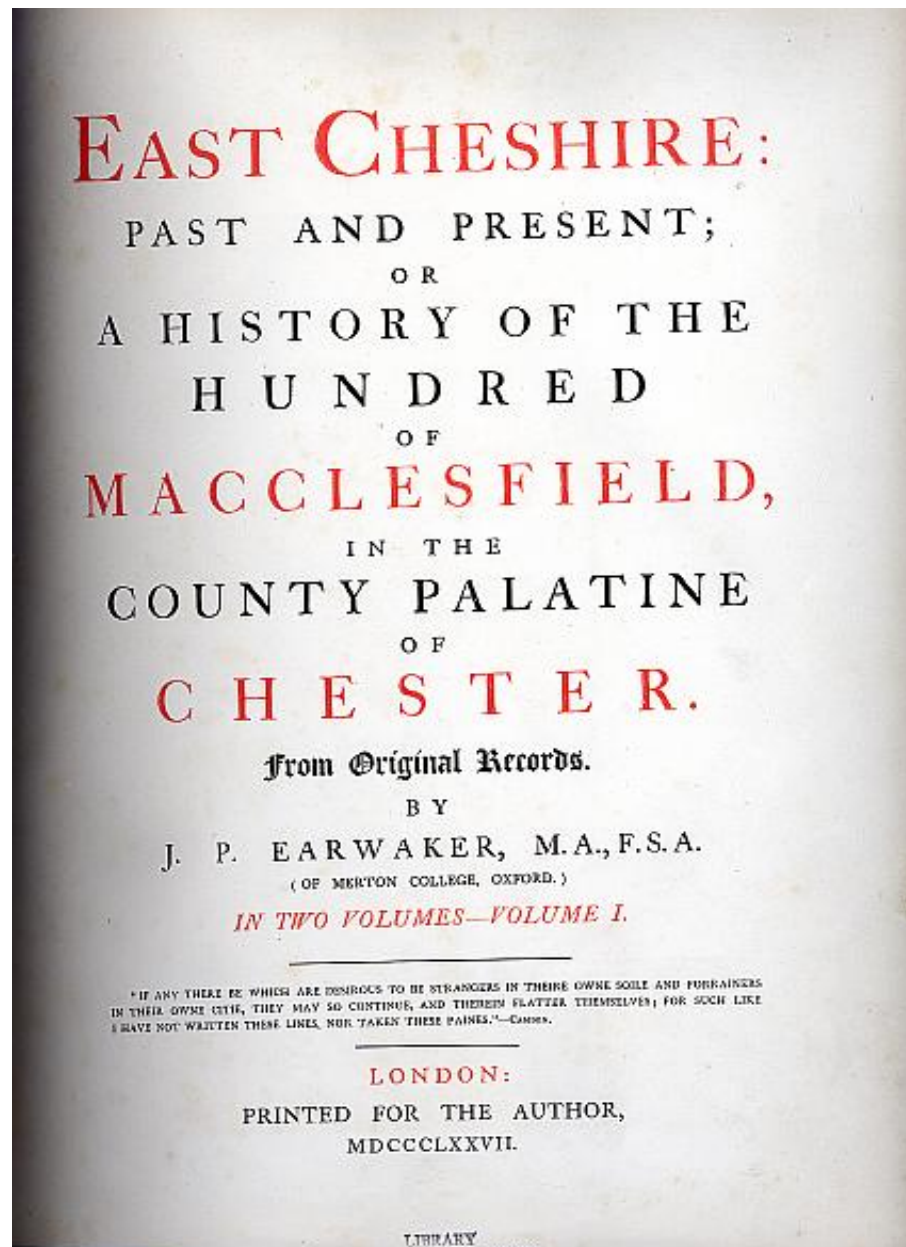


John Plant junior's appearance in a 1445 list of Knights, Gentleman and Landholders of Macclesfield Hundred is given on page 17 (next bottom, second column) of this 1877 volume by J.P.Earwaker.



of Birtles, the Wards of Capesthorpe, the Winningtons of Offerton, the Hollinsheads of Heawood, &c. &c., are all extinct in the main line; and although collateral representatives of some of them may, and probably do, exist, they do not now own the family lands, nor are they known in this part of the county.

