

highway. Formerly it had probably continued north to Haregate, as it was made to do with the building of Queen's Drive after 1948.⁵¹ From the 1820s the area developed as a suburb of Leek. Its core was at Ball Haye Green where the Leek Building Society erected 42 houses between 1824 and 1829. A number of houses were built in Park Road in the south-west corner in the mid 1850s. The Ball Haye Green suburb was further extended in the 20th century by the building of housing estates.⁵²

In the 1250s there was mention of the moor between Scarpschaw and Blakeshaw.⁵³ Blackshaw Moor was an inhabited area by the 1640s. A pauper family was living at Blackshaw Moorside in 1640.⁵⁴ Richard Plant and his family were described as of Blackshaw Moor in 1644, and the Plants may have been settled there in the 16th century, three farms in Tittesworth being held by three members of the family in 1542.⁵⁵ The moor, which extended west into Leekfrith, was inclosed in 1811. There was probably a track running north-west across the moor from Thorncliffe before inclosure, but the present road between Thorncliffe and the Leek-Buxton road dates from the inclosure.⁵⁶ Blackshaw Moor farm existed by 1841.⁵⁷ A transit camp for anti-aircraft battalions from the United States of America was opened on the east side of the Buxton road in 1943.⁵⁸ In 1946 it was taken over by Polish troops from Italy, and other Polish troops arrived later. The camp continued as a Polish civilian settlement until 1964 when those remaining there were rehoused on a new estate ½ mile to the north.⁵⁹ The camp site was cleared in the early 1980s, and in 1983 Anzio Camp was opened there as a training camp for use by the regular army, territorials, and scouts.⁶⁰

There was mention in 1353 of 'Stokkenbrugg' on Tittesworth brook,⁶¹ perhaps a bridge carrying a road from Leek to Upper Tittesworth. The Leek-Buxton road, turnpiked in 1765, runs through the area. Before then the route from Leek to Buxton ran further west through Leekfrith, and it appears that all or most of the route through Tittesworth was a new road laid out by the turnpike trustees in 1765 and 1766.⁶² It included a bridge over the brook in Edge End Hollow (later Solomon's Hollow).⁶³ In the 18th century a packhorse way ran over Blackshaw Moor, crossing the north-east boundary stream by a stone bridge.⁶⁴

In 1858 the Staffordshire Potteries Water

Works Co. (later the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board) dammed the Churnet in the north-west part of the township to create the 51-a. Tittesworth reservoir. In 1959 work was begun on an extension which increased the area to 189 a. and the capacity from 222 million gallons to 1,417 million. The work also included the provision of plant for treating effluent from the dyeworks at Upper Hulme, in Leekfrith. The enlarged reservoir was inaugurated by Princess Margaret in 1962.⁶⁵

In 1802 Tittesworth was included in the area covered by the Leek association for the prosecution of felons.⁶⁶

ESTATES. In 1565 Sir Ralph Bagnall, lord of Leek manor, granted a house called *BALL HAYE* with appurtenances in Leek and Lowe and in Tittesworth to Henry Davenport, who was already in possession.⁶⁷ Henry was succeeded in 1584 by his son Ralph, who was followed by his son Henry in 1597. Henry died in 1680 aged 93 and was succeeded by his grandson John Davenport. John was succeeded in 1726 by his son Henry, who was followed by his son John in 1753. John was succeeded in 1780 by his son, another John, who died childless in 1786. His heir was his nephew James, son of his sister Sarah and James Hulme of Tittesworth, born in 1772.⁶⁸

John left half the income from the estate to his widow Hannah for life and a quarter to Lucy, daughter of Isaac Cope, a Leek surgeon and one of John's trustees. The remaining quarter was for the education of James, the heir, who had to assume his uncle's name and arms.⁶⁹ Hannah Davenport died in 1808.⁷⁰ In 1811 James granted Lucy Cope a rent charge of £75 a year for life as her share.⁷¹ He seems to have continued to use the surname Hulme.

James rebuilt the house and in 1807 bought more land.⁷² He was at Ball Haye in 1811, but for much of his life he lived elsewhere.⁷³ In 1818 Ball Haye and 80 a. were advertised for letting, and in 1819 James mortgaged the estate.⁷⁴ He died in 1848.⁷⁵

In 1814 a Chancery suit was begun against James and his wife Elizabeth on behalf of six of her children by her first husband. James was even imprisoned for a time in 1828 for disobeying an order of the court. That year a settlement was reached vesting the estate in trustees who had

⁵¹ S.R.O., Q/RDc 65, award and plan II; S.R.O., D. 3283, sheets 9-10; *Staffs. Advertiser*, 20 May 1854, p. 8; O.S. Map 6", Staffs. VIII. NW. (1900, 1925 edns.); above, Leek and Lowe, public services (housing).

⁵² Above, Leek and Lowe, general hist. (earlier 19th cent.; later 19th cent.; 20th cent.). ⁵³ *S.H.C.* 1911, 428.

⁵⁴ *Leek Par. Reg.* 34.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.* 55; W.S.L., S.M.S. 540.

⁵⁶ S.R.O., Q/RDc 65; above, fig. 2.

⁵⁷ P.R.O., HO 107/1005.

⁵⁸ *Chronicles* (Dec. 1989), 13, 17.

⁵⁹ Inf. from Mr. E. Lejman of Hanley; albums relating to Blackshaw Moor at the Polish Catholic Social Centre, Longton.

⁶⁰ Leek Libr., newspaper cuttings 1983, p. 1.

⁶¹ B.L. Add. Ch. 46881.

⁶² Above, Leek and Lowe, communications.

⁶³ S.R.O., D. 3359/Buxton Road order bk. 1765-1800,

pp. 21-2.

⁶⁴ Above, Alstonefield: Heathylee, intro.

⁶⁵ *Staffs. Advertiser*, 26 July 1879, p. 6; brochure for inauguration 4 July 1963.

⁶⁶ Above, Leek and Lowe, public services (policing).

⁶⁷ Sleigh, *Leek*, 86 n.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.* 87; *Leek Par. Reg.* 202; for John Davenport

(d.1786) see above, Leek and Lowe, econ. hist. (professions: lawyers).

⁷⁰ Sleigh, *Leek*, 87.

⁶⁹ *Olde Leeke*, i. 284.

⁷¹ S.R.O., D. 538/A/1/14.

⁷² *Ibid.* D. 538/A/1/72, pp. 9-15.

⁷³ *Ibid.* D. 538/A/1/14; D. 538/A/1/72, pp. 9, 24; J. Nightingale, *Staffs.* (Beauties of Eng. and Wales, xiii), 1168

n.; Sleigh, *Leek*, 117.

⁷⁴ *Staffs. Advertiser*, 28 Mar. 1818, p. 4; S.R.O., D.

538/A/1/72, p. 33.

⁷⁵ *Olde Leeke*, i. 147.