

Part1. Lives of the Common People, HLF project, January 2012 - July 2013

1.Domesday

Bill Bevan

"While spending the Christmas time of 1085 in Gloucester, William had deep speech with his counsellors and sent men all over England to each shire to find out what or how much each landholder had in land and livestock, and what it was worth".

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

As with many parishes in the Midlands, the first documentary record of Castleton and Hope is the AD 1086 Domesday (Morgan 1978). Domesday was a survey of much of England, mostly the Midlands and south, and of parts of Wales undertaken under the orders of King William I (The Conqueror) to identify what his financial assets were. The survey recorded who the landowners were, what was the value of their land, what livestock they held and what taxes they had paid to Edward the Confessor. Often, we see changes in landowner and land value between the time of Edward's death in 1066 and 1086.

A group of royal officers visited most shires where they held a public inquiry, probably in the shire court, where each township in the shire was represented. Despite Derbyshire being a shire long before Domesday, it was combined with Nottinghamshire and was served by the shire court in Nottingham until AD 1256 (David Hey *pers. comm.*). The survey was undertaken by the Hundred, or Wapentake in Norse-dominated areas, which was an administrative subdivision of the shire. Six Saxon and Six Norman jurors swore to the accuracy of the return for each Hundred. The judgement was final and there was no right of appeal. Within a century, the survey was known by the English as The Domesday— *The Day of Judgement*.

Castleton's entry in Domesday, where it is known as *Pechesers* (Peak's Arse) - referring to Peak's Cavern.

County: Derbyshire.

Hundred: Blackwell.

Total population: 3 households.

Total tax assessed: 2 geld units.

Taxable units: Taxable value 2 geld units.

Value: Value to lord in 1066 £2. Value to lord in 1086 £2.5.

Households: 3 villagers.

Ploughland: 2 ploughlands [land for use by two ploughs]. 4 lord's plough teams. 1 men's plough teams.

Other resources: Meadow 8 acres.

Lords in 1066: Arnbiorn of Castleton; Hunding of Castleton.

Lord in 1086: William Peverel.

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: William Peverel.

Hope's entry in Domesday.

Hope parish at this time was a massive area that included Aston, Edale, Muchedeswelle, Offerton, Shatton, Stoke and Tideswell all by name in Domesday. Chapel-en-le-Frith was

also part of Hope that this time. Where we refer to Hope in this section we mean this much larger parish. Interestingly Aston and Bradwell were listed separately.

County: Derbyshire.

Hundred: Blackwell.

Total population: 4.4 households.

Total tax assessed: 1.3 geld units.

Head of manor: Bakewell I.

Taxable units: Taxable value 10 geld units.

Value: Value to lord in 1066 £30. Value to lord in 1086 £10.3.

Households: 30 villagers. 4 smallholders. 1 priest.

Ploughland: 10 ploughlands [land for use by ten ploughs]. 6 men's plough teams.

Other resources: Meadow - 30 acres. Woodland - 4 leagues & 2 furlongs. 2 leagues mixed measures. 1 mill, value 0.26. 1 church. 1.0 church lands.

Lord in 1066: King Edward.

Lord in 1086: King William.

Tenant-in-chief in 1086: King William.

Each entry gives a snapshot of land use and numbers of households living in each parish. On the face of it, there are small populations in both, though there is some inconsistency to query the survey's accuracy; 30 villagers and 4 smallholders are recorded for the 4.4 households in Hope. Villagers were the peasants with most land, smallholders were middling peasants with less land than villagers. Only the heads of households were recorded, therefore the surveyed population was larger than that set down on parchment. It is highly likely that the actual number of households in each parish was also much greater than recorded. Thirty-four heads of household across the huge Domesday Hope parish would barely be a viable population.

In Castleton, the peasants' lord had changed from two Anglo-Saxon earls to William Peverel, a son of William the Conqueror, who was granted numerous lands by his father including the township of Peak's Arse. William the Conqueror ordered the castle to be built and was made the administrator of the King's Royal Forest of the Peak. The Domesday Hope formed a significant part of the Forest, which the King kept direct lordship over the township, as had Edward the Confessor (see 2. Peak Forest).

Land use in both parishes includes arable land and meadow, certainly underestimated in extent for at least Hope, indicating that the peasants lived from mixed farming rather than solely being pastoralists. No direct reference to pastoral farming is made, but this is clearly due to it not being recorded given the vast areas of moorland pasture in the region. Hope also has extensive woodlands, measured as a distance rather than an area – four leagues being approximately 6 miles. This is likely to be another under-estimate.

The plough land was an area that could nominally be ploughed by a plough team of eight oxen in a single agricultural year (Finberg 1951). It appears that Castleton has more plough teams than arable land for them to plough, while Hope could accommodate four more plough teams. The "men's plough teams" would be those of the villagers while William Peverel appears to have four of his own plough teams to work his own landholding there – presumably three of them were employed in his estates elsewhere.

Interestingly, the only mill and church in 1086 are recorded in Hope, with a priest and lands going with the church. Hope's church is the only one recorded in northern Derbyshire in Domesday, north of Bakewell – and the one feature in Hope's Domesday entry we can be certain was in the township of Hope itself (see 3. Castleton and Hope Parish Churches 1066 – 1650). This shows how important Hope had been as the centre of an Anglo-Saxon Royal estate, one of four the Peak District was divided into during the early medieval period along with centres at Ashford, Bradbourne and Wirksworth (Barrett 2006). These estates have been interpreted as being the hundred of Hamenstan and possibly the main territory of the Pecsætan (Roffe 1986; Sidebottom 1999). Notably, all four centres are recorded in Domesday with a church and priest, *and* have surviving early medieval stone crosses. The mill was most likely for grinding arable crops into flour, though there is the slight possibility that it was a fulling mill for washing wool.

The difference in Castleton and Hope's land values to the Lord and taxable geld units are clearly the product of the huge difference in land sizes. What is interesting is the difference in the changes in land values between 1066 and 1086, which hint at the social changes forced on England due to the Norman Conquest.

Castleton was worth £2 to the Anglo-Saxon earls in 1066 and Hope was worth £30 to Edward the Confessor. By the time of Domesday, Castleton had been improved in value by a nominal 25% under William Peverel. This suggests a continuity of agricultural land use under the change of landownership. Meanwhile, Hope had devalued by approximately 75% in twenty years. Was this a result of a lack of land management under the new King, because the creation of the Royal Forest changed land use compared to the Anglo-Saxon lordship, or because the parish lost some of its population during the Conquest?

The geld was a periodic tax, first raised by the Anglo-Saxons to pay for wars against the Norse and was calculated at a number of pence per hide or carucate. A carucate was a measure of land in the Danelaw, often recognized as being 120 acres, which could be ploughed by a single plough team in a year. Both township's geld units neatly equivocate with their number of ploughlands – two in Castleton and 10 in Hope (See Chapter 4, *Taxation*). Of all the ambiguities in Domesday, one thing is certain, that whatever the true population of the parishes, they knew how much tax they had to pay their new king.

2. Peak Forest

Di Curtis

Introduction

The villages of Hope and Castleton lie within an area administered in medieval times as the Royal Forest of the High Peak (Peak Forest). This area, sometimes referred to as the *Alto Pecco* in early documents, was derived from large Anglo-Saxon royal estates centered on Ashford and Hope (Sidebottom 1999).

After the Norman Conquest in 1066 the land was kept as royal demesne. From this time, all England was ruled by a rigid social hierarchy called the feudal system with an additional layer of management within the Royal Forests, largely imposed through Forest Laws, to maintain land fit for the King's pleasure and the King's purse.

William Peverel was granted much of this land after the conquest in recognition of services rendered and in c.1080 began to build his castle in what is now known as Castleton. The administration of this area, also known as the Honour of Peverel, was carried out from the castle which also provided for the custody of prisoners.

In the 12th century the Peak Forest comprised most of the North West corner of Derbyshire. It was divided into 3 divisions known as:-

Longdendale to the North and North West. At Domesday "all Longdendale is waste; woodland, unpastured, fit for hunting" (Morgan 1978) and comprised 32 sq mls of forest (Kerry 1893) with 12 small settlements of Thornset, Ludworth, Charlesworth, Chisworth, Chunal, Hadfield, Padfield, Dinting, Glossop, Whitfield, Hayfield and Kinder; whilst the whole parish of Glossop was added in the time of Henry I.

Hopedale to the East comprised the villages of Castleton and Hope. A century earlier at Domesday, Hope was the centre of a very large manor which included the seven settlements of Edale, Aston, Shatton, half of Offerton, Tideswell, Stoke, Muchedeswelle (now unknown). Castleton was very small, called Peaksarse and "held the land of William Peverel's castle", but by the 12th century, Castleton was a thriving medieval village with the Castle at its centre. Hopedale contained eight and a half sq miles of forest (Kerry 1893).

