COPPULL

Notes for a History

Darren Watmough

Draft 5c

4th Sept 2017
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Part 0: Introduction

Little has been written previously about the lords of Coppull. The Victoria County History (VCH) (1907) makes reference to the Coppull lordship, but limits those references to largely unrelated extracts from primary sources. T.C. Porteous, in his different writings, most notably “The History of Standish” (1927), was aware of some of the lords of Coppull, but once again, made only incidental references to them. Hubert Walsh, in his “A History of Coppull” (1978) synthesised a wide range of sources, but relied exclusively on the Victoria County History for his information about the Lordship. MD Smith’s “About Coppull” (2004) makes very little reference to the lords of Coppull and relies on Walsh for those references. The Earls of Derby were lords of Coppull for almost a century and a half and as one of the most important families in England during the Tudor period, their story is well documented, most notably in B Coward’s “The Stanleys, Lords Stanley and Earls of Derby 1385-1672”, (1983).

The compilers of the VCH did not have access to some sources which are now available, most notably several hundred medieval and to early nineteenth century documents in the extensive archive collection of Lilford of Bank Hall, held at Lancashire Records Office. These documents not only help in the production of a clearer narrative relating to the Lords of Coppull during the tenure of the earliest Lords, they contain a wealth of material relating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This includes documents relating to the Lordship of John Pearson and his successors, a family which did not appear at all in the VCH in connection with Coppull.

This paper attempts to place the lords in a number of contexts. The first is the context of Coppull. Inevitably a key focus is to present a clearer picture of the first lords of the manor, their family and the world they lived in. Some of the challenges of doing this are set out in Appendix Two of this paper.

The account of the Stanleys is relatively short, as their story is so well documented and their interest in and impact on Coppull was so much less. The Rigbys were an important family in Lancashire and their hundred year Lordship is considered in some detail. John Pearson and his descendants represented a new breed of lord and their family relationships have been reconstructed to present a clearer picture of their lordship. The institution of the manor was in deep decline by the second quarter of the nineteenth century, as the importance of the land which it administered diminished as a new economy based on factories and mines replaced it.

The second context is that of their neighbours, especially within Coppull itself. The main neighbours were, initially, the de Blainscoughs and their successors the Worthingtons and the de Chisnalls. During the 14th century, the de Perburns were a family of some local importance. From the start of the 14th century until the mid 16th century the Ugnalls and de Ugnalls were important in the village. A family with the surname Nightingale married into the de Coppull family, appearing between the start of the 14th century maintaining links with the village until at least the end of the 16th. In the late 16th and early 17th centuries the Prescotts and Holts started to build what developed into impressive family fortunes by trading and developing links with London. Later in the 17th century the Crooks eclipsed any other family in the village in terms of their wealth and status and by the middle of the 18th century, their wealth was almost certainly greater than that of the Pearsons, then lords of Coppull. The broader context looks at the various lords of the manor in their relationships to other families in Lancashire, especially as clients of the Stanleys, Earls of Derby and their subordinate clients.

The third context is that of the individual or familial lordship, which focuses on the reasons for their acquisition or retention of the manor of Coppull and the way they managed it as an asset. Coppull
A key concern throughout has been to preserve the connection between the assertion in the text of this paper and the source and this has resulted in a significant number of footnotes. Coppull studies has a limited number of scholars in each generation: from William Farrar, the author of the Victoria County History, at the beginning of the twentieth century, to Thomas Cruddas Porteous, the vicar of the new church of St John in Coppull in the 1920s, to Hubert Walsh in the 1970s, to Geoff Bellis and Roger Roocroft in the 1980s and 1990s and to MD Smith in the 2000s.
Part 1: Coppull Before the Lords

1.1 The Lords of the Manor

The Romans and Before

Modern scholarship suggests that prior to the Roman conquest, there were a number of Celtic tribal territories in the north of England. It is not clear which tribe possessed the land between the Mersey and the Ribble, although this has traditionally been associated with the Brigantes. The Setantii perhaps occupied south Cumbria and the Cornovii to the south in Cheshire.¹

In 43AD, the Emperor Claudius entered into an agreement with four Celtic tribal leaders, two of whom were Cartimandua and Venutius of the Brigantes. The two probably had power on either side of the Pennines, Cartimandua in the east and Venutius in the west. They married, encouraged by Claudius, perhaps in an effort to consolidate their territorial powerbases. Their relationship however was stormy and there were a number of incidents in the 50s and 60s which resulted in a Roman presence in the region, perhaps to keep the peace. In 69 Venutius appears to have driven Cartimandua out of her territory and took over the leadership of the Brigantes and their territory. In 71 Vettius Bolanus became governor of Britain and set about fighting Venutius for the Brigantian territory.²

During the Roman period there was a Roman settlement at Wigan, often identified with Coccium which is mentioned in Roman texts. A road probably led from Wilderspool near Warrington which was the crossing of the Mersey used by the Romans, to Wigan. This road probably continued from Wigan to Walton-le-Dale where there was another Roman site. If it existed this road probably passed through Coppull.³

The Roman sites in the north west provided opportunities and market access for local tradesmen. “The military arterial routes ... became central features of a growing network of roads which served to link farmers and tradesmen into the Romanised economy; finds of Roman material – particularly of coins and coin hoards – demonstrate this by their geographical distribution.”⁴

Coppull’s location – bisected by the main road from Wigan to Walton-le-Dale – may have been crucial to its development. If it had no inhabitants prior to the Roman invasion and the subsequent building of the road, then the road would almost certainly have led to the exploitation of the woodland, if it had not been cleared by the Britons, or of its arable land, if woodland clearance had taken place. Coppull was 7 miles to the north of Wigan. By xx some industries had developed in Wigan. These would undoubtedly have driven demand for both food, to feed any garrison and tradesmen, and also raw materials for industry, probably including wood. The name Blainscough (Blaeinger’s Wood) suggests that Coppull remained wooded into the tenth century, suggesting that at least some woodland remained during the Roman period. The absence of villas in the north west suggests that agriculture continued broadly as in pre-Roman times.⁵
Excavation of possible Roman Road, Hic Bibi.  

A small section of the road has been excavated by Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society in 1963 and 1984. Archaeological survey of the field in which these excavations took place in 2011 did not reveal evidence of the location of the road.

Following the departure of Roman garrisons back to defend Rome against the “Barbarians”, the north west would have become part of a small Celtic kingdom, the name of which is lost to us. The language spoken would have been similar to Old Welsh.

From the end of the sixth century, Angles and Saxons started to arrive in Lancashire. The Battle of Chester in 615 marked the beginning of the end of Celtic culture, and Celtic Christianity, in the north west. The defeat of the Britons at this battle led to the north west falling under the control of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria (Lancashire north of the Ribble) and Mercia (south of the Ribble). The Northumbrians sent missions to the north west to convert the Celtic Christians and founded some churches. There were churches dedicated to St Wilfrid at Preston and Halton, and it is possible that the church of St Wilfrid at Standish may have its origins during this time in the seventh century. (Gooderson pp34-35).

Coppull sits amongst a concentration of settlements ending in –ton, derived from the Old English “-tun” meaning a settlement or farmstead. These are largely named after individuals. Anderton was “Eanred’s tun”, Adlington “Eadwulf’s tun”, Euxton “Aefic’s tun”, Worthington “Worth’s people’s tun”. Other place names are also old English. The tuns were typical of areas which had been opened up in late Roman times and are often in river valleys or along old Roman roads, as is the case of the townships surrounding Coppull. The -tun would often replace that of a native British placename. It is suggested that this settlement pattern reflects the wholesale Anglo-Saxon takeover, although perhaps less for settlement than for patronage: powerful leaders would subdue the inhabitants and give the land to their followers who would allow the inhabitants to continue to work the land in return for tribute, in the form of grain or livestock or perhaps rent in other forms. (Kenyon, p106).
Coppull means “hill summit” and is unusual in not having been named after an individual, or having a name which reflects an economic function such as Chorley – “peasant’s wood”, or Wrightington – the “settlement of the wheelwrights”. Coppull shares a name with a topographical reference with Welch Whittle – the White Hill of the Waleys (or Welsh). To the east of Coppull, there are a series of names which suggest the area was wooded, Chorley has already been mentioned, Horwich means “the grey wych elms” suggesting a forested area, Blackrod “the black clearing (in woodland)”, Whittle-le Woods and Clayton-le-Woods are self explanatory. Five miles to the east of Coppull is Anglezarke “Anlaf’s hill pasture”. The names suggest a topography of pasture on the high ground around Rivington, a dense belt of woodland with some settlement, and then dense settlement, probably of arable farms, around the valleys of the Yarrow and the Douglas. In preparation for the privations of winter, cattle may have been taken from the hill pastures to the stubble left in the lowland tuns after the harvest and pastured in the tuns, with their lower altitude and (slightly) gentler climate during the course of the winter.

http://www.british-history.ac.uk/

Map of Standish Parish, showing townships

Coppull was originally part of Worthington and its name therefore describes a physical feature which was originally part of a much bigger whole, i.e. the settlement of the people of Worth.

Whilst the principal settlement names, i.e what later became the townships, were largely Old English, there are a number of smaller settlements within townships which are of Norse origin. These include Crooke in Shevington (from the Old Norse krokr – bend in a river), Roscoe Low (ra-skogr, roe wood). In Coppull, Blainscough was Blaeingr’s wood, and the Wra, close to Blainscough, was from the Old Norse vra, a corner. Ugnall is perhaps from the Old Norse personal name Uggi. These names almost certainly derive from a very transient period of Norse incursion following the expulsion of the Vikings from Dublin in about 902 until the battle of Brunnaburh in 937. Once again it is possible that the Roman road remained in use during this period: the Blainscough estate would have been either side of this road.
The Cuerdale Hoard found in the banks of the Ribble in 1840 and dated to approximately 905 was largely of silver and weighed 40kg. As such it is the largest Scandinavian hoard found in north west Europe. The find site is little more than a mile or so from Walton-le-Dale which probably remained an important settlement at the time and controlled access to the old Roman road south, which was probably still the major route to the south.

The battle of Brunnaburh in 937 resulted in Athelstan, king of Wessex, defeating the Vikings who had settled in the north west after their expulsion from Dublin. It ended a thirty year stand off which had seen the militarisation of the southern side of the Mersey, because the kings of Wessex rebuilt fortifications to defend themselves against the Vikings. After Brunnaburh, the boundaries of Wessex shifted north to the Ribble. Coppull would therefore have become part of Wessex at this point.

A century later, the kingdom of England had been consolidated under Edward the Confessor and on his death in 1066 he was briefly succeeded by Harold II. The Leyland Hundred was then a vast manor which was owned directly by the king. Within Leyland, there were 12 subordinate manors held by 12 freemen. The manor was then worth £19 18s 2d to the king, who “farmed” it, or rented it out to someone in exchange for a rent. The subordinate manors may well have been what later became the eleven parishes of the Leyland Hundred: Leyland, Brindle, Penwortham, Hesketh, Hoole, Tarleton, Rufford, Croston, Eccleston, Chorley and Standish. The name of the lord of the manor which was probably based on the later parish of Standish is unknown. Coppull would have been within this manor.

There is probably a correlation between parochial boundaries and secular estates which later became manors. These estate boundaries were probably established in the tenth century when tithes were firmly consolidated.

Following the Harrying of the North in 1070-71, Roger de Poitou was granted southern Lancashire, between the Ribble and the Mersey. He granted lands to six men at arms, who would have become his subordinate lords. By the time the Domesday Book was produced in 1086, he had lost these lands. He did however regain these by the early 1090s, losing them again in 1102 when he participated in a rebellion against Henry II. At around the same time, the Grelleys were made the lords of a Barony (a number of manors and other possessions) by either Roger de Poitou or by King Henry himself. Whilst the Barony was based on the township of Manchester in the Hundred of Salford, it included manors outside the Hundred of Salford, including that of Worthington. It is not known whether the manor of Worthington was part of the original Grelley barony dating from the early 1100s or whether it was added at a later date. It is also not known why Worthington was given to the Grelleys when most of the manors in the Leyland hundred were granted to the Bussells, the barons of Penwortham.

1.2 The Gentry
1.3 The Economy
1.4 Faith in Coppull
1.5 Society and Demography
Part 2: The Earliest Lords

2.1 The Lords of the Manor

Before the Norman Conquest in 1066, Coppull did not exist as a manor, but was part of the Hundred of Leyland, which was a vast manor owned by the King. By the time the Domesday Book was produced, in 1086, the Leyland Hundred manors had been split between five men. The woodland which would have dominated the Leyland Hundred before the conquest had reduced in size by two thirds, suggesting either major clearance of the woodland for agriculture ("assarting") or for building. The value of the Hundred had also fallen significantly from £19 per year to £2 10s per year. Whilst some historians have suggested that South Lancashire escaped the worst of William the Conqueror’s retribution because, unlike the Lords of Cheshire and Northumbria, its lords were not involved in the rebellion, it may reflect the impact of the “Harrying of the North”, where William’s men laid waste to much of Northern England in the winter of 1069-70 to deal with a rebellion, replacing the old Anglo-Danish lords with loyal Normans. Coppull was originally part of the manor of Worthington, the Lords of the Manor being the de Worthingtons, who owed feudal duties to the de Grelleys, the Lords of Manchester. The duties to the lords of Manchester do not feature in most of the medieval records of the village, although in the mid 13th century, Thomas de Tonstall was granted land in the village by John son of Richard de Coppull, one of the conditions of which was that he paid 10s per annum to the lords of Manchester. In 1282, the Lords of Manchester owed the feudal service of half a knight’s fee, in respect of Worthington and Coppull. The de Worthington family were the first of the lords of Coppull of which we have any knowledge. What is not clear is whether originally Coppull was just a part of the manor of Worthington or if it existed as a separate manor and both had the de Worthingtons as their lords. The fact that Coppull and Worthington, uniquely in the Leyland Hundred, owed suit to the Lords of Manchester rather than the Lords of Penwortham suggests that originally they were a single unit.

Little can be said about the lordship of the de Worthingtons because the written record begins around the time that the de Coppulls are first recorded as being the lords of Coppull. However, the de Worthingtons appear to have remained the overlords of the de Coppulls for some time after the commencement of their lordship. Indeed, the de Worthingtons themselves owed suit (feudal obligations) to the de Grelleys, the lords of Manchester. The feudal obligations are shown in the diagram below:
Much of the evidence from the thirteenth century suggests that the de Coppulls were subservient to the de Worthingtons and also that the de Worthingtons maintained some interests in Coppull, especially in Blainscough. The earliest evidence we have of the de Coppull lordship is the grants to Burscough Priory by Richard son of Thomas de Coppull. These were confirmed by Thomas the lord of Worthington and his son William.  

Thomas de Worthington granted lands which he described as “in Worthington” but which the place names show were within the bounds of Coppull in the early part of the thirteenth century, around the time of the apparent commencement of the de Coppull lordship in the early thirteenth century. He granted land to Jordan the clerk, naming Blainscough Brook, Middlebrook and Wetshaw amongst other places all of which were in Coppull. Thomas also gave land in Blainscough to Richard son of Orm de Blainscough in about 1215. In about 1240 Thomas’s son William gave more land in Blainscough to Thomas the son of Robert de Tunle. Even earlier, in the last decades of the thirteenth century, Hugh de Worthington granted land to his brother Adam, which included references to Grenelache and Medwelheved and the Perburn all of which were in or adjoined Coppull.

2.2 The Gentry

2.3 The Economy
It is unlikely that feudalism as practised in the south and Midlands was a feature of the economy of Coppull. In Southwest Lancashire there was “a minimum of change in the eleventh century, the pre-Norman population mostly holding their own lands and following their old usages and the mechanism of local administration remaining unchanged, so that true feudalism never really developed”.  

2.4 Faith in Coppull

2.5 Population and Society
Part 3: The de Coppulls

3.1 The Lords of the Manor

The earliest evidence we have of the de Coppull lordship are the grants to Burscough Priory by Richard son of Thomas de Coppull. These were confirmed by Thomas the lord of Worthington and his son William. In about 1220, Thomas de Coppull granted land to Jordan the son of Roger, and this was endorsed on the seal strip “Know all men present and future that I Thomas de Wyrthton [Worthington] give and acknowledge and quitclaim that this attached charter may be confirmed to Jordan son of R[oger]".  

By the end of the century the relationship between the de Worthingtons and the de Coppulls appears to have changed. Indeed in a charter of circa 1300, William de Worthington and John of Coppull exchanged lands. What is significant about the charter is that William describes John as “lord of Coppull”, the first written acknowledgement of the Coppull lordship by the de Worthingtons. Indeed by 1308 William and John jointly granted land in the waste of Worthington for the building of a smity to Gilbert son of Sep Faber.  

Whilst there is very little evidence, it is possible that the de Coppulls were related to the Worthingtons, perhaps descended from a younger son. There are some similarities between the seals of the two families used during the early thirteenth century, as both use a three-petalled flower as a symbol. Just as Hugh de Worthington had granted land in Coppull to his brother, it is possible that Robert de Worthington the first documented lord of Worthington or one of his ancestors may have granted Coppull to a brother or other family member. What is unclear however is why the de Worthingtons would have granted over 75% of their territory to a cadet branch of the family.  

The de Coppulls remained Lords of the Manor for 250 years. Perhaps in part to help establish themselves as relatively new lords, Richard son of Thomas de Coppull granted land to Burscough Priory in about 1215. Burscough Priory was founded in about 1190 by the lords of Lathom, and was busy building up its landholdings and other assets to ensure its sustainability, especially in South Lancashire.
Some of the donors to the Priory gave land with a request that prayers be said for the souls of relatives or of themselves, but Richard didn’t make this request. Sometime in the early thirteenth century, Richard witnessed a deed whereby Richard de Charnock granted lands in Chorley to the brothers of St John the Hospitaller of Jerusalem, and this perhaps inspired his own pious gift to the Priory at Burscough. In the middle of the thirteenth century, John de Ingol granted land which had as one of its boundaries “the land of the Hospitallers” although it is unclear whether this land lay in Coppull or one of the neighbouring townships. John had been granted Whitecroft and the Wra in Blainscough by Richard son of Orm de Blainscough.

The land they granted was to the far south of the village, abutting the boundary with Worthington, and the grant was confirmed by the Worthington family, perhaps suggesting that the lordship of the de Coppulls was not yet fully established. Indeed in 1276, John de Coppull claimed a tenement in Coppull against William de Worthington, perhaps suggesting further that the Coppull lordship was still being firmly established. A century later, John de Coppull, son of another John, inherited the manor as a minor and the wardship was claimed by the Worthingtons, suggesting their continued interest in Coppull. It is unclear whether they were successful in their bid.

The explicit reference “lord of Coppull” was relatively rare: the first known lord, Thomas de Coppull, is described thus in two of the deeds giving land to Burscough priory. Perhaps pointedly, William de Worthington confirmed the de Coppull grants to the priory, but whilst referring to himself as “lord of Worthington” refers to the Thomas and his son Richard merely as “of Coppull”. Thomas is also described as “lord of Coppull” in an undated deed. Perhaps as the first lord, he sought to ensure that his status was acknowledged. William de Worthington, once the overlord of the de Coppulls acknowledged John as “lord of Coppull” around the beginning of the fourteenth century. John and Richard also had the full title in the thirteenth century. Within Coppull, one of the last heads of the de Blainscough family described John de Coppull as “my lord”, acknowledging his lordship of Coppull.

The village of Coppull, at the time of the de Coppull lords, would probably have been divided into three main estates, with perhaps a few smaller landholdings. The Blainscough estate, still in the early 1300s occupied by the de Blainscoughs, would have dominated the centre and west of the village, would have had extensive woodland and may have had a small deerpark at its southern boundary. In the thirteenth century, Blainscough itself had landscape features such as “Whitecroft and the Wra”. In the mid 13th century, John son of Richard de Coppull quitclaimed land in the waste of the “hamlet of Blainscough” to John Nightingale. By the mid 15th century, Blainscough was sometimes named as a vill alongside Worthington and Coppull, suggesting it was regarded as somehow different and separate from Coppull, which surrounded it. The Chisnall estate would have been at the south eastern tip of the village, and spread over into neighbouring villages. Chisnall too had landscape features such as “the Longfields and the ridding near the hall” by the late 1400s. The lands of the manor including the home (“demesne”) farm of the manor would have been in the west and the north of the village. Somewhere to the north of the village was a small estate called Ugnall and sometimes Old Ugnall. To the south of the village was a vast expanse of moor and moss, the common land of the manor. A small estate, held by the de Perburns but almost certainly rented from Burscough Priory, would have broken up the moor. A main road would have led from the church of Standish, past
Perburn and through the lands of Blainscough, following the line of the Roman road which was known as Church Lane or Kirk Lane by the end of the sixteenth century.  

Medieval Coppull: Speculative Reconstruction.

The de Coppulls had at least some lands outside Coppull from the times of the earliest lords in the early thirteenth century. Thomas de Coppull, the first known lord, granted the Hanging Load in Rivington to Simon son of Henry de Knoll and his wife Godith. Their lands grew as they made favourable marriages. In 1302, John son of Richard de Coppull, claimed woodland and moss in XXX from Henry son of William de Livesey.

In 1246 John de Coppull, who may have been the Lord of the Manor, or may have been his son, fought a duel in Warrington on behalf of Peter of Brindle who was in dispute with Adam de Pemberton about his right to 200 acres of land in Pemberton. John defeated Philip, who was Adam’s champion, and Peter of Brindle was allowed to have peaceful tenure of his land.

In 1315 there were disturbances in parts of Lancashire which have become known as the Banastre rebellion. One of the men involved was Adam le Taillour who was a landowner in Coppull. John de Coppull was probably his father-in-law and stood surety for him when he was presented to the Wigan Assizes.

The de Coppulls, like many of their class fought in the French and other wars in the fourteenth century. In 1372, John de Coppull participated in a naval expedition led by Humphrey de Bohun, the Earl of Hereford. In the late fourteenth century, John de Coppull followed in the footsteps of William the son of Hugh Standish of Duxbury and Sir John Stanley to fight in Ireland with William Worthington of Crawshaw, some years after 1386. They were probably part of the entourage of John Stanley who was appointed as Deputy to Robert de Vere, Duke of Ireland in 1386. In 1392, John de Coppull was listed as being a man at arms in the standing army in Ireland, in Sir John Stanley’s company. On the 13th December 1399, John de Coppull and others was ordered to make ready ships and mariners at
the ports of Chester, Liverpool and North Wales, for Sir John Stanley’s expedition to Ireland to take up his second term of office as Lieutenant of Ireland (which he held between 1399 and 1401). A couple of days later on the 15th, he and Sir John were made attorneys of Sir Thomas Nevill, Lord Furnivall. In 1400 Sir John Stanley made John de Coppull his attorney to collect taxes in Ireland, suggesting he spent some time there in Stanley’s service. His near neighbour from home, Ralph de Standish was escheator (tax collector) in Ireland at a very similar time and in February 1400, Ralph de Standish appointed John de Coppull and Walter Eure his attorneys in Ireland. At this time the Standishes owed service to the Stanleys, so Ralph could have been in the same entourage as John de Coppull.

An undated document, probably of the fifteenth century, describes how a John of Coppull had five daughters, one who married Adam le Taillour, Elyn who married one Clayton, one who married one Norris, and one who married one Heskin. The fate of the fifth daughter is not mentioned. The document says that Adam le Taillour was given Perburn as his wife’s dowry and Clayton was given lands which became known as Claytonlands. Adam le Taillour, son of Robert Taillour of Lathom, and his wife Joan were granted land by John de Coppull in 1289, Adam was granted land in Blainscough by Adam de Blainscough in 1310 and Cecily the widow of Thomas de Perburn granted them land in 1333. In 1360, Hugh le Norreys, (perhaps the son of the “Norris” of the document) the son and heir of Maud daughter of John de Coppull brought a suit against Henry de Coppull. In 1366 the chaplain of Hugh of Worthington quitclaimed land in Coppull called “Claytonland”.

Just as John de Coppull had given lands as his daughters’ dowries, so the de Coppulls received lands either as their wives’ dowries or through their wives’ inheritance. Emma the wife of John brought with her three messuages in Eccleston and Heskin before 1388. Around 1400, William de Coppull was engaged to be married to Alice, the daughter of William Bredkirk. Alice was the heiress of Wiliam Bredkirk, and through her the de Coppulls inherited land in the following north Lancashire townships: Newton, Freckleton, Kirkham, Wesham, Ellywyck, and Warton. William de Bredkirk was a coroner of Lancashire in the 1370s and 1380s and therefore a man of some local importance. William de Coppull’s son, another William, married Isabel and she had a claim on lands in Parbold in 1447. In 1446 Isabel was granted a messuage in Wrightington and Welsh Whittle and rent of 20d by Katherine the widow of Robert Wrightington. This was the dower of Katherine Wrightington who required that Isabel pay her 10s yearly for the grant.
The de Coppulls were resident Lords and lived in Coppull. They were sometimes referred to as, for instance "John de Coppull de Coppull", but were never described as de Coppull de another place. They may have lived at Coppull Hall. By the early 1700s this was referred to as "the manor house", but almost certainly the same building and land had been described merely as a “messuage and tenement”, the standard legal phrase for a dwelling and land in 1674. The tithe map of Coppull shows what appears to be the remains of a moat at the north west corner of the Hall. Both Blainscough and Chisnall Halls were moated during the medieval period. Many moated sites in Lancashire date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, which was the period during which the de Coppulls became Lords of the Manor and, almost certainly, transformed Coppull from a part of the Worthington manor, into a manor in its own right. They may well have built a home as part of this process and a moat may have given some defensive benefits, may have added status or it may have had value as a fishpond to provide easily available fresh food for the household. Many of the de Coppull deeds were witnessed “apud Coppull”, at Coppull, and the hall would almost certainly have been the place in Coppull where this took place. It would also have been the place where the manor court would have been held.

A deed of 1340 refers to Roger son of Roger of th e Halle of Coppull. Roger does not appear to be a de Coppull, but in 1332 the subsidy shows that Roger de Chisenhale paid 3s tax. A genealogy of the de Chisnalls shows that there was a Roger referenced in a deed of 1333 and he was the son of Roger de Chisnall. This suggests that the de Chisnalls had built a residence of sufficient status to be described as a hall by this time. Much later maps show that, at some point in its history, Chisnall Hall too was a moated site.

Certainly there may sometimes have been need for protection. In 1315 the Banastre rebellion saw widespread looting in parts of South Lancashire, with some of the de Coppull’s neighbours as perpetrators, notably Adam le Taillour of Coppull. A second spate of violence in 1322, once again, involved Adam and also John de Perburn (almost certainly tenant of Burscough Priory), both of Coppull. In July 1438 over 20 people broke into the house of William de Coppull and stole property to the value of £40. This raid was led by William de Worthington, to whom de Coppull owed £40. The Worthingtons brought their wives and sons on the raid, and other men who perhaps provided the persuasive muscle to de Coppull's servants. The de Coppulls were not alone in risking lawlessness: in 1434 William de Worthington himself had been the victim of “harme, shame and velany” perpetrated by Robert Gerrard of Ince and his brother John, who had to compensate for their actions with a hogshead of red wine or four nobles of gold.

The de Coppulls however were not only the victims of lawlessness, they may well have been the perpetrators. In about 1432, Hugh Huynon, the rector of Eccleston, petitioned the Chancellor of England, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, for protection against the unspecified “malice” of William de Coppull. In 1438, Sir Robert Haryngton mediated in a dispute between William Coppull and the family of John Bradshagh whose death had been blamed on William Coppull. Haryngton required the parties to be “full friends” and required William Coppull to pay 20 marks and secure surety for its payment from his friends. Indeed the cause of the Worthington’s assault on the de Coppulls in 1438 may have been
the result of a long running dispute between the two families. In 1431 William de Coppull was bound in the sum of £40 “to keep to the award of William Chaunterell”.  

Whilst the nature of the dispute was not specified, Chaunterell was an important official in the north west. He was a serjeant at law and a representative of the King in Cheshire in 1436 (as deputy justice and chamberlain of the Exchequer of the Palatine of Chester). He was also a landowner in the north west (owning part of the manor of Dunham Massey) and an associate of the Stanleys. Also in 1436 he arbitrated in a land dispute between contending parties in Sussex, and it may well be that he performed a similar role in a dispute between the Worthingtons and the Coppulls. Chaunterell’s impartiality has to be questioned however as he stood alongside William Coppull and Sir John Stanley as parties to a land dispute in Wigan in 1433.

William de Coppull himself mediated in a dispute alongside William Norreys in 1450, the disputants being Richard Whittington and Roger Halton.

Whilst John de Coppull visited Westminster to plead his case in 1322, and Thomas de Coppull witnessed documents in Preston in 1343 and 1351, most of the evidence suggests that the de Coppull’s influence and significance was local. They witnessed documents in neighbouring townships and others in South Lancashire throughout the fourteenth century. They served on juries for the Leyland Hundred on a number of occasions, suggesting that they would be well known by other gentry families in central Lancashire and that they were sufficiently well regarded to serve in cases which had been commissioned by the King. In 1242-3, the King, suspicious of the low level of scutage (a feudal tax) being paid, sent a writ to the Sheriff of Lancashire and a jury of eleven was convened, which included John de Coppull. The parson of Wigan, Robert de Clyderou was accused of publicly supporting the Earl of Lancaster’s rebellion against Edward II in 1322, and John de Coppull was one of thirteen members of the Jury convened to try him in 1323. He served on another jury in Wigan in 1323, and stood surety for John de Croft and his neighbour John de Chisnall at about the same time. In 1326 he served as a juror at the inquisition post mortem of no less a person than Thomas Earl of Lancaster.

Thomas de Coppull, younger brother of the lord of the manor but a prolific grantor and recipient of land grants, stood surety for John de Wadder in 1337. Wadder had promised to build a new horse mill in Kirkham for the Abbot of Vale Royal Abbey.

Townships where de Coppulls witnessed deeds, 13th and 14th centuries
The de Coppulls would have attended church at Standish. Evidence in an eighteenth century court case asserted in regard to the owners of Coppull Hall “all the seats belonging to the said family either for themselves as owners or proprietors, their tenants or servants have since the erection of the said parish church of Standish been fixed and placed at the upper end of the north aisle of the said church”. 93

As Lord of the Manor of Coppull, John III de Coppull owned a manor in one of the wealthiest vills in the Leyland Hundred. In 1332 Coppull cum Worthington was assessed to pay tax of 27s, the second highest assessment in the Hundred, second only to Longton which was assessed to pay 29s. If we assume that tax assessment corresponds with wealth, then the 10 landowners of Coppull and Worthington were amongst the wealthiest in the Hundred, assessed on average at 32d each (i.e. 2s 8d). Only the five taxpayers of Rufford had a higher assessment at 49d (i.e. 4s 1d) each. 94

In 1461, William de Coppull sold the manor of Coppull, together with other lands, to Sir Thomas Stanley. 95 It is unclear why he sold the manor and other lands to the Stanleys, but a bond had been acknowledged in Westminster in January 1456, whereby John Coppull stood indebted to Thomas Stanley for 500 marks. 96 The same month, John granted the lands inherited by his mother Alice from her father William de Bredkirk, to Thomas Stanley. 97 The year following the sale of the manor, William de Coppull, son of William, was bounden to Thomas Stanley for 1,000 marks (£666). 98 Whilst this may have been the result of a cash debt (i.e. William may have borrowed a thousand marks, or a lesser sum, from Thomas Stanley) it may also have been a bond to perform an undertaking. Such an undertaking may have been to renounce any claims he may have had in his father's former estate in the manor of Coppull and other lands in Lancashire. Sir Thomas Stanley was an ambitious man who's father had been created a lord and a knight during the 1450s. Sir Thomas went on to marry Lady Margaret Beaufort, the mother of the future Henry VII. He prospered during the Wars of the Roses and is said to have found the crown of Richard III at Bosworth Field and placed it on the head of Henry Tudor.

