

Backtrack Masthead

More about Davenports

Last month we featured an article sent in by Mary Cornes nee Harvey about her Davenport Family. I have traced her Davenport ancestors back as far as I was interested to see if there was any other link with my family as William Davenport had been buried alongside my GG Grandfather James Turner, the patriarch of all Turners on Brown Edge, and they had both come from Ladderedge Longsdon.

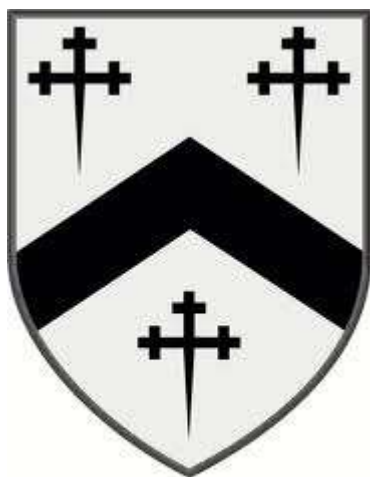
I was able to quickly trace back the family who were from Horton (This might still be Ladderedge as this was in Horton Parish) to a Matthew Davenport and a Hannah Turnock. Matthew was born at Hollin Hall Tittesworth in 1704.

We then go back 12 generations all living at Hollin Hall at Tettesworth (note spelling) to a Ralph Davenport who was born at Davenport Cheshire 1409 and was married in Leek in 1445.

Go back another four generations and you get to Sir John Davenport (Knight) born 1285 who married Margery Brereton daughter of Sir William De Brereton (Knight)

You are now into serious Cheshire aristocracy. Going back another 7 generations of Knights of the realm you get to the mythical Ormus De Davenport.

The Davenports were well connected with the Vernons, the Venables and other such aristocracy.



Davenport

The Davenport family's original seat was in Astbury, near Congleton in Cheshire. The name probably comes from the Dane Port as it was situated on the river Dane and probably at its highest navigable point.

River names are usually ancient and does not refer to the Danes, but derives from the Welsh (or pre-Saxon British) *dafn* pronounced *davn*, meaning stream.

The family origins can be traced back to one Ormus de Davenport at the time of the Norman Conquest. He was given the Manor of Davenport from the Venables

of Kinderton, the original Norman feudal Lords. In 1166 Ormus' son Richard became the chief forester of Leek and Macclesfield. Later the family acquired the hereditary status of Magistrate Sergeants of the Forest of Macclesfield.

The Davenport family developed branches at Davenport, Calveley, Wheltrough, Woodford, Capesthorpe and Bramhall and Coventry.

Sir Humphrey Davenport, who was Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, was a younger son of the Davenport family of Bramhall and married Mary Sutton of Sutton Hall (c1590).



Capesthorpe Hall

Bramhall in Stockport was the grand home for the Davenport family of Stockport, who resided there for 500 years - today it belongs to Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and is open to the public. Bramhall Park used to be the parkland and woodland estate attached to Bramhall Hall. The Hall is one of Cheshire's grandest black and white timber framed buildings and dates back to the 14th century. Subsequent owners carried out substantial refurbishment in the 19th century.

Capesthorpe in Cheshire is still owned, and lived in, by the Bromley Davenport branch of the family, who have resided there since the 11th century.



Above, The 13th century tomb of Ralph Davenport in full knights regalia at Astbury Church.

Backtrack Masthead

The Sytch

We all think of the road off High Lane leading to the Church as Sytch Road. However that name was only given to this lane in the 60's nowadays. The name The Sytch referred to was the area immediately just off High Lane. Why The Sytch? A Sytch is a name given to a saxon water boundary between two tribal areas.

More evidence that Brown Edge was a Saxon settlement.

More Dialect

jack-sharp	Stickleback	
jib	to give in or to resist	
jinny spinner	daddy long legs	
jowl	Hit on Head	
just now	later on	
keggy	left handed	
kedge	to steal or to borrow also as in to kedge a lift	
kiggle	wobble on a chair	
keemers	glasses or to peer over the top of glasses	
kecks	Trousers	
kim-kam	gossiping ie kim-kamming	
labe	stir up mud	
laggy	bags ar goo laggy last	
lamp	hit hard	
lay-overs for meddlers	stupid answer for a personal question you dont want to answer	
leck	to water	Saxon Leccan
leeking can	watering can	
lickering	who can jump the furthest run the fastest	
lozzuck(about)	idle	
lug	knot in hair	Scan Luggen

Leek (what's in a name)

The old way of writing the name Leek was Lec (until the 17th century) The name derives from the old English or saxon lec meaning a spring or literally a leek of water. There is even evidence that the particular Lec was the spring opposite St Edwards street in the church wall.

The Horange.

I always thought that it was a matter of poor education as to why my father and the older generation of our village always struggled with their letter O's. Very often they were prefixed with a letter h. Horanges were the fruit of choice and the Oxford hoaresmen had me really confused.

However imagine my surprise to find out once again this was an old English way of dealing with the challenge of deciding whether it should be *a orange* or *an orange*. The original way, which once again North Staffs dialect seems to have retained, was to use the letter h ie *a horange* to make the word pronounceable. The use of an being a much later device.

Professor John Levit was right when he said that the last place where correct English was spoken was in the pubs of North Staffs

More recent history

It's easy to think that history is something from way past times however I was looking at some old slides and came across this one.



Some interesting points to notice. The victorious Rose and Crown tug of war team celebrate with a can of Double Diamond! Now that's history! When was it taken? Well on the photo are a few clues. When it's blown up you can see Mrs Sims (lady on the right) Mr Sims's red Maxi and my Chevy Cheyenne. Dudley Frost looks very young! Obviously the church fete was being held in the field that belonged to Jim Clewes and rented by the Hargreaves family (either Alan or Chris). This field is now the parish cemetery. Joe's Shop has been knocked down. From this info we can work out that the photo was taken in about 1981 or 1982, 30 years ago now!