Campana consisted of the open limestone country to the South & South West, between the river Goyt and Castleton. At Domesday, Wormhill had 20 acres of meadow, a small amount of under-wood and no recorded inhabitants. Other settlements in this area, including Bowden, Chinley and Tunsted, are not mentioned in Domesday.

The Seat of Justice for Peak Forest was originally Wormhill but later moved to an extra-parochial place equidistant from Castleton, Tideswell and Bowden where a forest residency and chapel was constructed; known as "Camera in foresta regia Pecci" or "Camera in Campana". By 1225 the Justice seat moved again to Bowden, later called Chapel-en-le-Frith, where the foresters had petitioned for a new chapel due to increase in population.

In later centuries the Forest is best described as comprising the Ecclesiastical Parishes of Hope and Castleton (Hopedale), Glossop (Longdendale), and Chapel-en-le-Frith (Campana), (Victoria County History 1905). At no time in its history, does the boundary of Peak Forest

correspond exactly with the early Saxon/Danelaw, Norman manorial or Ecclesiastical boundaries.

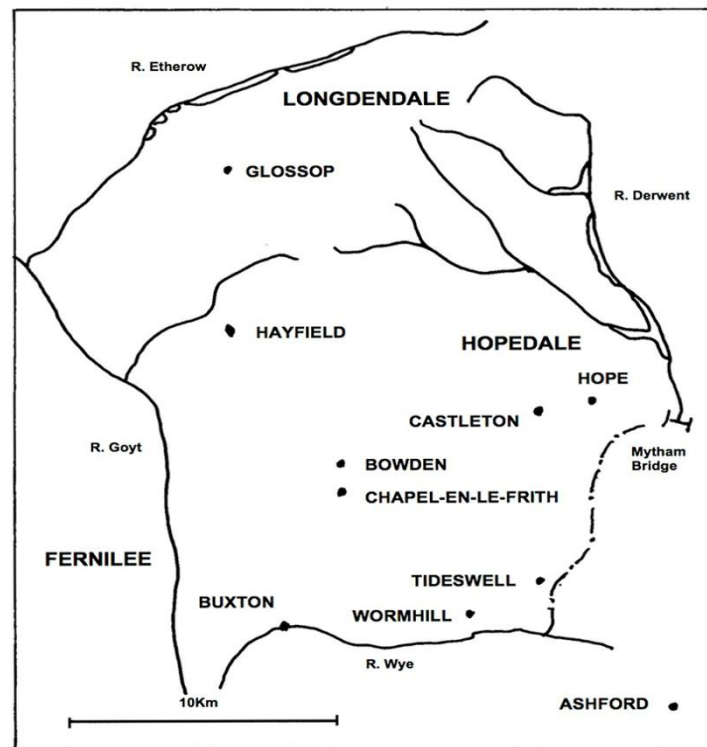


Figure 2. The boundaries of Peak Forest. Sketch Di Curtis

Boundaries of Peak Forest

The boundaries of Peak Forest were set in place in 1281 at the Forest Pleas of 13 Edw I and despite disputes remained largely in place until 1600.

Metes and bounds of the Forest of Peak, beginning on the eastern part to the new wood of Goyt, and so by the waters of Goyt to the water of the Etherow, and so by the water of Etherow to Landcroft at Longdenehead, and so by Longdenehead by certain service to the head of Derwent, and by the head of Derwent to a place called Mytham Bridge, and from Mytham Bridge to the rivulet of Bradwell, and from the river of Bradwell to a certain place called Hucklow, and from Hucklow to the great dell of Haselbach, and from that dell to the Park of Hocklowe, and from Hocklowe to the river of Tideswell and so to the water of Wye, and from Wye ascending to Belston and so to the new place of Goyt (Yeatman 1886, p303).

Other descriptions are given, usually when disputes occurred (Yeatman 1886, p303).

Administration

The administration of Peak Forest was always in the hands of the aristocracy as the gift of the King. In Peak Forest the chief administrator was usually also the **Bailiff** of the Castle and held Courts of Justice (eyres) for all major infringements of Forest Law. Under the Bailiff came the **Verderers** who were directly responsible to the crown, with the duty of implementing all offences of Vert and Venison and required to take major responsibility at the smaller courts or Swainmotes for lesser offences. Verderers were men of position and usually Knights of the realm. **Regarders** were appointed by the King, to make regular three

yearly collective inspections of the state of the forest; they too were knights of the realm and appear to have functioned as an inspectorate of the Forest on the King's behalf.

At the lower levels of administration, local people were employed in the forest to guard the King's property. They took office by letters patent as **Foresters** sworn to protect Vert and Venison within their own locality and to manage all animal husbandry within the forest. Since they were "of the people", this created conflicts of interest, some of which have been recorded in the Court Rolls and Court proceedings of the medieval period. In Peak Forest the Foresters may be "**Foresters in Fee**" who paid to the Crown a Fee farm rent for the hereditary office. Non-fee foresters were also appointed and Foresters in Fee might appoint assistants and substitutes to carry out their office (Kerry 1893). **Agistors** were appointed by letters patent to take rents for grazing (agistment) of the animals in the King's forest.

In 1372 the castle and Peak Forest were transferred into the administration of the Duchy of Lancaster, but much of the land, within a century, reverted to direct administration by the crown where much of it remained until Pleas for deforestation prior to the Commonwealth.

Offences of Vert

Fines for damage to timber. The woods were an important source of revenue for the King, in particular an inexhaustible supply of large oak trees would have been needed for all building purposes including ships, wagons, carts for both transport and warfare as well as both domestic and official buildings. The King gave gifts and rewards of trees and allowances of wood (Estovers e.g. "Husbote, Hedgebote and Ploughbote") to tenants. Wastes were created when woods were damaged.

Fines for enclosure of Forest. Assarts (enclosure) were usually small in area, a fine was paid and then a rent charged. It was against the law because such areas were fenced against deer, which were thus prevented from ranging freely through the forest. Fines for "Preprestures" refer to fines for an enclosure with some type of building within the assart. Fines specifically for house building also occur.

All Offences of Vert could happen with or without the permission of the Bailiff and in all cases resulted in fines (ameracements), providing income for the King.

Concerning the King's woods in the Forest of the High Peak

In the early days of the reign of Edward I, (Pleas of Forest; 13 Edward I 1285) a survey of all the woods of Peak Forest was reported; this appears to be the only full survey of woods reported in the Forest Rolls. The following extracts both describe the woods within Hopedale and the value of trees. They also describe the sale for treasury funds and the unlawful use of timber even by the Bailiffs charged with managing the King's estate. (Yeatman 1886, p266-269).

The woods of Ockes and Horewhyte (Oak and Birch) were wasted since the last pleas of underwood and branches to the damage of 30s. by the inhabitants of Bowden and its hamlets 100 oaks are destroyed. (Kelly 1893).

The wood of Hope, which is common to the inhabitants of Hope as well as to the King's men and others of the same vill, has suffered to the amount of 1 mark. It is decided that the wood is in the old waste formerly made by the same villagers. It is commanded that of the remainder they take nothing except their estovers upon view and permission of the foresters, but without any waste.

The wood of Pindale has been injured since the last pleas by the vill of Bradwell to the amount of (?); of the vill of Bradwell, for old waste at Noneleye, half a marc; of the vill of Thornhill and Aston for old waste of those woods, half a marc.

The woods of Derwent and Ashop have been injured since the last Pleas of the Forest by certain Abbots of Welbeck who are dead, as well as by the present Abbot, and he is fined £20 (for the whole waste). The woods of Derwent and Ashop are also deteriorated by the villa of Hope, Aston, Thornhill, Derwent and Ashop to the value of 40s.

The King's wood of Derwent was also wasted by Thomas de Normanville by the sale of wood by the King's warrant £20. The King gave power to Thomas de Normanville, senr., to sell wood by lot in all the Royal Forests in his bailiwick to raise the sum of £1,000; besides this 100 oaks were destroyed, 20 of which were out of Derwent and Ashop. (Yeatman 1886, p270).

The wood of Eydale has been injured to the value of 40s. by the Bailiffs residing in the Castle of the Peak since the time of the last Iter. The vill of Castleton 2s. injury; Bradwell 20s.— 10 oaks were taken. The King's wood of Kynder has been injured to the value of 10s. by the vill of Hayfield (fined 4s.), with the hamlets appertaining 300 oaks have been converted into pales.

Offences of Venison

All animals within the Forest belonged to the King; these included deer, sheep, cattle, pigs and other wild creatures such as otters (important source of fur?).

