

Warley 47, Robert Brighthouse of Hipperholme 75, and Richard Brighthouse his son 40, William Burton of Warley 76, who was described as a tenant of Thomas Saville of Blaith Royd in Southowram, William Ryley 70, Richard Briggs of Warley 66. Richard Best senior 70 and John Crosier 80 were tenants of Lady Savile, and Thomas Wilkinson senior 50 was another tenant to Henry Savile. The John Crosier who appears as a leet juror in these rolls was probably the son of the man who testified in 1536.

STRUCTURE AND OPERATION OF MANOR

Only a brief sketch of the structure and operation of the manor will be given because the subject has been explored thoroughly in previous volumes. The manor was divided into 12 graveships normally, but in these years Erringden, which was a township in the graveship of Sowerby notable for its park in the middle ages, had separate status. It was noted in surrenders as a graveship in 1537 (pp. 23, 78, 92), but there is no reference to the election of a grave that year. In 1538 and 1539 however, Robert Waterhouse served as grave there (pp. 104, 172).

The great court met two times a year. The leet courts followed the great courts very shortly after each great court. The regular court baron which registered land transactions and entered pleas for debt, trespass, etc met every 3 weeks in theory, but no absolutely regular meeting times have been detected. The most frequent meeting day was Friday, but of the 15 courts in 1537/8 four courts baron met on different days (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday). In 1538/9 of the 16 courts, three met on a different day (Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday) and in the next court roll the same pattern prevailed. The exceptional days were Thursday and Saturday that year. The courts baron generally met every 3 or 4 weeks, but the year 1538/9 had the greatest divergence of dates. One court held on a Wednesday 26 March met only 12 days after the court of 14 March, and the longest time between meetings occurred in the autumn from Friday 15 November 1538 to Friday 20 December. It is not clear whether these irregularities were due to the continued disruption of the Pilgrimage of Grace and its aftermath, or some other confusion on the manor, or in fact some other unrelated reason.

1. D.J.H. Michelmore, 'Township and Tenure' in *West Yorkshire: An Archaeological Survey to A.D 1500*, (West Yorkshire MCC, 1981), 248. 367.

The fair copy of the rolls usually contains only the resolution of manorial problems, while the paper drafts contain items which reflect problems peculiar to that year which if rectified promptly would not be engrossed in the fair copy. For example, at the Wakefield tourn in May 1538 the inhabitants of that town complained to the steward and the inquest that three men had taken land between their crofts called the flat, which had always been a highway and a 'sportyng place' for the town inhabitants. They asked that the matter be investigated 'accordyng to right and conscience'. That same tourn also received a complaint by three saddlers of Wakefield, John Abbott, George Pawmer and John Collynson, who complained about others dwelling in the area who were selling items contrary to the King's laws. More specifically these people were not recognised tanners of the town of Wakefield, and they sold to **Kendal men** who blended material with wool to make cloth 'callyd pawmpillzon cloth' and were trying to sell it as the regular wool cloth licensed to be sold. Since the merchants of Wakefield had recently (October 1533) been accused of flocking wool cloth they must have been quite sensitive on the issue and probably wanted to make sure they would not be blamed for adulterated wool cloth.¹ The same complaint (p. 86) also mentions 'vnlawfull ledder', such as horse hides which had been made into dead stalls, bridles, reins and stirrup leathers and sold without paying the usual customs and tolls of the town. Ten men called 'common Hawkers' were named. Some came from the town and some from places nearby. At the tourn held at Brighouse a few days later, those residents complained to Thomas Savile, whom they addressed erroneously as the steward, that various pains had failed to induce residents to repair a road, and that road 'lett lyttle passe vnto thare grett preiudice and harme of thare bodydys and cattells' (p. 95).

The short item in mirror writing found in the draft copy of the tourn held at Brighouse 24 April 1539 (p. 165) is mysterious. It is the beginning of a note or letter requesting a 'boke called Testament'. Why did some one, the scribe or some official, try to conceal the message? The hand is contemporary, i.e. a sixteenth century secretary hand, and it is tempting to see a connection with the Reformation and a new, English(?) edition of the New Testament. But the use of what appears to be a section of the draft as scratch paper by the scribe does not mean the writing was exactly contemporaneous.

1. *L & P*, VI, 1211, 1370, 1371.

[Membrane 7]

Court with tourn held at Brighthouse 9 October 1538

Panel for the tourn:: inquisition held there for the tourn on the oaths of Richard Saltonstall, Henry Batt, Henry Sherpe, Godfrey (*Galfri*) Romesden, Thomas Wodhede, Edward Firth, John Prestley, John Clay, John Hanson, Robert Brighous, John Fyrthe, William Denton and George Hoile, sworn etc. who said on oath that the township of etc.

Rastrick: the township there presented that **Edward Malynson** was elected constable this year and sworn.

Barkisland: the township there presented that Edward Woddehede was elected constable this year and sworn.

Stainland: the township there presented that William More was elected constable this year and sworn.

Fixby: the township there presented that William Boterroide was elected constable this year and sworn.

Walton: the township there presented that John Wodde was elected constable this year and sworn.

Quarmby: the township there presented that Edward Hoile was elected constable this year and sworn; that James Goddale (4d), Richard Whyttewhams (4d), Edmund Dyson (4d) did not appear at this tourn: *amerced 12d*; Thomas Hanson (4s) made an affray on Christopher Horesfall and drew his blood by force of arms: *amerced 4s*.

Hipperholme: the township there presented that Robert Coke was elected constable this year and sworn.

Northowram: the township there presented that William Awmbler was elected constable this year and sworn; [bd1 2/13v] that Richard Northend repair a hedge pertaining to a tenement of Richard Jayger before the next tourn, *pain 6s 8d*.

Clifton: the township there presented that Robert Scolefeld was elected constable this year and sworn.

Tourn held at Brighthouse 15 October 1539

Panel for the tourn: inquisition held there for the tourn on the oaths of Henry Batt, John Drake, Nicholas Brodeleee, Christopher Boithe, Thomas Hanson, Thomas Stanclyff, Geoffrey Romesden, John Hirst, Edward Firthe, John Longewodd, John Smythe, John Firth, William Haghe and Richard Clyff sworn etc, who said on oath that the township of etc.

Rastrick: the township there presented that John Foxe was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Barkisland: the township there presented that Brian Walker was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Stainland: the township there presented that Gilbert Helliwell was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Fixby: the township there presented that Thomas Poppelwell was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Dalton: the township there presented that **William Malynson** was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Quarmby: the township there presented that Henry Haghe was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Hipperholme: the township there presented [blank]

Northowram: the township there presented that Robert Barestawe was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Clifton: the township there presented that George Pollerd was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Shelf: the township there presented that Richard Meddley was elected constable there this year and sworn.

Hartshead: the township there presented that Richard Hepton was elected constable there this year and sworn.