The de Coppulls held the lordship for at least 250 years, longer than any other family, yet we know little about how they managed the manor. Like later lords, they would have held courts which would have overseen the use of the commons lands and the transfer of landholdings when the holder of a tenancy died, but no records survive of these courts. They would probably have arranged for their mill to be operated and fees taken for the grinding of their tenants’ corn. There is no direct reference to serfs or slaves on their manor, but they would have been familiar with serfdom: in 1326 John de Coppull was a member of the jury at the inquisition following the death of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, who owned 58 serfs in Everton, Crosby and Wavertree. 99 Closer to home, in 1376, a serf in Charnock Richard, granted land which had probably been inherited by his wife. 100 Even later, in 1423, both John and William de Coppull witnessed the grant of a former serf from Hulme of land in Glazebrook. 101

Whilst there is no direct evidence of serfdom on the manor of Coppull, other feudal service was a feature of life there. In the mid 13th century, John son of Richard de Coppull granted land to Thomas Tonstall in return for his homage and service. The precise nature of the service was unspecified. Included in the grant was the homage and service of John de Perburn, whose service required the annual payment of 12d. 102 In 1310, William de Worthington and John son of Richard de Coppull gave land in Worthington and Blainscough to Henry son of John Nightingale, for his homage and service. 103 During the mid 14th century, Alice Bolton gave land in Worthington and Coppull to Thomas de Coppull, who was the brother of the lord of the manor, John IV de Coppull. The grant included the homage and service of the following: William the son of John Bibby, of William the son and heir of Richard de Middelshagh, of John son of Thomas de Ugnall, and of Richard the son of Hugh de Duxbury. 104

As noted above, a typical prerogative of the lord of a manor was multure – the fee for grinding corn in the manor’s mill. In the case of Coppull, whilst there was certainly one or more mills referred to as “Coppull Mill”, it may not originally have been the property of the lords of the manor. In 1238, Burscough...
Priory rented land given them by Richard de Coppull to two brothers, but specifically excluded “the site of a mill and the water necessary for it”. In about the 1280s, Hugh, the lord of Wrightington granted land to his brother Adam and included multure in the mill of Coppull. In 1306 Henry del Burgh granted a moiety of a mill in the vill of Coppull to John de Coppull and in 1322 Alice the widow of William of Worthington granted to her son William the moiety of the water mill of Coppull. Henry del Burgh was the son of William de Worthington (and perhaps Alice), suggesting that the mill was originally owned (perhaps in its entirety) by the Worthingtons prior to their granting the manor of Coppull to the de Coppulls. In 1349, the mill of William del Burgh was described as being in Duxbury. In 1399, John de Coppull granted to Robert del Burgh the right to make an attachment to the mill pool, so that he could “turn the waters of the Yaroo”, on payment of six marks. This continued to be a source of income for lords of the manor for generations: in 1529, Richard Longtre paid 20d per annum for a licence to attach the milldam in Coppull. A deed of William son of William Coppull from the 1460s refers to Coppull Mill, suggesting that by then the lords of the manor may have acquired the mill in its entirety. A mid 14th century deed refers to Coppull mill and also to various land boundaries in Coppull, including “le Milnegate”, which would translate as “the Mill Street”. Birkacre mill was specifically mentioned in 1334. Between 1443 and 1448 there were disputes regarding the mill between William de Coppull and the representatives of James Standish of Arley who was the heir of Robert del Burgh.

There are references to a number of “de Coppulls” outside Coppull. In the great Poll Tax of 1379, there were two Agnes de Coppull, a Robert de Coppull, and a Henry de Coppull mentioned, all living within the vill of Bold in the hundred of West Derby. In 1391 Agnes de Cophull held land of the lord of Bold (between Warrington and Prescot). John of Cophull of Dalton (near Shevington, to the north of Wigan) was witness to a deed in 1404. Robert of Cophull of Walton (most probably Walton near Stockton Heath on the outskirts of Warrington) witnessed at least thirteen deeds between 1415 and 1455 around Wigan and Lathom, most of which either related to the del Mersshe family of Wigan or included one of the de Burscough family as a co-witness. He could possibly be the illegitimate son of John III de Cophull with Emma Risserasse. James Cophull, or James of Cophull is mentioned in five deeds in a single year – 1455, all of them relating to the del Mersshe family and their property in Wigan. It is highly likely that James was related to Robert and there may therefore have been a de Cophull family, undoubtedly descendents of the de Cophulls of Coppull living in south east Lancashire in the late fourteenth and deep into the fifteenth centuries. Another possibility is that James was the illegitimate son of William I de Cophull, named in a settlement of 1430.

It is also unclear what happened to the de Cophull family. At the time of the sale there were a number of male descendents of the elder William de Cophull: in 1459 there were three surviving sons, William, Richard and John, and William the younger had a son Gilbert. Prior to the sale of the manor, there was a family of Coppulls in Dalton and other parts of South West Lancashire. Robert of Coppull of Dalton was mentioned in 1445, and other Coppulls and later Copples were mentioned into the nineteenth century. A century later, in 1553, a William Coppull had dealings with the Earl of Derby. In 1500, Roger Dalton and Elizabeth his wife granted a number of messuages in Longton, perhaps as part of a marriage contract. One of them was in the occupation of William Coppull and his mother Emma. No Coppulls or de Coppulls appear in the parish registers of Standish, which began in 1560. The Coppulls retained some connection with the village and are mentioned in the manorial accounts (“compoti”) a few of which survive for the late 15th and early 16th centuries. The de Coppulls listed are: Richard the son of William, in 1483, Robert Coppull in 1508, John Coppull, chaplain, in 1524 and 1528, and Geoffrey Coppull, also chaplain, in 1529. It is unclear precisely why they are mentioned but they may have been in receipt of some sort of allowance arising from the sale of the manor in 1461. In 1523 there was an inquisition held at Chorley following the death of Thomas, Earl of Derby. The inquisition related to the lands he held in the manor of Coppull, and the jury found that an annual charge of 40s was payable out of the manor to “Sir Geoffrey Coppull chaplain and his oratory”.

19
One member of the family, from the time following the sale of the manor, stands out as being exceptionally well documented. Ralph Coppull was the plaintiff in a law suit in 1503 relating to the detention of deeds for land in Leyland which he claimed belonged to him. In about 1533, he was a witness at a divorce case in Yorkshire. In 1595 a court case between the Gardner and Dicconson families, called to determine the proper ownerships of land which Rauff had once held, said that he was the son of James Coppull. Whilst Rauff was described as being "of Coppull", it was unclear whether or not he was "of Coppull Hall". He had three daughters who were his co-heirs and therefore at his death, his branch of the Coppull family died out. A full family tree of his descendants is attached amongst the family trees.

Whilst there is no direct evidence of a family connection, the name “Coppull” was an unusual one and not shared by many families. As early as 1470, a William Copull was recorded as the vicar of St Peter’s in Ridlington in Norfolk, a post in which he served until 1476. In 1468, the Vatican issued a faculty to the Bishop of Ely to make Henry Cophull, a clerk, a public notary. In 1503, Robert Coppull became the vicar of Nasing (perhaps Mountnessing in Essex) and held the post until resigning in 1516 and being succeeded by Geoffrey Coppull. In 1516 Robert Coppull became the rector of St Peters Church in Rockland, Norfolk, a post he held until 1523 when he became the domestic chaplain to the Bishop of St Asaph. In 1522, Sir Geffrey Coppull, priest, vicar of Mountnessing in Essex and chantry priest of Our Blessed Lady in Wigan was involved in a case where the title to a messuage in Westhoughton was contested. The same year, he was called to give evidence at a commission of enquiry into the ownership of £20 of mercery ware. In 1528 John Coppull was appointed by the prior and convent of Castleacre to be the vicar of the Church of All Saints in East Barsham in Norfolk, a role he filled until his death in 1538. In 1557 John Copple was the vicar of Newbold upon Haven in Warwickshire and on his death left a series of bequests to, amongst others, the children of his brother Robert. It is therefore possible that the descendants of the de Coppulls became priests before the reformation. On the 15th April 1575, Blanch Coppull was buried in St Lawrence’s Church in Chorley.

3.2 The Gentry Families
The taxation return of 1332 gives a good insight into the gentry and principal families of Coppull. Of the ten names listed, probably only one lived in Worthington, with the other nine living in Coppull. The taxation return in summarised in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tax</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William de Worthington</td>
<td>3s</td>
<td>Lord of the Manor of Worthington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Coppull</td>
<td>3s</td>
<td>Lord of the Manor of Coppull. Father in law of Adam le Taillour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Chisnall</td>
<td>4s</td>
<td>Owner of Chisnall. Presented for extortion in 1315.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Derbyshire</td>
<td>4s</td>
<td>Owned land in Wigan and Preston. Stood surety for Adam le Taillour in 1315.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger de Chisnall</td>
<td>3s</td>
<td>Granted land to Sir Henry de Waleys in 1336.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adam le Taillour</td>
<td>1s 4d</td>
<td>Married Joan, daughter of John de Coppull. Presented for extortion in 1315. Described as “of Perburn” in 1323 when his son John was accused of killing Hugh del Lone of Ashton in Wigan, John was a clerk and was claimed by Roger de Cliderhou.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William son of Robert</td>
<td>4s</td>
<td>William son of Robert de Worthington witnessed deed in 1352.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert de Prescott</td>
<td>2s</td>
<td>William son of Adam de Blainscough quitclaimed him land in 1349.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas de Ugnall</td>
<td>1s 4d</td>
<td>Made agreement with William Smith in 1317.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Fairweder</td>
<td>1s 4d</td>
<td>Granted his lands in Coppull and Worthington to his son Hugh and daughter in law Agnes in 1343.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Abstract of Exchequer Lay Subsidy of Worthington and Coppull, 1332.
During the course of the de Coppull lordship, there were two other important estates within the vill of Coppull, Chisnall and Blainscough, and whilst these were not manors the families owning them would have been of considerable importance in the village and their relationships with the de Coppulls is worth some consideration. Turning first to the Chisnalls, it is likely that the de Coppulls sold them the land which eventually became the core of the Chisnall estate: a manuscript family tree constructed using deeds which are now lost says that “Jordan fitz Roger purchased Chisnall from Worthington and Coppall”. In about 1220, Thomas de Coppull granted three acres of land to Jordan fitz Roger between Blainscough Brook and Pecclesnap. In about 1230, Thomas de Coppull granted land and part of the boundary was “as far as the boundary of Chisenal”, suggesting that Chisnall had become a recognised estate by this date. The first dateable reference to the Chisnall family occurs in 1282, when “John de Chysenale and Robert of the same place” are listed as witnesses to a deed involving land in Heath Charnock. The Chisnall estate was not confined to the boundaries of Coppull: in 1292, Ralph de Catterall claimed the sixth part of a tenement in Wrightington of John de Chisnall. In 1308, John de Chisnall was the guardian of Thomas, the son and heir of William de Sutton. On the 5th May 1315 John de Coppull was in Wigan in the same room as John and Robert de Chisnall, witnessing a deed. In about 1323 John de Coppull acted as a surety for John de Chisnall, perhaps because de Chisnall had been a tax assessor and “permitted the clerks to take by extortion … a large sum of money to the use of those assessors up to the amount of ten marks from the wapentake of [West] Derbyshire. One of the wayward assessors may have been Thomas de Chisnall, perhaps a relative of John. In the subsidy of 1332, John de Coppull paid 3s whereas John de Chisnall paid 4s and a Roger Chisnall paid 3s. In 1347 Roger de Chisnall was named as a conspirator in a case whereby Henry de Trafford tried to deprive Ralph de Hyde and his wife Aline of lands in Urmston. In 1352 Robert the son of Roger de Bulhag was plaintiff in a case against Sir Thomas de Lathom and Roger de Chisnall respecting lands in Anglezarke. There may have been connection by marriage between the Chisnalls and the Coppulls. In 1388 Richard de Worthington was plaintiff in a case against John de Chisnall and his wife Matilda regarding land in Heskin and Eccleston. The judgement was for de Worthington who transferred the land to the Chisnalls, and after the death of Matilda, to John de Coppull and his wife Emma, and specifically to the heirs of Emma. In the same year, land in Eccleston and Heskin was settled on John de Coppull by his wife Emma. In the event of John having no children, the land was to go to the heirs of Maud (i.e. Matilda) and her husband John de Chisnall. It is possible that the wives of John de Coppull and John de Chisnall were sisters (or otherwise related). The Chisnalls may from a relatively early date have created links with London. In 1373, John Chisnall, a clerk, was involved in the donation of land in Acton, Middlesex, to the priory of St Bartholomew’s in Smithfield, London.

During the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, the de Chisnalls were active in a range of offices in both the Church and state, as shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert de Chisnall</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>1315</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Chisenale</td>
<td>Tax assessor</td>
<td>1316</td>
<td>Accused of extortion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Chisenale</td>
<td>Clerk and parson of Barton le Street</td>
<td>1322</td>
<td>Petitions for relief of predecessor’s debts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Chisenale</td>
<td>Parson of Winwick</td>
<td>1329</td>
<td>Falsely acquired the chapel of St Margaret’s in Cowling following the fall of the Earl of Lancaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Chisenale</td>
<td>Keeper of victuals at Carlisle</td>
<td>1337</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas de Chisenhale</td>
<td>Of Wiltshire</td>
<td>1337</td>
<td>Debtor for £40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas de Chisenhale</td>
<td>Sheriff of Hampshire</td>
<td>1343</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas de Chisenhale</td>
<td>Merchant of Hampshire</td>
<td>1349</td>
<td>Debtor for £50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas de Chisenhale</td>
<td>Escheator in Bucks, and Beds.</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>Outlawed for trespass and extortion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurstan de Chishill</td>
<td>Draper and citizen of London</td>
<td>1364</td>
<td>Debtor for £40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Chysenhalle</td>
<td>Constable of Farnham Castle</td>
<td>1380</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Chysenhalle</td>
<td></td>
<td>1385</td>
<td>(with others) quitclaimed the manor of Catteshall in Surrey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Offices and Places of Residence of de Chisnalls, 1315-1385**

In 1388 William de Chisnall and his wife Katherine sold the manor Gilson in Coleshill in Warwickshire to John de Barwe a smith of Coventry. Katherine had inherited the manor from her father William of Sirscote, Staffordshire. Their daughter Elizabeth had married Gilbert the son of William de Hurleton before 1396.

There is a tradition that one of the Chisnalls fought at Agincourt: “Sir Rowland de Standish, who brought home the relics of St Laurence from Normandy to Chorley James de Standish, and John de Chisenal, fought with Henry V at Agincourt, upon St Crispin’s Day, 1415, each with six footmen behind him”. In 1421 John, the son of William Chisnall, served in France with James Standish.

Around the 1430s Eleanor Chisnall of Chisnall married Nicholas de Hurleton.

![Effigy of Maud de Chisnall, St Wilfrid’s Church, Standish](image)

Effigy of Maud de Chisnall, St Wilfrid’s Church, Standish

At the start of the de Coppull lordship, the Blainscough estate was held by the de Blainscoughs. In about 1215, Thomas de Worthington granted some of his land in Blainscough to Richard son of Orm de Blainscough, suggesting that the Blainscough estate was in existence as an entity by the time that the de Coppulls became lords of the manor, and also suggesting that, like both the manor of Coppull and the Chisnall estate, the Blainscough estate was originally owned, at least in part, by the
Worthingtons of Worthington. In about 1280, John de Coppull conveyed lands to Robert de Blainscough. In 1290 Adam, the son of William de Blainscough released lands to John de Coppull, describing him as “my lord”. [WHAT IS THE DATE OF THE LAST REFERENCE TO THE DE BLAINSCOUGHS? DID THEY PAY TAX IN 1327?] By 1329, the de Blainscoughs had acquired burgage in Wigan by marriage: Henry son of Adam de Blainscough had acquired it through the inheritance of Cecilia thw wife of Robert de Blainscough. He granted it to Robert the son of John de Derbyshire. By about the 1340s, the de Worthingtons had become owners of the Blainscough estate, probably as the result of the marriage of the daughter and heiress of Adam de Blainscough to a younger brother of the Worthingtons of Worthington. In 1350, Thomas de Coppull, a younger brother of John, lord of the manor, gave all his lands to Thomas son of William Worthington. Both the Chisnall and Blainscough estates were therefore probably granted, like the manor of Coppull, by the Worthingtons.

Curiously, the last of the de Blainscoughs, or his father, may have been the ancestor of a family which lived in the village for another 300 years. In 1347, the last of the de Blainscoughs was “Adam son of Mirre de Blainscough”. In 1337, he had been described as “Adam Mirreson de Coppull”.

The Ugnalls were prominent in the history of Coppull from the early fourteenth century. Henry de Ugnall was in the village in 1302 when Ellen de Torbock claimed common of pasture against him, Wiliam son of Thomas de Worthington and John de Coppull. That he was named alongside the lord of the manor of Coppull and the heir to the Worthington lordship suggests his high social status at this early time. Thomas de Ugnall paid 16d in the subsidy (tax) of 1332. They were also landowners. In 1367 Robert of Neubald quit-claimed his interest in lands he held from John of Ugnall for 24 years.

3.3 The Economy of Coppull

During the time of the de Coppull lordship, the economy of Coppull was based on agriculture. As well as feeding the families who worked the land, agricultural surpluses fed the Lords of the Manor, supported a variety of institutions of the Church and contributed to financing the state.

The Lords extracted surpluses through rents from their tenants and from a variety of feudal dues. In the traditional model of the feudal economy, serfs owed labour services to the Lord of the Manor in return for the right to farm a piece of land. There is no evidence that labour services were a feature of the
economy during the de Coppull lordship, but if they had ever been, they had been converted to cash (i.e. rent) payments by the middle of the thirteenth century. In about 1230, Thomas de Coppull granted land to Alexander son of John, requiring that he pay 3s per annum to his son Richard. In the mid 1200s, William de Worthington gave six acres of land to Roger son of Richard Banester, requiring the payment of 12d at each of the festivals of the Annunciation and the Assumption. At about the same time, John de Coppull granted part of his land to Adam de Worthington who was to pay him 9d at Christmas and at the feast of the Assumption. In 1290 Adam son of William Blainscough released back to John de Coppull lands formerly held of him “with the homage and service of Robert son of Hugh son of Andrew as it is customarily made viz by service of 12d of silver per annum”. In describing Robert as “son of Hugh son of Andrew” the implication is that Robert occupies a more lowly place in the social hierarchy than both Adam and John who are named after, respectively, a hamlet and a manor. Robert may have been the son of Hugh son of Andrew Hulelehe who leased land from the priory of Burscough fifty years before.

There were serious restrictions in law on the hunting of animals. In 1284 Henry de Lea secured a royal charter which gave him the right of free warren in Charnock, i.e. he was given the right to hunt certain animals in his manor. The right of warren is often associated with rabbits and hares but could include other animals. Whilst there is no explicit reference to hunting in the vill of Coppull during the period, a prominent landowner hunted in Worthington and quit probably in Coppull too. In 1336 Roger de Chisnall granted meadowland in Worthington to Sir Henry de Waleys, the rector of Standish noting “if it should happen the aforesaid Roger or his heirs should make any damage by his chase or the rechase of his friends in the said meadow the said Sir Henry or John shall be satisfied in herbage or hay by the view of honest men”. That is if Roger or his friends damage what is growing in Sir Henry’s meadow while they are hunting, then they will compensate him for the loss.

In the mid thirteenth century Richard de Charnock granted land to his brother but excepted his bees and honey from the grant.

The Lords of the Manor also extracted income by levying a series of charges for conceding rights to resources to their tenants and to others. The level of charges and the resources which were liable to charges varied from manor to manor. In Coppull, the Lords charged for the right of pannage the right of pigs to eat (usually fallen acorns) in the woods of the manor. In the early thirteenth century, Richard son of Thomas de Coppull gave the Priory of Burscough “quittance of pannage” (i.e. the right not to pay for the right of pannage) for twenty four pigs in “all the underwoods except the heys”. Later in the century, John the son of the aforementioned Richard, gave the right of pannage to Thomas de Tonstall, in the woods of Coppull but specifically excluded Coppullhirst. At around the same time John granted land to Adam son of Ranulph and Amerie his wife, and conceded the right “pannage for his pigs in the woods of Coppull except Coppullhirst”. Coppullhirst may have been excluded because it was part of the Lord’s personal estate – the demesne of the manor. In 1812 there was an eight acre piece of land very close to Coppull Hall called the Hurst.
In some manors the manor court extracted cash from tenants who were required to pay for a variety of life events such as the right to marry and the right to take over a landholding from a deceased relative. Some manorial courts also levied fines on villagers who for instance had not maintained a ditch or the part of the highway for which they had responsibility. We have no evidence that this was a feature of the de Coppull lordship, although the Stanleys and the Pearsons held manor courts in Coppull and levied fines. In the north some of these feudal rights may not have been lucrative. For the manor of Bolton in 1287 for instance, “the pleas and perquisites of the court were worthless, on account of the poverty of the tenants”.

The right to graze cattle was an important one and was called agistment in the medieval period. In the 1270s, John de Coppull granted to Thomas de Tonstal land including the right of agistment in Coppull. In the mid thirteenth century, Richard de Charnock granted land in Chorley to his son “with pasture for forty beasts, and three mares, twenty sheep and twelve goats, with all their young of one year”. At about the same time Robert son of Jordan de Sonki granted to Henry de Torbock land including “6ac. of land in Cophul with common of pasture there”. In the thirteenth century land was sometimes measured in “bovates” which translates as “oxgangs”, strongly suggesting that the land was worked by oxen. The grant of land to Burscough Priory included “fou oxgangs of land appertaining to the waters of the Perburn”. Later in the thirteenth century, John Whithond gave to William son of John de Blainscough land in Coppull which included an oxgang of land.

Common of pasture was perhaps a right which was associated with particular pieces of land or even were inheritable rights rather than always being the result of a grant from the lord of the manor. In 1281, Geoffrey Aguillon and Alan de Walkingham, two officers of the King, were instructed to take the assize of novel disseisn arraigned by Roger de Chisnall against John son of Richard de Coppull and others touching on common of pasture. At the same time an arraignment has been made by John FitzJohn against William de Worthington also touching on common of pasture. Also in 1281, John son of John de Chisnall had arraigned Richard le Botimer and others regarding common of pasture in Wrightington, where the Chisnalls probably held land. In 1343 Henry Fairweder granted to his son Hugh and daughter in law Agnes all his land in Coppull and Worthington, including “common of pasture … below that land and above and especially with sufficient turbary in all the common mosses of Coppull and Worthington …. As I and my ancestors held”.

The right to cut turf was called turbary. William de Worthington granted the right of turbary to Henry son of John Nightingale in Worthington in 1310. In 1337 John de Coppull senior gave Adam Mirreson of Coppull turbary in the vills of Worthington and Coppull and land sufficient for a messuage in the vill of
Coppull.  In 1343 Henry Fayreweder granted to his son and daughter in law land and “especially with sufficient turbary in all the common mosses of Coppull and Worthington.”

One of the most important rights of the Lord of the Manor was the right to collect multure, the fee for grinding corn in the Lord’s mill. There are a great many references to mills in the medieval period in many of the neighbouring townships. The mill may have generated perhaps a third of the cash income from the manor in the medieval period. There was at least one mill functioning in Coppull in the early years of the de Coppull lordship. In about 1220 Thomas de Coppull granted to Jordan son of Roger “an attachment of the milldam near Blainscough”. When Burscough Priory leased land to the Hulelehe brothers it granted “common rights and appurtenances except the site of a mill and the water necessary for it”, the implication being that a mill existed. Hugh lord of Worthington granted to his brother Adam “multure in the mill of Coppull” towards the end of the thirteenth century.

In 1306 Henry del Burgh granted to John de Copull a half share of “a mill and all the mill places between Ogenalebroke and the boundary of William Quytehau[Whitehead] with the pool and attachment of a moiety of the Yarrow upon that part of Coppul in the ville of Chorley, and Coppul in Worthington”. This suggests that either the de Coppulls were diversifying their economic interests by supplementing their income with the proceeds of a second mill, or perhaps that they were making this mill the ne manorial mill, perhaps because the old mill was no longer fit for purpose. There was a mill at Birkacre by 1334 and this would have been the mill which John de Coppull received a half share. In 1398, John de Coppull gave permission to Henry de Burgh to make an attachment and a pond for his mill on the Yarrow. The fact that attachments were being made to rivers and milldams and millponds created demonstrates that significant investment in engineering works was taking place during the medieval period and also that economics had a significant impact on the landscape. The following year, 1399, John de Coppull granted a licence to Robert del Burgh to “raise and make a attachment to his mill pool so that Robert may turn the course of the water of Yaroo whenever it seems best, that is to say, to and over all the lands etc which were William of Hvithonds [Whitehead] in the vill of Coppull, which lands the said John recently boug[t] of John of Chamock.

Coppull mill was a water mill. This is explicit in 1322 when Alice the widow of William of Worthington quit-claimed to William her son “a moiety of the water mill of Coppull”. A few miles from Coppull, in Wrightington, there was a windmill in 1332.

The Church extracted surpluses through tithes and also directly from building up landholdings given by the pious and renting these out. In this respect they operated in the same way as the Lord of the Manor or any other landowner.

Holding land sometimes required significant time or cash investment. In 1238 Hugh and Adam the sons of Andrew of Hulelehe rented land from the priory of Burscough in the south of the village. As well as paying 3s annual rent for the twelve years of the lease, they were required to build “ within 3 years a competent house of 30 feet without aisles, the principal material being oak, and shall repair and maintain the barn there and cultivate all the land which is cultivable. At the end of the term both land and buildings revert to the priory.” Thirteenth century land grants also refer to many dikes or ditches. The grants of land to Burscough Priory mentioned the “old ditch of Caldecotes” and “the ancient ditch as far as Perburn”. These ditches were probably often used as land boundaries; a deed of 1399 from Chorley relates to a “dispute concerning the possession of and repairs to a ditch between their lands at Chorley”. Whilst the lands in the Burscough Priory grant adjoined at least one “ancient ditch”, new ditches were being created in the medieval period, perhaps reflecting either the subdivision of small estates within the manor or possibly changes in land use. William son of Thomas de Worthington granted land to Thomas son of Robert de Tunle in about 1240 around Blainscough and the grant referred to a boundary “following that broc to a new ditch”.

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In the thirteenth century there was a process of assarting – of cutting into the woods and converting woodland into farming land. In the early thirteenth century, Siward de Duxbury granted land at Burgh which adjoined “Abram’s assart”. Sometimes the scale of assarting could be considerable. In 1206 Ralph de Standish agreed the division of the manor and retained sixteen acres of assarted land on the south side of Standish church. Also in the early thirteenth century, Richard de Charnock granted land to Adam de Duxbury in Chorley which specifically excluded Richard’s assarts. Towards the end of the thirteenth century, Richard de Culmley granted land to his son in Chorley which adjoined “Robert’s assart”.

The beginning of the fourteenth century saw even more significant investment in the land in the form of land reclamation. Whilst there are no specific references to this happening in Coppull, it certainly happened in neighbouring townships. In 1313 in Charnock “one acre of the newly reclaimed lands” was granted. In 1326 “it is agreed that the lands in Charnock Richard reclaimed from the waste in the time of Henry de Lee” was granted, suggesting that the reclamation had taken place at some time in the past. Henry de Lea was lord of the Manor of Charnock Richard in the 1280s and in 1284 secured the royal charter which established Charnock’s weekly market. The reclamation could involve a significant amount of land and also appears to have continued after the arrival of the Black Death in 1348 when the population shrank considerably and some manors ceased to exist because of the lack of labour or willing tenants. In 1379 “seven acres and a half of his land newly reclaimed in Chorley” was granted.

The de Coppulls did grant land which was part of the wasteland of Coppull and the intention here may have been that the new tenants improved the land. In the early thirteenth century, Thomas de Coppull granted land in Coppull which included part of the waste. In the late thirteenth century, John de Coppull granted to John Nightingale all that waste which was feoffed by John which was feoffed by William de Worthington in the hamlet of Blainscough which lies neighbouring the land of John Nightingale. As the land granted adjoined John’s current landholding the intention may have been that John consolidated his holding and improved the land taken in from the waste. In 1292, John de Coppull gave to Richard le Taillour “a parcel of land formerly of my waste in the hamlet of Coppull in the vill of Worthington” and also “a part of my waste nearly to the Mershe recently held by John Whithond”. The suggestion from this grant may be that the first parcel of land may already have been improved.

There is very little evidence of craft production in Coppull during the medieval period, suggesting the importance of local trade. At the beginning of the fourteenth century, William de Worthington and John de Coppul granted to Gilbert son of Sep the Smith “A certain part of our waste lands in the territory of Worthington for building a certain smithy”. He was only required to pay a single silver penny in rent suggesting that the lords of the two manors were eager to have a blacksmith nearby. A century and a half later, As previously noted, John de Coppull had an interest in Henry del Burgh’s fulling mill in 1399. John Hawkeshead of Coppull was one of a gang who attacked the house of William Coppull. He was described as a “walker”. Walking was the process of fulling, of preparing woollen cloth by cleaning it and then stretching it. The presence of a fuller suggests a local woollen textile production industry on at least a part time basis.

The earliest surviving deeds from the early thirteenth century require tenants to make cash payments to the Lords of the Manor and to others, demonstrating that at least a part of the economy was cash based. One way of turning agricultural produce into cash was by selling surplus in a market. During the course of the thirteenth century there was a movement to establish formal markets throughout Lancashire. A market was held in Preston on Wednesdays and this was probably established in 1179. In 1251 a Monday market was granted by charter at Bolton, a competing Monday market was chartered at Wigan a few years later in 1258 and in 1284 a Friday market was chartered next door to Coppull in Charnock Richard. There was also a Tuesday market at Chorley in existence by 1498.
although the date when it was chartered is unknown. Coins from the early fourteenth century have been found by metal detectorists in the village.

Some of the inhabitants of the village had close links with these towns. Before 1329 Henry the son of Adam de Blainscough had inherited a burgage in Wigan from a relative. He granted it to Robert the son of John de Derbyshire. John de Derbyshire was himself a resident of Coppull, and was granted lands in Preston in 1335 and 1348 by respectively Thomas son of John Starky of Preston and Alexander de Prestwych. John de Derbyshire had given to his daughter Cecily land in Leyland y 1332. Thomas de Coppull, brother of the lord of the manor, witnessed a deed at Preston, in the company of the Mayor of the town a few days after the time of the August Fair in 1343.

As well as the weekly cycle of markets, a series of fairs was also accessible to the inhabitants of medieval Coppull. These typically lasted between three days or a week so may have enabled people to come from further afield and stay over in town during the course of the fair and likewise, those inhabitants of Coppull may have travelled further to attend fairs. Most of the local fairs took place during the summer, although Wigan was granted an Ascension Day fair (40 days after Easter) in 1258 and also an All Saints Day fair (1 November) in the same year. The St Margaret’s Fair at Bolton started the summer fair season, being held between the 19th and 21st July. Charnock Richard and Chorley held rival fairs during the three days of the Feast of St Nicholas 9th to 11th August. People could of course have attended both fairs with ease. They could also have travelled a few miles up the road to attend the fair at Preston which started on the 15th August and lasted for a whole week. All these fairs were chartered by the end of the thirteenth century.

For taxation purposes Coppull and Worthington were assessed together. A variety of taxes were levied during the medieval period. If the 1332 tax was representative then Coppull paid almost all the assessed tax. Of the ten people listed in the assessment, probably nine lived in Coppull and only one, William de Worthington, the lord of the manor of Worthington, lived outside Coppull. In total 27 shillings were levied in the two manors, and inhabitants of Coppull probably contributed 24 shillings or almost 90% of the assessment. John de Coppull was assessed to pay 3 shillings. Putting this into context, while cash rents are not usually specified in Coppull leases of the period, in 1290 John de Coppull had land released to him at Blainscough and this was worth a single shilling a year. Three shillings therefore perhaps represented a year’s income from three landholdings.

During the de Coppull Lordship, some families who lived outside the manor held land in the village. In 1370, Henry the son of Richard of Torbock, presumably the Lord of the Manor of the same name in the hundred of West Derby, granted 46 acres of land in the manor of Coppull, probably as part of a marriage agreement.

3.4 Faith in Coppull
At the start of the de Coppull lordship, Coppull was one of the vills making up the parish of Standish. In its turn, Standish was one of the parishes making up the archdeaconry of Chester, which included
South Lancashire and Cheshire. Chester was one of the five archdeaconries which made up the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, which in its turn owed obedience to the Archbishopric of Canterbury.

The spiritual life of the village would have focused on the Church of St Wilfrid’s at Standish. St Wilfrid was a Northumbrian noble who entered the Church in the seventh century and became a staunch advocate of Roman ways in opposition to the native church. His saint day was celebrated on the 24th April and the 12th October.

The medieval church was organised as follows. The rector was the person who had the right to the tithes due to a particular church. The rector may or may not have been the parish priest and a rector may have had the right to the tithes of multiple churches. If a rector was not the priest of a church, it was his duty to appoint a vicar in his place to conduct services. The vicar was typically paid a salary by the rector. The right to appoint a rector (i.e. to decide who had the financial benefit of the tithes) was called the advowson.

At the opening of the thirteenth century the Langtrees and Standishes were in dispute about the ownership of the advowson. In 1219 Richard de Langtree, lord of the manor of Langtree claimed the right to appoint against Ralph de Standish, lord of Standish. 239 The dispute was resolved after 1300 however as the rectors from this date until the Reformation of the mid sixteenth century were made by the lords of Standish.

The rector of Standish did not necessarily act as parish priest. The first known rector Alexander had appointed as his vicar a clerk named Leising, and on the death of the latter around 1219, simply appointed another one. 240 The Victoria County History published in 1908 primly states “It may be noted that several of the earliest whose names are known had sons”. 241

The parishioners also looked outside the immediate parish to receive spiritual rewards. Cokersand Abbey was founded in the 1180s. It was at Cockerham, besides the sea, a few miles south of Lancaster and it was founded by the de Lancasters although the charismatic William the Hermit was also influential in raising money for its construction and became its first Abbot. 242 The original canons were from a house of the Praemonstratarian order in Leicester, and it is perhaps through this connection that Roger de Leicester gave away four acres of his wife Alice’s dowry in Welch Whittle to the Abbey around 1200. 243 Siward de Langtree and his son Richard both gave land to Cokersand Abbey before the 1220s. 244 The abbey also had land in Shevington, Heath Charnock and Worthington. The land at Heath Charnock had been given by Randle Gogard for the souls of his mother and his wife Edith. The bounds were marked by the canons’ crosses, suggesting that land owned by religious orders had crosses as boundary markers. 245 The Abbey was about 30 miles north of Standish.

