

**BRUCHE: A MONOGRAPH:
THE HISTORY
OF BRUCHE HALL,
NEAR WARRINGTON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649352999

Bruche: A Monograph: the History of Bruche Hall, Near Warrington by William Beamont

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Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM BEAMONT

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THE HISTORY
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BRUCHE. A MONOGRAPH.

THE HISTORY
OF
BRUCHE HALL,

NEAR WARRINGTON,

WITH

*NOTICES OF THE BRUCHE AND OTHER FAMILIES
ITS OWNERS.*

BY WILLIAM BEAMONT.

"O memory wafted by thy gentle gale,
Oft up the stream of time I turn my sail."

WARRINGTON:
MACKIE, BREWTNALL & CO., GUARDIAN OFFICE.
1878.

TO

Samuel Rigby, Esquire,

ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S JUSTICES OF THE PEACE FOR THE
COUNTY OF LANCASTER,

WHO, SO GREATLY TO THE ADVANTAGE OF
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD,
NOW OCCUPIES BRUCHE HALL,

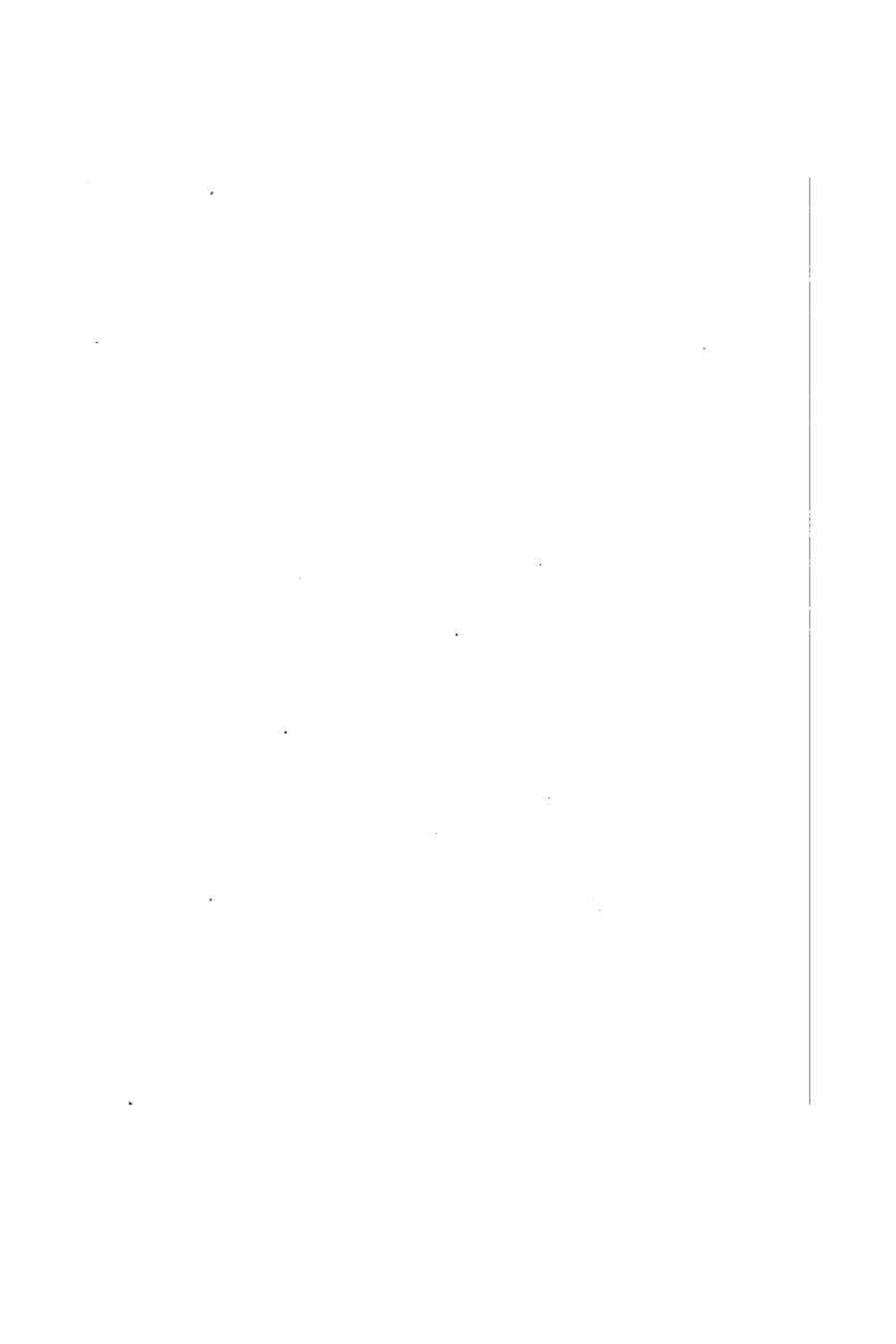
THESE PAGES ARE, WITH MUCH RESPECT AND ESTEEM,

