preston. The trustees were close and trusted relations and friends: Richard Rishton of Donkenhall, armiger, (Peter's uncle), Edward Worthington, gentleman, (another uncle), Richard Banaster, armiger, (later to become Peter's sister's grandfather-in-law), and William Molyneux of Sefton, knight. Richard's estate was actually placed in trust in two parts. The first, consisting of a messuage and 170 acres of land, pasture, meadow and wood in Coppull and Burnehyll, was enfeofed on 4 January 1520-1 to

Sir William Molyneux, knight, Edward Molyneux, clerk, John Farrington, gent., and Henry Banaster, gent.<sup>37</sup> The second, consisting of 6 messuages and 1,000 acres in Coppull, Worthington, Bryndyll, Turton and Preston, was enfeofed on 10 January 1520-1 to Sir William Molyneux, Richard Rysshton, Esquyer, Richard Banaster, Esquyer, and Edward Worthington, gent. The enfeofments were to the trustees for the use of Richard and his heirs.

Although James Anderton lived in Euxton – a township three miles north of Blainscough Hall, beyond the River Yarrow – his lands were in Bretherton, Healey and other places.<sup>38</sup> As his ancestors had done, he farmed the tythes in Euxton; thus he held the right to collect the tythes in return for an annual rent to the rector. In later generations the family acquired land in Euxton itself, and in the early part of the nineteenth century they acquired the manor.

As Peter grew up, an unsatisfactory relationship developed between him and James Anderton – his wife's father (or perhaps his wife's brother). In or after 1525 Pers Worthington son and heres of Rychard Worthington late of Blainscough brought an action in the Duchy Court of Lancaster at Westminster in which he claimed that James had abused his estate. In the bill of complaint he stated:<sup>37</sup>

" . . . James And'ton of Euxon in the said countie Gent p'tendynge hymself to be ffrendly towards yo'r said orator entryd into ye p'mysses beyng of the yerely value of x.li\* & above & by ye assent of ye said fleoffe hath taken the p'ffytts of ye p'mysses by the space of v yeres & wyll not suffer ye said orator to take the p'ffytts thereof nor yet restore the p'ffytts so by hym taken which amounts to ye sum of L. pownds." And also hath the wastyd & decayed the houses of ye said orator to the value of xl.li" above to the great losse dystruccion & dysberyson of yo said orator. And also the seyd Pere seyth that dyv's evydencs munymnts charts & other wrytyngs concerning the p'mysses had come in to the hands & possesseyon of the sayd James And'ton . . ."

Apart from an occasional mention as a witness, or as a contributor to a subsidy, there are no references to Peter until 1539 when he leased land to his kinsman John son of Christopher son of William and Alice Worthington of Turton. (See Article 7.3.) In 1540 he leased property in Wrightington to Alexander German and his wife for their two lives. This property had already been leased to the German family until 1515 but had in the meantime been leased to the Crane family by Peter's father, Richard. (See Appendix D and Article 6.13.) In 1541 he leased three closes in Wrightington called the Thomas Fields to Gafferie Wrennal for thirty-eight years. However, an inquisition post mortem was held on "Galfrid Wrennawe, deceased, a tenant of Peter Worthington in Wrightington" later the same year, a record of the inquisition being kept with the Blainscough deeds. Peter Worthington was one of the landowners of Coppull cum Worthington who appear on

\*Equivalent to 540, 2,700 and 2,200 man-days of agricultural labour respectively.

the lay subsidy roll of 35 Henry VIII (1543 or 1544).<sup>39</sup> He paid a tax of 3s. 4d. "for lands per annum, 5 li." The other contributors were Richard Worthington (of Worthington), Thomas Chisnall and the wife of John Chisnall. Peter also contributed 4s. 8d. † to the lay subsidy of 6 Elizabeth (1563 or 1564).

In 1544 Richard Standish, the rector of the parish of Standish, had a dispute with Thomas Charnock of Charnock Richard in connection with the tythe corn there. Peter Worthington took the side of the rector as appears in a pleading to the Duchy Court of Lancaster in the Michaelmas term 1544. A summary of the pleading is as follows:<sup>39</sup>

"To the Right Hon. Sir John Gage, Knight. Thomas Charnock complains that where he is lawfully seized in his demesne as of fee of the moiety of the lordship of Charnocke, with the appurtenances, in the county of Lancaster, Richard Standish being parson of the said town. So it is, that the said Richard on the 10th day of August last, caused Peter Worthington, Thomas Kenisley, Gilbert Chamberleyn, Peter Standish, Hugh Debdale, and Richard Rutter, with 40 other riotous persons to assemble at Charnock in most riotous manner: which said persons afterwards, in a manner of war arrayed, entered the said lordship and gave most ongentill and approbryus words to plaintiff, saying that they were able to rule him and his, and that if the laws of the realm would hear them plaintiff should never leave the ground where he then was alive. The same day the said persons carried away a great part of the tithie corn growing in the said lordship whereby assaults and "ffrayes" were like to have arisen between them and the plaintiff if the latter had not suffered the former to accomplish their unlawful doings."

Thomas Charnock prayed for a writ of privy seal which was granted. Richard Standyth, Peter Worthington, Thomas Kendisley, Gilbert Chamberleyn, Peter Standyth, Hugh Debdale and Richard Rutter were ordered to appear at court on 15 Hilary next, that is 27 January 1544-5.