Venison was taken to stock the King's larder and given as gifts to employees but was also taken illegally by villagers and others.

Specific Offences Relating to Hopedale

These are taken from the Forest Rolls as transcribed by Yeatman (1886).

1. Henry III 1216-1272

Many offences of Vert within the Kings demesnes were reported during the court proceedings of this reign (Yeatman 1886, p233).

Four out of a long list of approx 64 names can be identified as probably within Hopedale WM. PROPOSITUS DE HOPE.

ROGER FOLJAMBE, for many transgressions, 20m.

LESSING DE VILL CASTLE of Pecco

HEIRS OF PHILIP DE STRELLY. The price of vert which his father had in demesne.

All the undermentioned Agistors were summoned for not producing their rolls according to the customs and assize of the forest. (Yeatman 1886, p236).

There follows a list of Agistators and Regarders fined, from 2s to 1m, for not doing their jobs; one out 26 possibly from Hopedale.

PETER DEL HURST, Regarder of the Forest of Pec, because he did not present assarts and purprestures in his rolls 10s.

Fines for the illegal enclosure of land (Assarts) within Peak Forest. The King through his Bailiff was paid a fine for the offence and then demanded a yearly rent for the land, which

continued to be paid by the offender's heirs henceforward. For example In Villa de Castra de Pecco:

WALTER PIRROC assarted in the King's demesne (2 Henry III), 3 acres in the Vill of the Castle, by the license of the Earl of Derby then Bailiff of the Peak, and Simon son of Mathew (dead) now holds it at the rent of the King, paying 4d per year for each acre, and the said Walter gave to the Earl for each acre 12d. for a fine and for rent (?) for which the heirs of the said Earl are answerable, and be it known that he shall pay the rent each year for his lands, and the same Simon is attached by Reyner de Hope and William de Scerde.

The following assarts were made and fines noted (Yeatman 1886, p242-243).

These 9 names from Hopedale from a list of approximately 40 names.

ADAM DE HOPEGATE assarted. 1 acre.

EUSTACE DE HOPE, 4acre., 6s.

WILL HENDY, 5acre., bail Robert of Aston and William son of Henry de Hope.

ELIAS OF THORNHILL (dead), 6a. Robert his son now holds it.

SIWARD OF THORNHILL, 6a

ROBERT SON OF WILLIAM. of ASTON, 5a.

WILLIAM. FIL ALDUS, 7a., bail. Wm. Nigel de Hope and Wm. Albn de Hassop.

JOHN LE HARE, 2a. bail. Peter fil Robert de Hassop and Wm. de Aldus.

ROBERT DE BALGY 1a.

In another sequence of fines for assarts which covers the whole period of the Kings reign, many are noted for other areas eg six at Bradwell, 14 at Bowden, 20 at Combes, 22 at Buggesworth, 23 at Hayfield, 8 at Whitehall with only approximately three within Hopedale. (Yeatman 1886, p252 – 265).

WILLIAM FIL RICHARD DE SCERDE holds 4acres in the Vill of Peak of the Liberty of William the Earl, Senior, at 4d. per annum to the King, and for fine to the Earl 4s.

Reyner de Hope 4a.

RICHARD LE HORE (dead) 3a. Peter his son now holds it.

Fines (Purprestures) were enforced for houses built both within and without the demesne lands and with and without the permission of the Bailiff.

Houses were built at Bowden, Hassop, Buggesworth, Hayfield, Tunsted, Wormhill, Chelmorden, Taddington but apparently not in Hopedale. (Yeatman 1886, p249-250).

2. Edward I 1272-1307

The Rights of the Foresters in Fee

The rights and privileges of the Foresters in Fee in all divisions of Peak Forest which they or their ancestors possessed were clearly laid out in 1285 (Yeatman 1886, p269; Kerry 1893 for a better transcript). The document describes how much land they held, what their duties entailed and whether they could employ assistance to aid them in their duties. The post could be inherited or sold on.

The earliest copy of this information appears in the Forest Rolls of 36 Hy. III and is repeated in this 1285 version and at later dates when inheriting the position of Forester in Fee and as a general "inseximus" in 1439 (Great Britain 1907c, p354).

For Hopedale (for full details see the original transcriptions):-

Willam Hally. A Forester in Fee who holds two bovates of land for the custody of his bailiwick, worth 6s per annum. His ancestors held 4 bovates of land, of which two were alienated in times past. He has all the above written rights enjoyed by the foresters of

Campana and Longdendale, except that he has no man or servant or representative under him. He does nothing else for his office except his service and rent. It was asked whether he had appropriated anything and the jury said he had not.

Peter de Shatton A forester in Fee who holds two bovates of land in Shatton worth 6s per annum for keeping his bailiwick. His ancestors held four, of which two were alienated by them in past times. He does nothing except his service and rent. He has all rights as the same William Hally.

William Le Heyr (Eyre). A Forester in Fee whose ancestors held 6 bovates of land; but 5 were alienated and let out at a yearly rent. He now holds one for the keeping of his bailiwick. He ought to provide a man to reap for one day in autumn at Peak Castle and have a meal there once in the day. And likewise he ought to perform one ploughing for the castle in Lent; and he has the same rights as the said William (Hally). He has fully performed his duties at the castle and has appropriated nothing to his office. A later Willam le Eyre in 1345 had a grant enabling him to appoint a deputy to perform his duty. (Great Britain 1903, p23)

Robert Balguy. A Forester in Fee, holds 4 bovates of land in Hope for the custody of his bailiwick worth 4s per annum. He does service at the castle as aforesaid, and has the same rights as William (Hally). He has fully performed his service at the castle, and has not appropriated anything.

Roger Woodrove. A Forester in Fee, holds 2 bovates for his bailiwick worth 6s per annum. He duly performs his service at the castle.

Peter le Hore. A Forester in Fee, holds one bovat for his office worth 3s per annum. He duly performs his service at the castle, and enjoys the same rights as others.

Robert de Hausted. A Forester in Fee, holds a bovat and a half of land for keeping his bailiwick, worth 4s 6d. His ancestors alienated half a bovat which was let for 18d. He performs his duties and enjoys all his rights as aforesaid, but has a license by Letters Patent to appoint a deputy. (Kerry 1893).

Pleas of Venison and Vert (Yeatman 1886, p275 – 285).

Pleas at the courts during Edward's reign produced records that are largely concerned with the taking of venison and other animals.

The names of the Foresters in Fee in Hopedale are named as above.

The Foresters of Hopedale are named as THOMAS LE RAGGED DE BERDE, JO DE MELNER, JAMES DE MAYNWARING, and ROGER FIL ROBERT DE MILNER, DEPUTY of MATILDE DE WITFIELD.

In many pages of recorded wrongdoing there are few which relate to the known inhabitants of Hopedale:-

JOHN GOORYNG OF TWYCHILL was consenter to the crimes of JOHN DE OKE AND PETER DE OSRING, who took one doe; bail. Roger le Ragged of Castleton, Adam fil Thomas. of Castleton, Elias de Bradwell, etc

JOHN LE HOR of Hope took one doe.

In a court held by ROBERT BOZON, Bailiff of the Peak, the following are names from Hopedale (Yeatman 1886, p289).

Thomas le Ragged, Peter Rowland, Roger le Ragged de Rowworth and Richard de Hatteman, who attended as Verderers of the Forest, and 30 men were sworn upon oath to form the Jury.

There are three names from Hopedale:-

Ranulf de Ashope, Simon del Ospital, Adam son of Thomas de Castleton,

A series of Rolls (Yeatman, 1886, p291-302) contain Pleas of Vert, Assarts and Perprestures of which there is no mention of Hopedale.

Horses were kept in the forest and considered to be damaging the forest (Yeatman, 1886, p305).

“The Queen consort of the King had a horse-fold in Compana, with 115 mares and young, to the great hurt of the forest, and it is found that many had horses and mares in the same Compana, under cover of the aforesaid equitium, who when required to answer say that they are the Queen's”.

The names of men probably from Hope who employed this tactic follow:-

PETER DE SHATTON, Forester of Fee, had for one year, some horses and mares feeding in Compana, whose pasturage is assessed at 2s, therefore he is in mercy, and he must answer, and the said averta must be removed. Others were also caught and fined; Robert Balgy, Forester, had 9, Richard le Archer, 7, Roger le Ragged of Villa Castle, 4, Robert Bozin, 2 mares with young, Thomas le Archer, Forester, 6 horses and mares, Thomas son of Thomas Foljambe, 3, William Hally, 8, Peter le Hore 11 (of which 3 were John Martin's), William le Eyr, 8, Roger Woodrove, 6, Roger le Ragged, of Castleton, 4.