The de Coppulls looked closer to home to find a religious house to support. Burscough Priory was founded in about 1190 by Robert, son of Henry the lord of Lathom and Knowsley. The property invested by the founder was considerable: land in Burscough, the whole of the township of Marton, the advowsons of Ormskirk, Huyton and Flixton churches, the chapel of St Leonard of Knowsley and all the mills on his demesne. 246 In the middle of the thirteenth century, Richard son of Thomas de Coppull granted lands in the south of the village abutting the Perburn Brook to the Priory. 247 The Priory was about eleven miles west of Coppull.
There were opportunities to fund religious endowments closer to home: in Standish Church itself. In 1328, the rector of Standish, Henry le Waleys, found a chantry at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church. He left land in Standish and Langtree to support the chantry and gave the right to nominate the chantry priest to Richard le Waleys, or in the event of their default the lord of Standish or the Prior of Burscough. The purpose of the chantry was to fund a priest to say masses for the soul of the founder and therefore reduce the amount of time his soul spent in Purgatory after his death.

Henry probably also intended the chantry priest to act as a vicar in his absence. Richard le Waleys was probably lord of the manor of Aughton, the church of which Henry had been rector in 1292 to 1303, presumably holding two churches as he became rector of Standish in 1301. The founding of the chantry was of interest to some of the leading inhabitants of Coppull. When Henry made his request, an inquest was held and a jury empanelled. The first named juror was John de Coppull, the lord of the manor, and two other jurors from Coppull were Adam de Perburn and John de Chisenal, junior. The jury found that “it would not be to the king’s loss or prejudice, if he gives licence to Henry son of John de Waleis, chaplain, to give and assign two messuages, 60a of land in Standish and Longtre, to a chaplain to celebrate divine service daily for the soul of Henry and the souls of his father, mother and ancestors and all the faithful departed, at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the parish church of St Wilfrid in Standish.”

A century and a half later the rector of the time Dr Alexander Fairclough founded a chantry at the altar of St Nicholas (to whom the church at Burscough Priory was dedicated). The chaplain was to celebrate a daily mass for the souls of the rector and his relatives and to maintain the service in quire every holy day. Fairclough funded the chantry by endowing it with lands in Rivington, Whittle, Adlington and Heath Charnock.

Some of the wealthier inhabitants could look even closer to home to manifest their faith. An oratory was in essence the right to have mass said outside the parish church or a subordinate chapel. In 1370 Joan de Anderton obtained a licence for an Oratory at Anderton. In 1378 Hugh de Standish secured a similar licence for two Oratories: one at Duxbury where he was lord of the manor (check) and one at Bradley (why there?). Thomas son of William de Worthington was granted a licence for an oratory at Blainscough in 1388, the first documented religious endowment in Coppull.

Chaplains played an important role in some land transactions during the period. They played two different roles. The first was as trustees in marriage agreements. They would receive a grant of land, typically from the father of the bride as a dowry, or from a groom as potential dower, and would complete the transaction when either the marriage was consummated, in the case of a dowry, or when the husband died, in the case of dower. In 1368, Gilbert de Standish, the parson of the church of Standish, acted as a dower-trustee. John the son of John de Coppull was contracted to marry Emma the daughter of John son of Robert of Heskin. He transferred the right to the rent of this land to John son of John de Coppull on the feast of John the Baptist, suggesting that the marriage took place. Gilbert was unusual in that this role was normally performed by chaplains rather than a rector. The fact that Gilbert acted in this capacity was perhaps a reflection of the status of the de Heskins and the de Coppulls. In the 1380s, there were a complex series of transactions involving Thomas de Huyton, the parson of the church of Huyton, Richard de Smalshagh and Richard de Staynoff both chaplains.

The other role was to act as a scribe for a document, typically a charter recording the transfer of land. The chaplain or “clerk” would typically be listed as the final witness on the charter. Thomas Wen acted
in this capacity when John the son of Richard de Coppull quitclaimed his rights to John Nightingale in the late thirteenth century, and William the clerk did the same when Henry del Burgh gave land in Coppull to William de Milegref. 257

The veneration of relics was a feature of medieval religious practice. After 1442 villagers would have been able to venture close to home to see the relics of a saint. James Standish presented relics purported to be those of St Lawrence to the chapel at Chorley. The vicar of Croston, in whose parish Chorley lay, wrote a certificate that he had received the relics which had been brought by Sir Rowland and his wife (variously named Joan or Jane) from Normandy. The fact of their having been brought from Normandy during the hundred years’ war suggests they were booty seized during the wars. James asked that prayers be said for ever in the Church for Sir Rowland and his wife, their predecessors and successors. 258

The Church may also have made its mark in more tangible ways which would have been in front of the eyes of the villagers on a daily basis. There is evidence that land owned by the Church may have been marked by boundary crosses. The grant of land to Burscough Priory by Richard de Coppull included the following boundaries: “up Blacklache northwards to a cross in the old ditch of Coldcotes, along the ditch to a cross in the high road of Watling Street, along this high road to a cross on the Perburn over against the course of the great spring of Langtree, and so down the thread of Perburn water to another cross and the said Blacklache”. 259 This grant mentions four separate crosses, the suggestion being that these were placed at right angles to the boundary of the land granted. The site of such a stone cross was recorded into Victorian times. Because of its location – close to Bogburn Hall, and Hic Bibi brook, which was formerly known as Perburn brook, this may well be the site of one of the boundary crosses mentioned in the grant.
The map extract also shows evidence for what might have been popular religious practice not directly sanctioned by the Church. In the late thirteenth century, Hugh, Lord of Worthington granted land to his brother and the grant mentioned "St Helen’s Well". The map above shows the presence of a well at Hic Bibi which was probably originally on or at the entrance of the land owned by Burscough Priory, and perhaps therefore more liable to be regarded as in some way sacred. Local tradition had the well named by Oliver Cromwell. Other local tradition has it as one of only three holy wells in the Leyland Hundred. Another local tradition, noting that the well is on the alignment of the Roman Road, has a Roman soldier drinking from the well and exclaiming “Hic Bibi!” or “Drink here!”.  

There is a possibility that a chapel existed in Coppull during the period although the evidence is very scanty. In 1650, the Church Commissioners surveyed Lancashire and reported on Churches and Chapels and on their recommendations for the future. In regard to Coppull they noted “wee present that there hath formerly beene an ancient Chappell within Coppull aforesaid, neare unto a place called the Cow mosse”.  

3.5 Population and Society

In 1430, a close of James Shagh was attacked by eight men, five of them with the surname Wasteley. Three of the men were yeomen from Salford and Moston, near Manchester, one from Chorley, three from Duxbury and one, Hugh Haydock, was from Coppull. They were accused of entering into James Shagh’s close and cutting down trees. The fact that five of the eight have the same surname and travelled some distance, suggests a family grievance, perhaps a debt owed by James Shagh, or a more long-running family feud.

Part 4: The Stanleys. Earls of Derby

4.1 The Lords of the Manor

The Stanleys had an interest of sorts in Coppull as early as 1426, when John de Stanley along with others, granted land in various places including Coppull, to Roger de Charnock and John de Ashton. They had already acquired some land in Coppull in 1434 and 1438. In 1461, Sir Thomas appointed Hugh Assheton to take possession of the manor of Coppull from William de Coppoll. This would probably have involved an archaic ceremony called the “delivery of seisin” where a piece of earth from the manor lands, or a key or a similarly symbolic object would be ceremonially given in person by the seller, William de Coppoll, to the buyer or, as in this case, the buyer’s agent, Hugh Assheton. Even after acquiring the manor, the Stanleys extended their landholding in Coppull, buying the lands of Robert Nightingale in Leyland, Preston and Coppoll in 1467.
The Stanleys did well out of the Wars of the Roses, partly by changing sides. The family was granted the office of Master Forrester of Macclesfield, Mara and Mordren by Edward IV in 1462. In 1484 they were given at least 14 manors and other lands by Richard III. They were created Earls of Derby by the new king Henry VIII in 1485 after abandoning Richard’s side to join the Tudor cause.

The manor of Coppull was temporarily alienated from the main line of the Stanleys. On the 5th December 1506, the Thomas Earl of Derby granted a life interest in the manor of Coppull to his uncle, Sir Edward Stanley, Lord Monteagle and Elizabeth his wife.
The Earls of Derby held the manor of Coppull alongside dozens of other manors and landholdings, primarily as an investment and to confer status. In 1521, when Earl Thomas died, he was found to hold 29 manors as well as at least 8,000 acres of land. In 1522 the income from the Earl’s estates was over £3,400 and the Derbys had been the biggest landowners in Lancashire for almost a generation. Coppull was a tiny piece in the property portfolio that brought them wealth and political power. In 1549 for instance, the income from the manor of Coppull was just over £22, little more than half of one per cent of their annual income. They almost certainly took no interest in the manor and administered it through bailiffs.

Coppull’s water mill was rented by the Derbys. In 1490 Lawrence Hislecock was tenant and in 1529 Richard Longtre was granted a licence to attach the milldam in Coppull.

At the time of the reformation, many of the local gentry were resolutely opposed to the religious changes. Edward Standish, Lord of the Manor of Standish between 1532 and 1610 had inherited the advowson of the Church of Standish and of the three chantries. He was notoriously opposed to the reformation but skilfully avoided prosecution and fining for a refusal to attend services of the reformed Church of England.

The Earls administered their lands through a series of rent collectors and bailiffs, overseen, by the mid 16th century at least, by a Collector General who operated from Lathom, the principal house of the Earls in Lancashire. John Slater (or Slater) was the Earls’ rent collector between at least 1483 and 1490. Robert Dicconson was collector between at least 1505 and 1508. Robert Ugnall was both Bailiff of the manor and rent collector between 1524 and 1547. It is likely that the office of Bailiff of the manor of Coppull didn’t exist before 1508. The bailiff of Coppull appears to have been responsible for collecting the rents for some minor Derby holdings in the locality in, for example, Heskin, Rivington and Anglezark. The Ugnalls were a long established family in the village, having lived there since at least the 1330s, when Thomas de Uggenhalle paid tax.

In 1558, the Earl of Derby appointed Alexander Rigby as his new bailiff in recognition of “the goodde and ffaitheffull service whiche my welbeloved servante Alexander Rigby haith done”. Bailiffs on the Stanley estates received salaries. The largest and most demanding estates such as Lathom paid a salary of £10 in the sixteenth century, whereas the smaller ones such as Rainford, Meriden and Upton paid smaller salaries of only £1 per annum. Alexander Rigby expressed his gratitude to the Stanleys in his will written in 1587, saying “I give to my Right Honourable my Lord and Master Henry Erle of Derby £20, and to the Right Hon the Lord Strange his son £10, beseeching them to stand and be good Lordes to my said sons and heirs.”

Coppull Hall and the demesne farm was probably rented out during the Derby lordship. In 1529 John Dicconson ented the “capital messuage” of Coppull (i.e. Coppull Hall) and other lands, paying £6 per year. Robert Dicconson, perhaps an ancestor of John, was the rent collector of the Manor between 1505 and 1508 (and perhaps other years). In the sixteenth century Thurstan Standish married Margaret who was daughter of “Dicconson of the Hall of Coppull”. Their grandson, another Thurstan, was living at Burgh in 1613.
Ferdinando Stanley became lord of the manor in September 1593 and died in April 1594. After his death there was an inheritance dispute between his younger brother William, who inherited the title of Earl of Derby, and his daughters, who inherited much of Ferdinando’s lands. During this time Edward Rigby was highly supportive of the Earl and along with Thomas Ireland entered into bonds with Sir Nicholas Mosley with a surety of 2,000 marks (i.e. about £1,320) on behalf of the Earl. One of the consequences of the dispute was that William became heavily indebted, both because of the costs of the legal fees and because of the financial settlements he had to make on the other heirs to the Stanley estates. He had to sell some of the lands he eventually inherited and, whilst the Earl’s initial strategy was to sell lands outside the Stanley heartlands in Lancashire, eventually the manor of Coppull was sold for this reason. It was very temporarily sold to Baptist Hicks, an extremely wealthy London merchant who went on to become even wealthier, partly because of his services to the Stuart court and few years later, services which culminated in his being knighted in the early years of James I reign.

The record of one of the manor courts of Coppull survives from the lordship of the Stanleys, held on the 24th January 1597, by Edward Rigby who was obviously playing the role of steward of the manor. The court had a jury of fourteen men. The court appointed the following officers of the Manor: Barleymen (2) who administered the byelaws of the Court, Pinders (4) who impounded animals roaming the highways, Mossreeves (2) who oversaw the villagers rights of turbary – the digging of peat and sods from the Manor’s waste, Miselayers (4) who assessed and oversaw the collection of rates and taxes and Afferatores or Affearors (4) who acted as moderators and collectors of the fines an amercements imposed as the result of the work of the court. The table below shows the offences for which villagers were presented. In addition to these offences, the court recorded debts owed and in 1597, fifteen of these were recorded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Number of presentments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broke the soils and waste</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digged sods</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosed the commons and waste</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fished a pit</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn’t maintain highway or ditch</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kept an inmate</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drew blood</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>52</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Presentments to the Manor Court, January 1597*

The manor court therefore had as its primary focus the safeguarding of the rights of the Lord and the management of the resources of the manor, specifically regulating access to the commons and waste and preventing the illicit taking of turves, gorse and fish contrary to the manor’s various rules. The court also involved itself in ensuring the proper maintenance of ditches and sections of the highway. The medieval documents suggest that ditches were an important feature as boundaries and the court records suggest their importance for drainage. The court presentments show there was an assumption
that villagers would have some responsibilities to maintain the highway adjoining their lands. The keeping of “inmates” was perhaps regulated to minimise potential claims for poor relief; the problems of providing for the poor were to culminate in an Act of Parliament in 1601 which became known as the Old Poor Law. At the time of the 1597 court, parish overseers would have been responsible for collecting a rate and providing for the poor. The court also regulated relations between villagers which had passed a certain “line”. The drawing of blood during an argument or “tussel” was one such line, and Margaret Brown crossed this line when she called Joan Banks a “hoore”.

4.2 The Gentry Families
The Stanleys would have been far removed in social status from the Chisnalls and the Worthingtons of Blainscough but on the 7th May 1587 the Earl of Derby “began house” and a number of people attended him including “Mr Chisnall” to hear Mr Leigh the rector of Standish preach. In 1525, John Chisnall held land in Coppull, partly of the Earl of Derby. In 1529, John Chisnall (the son) had financial responsibilities to the Derbys and presented his account to them at Lathom House. In 1547 Thomas Chisnall was named as renting land from the Derbys. In 1544 and 1559 he acquired land in Upholland. In 1566 he was involved in a dispute against Richard Mawdesley and Robert and Isabella Cowper regarding land in Wrightington and Coppull. In 1568 John Chisnall bought burgages in Lancaster from William Skillicorne and his wife Jane. These seem to have been inherited by Richard Chisnall. In 1571, Edward Chisnall, the son of Thomas, married Margaret the daughter of Nicholas Worthington of Shevington and as a result acquired the manor of Shevington. By the end of the sixteenth century the Chisnalls, like other prominent Coppull families, had started to set up branches of the family in London, increasingly the place to be to acquire wealth and power. In 1568 Alexander Chisnall had consigned 25 pieces of broad worsted “russels” aboard the Jesus of London, which was bound for Antwerp. They were valued at £25. In the same year he consigned 28 pieces of broad worsted together with 3 bales of Ulm fustian, together valued at £73, aboard the Primrose of Lee bound also for Antwerp.

In 1560 Richard Chisnall was a lawyer of Grays Inn. He is recorded being there in 1566, 1573 and as late as 1596, often dealing with Lancashire-related land deals. In 1558, along with Alexander Chisnall and Hugh Hindley a merchant tailor of London he lent money on mortgage to Thurstane and Hugh Tildesley of Woodley against lands in Great Lever. The mortgage was to be paid off on the “fount stone” in St Paul’s Cathedral. In 1566, Christopher Anderton gentleman of Lostock, quitclaimed to Richard the “manors of Darcy Lever, Lever and Great Lever, with all appurtenances”. Richard’s brother Oliver was granted manors and lands at Darcy Lever in 1562. A further quitclaim for the same property was made the same year by Edward Jackman and Richard Lambert, both aldermen of London and by Richard Carrell a merchant of London. In 1570 there was an inquiry instigated by Christopher Anderton into, amongst other things, the conveyance of the manor of Darcy Lever to Richard Chisnall and others. In 1573 Christopher Anderton conveyed lands in Ulverston and the surrounding area to Richard. Richard however took to the law to secure these lands from Christopher Anderton in 1580. Richard’s association with Anderton continued and in 1580 he was an arbitrator in a dispute involving Anderton and his wife Dorothy regarding the lease of a half share of the rectory of Cartmel. He died at Chisnall on the 3rd May 1587 holding half the manor of Little Lever together with other land there and in Bolton, Hindley, Rivington, Lostock, Lancaster, Heath Charnock, Preston and Furness as well as Chisnall’s Buildings in Holborn near Gray’s Inn. In 1596, another Richard Chisnall agreed to cancel a bond payable by William Sherrington, a London
haberdasher, and Gilbert Sherrington, a fellow lawyer of Grays Inn. Confirming his Lancashire connections, the bond had been payable at Wigan church. 314

John Chisnall was probably the head of the Chisnall family and the owner of the estates following the death of his father Thomas in the last few days of 1584, to his own death in 1595 when his brother Edward inherited the estate. John was probably an associate of William Leigh, the parson of Standish, because they acquired land from Roger Bimson of Shevington, a gentleman, in 1592. 315

John’s uncle Richard, the successful London lawyer, died at Chisnall in 1587 and prompted a menacing inheritance dispute which pitted his brother Oliver against his nephews John, Edward and Thomas. Richard died on the 3rd May 1587 and was buried at Standish Church on the 6th May. Richard died at his nephew John’s house (almost certainly Chisnall Hall) and shortly after his death, his brother Oliver came into the house with a large party of supporters and forcefully carried out a chest, the lock of which they broke open to find it contained evidences of title, plate and other valuables. They put the chest on a cart and carried it away to Oliver Chisnall’s house. The altercation surrounding the taking of the chest was obviously an unpleasant one and conducted with an air of malice. John Chisnall testified two months later that he and his brothers wore “but short daggers which they usually were wont to wear, neither did he ... nor any of his party offer any violence to his knowledge for that it would not have availed if they had been of mind for that there were such a great multitude there assembled on his adversary’s part”. Oliver Chisnall had presumably locked the door of Richard’s chamber because John asked his brother along with George Allens and Richard Taylor to “wrest back the staple of the lock of the chamber” and, that having been done, he took Richard’s goods into his own possession and arranged for an inventory of them to be made up. That night, and for two or three nights following, John arranged for a night watch consisting of some of his household servants, tenants and neighbours to stay up to ensure that none of Richard’s cattle, which were grazing around the house, were seized under cover of darkness. 316 The following year Oliver Chisnall lived at Euxton and was described as a gentleman. 317 In 1607 he was a witness to the retrospective marriage agreement of the grandson of William Farrington of Worden and the daughter of a Nottinghamshire gentleman. The agreement came about through the mediation of Edward Rigby who was also one of the witnesses, suggesting that Oliver was in Rigby’s circle of acquaintance. 318

Edward probably inherited the Chisnall estate on the death of his brother John in 1595. In about 1598 he was sold land in Langtree by Nicholas Worthington of Shevington, gentleman. 319 He assigned land in Darcy Lever to Lawrence Fogg, a clothier in 1599. 320 Edward leased the land at Darcy Lever to Robert Lever, a clothier, in 1597. 321 In 1605 Edward conveyed the land which his uncle Richard had bought from Christopher Anderton to Allan Coward of Gorthwaite. 322

There is little to link the Worthingtons to the Stanleys, but in 1497, Peter (Piers) Worthington was associated with Sir Richard Shireburne who was an important member of the Earl of Derby’s household. 323 In 1528, the unnamed son of Richard Worthington was paying rent for land in Coppull called “the Raw Hayes”. [INSERT REF] In 1547 both Peter Worthington and his son Richard were named in the bailiff’s accounts as making payments to the Derbys as Lords of the Manor and therefore must have held land belonging to them in Coppull. 324

The Ugnalls played an increasingly important role in the village during the Stanley Lordship. They were rent collectors of the Manor between XXX and XXX. They were the Stanleys’ bailiffs of the manor of Coppull between circa XXX and XXX. In 1488, John Ugnall gave evidence in a dispute about the right
to title in lands in Chorley between William Chorley and James Parker, suggesting he had the specialist knowledge which might come with being a manorial officer. \(^{325}\) In 1497, Robert Ugnall looked to Peter Worthington of Blainscough and Sir Richard Shereburn as his masters, his brief reference to the Earl of Derby suggesting he was too exalted to notice him. He put property in trust with them for the benefit of his heirs who were presumably under age at the time. \(^{326}\) In 1520 there was a final concord regarding land in Coppull, Chorley and Eccleston. The parties were Roger Ugnall, Andrew Barton, Richard Pilkington, Richard Worthington and Alexander Strete as plaintiffs and Robert Ugnall as deforciant. The result of the case was that Robert acknowledged the tenements to be Andrew’s, and they were granted to Robert for his life and after his death to remain with the male heirs of Roger. \(^{327}\) By 1523 Robert Ugnall entered into a bond with Hugh Wodward of Shevington and Ralph his son to prosecute a lawsuit. Both Robert and Hugh styled themselves “gentleman”, suggesting Robert at least had risen in the world as a servant of the Earls of Derby. \(^{328}\) In about 1558, Robert Ugnall was a plaintiff at the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster against Andrew Ugnall, George Holem and others accusing them of “trespass and disturbance of possession of a messuage or tenement called Old Ugnalls in Coppull.” \(^{329}\)

The Holts were a rising family in the village. They also had a relationship with the Standishes of Standish. In 1597, Edward Holt mentioned in his will “I forgeeeve my younge Master, Mr Alexander Standish foure poundes”. \(^{330}\)

### 4.3 The Economy of Coppull

In 1516, Henry Chernok, esquire, William Chorley senior, and Robert Chernok of Coppull came before Robert Coventre then Mayor of Preston and acknowledged a debt to Henry Faryngton esq, of £200 for merchandise bought from him payable to him at the feast of Pentecost following. \(^{331}\) This demonstrates the scale of trade: the whole tax bill for Coppull in 1540 was only £6 and the annual income from the lord’s rents and other rights to the Manor of Coppull in 1521 was only £30. \(^{332}\) It also demonstrates that business was often conducted as a partnership, sometimes as a family concern. The Statute Merchant obliged traders to register significant transactions and therefore Preston had a role in the regulation of large scale trade by this time. The Wigan Court of King’s Pleas probably regulated trade between inhabitants of Coppull and those of Wigan during the period, especially where there was a dispute regarding the payment of a debt. \(^{333}\)

It was not only the Court of King’s Pleas at Wigan which could rule on debts between people. The Manor Court of Coppull did this. In January 1597, fifteen cases regarding debt were presented to the jury. These were all for relatively small sums, the largest being 39s (in a case brought against William Nightgall in respect of the administration of the will of James Nightgall) and the smallest being 10d (in a case brought by John Stannanought also against William Nightgall. \(^{334}\)

Land remained the basis of the economy. Leases continued to be granted for a relatively modest annual rent, for a period of lives and at a relatively high entry premium. In 1562 for instance, Thomas Worthington of Worthington, leased a messuage in Coppull and Worthington to Christofer Mather of Coppull, for his life and that of his wife. The entry fee was £10 but the annual rent was only 18s 2.5d. Christofer was also required to perform those “boons” which were done in the time of his father Thurstan. A boon was usually a labour service undertaken for the lord, typically at harvest time or shearing. This lease demonstrates the transition from a traditional economy based on labour service to a more modern one based on cash. \(^{335}\)
During the period there was some understanding of ways in which the fertility of the soil could be increased. In 1591 James Garstang of Coppull with others was accused of entering a messuage and a two acre close called “the west end of the marled hey” owned by John Boulton of Worden. This shows that marl was used as a fertiliser during the later period of the Stanley lordship.

Livestock was important during the period. Lawrence Nightgall in 1585 had eight cattle and Edward Holt had seventeen in 1597. Elizabeth, the widow of Oliver Taylor, had two cows when she died in 1593. Both also had a pig and also ducks and geese. Nightgall had sheep. Nightgall had oats, malt and barley in stock and both had corn, although the type was unspecified. Nightgall had 30s growing and Holt had £12 of corn and hay.

Both also had pewter and brass amongst their effects. These were expensive items and were probably either bought from metalworkers in Wigan or from another market serviced by the Wigan metalworkers. Hugh Forth was a Wigan brasier (brass maker) in 1567, Christopher Gardner was a brasier and David Evans a pewterer in 1598 and John Hamson a brasier in 1600. Holt’s stock of brass and pewter was valued at £5 and Nightgall, despite being worth a tiny fraction of Holt, had £4 11s.

Holt and Nightgall also had a range of textile products including coverlets and blankets, cushions, towels as well as clothes.

Whilst there is no evidence of the mining of coal in the village during the Stanley lordship, wood was regarded as a resource. In 1595, Thomas Worthington sold woodland in Blainscough to Thomas Waringe for £120. Thomas Worthington and inherited the estate five years earlier and perhaps needed ready money as the family had started to feel the effects of persecution for their refusal to conform to the religious changes and remained staunch Catholics.

John Johnson of Coppull was named as a linenwebster (weaver) in 1595, showing the presence of textile manufacture in the village by this date.

Edward Holt died in 1597 and described himself as a linendraper. His probate documents show the formidable scale on which his business operated. He lent out flax to people living around Coppull. In Coppull he lent flax to William Slater, Joan Bridd alias Farrer, the wife of Robert Burscow, the wife of Edward Grimshaw and Thomas Standanought. He lent out several stone at a time, with the value of the flax being between 5s 10d and 6s 4d, presumably depending on quality. There were periodic “reckonings” where presumably either Holt paid for the weaving or spinning of the flax, deducting the debt for the flax from the payment he made for the finished product, or perhaps just taking the cash value of the raw flax if the person had independently sold the finished product to the market. It is unclear whether the local workers would spin and weave the raw flax or would undertake just one process. Holt lent out flax primarily to people living in the townships of Adlington, Coppull, Backrod and Shevington (in total 17 people and perhaps 35 stone of flax) although some of the workers lived as far afield as Wigan and Rivington. In total he was owed over £28 for these debts by 34 people at the time of his death, probably having lent out almost 100 stones of flax.

The other main element of his drapery operation was transporting finished cloth to the east Midlands. He was owed money for cloth in the following places: Lutterworth, Wellingborough, Olney, Bedford, St Ives (near Huntingdon), Shepshed and Cambridge. Over £71 was due to him from these trade debts at the time of his death. There were 16 debtors owing an average of £4 10s each.
By far the largest amount of his capital was deployed in making loans to people. He was owed almost £650. Some of the debtors were members of the local gentry such as William Anderton esq (£50), Alexander Rigby of Wigan (£10), Mr Langtree (£7), Alexander Standish (£25), William Norres esq (£105), Roger Glibbrand of Samlesbury gent (£42), John Gillibrand of Chorley, gent (£100), and Reginald Allanson of Adlington, gent (£5 16s).

His personal effects were valued at £113 9s and included six horses valued at £12 and pack saddles and other gear presumably used to collect finished cloth from the local weavers and to transport it for sale to the east Midlands valued at 16s 8d. He also had a stock of flax and cloth valued at £25.

Holt marketed his wares on an extraordinary scale and over considerable distances. The journey from Coppull to Cambridge and back would have been over 400 miles. Market access to most villagers would have been much more modest. The medieval markets would largely have continued although the Charnock Richard market may well have ceased by the time the Stanleys were Lords of the Manor. The antiquary Leland visited Chorley in about 1536 and concluded that it had “a poor or rather no market”. 341

The villagers also supplemented their formal economic activity with what they could take from their environment. This sometimes brought them into conflict with the law – or at least with the steward of the Lord of the Manor. In 1597, Anne Pilkington, Alexander Worsley, Edward Dicconson and James Brown were all fined for digging turf for fuel. James Wigan and Geoffrey Prescott and others were fined for cutting down gorses, perhaps as winter fodder for their livestock. John Nightingale and others were fined for digging pits on the Lord’s waste, perhaps for clay for building materials. Richard Prescott had built a house on the waste. Edward Chisnall had audaciously tried to enclose 30 acres of the common of the Manor and installed his own tenants.

Responsibility for the agricultural infrastructure of the village lay with the villagers who had to maintain the high way adjoining or going through their property. Lawrence Frith had failed to do this in 1597 and was fined for it. Thomas Holliecroft had not controlled one of the water sources in the village and he was fined for allowing this to flow over the highway. Richard Prescott and Edward Holt were fined for not digging their ditches adjoining the highway.

The evidence of the period shows that whereas cash and coin may have been only an occasional feature of village life in the early medieval period, required for the payment of cash rents to the lord of the manor or other landowners, by the time of the Stanley lordship, everything had its price, from the hen wandering around the farmhouse, to the bonds, bills and specialties issued by Edward Holt, which would have been the complex financial instruments of their day. In the dispute regarding the inheritance of Richard Chisnall in 1587, witnesses were asked about their knowledge of any “debt books, obligations, bills of debt, specialties, accounts and acquittances” suggesting that these were reasonably common features of the economic life of the middling sort in the late sixteenth century. 342

4.4 Faith in Coppull
It is possible that there was a chapel in Coppull for at least part of the Stanley lordship. In 1520 Richard Worthington of Blainscough agreed a marriage contract with James Anderton. Worthington reserved the right to bequeath lands in Preston to the annual value of 13s 4d for the use of a priest for ever to say mass in the chapel of Coppull. 343
Sometimes villagers were eager to use their wealth for their spiritual betterment but not always sure how best to do this. In 1497, Robert Ugnall asked Peter Worthington and Sir Richard Shereburn to take 60s from property he left in trust to them for the benefit of his children “to dispose for the health of my soule”. 344

Outside Coppull, Margery the widow of Roger Asshow, evidenced considerable concern for her immortal soul in her will. She left her “best beast” to the Rector of Standish, a cow to the altar of Our Lady at Standish, and to Richard Taleour 2s to celebrate mass for her soul. She also noted that she was in arrears for her share of the tithe of Charnock Richard. 345

Standish Church would have continued to be the focus of the religious life for villagers during the time of the Stanley lordship. The Standishes were patrons of the church throughout the period and for most of the period they selected the rector. Four of the rectors during the Stanley lordship had the surname “Standish”. Around 1500 Thomas Radcliffe who had been rector since 1482, “lost his reason” and in 1506 leased the parsonage to Ralph Standish for £50 a year, with the requirement that Standish found a competent priest to minister in the church and keep the chance in repair. Such was the deterioration in the rector’s condition that in 1516 he was wholly in the keeping of Ralph Standish, by which time the value of the church income was £60 per year. A third chantry was founded in Standish Church about 1520 at the rood altar by James Standish of Arley in Blackrod. It was endowed with lands in Langtree, Worthington and Chorley. 346

In about 1522, on the death of Thomas Radcliffe, Roger Standish was appointed rector by Ralph Standish. In 1535, the next rector of Standish was Henry Standish who, as well as being a relative of the lord of Standish was also Bishop of St Asaph. He was a Fransiscan and had studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He was occasionally resident in Standish but died within the year. He was succeeded by Peter Bradshaw who was also the rector of Eccleston. On his death in 1541, Richard Standish was appointed rector. Richard was a prebendary of St Asaph (a senior cleric with an independent income, typically a younger son of a gentry family), and also held the rectory of Llanefydd and others. He was the last of the Standishes to be rector.

Thomas Thornton served as rector for less than a year in 1552 before dying and being succeeded by William Cliff. Cliffe’s successor in 1559 was Richard Moody who had done a deal with Edward Standish to the effect that if Moody became rector, all the tithe income would be given to Edward Standish, who went on to appoint Moody as rector. Moody had been curate of Standish in 1542 so had a long association with the church and parish. Moody probably presided over the rebuilding of Standish Church, which in 1544 had been described as being “in grete ruyne and decaye” although this was a project which had either begun or was being planned during the incumbency of William Cliff. In 1557, John Dicconson of Coppull left the following bequest “Ffirst I do gaffe to the byldying of my pisshe church as is said xiiis iiijd”. Some work was in progress in the next decade as in 1565 Rector Moody gave a receipt to Thomas, John and Richard Wrightington for their contribution to the building of te church. 347 In 1585 the rebuilding was ongoing and Lawrence Nightgall’s will included this bequest: “I doe geve and bequieth towards the Buildinge of my said paryshe churche of Standyshe ijs”. 348 A formal contract was drawn up in October 1582 whereby Robert Charnock of Astley took “upon himself the charge and oversight of the building and setting up of the church of Standish for an on behalf of the whole parish according to such proportion and time for the mason work as is agreed upon and set

41
down in a pair of indentures ... made betwixt the said Robert Charnock on the one part and Lawrence Shipwale, freemason, upon the other part”.

Moody’s successor in 1586, William Leigh, came from Lancashire and had been educated at Brasenose College Oxford. He had been a tutor to Henry Prince of Wales and chaplain to the Earl of Derby. Curiously given the Earl of Derby’s traditional religious views, Leigh became one of the leading Puritan clergy in Lancashire.