There are several other references to Peter in Dr. Kuerden's Blainscough abstract describing his leasing and tenancy arrangements. (See Appendix D.) For example, in 1549 he leased Brindhil for 4 years; in 1557 he leased two closes in Brindhil called the Kilne Field and Oxehy to a chaplain named Ewan German for 6 years, and in 1558 he leased a tenement in Coppull to William Richardson for 30 years. On 20 May 1559 he leased the Dwarihouses in Wrightington to Henry Dwarihouse for 21 years, one of Henry's obligations being to build an "Elring in the stonicroft" within 3 years.

A duchy of Lancaster record dated 1560 shows that those having rights of common on Turton Moor were Peter Worthington, Christopher Harrocks, Thomas Asshaw, Roger Brownlow, Anthony Green, John Isherwood and Richard Wood.<sup>40</sup>

In 1566 Peter leased a tenement in Coppull to Roger Lucas for 9 years. (See Appendix D.)

Peter made a settlement of "the well known message of mine called

<sup>39</sup>Equivalent to 8 and 250 man-days of agricultural labour respectively.  
†Equivalent to 11 man-days of agricultural labour.

Blainscough Hall and all belonging to me . . . in Coppul, Burnehul and Turton". (See Appendix D.) Dr. Kuerden in his abstract recorded the date as 9 Elizabeth 1567, that is soon after the marriage of his son and heir Richard. (See Article 6.21.) The trustees were William Chorley of Chorley, Alexander Rigby of Erley, John Charnock of Farington and Thomas Gillibrand of Chorley, gentlemen.

Having reared four sons and five daughters, Isabel died in 1573 and was buried on 12 October at Standish church.<sup>41</sup>

Peter died on 19 September 1577 and was buried at Standish church the next day.<sup>41</sup> An inquisition post mortem was held by the escheator, Thomas Gardner, at Preston on 15 January 1577-8.<sup>42</sup> The record states that Peter Worthington, gentleman, died with an estate similar to that of his father. (See Article 6.13.) It included 9 messuages, 4 cottages and 182 acres in Coppul, Brindhil, Turton and Wrightington, and rents totalling 18s. 2d. \* in Wrightington and Preston. Estate in Coppul was held of Edward Worthington esq. by fealty and a rent of 2s. a year, and the property in Wrightington was "held of the Queen as of the late Priory of St. John of Jerusalem, in soccage by fealty, and a rent of 12d. a year". According to the inquisition, Peter's son and heir, Richard, was aged 40 years and more at the time.

#### 6.19. William

Peter's younger brother, William Worthington, appears in the pedigree recorded at the heralds' visitation of Lancashire in 1567; he is there described as the second son. (See Article 6.11.)

In 1546 William was granted an annuity of 20 shillings † by his elder brother, Peter. (See Appendix D.) The annual payments were to be provided from Peter's lands in Coppull, Wrightington, Turton and Brindle, or elsewhere in the county of Lancaster. Peter was then about 32 years old, so it seems likely that William was still in his twenties. Their father had died some 20 years earlier.

#### 6.20. Margaret

Richard and Agnes also had a daughter, Margaret. She married Henry Banaster of Bank in the township of Bretherton in Lancashire. Her father did not live to see the marriage, but her mother was still alive with her second husband Robert Bolton of Little Bolton. (See Article 6.13.) When the marriage covenant was drawn up on 24 April 1541, it was between Margaret's step-father and mother on the one side and Henry's grandfather and father (Richard Banaster Esq. of Banke Hall and William Banaster his sonne and heir apparent) on the other side.<sup>43</sup>

\*Equivalent to 33 man-days of agricultural labour.  
†Equivalent to 50 man-days of agricultural labour.

Bennett enclosed with his petition some notes on the origin of the society, and its rules. In these notes he quotes the form of promise to be used by a priest on entering the society:

"I, . . . . ., English priest, in consideration of the present state of heresy and schism now prevailing in our country; and considering that the seminaries of our people as formerly organised, and the missions of priests to our country, either from these seminaries or from the various orders of religion, have been unsuccessful in bringing back individuals to the true faith and in effecting the union of the church; and seeing that our ancient spirit is now somewhat diminished, and that that fervour may, by divine grace, be kindled in us again, to the honour of Almighty God, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and all the saints, and for the good of all souls; I promise that henceforth, so long as the public schism in England lasts, by whatever means I best can, even by the use of my worldly goods, I will help other members of the same society who are in need; and I will worthily conduct the whole course of my life in accordance with the rules laid down, or to be laid down, by common vote of this congregation."

Thomas travelled abroad again in the summer of 1619 when, according to the Douai diary, he visited Belgium to see the new nuncio there and to visit old friends. He was then about 70 years old.<sup>74</sup>

For much of these last few years of his life Thomas lived with the Biddulph family at Biddulph Hall in Staffordshire. The attachment between the two families is indicated by the marriage a few years later of Helen, the daughter of Richard Biddulph, and William Worthington, Thomas's great-nephew and heir to the Blainscough estate.<sup>36</sup>

For security, Thomas sometimes still used his pseudonym Thomas Lancaster, and as such was made Roman Catholic archdeacon of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Entries in the Douai diary for 1619 and 1621 note that he had also been appointed an apostolic protonotary. He was later admitted to the order of the Society of Jesus, his request being granted by Father Blount, provincial of the society.<sup>53</sup> Thomas had only served his novitiate for 6 months when, in 1626, he "did quietly lay down his head and submit himself to the stroke of death". He was buried in the parish church of Biddulph. The news of his death reached Douai College on 18 July 1627, the following simple statements being entered in the diary:<sup>74</sup>

"On the same day we were informed by letters from England of the death of Rev. Dom Thomas Worthington, Apostolic Protonotary, once President of this College."