An important series of Rolls detailing Fines, Redemptions, Amercements, Judgments of the Forest of Peak in the County of Derby, before Roger Lestrangle and his associates took place in the 13th year of Edward.I which resulted in many names from Hopedale being fined (Yeatman 1886, p307-313).

The following were fined for offences of Vert.

The Vill of Castle for vert in Eydale,

Wm. Hally and his companions, Foresters of Hopedale, for the price of a certain horse,

Wm. le Fox of Castleton for building a house to the injury of the forest

Luca de Foresta de Peak, Rich. Hally.

Wm Vicar of Hope, Peter le Hore dead, Robt. le Hore of Hope, Thos. Yrpe de Hope, Robt. Sutore de Hope, Roger Woodrofe de Hope, Wm. Blanshard de Hope, Wm. le Brewester of Hope, Robt. Balgy, Jo. fil Moll de Hope, Wm. fil Milicent de Hope, Herbert fil Roger de Hope.

Wm. Francis of Castleton, Roger le Ragged of Castleton, Hugo Reyner de Castleton, Hy. Rayner de Castleton, Rich. Reyner of the same, Hy. le Herde de Castleton, German Picot of Castleton, Robt. Whithand of Castleton, Wm. Ally of Castleton, Batecok by the Brook of Castleton, Henry Undercliff of Castleton, Elias fil Letice of Castleton, Robt. fil John of Castleton, Roger fil Amice of Castleton, Robert fil Alotte de Castleton, Stephen fil Arnald of Castleton, Rich. fil Agnes of Castleton, Rich. fil Havise de Castleton, Bate fil Alice of Castleton.

Peter de Shatton Forester, Brian de Shatton, Robert Blinde de Ashope, William Rayner de Ashop, Robert son of Thomas de Thornhill, Hugo de Astone, Rad fil Hugo de Aston, Emma de Astone, Rich. Hally de Astone, Ralf fil Phi. of Aston, Nic de Aston dead.

A visitation of the Regarders took place with some interesting results (Yeatman 1886, p318-320). Various persons were fined for injury to the woods, including the Forester in charge, who was in consequence fined ½m.

ROBERT LE MELNER, Forester, was fined £10, bail. Roger le Ragged de Roworth, Roger le Ragged of Castleton, Roger Woodrove, et al

Hv. DE MEDWE, James Mainwaring, Robt. Balgy, Ad, Oumfrey, Peter de Shatton, Peter le Hore, Roger Wodrove, Wm. le Eyre, Thomas de Gretton, all foresters, were fined in the same way.

The heirs of Thomas Foljambe, already fined several times, were again fined.

The heirs of Wm. de Horsenden, whilst Bailiff, were fined £10, and for two forges for iron, 4½m.

THOS. DE GRETTON, Wm. Foljambe, Hy. de Medwe, Peter Shatton, Robt. de Hausted, Robt. Balgy, Robt. Bozon, Thos. le Archer, Henry Medwe (again), Thos. fil Thos. Foljambe, Wm. Hally, Peter le Hore, Wm. le Eyre, Roger Wodrove, Nich. de Babingly. Thos. de Gretton, Thos. le Ragged de Ferneley, Cecilia Foljambe, were all fined for abusing their rights of pasturage.

Mathew de Kintwich, Robt. de Melner, Matilde de Whitefield, for cropping the land.

Ralf de Corner and Gilbert de Lizors and others were fined for taking fines improperly.

“That these fines were realities and had to be paid is evidenced by the fact that so many of the misdemeanants were practically bankrupt, no doubt ruined through the imposition. There is a statement occasionally in the rolls of certain persons being pardoned or excused payment, as, for instance, in 1340, John de la Hide, Wm. his brother, Peter de Wetenhale, Rich. de Broomhall, Robert de Ashton, and John de Pickford were severally pardoned by the King in consideration of their good services beyond the seas, and no doubt amongst the favoured ones many escaped punishment, but this long roll of fines is a sad story of wrong doing and retribution” (Yeatman, 1886, p319).

Records of some visits by the King ROLL V (Yeatman 1886, p285).

In 1274 the King hunted in Compana which appears to have attracted others to illegally take Venison (Yeatman 1886, p287). Noblemen of the court also hunted in the forest, killing many deer, some of which may have provided meat for the King’s larder (Yeatman 1886, p288).

3. Edward II 1307-1327 (Yeatman 1886, p320).

List of the Officials of the Forest.

Walter Waldeshelf, Chief Steward.

Foresters of Hope Dale.

Wm. Halley, Peter de Shatton, Robt. de Heire, Nicolas Baggeshawe

Verderers.

Philip ac Stredleigh, Wm. de Gratton, Robt. le Ragged, Wm. del Hage.

Regards (Yeatman 1886, p321).

Richard de Paddeleghe, John de Smaleleghes, Robt. del Clough, Robt. de Wardelowe, Rich. de Buckstones, Alan del Halle, Benedict de Shalcross, John Browne, Robt. de Bagshawe, Ralf fil Nicolas.

Wm. de Stafford, Hugh de Bredbury, Rich. del Clough, Wm. le Ragged of Rouworth, Richard de Baggeshaughe, Geoffrey Smithson, Wm. at the Churchyard, Robt. le Taillour, John fil Tele, John de Chinley, Nicolas de la Ford. Thos. Martyn.

Forest of the High Peak in the hands of Queen Isabella

In April 1313 the king gave to his Queen Consort Isabella the manor and castle of High Peak (de Alto Pecco) with its members of the forest park together with the knight's fees, Advowsons of Churches and all other things appertaining to the castle, manor and forest (Great Britain 1898a, p38).

The rights and privileges she enjoyed are noted in other documents (Great Britain 1898a, p276); (Great Britain 1898a, p490-491). Reminders are sent out to officials that for alleged trespasses of vert and venison in the Forest of High Peak, all fines and ransoms which shall be taken from transgressors convicted before them shall be taken for the use of the Queen (Great Britain 1898a, p281).

4. Edward III 1327-1377

There is no account of the forest courts in Yeardley for the time of Edward III.

Forest of the High Peak in the hands of Queen Phillipa

In October 1333 Edward III announced that he had "lately granted the castle and the honour of High Peak to Queen Philippa for life, together with the knights fees, advowsons, forests chases etc, pertaining thereto, and he does not wish injury to be done to the Queen in the respect" (Great Britain 1898b, p142). The Queen paid for the warden of the hospital of St Mary, Castleton in High Peak, out of this income (Great Britain 1902, p58). Queen Phillipa awarded favours by granting the bailiwick of the chief forestership of the forest of the Peak to various individuals for their lifetime (Great Britain 1902, p116; Great Britain 1909a, p492; Great Britain 1911b, p303).

The Queen reminded overseers of the rights of the foresters who:-

"ought to have 'housebot' and 'heibot' of the king's woods for repairing the houses in which they dwell with oak and other houses of that serjeanty, with birch and alder,.... and that they ought to have their pigs nourished in that serjeanty quit of pannage in the forest and also pasture for their cattle, ...the foresters there ought to have a pig of their choice" (Great Britain 1905a, p115) and orders "to seek out evildoers and who had been committing offences

against Queen Philippa's free chase of High Peak at Castleton, Hope and elsewhere'. There is a list of misdemeanours and it is obvious that the queen's profits were suffering (Great Britain 1909a, p448).

5. Richard II 1377-1399

Records of a court held at Tyddeswall (22 Richard II. 1398) (Yeatman 1886, p323).

Jury

Rich. del Berde, Wm. de Stafford, Wm. de Clayton, Hy. de Thorhath, Wm. de Mellor, Hugo Halle, Hy. Buckstons, Roger de Roworth, Ranulf de Hyde, Jo. de Shalcrosse, Jo. Warde, junr., and Rich. del Hall.

Foresters (Yeatman, 1886, p324).

By the oath of Robt Heyre, Robt. Wodrove, Wm. Woderowe, Wm. de Abney, Thos. del Clough, Wm. del Halle, John del Hall, John Lavoc, Jo. de Hegham, Wm, de Bagshawe, Robt. de Millur, Jo. del Bower, John del Hall, Thos. de Hollyngworth. Rich. del Ferne, Wm. Woodward, and Hy. Joys,

present that—

John fil Win. de Castleton and Thos. fil Alice of Padley, took a stag.

Arthur de Carrington took a stag at Eydale.

Venison Trespassers

John Dene, Vicar of Hope, bl. Rich. Wernehall.

John de Castleton (Yeatman 1886, p325).

6. Henry IV 1399-1413 (Yeatman 1886, p326; transcribed by Carrington)

This document is not a Forest Court report. It apparently contains a list of Crown Rents, the amounts generally are small sums (according to Mr. Carrington) and is useful in that it gives a list of names and in some cases mentions houses or estates which are described as Land transactions or under Family names. The full document is in Appendix 2 with only the most relevant retained in this Peak Forest report.