Of the families of whom direct representatives now hold the estates of their ancestors, the list is, alas! but a very short one, comprising only the Tattons of Wythenshawe, the Stanleys of Alderley, the Davenports of Woodford and Capesthorpe, and the Baskervyles of Old Withington, and after them the Leghs of Lyme, the Davenports of Bramhall, and the Swettenhams of Somerford, who hold by indirect descent.

The earliest list of the names of the chief inhabitants of Macclesfield Hundred dates back to the middle of the fifteenth century. This, which is given below, has never before been printed, and so is of much value, especially when it is remembered that it was drawn up about thirty years subsequent to the battle of Agincourt, and just previous to the Wars of the Roses. It occurs in a very interesting MS. copy of William Smith's "Vale Royal," which is in the possession of Richard Massie, Esq., and has been most kindly lent to me by him. The entire collection of names, arranged under Hundreds, is headed "Sept. 14, 24 Henry VI. [1445] Recogn' Jurat' infra Coñi. Cestriae die Veneris post Exaltac' S. Crucis Año 24 H. 6.", and appears to be a full list of those who were liable to be called on Juries, and of course representing all the families who held sufficient land to entitle them to be so called upon. This list is, I believe, the origin of that very misleading one which appears in the first part of King's "Vale Royall," pages 55 to 61, and which was printed in 1656, the editor having altered many of the names to make them fit more conveniently into the period at which the book appeared. Hence it is that this list is so very confusing, and of no real value, and yet it has been reprinted time after time without the slightest comment.<sup>b</sup>

NAMES OF THE KNIGHTS, GENTLEMEN, AND FREEHOLDERS IN CHESHIRE  
IN 1445.

MACCLESFIELD HUNDRED.

Laurence Fitton, knight.	John Berthill.	Thomas Snelston.
John Honford, knight.	Vivian Berthill.	John Lloyd.
John Warren, esquire.	Thomas Ward, of Dean (an old man).	James Whettenhall.
John Davenport, of Bromhall.	Philip de Aedon.	Thomas Falghes [Fallows].
Christopher Davenport.	James Motteram.	Robert Legh.
Reginald Legh.	John Vernon, of Wereford.	Thomas Davenport, of Henbury.
John Worth.	Hugh Henshaugh, of Henshaugh.	Robert Duckinfield.
John Fitton.	Thomas Henshaugh, of Milnhouse.	Robert Downes.
William Handford.	Richard Davenport, of Fulshaugh (holding from St. John of Jerusalem).	John Pigott.
John Sidenton.	James Brigg [Bridge].	Thomas Tydrington.
Robert Sidenton.		John Worth (holding from the Abbey of St. Werburgh).
John Ward, of Capesthorpe.		Laurence Hopwood.
John Hough, of Pexhull.		

<sup>b</sup> This list in "King's Vale Royall" is thus headed: "Hereafter followeth the Names of all the Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen, and Freeholders in the County Palatine of Chester; And in what Hundred they dwell." To show how the alterations have been made, the following are taken from the list for Macclesfield Hundred printed above. Sir Edward Fitton

appears for Sir Lawrence Fitton, Sir William Davenport for John Davenport, Esq., &c. &c., as they were well-known names and easily altered; whilst such names as Sir John Honford, Richard Davenport of Fulshaw, &c., who, although living in 1445, had no existence even as families in 1656, to which period it would seem to the ordinary reader that this list related.