"20 July. We sang high mass for the soul of the said Dom Thomas Worthington, Doctor of Theology and Apostolic Protonotary."

Confusion has arisen over the date of Thomas's death because of a mistake in Heywood's edition of "Allen's Defence of Sir William Stanley's Surrender of Daventer".<sup>32</sup> This book says that Thomas died in 1622 aged 77, though it gives his birth date correctly as 1549. The Dictionary of National Biography incorrectly copied 1622 as the date of death.

Thomas had occupied his quieter moments by writing, and six of his

theological works have remained for posterity.<sup>83</sup> His first was "The Rosarie of our Ladie; Otherwise called our Ladies Psalter; With other Godlie Exercises". A virile attack on protestantism is given in his "Whyte Dyed Black, Or a Discovery of many most Fowle Blemishes, Impostures, and Deceits, which D. Whyte haith Practysed in his Book entitled The Way to the True Church". In a reply to this, Francis White wrote his "Orthodox Faith and Way to the Church". Thomas also took his part in the preparation of the Douai version of the Bible. The main burden of the translation fell on Dr. Gregory Martin but the text was revised by Thomas Worthington, Richard Bristowe, John Reynolds and Cardinal Allen. Notes on certain theological problems were added by Allen assisted by Bristowe and Worthington.<sup>84</sup> The translation was from the Latin manuscripts known as the Vulgate of St. Jerome. Although it was not from the more original Hebrew or Greek, it was considered to be a purer translation than any other of its time. Indeed, it has been the foundation of almost all English Catholic versions to the present day. The New Testament was completed first, and published at Rheims in 1582; the Old Testament was published at Douai in 1609-10.

#### 6.25. Anne

It has already been said that Peter Worthington and Isabel had five daughters. The eldest of these was Anne who married Robert Whalley of Coppull. The wedding took place at Standish parish church, the entry in the register being:<sup>48</sup>

"Robertus Whalley Anna Worthington: 10 Augusti 1563."

They had five sons and one daughter who were baptised at Standish church between 1564 and 1584.<sup>48</sup>

In 1567 Robert Whalley made a general release to his father-in-law Peter Worthington of Blainsco. He claimed "a child's parte of goods in right of Anne his wife, daughter of the said Peter". (See Appendix D.)

There are two entries in the registers of Standish church for the burial of an Anna Whalley, one dated 3 September 1588 and the other 5 November 1623.<sup>48</sup>

#### 6.26. Isabel

The second daughter was named Isabel, presumably after her mother. She married Robert Werden (or Warden) of Clayton in Lancashire, about 15 miles north-east of Blainscough. The dowry was paid by Isabel's eldest brother Richard despite her father being still alive. This is shown by the fact that in 1574 Robert Weerden of Clayton made a general acquittance to "Richard sonne and heire apparent of Peter Worthington of Blaynsco" for £26 13s. 4d.<sup>4</sup> which Richard had

<sup>4</sup> Equivalent to 1,000 man-days of agricultural labour.



The coat of arms of the Lowde family, *Argent a lion rampant sable, on a chief of the second three lozenges or*, was later used as a quartering by the Worthingtons of Blainscough. (See Article 6.11.)

It appears that Peter and Joan set up their home at Worthington House in Brindhill in 1461, when Peter may still have been less than 21 years old. Three consecutive entries in the abstract of the Blainscough deeds refer to the property. (See Appendix D.) In the first, dated 1461, Peter Worthington sonne of Henrie Worthington, leased Worthington house in Brindhill for two lives. In the second, dated 1474, Peter and Joan took out a new lease for 29 years; and in the third, dated 1475 Peter and Joan made over the same lease to Ralph Langton, Esq. Could this imply that Peter and Joan left Worthington House in 1475; if so did they move to Blainscough Hall, and was it following the death of Henry? Perhaps Worthington House and the Brindle estate were traditionally taken by the heirs; at least the Brindle lands were held by the heirs of Blainscough five generations earlier. (See Article 6.1.)

On 26 March 1482 Peter and his son Richard were indicted with others for the death of Adam Livesey. The writ issued to the sheriff of Lancaster, Thomas Pilkington Knt., has been translated from the Latin as follows:<sup>23</sup>

"Edward etc. greetings. Since John Levesay, brother and heir of Adam Levesay, has made us secure of his claim, presented by Oliver Levesay of Blackburn in your county, gentleman, and Christopher Preston in your county, yeoman: attach Richard Wurthynton, late of Samlesbury in your county, gentleman, son of Peter Wurthynton, in your county, gentleman, Peter Wurthynton, late of Coppull in your county, gentleman, Robert Vignall, late of Coppull in your county, husbandman, and Roger Alanson, late of Chorley in your county, draper. So that you bring them before our Justices at Lancaster on Monday next after the Feast of Corpus Christi (10 June 1482) to answer the said John for the death of the said Adam, his brother. And may you bring this writ there. Witnessed by me at Lancaster, 26 March, the 22nd year of our reign (1482)."