The Act of Suppression of 1536 began the process of the dissolution of the monasteries. Burscough Priory, which had been granted lands by the de Coppulls three centuries earlier, and which had a close association with the Stanleys, had annual income less than £200 and so fell within the scope of the act. Edward, Earl of Derby, negotiated for the purchase of the Priory Church because many of his ancestors were buried there. He failed to agree a price with the Commissioners however and did not eventually buy in. In November of that year though during the disturbances of the Pilgrimage of Grace, a northern resistance to the dissolution of the monasteries and the religious changes introduced by Henry VIII, the Earl urged caution in stripping the lead, melting down the bells and demolishing the buildings as “in this busy world it would cause much murmur.” It took some considerable time for a sale to be agreed but in May 1547 the remains and the land were granted to Sir William Paget.

The dissolution of the monasteries was accompanied by the closing of the chantries. The Chantries Act of 1547 legally sanctioned the break up of the foundations and the sale of the lands which made up the income-generating endowments of the chantries. In 1550, land “late belonging to the Chantry of St Nicholas in Leyland Parish Church” was sold by Edward Pease and James Wilson of London, gentlemen to John Cleyton of Ulneswalton, yeoman. The sale included four messuages including one in Coppull held by Roger Holt. The London sellers appointed William Charnocke and John Charnock, gentlemen as their attornies for the sale.

In 1558, Queen Mary granted to the Master and chaplains of the Hospital of the Savoy in London a number of parcels of land including those which belonged to the Chantry of St Nicholas in Standish. During her brief reign Mary began the process of refounding some religious houses, and her grant to the Savoy was part of this process. Following her death in November 1558, the government of her half sister Elizabeth began to close these re-founded religious houses. In 1561 the Master and chaplains sold these to Christopher Anderton of Thraves Inn in London. The sale was part of an enormous sale of over 30 landholdings and estates formerly belonging to monasteries or chantries in the north of England. In Coppull the estate of Burscough Priory at Perburn was sold, and the tenants at the time were Hugh Haydock who paid 6s rent per annum and James Giller who paid 6d.

The lands of the Chantry of the Rood Altar, founded only thirty years before were sold by the Crown in 1550 to William Place and Nicholas Spakeman. Place, a gentleman, and Spakeman, a haberdasher, were making the most of the opportunities presented by the dissolution of the chantries. In July 1550, they sold eight messuages in Cripplegate, London, which had been used to support a chantry priest. In November of that year, along with John Garnett a Citizen of London, the sold the chantry of Bowden in Cheshire, together with its lands. Those of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St Nicholas were sold in 1583 to Thurstan Anderton.
There was chantry land in Coppull. Lathom Hospital and Chantry near Ormskirk was endowed with land in Coppull in the occupation of the following people: John Langtree, Rauf Baylif, Eleanor Bibby, Roger Gidlowe and the wife of James Browne. 358

The form of words used in wills is often used as a measure of religious change around the reformation. John Dicconson, who probably lived at Coppull Hall, wrote his will in 1557 and it included the following words: “I offer and betake my sowle unto almyteye god trusting thro the merits of christs most precious death and passion hys mercye and grace to have the [illeg] of the blessed trinitie with our ladie saynt Marye and all other the holye companye of heaven and my bodye I do committee to christyn mans burial att my pisshe church affore said on our lady channcell [?] there”. 359 The issue of the significance of the merits of Christ’s death as a contentious one during the reformation but the reference to “our ladies saynt Marye and all the other holye companye of heaven” suggests evidence of traditional pre-Reformation faith in the value of the intercession of saints and of Mary the mother of Christ. Dicconson wrote his will during the reign of Queen Mary during which there was a temporary restoration of traditional faith and so his statement of faith would almost certainly have been regarded as orthodox at the time it was written.

Elizabeth Taylor wrote her will in 1593 which included the following statement of faith: “First and principally I give and commend my soul into the hands of almighty god my maker and redeemer trusting by the merits of his only blessed death and resurrection to have free forgiveness and remission of all my sins committed and to be partaker of his heavenly kingdom amongst his angels and elected”. 360

Plans for the rebuilding of Standish church were laid before the writing of John Dicconson’s will in 1557 because in his will he left the following bequest “Ffirst I do gaffe to the byldying of my pisshe church as is said xiiis iiijd”. In 1585 the rebuilding was ongoing and Lawrence Nightgall’s will included this bequest: “I doe geve and bequeth towards the Buildinge of my said paryshe churche of Standyshe ijs”. 361

Resistance to the religious changes of the sixteenth century in Lancashire was considerable. The Earl of Derby and his household were singled out by zealous Protestants. Edward Fleetwood, the zealous Puritan rector of Wigan, installed by the Queen in 1571 and dying in 1604, was active in denouncing Catholics and others unsympathetic to the religious changes. He wrote in 1587 to Lord Burghley about ‘the notorious backwardness of the whole company’ of the Earl of Derby in religion. He singled out the following gentleman servants of the Earl: ‘Halsall is a lawyer, presented these last sessions as a recusant in some degree. Farington is as cunning as he: not anything sounder in religion, though much more subtle to avoid the public note than he. Rigby is as cunning and unsound as either, and as grossly to be detected therein as Halsall. All three of them as busy contrivers of dangerous devices against the peace of the ministry and free course of the Gospel and direct proceeding of justice, in all common opinion, as any that ever bore authority among us.’ 362 The Rigby mentioned would have been either Alexander Rigby who died in the year Fleetwood wrote the letter, or his son Edward who went on to be the first Rigby Lord of the Manor.

Fleetwood’s accusation is unusual because Henry, Earl of Derby, surrounded himself with Puritan clerics. One Christmas between 1587 and 1590, over the course of fourteen days, no fewer than seven sermons were preached to the Earl who was in residence at Lathom House for the festive period. The preachers were “Mr Vicker of Ratchedaile”, that is Richard Midgeley, a zealous Protestant, William
Leigh the rector of Standish, “one of the leading Puritan clergy in Lancashire”, Mr Phillips, Oliver Carter a Puritan cleric of the Collegiate Church at Manchester and the first preacher of the “exercises” described below, Edward Fleetwood himself, the protestant rector of Wigan who had complained about the religious sympathies of the Earl of Derby and his entourage, John Caldwell who had been installed as rector of Winwick by the Earl of Derby and served there between 1577 and 1597, he was “one of the earl’s chaplains and a favourite preacher”, and Chadderton the Bishop of Chester, a zealous Puritan who had been installed as Bishop by Queen Elizabeth to help resist the Catholicism of Manchester. Chadderton and the Earl of Derby were commissioned by the Queen to ensure the success of the Reformation in the north west and both temporarily moved to Manchester to do this, suppressing pipers and minstrels playing on the Sabbath, and fulminating against “superstitious ringings, wakes and common fairs”. Chadderton also established a system of keeping a close eye on his clergy, called the “exercises”. He summoned them to Manchester on the second Thursday of every month to listen to sermons from clergy he had selected in the morning and to be on hand in the afternoon to enable him or others to test their orthodoxy.

The Derby’s support for Protestant preachers was not limited to Christmas. In the first week of May 1587, the Derbys were in residence at Lathom and William Leigh preached. In attendance was “Mr Chisnall and many others”, suggesting that the gentry of the Derby’s estates were welcomed to his household and required to listen to the preaching of the Protestant clergy favoured by Earl Henry.

Resistance also came from within the village. The determination of the Worthingtons of Blainscough to resist the religious changes is very well documented. In 1578 Thomas Worthington, the son of Peter, the head of the family, returned to England after being educated at Brasenose College (1566-70), Oxford and then the Catholic seminary at Douai (from February 1573). Douai was the centre for the education of English Catholic clergy who were tasked with making the Catholic gentry and aristocracy hold strong to their faith and to convert or reconvert others back to what they saw as “the True Faith”. It had been founded by Cardinal Allen in 1568. Allen was from Rossall in Lancashire and Thomas Worthington was very close to him. Worthington’s nephew, another Thomas, married Allen’s niece. The Worthingtons had briefly conformed with the religious changes on the accession of Elizabeth, and Thomas returned home to persuade his father to flee to the continent where he could practise his faith. After a brief return to Reims and Rome, he returned to England in January 1580. In February 1584, while he was in the process of taking his four nephews to Reims, they were captured at Great Sankey near Warrington. Thomas was captured at the house of Thomas Wood in Islington and imprisoned in the Tower in July 1584. He was confined in “the pit” for over two months. Along with 20 other priests he was banished from England in 1585 and sent to Normandy. Three of the nephews made it to Reims in 1584, but because of the harsh treatment they had received whilst prisoners, Robert and Richard died in 1586. After teaching scripture at Reims for two years, Thomas became chaplain to Sir William Stanley’s Irish regiment in January 1587, after Stanley turned traitor. He became vice-president and procurator of Reims in January 1589 but returned to his role as chaplain of Stanley’s regiment in July 1591. He settled at Douai where he became president of the college in July 1599.
Thomas Worthington, originally of Blainscough, with others “as they use to sit at Counsell in England to further the Catholicke cause”.

The accounts of the experience and the sufferings of the Worthingtons have largely come from Catholic sources. They neglect to mention that Douay and later Reims and the circle that surrounded Cardinal Allen was involved in at least two plots to depose or kill Queen Elizabeth and to replace her with Mary Queen of Scots. The first was the Throckmorton Plot in 1583, shortly before Worthington’s capture in Islington. Given Worthington’s close association with Allen, suspicion of him and his role in England is unsurprising. The second was the Babington Plot of 1586, which led to the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots.

He was not the only Worthington to suffer for his faith during the Stanley lordship. In 1700, Thomas Worthington wrote of his great grandfather’s travails: My great grandfather Richard Worthington about the 22nd of Elizabeth 1580 was by the Earl of Derby with other Roman Catholic gentlemen only for their religion sent to Lancaster to prison where after remaining there some years it pleased God he died there. 366

Throughout the period there was a close relationship between faith and education and for the sons of the wealthier villagers there were a number of options. There had been a school at Standish in the early sixteenth century, probably held by one of the chantry priests of St Wilfred’s Church. William Thompson, rector of Ashton-under-Lyne, in 1553 bequeathed ‘to Sir Peter Bower, my schoolmaster at Standish, 40s. and one of my jackets, and a doublet’. 367

4.5 Population and Society
The parish of Standish experienced a mortality crisis between 1578 and 1580, when the number of burials exceeded the number of baptisms. In 1578 the number of baptisms fell to 28 from 40 in the previous year. In 1579 they increased slightly to 31. Burials increased from 32 in 1577 to 49 in the following two years. In 1580 there were an extremely high number of baptisms, 51, compared to the pre-crisis average of about 43. For burials too there was a significant increase to 58, compared to the pre-crisis average of 32. In 1584 there was a “rebound” in the number of baptisms which increased to an unprecedented 73. This was an exceptionally high number of baptisms and this level was reached in only four other years before 1700. There was another crisis in 1588 when there were 55 baptisms and 58 burials.
5.1 The Lords of the Manor

Baptiste Hick’s ownership of the manor was shortlived and it is likely that he was in effect lending money to William Stanley, secured on the manor. In the same year Hicks bought the manor he sold it to Edward Rigby, the son of the man appointed by the Earl of Derby to be the bailiff of the manor of Coppull. 368 Edward Rigby also acquired the manor of Chorley in 1596, paying £900, and in 1602 along with John and Thomas Ireland, he acquired land in Preston and Hutton for £219 10s. 369 A son of an entrepreneurial Coppull family, Alexander Prescott, by now a goldsmith in London, acquired lands in Kew in London for £30 in 1602. Indeed, it may have been Alexander Prescott’s considerable wealth which allowed Edward Rigby to either acquire his new estates, or to help his master to ready money: by 1602, Edward Rigby owed Alexander Prescott £2,000. 370

The Rigbys held the manor of Coppull for over a century. They continued to serve the Earls of Derby after their land acquisition. Edward Rigby was commissioned by the Countess of Derby in 1614 to undertake a mission to the Isle of Man to impose new and more lucrative leases on her tenants there. 371

They were not resident in the village and lived between their estate at Burgh (in Duxbury, adjoining the village of Coppull) and following the Civil War, in Layton in north Lancashire. In 1649 Alexander Rigby was described as “of Burgh” but from 1651 onwards he granted leases as “Alexander Burgh of Layton”. They fought for the royalist cause during the Civil War during which Edward the heir was killed during a battle in Bolton. 372 Their lands were sequestered during the Commonwealth, but they paid a fine of £381 3s 4d so did not permanently lose their Lordship of Coppull and they continued to grant leases in Coppull during the 1650s. 373

For at least part of the period however, the Rigby’s had a gentleman servant in the village. In 1619 Marmaduke Banester, 26 years old, was resident. 374 By 1631 Banester lived at the Burgh and was described as a yeoman. The Burgh was then the principal residence of the Rigbys, prior to their relocation to Layton after the Civil War. By 1634 Banester was once again living, or at least, writing from Coppull, seeking the return of moneys owed him, partly in respect of payments made on behalf of others to his masters the Rigbys. 375 He died in 1646. 376 It is not clear if Banester participated in the administration of the Manor. In 1631, Thomas Worthington, a shoemaker was Bailiff of the Manor and a resident of Coppull. 377 The Prescotts were also clients of the Rigbys. In 1620, Geoffrey Prescott aged 42, described Edward Rigby as his master, and related how he paid John Fielden the schoolmaster of Standish on behalf of Edward Rigby, and that his father had done likewise before him. 378

An eighteenth century deposition made during a court case asserted that “the ancestors of Sir Alexander Rigby ... were the first owners or proprietors of the said mansion hall called Coppull Hall”. 379 This is of course wrong as theDiccons were tenants of the hall for much of the sixteenth century, prior to the Rigby’s purchase of the manor. By 1681 Dorothy, the sister of Alexander Rigby, was living at Coppull Hall. 380 It had been occupied by Dorothy’s husband Edward Dicconson for at least 40 years and the Dicconsons had been tenants perhaps prior to the Rigby lordship: Jane Dicconson, a widow, died there in March 1604. 381 Even earlier, sometime in the sixteenth century Margaret Dicconson of the Hall of Coppull married Thurstan Standish. 382 Robert Dicconson was the Earl of Derby’s rent collector in Coppull in the early 16th century, and in 1529 John Dicconson was mentioned in connection
with “the capital messuage of Coppull”, almost certainly Coppull Hall, and was perhaps its tenant at the time. 383 in 1631 John Dicconson of Coppull was described as a “gentleman” and was perhaps then the resident of Coppull Hall. 384 This John Dicconson was described as being the owner of thee estates called Bentum Hillock, Brownhouse and Heskins. His initials and the date 1625 were carved into his pew at Standish Church. Edward Dicconson was his son, and an attorney and married Dorothy Dicconson, the sister of Alexander Rigby. Some years after Edward’s death she went on to marry William Cowper. 385 The tenant who succeeded her at the Hall was called Locker. 386

In about 1655, Alexander Rigby gave land on which the new chapel was built, Edward Chisnall having previously offered land on his estate at Chisnall, but this was deemed to be in an inconvenient location for the potential congregation. 387

The Rigbys increasingly tried to maximise the benefits generated by their Lordship of Coppull during the course of their tenure. The early Rigby leases refer only to rent payments, and an entry fee when landholdings were let. By the 1620s they had become aware of the mineral and other wealth of their lands and imposed a standard condition that their servants could enter the premises at any time to dig for coals or stones or cut down timber. By the 1650s they introduced a further requirement that their tenants had to grind their corn at the Lord’s mill at Birkacre: this was a hark back to a very traditional medieval privilege of manorial lords. This also makes it clear the location of the Rigby’s mill. Whereas it is unclear where the mill of the de Coppulls was, the Rigby’s mill was obviously at Birkacre, perhaps the original Coppull Mill had fallen into disuse, or perhaps it was cheaper for the Rigbys to maintain a single mill for their manors of Coppull and Chorley. Whilst there is no explicit evidence that they exploited Coppull’s coal resources although they were certainly aware of them and others in the village were digging for coal.

The Rigby’s prospered, despite having supported the King during the Civil War, and Alexander Rigby was knighted in 1696. He had begun to invest in international mercantile activity, and was partner in a Mediterranean trade venture which went disastrously wrong in 1696 when the captain of this ship captured an enemy vessel (England and France then being at war) and was in turn caught as a pirate by the Grand Duke of Tuscany. He was released on receipt of a large ransom, and the failure of this trade expedition resulted in Sir Alexander Rigby being committed to the Fleet Prison for debtors. Sir Alexander’s efforts to excuse himself may have given a misleading impression of his innocence. Between July 1695 and July 1697, no fewer than eight ships which he part-owned were granted “Letters of Marque” by the Admiralty. These were basically licences to commit piracy against French ships. Rigby’s disastrous “trade expedition” may have been little more than a cover for a piracy excursion. 388 An Act of Parliament was passed to allow the sale of his estates in 1714, but Sir Alexander remained in prison until his death in 1717. 389

Rigby held extensive landholdings throughout Lancashire and these were probably held by Trustees until their sale could be arranged. The Manor was sold first to Hugh Mills in 1720 and then to Daniel Dandy in 1727. Dandy was described as “of Clifford’s Inn” and therefore a lawyer. 390 He was at one point “principal” of the Society of Cliffords Inn. 391 He had some interest in Lancashire before buying the manor of Coppull, witnessing a lease in 1718. 392 Long after selling his interest in the manor, he undertook legal work for the Earl of Derby in connection with his Westmoreland estates. 393

No records of the Court Leet or Baron survive from the period, although the courts were certainly held. In 1631, Hugh Adlington of Adlington deposed that “he can well remember that courts have been
kept for the manor of Coppull during the space of fortie years last past. And saieth that the same courts have been kept and held in the names fo Henry Earl of Derby. And well knoweth the same to have been kept since in the name of Edward Rigby Esquire deceased... [details of which] the deponent cannot certainlie tell, but for the certantie thereof referreth the same to the courte roules of the said Manor of Coppull.” 394 This shows that manorial courts continued to be held during the period and that an observer would have been aware of the fact that the Court generated records which appeared in the form of rolls, to which reference would perhaps be made by the Lord’s Steward during the course of a Manor court.

The Bailiff of the Manor in 1631 was Thomas Worthington, a shoemaker. The efforts of the manorial officers were supplemented by those of township officers. In 1650 Richard Harrison and George Bibby held the office of Overseers of the Highways, Robert Forster was Overseer of the Poor, Thomas Finch was “Towneshippe” and Lawrence Vause was Constable. 395 The method of appointment for the office of constable and township in the period was by houserow, each householder in the village taking a turn or arranging for a deputy. In 1631 XXX said “the said Bryan Chisnall and Thomas Johnson have usually served in their turn(?) as constables and townshippes for the towne or manor of Coppull for or in respect of their messuages & tenements in Coppull aforesaid whereof they are tenants”. 396 In 1642, Richard Merson was Township, Wiliam Rogerson was Overseer and Thomas Naylor was Constable. 397

A rental of the manor survives from 1653. It identifies that some rents were paid at midsummer and Christmas and others at Pentecost and martinmas and that in total they were worth £16 14s. Other fines were due for incorachments and also rent hens were payable by seven of the tenants of the manor. 398

5.2 The Gentry Families
The Rigbys and the Chisnalls appear to have enjoyed something of a love-hate relationship during the course of the 17th century. Sometime in the early 1600s, Alexander Rigby was guardian to Edward Chisnall during his minority and Edward lived in the Rigby’s household, presumably at Burgh. 399 In 1630 however, Alexander Rigby took his former ward to law. Edward Chisnall appears to have been claiming that Chisnall was a manor in its own right, and that no service was due to the Lords of the Manor of Coppull and his attendance was not required at its court. Most of the witnesses summoned to the Duchy of Lancaster court convened to hear the case confirmed that, although Edward Chisnall himself did not appear at the manor court, his tenants certainly had, which “proved” the overlordship of the Lords of Coppull. 400 Three years later, in 1633, Alexander Rigby’s daughter, Elizabeth, married Edward Chisnall, perhaps as an act of rapprochement, or perhaps as the result of a romantic union formed when they were both growing up in the Rigby household years before. The wardship was remembered a half century later, Jane Lathom the daughter of Alexander Lathom deposed that “she often heard it discoursed between her said father and the complainants father that he the said complainants father was ward unto this deponents father and this deponent likewise observed the said complainants father and his wife live wth this deponents father”. 401

Just as Edward had been the ward of a wealthier and more powerful family during his childhood and had probably lived in the household of the Rigbys at Burgh, so he had as wards Richard and Margaret, the children of Thomas Benson. He was also unusually generous in leaving two of his servants £10 each and all the others a full year’s wages. He also left provision for a kinsman, Chisnall Brettargh, son
of Richard Brettargh, “with competent eat drink or otherwise to yield and allow unto apparel and lodging until the death of Christopher Stannynought of Hindley... or otherwise to yield and allow unto the said Chisnall Brettargh the yearly sum of six pounds”. In amongst the marriages of Standish Church there is an entry for the 28th December 1616 which reads “One Benson of Chisnall”, perhaps representing a burial mistakenly listed with the marriages. He held a post in the household of the Prince of Wales and was a Royalist Officer during the Civil War serving the Countess of Derby during the Siege of Lathom House in 1644, when the Rigbys were still important members of their household. After the Civil War he petitioned to compound for property valued at £120 per annum and he was fined £480, which he had repaid by 1651. In 1652 he settled with the widow of his former ward, Chisnall Brettargh who had fought as a captain on the royalist side in the Civil War, and paid Brettargh’s widow Alice £260 for the surrender of the lease of her house. Shortly before his death his Catholicke History, a defence of the Church of England, was published. In his will, Edward Chisnall displays a keen sense of his family’s enduring past and their place in the local social hierarchy. He asks to be buried “in the parish church of Standish under the ancient monument which hath the French inscription upon it with my ancestors there to remain ... which monument or gravestone lyeth in the south side of the middle alley next to the quire betwixt the burials belonging to the houses of Worthington and Adlington”. His sense of tradition is demonstrated when he determines “my lawful heirs shall have these things as heirlooms... my ancient seals of arms, my plate and jewels which were left to me by my father ... I give unto my heir my seal ring”. His son, Sir Edward Chisnall (1646-1727) had a national role and his fortunes rose with the restoration of the monarchy. He married women from the south east (Essex, Suffolk and Kent respectively). He was knighted in 1671 and he was MP for Wigan in 1689 and for Preston in 1690 as well as Deputy Lieutenant of Lancashire between 1689 and 1715 and, intermittently, a Justice of the Peace between 1672 and 1715. Sometime before 1665 he married Anne, the daughter of Thomas Adkinson of Blew Hall in Essex, and they had two daughters, Elizabeth and Anne. He was knighted on the 24th April 1671 and the following day he married Elizabeth, the illegitimate daughter of Sir William Playters of Sotterley in Suffolk, with whom he had two sons and a daughter, and a tempestuous relationship. The following year, Lionel Playters of Sotterley in Suffolk complained to the court of Chancery that he had been encouraged to woo Elizabeth by her father, his uncle. Elizabeth was heir to William’s property and he wanted to ensure the property continued to descend in the family name and so was enthusiastic at the prospect of a marriage between his “natural” daughter and his nephew who bore the family name. Elizabeth encouraged Lionel’s suit but shortly after her father’s death, and her receiving his property, she had a meeting with Lionel and said that she had “taken up a firm resolution never to marry” but as consolation, offered him land with a value of £50 per annum during her life and £100 per annum after her death. Lionel was unhappy to learn of her subsequent marriage to Sir Edward Chisnall and her failure to settle land on him. In September 1683, he married Elizabeth, the daughter and coheir of the Honourable Richard Spencer of Orpington, Kent, with whom he had no children. In 1684 he was pursuing the grandson of his father’s guardian, i.e. the lord of the manor of Coppull, Alexander Rigby, for lands in Poulton le Fylde which he implied were alienated from his father during the time of his being a ward to Alexander Rigby the grandfather. In 1693 his son in law, Stephen Hammerton joined forces with his wife Anne and her sister Elizabeth Chisnall to take Sir Edward to court for failing to make available monies promised to his daughters. In 1697 his daughter Mary married Christopher Dauntesey of Agecroft. In 1699 he borrowed money against his estate, called “the manor of Chisnall”, from Thomas Winkley, Richard
Langton, William Patten and Josiah Gregson, all of Preston. In 1701 he had received a successful judgement in a Chancery case against Edward Holt, gentleman, for rent of a property. He appointed William Watson of Standish as his attorney to collect the rent. In 1702, Sir Edward Chisnall, by far the most litigious of Coppull’s gentry was once again claiming Chisnall to be a manor, or “reputed manor”. Sir Edward Chisnall took his servants to Standish church with him and they sat in his family pew. Sir Edward “in the latter end of his time kept but few and sometimes no servants, though in the beginning of his time he kept a great house”. Towards the end of his life his servants included a servant or companion called William Wood and also a groom called William Lowe. Sir Edward may have been fond of beer as this account relating an event in about 1720 suggests: Edward Lowe of Wrightington “happening to be in company with the said Sir Edward and one old James Holcroft and one Henry Fisher…at a pot house in Standish parish called Moss o’ Lee…” The Chisnall estate was mainly located in Coppull, but it spread out into Wrightington (and Langtree). A sale of part of the Wrightington manor in 1622 explicitly referred to the rents and services payable by Edward Chisnall to the lords of Wrightington.

When he died in 1619, Thomas Worthington of Blainscough was found to hold three messuages (houses) in Coppull of Edward Rigby “as of his manor of Coppull”, and was therefore a tenant of the Rigbys. The “Inquisition” taken after his death shows the extent of his landholdings. These are itemised in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Held of</th>
<th>Tenure</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 messuages, 24 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow,</td>
<td>Coppull</td>
<td>Edward Rigby of his manor of Coppull</td>
<td>Free and common socage by fealty and rent of 2s 9d and one pair of white gloves per year</td>
<td>53s 4d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 messuages, 16 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, 3 acres of wood, common of pasture for all cattle</td>
<td>Coppull</td>
<td>Thomas Worthington of Worthington</td>
<td>Fealty and rent of 2s</td>
<td>53s 4d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 parcel of land of half a rod, lately enclosed from the waste of Coppull</td>
<td>Coppull</td>
<td>The King as of his Duchy of Lancaster</td>
<td>Knights service, the two hundredth part of a knights fee</td>
<td>6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 messuage, 1 cottage, 20 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 12 acres of pasture</td>
<td>Brindle</td>
<td>Edward Moseley esq, in ward to the King as of his manor of Manchester</td>
<td>Free and common socage by fealty</td>
<td>40s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 messuage, 10 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 8 acres of pasture</td>
<td>Turton</td>
<td>John Orrell as of his manor of Turton</td>
<td>Free and common socage by fealty</td>
<td>20s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5 acres of land, lately enclosed from the waste in Turton</td>
<td>Turton</td>
<td>Edward Moseley esq, as of his manor of Manchester</td>
<td>Free and common socage</td>
<td>2s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 messuage, 3 cottages, 5 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 7 acres of pasture, common of pasture and turbarry at all times of the year and six shillings rent</td>
<td>Wrightington</td>
<td>William Earl of Derby as of the late Priory of St John’s of Jerusalem</td>
<td>Free and common socage by fealty and rent of 12d</td>
<td>27s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moiety of 6 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 6 acres of pasture | Warton | The King, as of his Duchy of Lancaster | Knight service | 5s

**Table 5.x Landholdings of Thomas Worthington of Blainscough 1620.**

This shows that just under half the Worthington’s estate (45%) was in Coppull, with almost a quarter in Brindle, 17% in Turton, 9% in Wrightington and 5% in Warton (counting an acre of moiety as a half acre).

The Worthingtons remained Catholics during the seventeenth century and were heavily fined for it. Thomas Worthington himself died in exile in Louvain, probably living close to his two daughters, Anne and Mary, both of whom were nuns at St Monica’s Convent in Louvain and his son Richard who was born in Louvain in 1606, ordained a priest in Rome and certainly by the 1650s had returned to Louvain, as chaplain of St Monica’s Convent. (Catholic Encyclopedia) Their money problems continued during the seventeenth century. In 1669, it appears that they tried to improve their position: Thomas Worthington of Blainscough paid Richard Egerton of Hardshaw £100 for a 2,000 year rent charge of £6 from Hardshaw Hall. Thomas’ money problems were however, increasingly pressing. In November 1639, his father, William, owed or had borrowed £1,000 to Robert Dodington and Augustin Bolson, the money secured on Blainscough Hall and other property. In 1655, the money had not been repaid and the properties where therefore transferred to Robert Budenell (Dodington’s heir) and Augustin Bolson, pending payment of the debt. Budendell (or Brudendell) and Bolson together with Jane Morgan, leased the Hall and other lands to John Lloyd who apparently remained in possession until 1673. In June of that year, John Tourner and George Snape lent Thomas Worthington £1,200 and John Lloyd relinquished his interest in the Blainscough estate to John Bolson and Thomas Kightley gentlemen of London.

Blainscough was effectively mortgaged to Tourner and Snape: it was let to them for 500 years at the annual rent of a peppercorn. The security (Blainscough Hall and other property) would be released to Thomas Worthington on payment of £1,272 to Tourner and Snape. It was perhaps the combination of the financial difficulties of the Worthingtons as much as their faith that meant all of Richard’s female children became nuns at the same convent where their great aunts spent their lives, St Monica of Louvain. The burden of dowries may have been too much for the financially pressured family. Richard’s daughter Frances however left the life of a nun in Louvain and married in 1673. (Catholic Encyclopedia). In January 1700, Richard Worthington paid £201 12s to release some property which had presumably been mortgaged to James Travers and Thomas Cobham, gentlemen of Liverpool. This was only a temporary respite in the family’s financial woes as Richard borrowed £850 against the security of other property in June of that year. The mortgage was increased to £1,310 in July 1712. Between 1717 and 1722, Richard Worthington mortgaged the hall to Robert Holt of Wigan and in 1732, his son Thomas Worthington sold Blainscough outright to Richard Holt. Thomas died at Hooton in 1742. The estate was thenafter held by absentee landlords and let as a farm.
The memorial to Edward Chisnall, who married the daughter of Alexander Rigby and served the Countess of Derby in the Siege of Lathom House, in Standish Church

The Rigby lordship also saw the dramatic rise to importance of a new family, rivalling the wealth and land-based status of the Chisnalls and Worthingtons. The Crook family may have been descendents of the former lords of the manor of Whittle-le-Woods near Preston. They appeared in Coppull in the early years of the seventeenth century, Richard Crook married Dorothy Prescott in 1630. Dorothy was a member of the Prescott family who’s London members were making extraordinary amounts of money as London goldsmiths. Dorothy’s grandfather William left £85 when he died in 1605, his relative Alexander Prescott, an Alderman of London, made bequests of more than £6,000 when he wrote his will in 1616. Alexander Prescott’s experience of finding his fortune mirrored that of some other fortunate people who were born in Lancashire. Alexander was baptised in 1563, the son of William and his first wife Mary. Alexander had several siblings: Richard, Jeffrey, Edward, Thomas and Elizabeth (Phillips). At his death in 1631, Richard lived at Haultes House in Coppull. Alexander came to London and in 1580 was apprenticed to John Pemberton a goldsmith and member of the Goldsmith’s Company. In 1593, Alexander married Pemberton’s daughter Martha. Pemberton was the son of a farmer from Heskin in Lancashire and may have been born there or in Wrightington. It is therefore probable that the families knew each other whilst living in Lancashire. Alexander gave two significant and highly public gifts to church and state back in Lancashire, doubtless enhancing his family’s status and reputation. The first gift was made in 1608 and was a chalice and paten to St Wilfred’s Church in Standish and the second was the first mayoral insignia for Wigan. He was appointed an Alderman in 1613 and became a member of the Twickenham Vestry in the 1610s possibly as a result of his wife’s property in the parish. He died in January 1622.

Richard Crook died in 1637 and from the 1650s his son William began to acquire land in Coppull and surrounding townships. In 1653, Margaret Green transferred her interest in her late husband’s Richard Prescott to her son William Crook. In 1654, Alice the widow of Hugh Pilkingston sold the Lower House to William. In 1658 he bought Bibby’s tenement, in 1682 the Plock estate in Chorley, in 1683 a lease of a moiety (half share) lands in Coppull (the gret hey, higher ragswhistle, stable meadow and the
paddock), and lands in the occupation of Richard German. In 1685 he acquired Browne House and six acres and also Cowmoss. Before 1701 the Crooks had acquired Fiddlers Nook and in 1710 they bought more lands in Coppull (deans hey, barn hey, golden croft and the little meadow). By 1703 the Crookes owned over 60 acres in Coppull including the “capital messuage” Coppull House (probably now called Coppull Old Hall), leased to Thomas Critchlowe, Holt’s House (probably now Holt’s Farm on Wigan Road) leased to Richard Kindesley, Dickson’s House, Derbishefield, Fiddlers Nook together with eight tenements, all bringing in over £62 per year to the family. Outside Coppull Sir Charles Hoghton sold the tithes and tithe barn of Broughton to William Crook in 1682 for £552. By 1757 the Crooks owned more than 123 acres of land in Coppull, in nine different landholdings.