Woodlands (Absorbed into Hope Parish in modern time) (Yeatman 1886, p328-333).

John Smyth of Houpe, for Peyddarhagge, 10s.

Robert Haigh and Willam Hall, for Byrchynley, £6; (Birchinley or Birchfield)

Demeyne of Castleton.

Savage, £4.

Intakes at Castleton.

William Trykett de cast. Capellanus Hospital de Spetill, Wilim Trickett de Hope, for the House of the Blessed Mary at Castleton, Villa de Castelton, p. turbary, Henr Hall Demeyn, 40s., George Savage, prest, 40s.

Houpe.

John Eyr for King's haigh, Tota villa for Weyfleys, Tota villa for liberties.

Robt. Eyr, Idem Robert for Strylley land, Idem Robt. for Tweeche (Twitchill)

Tota villa for Weyfeleys, Tota villa for increments.

Ashoppe, Thornehull, Aston.

For all three; Tota Villa for Weyfeleys, Idem Villa for turbary Idem Villa for liberties.

7. Henry VI 1422-1461

1438 (17th Hv. VI) Five courts were held for petty misdemeanours at Castleton (Yeatman 1886, p337-340).

A plea of debt inquiry between Nicolas Stanreng and John Cok, of Hope, for stallage.

Ditto between Thos Newton and Wm. Hatfield, of Eydale, for mowing.

John fil Robt. Balgy acknowledged that he owed Jo. Forneys 2s. 6d. on the bond of Nich. Balgy,

Rad Payn acknowledged that he owed Thos. Fetcher two lode dish of ore,

Robt. Ralgy, butcher, for selling corrupt meat, fined 12d.

John Molte, tailor, fil Rd. Molte, who carried away goods seized by Wm. Watkin, Frank.

Pledge. of Hope, of the goods of Margaret Dutton

Four other courts were held at which nothing identified as happening in Hopedale was identified

1439 (18th HENRY VI). Three courts were held for petty misdemeanours at Castleton Thos. Newton 16d. for mowing.

John Fox of Castleton, fine.

It was accounted by the Bailiff, that when he seized the carcasses of Robt. Balgy in execution for 8d. to be levied upon him to the use of Nich. Stanreng, the same Robt. without license carried away and sold the said flesh, therefore he is fined 40d.

1440 (19th HY. VI). Two courts were held for petty misdemeanours at Castleton

Many names and the heirs of many names were summoned to before the Court of Castleton, according to the custom of the Manor, and they did not appear, therefore each of them is in mercy.

View of Frank Pledge (Yeatman 1886, p343).

Thornhill and Shatton.

Jo. Thatcher, Thos. Halley, Roger Masscy, and Nich. Fox, Frank pledge.

Present George Halley, for shooting two arrows at Jo. Shater, intending to kill him.

Castleton.

John Tymme, Jo. Bagger, Wm. Dun, and Thos. Newton, Frank pledge.

Present, Thos. Clough and Roger Gerveys.

11 other districts outside Hopedale mentioned

1441 (20th Hv. VI). **View of Frank Pledge** (Yeatman 1886, p345- 346).

Thornhill and Shatton.

Jo. Thatcher, Thos. Halley, Robt. Skinner, Jo. Cain, Frank pledge.

Present, Hugo Roworth, Wm. Glossop, Thos. Smith, Jo. Nott, Nich. Syward, for selling ale.

Castleton.

Xpofer Balgy, Roger Jernysson, Thos. dough, and Henry Shaw, Frank pledge.

Thos. Woodruff made an affray in the open Court of Castleton, fined 4d. upon, Oliver Halley.

Kobt. Aleyn and John Thornhil sold ale.

6 other districts outside Hopedale mentioned (Yeatman 1886, p349).

1444 (23 HY. VI). A WAPPENTAKE held at Longston

4 hearings for assarts heard, none of them in Hopedale

1451 (30 HY. VI). VIEW OF FRANK PLEDGE held at TIDESWELL (Yeatman 1886, p350).

Jurors, Robt. Elott, Thos. Aleyn, Jo. Aleyn, Xpofer Bagshaw, Wm. Gardener, Robt. Dykenson, Robt. Gretrax, Jo. Coterill, John Bolyvaunt, Jo. Torpe, Rich. Greves, Jo. Norman.

Thornhill and Schatton.

John Dale, Thos. Rhodes, Thurston Boure, and Win. Smyth, Frank pledge.

Castleton.

Rich. Jolle, German de Newhoime, Rich. Gerves, and Thos. Tyme, Frank pledge.

Hope and Aston.

Wm. Croford, Jo. Syward, Wm.- Bokking, and Rich. Watkins, Frank pledge.

Present, John Fumes, for brewing, and Thos. Balgy, Nich. Balgy, John Staneryng, John Harford, and Robt, Aleyn for the like.

Conclusion

The records for Peak Forest in the 13th Century support the view that the Forest was an important source of revenue to King Henry III. It appears the King was always hard up. Thus in 1236, Henry appeals to his subjects as follows;

“To the good men to the Peak, the King, by the common counsel, his lieges, has taken into his hands all his manors and demesnes, to stock them and make his profit of them. And he requests them to give him such an aid of their oxen, cows and sheep to stock the said manor as John Gobaud, Constable of the Peak, as will give him cause to commend them and merit his gratitude.” (Great Britain 1906a, p147).

The King used Peak Forest as an important place to conduct affairs of state as when, in 1257, he received the submission of Malcolm of Scotland.

Another visit was in 1263 (48 Hy.III) when King Henry III lodged at the Castle of Peak. This event appears to have been the occasion for misbehavior by his servants and retinue. During this visit THOMAS DE FURNIVAL, Lord of Sheffield, together with his servants, IVO DE HERIG, RAD BARRY, RALF DE ECCLESHALL, and a certain Knight, ESTOUT DE STUTVILLE, ROBT. BERNARD BALISTER, MICHAELE DE BONTELAND AND ROBERT his brother, separately and of his own will entered the Forest of Peak and did much damage in the same, and hunted in the forest to the hurt of the same 12 beasts. Thomas was imprisoned. The same Thomas imprisoned SAMPSON DE HASELBROOK, bailiff under JOHN DE BOWDEN, and took from him £10. Furthermore, THOMAS HANCELYN, STEPHEN RYBAND, servants of the said Thomas, went from the castle in the present pare into Hopedale and took one doe in Pindale (Yeatman 1886, p286).

For the common people, the reports suggest considerable settlement of land through enclosure and clearance of forest. As a result this increases the revenue of the King probably without harm to the forest since the assarts are small in size. The increasing settlement is a sign of population pressure also recorded by the grant to the foresters of Bowden to build a new Chapel for administrative purposes.

There are very few records for Hopedale or its population in the Forest Rolls suggesting an established agricultural population with little need to gain land or hunt for meat. Castleton is well established as a town supporting the Castle.

The government documents describe exchanges of small pieces of land and are useful in providing names of villagers, which usually designate where the individual came from, and occasionally refer to specific named fields.

Thus in 1216 Ralph Talebot makes a Grant of a half acre of land in Hope near Thornawe to Henry de Grengel. Witness: Elias de Thornhill, Peter de Shatton, Elias and Robert, brothers of Aston, Elyas son of Elyas of Thornhill. (Jeayes 1906, #1422, p175).(Land use is fully discussed elsewhere).

During the reign of Edward I the Forest is continuing to provide the King with income and sport and he visits in person. At the end of the 13th century the inhabitants of Hopedale are named for offences of Vert (Yeatman 1886, p307-313). Other documents from this period concern land transfers between Foresters, hinting at the building of estates. Land parcels are named and position in or near to open field cultivation given. Horses are mentioned for the first time and records suggest there is whole scale illegal keeping of horses within what may have been woodland. Again this suggests a thriving economy practiced by the foresters as the raising of horses must have been a very necessary part of the economy. There is mention of a forge, presumably the use of wood for the forge would be at conflict with a continuing policy of preservation of Forest. Villagers are named for misdemeanours of agricultural practices rather than forestry.

During the reigns of Edward II and III, the forest is in the hands of the Queen consorts. Although there is substantial evidence that they pursued their legitimate income from the forest with diligence through the government Rolls; there are no records of visitations for any reason and Forest Pleas are not recorded by Yeatman.

Towards the end of the 14th C under King Richard II, little is recorded until the 22nd year of his reign when a court returns a few reports for offences against deer.

Throughout the 14th Century there is substantial reorganization of land holding recorded for Hopedale and it is tempting to speculate that, in the absence of direct inspection of Peak Forest, those with the means to do so were busy organizing their own futures.