The sheriff endorsed the writ with the words:

"Richard Wurthynton and all the others named after him in this writ have not been found in my area of jurisdiction."

But that was not the end of the matter, for in Lent 1483, Peter Worthington indicted 18 members of the Livesey family for assaulting him. The members were: Geoffrey Livesey, John Livesey of Nether Darwen, Oliver Livesey of Blackburn, Robert Livesey of Livesey, James, Edmund, Lawrence, Thomas, Hugh, George, Thomas, Giles and Ralph Livesey of Pleasington, and Alexander, Richard, Christiana, Roger and Percival Livesey.<sup>24</sup> The Livesey family were certainly not lacking in number, and Peter may have had a difficult time.

However, Peter was not without his own fighting instincts. In 1486 he was granted an annuity of £4\* for the rest of his life by King Henry VII,

"for good and faithfull services".<sup>25</sup> This favour was almost certainly in return for military service culminating in the battle of Bosworth Field in August 1485 when Henry Tudor won his kingdom. William Worthington of Worthington received an annuity of 5 marks\* from the king for similar service. (See Article 3.26.) Both annuities were to be paid out of the revenues of the county palatine of Lancaster. Peter's annuity was slightly greater than William's – £4 compared with £3 6s. 8d.

In 1489, King Henry VII appointed Peter as one of the twelve tax collectors for the county of Lancaster, to collect "the second fifteenth and tenth in the said county".<sup>26</sup> In performing their duties, the collectors were responsible to the king's chancellor in the county palatine who was to certify to the treasurer and barons of the exchequer that all was done. The tax was in fact part of an unusually heavy burden imposed by the parliament of 1489 to raise funds for the impending war in Brittany. Peter, together with William Worthington of Worthington, was again appointed a tax collector on 12 February 1505-6. (See Article 3.26.)

In 1505-6 Peter lent money to the king. An entry in the Close Rolls dated 16 February records a loan totalling £100† by Sir Richard Sherburn, knight, Thomas Standish of Bokesbury, esquire, Peter Worthington of Blayneskewe, esquire, and Roger Sherburn of Awghton, esquire, all of Lancashire.<sup>27</sup>

Peter Worthington was present at the inquest held on 19 April 1501 following the death of Jacob Laurence. At another inquest post mortem, on Alexander Standish on 25 August 1508, he was described as Petri Worthington armigeri. He also gave a memorandum at the inquest post mortem on John Langley held on 1 March and 22 March 1512.<sup>28</sup> The last known reference to him was on 26 June 1514 when he was a witness to a deed made in Adlyngton by which the manor of Adlyngton was settled on Hugh Adlyngton.<sup>28</sup>

Peter and Joan had three sons – Richard, Edward and John. They also had two daughters – Margaret and Jane.

## SEVENTH GENERATION – FAMILY OF PETER AND JOAN

### 6.13. Richard

Mention has already been made of the time when Richard Worthington and his father Peter were indicted for the death of Adam Livesey. (See Article 6.12.) This was on 26 March 1482 when Richard was a young man. The indictment shows that he had previously been living at Samlesbury, a village on the eastern outskirts of Preston in

\*Equivalent to 250 man-days of agricultural labour.

\*Equivalent to 220 man-days of agricultural labour.  
†Equivalent to 6,000 man-days of agricultural labour.

covenanted to be paid to Robert on his marriage to Isabel. (See Appendix D.)

The Werdens were an old freeholding family of Clayton and had held land in the township of Leyland at least since 1374.<sup>47</sup> Robert Werden in fact held land in Leyland, Clayton and Coppul, but died when his son and heir William was only 11 years old. As lands in Leyland and Clayton were held by feudal tenure, William, during his minority, was liable to be treated as a ward of his superior lord. Isabel tried hard to avoid the consequences and was helped by her eldest brother Richard Worthington and by John Banaster who may have been her cousin. (See Articles 6.20 & 6.21.) In 1582-3 and 1583 the case was fought in the court of the Duchy of Lancaster at Westminster. The bill of complaint, brought on 30 January 1582-3, reads:<sup>48</sup>