In 1682-3, a plot was hatched amongst opponents of the Stuart monarchy. The opponents were primarily those opposed to the restoration of the pre-Commonwealth religious settlement and included those who were horrified at the prospect of a Catholic king, which England would have if Charles II died without a child. The plan was to intercept the royal party on their return from Newmarket Races back to London on the 1st April 1683 and to kill Charles II and his brother James. The site of the planned interception was Rye House near Hoddesden in Hertfordshire. The plot didn’t take effect because of a serious fire in Newmarket in March which led to the cancellation of the races but when the plot was discovered on the 12th June, it led to widespread reaction. On the 19th July 1683, the Earl of Derby wrote from Ormskirk to Major Farrington “Upon sight hereof you are to secure for his Majestes service, all arms of warre and offence and ammunition which you shall find in the custody of all and every person and persons herein names (vizt) Sir Charles Hoghton Baronet, William Crooke of Cophul, Baldwin of Wrightington a nonconformist preacher, Richard Shirdley of Farrington, Thomas Wilson of Tunley in Wrightington and Roger Haddock of Coppull”.

Hoghton, Wilson and Haydock had all been lay members of the Sixth Classis for the Leyland Hundred during the Commonwealth period (see Faith in Coppull, below) and were therefore identified as being Presbyterians and potential opponents of the Stuart regime. There is no evidence that any of the men listed had any involvement in the plot and they certainly were not amongst the men indicted and tried in connection with the plot. Some historians have suggested that the plot provided government centrally and in the regions with an opportunity to break down the doors of those who were perceived as religious or political opponents – often the same thing during the seventeenth century. (WAS WILSON OF TUNLEY MENTIONED IN MARGARET GREENE@S WILL?)

5.3 The Economy of Coppull

It was a scattered settlement with no real centre. During the seventeenth century it was divided into a number of small holdings and farms, probably based around houses. The population does not appear to have increased greatly during the period: a church rental of 1582 (LRO PR 3134/4/2) lists 52 households, the 1666 Hearth Tax Returns also list 52 households. If the average household size was 4.5 (Laslett “The World We Have Lost” 1988, Ch 3) this would yield a population of about 234 at these two dates. The presence of up to 20 beds in some houses does, however, suggest that this figure is somewhat low. If the number of beds in a house is similar to the number of occupants then the average size of household would be more of the order of 7, giving a population of 364.

The village economy was based on agriculture. Cattle pasture was more important in the village than arable farming throughout the period, although wheat, oats, barley, beans and peas were grown
during the century. The direct products of agriculture—meat, milk, grains and vegetables—provided the immediate sustenance needs of the village. There were also a number of important agricultural by-products which satisfied other needs.

Land was usually let for a term of lives but could also be let on a less formal basis. In 1630 XXXX, referring to two tenants of the Chisnalls, said that they “nor do hould or enjoy anie other lands in Coppull aforesaid, than such as they hold under the said deft unlesse they have sometimes casuallie taken some parcel of ground their from yeare to yeare”, thus indicating that it was possible to take land, perhaps for specific purposes, for short periods of time. 434

The commons were an important resource during the period. In 1603, Thomas Barnes of Worthington put cattle to pasture on Coppull Moss “seeing that he resided near that common; and John Haydock and others chased them away with pitchforks and other weapons”, after which John Haydock brought a claim against him for damage done by his cattle. 435 John Haydock was probably the resident of the former Perburn estate of Burscough Priory around what is now Bogburn Hall, which lands are immediately north of Worthington. The commons were extensive. In 1631, Henry Roper of Welch Whittle deposed “he knoweth the commons and waist grounds of Coppull … which do ly open and unimpaired and … containe one hundred acres or thereabouts”. This was separate from the lands of the Chisnalls as George Browne deposed “he likewise knoweth a certaine parcel of enclosed ground in Coppull aforesaid in the defendants holding which for the most part is called Longshaw Moore and Longshawe Mosse howbeit this deponent sometimes hath heard the same parcel of ground called by the name of Chisnall Moore or Chisnall Mosse.” 436

John Black of Wrightington deposed in respect of the tenants of the Chisnalls in 1631 that “that the tenants for the time being … and his ancestors of the ground called Longshawe and Longshawe Moore have heretofore used at their will and pleasure freely to turn their cattle which were kept upon the same grounds to feede and depasture upon the waists and commons of Coppull without restraint of any, And that the said tenants have digged and delved turves and clodds and sods and gotten marle upon the said wastes of Coppull without restraint that this deponent did know of”. 437 This suggests that the Chisnalls’ tenants were taking for granted liberties which tenants of the Manor and others would need permission to do or would be fined for in the Manor court if they did not secure permission.

XXXX completely disagreed with Black, saying “haith knone that the said Bryan Chisnall Humfrey Chisnall his father and John Chisnall his grandfather have usuallye asked leave of the lords of Coppull or their officers to put their cattell to departure on the Commons of Coppull. And hath herd the said Bryan Chisnall being a whittawer say to this deponent that he the said Bryan did used to XXXX or dresse all the hides of the said complainants father for and in respect of his having liberty from the said complainants father to put his beasts and cattell to departure upon the said waists or commons of Coppull.” XXXX suggests that Bryan, Humfrey and John, who were not tenants of the Manor, enjoyed traded access to the commons and particularly the common pasture, in exchange for performing a service for, at least, the Rigby Lords of the Manor.

The use of the commons and the abuse of the rights of the Lords of the Manor sometimes went beyond the digging of a turf or the pasturing of an unauthorised cow. In 1631 Hugh Adlington of Adlington alleged as follows: “He hath heard one Elizabeth Pilkington deceased this deponents late mother in her life time affirm and say that [sh]e in her time hath seen the said parcel of land called Chisnall More and the said lands in the possession of this said Bryan Chisnall to be part of the commons, waist and commonable grounds of Coppull”. 438 Effectively Pilkington is accusing one of the Chisnalls of enclosing a significant swathe of the commons of Coppull. This is difficult to imagine as the event would have taken place prior to the birth of
The land used for agricultural purposes was owned by different people. The Rigbys of Burgh, lords of the Manor throughout the century were large landowners. When sold after the bankruptcy of Alexander Rigby in 1721, the Manor lands of Coppull, held by a series of leases for lives or years, consisted of 366 acres (LRO DDLi 193), which was a third of the total acreage of the village recorded in the comprehensive survey of 1757. Other landowners were the Radleys of Hall o’th’ Hill, the Dicconsons of Wrightington, the Worthingtons of Blainscough, the Chisnalls of Chisnall and the entrepreneurial Crook family of Coppull. There was thus a sizeable acreage owned by people who did not farm the land, and in many cases did not live in the village.

Others both owned and farmed their land. Richard Crook, despite his mercantile travels, John Haydock and Richard Pilkington all owned land and were directly involved in its cultivation. They were the village yeomanry, Crook and Haydock also chose to describe themselves as gentlemen. Below them in the social hierarchy were the husbandmen and the craftsmen who also indulged in agriculture.

The husbandmen leased land from the large owners listed above, or had it sub let to them. John Boulton, described variously as a husbandman and a butcher, leased land in 1634 from Alexander Rigby.

The rearing of animals for milk, slaughter and raw materials was the most important of the two types of farming in Coppull. There was no rigid division between those who farmed the land and those who reared animals: most yeomen and husbandmen were mixed farmers. The size of cattle herd varied: the median and mode size was four animals, but this conceals considerable variety. The largest herd was owned by William Lawrenson (WCW 1613). Most of his 15 animals were, however, on loan to other farmers. Alexander German (WCW 1663) owned 13 beasts at his death in 1652. Other individuals had only a single cow, or none at all.

Milk was used to make butter and cheese. Some households had the facilities to produce these themselves, and there is no evidence that they were produced commercially. However, meat was marketed. William Heskin (WCW 1643) was a butcher, probably operating as a retail butcher rather than a slaughterer. A debt for beef is mentioned in his will, alongside several other debts that are probably for carcasses. As well as some substantial debts owing to him, there are 25 recorded debts under a pound, perhaps these are his trade creditors. The inventory of John Boulton (WCW 1636), also a butcher, reveals nothing of his debts and credits.

In a pastoral economy livestock themselves are an important commodity. Twenty per cent of all the recorded wealth of the village was held in cattle, horses, sheep and pigs. This contrasts with the 1.2% held in arable produce and farming equipment (this figure does not, of course, include the leasehold or absolute value of the cultivated land, which was only very infrequently recorded in the Coppull inventories). Out of the 54 probate inventories, 41 people left some livestock. William Lawrenson (WCW 1613) had a number of debts owing for a cow and a sum of money to be paid at fixed days (e.g. Candlemas, Michaelmas and Christmas) and in two instances at designated locations: Bolton and Chorley fairs. Lawrenson may have been loaning out animals for stud and receiving a fixed sum (usually 6s) and perhaps a calf. Another possibility is that the cows could have been loaned out to produce milk and manure for fertiliser, the borrower to pay the expense of feeding the cow, while Lawrenson perhaps used his animals for slaughter. Seth Taylor (WCW 1616) also had a number of animals at other
people's houses, but no one else in the village continued the practice on the scale of Lawrenson who had 15 animals, 12 of which were out on loan.

Leather was an important by-product of pastoral farming. Tanners appear throughout the parish of Standish during the period. They often sold their hides to people living several miles away. This may have been because the production process was such that an individual tanner could not guarantee to have a hide ready when an individual shoemaker or sadler required it. Roger Waring (WCW 1647), Robert Foster (WCW 1676) and John Lowe (WCW 1683) were tanners. Their combined personal wealth was £663, over ten per cent of the total inventoried wealth during the period. Tanning was the only "craft" industry which required a large investment. The materials of the tanner were hides, lime and bark. The tanner needed a property on which he could dig pits to keep the hides in lime while they were tanning, and where the bark could be stored. Hides which were in the process of tanning were worth in the region of a pound.

The major customers of the tanners were shoemakers. In the village during the century there were three: Richard Worthington, Peter Naylor (WCW 1642) and Anthony Worthington (born 1607, WCW 1651). Unlike tanning shoemaking required little capital. The combined shoemakers' tools of Peter Naylor and Anthony Worthington were worth less than 4s, although Worthington owned œ1 of leather. Shoemakers bought leather on credit, Naylor owed to tanners in Charnock Richard and Bickerstaff 17s and 18s respectively, almost certainly for leather hides.

Edward Worthington (WCW 1693) was another leather worker. He made gloves. His trade tools were worth only 3s.

Pastoral agriculture produced some raw materials. Milk was used to make butter and cheese. Some households had the facilities to produce these themselves, and there is little indication that they were marketed commercially. William Heskin (WCW 1643) was a butcher, operating as a retail butcher rather than just a slaughterer. A debt for beef is mentioned in his will, along with several other debts that are probably for carcasses. As well as some substantial debts owing to him, there are 25 debts under a pound, many of which are probably trade debtors. The inventory of another butcher, John Boulton (WCW 1636) does not reveal his debts and credits.

Some involvement in the textile industry was probably a feature of the life of most households in the period. Of the 54 inventories, 31 include some reference to spinning wheels, a substantial amount of cloth, yarn or looms. The necessary investment in the fixed assets of textile production were slight: spinning wheels were valued at a couple of shillings although looms were more expensive, sometimes valued at a pound.

Both wool and flax were spun throughout the period, although there are no references to hemp after the 1630s. Kerseys were made in the village in the house of John Haydock before 1621 (WCW 1621) and were present in the houses of Richard Prescott (WCW 1631) and Richard Waring (WCW 1668).

Sheep were kept in the village and their wool was spun into cloth. Indeed the shearing of sheep was a boon included in some leases: for example, in 1659, John Houlsworth, a tenant of the Worthingtons, had to perform 4 days shearing at harvest time (Wigan RO D/D Wr 291). At his death in 1617, John
Slater had three sheep and 10s of wool, in 1621 John Haydock had 20 sheep, sheep shears and almost £2 of wool. In all twenty people had sheep recorded amongst their possessions.

Oxen were used for stud and as beasts of burden, at least in the first half of the century. Seven people owned yokes for ploughs and harrows between 1607 and 1652. It is possible that after that time horses were used as beasts of burden, perhaps because they were more economical and could be used for transport purposes.

The main products of arable agriculture were foodstuffs. The primary crops grown in the village were oats and barley, although peas, beans, wheat and perhaps onions were also grown. At least some houses had orchards attached to them, but neither apples nor pears are listed in any inventories. Barley, as well as being a foodstuff, was malted and used for the brewing of beer. Straw was an important by-product. It provided a crucial animal foodstuff, and was vital in the winter. It was used to fill mattresses in the many chaff beds mentioned in the inventories. Although there is no direct evidence that houses in Coppull were thatched during the period, the Account Book of Nicholas Heskin of Welch Whittle (LRO DDHk) makes a number of references to the use of sheaves, or threaves, of straw for thatching, and it is therefore likely that some houses in Coppull were similarly thatched.

The main occupations of inhabitants of the village were, therefore, based on agriculture or on the by-products of arable or pastoral farming. A third category of trades were those involving the extractive, metal and wood working industries.

Most houses had brass and pewter utensils for eating, and in the case of brass, cooking, purposes. Iron was used to make chimney's, some cooking utensils, some tools and probably for parts of such agricultural implements as ploughs and harrows. The village did not have any resident braziers or pewterers during the century. There were, however, several pewterers and at least one brazier working in Wigan, and these common domestic goods were probably made by specialist craftsmen in Wigan and sold to the surrounding countryside.

Iron working skills were more fundamental to the needs of an agricultural economy. Iron parts were used for ploughs, harrows, shoeing horses, covering wheels, harnesses and barrels. At least two blacksmiths operated in the village: James Dewhurst (mentioned 1625) and John Shaw (WCW 1670) whose inventory details the contents of his smithy as "i oould steedy [an anvil ?] i hand hamer...i oould pare of tongs" and values them at 10s 6d.

Woodworking involved a number of distinct and specialist trades. The cordwainer made barrels, the wheelwright wheels, the carpenter did other skilled work, and the joiner undertook less skilled jobs. There are no references to either wheelwrights or cordwainers during the seventeenth century. In the 1680s there was a wheelwright in Charnock Richard to the immediate north of the village and there was a cordwainer in Wigan (died 1647). Thomas Bibby (lease 1648) and Richard Vaux (lease 1685) were carpenters. There are no references to joiners during the period.

The inventories mention treen ware, carts, wooden wheels, chests, arks, tables, chairs, beds of various sorts, yokes, ladders, swingle- and axle-trees, wheelbarrows, cupboards and dishboards, spinning wheels, tubs, cheese and other presses, and other domestic and farm implements all of which
probably involved wood in their manufacture. The account book of Nicholas Heskin in the second two decades of the next century suggest that wood was an important material in the construction and repair of houses and barns. Wood-based repairs appear to have been common in Heskin's houses and may have been similarly common in Coppull's houses.

There seems to have been the beginnings of an urban-rural division of labour during the period. Certain goods, brass and pewter utensils as well as some luxuries, were produced in "urban" centres, yet they appear in the inventories of rural households. These households probably sold or exchanged agricultural produce in return for these goods. The other marketable products made in the conditions of rural domestic industry was flaxen and woollen cloth. This too may have been exchanged for urban goods. The towns had shoemakers and blacksmiths of their own and were unlikely to require shoes and ironware produced in rural areas.

The village economy, probably the agrarian sector more than any other, sometimes required casual labour. There are references to only two labourers, although the evidence may be such that it does not reflect the number of casual labourers who worked in the village. George Brown (WCW 1686) died possessed of a cart, a wheelbarrow and other items valued at £4 in total. John Dicconson, a labourer, and his wife were reduced to poverty in 1682 (LRO QSP 562/11) because they were aged and infirm.

The trade which almost certainly took place between the towns (Wigan, Chorley, Preston and Bolton) and the countryside required middlemen. Alexander Chisnall and his son Daniel were admitted to Preston Guild as wholesale buyers and sellers of sheepskins in 1622 and 1662 respectively (Preston Guild Rolls). In 1617 Lawrence Nightingale was a carrier (lease). In the middle of the century Chorley had a number of chapmen, and there was another carrier in the neighbouring village Adlington.

The case of Richard Crook (WCW 1637) illustrates the fact that trade was not solely local. At the time of his death, Crook had debtors in Northampton, Stony Stratford, Buckingham and Coventry. These debtors owed money for linen cloth which had probably been sold to them when Crook, with an assistant called John Walthew, journeyed out to sell it. Crook also had debtors in Lancashire, including one in Liverpool.

Crook's case is unusual, but serves as an example that the population did not always trade within narrow geographical boundaries. However, an analysis of the residences of debtors and creditors in the inventories suggests that most trade was carried out in the Standish and Wigan parishes, some testators having debtor in Chorley town. Many debtors did not have their place of residence listed, further suggesting they lived close to the deceased.

A further point arising from the analysis is that Richard Crook and others were able to trade because they owned horses. Crook himself had 9 horses, worth £24 in total. In all 24 individuals out of 54 (or 45 if women, none of whom left a horse, are excluded) owned one or more horses at the time of their death. The presence of packsaddles in a number of stables suggests that goods were carried to or from either the local fairs such as those at Chorley and Bolton, or perhaps the houses of individuals.

The market in personal clothing was partly met by the village craftsmen, the shoemakers and glover, a linen clothier (John Bibby in 1625), and perhaps by the making of clothes from cloth woven in the
village. However, there was a buttonmaker, a clogger, a linen webster, a mercer and a tailor in Standish; in Chorley there was also a feltmaker (for hats) and in Wigan there was a girdler and a fanmaker. Some of the testators describe their clothes. Dorothy Thompson (WCW 1635) had a very expensive wardrobe, including a riding suit, valued in all at £30. Most men had clothes, including footwear, valued in the region of one to three pounds, although the labourer George Brown had apparel valued at 6s 8d. Some people made provision for the disposal of their doublets, waistcoats, best suit of clothes, petticoats and stockings in their wills.

Coal, turf and wood were used as fuel. The Lord of the Manor fined those tenants who "digged the earth" (DDLi Coppull Manorial 1666) either for turf or coal. There is no indication that coal was commercially mined in the village in the period, although William Harrison of Standish, a collier, was buried in 1623. 439 A number of households had stocks of coal, and John Haydock (WCW 1621), John Waring (WCW 1679), Jenet Lowe (WCW 1683) and Thomas Abbot (WCW 1684) had coal carts, Haydock also had a turf cart. John Shaw, the blacksmith, had a stockpile of coal valued at 6s 8d in 1670. As early as 1621, Hugh Adlington of Adlington gave land to settle a debt. The land was in Adlington, Coppull and Blackrod, and whilst it is unclear which township these holeings were in, the conveyance included “Cole Pitts and mynes of Cole and Cannell”. 440

The village economy was in some respects traditional. Trades and crafts were "passed down" from one generation to another. Alexander Chisnall and his son Daniel were both admitted to Preston Guild as sheepskin buyers. Richard Worthington and his son Anthony were both shoemakers, Ralph Lowe (WCW 1668), John Lowe (WCW 1683) and Ralph Lowe junior (WCW 1737) represented three generations of tanners. Despite the "hereditary" nature of some occupations, some Coppull natives went further afield. In 1694 John Chisenhall was "out of the country", his whereabouts apparently unknown (Ann Chisenhall WCW 1694). James Naylor, brother of Peter (WCW 1642), lived in London. There was a willingness to move both out of the village, as happened when Edward Chisnall junior inherited land in Langtree in 1681 (Edward Chisnall WCW 1681 and Ann Chisenhall WCW 1694) and to move into the village when, for example, a suitable lease fell vacant. During the early seventeenth century a webster from Pemberton, a blacksmith from Ormskirk and a tanner from Whittle took leases in the village.

One of the most significant features of the inventories is the importance of credit in the pre industrial economy. Some individuals held almost the whole of their personal wealth in the form of debtors. Thomas Alker (WCW 1677), formerly a servant of Margaret Green, had a total estate valued at œ98 14s, of which œ98 10s constituted debtors. Some of the debts were owed under bills, bonds or specialties and were obviously long term debts, perhaps earning interest for the lender: William Prescott (WCW 1605) was owed œ10 by Thurstan Standish "as by bill appereth". After the Civil War period, the frequent practice of listing debtors ceased, and the debtors are included in the inventory as a single figure, often added to the ready money.

Some of the debts and credits relate to commercial transactions. George Ashton owed Richard Crook (WCW 1637) £3 for two loads of malt, Thomas Bibby (WCW 1625) owed 2s 8d to Robert Rigby for a dole of beef. Others, although not specifically identified, are of relatively small sums, and probably relate to trade debts.
Some of the inhabitants of the village engaged in trade with Preston Guild. The Guild met every twenty years. During the Rigby Lordship, Daniel Chisnall of Coppull was admitted to Preston Guild in 1662 to “buy sheepskins in this town and to sell the same again by wholesale and in gross. But not by retail or other ways.” Thomas Worthington of Blaismough was admitted to the same Guild. At the next Guild in 1682, Thomas Barnes of Coppull was admitted to membership, although there is no record of what he was trading. In 1702, Ralph Lowe of Coppull, a tanner, was admitted. In the final Guild of the Rigby Lordship, held in 1722, Henry and John Ellison of Coppull were both admitted alongside the tanner Ralph Lowe and John Lowe.

Despite the gaps in our knowledge, certain fundamental features of the Coppull economy during the period are evident. Firstly it was deeply rooted in agriculture, and almost all the men in the village had some direct interest in the cultivation of either grain or livestock. The rural craftsmen were there to serve the agricultural market, and they all had some farming interests themselves. Secondly, the economy was fairly local, but inhabitants of the village traded in the neighbouring townships, and probably the two towns Chorley and Wigan, as normal practice. This was partly a consequence of the village’s inability to produce all its own needs: in the towns there were specialist urban craftsmen. Thirdly, although most economic transactions were local, the beginnings of a national market can be seen in the trading activities of Richard Crook. Finally, credit was of considerable importance in the local economy, some of it trade credit, but some probably entailed large and small sums being lent out to friends and neighbours, often by bill, bond or specialty.

5.4 Faith in Coppull

Education and charity were inextricably linked to faith during the period. In 1603, Mary Langton, a widow, left money for the foundation of a Free Grammar School in Standish and also for the relief of poor women in the parishes of Standish, Leyland and Chorley. The Trustees of the school were Edward Standish of Standish, Edward Rigby, lord of the manor of Coppull and William Leigh, the rector of Standish. By 1625, the number of Trustees had grown to include Sir Ralph Ashton of Great Lever, Sir John Radcliffe of Ordsall, Ralph Standish of Standish, Thomas Charnock of Astley, Thomas Standish of Standish, Edward Wrightington of Wrightington, Edward Chisnall and Thomas Langtree of Langtree.

In 1620, John Fielden was the schoolmaster and he was in dispute with Edward Rigby about the payment of wages. By this time land had been bought for the school and this generated income of eighteen pounds a year: less than the ten pounds paid twice yearly to Fielden. Also in 1620, Margaret the wife of William Heskin of Coppull deposed that she had sent two of her children to the school, but “they profited very little at the said school as she and her husband conceived, for which cause they took them away again from the said school. And further saith that she did know divers of her neighbours that did likewise send their children to the said school, and were taken away again in like manner by reason they lost their time and got no learning as she hath heard”. She went on to confess “that she hath heard tha the said John Fielden hath been an usual haunter and goer to the alehouses and there hath continued for the most part when he should have taught his scholars”. Indeed, Edward Rigby had sent Roger Kirkby, his own grandson, to the school, but had taken him out again because he had “lost his time” in about 1613. Robert Dicconson of Coppull had likewise sent his son to Fielden’s school but had taken him out after a month. Dicconson also sent his daughter to the school, which in
about 1612 or 1614 had about twenty pupils. Fielden was accused of keeping the door of the school
locked so he couldn’t be surprised by unwanted visits and “caused his scholars to creep into the school
by the window”. Agnes Prescott of Coppull, aged forty, sent three of her children to the school for two
or three years. Whilst she accused Fielden of being a poor teacher, she went on to say that “she hath
oftentimes found fault, and hath heard her husband and many others often find fault with the said
Edward Rigby and William Leigh for that they would suffer the said John Fielden to teach school at
Standish.”

In 1633, the following were involved with the school, either as Trustees or by having an involvement
with the selection of the Usher of the school: Sir Richard Houghton, Peter Caterall of Crooke, Thomas
Wilson of Wrightington. Their involvement is significant because all three of them went on to be
members of the sixth classis, the body that managed the church in the Leyland Hundred towards the
end of the Commonwealth period. Their membership of the classis also suggests that they were
Presbyterians. By 1656, Roger Haydock of Coppull (another member of the sixth classis, and therefore
presumably well known to Houghton, Caterall and Wilson) had joined the Trustees, some of whom
had by now died. He was joined by Edward Dicconson of Coppull in 1664. In 1683 William Crook of
Coppull was involved with the school. Ralph Whalley was schoolmaster in 1711. In 1714, Edward and
Robert Holt of Shevington became Trustees. They were both descendents of the Holt family of Coppull
and were making a fortune in trade. In 1734, John Pearson the lord of the manor of Coppull was
involved with the school.

In his will dated 1651 and proved after his death in 1654, Edward Chisnall makes a specific bequest to
his heir “all my books printed and written”. Chisnall was unusual in that he had written his own book,
a defence of the reformed Church of England.

Under the terms of his will dated 1711, James Birchale left £100 for the relief of the poor of Standish
and Shevington, for “the relief of the most needy poor of Standish Langtree and Shevington which
were not relived by the Overseers to be distributed in white bread every Sabbath Day in the Parish
Church of Standish”. (REFERENCE, p33). In 1735 Edward Hatton of Orrell left £50 to “distribute on
every 21st day of December to such poor persons of Standish and Langtree as they should judge most
necessitous linen and woollen clothes and 12d ready money”. (REF p35)

In the early years of the Rigby Lordship, William Leigh, the rector of Standish continued his campaign
against Catholics. In 1614, he took a deposition about Henry Norcross, the vicar of Ribchester, who
had been accused of unruly behaviour and favouring recusants. Leigh died in 1639 at the age of 89.
In his will he wrote “I have seen at funerals, where doles have been, much disorder and great abuse,
together with superstitious praying for the dead, my mind is that there should be no dole at my
funeral.” The “dole” including the dole of ale was a feature of funerals in the pre-Reformation
period and obviously continued into the new Protestant era. Leigh was also complaining about the
“superstitious” praying for the souls of the dead, perhaps harking back to the belief in purgatory which
did not fit into his Puritan theology.

A further link with Coppull and William Leigh was that his grandson William married Margaret the
daughter of Edward Chisnall.
Leigh and Chisnall were important in one of the most famous faith-related events in early seventeenth century Lancashire: the Lancashire Witch Trials. The case against the women from Samlesbury accused of witchcraft was heard before Leigh and Chisnall. These were slightly less famous than the Pendle witches who were tried at the same time in August 1612 at the Lancaster Assize. In the Samlesbury case, a fourteen year old girl, Grace Sowerbutts accused Jane Southworth, together with her grandmother, Jennet Bierley and her aunt, Ellen Bierley of practising witchcraft. Grace told a tale of her grandmother and aunt turning themselves into dogs, of stealing a child to suck its blood and then subsequently digging up its body and eating part of it and making out of the rest an ointment to help them transform themselves. Grace also alleged that Southworth accompanied her grandmother and aunt on Thursday and Sunday nights to Sabbats where they met four manlike black things, with whom they ate, danced and had sex. During the trial, the witnesses broke down and accused Grace of having been schooled in her story by a Catholic priest called Thompson. The presiding judge, Sir Edward Bromley, instructed Chisnall and Leigh to examine Grace, together with the three accused. Grace readily confessed that she had been instructed what to say by Christopher Southworth (also known as Thompson) who was a Jesuit priest and the chaplain of Samlesbury Hall, the residence of the father of Jane Southworth’s late husband. The three accused were unable to explain why Grace may have accused them, other than to speculate that it may have been because they had conformed to the Church of England, whereas the Southworth’s of Samlesbury Hall remained Catholics.

The following year in 1613, Leigh published an account of a “monstrous birth”, apparently the birth of conjoined twins, in Adlington, in the parish of Standish. Leigh has a dual argument in this pamphlet. The first is that it betokens a warning for the godly Protestants in the way that other monstrous births were warnings against Catholic infamies such as the Spanish Armada and the Catholic rebellion in Tyrone. The second is that the monstrous birth is a warning from God for sin. He accuses the father of having a lewd character and the mother of being illegitimate and therefore carrying the sin of her parents’ adultery. When the birth became public, says Leigh, “Certaine Gentlemen, and many of the common people, that were then at Cockpit … left their sports and went to behold it with wonder and amazement … [and even] the most impious of all could not but confesse, that was a notable example of Gods fearfull wrath”. The children died or were stillborn and in a ghastly postscript to the story, their grave was opened in the presence of five hundred spectators.

The success of parishioners sometimes led them either to thank God, or to celebrate their success in a very public way, in the form of communion plate. The earliest communion plate of Standish Church consists of a chalice inscribed as follows “This cup and cover was gi
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gven to the parish church of Standish, in the County of Lancaster, for a communion cup by Alexander Prescott, the son of William Prescott, of Coppell, and now citizen and goldsmith of London. Anno 1608”. There are also two silver gilt flagons inscribed as follows “Alexander Holt, esquire, citizen and goldsmith, of London, gave these two flagons of silver to the parish of Standish, where he was borne, for the service of God and the use of the parishioners at the celebration of the holy communion. AD 1657”. Another chalice was given by Edward Holt of Shevington and a paten to cover the chalice by James the son of Edward, who was a merchant in London. The Holts and the Prescotts were related, although their common ancestry may have been too far in the past for them to be aware of it. Their story is told later in this chapter.
In 1642 adult males were required to swear the Protestation Oath, an oath of allegiance to Charles I and to the Church of England. In Coppull all but 6 out of the 95 adult males listed swore the oath. The six were Thomas and William Worthington, of Blainscough who were committed Catholics, Richard and Thomas Booth, Edward Fisher, and Richard Moore. 449

In January 1644, Ralph Brideoak was presented as Rector of Standish by Ralph Standish. He had been born in Cheetham Hill in Manchester and educated at Brasenose College Oxford. He became chaplain to James, Earl of Derby and remained close to the family during the Civil War period. On the 3rd January 1645 an Ordinance was presented to the House of Commons that Dr Paul Lathom be the Rector of Standish. 450 This Ordinance may have followed an election of the parishioners of Standish, where all but one voted for Lathom to become rector. During the period between 1645 and 1649, Standish may have had no rector rather than having had two competing rectors. In September 1646 The House of Commons was in the process of establishing a new system of government of the church, replacing control by bishops by control by presbyteries or “classes”. Paul Lathom was named as being fit to be one of the ministers of the sixth classis, which was to govern the church in the Leyland Hundred. Other ministers were James Hyet of Croston, Edward Gee of Eccleston, Henry Welsh of Chorley, James Langley of Leyland and Ralph Marsden of Brindle. The sixth classis also included the following laymen Sir Richard Houghton, Peter Catterall of Crooke, Thomas Wilson of Wrightington, Ralph Lever of Chorley, Roger Haddock of Chorley (probably Roger Haydock of Coppull), and Thomas Wasley of Chorley. 451 By December 1649 however, Lathom was firmly settled as rector of the parish.

In 1650, Parliament appointed Commissioners to review the need for churches which was especially a problem in counties such as Lancashire, which had extremely large parishes and growing populations. The Commissioners who visited Coppull in 1650 had intended to have a church built in Duxbury. They had decided that a number of houses in Coppull would be attached to the church at Duxbuy: “the Holle, the house late Thomas Nightgales, Thomas Foxes, Widow Bannesters, Edward Boultons, Shorrocke House, the Hall of Coppull, Robert Dicksonsons, Thomas Naylors, Seath Taylors, Lawrence Vauses, Lathom House and Mrs Greenes (Holte House”. 452 They also agreed that a new church for Coppull would be built on land offered by Edward Chisnall on his lands at the western edge of the village and that Welsh Whittle together with parts of Charnock Richard and Wrightington would be annexed to the new church at Coppull. The plans however were not followed and by the end of the decade a new chapel for Coppull was built at the highest point of the village, at the site now known as Chapel Hillock. The land had been given by Alexander Rigby, Lord of the Manor, from out of the commons and wastes of the manor, and was “adjoining on the north side to the tenement of James Worthington”.

The Trustees who oversaw the building of the chapel were Edward Chisnall of Chisnall, Edward Dicksonson, Roger Haydock, Ralph Lowe, Richard Fisher and George Browne all of Coppull gentlemen, William Crook of Coppull, chapman, and Richard Crooke of Bretherton, gentleman. 453

In 1653 Edward Chisnall published his Catholicke History in defence of the reformed Church of England.

