

LANCASHIRE PLACE NAME SURVEY

Newsletter

January 2016

www.lpns.org.uk

A Big Surprise

Thanks to the support from Dr Ben Croxford - the Historic Environment Record Officer for Merseyside - the LPNS has been given old transcripts (pre-computers) which have allowed us to quickly enter them onto a spreadsheet so they can join the 169 Tithe Schedules we have already loaded onto LANCAT (the online catalogue for Lancashire Archives). Since Christmas, two have been typed: Netherton township and its neighbour, Melling in Halsall.

The printouts have now been checked against the original schedule and we also looked at the Tithe Maps to see if there were any features of note. As you can see from the photograph below - there are a lot of features of interest in Netherton.



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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)

The *Vision of Britain* website (a powerful resource for local historians) gives the following description some twenty years later that the date of the Tithe Map:

NETHERTON, a township, with a village, in Sefton parish, Lancashire; on the river Alt, and on the Leeds and Liverpool canal, 6 miles N by E of Liverpool. Acres, 1,090. Real property, £2,661. Pop., 286. Houses, 45. The manor belongs to the Earl of Sefton. There is a Roman Catholic chapel.

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/10695> accessed 16 Jan. 2016.

The Netherton we see today does not remotely resemble the photograph given here. In fact, the Tithe Map may record it as it was for only a short time. The many pits shown were to dig up marl - a naturally-occurring alkali deposit used as a soil improver and fertiliser. Typical of this kind of environment, some of the pits revealed clay suitable for making bricks - useful for the ever-expanding buildings of Liverpool. The township boundary - visible along the top of the photograph - may well be a ditch dug to help the water drain away from this low-lying area. (Its name indicates the 'nether' or low-lying town.)

Although most of the field names indicate a fairly recent division of larger areas (e. g. the many 'Dole in Old Carr Meadow') some may prove to be significant: Asholt, Bogarts Hey, Deer Barn Croft, Henx Hey, Park Wall Road Field.

NB: The easiest way to find Netherton on Google Earth is to follow the Leeds - Liverpool Canal which runs through the middle of our photograph.

A second surprise this month - but not nearly as pleasant as that discussed above - came when we saw the most recent edition of *Nomina*. This is the journal of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland (SNSBI). An interesting paper about 'Boggart Holes' included a footnote on pp. 73-4 which read

'... Over the next few years John Insley will publish the EPNS volumes on Lancashire. However he will concentrate on major names rather than field-names, meaning that there will be few extra boggart names there.'

The idea that the LPNS is ignoring minor names is so very odd (and potentially damaging) that we felt some kind of public statement was required. The editor of the SNSBI newsletter is Dr. Linda Corrigan who is also an active LPNS member and she readily agreed that a correction should be included in the next edition of the SNSBI newsletter (due at the end of February). The correction will read:

The following is included at the request of John Insley and the Lancashire Place Name Survey

Proposed Lancashire volumes

To set the record straight, it should be emphasized that it is the policy of the English Place-Name Society to publish the field name material, of which the Tithe material is an essential part and local volunteers have been collecting this material for several years. Given that considerable efforts have been made to put this material on LANCAT and that a Gazetteer has been created, it is somewhat misleading of the author to say that I, as the English Place-Name Society's editor for Lancashire, "will concentrate on major rather than field names".

Those with an interest in the place names of Lancashire may wish to visit the website maintained by the Lancashire Place Name Survey at www.lpns.org.uk

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