"To the Right honourable Sir Rauffe Sadler knight Chancellor of the Duchye of Lancaster. Humble Complayning showeth unto youre honor youre Suppliante Sir Edmond Huddleston knight and Dorothee nowe his wief that whereas one Robert Werden laite of Leylande in the Countie of Lancaster gentleman was in his leiffe time lawfullie seased in his demeane as of fee or of fee taile generall or speciall with the fee simple expectant to hym and his heirs of and in dyvers messuages lands rents and hereditaments in Leylande and Clayton in the said countie of Lancaster, all or the most parte of which the said premises weare and are holden of youre said Suppliants by knight Service and the said Robert Werden soe beinge thereof seased about twoe years now laste paste died of such an estate soe seased in the homage of your said Suppliants by and after whos decease the same premises did discende and come to one William Werden as sonne and next heire of the said Robert who at the tyme of his said fathers decease was of the age of eleven years or thereabouts, by force thereof your said Suppliants were and are lawfully intituled to have the wardshipp as well of the bodie of the said William Werden, as of the said premises soe to theym discended during the nonage of the said William: and by reason thereof youre Suppliante seased the bodie of the saide William and entered into part of the premisses in the name of all the lands soe holden of youre saide Suppliants and discended to the saide William as aforesaid. But soe yt ys if yt maye please youre honor that certeyne deeds evidences chrts and wrytings proving the said premisses or a great part thereof to be holden by knight service as aforesaid of your said Suppliants, whiche of righte doe belonge unto youre saide Suppliants, are by casual meanes come to the hands custodie and possession of one of Issabell Werden Richard Woorthington and John Bannester whoe by coler use havinge thereof havinge wrongfullie without anye coler of righte by indirect meanes taken or caused or procured to be taken out of the possession of youre said Suppliant the bodie of the said William Werden youre Suppliants saide Warde pretendinge that the same premisses are not holden of your said Suppliants by service aforesaid meaninge thereby to disinherit youre said Suppliants of the saide Service and Segniorie and of the proffits whiche he oughte to have by reason of the saide wardshipp and Segniorie. In tender consideration whereof and for asmuch as youre said Suppliants doe notknowe the certeyne nombre daits or contents of the said deeds and wrytings, nor wherain they be conteyned nor can directlie prove that the said defendants did take the bodie of the said William out of the possession of your said Suppliants otherwise than by their confession soe that the same was done secretlye and the said William secretlye conveyed to places unknowne unto youre said Suppliants soe that youre said Suppliants are by the ordinarie course of the common lawe without remedie to be relined herein; It maye therefore please youre honor to grant the Quenes Mats proces of pryvie seale to be directed fourth of her mats Courte of the Duchie Chamber at Westminster to the said Issabell Werden Richard Woorthington

and John Bannester commandinge theym and everie of theym thereby at a certeyne daye and under a certeyne paine therein by youre honor to be lymitted to be and personallie appeare before youre honor in the said Courte then and there to answere the premisses and further to stande to suchie order and direction therein as to youre honor shall seme mete and convenient And youre said Suppliants shall dulie praye to god for the preservation of youre honor in healtche longe to contynue."

The written answer was in the name of Isabell Werden alone. It was taken and recognised on oath on 6 April 1583 in the presence of William Farrington and William Chorley junior; it appears that it was brought before the court on 20 April 1583. Isabell claimed that the estate was held in socage and not by knight service so that the custody of the body of William Werden and the wardship of his estate lay rightly with her as his mother. She questioned the competence of the court to hear the case saying that the matter would most aptly be determined at common law by writ of right of ward or ravishment of ward. She also claimed that Richard Worthington and John Banyster:

"... did take awaie the saide Infante from hir this deffendent being his naturall mother and garden in socage."

Isabell then brought an action against Richard Worthington and John Banester in the same court.<sup>49</sup> Unfortunately the bill of complaint is missing but two answers survive which give a colourful impression of some of the events. In the joint answer of Richard Worthington and John Banester made in 1583 they denied ravishing or taking away William Werden riotously and with force of arms with 20 men. John Banaster, who described himself as servant unto Isabell Werden, admitted that he had sent Isabell's sister, Jane, to see William at the house of Andrew Huddleston, Esquire, who had the custody of William on behalf of Sir Edward Huddleston. Jane persuaded William to leave and return to his mother's house in Clayton. After three days there John Banaster took him to his own house in Standish, and he claimed that this was by direction of Isabell. After a few more days there, William was taken to the house of his uncle Richarde Worthington. Richarde said that:

"... hee did take the said Will'm to Table and Bord, upon p'myse to be paid by the said Compl't for the same, By means wherof the said Will'm Werden Remayne at the house of this deff't by the spac of one Quarter of A yere or there Abouts And after hee this deffendant nor wilyngye to have hym remayne in his house any longer Suffered hym to departe..."

Richard went on to say that in or about 1575 Robert Werden had demised the premises in question with their appurtenances to Richard Worthington his executors and assignes for a term of years. Richard had then re-let to John Banester one cottage with certain attached land for a yearly rent of 6s. 8d.\* Presumably the purpose of these leases was to

\*Equivalent to 12 man-days of agricultural labour.

keep the property away from the hands of the Huddlestons.

A later answer dated 1584 (probably 12 November) by John Banister alone deals with entirely different accusations by Isabell. He claimed:<sup>85</sup>

“... the matters in the same bill disclosed & set forth are imagined of malice to raise infamie & slander against this defendant and vex trouble & molest this defendant, As she allreadye heretofore hath done with multiplicitie of suts to this defend'ts great costs charges & expences in the Lawe thereby to impoverishe him without any just cause...”

He went on to say that about two years previously he had helped Isabell to harvest her corn and sell some of it at her request. He claimed that he made a true accompt before witnesses. He denied that he was paid 40 shillings<sup>6</sup> by Isabell to plough 4 acres of her land and sow it with wheat while she was away from home. He also denied that he, with William Banke and Margaret Banester, had entered the barn while Isabell was away and threshed, winowed and taken away wheat, barley and oats.