A statement of faith from a Coppull will of 1657 reads “I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my maker and preserver assuredly trusting that through his infinite merciey and goodness and
the meritorious death and passion of Jesus Christ my only saviour and redeemer to be made partaker of that glorious kingdom which he himself hath prepared for his elect and chosen servants there to remain with him in heaven amongst his blessed saints and angels forever”. 454

By the 1670s the chapel had its own ministers who were paid by William Crook. In 1673 Ichabod Fournesse was minister. In 1671, Fournesse was minister at Heap near Bury, and between 1674 and 1677 he was minister at Blackley near Manchester. 455 In 1678 and 9 Josiah Bullough was minister and was followed by John Bullough in 1680. John Bullough received £3 for officiating at the chapel for six months. 456

The Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660 led to a rapid unravelling of the religious changes of the Commonwealth period and Lathom was ejected from Standish. Brideoak returned as rector and went on to become Dean of Salisbury in 1667 and Bishop of Chichester in 1674. While he was fulfilling the responsibilities of these offices, Standish was served by curates. A contemporary suggested that Brideoak “spent the chief part of his life in continual agitation for the obtaining of wealth and settling a family”. 457 Thomas Baldwin who had been minister at Penrith found refuge at Chisnall Hall, perhaps because of the Presbyterian sympathies of Edward Chisnall (WAS CHISNALL LIVING AT THE TIME). Chisnall was regarded as remote, but not too remote for the authorities, who sought him out in 1665 to search for arms as they suspected him of involvement in a conspiracy to foment an armed protest against the Cavalier Parliament which was introducing measures intolerant of nonconformists. Other locals searched in connection with this were Rev Tilsley of Deane and Thomas Willoughby of Horwich, who later had an association with Coppull Chapel. 458 In 1674, Baldwin himself was accused of unlawful preaching at Coppull Chapel. 459

Following the death of Bishop Brideoak in 1678, William Haydock became the rector of Standish, having been presented by Edward Standish and the King. Haydock was born in Coppull and grew up in what is now known as Bogburn Hall. He had studied at St John’s College Cambridge between 1665 and 1672. He was the brother of Roger Haydock the Quaker. He served as rector for a considerable time, dying in 1713. 460 John Pearson, who was to become Lord of the Manor of Coppull almost two decades later, was one of the witnesses of his will. 461

At the Chapel in Coppull, in 1684 “when most of the old Trustees and Frequenters of the said meeting house being dead and their descendents being of the established Church Mr William Crooke and the other trustees obtained the consent of the then Lord Bishop of Chester to make use of the said meeting house as a place of worship or Chapel of the established religion and nominated the Revd Walkden.”

Thomas Walkden was appointed curate of Coppull in 1688. He had received a BA from Jesus College Cambridge in 1674, and between 1676 to about 1713 kept a school in Standish. 462 Thomas Ingham was subsequently appointed by Sir Edward Chisnall and Richard Crooke (brother of William) and served until 1713 or 1714 when he was suspended and locked out by Samuel Crooke. Ingham had previously spent some time as curate of Todmorden, perhaps after the late 1660s. Todmorden was a very Nonconformist community. 463 Ingham graduated from Emmanuel College Cambridge with a BA in 1677 but seems to have been regarded with some suspicion or dislike by the church authorities. The Rev William Haydock was said to have “suffered” him to preach at Coppull Chapel, and some of
the inhabitants of the village complained about him sometime after Haydock’s death in 1713. He had the support of Samuel Crook however and remained in post until they quarrelled in 1715, after which Crook locked up the chapel, effectively depriving Ingham of his pulpit. He had shortly before been presented by the Churchwardens for clandestine marriage, drunkenness and officiating without the Bishop’s licence. Shortly after the locking up of the chapel, Sir Edward Chisnall told the Bishop of Chester that “for ten years past, Mr Thomas Ingham had served the cure, and constantly read the prayers in the Church every Sunday, and gave good content in his sermons to the inhabitants and all his other benefactors and hearers”. 464

Frontispiece of Edward Chisnall’s Catholicke History, showing the author in the centre.

St Wilfred’s Church remained important during the period. Villagers could not get married at the Chapel, although in 1715 Thomas Ingham was accused of conducting clandestine marriages there. Most villagers got married at St Wilfred’s or if one of the parties was from another parish, then the parish of the bride was often chosen. Villagers were buried at Standish throughout the period and many of them continued to have their children baptised there.

By the middle of the 1600s, Coppull had a close-knit group of non-conformists, perhaps what we would now refer to as Puritans. One of the earliest references to the radical new protestantism comes in the will of Henry Maudsley, written in 1617. Henry used the following form of words "I comit my soule into the handes of Almightye God my maker & redeemer trusting to bee one of his blessed elected children in the kingdome of heaven". The doctrine of "election" was a defining feature of the new radical protestant theology. Henry was a chapman and may, like Edward Holt and XXX have been trading with London and brought back the new religious ideas from the city.

Ralph Lowe died in 1668 and in his will he had said “first I commit my soul unto the hands of Almighty God faithfully trusting through the merits and ??? of Jesus Christ my saviour to be made a partaker of the kingdom of heaven”. This was a very Protestant form of words to use. One of his witnesses was
George Browne, who was one of the trustees of Coppull Chapel. Margaret Green was the mother of William Crook. She died in 1675, leaving £100 to Coppull Chapel. Her stepson John Green of Hindley had sought the recording of Hindley Chapel for dissenters.

One of the witnesses to Margaret’s will, Thomas Alker, died in 1677 leaving an even clearer statement of his faith in his will: “I doe first resign up my soul to God my maker and preserver to be received to himself and his kingdom upon the above account of his Son my Lord Saviour Jesus Christ.” He went on to leave “twenty pounds towards a stock for the maintenance of an orthodox protestant preaching minister” at Coppull Chapel. His beneficiaries included Margaret Green’s son William Crook and John Brownlow of Rivington who was a member of a local presbyterian family, and he also left 40 shillings to the poor of Coppull. William Crook died in 1687, and although he had no religious preamble in his will, one of his executors was Richard Fisher, one of the original trustees of Coppull Chapel.

The enduring Roman Catholicism of the Worthingtons of Blainscough has been discussed above. Thomas Worthington continued his work in the cause during the Rigby lordship. His career as President of Douai College came to an end in November 1612 following long disagreements with professors and students at the college, who were disturbed by Worthington’s closeness to the Jesuits. He returned to the English Mission in 1616 and worked in London and Staffordshire. He wrote a number of books in Latin and English. He became a Jesuit towards the end of his life and died at Biddulph Hall in Staffordshire 1627. His nephew John also became a Jesuit and settled in Lancashire. He died in January 1652.

A document survives which provides a much formal insight into the beliefs of the Worthingtons. In 1661 Richard Worthington wrote from Louvain (where he was in exile?) to his brother William Worthington (of Blainscough?, the head of the family?). He asked: “I have been sent to from the Princesse of Hoochselleren who lives at Bergen-op-zoom for a relation of the crosse which appeared in our fathers forhead when he dyed. Doe you know or have heard say that from the cross which my father had at the hour of death by him, that, I say from that cross came some beames of light to my fathers forhead and that so the cross was imprinted in his forhead at first in the manner of a light, and afterwards formed to be red as his picture shews. I pray write to me what you know concerning this. Who made the authentical testimonies? Was it not old Hermans? Is not the picture which my sister Ann had in her keeping the original. Is not that in our dining room the copie? Does not the picture of my father in the dining room and Cardinal Allans belong to you?”

The Haydock family lived at Bogburn Hall during the period. Roger Haydock’s conversion to Quakerism is described by one who knew him. Janner says his conversion took place in 1667. He

About this time also came to enter into Society with those called Quakers, whose Doctrine his eldest Brother John Haydock had received before him: but it so happened that Roger coming once to his Father’s House, was by his Mother put on to discourse with his Brother John, in hopes that therby he might have been drawn from the Way of the Quakers. But John gave such weighty Reasons for what he asserted to be Truth, that he quickly put Roger to silence, which so displeased his Mother, who was inclined to the Presbyterian Way, that she blamed him for not having held it out longer against his Brother: But he told her “Tis Truth, I dare not say against it”. Thus being convinced he also became a publick Professor of the Doctrine of the Quakers, and in Time a zealous Preacher of it too.
Two years before Roger Haydock’s conversion, his brother William had been admitted to St John’s College, Cambridge, graduating with an MA in 1672. He was appointed by Edward Standish as rector of Standish in 1678, at the height of Roger’s career as an missionary for the Quakers.468

In 1677, John Cheney published A warning to souls to beware of Quakers and Quakerism: by occasion of a late dispute at Arley in Cheshire, between John Cheyney a Christian minister, and Roger Haydock a sect-master and speaker to the Quakers; on Tuesday Jan. 23. 1676. Shortly afterwards Roger Haydock replied with his own book: The Skirmisher Confounded Being a Collection of Several Passages Taken Forth of Some Books of John Cheyney’s, who Stiles Himself the Author of the Skirmish Upon Quakerism: in which Is the Baseness, Wickedness, Collected by ... Roger Haydocke. Not yet finished with Cheney, the following year, Haydock published A hypocrite unveil’d and a blasphemer made manifest: being an examination of John Cheyney’s false relation of his dispute with the Quakers ... published in his book entitled A warning to souls

Haydock travelled widely in the service of Quakerism. In 1677 alone he accompanied Roger Longworth to Ireland, Germany and Denmark. 469 In 1695 Roger Haydock was planning a trip in support of the cause to Holland, in company with Heskin Fell and James Fletcher. 470

During the course of his travels, Haydock was an effective speaker and a recent convert described his style of preaching: “It was at a meeting, at Bradley, near Skipton in Yorkshire; where he declared the day of God, which was broken forth in this age, in great splendour to enlighten mankind. He spoke many things which reached the states of many in that day; alluding to the state of Israel of old, who passed through the sea, and saw the wondrous works which the Lord wrought for their deliverance... With these and many more precious words, he did sound forth the glorious Gospel.” 471

Some time after becoming a Quaker, Roger was taken out of a meeting at which he had been preaching and brought before Edward Rigby, a justice of the peace, and also Lord of the Manor of Coppull. Rigby fined him £20. Some years later, during the reign of James II, Rigby was arrested and taken to prison at Chester. The prisoners were refused hospitality at the inns en route, but were received at the house of Roger Haydock near Warrington. 472

In June 1675, Haydocks friend and fellow Quaker, Heskin Fell was taken to Lancaster Prison by James Worthington who was paid 15s for his troubles. In November of the same year, Roger Haydock was also delivered to Lancaster Prison by Worthington who received another 15s for his troubles. 473

In 1700, four years after Roger’s death in 1696, his brother John, who had first introduced him to Quakerism, published A Collection of the Christian Writings, Labours, Travels, and Sufferings of That Faithful and Approved Minister of Jesus Christ, Roger Haydock to Which Is Added an Account of His Death and Burial.

Catholicism remained popular in Coppull during the Rigby lordship. In 1626 there were 21 recusants in about 16 families (in both Coppull and Worthington) out of a total population of perhaps 250 people and 50 families in Coppull, meaning perhaps a quarter of the households in the village had at least one Catholic member.474 Of these acknowledged Catholics, two thirds were women and about half of these were either widows or spinsters. In 1679 there were eleven recusants in ten families. There were approximately 54 families in the village at this time and this means that almost 20% of families had a Catholic member. Interestingly of the eleven people listed, nine were women and five were
spinsters. When another count of recusants was made just four years later in 1683, there were just nine recusants in seven families, meaning the proportion of families with one or more Catholic members had fallen to 13%. The reduction is mainly due to the names of all but one of the spinsters of 1679 disappearing from the list.\textsuperscript{475} Public Catholicism was a female experience during the period, perhaps because men did not wish to suffer the penalties which would accompany being a declared recusant and complied to the minimum extent permitted by law.

The most notable Catholic family in the village during the period continued to be the Worthingtons.

At the very twilight of the Rigby's Lordship, philanthropy linked to faith, remained a feature of village life. Catherine Haydock, a widow, left a £50 bequest to “the Chapel of Coppull for the use of the Curate, provided that the inhabitants raise a further £150”. In the event that they did not, the £50 was to benefit poor clergymen’s widows.\textsuperscript{476}

\textbf{5.5 Population and Society}

The Civil War would have been a defining point of many of the lives of the inhabitants of Coppull. Edward Chisnall was active in the defence of Lathom House, the headquarters of the Countess of Derby during the war, and in other military actions. He may well have taken some of his tenants with him in his troop or other locals, perhaps from Coppull.

An Act of 1652 ordered the sale of the lands of two villagers: Hugh Pilkington and James Rigby.\textsuperscript{477} This would have been a consequence of their support for the losing side in the Civil War.
Baptisms and Burials, Parish of Standish, 1601 to 1729

Overall the parish of Standish experienced a modest surplus of baptisms over burials for much of the time of the Rigby lordship. There was a population crisis in 1623 when burials outnumbered baptisms by a ratio of 3 to 1. In this year, there were 74 burials. This was the largest number of burials recorded since the surviving parish registers began in 1560, and this number of burials was not experienced at Standish again during the seventeenth century. It represents a 225% increase on the average of the ten preceding years. The increase in burials was accompanied by a fall in baptisms. The average of the ten preceding years was 44, but the number of baptisms in 1623 fell to 24 and in the following year fell again to a mere 13, although in 1624 burials fell back to the pre-crisis level. It has been suggested that this crisis was the result of famine, with people probably dying as the result of diseases contracted when they were physically weak. Food crises are often associated with reductions in the birth rate because protracted lack of nutrition results in ovulation ceasing. 478

On the 8th May 1631, the parish register of St Lawrence’s in neighbouring Chorley ominously recorded “buringes of the Plake the year of our Lord 1631 – Plague begun”. The plague raged all through summer and into winter although the burials became fewer in November. It was not until the 5th March 1632, that the register records “plague ended”. The plague also killed perhaps a third of the population of Preston and affected other places throughout Lancashire. Despite its impact in Chorley, the number of burials in Standish in 1631 were 31 compared to the average of the previous seven years (i.e. those after the abnormal death rate of the 1623 famine) of 29. There is therefore no evidence that the plague killed the inhabitants of Standish although it would undoubtedly have impacted on trade and severely reduced access to markets.

There was an unusual year in 1658 when Standish recorded 36 baptisms against 49 burials. Another unusual year in 1668 when there were 42 baptisms and 55 burials. There followed three years 1682 to 1685 when burials constantly exceeded baptisms (186 to 150 respectively).

None of these crisis years however compared to the disaster of the late 1720s. In 1725 a total of 44 people were buried at Standish Church. In 1726 there was a tiny increase to 47. In both years four burials per month was roughly the average and this average continued until May 1727 when there were 11 burials. Some locals may have thought it unusual but it would have increased the mortuary payments for the curate (the charge made for performing a funeral). June and July were not unusual months in terms of the number of burials and then in August the number of burials rose to 31, or
almost 8 times the monthly average of the previous two years. In September this fell slightly to 29 and then again in October to 22. For the next year, until the end of December 1728, the number of burials were approximately double the monthly average, after which there was another, but more muted, crisis in January to May of 1729 when the average number of burials was 17, just over four times the monthly average. Burials ran at about double their monthly average until June 1730 after which they fell back to about 50% more than the normal rate.

![Burials at Standish, 1725 to 1730](image)

The Civil War was a traumatic event for England and its repercussions were felt in and around Coppull.

The Rigbys fought on the Royalist side during the War and Alexander Rigby’s estate was sequestered by Parliament as a consequence of him acting as a commissioner of array. He was removed from the commission of the peace in 1642. In October 1642 he was one of six prominent Lancashire royalists chosen to negotiate with six prominent supporters of Parliament, although the planned meeting never actually took place. In December 164X he was chosen by the Royalists to collect money in the Hundred of Amounderness to fund foot soldiers and cavalry. He was one of the leaders of the siege of Thurland Castle in October 164X. In 1643 he raised men for the King’s side in Cartmell. The family afterwards made Layton in north Lancashire its principal home. It was also a time of tragedy for the Rigbys, as Edward the eldest son was killed in a Royalist attack on Bolton in 1643. Another son, Alexander, was a cornet under Sir Thomas Tyldesley in 1651.

William Worthington of Blainscough, back in Lancashire after he inherited the family estates from his father who died in exile in Louvain in 1619, supported the King during the Civil War, and lost his estates for a time. He had been taken prisoner at Ormskirk sometime before 1652 and required to prove that he had not been “in arms” at the time and also that he had unwillingly maintained a man in Wigan garrison for him. 481

Edward Chisnall was lauded by later historians for the part he played in the Civil War, like his contemporaries, he supported the King’s side. Along with Colonels Radcliffe and Rawsthorne, he captured Preston for the Royalist side in March 1644. 482 He was one of the eight captains who fought
in the defence of the Countess of Derby at Lathom House in March 1644. He led an assault under cover of darkness on the besieging Parliamentarian forces. He also captured a large mortar piece from the opposing army early one morning in late April and took it back within the walls of Lathom House on a specially contructed sled. The defenders of Lathom House had been very afraid of this for the duration of the siege. In June 1644 he was made a Colonel in Prince Rupert’s army and accompanied him to Yorkshire. He afterwards fought at Marston Moor. He was taken prisoner at Wigan and captured at Appleby in 1648. His estates were sequestered by Parliament and in 1648 he compounded for them. Specifically it was claimed that “being newly called to the bar at Gray’s Inn, he adhered to and assisted the forces raised against the Parliament”. He did not live long into the Commonwealth period, dying in March 1654. In his will, he sounds heartily sick of what the world has come to “I therefore considering how obnoxious I am not only by reason of my weakness of constitution but likewise by reason of the several and sudden casualties subject according to Gods goodwill and pleasure to mankind and especially calling to mind the evils and dangers of this present troublesome age”. The impact of the Civil War on the “ordinary” villagers is almost undocumented, beyond a soldier called William Treasor impregnating Anne Baron who died in 1651, either in childbirth or shortly after it.

Edward Chisnall was a ward to the Rigby’s of Burgh, but the benefits of wardship could be enjoyed by those lower down the social scale than the Rigbys. In 1640, Charles I granted the wardship of Andrew, the son of the deceased Thurstan Waterworth of Heskin gentleman, to Ralph Lowe of Coppull, who was a tanner. The wardship was granted despite the fact that Andrew’s mother, Alice, was still alive. The benefits were that the King received ready money, and Ralph Lowe had access to the revenue of the Waterworth estate during Andrew’s minority and could potentially derive more profit from the deal by arranging a marriage for him.
Part 6: The Pearsons and Liveseys

6.1 The Lords of the Manor

In 1709, John Pearson married Ann Morris at St Lawrence’s Church in Chorley. Through her mother, Elizabeth, Ann was a descendent of the Holts of Coppull, and a distant cousin of the Prescotts and Crooks who had made their heady rise to wealth and prominence during the course of the seventeenth century. Pearson was curate of St Wilfred’s Church Standish between 1713 and 1726, and inducted the new rector William Turton in 1713. In January 1727, Pearson’s lawyer, Nicholas Woosiey of Preston, wrote to him to say that he had received the details of Sir Alexander Rigby’s estate. He had sent them to John Chadwick of Birkacre, who was to act as an agent for Pearson and Woosey on the ground in Coppull. Woosey invited Pearson and unnamed “others” to meet him the next day to look at the estate particulars and plan their approach. Rigby’s estate in Poulton had been sold by February and during the course of the month Woosey was trying to collect in cash owed to Pearson, presumably to provide him with ready money to buy parts of Rigby’s estate. In May, Woosey invited Pearson to Widow Howard’s on Spen Moor in Coppull to meet with Matthew Cragg, Mr Gillibrand and others to discuss the purchase of the Coppull estate. Within the week, John Chadwick was in London presumably meeting with the bankruptcy commissioners to make a bid for the estate. Early in June, Woosey told Pearson he did not think the estate was worth more than £17,500 and was to be sold on the 15th of the month. He had also engaged Daniel Dandy, a London lawyer based at Clifford’s Inn, to help with the matter. On the day of the sale, John Chadwick, still in London, bid £18,000 for the estate on behalf of the purchasers who were: John Pearson, Nicholas Woolsey, Matthew Cragg and John Halliwell both of Wrightington, and John Chadwick of Standish parish. It seems that Daniel Dandy actually secured the estate on behalf of the purchasers by bidding £19,200. In October, Pearson and Woosey appointed John Chadwick to manage the estate on their behalf, collecting rents and even selling off parts of the estate if he thought fit. Within days though, disaster struck for Pearson and his son Edward died and was buried on the 20th December. His daughter Susanna died a few days later and was buried on the 2nd January. Both were perhaps victims of the great mortality crisis of 1727 which killed a significant proportion of the population of the parish. Chadwick, after commiserating with Pearson, urged him to hold a manorial court in Coppull at an early opportunity. Some details regarding the division of the estate were only to be resolved the following year but the result was that the Reverend John Pearson became Lord of the Manor of Coppull.

Coppull was originally bought with lands in Poulton, formerly owned by the Rigbys, by a number of purchasers, and in February 1728, The Reverend John Pearson and his Preston-based solicitor, Nicholas Woolsey, agreed to pay the other purchasers forty pounds because they had received proportionally more lands in Coppull and Poulton respectively. They retained some interest in the estates in Poulton however, later deeds relating how they had sold landholdings, such as five and a half acres to John Salthouse in Great Bispham before 1737, a cottage in Poulton to Christopher Albin before 1755, and exchanging the moiety (a half share) of a cottage in Great Marton before 1756. Pearson and Woolsey had together acquired half the manor of Chorley by 1731. In 1746 he went into partnership with Edward Dicconson of Wrightington to mine for coal in Shevington. During part of the 1730s, Pearson was Rector of Eccleston.

The Reverend John Pearson, together with Nicholas Woolsey, bought the manor of Coppull together with other lands formerly owned by the Rigbys in Lancashire in 1731. The manor of Coppull was
bought for £3,561 3s 6d. The lands bought by Pearson were about half the acreage of the Rigby manor. Rigby’s manor consisted of over 366 acres, valued at almost £7,000, with 40 landholdings. Pearson’s manor consisted of only 170 acres, with 17 landholdings. Nicholas Woosely acted as occasional bailiff of the manor, by holding the manorial court and watching out for the interests of the Lord of the Manor. He quickly set about re-asserting his rights and privileges as Lord of the Manor, using Woosely as his enforcer. Woosely took issue with residents of Coppull who were digging for clay on the waste. Some of the manorial rights may have started to fall into abeyance during the latter part of the Rigby lordship, as a document from c1717 says that “the family of the Rigbys are the sole Lords of this manor & in the Lifetime of Sir Alexander held a Court there”, suggesting that the holding of the manorial court may have lapsed subsequently.

Pearson’s sense of achievement in acquiring the manor, already dampened by the loss of his only son was perhaps further reduced because he became infirm soon after the event and had to be carried to his church pew by his servants.

Pearson’s biggest impact on Coppull was his support for the enclosure of the wastes. This turned common land, often marshy and not very profitable to the Lord, into individual landholdings, allocated in part according to the size of freeholders’ landholdings. Enclosure took place by the agreement of the principal landowners in 1736, perhaps helped by the death of Edward Chisnall sometime after 1726 and the impoverishment of the Worthingtons of Blainscough which culminated in the sale of their estates to Robert Holt of Wigan in 1732, the other two old established families in the village, who may have had some attachment to the commons and the traditional way of life which they allowed.

Pearson also permitted the construction of a workhouse, perhaps to reduce the cost of providing for the poor, or perhaps pre-empting one of the consequences of enclosure: poor people often used the commons for pasturing animals, or collecting reeds for heat and light, etc, and access to the commons made the difference between self-sufficiency and poverty. In his will, he also asked his mother in law to honour agreements which provided money for the poor of Upholland, Shevington and Orrell. Pearson bought back at least one piece of land allotted to a freeholder on enclosure, perhaps to help consolidate existing farm units. The land and buildings at Coppull Hall were valued in 1736 and it was found that “house, outhousing, garin, orchards, ffouds and yards are valued at nothing”, perhaps in an effort to attract a new tenant, Pearson partially rebuilt the barn at the Hall, installing a carved datestone with his and his wife’s initials. When the manor was sold again in 1812, the sale particulars claimed “The Barn is considered the best structure of the kind in the Country”.

There is no evidence that Pearson had any connection with it, but during his lordship, there was a school at Standish. A man called Dutton was the Higher Schoolmaster in about 1741.
The datestone at Coppull Hall Barn, with the initials of John and Anne Pearson and the date they bought the manor.

Early during his lordship, Pearson rented out Coppull Hall to Alexander Tyrer. Tyrer’s memory was a little confused in 1762 because his recollection was that his tenancy began in about 1733 and ended about 1745, but this could not be the case because Pearson rented out Coppull Hall and the demesne farm in 1741 to Henry Nickson, on a seven year lease. Despite being a minister of the Church of England, Pearson does not seem to have been prejudiced in letting to tenants of different religious denominations: the tenant who followed Tyrer was a Quaker. Ralph Waring followed the Quaker as tenant of the Hall. This marked a major change from previous practice which was normally to lease land for three lives. Fixed term leases usually resulted in landowners generating higher rents from their estates. In the case of Coppull, Pearson’s purchase included some properties which were out of lease, and others which were leased for the remainder of 1, 2 or 3 lives. When these lands could be relet, Pearson stood to gain rents which were on average 15 times those charged under the old Rigby leases. Pearson had previously let land for a 32 year lease (in 1732 to Samuel Rathbone, for a large entry premium and a small annual rent) and shorter fixed term leases followed in 1742 (to John Hale for 7 and 5 years for two landholdings) and 1746 (to George Fowler for 9 years).

Pearson was also interested in exploiting Coppull’s mineral wealth as he was already involved in coal mining works in Shevington in the mid 1740s. As far back as the 1680s the Prescott family were mining coal from their house at Holt which neighboured the Coppull Hall demesne farm. In 1723 Robert Patrick Lancaster of Coppull, and a tenant of the Rigbys, contracted with Thomas Hesketh of Rufford to dig for coal and maintain adequate drainage in Wrightington along with William Cowling.

After Pearson’s death in 1749 his wife Anne became Lady of the Manor, and on her death in 1753 it descended to their three children: Jane Pearson, Margaret Pearson and John Livesey, the husband of his third daughter Anne. In 1761 Jane Pearson and John Livesey transferred a large landholding to the west of the Coppull Hall demesne to Margaret Pearson, on the same day as which Margaret and John transferred their lands in Coppull to Jane Pearson who therefore became the sole Lady of the Manor. The mineral rights were excluded from the sale, but Jane Pearson, together with her sister, bid for the John Livesey’s share of mineral rights in the manor in 1789 when Livesey was bankrupted. In March 1789, John Livesey had sold Crook Hall Farm in Shevington to Caesar Lowry, a plumber and glazier from Liverpool, who asked Jane Pearson if she would be interested in selling to him her remaining share of the mineral rights in the estate. He suggested that there was such little coal in the estate that mining it would not be economically viable.
In 1769 a level (coal mine) had been constructed in Coppull by Jane Pearson and Robert Livesey, and was apparently rented by a partnership headed by William Norris of Chorley. By 1791, Jane Pearson had constructed a mine and was extracting coal from it, unlike her neighbour, Sir Richard Clayton, the Lord of the Manor of Adlington, who had leased what he regarded as land with the potential for a mine to William Norris around the same time, but no coals had been extracted. By 1774, William Ainscow was managing the coal workings on behalf of the Pearson sisters, across their landholdings. In that year alone he extracted 260 score bushels of cannel and 2,446 score bushels of coal, paying wages of over £359 for their extraction but generating a profit of £369. The bulk of the coal extraction was done during the months of March, April and May. For his services to the sisters, Ainscow was paid the not inconsiderable sum of £40 for the year 1774. In 1773 there were two separate mines in Coppull, the Olerton Pit and the Smithy Pit. The Olerton Pit operated all year through and produced 1,185 score bushels of coal and incurred a wage bill of £163. The coals were sold for £296, so the profit was £133. The Smithy Pit operated between April and October, produced 469 score bushels and had a wage bill of £56. The coals were sold for £117, so the profit was 61.

By 1793, Pearson appears to have invested heavily in coal mining, her steward presenting a list of equipment at one of her mines (it is not clear if the mine was in Shevington or Coppull). At about the same time she leased two third of the coal under some of her lands in Shevington to Richard German of Orrell.

It was during the Lordship of John Pearson’s three heirs that the new chapel at Coppull was built, in 1755. Whilst the building contract does not explicitly mention the lords of the manor, their permission to either construct a chapel on a new site, or to remove the existing chapel and build a new one would have been given. Robert Livesey may for a while have lived at Coppull Hall, because his pew is shown on the plan of pews drawn up after construction of the chapel on the right hand side, two rows back from the altar.

A pew, this time in Standish Church, was the case of an expensive dispute funded by Robert Livesey, representing his wife and the other two Pearson sisters who were joint lady of the manor, between 1760 and 1763. The case related to dispute between John Hammerton, the owner of the Chisnall estate and the lords of the manor of Coppull relating to the rights to a pew in Standish Church, which of course would have been an indicator of social status. Former tenants of Coppull Hall in the seventeenth century, John Dickenson and his son Edward, had “owned” a pew which adjoined that of the Crook Hall estate, also in Standish Parish. Around 1700, Dorothy Cowper, the remarried widow of Edward Dickenson (and also the sister of the Rigby lord of the manor) relinquished her rights to the pew in favour of Mr Catterall of the Crook and Sir Edward Chisnall of Chisnall. Sir Edward Chisnall used the pew during his lifetime, although his frequent absences from Lancashire meant that he was often away and on his return made a particular point of sitting in his servants seat which was often occupied by strangers. On one occasion he was asked why he sat in his servants pew and he is alleged to have replied “By Dad, I will sit here or I may lose my right as I have no servants in my absence to sit there”. Sir Edward died about 1727 after which his son William enjoyed the pew rights until his own death in 1732. The assertion on behalf of the Pearson sisters was that the pew had always belonged to Coppull Hall. Hammerton however denied this and accused the now dead John Pearson of underhand behaviour in 1741 when he “request(ed) him the said Jonathan Pilgrim [rector of Standish] and some other parishioners of the parish of Standish to meet at a public house in Standish to drink a pot of beer and whilst there... at the solicitation and persuasion of the said John Pearson clerk they caused one of the public parish books to be brought thither in a clandestine and unwarrantable manner... [and] did make or cause to be made false partial and illegal entry or memorandum above recited".
In 1794, towards the end of her life, Jane Pearson gave permission for “houses of dwelling” to be erected for the poor in Coppull. These may have supplemented the provision for the poor of Coppull provided by the workhouse which her father had permitted in 1732, or the workhouse may have fallen into abeyance. In 1794, when the Reverend Perryn undertook a detailed survey of all the households in his growing parish of Standish, the only people living at the workhouse were the governor and his wife. The Pearson-Livesey family were committed to provision for the poor, provided within the supervised environment of the workhouse, because, as well as John and Jane Pearson supporting the provision of workhouses or “houses of dwelling” in Coppull, John’s son-in-law, Robert Livesey, was a trustee of a building converted to the use of the poor in Manchester.

Jane Pearson was not a resident Lady of the Manor, and lived in St Anne’s Square in Manchester in the 1790s. Like her father, Jane Pearson appears to have used bailiffs, now renamed “stewards” to administer her manor. In 1769 William Ainscow was agent for Jane and her brother in law. In 1762 William, described as a Gentleman and of Standish about forty years old, testified on behalf of the Pearsons and Liveseys at a court case about a pew in Standish church. Another Ainscow, perhaps William’s son, had fallen out of favour by 1793, because a new agent had instructed her tenants in Coppull not to pay rent to him. In 1770 John Nabb was steward, in 1777 Joseph Seaton Aspden was “deputy steward”, and William Clayton was steward between 1793 and 1812. The Ainscows served as agents for the three Pearson sisters during the 1770s and managed their coal workings around Coppull and Shevington. Between July and December 1773, the three sisters were paid £387 by James and William Ainscow in respect of coal they had sold.

A survey of the parish of Standish in 1794 identified only 132 acres owned by Jane Pearson, with 22 landholdings.

After Pearson’s death the Lordship of the Manor was split between John Pearson Livesey and his three sisters Mary, Elizabeth, Frances and Ann, the children of John Livesey.

Some court books exist from the lordship of the Pearsons and their descendents. A court held on the 16th November 1770, swore a jury of thirteen men. It appointed a Constable, two Pinders, two Barleymen, two Houselookers, two Afeerors and two Aletasters. This is similar to, but different from, the officers appointed by the manor court of 1597, the offices of Constable, houselooker and aletaster had been created in the interim and the offices of moss reeve and mise layer had been discontinued. Tenants and freeholders of the manor were presented for encroachments, although given that the commons and waste of Coppull had been enclosed in 1736, these encroachments must have been on highways and other public land. They were also fined for non-attendance at the Court. Later courts held by Jane Pearson’s heirs appointed new officers of the Manor. The Court held on the 4th April 1809 appointed a Constable, two Appraisers of Distress, a Pound Keeper and two Impounders of the Highway, doubtless replacing the two Pinders appointed by earlier courts, a Barleyman and two Ale Tasters. The court heard presentments that wasteland adjoining highways had been encroached upon and ordered repairs to the pinfold which was described as “ruinous and in decay for want of repairs”. At some courts, the jurors perambulated part of the boundary of the manor, describing the lands and features adjoining both sides of the boundary. The court of 1798 for instance perambulated from Dark Lane Bridge (the bridge over the Stars Brook between Coppull and Standish on Preston Road) to the Clancutt estate at the most northerly point of the manor, adjoining Charnock Richard. The manorial courts held by the Pearsons and their heirs were therefore similar in many ways to those held by the
Bailiffs of the Stanleys. The enclosure of the common land in 1736 meant that a whole class of offences tried in the court ceased to exist, and the later courts did not play a part in refereeing disputes between neighbours, but the presence of a jury, the appointment of officers, and the concern to prevent encroachment on land not belonging to the encroacher, were common features of the courts held two centuries apart.

