

**THE REGISTERS OF THE PARISH  
CHURCH OF WHALLEY IN THE  
COUNTRY OF LANCASTER:  
CHRISTENINGS, WEDDINGS, AND  
BURIALS, 1538-1601**

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The Registers of the Parish Church of Whalley in the Country of Lancaster: Christenings, Weddings, and Burials, 1538-1601 by Thomas Backhouse Ecroyd

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**THOMAS BACKHOUSE ECROYD**

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Lancashire Parish Register Society.

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The Registers

OF THE

Parish Church of Whalley.

## Lancashire Parish Register Society.

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The Registers  
OF THE  
Parish Church of Whalley  
IN THE  
County of Lancaster

Christenings, Weddings, and Burials  
1538—1601

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY  
THOMAS BACKHOUSE ECROYD

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## Preface.

ACCORDING to the Domesday Survey of the land between the Ribble and the Mersey, A.D. 1066-1086, there were two parishes in the Hundred of Blackburn, namely Blackburn and Whalley.

*"Inter Ripam et Mersham in Blacheburn Hundreto Rex Edwardus tenuit Blacheburne. Ibi II hida et II carucata terra. Ecclesia habebat II bouatas de hac terra et ecclesia Sanctæ Mariæ habebat in Wallei II carucata terra quietas ab omni consuetudine."*

"King Edward held Blackburn; there are two hides and two team lands there. The church (of Blackburn) had two oxgangs of this land and the church of S. Mary had two team lands in Whalley quit of all custom including geld."

The present area of the ancient parish of Whalley, shorn as it is of its original dimensions, is just 116,910 acres or nearly 138 square miles, of which 5,465 acres are in Yorkshire. The remaining 111,445 acres form nearly one-ninth part of the county of Lancaster. There were seven Parochial Chapels dependent upon the original foundation of Whalley Church, all of which were endowed with competent glebes prior to 1284, namely (1) Clitheroe, (2) Colne, (3) Burnley, (4) Altham, (5) Downham, (6) Church, (7) Haslingden. The Chapel of Padiham was added in 1451; Whitewell, Holme, and Marsden Chapels

were erected in the reigns of Henry VI. and Henry VII.; Newchurch in Rossendale in 1511; Newchurch in Pendle in 1543; and Accrington in 1577.

To give some idea of the great extent of the parish of Whalley it may not be out of place here to detail the different townships contained therein :

*Borough of Clitheroe*, including the townships of Clitheroe, Little Mitton, Henthorn, Worston, Chatburn, Downham, Twiston, Mearley, Pendleton, Cold Coates, Wiswall, and Whalley.

*Parochial Chapelry of New Church in Pendle Forest*, including the townships of Roughlee Booth, Barley-cum-Wheatley and Wheatley Carr, Goldshaw Booth, and Old Laund Booth.

*Chapelry of Colne*, including the townships of Colne, Barrowford, Foulridge, Trawden, and Great and Little Marsden.

*Chapelry of Burnley*, including the townships of Burnley with Towneley and Brunshaw, Habergam Eaves, Ightenhill Park, Reedley Hallows with Filly Close and New Laund Booth, Briercliffe with Extwistle, Worsthorpe with Hurstwood, and Cliviger.

*Chapelry of Haslingden*, including the townships of Haslingden, Hensheads, Higher Booths and Lower Booths.

*Chapelry of New Church in Rossendale*, including the townships of New Church, Wolfenden, Bacup, and Deadwen Clough.

*Chapelry of Church*, including the three townships of Church, Oswaldtwistle, Yate-cum-Pickup Bank, and Huncoat.

*Chapelry of Altham*, including the townships of Altham, Clayton-le-Moors, and Old and New Accrington.

*Chapelry of Padiham*, including the townships of Padiham, Dunnockshaw, Hapton, Simonstone, Read, Higher Booth, and Heyhouses.

And lastly *Bowland with Leagram*.

Parish Registers in their present form owe their existence to an injunction of Thomas Lord Cromwell addressed to the clergy in his capacity as Vicar-General, in September, 1538. In 1597 such Registers as were previously written on paper were ordered to be transcribed on parchment.

The Whalley Registers, the earliest in the county, commence in the year 1538, in the thirtieth year of the reign of Henry VIII., during the vicariate of the first Protestant vicar, Edward Pedley, who was inducted prior to the dissolution of the Monasteries and was buried 5th December, 1558, as appears in the Register. The earliest Register of which the present volume is comprised contains 87 parchment leaves measuring 13 inches by 5½ inches, and the first entry commences with a christening on 27th November, 1538, and the last entry is that of a burial on 21st October, 1601. The writing, which is in Latin throughout, is good and clear and the Register has every appearance of having been uniformly copied at one time by the same individual either from an older