It is interesting to consider whether these were simply conflicts with bad blood between Isabell and her associates, or whether they were planned moves in the more important legal battle with the Huddlestons. At least there would have been public sympathy for the plight of Isabell, and opposition to the laws of wardship which had long since been archaic. The Huddlestons took up their case again on 12 February 1586-7. Their new bill of complaint starts in the same vein as that of 1582-3 except that it was limited to 7 acres of land in Leyland and did not mention the Werden's Clayton estate. The bill continues with the statement:<sup>85</sup>

“... Isabell Weorden wydowe layt wiffe of the said Robert Weorden deceased and Richard Worthington gent... have Contrived & mayd unto themselves dyvers secrett leases estaytes and conveyances unto your said Suppliants as yet unknown...”

In their final plea to the court, Sir Edmund and Lady Huddleston said:

“... And forasmuch as your said Suppliants are strangers and do dwell & Inhabite farre distant from the said landes and by reason thereof cannot easely prove otherwyse than by confession of theme the said Isabell Weorden and Richard Worthington by reason whereof your said Suppliants are in damage to be utterly dis'nerited of their said seignorie in the p'misses and thereof to loose the p'sent commodities of the meane profits thereof unless they may be your honor in this behalf Releved...”

In his answer of 1587, Rychard Worthington gives an account of how and why Robert Werden had demised the estate to him:<sup>85</sup>

“... the said Robart Werden mentioned in the said bill of Complynt was in his lief tyme (as this defendant thinketh) lawfully seased of the said lands mentioned in the said bill of complaynt, conteyning seaven acres of land medowe & pasture or thearabouts in his demesne as of ffee or ffee tayle, And he so being thearof seased (beinge both poore and aged & not lyke to live any longe tyme, having dyvers yonge children unprovoyded fore, myndinge and intendinge that his said children should be brought uppe in some honest sort, And also that they might have some honest portion towards their mariages and p'ferments And for and in consideration of their advancement) about the month of Januarye in the seaventh year of the quens ma'ies Reigne that nowe is, the said Robt

<sup>6</sup>Equivalent to 66 man-days of agricultural labour.

Werden by his Indenture of Lease, lawfully executed in his liff tyme (amongst other his lands) demised and leased the said lands mentioned in the said bill of complaynt, unto this defendant (beinge uncle unto his said children) for and duringe the terme of xxj years then next followinge, reservinge thereupon, (to this defendance remembrance) the yearly rent of flower pounds paiaible yearly, w'th a proviso that the said Rob't Werden should occupie p'cell of the lands so demised for & duringe thre of the first years, as by the said indenture or lease it dothe and may more playnlye appere, upon truste and confidence, that the issues and p'ffits therof rysinge cominge and growinge, duringe the said terme should be bestowed towards the education fyndinge and bringinge uppe of the younger children of him the said Rob't Werden, And for and towards thaire p'ferment in mariage or otherwyse to be bestowed upon them att the discretion of this defendant their uncle, w'ch said lease hath been heartofore shrewed in this honorable court, And ffurther this defendant saithe, that after the death of the said Rob't Werden, the said Isabell Werden thother of these defendants and mother unto the said children, did take the p'ffits of the said lands mentioned in the said bill of Complaynt, by and att the sufferance of this defendant, for and towards the education fyndinge and bringinge uppe of the said children, as this defendant thinketh she might lawfully doo, And ffurther this defendant saith, that by and att the request & Intreatye of some of the said childrens f'rends, he this defendant hath nowe of late granted assigned and sett over the said lease and all his right interest and terme of years yet to come in and to the p'misses, unto one Lawrence Howlker to the use and behoove of the younger children of the said Rob't Werden accordinge to the said trust & confidence reposed, And this defendant thinketh that sithence that tyme the p'ffits therof hath ben taken and yet are, by the said Lawrence Howlker or his assigne or assignes or by his or their appointment to the use aforesaid...”

Isab'le Werden answered giving a shorter account of the same events. She also claimed that she was entitled to be endowed by the common laws of the realm with a third part of all the lands in question. Although she had not yet taken action to recover the dower, she considered that she was entitled to one third of the income.

In 1585 Issabel Wewrden, as a widow, delivered a general release to William Worthington her brother for the use of Richard her brother.<sup>86</sup>

#### 6.27. Alice

Peter Worthington's third daughter was Alice. She was baptised at the Chorley parish church where the entry in the register reads:<sup>87</sup>

“Ales Worthington d. to Peeter 13 Julij 1550”

#### 6.28. Agnes

Yet another daughter, Agnes, remained unmarried. She died at the turn of the century and was buried at Standish church, the entry in the register being:<sup>48</sup>

“Agnes Worthington Coppull 9 Januarij 1600”

#### 6.29. Helen

The fifth and youngest daughter was Helen. Nothing is known of her life, but she appears in the pedigree taken at the visitation of Lancashire in 1567. (See Article 6.11.) She also appears in the pedigree taken by Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms, at the visitation of 1664 and 1665.<sup>46</sup>

Germer Worthington of Blainscove leases in reversion for two lives to Alexander Peter & his wife that which was one Edward Cranes in Wrightington, in 1540, 31 Henric 8th.

A Counterparte from Peter Worthington of Blaynscough who leases for 38 years to Gofferie Wrennal three closes called the Thomas fields in Wrightington, in 1541; 32 Henric 8th.

An Inquisition post mortem on Galfrid Wrennawe, deceased, a tenant of Peter Worthington in Wrightington, in 1541, 32 Henric 8th.