6.2 The Gentry Families
Sir Edward Chisnall lived to the great age of 81, but had experienced tragedy in his life. Of his seven known children, all but three had pre-deceased him. His third marriage to Dame Elizabeth Playters was a tempestuous one and at least towards its end a very unhappy one, although it did produce his three surviving children. One of his grandchildren, Edward Dauntesey, was a lunatic, and in 1733 his brother Christopher petitioned to have the family’s estate conveyed to himself because “he is rendered incapable to marry in such manner as his quality and estate would and do otherwise require”. At the time of his death two of his sons were still living but both were to die within a short time after his own death and with them, the family name came to an end. When he died in 1727, Sir Edward left bequests as follows: to his son and heir William £2,000, to his son Edward £400, to his daughter Ann Hammerton £600, to his sister “Walmsley of Bury” £100 and to his nephew Evan Wall £100. Of these legacies amounting to £3,200, all but £200 were lent out to others. The largest single sum was £1,600 and was lent to Lord Viscount Molyneux, a member of the Irish peerage with a family estate at Sefton and other lands in Lancashire, who was in financial difficulties. In March 1728, Richard who had presumably recently inherited the indebted Viscountcy, introduced a Bill to the Lords to allow him to sell some of his family lands to pay off his father’s debts and to make provision for himself and his brothers and sisters, the latter request suggesting the estate was heavily over-indebted. Prior to Sir Edward’s death, it seems that his son and heir, William, needed some ready money and so borrowed money against his interest in his father’s estates from Robert Williamson of Lincoln’s Inn, for £1,200. On the death of Sir Edward in 1727, possibly as one of the earliest cases of the epidemic which blighted the parish of Standish in that year, his son William inherited the estates, but he lived only a short time after the death of his father and he made his home in Wigan rather than at Chisnall Hall and he died in Wigan too.

The Hammertons, the descendents of the Chisnalls, had limited interest in Coppull. Sir Edward’s daughter Anne married Stephen Hammerton of Helefied Peel in Yorkshire. He died in 1745 and was succeeded by their son John Hammerton, Sir Edward’s grandson. John was described as “being an entire stranger to that part of the world and living … many miles distant from the parish of Standish and seldom or ever coming into the said parish.” He did however zealously pursue his right to a pew at Standish Church and appears to have extensively exploited the mineral wealth under the Chisnall estate. William Robinson, one of Hammerton’s tenants, interceded on his behalf and asked Alexander Tyrer, the tenant of Coppull Hall, to leave the contested pew because it belonged to Hammerton. John Hammerton died in 1763 and was succeeded by his son James. A map of the Chisnall estate from 1772 shows both old coal workings and also maps the “intended level” together with the site of coal deposits. There appears to have been a mine called “Engine Pit” and coal was such a common feature of the Chisnall estate that it had its effect on the naming of parts of the landscape. The estate had both a Coal Pit Hey and two Coal Pit Lanes.
6.3 The Economy of the Village

Agriculture remained very important even though new economic activities started to become prominent. In 1795 the principle grain produced in Standish was oats, supplemented by a little barley but little wheat. Land in the parish was let from 35s to 50s per acre, although some did let at £3. An acre was then defined as eight yards to the perch. Manual labour could be bought for between 1s 8d to 2s per day. 545

The enclosure of the commons and waste of the village in 1736 would have transformed the landscape of the southern half of Coppull, where the commons were located. In having them enclosed, John Pearson was following an established local pattern. In 1681, Edward Chisnall wrote of “several closes and parcels of ground lying and being in Langtree lately enclosed and taken of and from the commons or waste grounds upon Langtree Moor”. 546

In November 1777 John Chadwick of Burgh leased a newly built spinning mill to Richard Arkwright of Cromford in Derbyshire. In 1780 Arkwright released this to Edward, Chadwick’s brother, after the mill had been burnt down by a “riotous mob”. 547

John Chadwick had died in 1779, and his estate both included property in Coppull and demonstrated how a man of wealth may try to make the most of dramatically new commercial opportunities. He owned German’s tenement in Coppull which included six cottages, as well as Fishers which was let to a single tenant. He had leased two tenements in Coppull from William Dicconson. He held land in Heskin and Burnley. His commercial interests were varied: he owned a slitting mill in Wigan, leased a coal mine in Orrell, held shares in a lead mine in Flint, a copper mine in Caernarvon, an iron warehouse, and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal as well as a share in “a new Flat commanded by John Parkinson”. 548

By 1801, Coppull was clearly the breadbasket of the parish of Standish and produced by far more oats than Standish, the next closest township in acreage, and almost double the wheat produced by Standish. Coppull grew 22% of the parish’s oats and 35% of its wheat, suggesting that Coppull’s production was geared towards the higher prices which could be generated by selling wheat rather than oats which would be the grain most regularly consumed in the township and parish.
The table below shows the occupational structure of the village towards the end of Jane Pearson’s time as Lady of the Manor. It is taken from the baptismal register of Coppull and shows the occupation of men who baptised children and lived in Coppull. It shows the enormous importance of weaving to the village during the period. 37% of fathers were described as weavers and a further 12% had other textile occupations, meaning that about 50% of families in the village were dependent on textiles for their livelihood. 22% were described as farmers. The word “farmer” had increasingly replaced the traditional “husbandman” and “yeoman”, although a few men are described thus. 14% were coal miners, probably reflecting the importance of the Pearson and Livesey’s mining operations in the village and perhaps some mining activity on the Chisnall estate.

Coal was increasingly significant to the economy of the village. In 1723, Robert Patrick Lancaster of Coppull entered into a partnership with William Cowling of Wrightington to dig for coal in Wrightington on the land of Cowling and that of Thomas Hesketh of Rufford. The agreement specified that they would build a watercourse through the affected property and would pay 6d to 8d to the occupiers of the land for every 23 baskets of coal they took (23 baskets were called a “score”). Thomas Hesketh reserved the right to nominate a “winder of getter” in the mines. In 1757 a survey of Coppull included the following placenames: Coalepitt Holm, Coalepitt Lane, Further Coalecoats. The fact that they had become place names suggests that coal mining was an activity which had been taking place for some time. The map of the Hammerton Estate, formerly owned by the Chisnalls, in 1772 shows the extent of actual and proposed coal mining in the village. In 1795, Rev Perryn of Standish described the staple trade of the parish as being coal mining and cotton manufacture.

Other place names from 1757 demonstrate the significance of textiles to the village: Tenter Hey, Hemp Yard, and Yarn Croft.

As well as other options to trade, two fairs were held in Standish in the period. In 1779 these were the St Peter’s Day fair (on the 29th June) and a fair on the 22nd November which was specifically for horses, horned cattle and toys.
6.4 Faith in Coppull

There were a number of options open to the faithful during the Pearson Lordship. As well as Coppull Chapel and Standish Church, other close chapels were at Chorley and Rivington and there was a church at Blackrod. The clerk of Coppull Chapel was able to rent Coppull Hall. Proximity was obviously a factor in determining which venue someone used for worship “the tenants at Coppull Hall which is nearer to Coppull Chapel than the parish church of Standish have not usually come to the seat in dispute [in Standish Church]”.  

St Wilfred’s in Standish remained important throughout the Pearson lordship. Marriages could not be solemnized at Coppull Chapel and burials could not take place. Many baptisms of children from Coppull continued to take place at Standish as well. We know what the villagers would have had to pay the rector for these services in 1779. A marriage would have cost 5s, a churching 4d, a burial 5d, a flat stone in the church yard 5s, a headstone 1s. Every new breadth (burial plot) in the church yard would cost 6d, and every new plot inside the church itself would cost 10s6d. Amongst the officers of St Wilfred’s Church was a sidesman from Coppull appointed annually, some of whom also served as Churchwardens.

Coppull chapel continued to be a focus for the village. There is some confusion as the dates which the early curates of the Pearson lordship served the chapel in the village. Thomas Ingham had been suspended as curate by Samuel Crook in 1715, but it appears that either he continued to minister at the chapel or no further appointment was made during his lifetime. In 1729 following the death of Thomas Ingham, John Norcross was nominated as curate. Lord Willoughby, the head of a long established Presbyterian family with interests in Horwich and Rivington had acquired the right of nomination. Lord Charles Willoughby was following in a family tradition of supporting dissenting chapels in those parts of Lancashire which bordered on the areas of their traditional influence. Lord Hugh Willoughby, uncle of Charles, had supported the dissenting chapels at Horwich, Rivington, Ellenbrook, Hindley and St Helens. Lord Hugh had worked with Samuel Crook when they were both Justices of the Peace. In 1733 Lord Willoughby transferred his right in the land and building of the chapel to Sir Henry Houghton who was a fellow Presbyterian and in either 1733 or 1737 the Rev George Hargreaves was nominated as curate by Sir Henry Houghton.

During the time of Hargreaves’ curacy, the Chapel at Coppull was rebuilt. The building contract is dated 25th Jul 1755 and is between George Hargreaves, Edward Holt, Samuel Crook and twelve others and the builder, John Leigh of Lathom, who was described as a joiner. The new church had fifty three pews which were sold to families in Coppull, Charnock Richard, Duxbury, Adlington and elsewhere in the locality. The chapel was built from clay and sods dug in Coppull. The Lord and Ladies of the Manor gave permission for clay to be taken for the token payment of one shilling, to the gratitude of Hargreaves.  

When Hargreaves died in 1763 Samuel Crooke nominated Benjamin Cooper, then the curate of Heapey, who died before he could take up his appointment. Sir Henry Houghton had previously transferred his rights over the chapel to Samuel Crook. In 1763 Crooke nominated Richard Dewhurst and following his death the Reverend James Hampson. This nomination was contested by Rev Perryn of Standish. In 1771 or 1772 Richard Latham was nominated as curate by Samuel Crook. During this period “the Lord’s Supper is not administered there nor are marriages there celebrated or Burials
Joseph Taylor was appointed curate in 1793. He was the headmaster of Eccleston School and was nominated by the Rector of Standish.

On three occasions between 1764 and 1833, the Rector of Standish of the time conducted what can only be described as a census of the whole parish of Standish. One of the key interests of each of the rectors was to enumerate how many members of each faith there were, and the results of this analysis is shown in the table below:

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<th></th>
<th>1794</th>
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<td>%</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>783</td>
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</table>

Faith Profile of Coppull Inhabitants, 1764, and 1794

6.5 Population and Society

The Farmers’ Society was founded in Coppull in 1790 and the Princess Charlotte Society was founded in 1794 and met at the Wheatsheaf Inn.
Part 7: The Last Lords

7.1 The Lords of the Manor

The Manor was offered for sale in 1812 and was bought by John Hodson. At the time of its sale, it consisted of 177 acres, divided into 18 landholdings. The sale documents made much of the mineral wealth lying under the lands of the manor estate, saying of the Coppull Hall demesne “The estate is known to abound in coal and cannel of a very superior description, a small part of the mines on the northerly side of it having been formerly worked.”

John Hodson was a wealthy Liverpool merchant and was Member of Parliament for Wigan for five successive terms. Like other lords he had philanthropic interests, being a member of the Board of Liverpool infirmary in 1823. He also had extensive coal interests and whilst there is no specific reference to him mining coal in Coppull, he was a partner or main shareholder in a number of coal mining enterprises, including mines at Ince near Wigan and Middlehurst. The public advertisement and the detailed sales particulars for the manor of Coppull made much of the coal and cannel wealth lying under the manor lands, so Hodson was well aware of the village’s mineral wealth. At the time of his death he established a series of trusts and arrangements to ensure that his estates descended to his nephews and their male heirs. As well as his lands, he left bequests amounting to over £50,000 to his nephews and nieces and other beneficiaries. By the time of his death, as well as the Coppull manor lands he had bought in 1812 from the heirs of Jane Pearson, he owned the Hic Bibi Well estate (also known as Higbibby) and Osmond House. Coppull was the only manor he owned but he did have other landholdings in Heath Charnock, Adlington, Duxbury, Upholland and Wigan.

Hodson died in March 1828, and was swiftly followed by his wife in November of the same year. The Manor descended to the Reverend Richard Cardwell who was the son of his sister Jane. In 1835, the Coppull Hall Estate was for rent, together with Harrisons, Water Lane House and Osmond House. On his death in 1839, Coppull descended to Richard’s brother James Cardwell and on his death in May 1855, to James’ nephew Edward Cardwell. Edward was the son of John Cardwell of Liverpool, merchant, the brother of the Reverend Richard and James and was born in 1813. He was, amongst other things, an MP and the Secretary of State for War between 1868 and 1872. He held the post of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster between 1861 and 1864, and was raised to the perrage as Viscount Cardwell of Ellerback in 1874. In 1858 he was credited with being one of the original sponsors of a Mining and Mechanical School at Wigan. In July 1862 Cardwell offered for sale many of the contents of Ellerbeck Hall, which included “a large quantity of valuable household furniture, playes, pictures and miscellaneous effects... family portraits and oil paintings...”.
After the death of Edward Cardwell in 1886, the manor was held by Trustees and the manorial rights appear to have fallen into abeyance. The Ellerbeck estate including the Manor of Coppull was sold on the 10th August 1909. 575

7.2 The Gentry Families

The lands held by the absent gentry families increasingly became a source of rental wealth or a way of rising large sums of ready money. In 1852 James Hammerton and the Reverend Chisnall Hammerton sold their lands in Coppull, formerly the Chisnall estate, to Charles Scarisbrick. 576

7.3 Faith in Coppull

The Bishop of Chester’s visitation of 1821, conducted during the curacy of Joseph Taylor, gives an insight into the layout of the church and some of the ways in which it conducted its business. 577 There were 550 pews most of which were appropriated, that is, they had been sold shortly after the building of the chapel in the 1750s and rights to these pews could be sold by the owner. 578 The gallery however provided 300 seats mainly for the poor. Communion was administered quarterly and the average number of people taking communion was 35. There were no burials at the church and cattle were not allowed into the graveyard. There was a Sunday School and children were taught the catechism during the summer. The curate lived within two and a half miles of the chapel – perhaps at Eccleston where he was or had been the schoolmaster. He appointed a Churchwarden at Easter. The glebe was in a good condition and the chapel was endowed with the tithes of Elston, an estate in Rosendale and this had been supplemented by £400 from Queen Anne’s Bounty.

In 1839 Henry Worsley Jackson was appointed curate. In 1842 he became vicar when Coppull became a parish in its own right. In 1855 J.G. Hollingworth, who had been educated at Exeter College, Oxford, was appointed curate. There was a major rebuilding of the church in 1861. Despite Hollingworth’s extraordinarily long curacy, it was his resignation rather than his death which created the vacancy filled in 1906 George Tomlinson, who had been educated at Durham University was appointed curate. 579
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>1833 number</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of England</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaker</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissenter</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>876</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Faith Profile of Coppull 1833**

7.4 The Economy of the Village

In January 1836, the coal mines at Chisnall were offered to be let. They had been let to Thomas Boothman and consisted of several seams of coal, the advertisement claiming that only one of which had been worked in a shaft of four or five feet thickness and to a depth of 60 yards. There was a steam engine to help drain the mines and this was also offered for sale. 580

By the 1840s, the effects of some of the new industries had made their mark. There were two old coal pits and one coal shafts north of Chisnall Hall, together with an old sand pit. There was an old coal pit to the immediate north of Spendmore Lane west of the Tanyard Brook. There were three old coal pits, two to the north and one to the west of Coppull Hall, together with a coal shaft and a coal pit adjoining Coppull Hall Wood. Most dramatically of all, the new railway line sliced through the village, pretty much at its middle point. A branch line served Coppull colliery, in the fields east of Coppull Hall Lane. A smithy served the colliery and another smithy was on Coppull Moor on the junction of Coppull Moor Lane and Preston Road. Birkacre print works was just over the border with Coppull in Duxbury and a short walk from there was Birkacre Colliery, the Dry Dam Colliery, Calf Hey Colliery and Drybones Colliery. All of these would have been easily accessible to residents of Coppull.

In about 1845 Cordelia Freeman, the heir to the estates of the Crooks, leased land and mines to Jonathan Hargreaves who lived in Southport. 581
In November 1846, there was an explosion at Hargreaves Colliery and the fireman Joseph Grime together with four other men and three women was killed. Davy lamps were used in the pits, but the inquest blamed Grime for his own death because he had caused the explosion by not having his candle covered by the lamp at the time of the accident. The inquest vindicated Hargreaves and the managers as “no blame attached to those who had the management of the works”. Intriguingly the coroner made reference to reports that women worked down the mine and asked if this could be prevented. “A juryman said it was absolutely impossible to keep them away. They were fond of the work and for good wages. When disguised it was very ill to detect them. He believed they would stick a pick into any one sent to examine them”. In November 1847, three women were killed in Hargreaves Pit: Jane Halliwell, Mary Booth and Jane Moss. The defence offered was that the miners (colliers) employed their own drawers (people who took the coal away from the coalface) and Hargreaves employed only the colliers not the drawers. Hargreaves case was harmed by the evidence of Ralph Ainscow, a collier, who said that Joseph Ellis, Hargreaves manager at the pit “gave all the girls notice to change their dress four months before the explosion took place. He said they must come in hats or caps, without bed-gowns; I heard him say so. Any man might know they were females from ordinary observation... (I have seen Ellis) on the brow when women have come up and gown down the pits, and have seen him when the police were about to give signals to prevent the women coming out of the pits”. H claimed that an elaborate system of signalling was used to indicate if it was safe for women to come out of the pit, or if there were police or others present.

By 1849 John Darlington, having bought the Clancutt estate, had begun to mine there. He found quicksand in his test pit. Quicksand was notoriously expensive to extract so he followed a suggestion made to him and built what was essentially a large water-tight brick tube on top of the quicksand.
When he removed the quicksand from underneath the tube, it sank through the quicksand and created a barrier through which it couldn’t penetrate and Darlington could then continue mining below the level of quicksand.  

In August 1850, John Charnock, a “hooker on” (of the underground coal tram) at The Old Pit, was killed when a part of a tram broke and rolled down an incline and struck him.

By 1852, Hargreaves had established an extensive mining operation in the village. In May 1852 there was an explosion at his Coppull Hall Colliery in which 33 men and boys were killed out of a total workforce of about 140. The colliery was managed by Joseph Ellis and there had been four or five pits included in the colliery but at the time of the disaster only one, known as the New Pit, was worked. There was a furnace pit, called the Coppull Pit 640 yards away and a downshaft pit called Dry Bones pit a similar distance away. The New Pit had been dug four or five years before the disaster and was 210 yards deep. During mining, pillars of coal were left in the workings, or “shunts” which led off from the main pits. When a shunt was closed down because it was no longer worth mining the coal, the pillars would be cut away and the roofs would eventually collapse. The fireman of the pit would inspect the works at about twenty to five, in time for the first miners to start the day. Of the dead 20 lived in Coppull, one of whom was a nine year old boy.

Hargreaves owned trains to convey his coal to market. His “Victoria” coal train ran over William Green, the train breaksman, near Leyland Station in September 1852. His injuries were severe and required the amputation of his leg.

In April 1853 Thomas Collinson was killed in Hargreaves pit after going into old mineworkings which resulted in an explosion.

In July 1854, James Robinson, a drawer at the pit was hit by a tub which rolled into him and knocked him in a pit. His inquest showed that coal was collected into tubs and hauled in a cage to the surface of the pit. They were often secured by a stone under a wheel while waiting for the cage to descend, and on this occasion the stone was crushed by the wheel of the tub and hence rolled free. The colliers were lowered and taken to the surface in baskets. In January 1854 Robert Haworth of Chorley was killed when he was thrown out of his basket which was lifting him out of the bit when it collided with that taking colliers down the pit to start the morning shift.

In February 1855, John Bentham and Seth Holden were after an explosion of fire damp in Coppull Old Pit. Seth Holden was burnt as a result of the explosion and was being wheeled towards the surface on a “tram” by other colliers. He had been working with an exposed candle. There was some doubt as to whether the explosion was caused by a crack in the roof of the workings which was being examined by Holden and his candle, or if it was a result of a ventilation place having been blocked up for the previous six months. There was evidently a weekly cut off for assessing how much coal had been brought up by each collier. John Howarth, a fireman at the colliery, said “The day after the explosion was the making up day, and the men had neglected to draw (i.e. take down) their props, so that they might get more coal out before the pay. The men are not paid for drawing props”. The inquest was told that Joseph Dickinson, Inspector of Coalmines, had served Hargreaves with a notice in March 1854, which followed a letter sent in March of the previous year. It said “As explosions of fire damp continue to take place in your Coppull Colliery, which would be prevented... in my opinion the mode
of lighting the mine with open lights instead of safety lamps and the want of attention to ventilation, threatens or tends to the bodily injury of the persons employed therein”. 591

In 1856, James Booth a 19 year old drawer at Hargreaves pit was killed by a falling stone. 592

A colliery at Hic Bibi was in operation between 1886 and 1896 when the rights to mining were surrendered. 593 Blainscough colliery was operating in 1892 when there was a dispute about a blocked culvert. 594

7.5 Population and Society

Migration in and out of the village had been a feature of life in Coppull for all of its recorded history. By the nineteenth century, the scope for migration was much greater. John and Ann Morris from Coppull left to start life in America in the late 1820s. They experienced some difficulty in finding a passage but met up with their uncle Henry without much difficulty. They explained the different types of weaving practised and favourably compared the prices of food and wages with what was available in England. Despite their having had their house broken into and almost all their clothes stolen, they were encouraging their brother Thomas to come to join them in America. There is a suggestion that their decision to start a new life in America was not solely the result of economic considerations because John Morris was sorry for “all our relations in such an oppress land” (i.e. England). 595 The following year another letter came relating work at a cotton factory in Philadelphia. The new life was made more pleasant by there being a number of other Bolton people there and also by the friendly society called the Oddfellows, with which she was closely involved. The lodges of the Oddfellows provided relief for necessitous members. 596 In 1830 Thomas Morris succumbed to his brother’s invitation and set out for America, although he set up home in Brook County, Virginia. They related details of their seven week voyage out. He had done some work on arriving but along with Henry Fairbrother he had bought land in Ohio and intended to move there to build a house. 597
A flavour of recreation in the village following the explosion at Coppull Colliery in November 1846, a newspaper remarked “It is most singularly fortunate that the whole of the workpeople were not at the mine in time that morning, the greater portion of them having been to a dance on the previous night at the house of Mr Glover, publican”.  

In 1846, John Roocroft, the landlord of the Oak pub was fined £5 for allowing dominoes to be played on his premises. His brother James played with John Robinson for £1 per game. Robinson lost about £7 during the game. 

Also in 1846, in November, Thomas Glover’s Wheat Sheaf Inn was used for the inquest on Thomas Grime, the fireman of Coppull Pit who had died following a gas explosion there. 

In February 1845, Richard Spencer, a blacksmith, went to take a slide on a frozen pond on Coppull Moor, but the ice broke under him and he was drowned.
### Appendix One: List of Lords of the Manor of Coppull

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c1213</td>
<td>Thomas de Coppull</td>
<td>Gave land to Burscough Priory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1230</td>
<td>Richard de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1242</td>
<td>John I de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1275</td>
<td>John II de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of John I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1282</td>
<td>John III de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of Richard, brother of John I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1354</td>
<td>John IV de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of John III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1362</td>
<td>John V de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of John IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1412</td>
<td>William I de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of John V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1442</td>
<td>William II de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of William I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1461</td>
<td>William III de Coppull</td>
<td>Son of William II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1461</td>
<td>Sir Thomas Stanley, 1st Earl of Derby</td>
<td>Bought manor from William III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1504</td>
<td>Thomas Stanley, 2nd Earl of Derby</td>
<td>Grandson of first earl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1508</td>
<td>Sir Edward Stanley, Lord Mounteagle</td>
<td>Granted manor for life by 2nd Earl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1523</td>
<td>Edward Stanley, 3rd Earl of Derby</td>
<td>Lord Mounteagle died in 1523, and the manor (presumably) reverted back to the Earls of Derby. The 3rd Earl was son of the 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1572</td>
<td>Henry Stanley, 4th Earl of Derby</td>
<td>Son of the 3rd Earl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1593</td>
<td>Ferdinando Stanley, 5th Earl of Derby</td>
<td>Son of the 4th Earl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1594</td>
<td>William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby</td>
<td>Brother of the 5th Earl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600 (may)</td>
<td>Baptiste Hicks</td>
<td>Mercer of London, 605, 606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>Edward Rigby I</td>
<td>Bought from Baptiste Hicks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c1629</td>
<td>Alexander Rigby</td>
<td>Son of Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edward Rigby</td>
<td>Son of Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1642</td>
<td>Alexander Rigby</td>
<td>Son of Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1685</td>
<td>Sir Alexander Rigby</td>
<td>Son of Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1717</td>
<td>Trustees?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1720</td>
<td>Hugh Mills</td>
<td>Gent, 607, bought from Trustees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1727</td>
<td>Daniel Dandy</td>
<td>Bought from Hugh Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1731</td>
<td>Rev John Pearson</td>
<td>Bought from Daniel Dandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1749</td>
<td>Anne Pearson</td>
<td>Widow of Rev John Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1754</td>
<td>Jane &amp; Margaret Pearson and Robert Livesey</td>
<td>Heirs of Rev John Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1761</td>
<td>Jane Pearson</td>
<td>Bought shares of manor from Margaret and Robert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1795</td>
<td>John Pearson Livesey and sisters Mary,</td>
<td>Nephew and nieces of Jane Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth, Frances and Ann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>John Hodson</td>
<td>Of Ellerbeck 608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Reverend Richard Cardwell</td>
<td>Nephew of John Hodson 609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>James Cardwell</td>
<td>Brother of Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Edward Cardwell</td>
<td>grandson of Richard Cardwell 610, nephew of James Cardwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>The Ellerbeck estate including the manor of Coppull was sold in 1909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Appendix Two: The Reconstruction of the de Coppull Family Tree

Introduction

By the time of heraldic visitations to gentry families in the early sixteenth century, the de Coppulls had ceased to be landowners and had fallen into obscurity, or perhaps the male line had died out. Therefore, unlike the Chisnalls and the Worthingtons of Blaincough, their gentry neighbours in the village, they did not record a pedigree.

This family tree and list of the de Coppull Lords of the Manor has been drawn up, relying primarily on the information contained in the Victoria County History, but supplemented by other sources (referenced) when these were available.

This work must be regarded as contingent on future work by other researchers and more information becoming available as uncatalogued archival collections are studied and calendared and the result of this work is made available online. This relates especially to the extensive collection of medieval Coppull deeds in the Lilford of Bank Hall collection at Lancashire Records Office (DDLi), which remain uncatalogued at the time of writing this (March 2011). The systematic translation of these primarily Latin documents (with a small number of Anglo-Norman ones in the 14th century) will greatly help in our understanding of the relationships of the de Coppulls and other families.

There are a number of difficulties which faced this work and which will continue to confront future researchers:

1. Early land grants are undated. Archivists determine their date usually by reference to the palaeography (style of handwriting) of the document, other physical features (such as the material it was written on or the composition of the ink used) or by reference to datable written parts of the grant (i.e. the date of birth of one of the witnesses, or a reference to a church or other building, the construction date of which is known).
2. The documents which survive often contain references to relationships which span two generations (i.e. a father and a son), these too are undated and so placing them into a chronological timeline can be challenging.
3. Sometimes connections between people have to be assumed in the absence of explicit documentary evidence.
4. The de Coppulls imagination failed them in naming their children during the 12th and 13th centuries and “John” was used as a default, sometimes with the sons of a “John” calling their sons John too, making it difficult to determine which John was referred to and also making it more difficult to recognise when one John had died and another had become Lord of the Manor. This is especially the case with John III below, who may in fact have been two (or more) Johns given that the chronology assumes he held the manor between 1282 (when he was presumably an adult of at least 21 years) to 1354, when he would have been over 90.

The chronology and family tree presented as a result of this work must be regarded as highly tentative. Where as assumption has been made to connect multiple generations or to place an individual on the tree, this has been stated. Future evidence could, of course, show that some of the assumptions made
are invalid and require changes to be made to both the tree and aspects of our understanding of the de Coppull Lordship.

**The Descent of the de Coppulls**

**THOMAS (c1213-c1230)**

Thomas de Coppull was mentioned in the Pipe Rolls between 1213-1215. 611

**RICHARD (c1230-c1242)**

(Son of Thomas)

Richard granted land in Coppull to Burscough Priory, and is described as son of Thomas. The deed granting land to the Priory has been dated between 1230 and 1238. 612 Richard supplemented the grant shortly afterwards and granted adjoining land to the Priory. His son Thomas quitclaimed land granted by Richard, another son of Richard between 1232 and 1256. 613

**JOHN I (c1242-c1275)**

(Son of Richard, assumed)

John de Coppull appears between 1242 and 1254. 614 Between 1232 and 1256, John of Coppull confirmed the grant made by his brother Richard. 615 It is ASSUMED this is Richard, son of Richard (because the deed is later in the cartulary sequence than the deed made by Richard son of Richard) and his confirms that John, as the brother of Richard junior, was the son of Richard, Lord of Coppull.

**JOHN II (c1275-c1282)**

(Son of John I)

In 1275 Agnes the widow of John de Coppull was claiming dower from John son of John de Coppull, presumably her son. 616 In 1282 John son of Richard de Coppull claimed land against this John. 617 It is ASSUMED that Richard was a younger son of the earlier Richard.

**JOHN III (c1282-c1354)**

(Nephew of John II, son of John II’s brother Richard)

In the 1280s, John son of Richard de Coppull was called to warrant in disputes over land in Coppull and about the same time he granted half the marsh in Coppull. 618 John son of Richard, Lord of Coppull, conveyed a homestead in about 1282. 619 It is ASSUMED that his probable uncle, John II, died without children and John III inherited the Lordship. A settlement of the manor was made in 1322 and John’s eldest son (who was presumably dead by that time because the manor was settled on his son John) was called Richard, the name of John III’s father. 620 John III also had sons called John and Thomas. 621 He also settled land on Robert the son of Emma Risserasse. In settling lands in this way, it is highly unusual to cite the name of the mother rather than the father, it is therefore ASSUMED that Robert was an illegitimate son. 622 Robert de Coppull was mentioned in 1322 (CA 456), and Robert son of John de Coppull in 1361 (CA 422). On the strength of the “John of Coppull had v doughters” document and the incidental evidence noted in the body of the text, I have assigned the five daughters to this John de Coppull, who appears to have been formidably fertile.

**JOHN IV (c1354-c1362)**
Younger son of John III
John (grandson of John III, son of Richard) was dead by 1354 (presumably when John III died) and the
manor was claimed by John son of John de Coppull. In 1358 he defended a suit against his brother
Thomas (i.e. the son of John III). Thomas de Coppull was described as a clerk on a number of
occasions and had at least two daughters, Cecily who was married to John de Chernock is
mentioned in 1383 and Isabella is mentioned in 1373. Thomas and his wife Amisie were granted
land in 1350. Thomas granted all his lands to Thomas son of William de Worthington. Thomas was
mentioned from 1322, his wife Amice, son John and daughters Isabel and Cecily and their husbands
William Nightgale and John de Charnock were mentioned in 1374, by which time both Thomas and
John were dead.

JOHN V (c1362-c1412)
(Son of John IV)
In 1362 Hugh de Worthington claimed custody of the manor of Coppull because of the minority of
John son of John son of John de Coppull (i.e. the son of John IV). In 1366 John V was contracted to
marry Emma the daughter of John son of Robert de Heskin. John and his wife Emma were
mentioned as late as 1398.

WILLIAM I (c1412-c1442)
(Son of John V)
A feoffment of the manor was made in 1412-13, presumably shortly after William (described as “son
of John de Coppull) inherited from his father). Around 1398 William had been contracted to marry
Alice the daughter of William de Bredkirk. His eight illegitimate children are named in a deed of
1430 (CA 493).

WILLIAM II (c 1442-c1461)
(Son of William I)
Another feoffment was made in 1442 by William de Coppull and his wife Isabel, William being
described as William Coppullson. It is therefore ASSUMED that this William was not William I but
his son. In 1454 his brothers Richard and Gilbert were mentioned. In 1459 his sons William, Gilbert,
Richard and John are mentioned. A deed of 6th February 1462 from Isabella de Coppull says she
“had been the wife of William de Coppull” showing that she was widowed by this date. (CA 451). CA
501 lists his sons as William, Gilbert, John and Richard. A deed of entail of 1459 with William
Harrington list his wife as Isabella and his sons as Richard, William, Gilbert and John.

