

**NOTITIA CESTRIENSIS, OR
HISTORICAL NOTICES
OF THE DIOCESE OF
CHESTER, VOL. II, PART I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649689828

Notitia Cestriensis, or Historical Notices of the Diocese of Chester, Vol. II, Part I by Francis Gastrell & F. R. Raines

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Cover @ 2017

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FRANCIS GASTRELL & F. R. RAINES

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Notitia Cestriensis,

OR

HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE DIOCESE OF CHESTER,

BY THE
RIGHT REV. FRANCIS GASTRELL, D.D.
LORD BISHOP OF CHESTER.

NOW FIRST PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT, WITH ILLUSTRATIVE
AND EXPLANATORY NOTES,

BY
THE REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A. F.S.A.
RURAL DEAN OF ROCHDALE, AND INCUMBENT
OF MILNROW.

VOL. II. — PART I.

Lancashire.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
M.DCCC.XLIX.

Utskrift af
Bogen af Charles Darwin om d.a.

CONTENTS.

VOL. II.—PART I.

Manchester Deanery.

	PAGE
Ashton-under-Lyne	R. 1
Bolton-le-Moors	C. 6
BLACKBOD	C. 15
BRADSHAW	C. 17
RIVINGTON	C. 19
TURTON	C. 22
WALMSLEY	C. 25
Bury	R. 27
EATONFIELD	C. 33
HEYWOOD	C. 33
HOLCOMB	C. 36
Dean	C. 37
HORWICH	C. 41
WEST HOUGHTON	C. 45
Stiles	C. 46
ELLENBROOK	C. 53
Styton	C. 55
Manchester Collegiate Church	57
ST. ANNE'S IN MANCHESTER	R. 77
BIRCH	C. 79
BLAKESLEY	C. 80

Manchester Collegiate Church—continued.

	PAGE.
CHORLTON	C. 83
DENTON	C. 84
DIDSBURY	C. 86
GORTON	C. 88
NEWTON	C. 89
SALFORD	C. 92
STRETFORD	C. 96
Middleton	R. 96
ASHWORTH	C. 102
COCKEY	C. 106
Prestwich	R. 107
OLDHAM	C. 111
RINGLEY	C. 117
SHAW	C. 119
Rochdale	R. 121
LITTLEBOROUGH	C. 131
MILNROW	C. 139
SADLEWORTH	C. 143
TODMORRIS	C. 147
WHITWORTH	C. 154
Rabcliffe	R. 158

Notitia Cestriensis.

PART II.

Deanery of Manchester, in Lancashire.¹



AN. PATR. THO. MAS. DE GRELE. MS. HULM. 95. L. 11. ex

Patron, Lord Warrington.

An.[no] 1305, Patr.[on,] Tho[mas]

de Grele. *MS. Hulm.* 95. l. 11. *ex*

Cartul. Epi Cov. et Lichf.

An.[no] 1551, S^r Rich. Langton

[Hoghton] presented. *Inst.[itution]*

B.[ook,] 1, p. 44.

£. s. d.
33. ... 13. 04
V. in Ecton.
Proc. An. G. s. 8
Syn. 0. 2. 0
Tril. 0. 6. 8

¹ Manchester appears to have become the head of a Rural Deanery before the Hundred of Salford was constituted, as the Deanery is commensurate with the Hundred, and yet is named after the chief town of the Ecclesiastical, and not of the Civil, district.

The Rural Deanery of Manchester comprehended in the twelfth century, the Parishes of Manchester, Bolton-le-Moors, Bury, Eccles, Middleton, Radcliffe, Rochdale, and Prestwich, and at a later period were added, Ashton, Flixton, and Dean, which had obtained the rank of parishes. The representative of this Deanery was generally the Rector of Manchester, and "Dom. G. Decanus Decanatus de Mancestr." occurs in a deed s. d. and again "Dno. G. Decan. de Mancestr." attests next after William de Dumplinton, Vicar of Rochdale, before the year 1238. This ancient Ecclesiastical district is now divided into the modern Rural Deaneries of Manchester, Ashton, Bolton, and Rochdale, and, though "sufficiently thick of people," to adopt the quaint

An.[no] 1557, Crown presented, Hugo Griff.[ith] in Decretis Doctor. *Ib.* p. 49.

language of Fuller, "is exceedingly thin of parishes," there being only eleven in the whole Hundred of Salford.

In 1756 the county of Lancaster was described as being one hundred and seventy miles in circuit and a County Palatine, as sending fourteen members to Parliament, and as having sixty-two parishes and twenty-three market towns. The parish churches in the Diocese of Chester were returned as being two hundred and fifty-six.

² From early times, until the tenth century, it was the custom for the Bishop personally to visit each Parish under his jurisdiction, once a year, unless where the Diocese was of too great an extent, in which case the indulgence of a biennial, or, at furthest, a triennial visitation was allowed him. On the Scripture principle *nemo cogitur sine stipendiis ministris* was founded the rule that the Bishop should be entertained at the Church by the Parish Priest, which entertainment was styled *Procuratio*, from *procurare* 'to refresh,' as in the verse,

"————— leti bone geetis corporaibus
Procuratis viri."—*Virg. Æn.* ix. 158.