Covenants of Mariage betwixt Richard Banaster of the Bank Esq & William Banaster his sonne & heir apparent of the said Richard on the one partie, & Robert Bolton of little Bolton Gent. & Agnes his wife on the other partie, concerning the mariage of Margaret Worthington Daughter of Richard Worthington & sister of Peter Worthington of Blainscough to Henric Banaster sonne & heir of William Banaster & grand child to Richard Banaster of Banke hall; 24th April 1542; 33 Henric 8th.

Peter Worthington of Blaynscough leases to W. Worthington his Brother an Annuity of 20 sh a year out of his lands in Coppul, Wrightington Turton & Brindhil or elsewhere in the county of Lancaster; in 1546; 1 Edward 6th.

Peter Worthington of Blaynscough leases Brindhill for four yeares; in 1549; 3 Edward 6th.

Agnes Bolton, widow, late wife of Robert Bolton of little Bolton Esq. her general release to Peter Worthington of Blaynscove her eldest sonne of 11sh. & 1d. yearly &c; in 1556; 2 & 3 Philip & Marie.

Peter Worthington of Blaynscove leases two closes in Brindhill, viz: the Kiline field & Oxchey to (Ewan?) German, chaplain, for six yeares; in 1557; 3 & 4 Philip & Marie. Elizabeth began to reign November 7, 1558.

Peter Worthington of Blaynscough leases for 30 yeares a teniment in Coppul to one William Richardson of Coppul (which I take to be Wills' teniment, father to old Roger Wills alias Richardson); in 1558, 1 Elizabeth.

A grant from John Orrell of Turton for common of pasture & turbarie to the same Peter Worthington for his tenant there; in 1559, 2 Elizabeth.

A decree out of the court of wards for John Alen Gent: for a teniment of 26 acres of land in much Eccleston upon his lease of 70 yeares from Thomas Abbot of Biculeures &c.; in 1561, 3 Elizab:

Peter Worthington of Blaynscough leases Dwarhouses in Wrightington for 21 yeares; in 1559; 2 Eliz.

Peter Worthington of Blaynscove leases for 9 yeares to Roger Lucas a teniment in Coppul; in 1566, 8 Elizab:

A Counterpart from Pyres Worthington of Blaynscow to Henry Dwarhouse for 21 yeares & Dwarhouse to build one Elring within 3 yeares next in the stonicroft; Date 20th May 1559, 2 Elizab:

A fine by Nicholas Rigbie & William Chorley Querents & Thomas Charnock & Robert Charnock his sonne & heir apparent & Richard Worthington & Dorothy his wife Deforcents for Holiwell house in Chorley; in 1566, 8th Eliz.

Peter Worthington of Blainscough grants William Chorley of Chorley, Alexander Rigby of (Erley?), John Charnock of Farington and Thomas Gillibrand of Chorley, Gentlemen, the whole of the well known message of mine called Blainscough Hall and all belonging to me &c. in the vills of Coppul, Burnehul and Turton - in 1567; 9 Elizab:

Edward Earle of Derby Leases the Roweheyes in Coppul to Richard Worthington sonne & heir apparent to Peter Worthington of Blainscough for 3 lives, namely the said Richard, Dorothy his wife & Thomas their sonne - in 1568; 10 Elizab:

A General Release, under hand & scale & witnesses from Robert What?ley of Coppul to Peter Worthington of Blainco for ever clayming a chikis parte of goods in right of Anne his wife, daughter of the said Peter; in 1567; 9 Elizab:

Richard Worthington of Brindhil & Dorothy his wife sonne & heir apparent to Peter Worthington of Blaynscough leases parte of Brindhil for 10 yeares; in 1573; 15 Elizab:

Richard Worthington of Blaynscough & Dorothy his wife leases part of Brindhil for 60 yeares upon two lives; in 1576; 18 Elizab:

Peter Worthington of Blainco by an Inquisition in the Escheator's Office was found to dye 19th September 1577; 19 Elizab:

The same Richard Worthington of Blaynscough leases parte of Brindhil for two lives; in 1586; 28 Elizabeth.

And the death of Richard Worthington 25th September: 32 Elizabeth which was in 1590.

A General Release from Issabel Weerden, widow, to Richard Worthington of Blainco her Brother, delivered to William Worthington her brother for the use of the said Richard Worthington; in 1585; 27 Elizabeth.

Richard Worthington of Blaynscoghe sels away the inheritance of Edward Cranes or German's Teniment in Wrightington to one Henric Eccleston of Mawdesley; in 1578: 20 Elizabeth.

A General acquittance from Robert Weerden of Clayton to Richard Worthington sonne & heir apparent of Peter Worthington of Blainco, & especially for the some of 26l. 13sh. 04d. covenanted to be paid to the said Robert at Marriage of his wife his sister Issabel; in 1574; 16 Elizabeth.

A seven party deed made between Lawrence Brawnlow of Tonge Gent: Richard Worthington of Blainco in Coppul Gent, Richard Wood of Turton Yeoman & John Wood sonne & heir apparent of the said Richard Wood of the 3rd party, John Harrocks of Turton Yeoman, Ralph Green of Turton also Yeoman, Lawrence Bradshaw of Tonge yeoman and William Walmeley sonne & heir of James Walmeley Late of Turton Yeoman deceased of the 7th party. Of the division of the waste & commons of Turton. Signed & sealed to Richard Worthington. 20th May 1582; 24 Elizabeth.