Dedicated

BY

THEIR AUTHOR.

ORFORD HALL,
5th November, 1878.



BRUCHE HALL.

CHAPTER I.

ON both sides of the Mersey near Warrington, there may be seen still standing some of those old moated houses which were built in the times—

When men built less against the elements
Than their next neighbours,

and for more security surrounded their houses with a well-filled moat, gave to them heavily barred doors, with openings in the walls in which broad stone mullions alternated with narrow slits, through which light only found its way as it were by stealth. These windows were thus constructed in order to keep out marauders, and not for the same reason which once forced a meditative student to exclaim that—

He loved the gloom
The sun excluding window gave the room.

In these houses, which have now greatly changed with the times, some of their old features may still generally be found lingering. One of them retains the rough masonry of its

original foundations; another, resting on this, has a wood framework, painted in black and white; a third has a quaint old wainscoted room, with a priest's chamber or hiding place, an ornamented ceiling, or a solid oak staircase, showing the taste of our ancestors and the manner in which they built their homes, while round most of them traces of the old moats may still be seen.

To particularize some of these houses, we may name Peel Hall, in Great Sankey, which was once the seat of a branch of the Rixtons, and passed from them by the marriage of Elizabeth Rixton, an heiress of that house, with Theophilus Lynch, of Warrington, gentleman, the father of Sir Thomas Lynch, who was Governor of Jamaica in the middle of the seventeenth century. At no great distance from Peel Hall was The Hall of Little Sankey, the former seat of the Sankeys, and over the door of which is a fading shield of arms, which was probably theirs. This house, which retains some other marks of antiquity, passed from the Sankeys, its original owners, to Sir Thomas Ireland early in the same century. A third house which may be mentioned is Bradley Hall, in Appleton, Cheshire, once the manor place of Sir Thomas Danyers the younger, a great soldier, who worthily won his spurs at Crescy and in other fields of fame, though his whole domain at Bradley contained only a few acres—and the house is now a farm house. A fourth such house was Woolston Hall, in Woolston, where the great family of the Hawardens had their seat, which passed from them by marriage to the Standishes, and is now a farm house belonging to a purchaser from them. A fifth of these manor places is Rixton Hall, near Hollins Green, once the seat of the parent house of Rixton, but which in the middle of the last century was acquired by purchase from

them by the family of Lord Winmarleigh, one of whose farmers now occupies it. A sixth manor house is that of Bruche Hall, in Poulton, near Warrington, of which we shall have more to say, and to which therefore we shall devote a longer notice.



CHAPTER II.

BRUCHE HALL.

THIS place, one of those already above referred to, and of which we propose to give a detailed account, is supposed to have owed its name to the way in which the name of the Birch tree was pronounced by the common people in olden times. This tree loves a heathy soil and within living memory it grew in large numbers in the hamlet of Bruche. Our Saxon ancestors found for their villis, hamlets, and places names of a very simple origin—a cliff, the stock of a tree, an abundance of sand, or a great growth of rushes gave name to Clifton, Stockton, Sankey and Risley. The names of places which have not a similar origin in this neighbourhood are rare: Bryn, Culcheth, Kenyon, Glazebrooke, Douglas, Boliin, Penketh, and Kinkenall, which in part or in whole have a British sound, being the only exceptions that occur to the writer.

The boundaries of Bruche, which is a hamlet in the township of Poulton, are so exactly described in the Lyme manuscript of 1465, that we have no difficulty in identifying them at the present time:—"The manor of Bruche with its appurtenances" (thus runs the description) "lies and is situate on the south side of a certain heath called Le Bruche Heath, and extends from thence towards a certain lane lead-