As soon as the Bishops ceased to hold their itinerant visitations and their Clergy were convened to their Cathedrals, the word "procuratio" came to signify (as *procury* or *procurations* still does) a pecuniary sum or composition paid as a commutation for the provision or entertainment. The rate varies in different parishes. At Ashton, the "Procuration annually, is 6s. 8d."—See Dopping, *Tract. de Visitat. de Episc.* p. 8; Kennet, *Paroch. Ant. Glossary*; Reeves' *Eccles. Antiq. of Down, Connor, and Dro-more*, p. 99.

³ The ancient Episcopal Synods (which were held about Easter,) were composed of the Bishop, as president; the Dean of the Cathedral, as representative of the Collegiate body; the Archdeacons, as at first only deputies or proctors of that inferior order of Deacons, and the Urban and Rural Deans who represented all the Parochial Priests within their division. Hence the name *Synodalia*, called in English *Synodals* or *Synodals*, which denoted the duty usually paid by the Clergy when they came to these Synods. The sum generally payable was two shillings, which was fixed so early as A.D. 672, and payable alone to the Bishop, *de jure communi*. Kennet, *Par. Ant. Gloss.*; Gibson, *Codes*, IV. 42, c. 9; *Concilia*, v. 896.

⁴ At the triennial visitation of the Bishop a procuration is still paid by certain of the Clergy, whilst the annual procuration is paid by Church-wardens at the Archdeacon's visitation.

⁵ Dedicated to St. Michael. Value in 1834, £1407. Registers begin in 1594.

At the Norman Conquest, the Manor of Ashton was granted by the King to his kinsman Roger, Earl of Poitiers, but was forfeited by him between the years 1066 and 1068. His confiscated lands were restored to the earl by William Rufus, but owing to a subsequent revolt, he was banished England by Henry I. in 1103, and the crown granted this Manor to Robert de Gredle or Grelley, Lord of Manchester. It is

Leave to build a new Gallery, and add to y^e old one, an.[no] 1719. *Reg.[ister] B.[ook]*, 4.

recorded in the *Testa de Nevill*, that Albert Grodle sen. gave in marriage with his daughter Emma a carucate of land in Eston (Ashton) to Orm Fitz Eward or Ailward, and that the heirs of Orm held the same. The son of Orm is styled Fitz Orm de Eston, and the old Lancashire genealogists (see Collins' *Baronetage*, vol. ii. p. 207, 1720,) have stated this Orm to be male ancestor of the Ashestons of Ashton-under-Lina. The proof, however, is wanting; and from a very careful and critical examination of original evidences, Dr. Ormerod, the Cheshire Historian, (see Nichols' *Collections Topographical et Genealogical*, vol. vii.) has shown that the Manor was not really held by an Asheston, by any known authentic deed, before a Charter of Free Warren, dated the 5th Edward III. An Indenture dated Febr. 1413, states that the Manor then held by Sir John Asheston, was held 12th Edward I. (1233,) immediately from the Lords of Manchester, not by the Ashestons but by the ancestor of Sir Richard de Kirkby, and in the 5th Henry VI. the Ashestons held as a *subinfeudation* under Kirkby. The Eston of the *Testa de Nevill* was evidently Orm-Eston, now Urmston, in the Parish of Flixton, and the lands of Orm Fitz Ailward, as to a knight's fee adjacent to Ormeston, passed to his heir, Roger de Lathom, the founder of Burroough.

This Manor continued in the Asheston family from the year 1335 until the death of Sir Thomas Asheston, 7th Henry VIII. (1515,) when it passed in marriage with Margaret, his eldest daughter and coheir, to Sir Wm. Booth of Dunham Massey, ancestor of George Harry, Earl of Stamford and Warrington, the present noble manorial owner.

As the manor was held of the Baron of Manchester, so the Chapel of Ashton was dependent upon the Church of Manchester anterior to the 32nd Edward I. (1308,) but it appears to have obtained the rank of a Parish Church before 1291, when "the Church of Ashton" was valued at £10 per annum. And in the 2nd Edward II. (1308,) Thomas de Grauley gave to Sir John, afterwards Baron de la Warr, and to Joan his wife, sister of the said Thomas, and to their heirs, the advowson of the "Churches of Manchestre and Ashestons." In the 5th Henry VI. Thomas de la Warr gave to Sir John de Ashton K.B. the advowson of the Church, which was conveyed, with the Manor, by his descendant Margaret Asheston, about the year 1516, in marriage to Sir William Booth, (who ob. 11th Henry VIII.) and is now possessed by the owner of the Manor.

The present fabric was partly erected about the year 1413, and in 1427 the Ashestons became the patrons, during the useful incumbency of John Huntington B.D. the pious and munificent Warden of Manchester. In 1516 the Church was enlarged and a new Tower erected. In 1553 Queen Mary restored a Chantry, which had been suppressed by her predecessor. The north side of the Church and the Tower were rebuilt about 1818; but considerable damage was done to the Nave, by an accidental fire, on the 21st of March 1821. In 1840 the south side of the Church was rebuilt,