During the 15th C under Henry IV and VI the work of the Courts appears to change.

The Forest Rolls give only land rents for Henry IV and do not add to the picture of life in Peak Forest. Most of the relevant information is to be found within the Government Rolls of the periods which record land exchange and acquisition of small parcels of land including references to the beginning of enclosure.

During the time of Henry VI the courts appear to be held frequently but the summons are for assault and trespass and other misdemeanors of village life etc rather than fines against the Kings property.

During this period, the major business described in the Government Rolls concerns land grants and inheritance of estates.

I have seen no Forestry Rolls for the 16th C and most accounts consider there was progressively less and less use of Forest Law during the 16th and 17th centuries when the forest formed part of the extensive territories of the Duchy of Lancaster. Deer continued to roam the forest until the early 17th century, when they were largely cleared. The process of disafforestation, begun formally around 1626, was delayed by the Civil War and following the Restoration, delayed by a legal wrangle between two members of the Eyre family and

opposition to enclosure by commoners and tenants of Peak Forest. Some of the earliest to agree a settlement were the petitioners of Chapel-en-le-Frith in 1712; the agreement for Hope and Castleton did not finally come until a century later (Somerville 1977).

Appendix 1 Full list of Crown Rents from King Henry IV 1399-1413
(Yeatman 1886, p326; transcribed by Carrington)

In-tackes at Castleton.

Maitin Bothe, Heres Esabell Bothe, Rychard Eyre, Thomas Gardener, Robert Ffornes, Her Johis Joll for land of Ric. Wodde, Robert Ward, Robert Eyre pro tr. Johis Castelton, Willim Hall, for land of William Bowden, Roland Eyre for Johis Gardiner, Robert Eyre, p. tr. Will Hall, Vicar de Castelton, William Trykett de cast Capellanus Hospital de Spetill, Ric. Eyre, Robert Fornes, Robt. Bagger, Ric. Cademon, Thomas Balgey, Martin Eyre de Redseyte for Randulphus Orme's land, Robert Stiylley, George Savage Capell, (9) Otiwell Nedham, RobertEyre for land of Willam Mellor, Ric. Vernon p. terr. Nic Page, Robert Thornehyll, Henr Tymc, Her Melinus Tyme, Heres Thomas Bagger, Tohes Hall for land of Thos. Ruttur, The Chantre of Tyddiswall, Nie Longford Miles, Henr Foljam Armiger, Elis Tyme, Otiwell Nedham, Sotell and Rancliffe, Johes Eyre for land of William Wodde, John Wilson, George Savage, p tr. Tohis Doune, Roger Howe, Nic Bredbury and Robert Benett, Johes Joll for land of Thos. johnson, Wilim Trickett de Hope, for the House of the Blessed Mary at Castleton, Nic Eyre, Villa de Castelton, p. turbary, Henr Hall Demeyn, 40s., George Savage, prest, 40s.

Houpe.

Radus Shirley Miles, Nic. Eyr, Thomas Wodroffe, Idem Thomas for an intacke, Robt. Eyr for Boswell, Christopher Stanley, Henr Donne, Eliz. Fornes, Jolies Treckett, Willin Townshend, Ric. Abney, Johes Shaw for land of Rich. Abney, Henr Vernon Miles for land of Hngo Bagsha, Johis Booking, Johis Eyr for King's hagh, St. Mary's Croft, Tota villa for Weyfleys, Tota villa for liberties.

A note on sources

The sources for this research are based on studies of John Pym Yeatman, G.R.Sitwell and Lord Hawkesbury in *The Feudal History of the County of Derby (Chiefly during the 11th 12th and 13th Centuries)*. These transcriptions of the Pleas of the Forest of Peak are invaluable. The original source of the documents, as recorded by Yeatman is given as follows:-

1. HENRY III 1216-1272 (Yeatman 1886, p230)

Rolls of the Forest of Peak VOL. III. SECTION VI.CHAPTER IX. (Yeatman 1886, p266).
Duchy of Lancaster Records now 1/5 (late F. Nos. 50 & 51, P.R.O.) The Pleas of the Forest of Peak. Craft of St. Michaelmas 13 Edward I.

2. EDWARD I 1272-1307 (Yeatman 1886, p307)

Rolls of the Forest of Peak VOL. III. SECTION VI CHAPTER XI.
ROLL OF FINES &c. 13 ED. I. ¹/₁₁(Formerly Chapter House Forest Rolls, Box VI, No. 4, Ed. I, now Duchy of Lancaster Forest Rolls.)

3. EDWARD II 1307-1327. (Yeatman 1886, p320)

Formerly F₅₅ (6) now ¹/₁₃ Duchy of Lancaster.

4. EDWARD III 1327-1377 No records

5. RICHARD II 1377-1399 (Yeatman 1886, p323)

CHAPTER XIII.THE PLEAS OF THE FOREST OF PEAK. Duchy of Lancaster Court
Rolls, No. 1914, B 128, P.R 0.

6. HENRY IV 1399-1413 (Yeatman 1886, p326)

CHAPTER XIV.THE PLEAS OF THE FOREST OF PEAK (Date approximately between
13 Hy. IV and 10 Hy. VI.) (See Hrs. of Robt. Plompton.) Duchy Rent Roll. Belvoir Castle
Records, p. 187—265 Extracted by Arthur Carrington, Esq., J.P., Langdale House, Bedford.

7. HENRY VI. 1422-1461 (Yeatman 1886, p337)

CHAPTER XVI. the COURT ROLLS of the DUCHY OF LANCASTER Now in the
Muniment Room of His Grace the Duke of Rutland at Belvoir Castle (Extracted by Mr. W.
A. Carrington, Curator of the Muniments).

3. Castleton and Hope Parish Churches 1066 – 1650

Ann Price

Introduction

The church in early medieval times was the focus of the religious and social life of the village. It was an age when the church teachings and customs held sway over people's lives to a very great degree. The church buildings themselves would probably have been the only structure of any size or permanence in the village and thus became important not only for church services, but for business transactions and the day to day life of the community.

At this time services were held daily, people standing in the nave and listening to the service in (perhaps to them incomprehensible) Latin. Many churches had paintings on the walls depicting biblical scenes and teachings as the congregation would for the most part have been illiterate. The south porch was often used for business dealings. Marriages might be carried out there and part of the baptism service as well as discussion of parish affairs (Smith, Cooke & Hutton 1976, p68-70).

It was also an age of superstitious beliefs and a great fear of the devil. Many churches had doom paintings giving a graphic illustration of what sinners could expect if they died without confessing their sins. The North door and north side of the church yard were also associated in people's minds with the devil. This door would be left open during a baptism to allow any evil spirits to leave the child and then the door closed quickly to prevent them returning. The north side of the churchyard was used only for burial of the outcasts of society (Clarke 2009, p38). At this time only the very wealthy would have a memorial within the church and there were no gravestones in the churchyards.

The church also provided much of the fun and celebrations for the villagers. There were over forty feast and holydays on which people could take a break from the daily grind of labour on the land for their lord or on their own plots. At a time when there were no clocks or watches lives would have been regulated by the church bell ringing out the hours for waking, working, sleeping, attendance at mass and curfew (literally, "coevre feu", for safety in their thatched houses) (Smith, Cook & Hutton 1976, p70).

Churchwardens (instituted in 1192) raised and administered the funds which would care for the church fabric and services, prosecuted offenders for non-attendance at church, collected rents on church lands, farmed the church stock of sheep and cattle and sold wool and cheese.

Even the church yard could be used to provide a place of safety for animals in times of danger.

From Tudor times onwards the church went through great upheavals. Henry VIII closed the religious houses and seized their wealth for himself. He declared himself head of the church rather than the Pope and instituted a new form of worship with the use of Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer, so that, perhaps for the first time, the parishioners would understand the words of the service. The Protestant form of worship continued in Edward's reign, but when Mary came to the throne she tried to restore the Catholic faith. Then under Elizabeth protestantism was again the official religion but as long as people outwardly conformed she did not enquire too closely into their privately held beliefs.

James I steered a middle ground between Catholicism and Puritanism, tolerant of both. It was during his reign that the Bible was first translated into English, a huge advance for ordinary people at last able to understand what was read to them in services.

Charles I's time was also troubled by religious matters and a split between High Church practices – termed “popery”- which he favoured and the puritanism of many in Parliament was one of the contributory factors in the Civil War.

It was a deeply unsettling time for priest and people alike.

History

The histories of Castleton and Hope parish churches vary a great deal considering that only a mile and a half separate the two villages.

In the Domesday survey of 1086 Hope is described as having “a priest with a church to which there belongs 1 caracute of land”. William Peveril had charge of these manors which included Bakewell and Ashford.