A Deed or Counterpart betwixt Lawrence Bradshaw of Turton & Richard Worthington concerning a Watercourse in Turton-Moore, which riseth in the partition lately made belonging to Richard Worthington who covenantes with the said Lawrence it, the said water course shall not be diverted from his ordinarie course, &c: made the 20th June 1582; 24 Elizabeth.

A Release from William Orrell of Turton Esq. to Richard Worthington of Coppul of 5 acres & half an Acre & 30 fals of land, late . . . of Turton Moore. Date 6th July 1583; 25 Elizabeth.

A Deed or Grant from Richard Worthington of Blainco Gent: to William Orrell of Turton Esq of 6 pence payable yearly for ever at the feast of St. Oswald the great; 9th day of November 1583; 25 Elizabeth.

Richard Worthington of Blainscough makes over for payment of debts &c to Robert Charnock of Astley Esq. William Charnock his brother in lawes to the said Richard, William Banaster sonne & heir apparent of Henric Banaster Esq., John Worthington of Turton my cousin & William Slater of Coppul my Tennant al my goods & Chattels moveable & unmoveable quick & dead, my chief house and Demesne lands of Blainscough & One Teniment in Brindhill & other land &c. in Coppul Brindhil & Wrightington, in 1580.

A fine betwixt Thomas Shawe of Heath Charnock complainant & Richard Worthington & Dorothy his wife deforcents: &c: in Coppul, Brindhil, Turton and Wrightington, &c. in 1586 & a Deed & Counterparte of uses betwixt the said parties of the same date 28 Elizabeth.

A Feoffment, Richard Worthington of Bleniscoe and Thomas Worthington son and heir apparent &c. grant Edward Standish of Standish and Robert Charnock of Astley in the county of Lancaster Arrimers all of that capital message known as Blainscove (to all ?) and singular &c: with appertinences wheresoever in the said county of Lancaster elsewhere within the kingdom of England . . . Alexander Standish son and heir of the aforesaid Edward, and Edward Worthington of Worthington lawful attorneys &c. - in 1588. 30 Elizabeth.

The last Will and Testament of Richard Worthington of Blaynscoughe Gent: in 1588; 30 Elizabeth.

Richard Worthington of Blaynscough & Dorothy his wife leases part of Brindhil for 60 years upon two lives; in 1576; 18 Elizab:

Peter Worthington of Blansco by an Inquisition in the Escheator's Office was found to dye 19th September 1577; 19 Elizab:

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Richard Worthington of Blaynscoughe sels away the inheritance of Edward Cranes or German's Teniment in Wrightington to one Henric Eccleston of Mawdesley; in 1578; 20 Elizabeth.

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A seven party deed made between Lawrence Brawnlow of Tonge Gent: Richard Worthington of Blansco in Coppul Gent, Richard Wood of Turton Yeoman & John Wood sonne & heir apparent of the said Richard Wood of the 3rd party, John Harrocks of Turton Yeoman, Ralph Green of Turton also Yeoman, Lawrence Bradshaw of Tonge yeoman and William Walmeley sonne & heire of James Walmsley Late of Turton Yeoman deceased of the 7th party. Of the division of the waste & commons of Turton. Signed & sealed to Richard Worthington. 20th May 1582; 24 Elizabeth.

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A Release from William Orrel of Turton Esq. to Richard Worthington of Coppul of 5 acres & half an Acre & 30 fals of land, late . . . of Turton Moore. Date 6th July 1583; 25 Elizabeth.

A Deed or Grant from Richard Worthington of Blainsco Gent: to William Orrel of Turton Esq of 6 pence payable yearly for ever at the feast of St. Oswald the great: 9th day of November 1583; 25 Elizabeth.

Richard Worthington of Blainscough makes over for payment of debts &c to Robert Charnock of Astley Esq. William Charnock his brother in lawes to the said Richard, William Banaster sonne & heire apparent of Henric Banaster Esq., John Worthington of Turton my cousin & William Slater of Coppul my Tennant al my goods & Chattels moveable & unmoveable quick & dead, my chief house and Demesne lands of Blainscough & One Teniment in Brindhill & other land &c. in Coppul Brindhil & Wrightington, in 1580.

A fine betwixt Thomas Shawe of Heath Charnock complaintant & Richard Worthington & Dorothy his wife deforcients: &c: in Coppul, Brindhil, Turton and Wrightington, &c. in 1586 & a Deed & Counterparte of uses betwixt the said parties of the same date 28 Elizabeth.

A Feoffment. Richard Worthington of Blenscove and Thomas Worthington son and heir apparent &c. grant Edward Standish of Standish and Robert Charnock of Astley in the county of Lancaster Armigers all of that capital message known as Blainscove (to all ?) and singular &c: with apertinences wheresoever in the said county of Lancaster or elsewhere within the kingdom of England . . . Alexander Standish son and heir of the aforesaid Edward, and Edward Worthington of Worthington lawful attorneys &c. - in 1588; 30 Elizabeth.

The last Will and Testament of Richard Worthington of Blaynscoughe Gent.; in 1588; 30 Elizabeth.