

LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

Newsletter
January 2015

What we are currently doing

Much of what the LPNS does requires dedication and a very methodical approach but no (or very little) imagination. One of the current tasks is quite the opposite. Those of you who are familiar with Alan Crosby's irreplaceable map showing Lancashire's tithes will know that the eastern side - and particularly Blackburn Hundred - are largely deserts when it comes to this essential resource.

Various ideas have been put forward to explain why there are these gaping holes in the data but, when tested, no explanation really stood up. However, using the Land Tax Returns (which are held at Lancashire Archives under QDL) shows that some people were paying tax on tithes for townships for which no Tithe Commutation Schedules exist - whether in Lancashire or in the National Archives at Kew (refs. IR 29 / IR 30). What ever uncertainties there may be in the world - the concept of people paying fairly substantial amounts of tax on income which did not exist is more difficult to accept than fairies at the bottom of the garden. Clearly Tithes did exist in those townships.

There is still a lot of legwork to do - including the decoding of Land Tax Returns - but we do now have a way of accessing the names of those who collected tithes until 1832 (when the run of Return stops). This information will not magically reveal Tithe Commutation Schedules but could give the LPNS access to the archives of the families whose predecessors paid the Land Tax.

A handwritten document titled 'Proprietors Coup Land Tax Occupiers'. It is a table with columns for names and tax amounts in pounds, shillings, and pence. The entries are:

Proprietors Coup Land Tax Occupiers		£	s	d.
Lawrence Lord	Himself	0	11	4
M ^{rs} Curmeod	John Holt	0	10	0

Above - Tax Return for Coup [Cowpe]

Below: Tax Return for Deadwen Clough

The first name in the right hand (occupier's) column in Lawrence Piccop [Pickup]

A handwritten document titled 'Proprietors Deadwen Clough Land Tax Occupiers'. It is a table with columns for names and tax amounts in pounds, shillings, and pence. The entries are:

Proprietors Deadwen Clough Land Tax Occupiers		£	s	d.
The Rev. John Shawcock	Lawrence Piccop	0	3	0
M ^{rs} Smith	Richard Holt	0	2	2

Both of the examples given here may be found Lancashire Archives ref. QDL/B/26/

2015 Annual General Meeting

The 2015 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th October at Lancashire Archives (please note the change of date). The speaker will be Dr. Fiona Edmonds of Cambridge University.

LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

Chair: Jacquie Crosby

Secretary: Andrew Walmsley (secretary.lpns@gmail.com)

Co-ordinator of Volunteers (Treasurer *pro tem*): Jennifer Holt (volunteers.lpns@gmail.com)

Committee Members: Nigel Neil Christine Storey John Wilson

Peter Iles (Specialist Advisor - Archaeology; Lancashire County Council)

Prof. John Insley, Heidelberg University (Editor for the English Place Name Society)