Figure 3. St Peter's Church, Hope is probably on the site of the original Saxon church. Photo: David Price.

In Saxon times the church of St Peter's at Hope lay at the centre of a very large royal hunting estate. The ecclesiastical parish included, besides the chapelry of Tideswell to the south, other chapelries at Fairfield, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Fernilee in the west. Hope Woodlands lay to the north and to the east were Abney, Stoke and Highlow. In between came Hope township, Aston, Brough and Shatton, Thornhill, Grindlow, Great Hucklow, Little Hucklow, Hazelbadge, Bradwell and part of Wardlow. The size of the parish has given rise to the theory that Hope was a “ministeria” or missionary church in Saxon times. There are the remains of a Saxon Cross in the churchyard (Turbutt 1999, p311).

Castleton's church is not mentioned in the Domesday survey, but the church is dedicated to Edmund, a Saxon saint so there may have been a church at that time. William Peveril, whose estates included the old Royal hunting forest of the Peak, established his castle on the hill and is thought to have built a new church in about 1100 in the town which nestled at its foot. There is a Norman arch between the nave and chancel and a Norman font, as well as a piscina

in the south wall of the nave, all evidence of the present church's early origin. There are also the remains of an early cross in the churchyard (Parkin, Harrison & Fowler [n.d.]).



Figure 4. St Edmund's Church, Castleton with its 14th Century tower.
Photo: Alan Darlington.

The advowson (the appointment of a priest) as well as tithes and other benefits of both Hope and Castleton churches were held by William Peveril of Castleton for the king. However in 1153 William Peveril's son, also William, is alleged to have poisoned the king's favourite, the Earl of Chester and his vast estates were forfeit to King Henry II. William retired to Lenton Priory, which he had founded, but was eventually forced to flee the country. In 1163 Henry gave the Peveril estates to his son, John, Earl of Mortain (Cox 1877, p257). At this point the history of the two churches diverges.

Hope

During the reign of Richard I in 1192, Prince John gave the church of Hope, with its chapelry at Tideswell to Hugh Nonant, Bishop of Coventry hoping for his support in his plots against his brother Richard I. This grant was ratified when John became king (Jeayes 1906, #1419, p174). In 1219 Bishop William de Cornhill gave all the rights in the church at Hope and its chapelries to the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield. The vicarage of Hope was formally ordained between 1224 and 1238 during the episcopate of Alexander de Savensby. Tideswell became a separate parish in 1254, but the rest of the villages within the original Saxon "ministeria" remained as part of Hope parish until the 19thC. The Dean and Chapter continued to hold the advowson of the parish until 1549 when the rights to the tithes of the rectory manor were given to Ralph Gell of Hopton (Cox 1877, p257-268). The Dean and Chapter of Lichfield were still involved in the appointment of a priest to the parish.

Castleton

Castleton church fared differently. It remained under the jurisdiction of the king, with all rights held by the custodian of Peveril castle, until 1269 when Henry III gave the advowson of the church to his son, Prince Edward. As part of the foundation charter of the Cistercian Abbey of Dernhall in Cheshire Edward gifted to it the advowson of the "church of the castle of the Peak" in thanks for his safe return after a dangerous sea voyage from a crusade to the Holy Land. (Cox 1877, p127)

The Taxation Roll of Nicholas IV (1291) valued the church at £12 per annum as an “ecclesia”. In 1297, Edward, now king, transferred the Abbey of Dernhall to the Abbey of Vale Royal in the same county. The rectorial tithes as well as the advowson were subsequently appropriated to the Vale Royal and a vicarage formally endowed (Cox 1877, p128).

At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries around 1536 Henry VIII gave the tithes and advowson of Castleton church to the Bishop of Chester (Clarke 2009, p36).

Castleton parish also included Edale. Until 1633 there was no chapel there and bodies were carried over the hill via Hollins Cross for burial in the churchyard in Castleton. The remains of this “Coffin Route” can be found today in Cross Street where a narrow passageway between two shops leads to the north door of the church. A toll would have been paid and the window where the money was collected can still be seen. To remedy this state of affairs a group of interested parties paid to have a chapel built in Edale and provided a parcel of land for a burial ground. The chapel was consecrated by the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry as the Chapel of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in 1634 (Cox 1877, p135).

Buildings

The churches were built by the people of the villages and in an age of deep religious belief it was important to them that the church should reflect the best that the village could provide. In Hope there is no sign of the Saxon building. The church was rebuilt in the 14thC in a period of prosperity due to the importance of the wool trade, when many new churches were built. A piscina and sedilia from this time were incorporated into the chancel when it was rebuilt in the 19thC. There is an early piscina in what was once St Nicholas' quire, (now the vestry) and the church has a Norman font. Two 13thC grave slabs with depictions of forest insignia were found under the chancel floor when it was rebuilt in 1858. The south porch has a room above, known as the parwise, which may have provided accommodation for the priest and is traditionally believed to be the first schoolroom, before a building was erected for that purpose in 1632 (Smith Porter 1923, p4).

Castleton's church originally consisted of a nave and chancel dating to the early 1100s but in the 14thC a tower was built at the west end. The earliest identifiable grave is dated 1571 (Parkin, Harrison & Fowler [n.d.]).

Both churches have since been much altered both in the 18th and 19thC and many early features have disappeared.

Income

Neither Castleton nor Hope were wealthy parishes and in the early days incomes for the vicars would have been small. An early chartulary of the Lichfield Chapter shows that the vicar held the Easter dues, the greater and lesser oblations, the mortuary, marriage and purification fees, the dominical pence and certain lesser tithes, such as those on pigs, poultry and calves, giving him a total income of £9. 10s. (Cox 1877, p258).

Tithes were a tenth of all produce and earnings and were collected as a tax to pay for clergy and services. Hope and Castleton both have a building near their respective churches which is reputed to be a tythe barn used to store corn, wool and other items of produce gathered from the local people. The greater tithes from our villages would be sent to either Lichfield or Vale Royal, the lesser tithes would belong to the vicars.

Arguments arose over entitlement to tithes. In 1329 The Abbott of Vale Royal complained to Queen Isabella, who was lord of High Peak, that the Priory at Lenton was selling beasts from Edale, claiming that they were entitled to do so as William Peveril had given the tithes to Lenton Priory at its foundation. Queen Isabella's bailiff was asked to look into the matter and he found in favour of Vale Royal (Clarke 2009, p34).

Even in death the church took its share. A Receipt roll dated 1339 lists the mortuary fees of the Peak received by the Dean & Chapter of Lichfield who were entitled to the second best beast, always provided that there were at least three beasts all told. If not, other items were taken. Of the five entries for Hope three were for women which yielded tunics sold for 6d, 12d and 10d respectively, the cheapest one being described as "worn". The other two entries, also for women yielded a heifer sold for 6s and an oxen sold for 8s. (Cox 1889, p156).

In 1538 at the time of the Dissolution the "Valour Ecclesiasticus" was drawn up from which Henry VIII assessed the value of all religious properties. This gives the value of the vicarage at Hope as £13.13s.4d. Castleton was valued at £6.7s.6d including 9s for tithes of lead.

An inventory of the possessions of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield taken at the same date, gives the rectorial tithes of corn, hay and minerals at Hope as £21.4s.6d.; the tithes of wool and lambs of Bakewell, Hope and Tideswell are given in the aggregate sum of £105; and the site of the rectory at Hope, with glebe and lands, at £5.0s.0d. (Cox 1877, p258).

The Easter dues traditionally belonged to the vicar. In 1658 in Hope it was the custom to pay 2d for each cow, and 1d on each calf and sheep . Fifty four householders are listed in the village yielding a total for the vicar of £2.14s.6d. (Cox 1889a, p15-30).

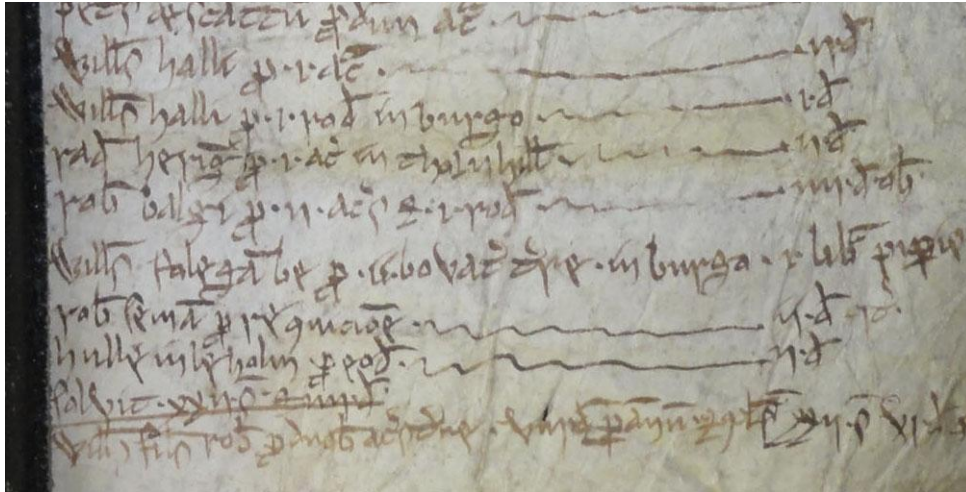


Figure 5. The 1273 Easter Roll lists some Hope landowners.
 Photo: John Talbot, courtesy of Lichfield Record Office.