Alexander Holenworth.	Thomas Champmoyne.	Peter Ward.
Richard Sherd.	David Walker (an old man).	Richard Okes.
John Holinworth.	William Green (an old man).	Robert Ward.
Laurence Holinworth.	Richard Davenport, of Wheltrogh.	Richard Massy, of Caster (?)
John Newton (holding from the Abbey).	John Rosingdale.	John Torkinton.
John Arden.	Richard Mottershead.	John Curbichley.
John Higham.	William Willet.	Thomas Wittonstall.
Ralph de Staveley.	Robert Page.	Edmund Pownall.
Ralph Hondeford.	Oliver Newton.	Thomas Ruley [Ryley].
Geoffrey Vernon.	William Bradley.	John Pownall.
John Bretland.	William Crother.	Nicholas Davenport, of Shotswall.
Henry Matley.	Thomas Duncalfe.	John Starling.
William Legh, of Eccheles.	Randle Greesty.	Thomas Hanson.
John Tatton.	John Legh, of Ridge.	John Hyde, of Norbury.
Richard de Hull.	John Potts.	Nicholas Legh.
Nicholas Tatton.	William Hollinshead.	Thomas Moores.
Robert Voydraye [Vawdrey].	John Oldfield.	Robert Cottrell.
Ralph Voydraye [ditto].	Reginald Shrigley.	Robert Sidbothom.
William Sandbach.	Thomas Marshall.	Edward Verdon (holding of St. John of Jerusalem).
William Broram.	William Ashton.	Richard Worth.
William Baskervill.	John Plant, junior.	
	William Low, of Rainow.	

For a period of 130 years subsequent to the date of the above list no other such calendar of names is, I believe, known. The next that is met with is in 1579, the middle of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This is preserved in the Harl. MSS. 1988, in the British Museum, and is specially interesting, as it gives the names of the places where the persons resided and held their estates. It is as follows :—

THE NAMES OF ALL AND SINGULAR KNIGHTS, ESQUIRES, GENTLEMEN, AND FREEHOLDERS IN THE COUNTY OF CHESTER. ANNO 1579.

MACCLESFIELD HUNDRED.

*SIR PEETER LEIGHE, of <i>Lyme</i> , knight.	*CHRISTOPHER DAVENPORT, of <i>Woodford</i> , esquire.
*SIR EDWARD FITTON, of <i>Goseworth</i> , knight.	THOMAS FITTON, of <i>Bollin</i> , esquire. <sup>d</sup>
*RAPHE BRERETON, <sup>e</sup> of <i>Hanford</i> , esquire.	*RALPH DAMPORT, of <i>Henbury</i> , esquire.
*WILLIAM DAVENPORT, of <i>Bromhall</i> , esquire.	*WILLIAM WARD, of <i>Capesthorpe</i> , gent.
*THOMAS STANLEY, of <i>Alderley</i> , esquire.	*GEORGE NEWTON, of <i>Godley</i> , gent.
*JOHN WARREN, of <i>Poynton</i> , esquire.	WILLIAM MEIRE, of <i>Pownall</i> , gent. <sup>e</sup>
*RAPHE ARDERNE, of <i>Hawarden</i> , esquire.	*JOHN HOLLINWORTH, of <i>Hollinworth</i> , gent.
*THOMAS LEIGHE, of <i>Adlington</i> , esquire.	*LAWRENCE SWETTENHAM, of <i>Somerford</i> , gent.
*WILLIAM TATTON, of <i>Wythinshawe</i> , esquire.	JOHN HENSHAWE, of <i>Milnehouse</i> , gent.
*RICHARD SUTTON, of <i>Sutton</i> , esquire.	*RICHARD DAVENPORT, of <i>Wheltrough</i> , gent.
*ROGER DOWNES, of <i>Shrigley</i> , esquire.	JOHN GRANGE, of <i>Chorleigh</i> , gent. <sup>f</sup>
*WILLIAM DUCKENFELD, of <i>Duckenfeld</i> , esquire.	*RANDLE WINNINGTON, of <i>Offerton</i> , gent.
*ROBERT HYDE, of <i>Norbury</i> , esquire.	JAMES RIDGEWAY, of the same place.
*JOHN LEIGHE, of <i>Ridge</i> , esquire.	*JOHN BIRTELLES, of <i>Birtelles</i> , gent.
*PHILLIPP WORTH, of <i>Tidrinton</i> , esquire.	EDWARD BIRTELLES, of <i>the Hill</i> .

<sup>c</sup> Should be *Randle* Brereton, of Handforth, Esq.

<sup>d</sup> I do not know who this Thomas Fitton, of Bollin, Esq., is; and am inclined to think it is a mistake.

<sup>e</sup> This was William Mere of Merc, Esq., who had married

Parnel, the widow of William Newton, of Pownall Hall, Esq., and was then living at the Hill (see p. 127).

<sup>f</sup> John Grange had married Grace, widow of William Davenport, of Chorley Hall, and was then living there (see p. 164).