WILLIAM III (c1461-1461)
(Son of William II)
In 1461, William son of William Coppull sold all his father’s lands in Coppull and other places to Sir
Thomas Stanley, his mother Isabel, widow of William II confirming the sale.
The de Worthington Family Tree

Robert de Worthington =

Thomas = fl 1212-1228

William = fl 1242-1282

Hugh William = Alice fl 1302-1320

Hugh = fl 1346-55

John William fl 1369
The Stanley, Earls of Derby Family Tree

Sir Thomas Stanley = Joan Goushill
d 1459

Eleanor = THOMAS = Margaret Sir William
1461-1504 Beaufort d 1495

George = Joan le Strange James
d1503 Bishop of Ely

Edward = Dorothy Lord Mounteage
1523-1572 1508-1523

John = THOMAS = Anne Sir James
d1503 1504-1508 Hastings George

Henry = Lady Margaret Sir Thomas Edward
1572-1593 Clifford Anne Elizabeth

Edward = Alice WILLIAM = Elizabeth
FERDINANDO = Spencer 1594-1600 Francis
1593-1594 de Vere Martha
The Pearson and Livesey Family Tree

Edward Holt of Shevington d1735

Elizabeth = John Morris gent d by 1725

REVD JOHN PEARSON = ANNE
of Crook 1749-1753 m 1709

William Curghhey of Swindley

JANE 1754-1795
Elizabth bap 1/10/24 bur 19/5/21

John 1754-1795
bap 9/7/10 bur 3/6/21

Robert Livesey 1754-1759
of Manchester merchant = Ann bap 12/11/11

Mary bap 9/5/16 bur 10/5/30

Dorothy bap 24/7/17 bur 23/6/21

Margaret bap 12/9/19 bur 20/12/27

Edward bap 13/7/21 bur 2/1/28

Susana bap 12/9/25 bur 8/8/27

Margaret 1754-1763
bap 30/8/22 bur 26/8/23

John Pearson Livesey 1795-1812

Thomas 1795-1812

Elizabeth 1795-1812 = Thomas William Bridges

Mary = John Galsworthy 1795-1812

Ann 1795-1812
The Hodson and Cardwell Family Tree

John Hodson =

Richard = Jane

JOHN = Ellen 1812-1827

REV RICHARD JAMES
1827-1839
b 1777

John = Elizabeth

Rev Edward = Cecilia

Birley Feilden

b 1781

Jane Elizabeth

EDWARD Charles

1st Viscount Cardwell
1855-1886
b 1813

b 1817

The Hodson and Cardwell Family Tree
Family Tree of Rauff Coppull

Sources

National Archive Office  Gardner v Dicconson  DL 4/37/60 (1595)
National Archive Office  Rauff Coppull  C1 / 260 (1502-3)
Lancashire Record Office  DDX 900/115 1563 22 Nov  Rauff was witness of divorce, c 30 years earlier
Footnotes

LRO – Lancashire Records Office

VCH – Victoria County History

WRO – Wigan Records Office

2 Shotter, David, Romans and Britons in North-West England, Lancaster, Chapter 3.
3 Shotter, David, Romans and Britons in North-West England, Lancaster, Chapter 4.
4 Shotter, David, Romans and Britons in North-West England, Lancaster, p 114.
5 Shotter, David, Romans and Britons in North-West England, Lancaster, Shotter, Chapter 6.
6 http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/environment/historichighways/roman2.asp
7 Archaeological Services WYAS, report 2282, Land at Coppull Moor Lane Coppull.
14 LRO DDLi 240 (CA 449).
18 Coppull Archive 400, undated.
19 LRO, DDSC 62/2 undated.
20 WRO, D/D/ Ma/A/1 the dating is included in the archive catalogue and is based on the witnesses.
21 WRO, D/D/ Ma/A/4,
22 LRO DDSC 62/1, undated. Whilst there was a Hugh de Worthington as lord of the manor of Worthington between circa 1282 and 1302, the witnesses suggest an earlier Hugh is the donor.
23 Walker, F., Historical Geography of Southwest Lancashire Before the Industrial Revolution, Chetham Society, USA reprint 1968, p27.
24 Coppull Archive 400, undated.
25 WRO, D/D/Ma/A/2.
26 British Library, Additional Charters, 71313.
27 Wigan Records Office, D/D/ Ma/A.8.
28 Public Record Office, DL 25/623
29 Public Record Office, DL 25/1765
30 Public Record Office, DL 25/619, circa 1230-1264
32 LRO, DDKH 3/1/14. Undated but witnessed by John de Mara and Warin de Waletone both of whom appeared as Jurors in Leylandshire at the Lancashire Assize in 30-31 Henry III (i.e. 1346/7).
33 LRO, DDLi 355, Quitclaim of John of Ingol to William son of John de Blainscough. Undated but John of Ingol was fined in 1259-60. ‘Appendix II: Fines and amercements before the justices in eyre’, Lancashire Assize Rolls: 4 John - 13 Edward I (1903), pp. 254-305
34 VCH, Coppull Entry, footnote 35.
39 British Library, Additional Charters, 71313
Chetham Library, Bailey B32/78a, LRO DDLi 237, LRO DDSc41/2, Public Record Office DL25/619.

Wigan Records Office, D/D Ma/A/5.

VCH Coppull, footnote 35.

LRO DDLi 240, (CA 473).

See for instance, WRO D/D Wr 1307 (dated 1507), LRO DDLi 235 (CA 376) (dated 1447) and LRO DDLi 235 (CA 412) (dated 1592).

VCH Coppull, footnote note 24, the reference is from 1488.

This must be regarded as a very speculative and tentative reconstruction of medieval Coppull. There were a number of other freeholders who would have held lesser or greater estates. An unpublished report “Ellerbebeck West Proposed Open cast Coal Site: The Landscape History of the Site” by Alan Crosby, 1989, provides detailed evidence for the stock oval to the south east of the village, together with the likely location of the common and waste at Coppull Moor. Church Lane is mentioned in the Coppull Court Book, 1593, in LRO DDLi 193 Coppull Manorial Box.


Porteous, TC. The History of Standish, 1927, p 15.


British Library, Additional Charters, 8494.

C.P.R.1399-1401 p.145.

VCH Standish entry.

LRO DDLi 240.

LRO, DDLi 240, Chetham Library Bailey B33/180, LRO DDLi 235.

VCH Coppull, footnote 9.

LRO, DDL 273 19 Oct. 1366


LRO, DDLi 240, Coppull Archive 274.


LRO, DDSC 37/13, 1446.

LRO, DDLi 240, deed of John de Coppull de Coppull, 1410.

LRO DDLi 193, The Mannour of Coppull, nd circa 1717, and LRO DDLi 226 lease from Alexander Rigby of Layton to Edward Dicconson of Coppull, 7th December 1674.

The deed is LRO DDLi 240, (CA 474), the subsidy is Record Society vol 31, Lancashire Miscellanies, Exchequer Lay Subsidies, 1332, and the genealogy is at Manchester Archives Service.


LRO, DDL 283, obligation William de Worthington owed £40 by William de Coppull, 1431.

LRO DDL 290 and DDL 291, 30th July 1438.

LRO, DDL 286 21 Oct 1434.


British Library, Additional Charters, 8495.

Lancashire Records Office, DDL 283 4 Sep. 1431.
81 Thornton, Tim, Cheshire and the Tudor State 1480-1560, p68.
82 John Rylands University Library of Manchester, EGR1/1/1/7a undated feoffment of the Manor of Dunham Massey, Hale and Altrincham.
83 East Sussex Records Office, GLY8, Award of arbitration 22nd November 1436.
85 LRO, DDL 293, 29th Oct 1450.
86 Lancashire Final Concors 20th January 1322, John de Coppull at Westminster, 22nd July 1351 Thomas de Coppull at Preston, and LRO DDF / 633 Thomas de Coppull in Preston.
87 LRO, DDL 39, DDL 40, DDL 264, DDL 266, DDL 268, DDL 269, DDL 270, DDL 278, DDL 436
89 History of the Church and Manor or Wigan, Part One, Chetham Society, 1888, pp42-43.
90 The Hundred of Leyland in Lancashire, by Thomas Cruddas Porteous, in Chetham Miscellanies, Chetham Society volume 90, Manchester 1931, p111 and p122.
91 LRO, DDM 52/2
92 IHR, The Ledger Book of Vale Royal Abbey, pp166-182.
93 LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, allegations of John Hammerton.
94 Record Society vol 31, Lancashire Miscellanies, Exchequer Lay Subsidies, 1332.
97 LRO, DDLi 240, CA 438.
98 LRO, DDLi 240, CA 472.
99 LRO, DDM 52/2.
100 LRO, DDHE 111/4.
101 LRO, DDX 293/43.
102 LRO, DDLi 240 (CA 449).
103 LRO, DDLi 240, (CA 488) (dated 1310).
104 LRO, DDLi 240 (CA 446) (date obscured but Edward III).
105 Chetham Soc 3rd series vol XVIII
106 LRO, DDS 62/1
107 Wigan Records Office D/D Ma A/6 and LRO DDL 265
108 LRO, DDLi 240, (CA 433) (dated 1349)
110 National Archives Office, C109/122 (Compotus of 1529).
111 LRO DDLi 240.
112 LRO, DDLi 240 (CA 485).
113 LRO, DDLi 235 (CA 430) (dated 1334).
114 VCH, Chorley entry, footnote 200.
115 National Archives Office, E179/130/24.
116 Warrington Library and Archive Service, MS 534.
117 LRO, DDHE 50/49.
118 WRO D/D Lat 8 (1415), LRO DDHE 47/32 (1427), LRO DDHE 47/33 (1427), LRO DDHE 47/35 (1430), LRO DDHE 49/4 (1430), LRO DDSC 49/4 (1440), LRO DDSC 49/1 (1440), LRO DDHE 47/41 (1443), LRO DDHE 47/43 (1444), LRO DDHE 47/42 (1444), LRO DDSC 49/7 (1445), LRO DDSC 49/6 (1445), LRO DDSC 49/5 (1455).
119 LRO DDHE 47/48, LRO DDHE 47/51, LRO DDB 17/2, LRO DDHE 47/49, LRO DDB 17/3.
120 LRO, DDLi 2409 (CA 493) (dated 1430).
122 LRO DDSc 49/6.
123 LRO, DDN/1/39, 3rd Jan 1500.
124 National Archives Office, C109/122, various dates.
125 LRO, DP 466/23.
126 National Archives Office, C 1/260/41.
127 LRO, DDX 900/115, dated 22nd Nov 1563.
128 National Archives, DL 37/60.
LRO, DDLi 235, Deed of William de Chorley and Peter Mawdesley chaplain.

WRO, D/D Ma/A/3 undated c 1230.

LRO, DDLi 240, deed of William de Worthington to Roger son of Richard Banester, no date, circa 1250.

LRO, DDLi 240, deed of John de Coppull to Adam de Worthington, no date. One of the witnesses was Hugh Gogard who was living in 1246. No. 106.—At Lancaster, in three weeks from Michaelmas, 30 Henry III. [20th October, 1246]. Between Hugh Gogard, plaintiff, and Richard de Dutton, tenant, of two oxgangs of land in Dutton; and between Richard, son of Vivian, plaintiff, and the said Richard de Dutton, tenant of one oxgang of land in the same vill. Hugh and Richard, son of Vivian, acknowledged the land to be the right of Richard de Dutton, and quit-claimed it to him. For this release he gave two marks of silver to Hugh, and one mark of silver to Richard. From: 'Lancashire Fines: 30-39 Henry III', Final Concord for Lancashire, Part 1: 1189-1307 (1899), pp. 93-118. URL: http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=52535&.

WRO, D/D Ma/A/6

VCH, Charnock Richard entry

Porteous, Standish Deeds no 51, 1336.

VCH, Charnock Richard entry

Chetham Soc 3rd series vol XVIII

LRO, DDLi 240, deed of John son of Richard de Coppull to Adam son of Ranulph and Amerie his wife, no date.

LRO, DDLi 240, deed of John son of Richard de Coppull to Henry de Tonstall, no date

VCH, entry for Great Bolton, footnote 32.

LRO, DDLi 240.

LRO, DDTa 4, no date but Warin de Walton and Hugh Gogard were both extant in the middle of the C13th.

LRO, DDSc 37/2, undated.

VCH, Coppull entry footnote 8.

LRO, DDLi 237, undated but Hugh parson of Standish was incumbent in the 1270s and 1280s, see VCH Standish entry.


Porteous, Standish Deeds, Deed 59, 1343.

LRO, DDLi 240, (CA 488)

LRO, DDLi 240, deed of John de Coppull to Adam Mirreson, 1337.

Porteous, Standish deed no 59.

VCH, Great Bolton entry, footnote 32. A 1287 inquisition found the Manor had the following value:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value d</th>
<th>Restated d</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burgage fees</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John de Halliwell</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 acres of land</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolls of fair &amp; market</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water mill</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manor court</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>660</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The burgage fees and the market and fair tolls were features of towns so the column “restated” takes these sources of income out to identify what the split of income types may have been had this been a rural manor such as Coppull.

WRO D/D Ma/A/2.
DDSc 62/1 no date. Jordan de Standish, one of the witnesses to the deed, is mentioned in 1288. VCH Standish entry.

WRO D/D Ma/A/6, 1306.

LRO, DDLi 235, deed of John son of Henry de Bolton to Robert son of Roger de Radcliff.

VCH, Duxbury entry footnote 52.

Porteous, Standish Deeds no 11, 1399.

LRO, DDL 265 9th Nov 1322.

VCH entry for Wrightington.

Chetham Soc 3rd series vol XVIII, grant of Richard son of Thomas de Coppull and lease of land by the Priory of Burscough to Hugh and Adam sons of Andrew of Hulelehe.

LRO, (catalogue entry) DDTa 54, 1399.

WRO, D/D Ma/A/4.

VCH, Duxbury entry. Other references show Siward de Duxbury was living in the early C13th.

VCH Standish entry, footnote 14.

LRO, DP 397/6/1 no date.

LRO, DDTa 50 no date but time of Edward I.

LRO, DDTa 27.

LRO, DDTa 28.

VCH, Charnock Richard entry.

LRO DDTa 32.

LRO, DDLi 240

LRO, DDLi 240.

LRO, DDLi 235.

WRO, D/D Ma/A/7

LRO, DDL 290.

VCH Preston entry. A charter was granted to Preston in 1179 giving the burgesses the same liberties as those of Newcastle. The liberties are not explicitly stated but probably included the right to a weekly market.

VCH entries for individual named townships.

Porteous, Standish Deeds, no39, 1329.

Manchester University, John Rylands Library, RYCH/149 1335 ad RYCH/1497 1348.

LRO, DDF 1561

LRO, DDF 633, 1343.

Portable Antiquities Scheme, LANCUM F6A914. Found April 2008.

VCH entries for individual named townships.

WRO, D/D Ma/A/6

LRO, DDM/48/5, 7th March 1370.

VCH, Standish Parish, footnote 36.

VCH, Standish Parish.

VCH, Vol 2, Cockersand Abbey entry

VCH, Welch Whittle entry.

VCH, Standish-with-Langtree entry.

VCH, entries for Shevington, Heath Charnock and Worthington.

VCH, vol 2, Burscough Priory entry.

VCH, Coppull entry

VCH Standish Parish entry.

VCH Aughton entry and fn 36.

Lancashire Inquests etc Part II 1310-1333, Record Society, vol 54, pp 226

VCH Standish Parish entry

VCH Anderton entry.

VCH, Duxbury entry.

VCH, Coppull entry, fn 36.

British Library, Add Charters, 8493.
For example, LRO DDLi 235, quitclaim of Edmund de Prestecote and British Library, Add Charters 72971.

LRO, DDLi 240, charter of John son of John de Coppull and LRO, DDLi 355, Henry del Burgh charter

Harland, John, Lancashire Folk Lore.  

LRO, DDLi 240, charter of John son of John de Coppull and LRO, DDLi 355, Henry del Burgh charter

Harland, John, Lancashire Folk Lore.

VCH, Coppull entry, fn 8.

LRO, DDSc 62/1.

Walsh, Hubert, Coppull, p 24.

Taylor, Henry, The Ancient Crosses and Holy Wells of Lancashire, 1904.

Lancashire Church Surveys 1650, p100.

LRO, DP/397/13/4, Writ to Sherriff 1430.

LRO, DDLi 240, deed of William Coppull to the Earl of Derby.

LRO, DDHSH/1/130, 14th March 1426.

LRO, DDLi 235, deed of Thomas del Wetshagh (?) to Sir Thomas Stanley, 1438, DDLi 240 deed of Thomas son of Edmund Prescott vicar of the church of Kyrkeby to John and Thomas Stanley, lands in Coppull, Worthington and Eccleston

LRO, DDLi 240, appointment of Hugh Assheton as attorney by Sir Thomas Stanley, 1461

LRO, DDLi 240, deed of Robert Nightingale to Thomas Lord Stanley, lands in Leyland, Coppull, Preston

LRO, DDK/1/18.

LRO, DDK/1/20.

LRO, DDK/2/1.

LRO, DDK/3/14, Inquisition post mortem, Thomas Earl of Derby, 22nd August 1521.


See for instance the catalogue of the documents of the Earls kept at LRO, http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=055-ddk_1&cid=-1#1

LRO, DDK/3/14, Inquisition post mortem, Thomas Earl of Derby, 22nd August 1521.

National Archives Office, C109/122, (dated 1549).

National Archives Office, C109/122, (dated 1490 and 1529)

VCH, Standish entry.

National Archives Office, C109/122, (various dates).

Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, vol 25, Exchequer Lay Subsidy 1332.

LRO, DDLi 240, appointment of Alexander Rigby as Bailiff of Coppull, 1558.

The Stanleys, Lords Stanley and Earls of Derby 1385-1672, Barry Coward, Manchester 1983, p211.

The Stanley Papers, part II pp107-108.

National Archives Office, C109/122 (dated 1529).

National Archives Office, C109/122 (various dates).

The Visitation of the County Palatine of Lancaster made in 1613, Sir Richard Saint-George. p123.


LRO, DDLi 193, Coppull Manorial.


VCH Coppull footnote 25.

National Archives Office, C109/122 (various dates)

VCH, entry for Upholland, fn 44.

Farrer, W (editor), Final Concords for Lancashire, Part 4: 1509-1558, 17th August 1556

VCH, entry for Lancaster, fn 118

The Stanley Papers, part II p120.

Dietz, Brian (editor), The Port and Trade of Early Elizabethan London: documents, London Record Society, 1972, (online)

LRO, DDHU 16/3, Devon Record Office, 872A/PZ208, Chethams Library F3/Box 10/360, Devon Record Office 872A/PZ210.

Devon Record Office, 872A/PZ 205

Devon Record Office, 872A/PZ 207.

VCH, entry for Little and Darcy Lever, fn 15
Devon Record Office, 872A/PZ 208.

Northamptonshire Record Office, E(B) 716 8th March 1570.

Chetham’s Library, F3/Box 10/360

Devon Record Office 872A/PZ 209.

LRO, DDCA 8/9 6th March 1580

VCH, entry for Little and Darcy Lever, fn 15

Devon Record Office 872A/PZ 210

LRO QDD/5/m2

NAO, DL 4/29/58 Chisnall v Chisnall

LRO DDM 44/20 28 September 1588

LRO DDF 1058 18th August 1607

LRO QDD/12/m20

LRO QDD/12/m22d

Devon Record Office 872A/PZ 211

Chetham’s Library, F3/Box 10/362

LRO DDLi 235 various deeds or Robert Ugnall of Coppull.

National Archives, C109/122 (various dates).

LRO, DHK 3/1/53 8th August 1488.

LRO, DDLi 235, misc deeds of Robert Ugnall, 1497.


LRO, DDLi 57/15, 6th August 1523.

Ducatus Lancastriae: Calendarium inquisitionum post mortem, &c., part II, p 289.

LRO, WCW Edward Holt of Coppull 1597.

LRO, DDTA 45.

NAO, E179/130/115. (1540 subsidy of Coppull), VCH Coppull entry fn 11 re value of the Manor.

There are records of the Wigan Court of King’s Pleas from the 1630s and onwards which show suits presented by or taken against residents of Coppull and those of Wigan. The older records of the court are thought to have been destroyed during the Civil War.

LRO, DDLi (CHECK REF)

LRO, DDL 558


LRO, DDX 877/8/5 13 Oct. 9 Eliz.I [1567], Cheshire and Chester Local Archives, ZM/AB/1/f.78, 25 July, 1598 and John Rylands University Library of Manchester, CLD/1237 1600

Chetham Library, Bailey B32/13, 13th May 1595.

LRO, QDD 10/m1d

LRO, WCW Edward Holt, 1597.

VCH, Chorley entry.

NAO, DL4/29/58 Chisnall v Chisnall

VCH, Coppull entry, fn 6

LRO, DDLi 235, deed of Robert Ugnall, August 1497.

DD IN/44/2 Will of Margery Asshow, widow of Roger.

VCH, Standish parish entry, including fn 61.

LRO PR3134/2/46.

LRO, WCW Lawrence Nightgall, 1585.

VCH, Standish parish entry.

VCH, A History of the County of Lancaster, vol 2, Burscough Priory entry.

LRO, DDF 1533, 11th February 1550.

London Metropolitan Archives, BRA/846/1, 6th April 1558.

London Metropolitan Archives, BRA/846/2, 30th June 1561.

VCH, Coppull entry, fn 8.

VCH, Standish Parish entry.

Salters Company, H1/23/18, 13th Jul 1550.

John Rylands University Library of Manchester, TW/1406 November 13th 1550.

Raines, FR A History of the Chantries Within the County Palatine of Lancaster, Chetham Society, 1862, p 108.

LRO, WCW John Dicconson, 1557.

LRO, WCW Elizabeth Taylor, 1593.
361 LRO, WCW Lawrence Nightgall, 1585.
362 VCH, Leyland entry, see also VCH Wigan entry fn 62 for an account of Rev Edward Fleetwood.
364 The Stanley Papers, part II p28.
365 VCH, Coppull entry and footnotes 40 and 41., Also www.newadvent.org, the Catholic Encyclopaedia, entry for Thomas Worthington.
366 Hull University Archives, DDEV/60/51.
367 VCH Standish parish entry, fn 101.
368 LRO, DDLi 212, Bargain of sale between Baptiste Hicks citizen of London and mercer and William Torpley his servant to Edward Rigby of the Burgh and others sale of manor of Coppull
370 LRO, DDLi 236, Bond Edward Rigby to Alexander Prescott for £2000, 1602.
371 The Stanleys, Lords Stanley and Earls of Derby 1385-1672, Barry Coward, Manchester 1983
375 LRO, DDKe 9/31/17.
376 Registers of Standish St Wilfrids Church, buried 28th October 1646.
379 LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, allegations of John Hammerton.
380 LRO, DDLi 235, Lease from Alexander Rigby of Layton esq to Dorothy Dicconson of Coppull widow, sister of Alexander Rigby.
381 LRO, DDLi 226, Lease from Alexander Rigby of Layton esq to Edward Dicconson of Coppull gent, this lease references the surrender of a lease made by Alexander Rigby of Burgh, almost certainly the grandfather of Alexander of Layton. Standish Parish Registers, burial entry 24th March 1603/4.
382 Chetham Society, Visitation of Lancashire by ichard St George 1617, p 123.
383 National Archives Office, C109/122 (dated 1529).
384 National Archives Office, DL4/80/33.
385 LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, allegations of John Hammerton.
386 LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of Brian Chisnall.
387 LRO, PR 3134/2/40 papers relating to the case of Crooke v Perryn.
389 http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=53099#n50
390 Cornwall Records Office, CF/1/3628 7 Mar. 1729, Assignement of judgement. Anthony Forty's judgement obtained against sir Alex. Rigby for £1,300 debt.
392 LRO, DDL 9 13/14 Aug. 1718
393 LRO, DDK/20/16, James Earl of Derby to Daniel Dandy and another
394 National Archives Office, DL 4/80/33.
395 LRO QSP 31/47, 28th April 1650.
396 National Archives Office, DL 4/80/33
397 Parliamentary Archive, HL/PO/JO/10/1/94, Protestation Oath, 1642.
398 LRO, DDLi 267, Rental of lands in Coppull and Duxbury. 1653.
400 National Archives Office, DL 4/80/33.
401 DL4/123/1684/5
402 LRO, WCW Edward Chisnall 1631
403 The Registers of the Parish Church of Standish, 1580-1653, LPRS, p 125.
404 VCH, entry for Hindley, fn 43
405 History of Parliament Online, entry for Sir Edward Chisenhall.
406 LRO, WCW Edward Chisnall 1654
407 Unless otherwise stated, accounts included in this section are from History of Parliament Online, entry for Sir Edward Chisenhall
The genealogy of Sir Edward Chisnall is confused. Anne and Elizabeth are named as daughters of Sir Edward’s first wife Anne in National Archives Office C5/167/23.

National Archives Office, C5/539/15
National Archives Office, DL4/123/1684/5
National Archives Office, C5/167/23
VCH, Pendlebury entry, fn 36
Wigan Records Office, D/DXTa 1/11 and D/DXTa 39/20.
LRO, DDLi 235, 2nd March 1701.
LRO, DGD 14/14, (dated 1702).
LRO, DDLi 193, Hammerton against Lathom case papers, allegations of John Hammerton.
LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of James Smith of Coppull yeoman and Edward Lowe of Wrightington.
LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition Edward Lowe of Wrightington.
LRO, DDX 900/62 (dated 1622).
LRO, DDTa 314, Inquisition Post Mortem of William Worthington
LRO, DDCO 1/760, 20th June 1669.
Wigan Records Office, D/D An/ Bundle 37/276, 24th June 1673.
Wigan Records Office, D/D An/ Bundle 37/277, 24th June 1673
LRO, DDCS/1/6, 10th Jan 1700.
LRO, DDCS/12/7, 1st June 1700.
LRO, DDCS/12/9 26th July 1712.
VCH Coppull entry.
The deeds showing the Crooks land acquisitions are in LRO DDX 1832 acc 6670 various boxes.
Manchester Library, L1/10/17.
Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire 1936, De Hoghton Deeds and Papers, p 252 deed 1452.
The Farrington Papers, Chetham Society, vol 39, letter 42.
National Archive Office, DL4/80/33, Duchy of Lancaster Case, Rigby v Chisnall
Lancashire Parish Register Society, Standish Register p 185.
LRO, DDL 51 4th January 1621
LRO, CNP/2/1/11, Preston Guild Roll, 1662.
LRO, WCW Edward Chisnall 1654
Chester Records Office, QDC/1614/.
The Stanley Papers, Chetham Society, vol 31, p 117.
Potts, Thomas, A Wonderful Discoverie of Witches, Chetham Society, vol 6, 1845.
Leigh, William, Strange News of a Prodigious Monster borne in Adlington in the Parish of Standish, 1613...
For a modern review of the significance of Leigh’s pamphlet, see Crawford, Julie, Marvelous Protestantism, Monstrous Births in Post Reformation England, Maryland 2005.
LRO, VCH Standish Parish entry.
Parliamentary Archive, HL/PO/JO/10/1/94, Protestation Oath, 1642.
Journal of the House of Commons: volume 4: 1644-1646
Lancashire Church Surveys, 1650.
Higson, PJW, Some Leading Promoters of Nonconformity, Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, LXXV-VI, Manchester, 1965-6, p 146.
NAO, Prob/11/269, will of Lawrence Nighell of Coppull, 1657.
VCH entries for Heap fn 61 and Blackley.
This and following paragraphs are taken from LRO, PR 3134/2/40, the case papers of Crooke v Perryn.
VCH, Cheetham entry, fn 34.
Religious festivals mentioned in Lilford documents – significance
Role of Standish Church – probable attendance.
Significance and role of chaplain in the medieval period
Reformation changes???
Latter day faith manifestations – new churches etc
Worthingtons experience from VCH and other sources
Worthingtons experience – fining etc for recusancy
Significance of protestation oath role (evidence of religious affiliations)
1582 Church tax – evidence of size of Standish congregation
Any civil war religious issues?
Faith and lords of the manor – evidence of the Stanleys and Rigbys, Pearson – Church as a career
Tithes and Coppull tithe barn

473 LRO, QSP/440/44 and QSP/440/12.
474 Recusant Roll, Leyland Hundred 1628, p177.

476 LRO, PR 697, Will of Catherine Haydock of Standish, Widow, 1727.
479 Broxap, Ernest, The Great Civil War in Lancashire
480 VCH Duxbury entry, main text and fns 59-60
481 VCH, Coppull entry, main text and fn 46.
482 VCH, entry for Preston.
483 Broxap, Ernest, The Great Civil War in Lancashire.
484 VCH, Coppull entry, main text and fns 30 and 31
485 LRO, WCW Edward Chisnall 1654
486 LRO, QSP 71/12
Parish Register, Chorley St Lawrence,
Miscellaneous Correspondence, DDLi 193, DDLi 212 and DDLi 240.
LRO, DDLi 240, agreement between John Pearson and Nicholas Woosey
LRO, DDA 166 2 Feb. 1737/8, DDCL 768 1 Dec. 1755, DDK/797/14 1742: 28th Feb.
LRO, DDL 86 10 Apr. 1731
LRO, DDL 832 28/23 Feb. 1745/6
VCH Eccleston, shows him as rector between December 1736 and his resignation in March 1741. LRO PR
3134/12/32, the charter granting the land for the workhouse to the trustees, describes him as Rector of Eccleston on the 1st September 1732.
LRO, DDX 906/1/5/4, entry re 15/5/1731
LRO, DDLi 193, The Manor of Coppull, no date, presumably circa 1717
LRO, DDLi 226, Mr Pearson’s Land in Coppull, no date, circa 1730s
LRO, DDLi 193, Mannour of Coppull, no date, circa 1717
500 LRO, DDLi 193, Hammerton against Lathom case papers, allegations of John Hammerton.
http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=53104#n33
LRO, PR3134/12/32, feoffment from Revd Mr Pearson to Mr John Haydock and others, Trustees of the workhouse in Coppull, 1st Sept 1732
LRO, DDX 906/1/5/4, entry re 16/10/1735
LRO, DDLi 193, The Capital Messuage Called Coppull Hall... August 12th 1736.
Wigan Records Office, DDX/ EL Sale of the Manor of Coppull, 1812.
LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of William Ainscow of Shevington.
LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of Alexander Tyrer of Adlington. LRO, DDLi 226, Lease from Rev John Pearson of Crook in Shevington clerk to Henry Nickson of Langtree husbandman, 1741
LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of Catherine Naylor of Langtree.
LRO, DDLi 193, The Manor of Coppull, the total annual rental receivable on the lands then leased for a term of lives was £17 17s 10.5d. Their value on new annual or other leases was £268 6s 0d.
LRO DDHE 116/2
LRO, DDX 906/1/5/4, entry re 22&23/9/1761
LRO, DDX 906/1/5/4, entry re 9/3/1789
LRO, DDLi 235, CA922, Letter from Caesar Lowry to the Miss Pearsons at St Ann’s Square, Manchester dated from Liverpool 24th March 1789 and London Metropolitan Archives, MS 11936/379/58705 8 August 1791, Caesar Lowry of Liverpool, plumber and glazier, insures property on Rodney Street, Liverpool
LRO, DDLi 235, Agreement between Jane Pearson & Robert Livesay and William Norris of Chorley, James & William Walmesley of Brindle re sinking of a level at Coppull coalworks
LRO, DDLi 235, letters from Sir Richard Clayton to Jane Pearson, 1791
LRO DDLi 263, William Ainscow with Mrs Livesey & Miss Pearsons.
LRO DDLi 263, Account of William Ainscow 1773 and 1774.
LRO DDLi 263 Coals got out of the Coppull Pits, 1773.
LRO, DDLi 235, letter from John Farnworth of Shevington to Mrs Pearson re coal workings and tenants in Coppull
LRO, DDAL 95 25 Oct. 1792
LRO, DDL 33, Building Contract for Coppull Chapel, 25th July 1755.
LRO, PR3134/4/60, plan of pews in Coppull Chapel, c 1755.
LRO, DDLi 193, miscellaneous papers relating to John Hammerton esquire against Thomas Lathom.
LRO, DDLi 193, Hammerton against Lathom case papers, allegations of John Hammerton.
LRO, QSP/2345/45 1794
LRO, M3/2/61A & B 12 Dec. 1752
LRO, DDLi 235, letter from John Farnworth of Shevington to Mrs Pearson re coal workings and tenants in Coppull
LRO, DDLi 235, Agreement between Jane Pearson & Robert Livesay and William Norris of Chorley, James & William Walmesley of Brindle re sinking of a level at Coppull coalworks
LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of Catherine Naylor of Langtree.
LRO, DDLi 235, letter from John Farnworth of Shevington to Mrs Pearson re coal workings and tenants in Coppull

DDLi 193, Coppull Manorial, various Manor Court rolls. Clayton may have been steward of the manor before 1793, but many court rolls do not survive. The first reference to him in the role is in 1793.

LRO 1794 survey of the parish of standish

LRO DDLi 193, Coppull Manorial, various Manor Court rolls. Clayton may have been steward of the manor before 1793, but many court rolls do not survive. The first reference to him in the role is in 1793.

LRO DDLi 263, Account book of the Misses Pearson and Mr Livesey includes Coppull, Westminster rents, sale of coal 1771-1775.

LRO DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of Alexander Tyrer of Adlington.

LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of Catherine Naylor of Langtree.

VCH, entry for Pendlebury, fn 37.

LRO WCW Edward Chisnall 1727


Chetham's Library, F3/Box 10/364

LRO, DDLi 193, Case papers of Hammerton against Lathom, deposition of James Anderton of Standish.

VCH Duxbury, fn 48. His death is recorded in the Liverpool Mercury, 14th November 1828. The newspaper states he was 70 at the time of his death. His wife's death is recorded in the Liverpool Mercury 14th November 1828.

LRO DDHk 3/3/3 Building Contract of Coppull Chapel 25/7/1755

LRO PR 3134/4/60.

LRO, DDLi 227, 1st May 1755.

This and following paragraphs are taken from LRO, PR 3134/2/40, the case papers of Crooke v Perryn.

Accounts and Papers of the House of Commons, 1876, p302.

Wigan Records Office, DDX/ EL Sale of the Manor of Coppull, 1812.

He was for instance returned as an MP in August 1802, when the second MP for Wigan was Robert Holt Leigh. The latter was a trustee of Hodson's will which was written and also proved in 1828. Caledonian Mercury, 23rd August 1802.

Lancashire Archives, L1/3/22/3.
LRO DDHE 60/12, 30th April 1459.