Priests and Vicars

Early priests may have been bright young men promoted by their own parish priest to train in a nearby monastery or religious house. They would have worked the glebe lands alongside their parishioners. Castleton had about 20 fields attributed to the Vicar in 1819, perhaps a continuation of this medieval glebe. Hope's holding was much smaller – only 3 fields on the Tythe Map of 1847. Up until the 13thC priests might well have had wives and families until celibacy was ordered by Rome. Both Hope and Castleton have details of some of these early priests but the lists are incomplete and there is no way of knowing whether they were local people or not. Once a vicarage was established in the parishes the living was held by an appointee (vicariously) on behalf of either Vale Royal or Lichfield.

Sometimes the vicars held property of their own and would lease it out to parishioners. In 1372 William Ruley, vicar of Castleton, leases “a messuage and outbuildings and adjoining curtilage land to John Mayoth and his wife to hold of the lord of the fee according to the service and customs.” (Anon, 1372).

In such stirring times it is not surprising that vicars got caught up in the general violence. Sir Thomas Wendesley and John Dean, vicar of Hope in 1403 “and many other of their bad associates” were accused of breaking into the house of Godfrey Rowland, kidnapping him and holding him for six days in the castle at Castleton, cutting off his right hand before releasing him. Rowland petitioned the king for restitution of this barbarous deed (Smith Porter 1923, p28).

Violence even took place within the church. In 1530 Robert Elott of Bradwell struck his kinsman Edmund Elott on the nose, spilling blood on the altar in St Nicholas's chapel. The church had to be closed and reconsecrated and Robert was subjected to a public whipping as punishment for his misdeed (Smith Porter 1923, p6).

In 1602 an entry in the Parish Registers records that Edmund Eyre, “Vicar of Hope, was buried the xvth Aprill, without service or bell, in ye night”. What story lies behind that intriguing entry?

The period of the Reformation was a difficult one for vicars as they had to acknowledge the sovereign as head of the church, rather than the Pope, and use Archbishop Cramner's new

form of service. The changes of emphasis during the reigns of Edward, Mary and Elizabeth would have affected priest and people alike. Nor was it easier during the Commonwealth when vicars were required to follow strict protestantism. In 1650 Cromwell's Parliamentary Commissioners reported that Rev Samuel Cryer was the incumbent of Castleton, "having conformed". Following the restoration of the monarchy he was re-instated as vicar of Castleton, managing to keep his living despite so many religious "about-turns" (Clarke 2009, p129).

A similar story is told of Thomas Bocking of Hope. In the same Parliamentary Commission he is described as "the present incumbent, formerly in armes against the Parliament and reputed scandalous." A pulpit with his name and the description "teacher" is still in use today (Smith Porter 1923, p29).

Nor was it an easy time for their parishioners. Everyone was expected to attend church and to follow services from Cramner's new Book of Common Prayer. Those with religious scruples who wished to continue to follow the "Old Faith" might well be fined or even excommunicated for non-attendance at their church.

An entry in Hope's Parish Register for August 14th 1635 has a list of fifty three persons "excommunicated at the Visitacon of the Ld. Archbishoppe His Grace of Canterburie." There is no record of this in the Lichfield Chapter records, so we do not know why they were excommunicated (Smith Porter, p59).

The following is an extract from a list of presentiments by local village constables of wrong doers in their parishes.

"Alto recto the present(m)ent of Robert Thomason Cunstable Con Derby of Hope p^rsentent at day(?) – 23 of Aprill 1639

First hee p^rsentent for absence ffrom the Church ffor 3 saboth dayes last past James How Humfree Smithe Mary Yellot ffrancis Yellot Margaret Slacke."

(In the same petition "hee p^rsenteth ffor bruing without Licence Thomas Ashton of Castleton Henry Barmhead And further hee cannot p^rsent. Robert Thomason."
(Anon, 1639)

In 1538 Parliament decreed that all baptisms, marriages and burials should be recorded and the records kept in a "sure coffer" with two locks and keys, one for the vicar and one for the wardens, the start perhaps of the use of the Parish Chest. From 1598 it was ordered that the records were to be kept in "great books of parchment". Hope's earliest register dates from 1598-9. The Woodroffes held the office of parish clerk almost continuously from 1620 for several generations when they had guardianship of the Registers. The early register is now in an extremely dilapidated condition, with beer stains and practice signatures scribbled in it by members of the Woodroffe family when they were publicans. Besides baptisms, marriages and burials other items are recorded in this register, one of them being the names of the 39 tithes payers and the amounts they paid in 1605.

Another records that in the "yeare of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and thirtie six, beganne the great death of many children and others by a contagious disease called the children pocke: & Purple Pocke: & whyte hives with blisters." (Smith Porter 1923, p60).

Castleton's parish registers do not begin until 1663. No parish records were kept during the Commonwealth so this may be why Castleton's records are later in starting.

Records for ordinary people are few and far between in Hope and Castleton and we can only catch a glimpse of the importance of religion and the church in their daily lives through these occasional references.

Castleton's Hospital of St. Mary in the Peak

Angela Darlington

Nearly 500 hospitals and almshouses were founded in England before 1300, many of them for the poor and infirm of the parish, as was likely for Castleton's Hospital of St. Mary in the Peak. Given its position on the way across the High Peak from Yorkshire to Cheshire, Castleton's hospital may have also admitted poor wayfarers (Orme & Webster 1995). The sick poor in small rural hospitals such as Castleton's were probably mainly provided with food, shelter and a bed; medical care, if any, would have been rudimentary. The care of the soul was at least as important as the care of the body, and hospital inmates would have been required to participate in the daily round of religious services and prayers, many dedicated to the soul of the founder. For this purpose early hospitals had chapels annexed to the infirmary, as confirmed for the Hospital of St Mary in a document relating the Augmentations (1548) when a grant to Thomas Babyngton mentions that following its dissolution the hospital included a "mansion" with a "little chapel annexed to that house" (Great Britain 1924, p69).

Castleton's hospital was reputedly founded by the wife of one of the William Peverels (putting its foundation before 1153), as reported by the traveller and writer William of Worcester in the 15th century (Harvey 1969).

The hospital is known to have had a succession of wardens who administered to the daily running of the institution, and chaplains who were responsible for celebrating mass in the chapel. Hospital wardens were supported by lay brothers and sisters, who would have provided most of the caring duties for the inmates. An early document (sometime between 1237 and 1243) refers to "*fratres hospital de villa castra*", these "fratres" probably being lay brothers of the hospital, in connection with "assart" i.e. cultivation of the King's land (Yeatman 1886, p243).

Place name evidence supports the general location of the hospital on the outskirts of the village between Castleton and Hope (e.g. Spital Bridge, Spital Field), and a Parliamentary Survey of 1654 describes boundaries of the lands of the Hospitall of the High Peake that indicate its location in or close to the current Spital Field, i.e.,

"bounded on the South by the Peakes Arse River, East by a Comon feild knowne by the name of Over Maston, north by the Highway that leadeth to Hope and west partly by the said River, and partly by the said highway...."

It continued as a hospital or spytelhowse until 1535 or soon after when it was valued at 40s in the survey of the finances of the church ordered by Henry VIII, the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* (Anon. 1907). Medieval hospitals were frequently associated with larger religious houses or monasteries but Castleton's hospital had no known mother institution. At the time of the Dissolution there may have been no inmates to consider and according to Victoria County History (1907) the warden by then was non-resident. However Brooksbank (1925) refers to

“pensioners” apparently of the hospital as mentioned in a late 17th/early 18th century document “receiving the Royal Bounty in lieu of a home”.

The supposed site of The Hospital of the Peak was scheduled in February 1999 (NMR No. 29938). The scheduled monument contains the obvious surface features to the south of Castleton road and opposite Losehill Hall lodge, and the NMR report cites evidence from a 1920 lecture given by the Reverend Brooksbank that describes the position of the hospital.