

Clayton Cuerden
Report

Vols 3 & 4
H. HALLAM.

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CLAYTON - LE - WOODS and
CUERDEN

Archaeological Report

pre - 19th C. CUERDEN

Vol. 3

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WOODCOCK HALL, CUERDEN. N.G.R. SD 54992507

The site of Woodcock Hall and its lands is ancient, having formerly belonged to the Hospitallers. It is therefore likely that the estate existed before monastic times and could possibly have been of pre-Conquest origin. There were lands in Walton-le-Dale, and probably Farington - the two adjoining townships - in addition to those in Cuerden.

Dr. Kuerden (c. 1700) recorded that Woodcock Hall was the ancient inheritance of the Woodcock family for four or five hundred years, and that it was known at one time as Crow Trees.

The documentary evidence is summarized as follows:-

- 1317 A grant dated 3rd. September, 1317 by Adam of Charnock to Robert (son of Roger Woodcock) of a part of his land in Cuerden, viz:- held a rood of waste lying between the said Robert's house near the boundaries of Farington with common pasture for 40 oxes, cows and other cattle.
- 1323 A further grant by Robert Woodcock, dated 8th. December 1323, to Richard his son, and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, of all his land which the said Robert had from his father, Roger, and his attarus (great-grandfather).
- 1334 John, son of Adam of Charnock, Lord of the Manor of Cuerden, licensed Richard, (son of Robert) Woodcock to make a new hearth upon the Smithrydding.
- 1522 On the 1st. July, 1522, it is recorded in the Court Roll of the Manor of Cuerden that John Woodcock freely held of the lord certain lands in socage . . and did fealty for the same to Thomas Langton, Esquire, Lord of the Manor, and was thereupon admitted as tenant.
- 1602 Thomas Woodcock died at Cuerden holding the "...capital messuage called Lostock in Cuerden.."; a name distinguishing it from the Lostock Hall to the north which is in Walton-le-Dale. The land holding appears to have been approximately 60 statutory acres.

1666 Thomas Woodcock is listed in the Hearth Tax Returns for Cuerden as having 6 hearths. This was no doubt the house built earlier in that century and described by Dr. Kuerden as 'a fair built house'.

The Woodcocks were a Roman Catholic family and their name is traditionally associated in the 17th. century with recusancy, and the priest, John Woodcock, executed at Lancaster in 1646, was one of the family.

1780 Thomas Woodcock died. He left no sons and he appears to be the last of the Woodcocks to reside at Woodcock Hall.

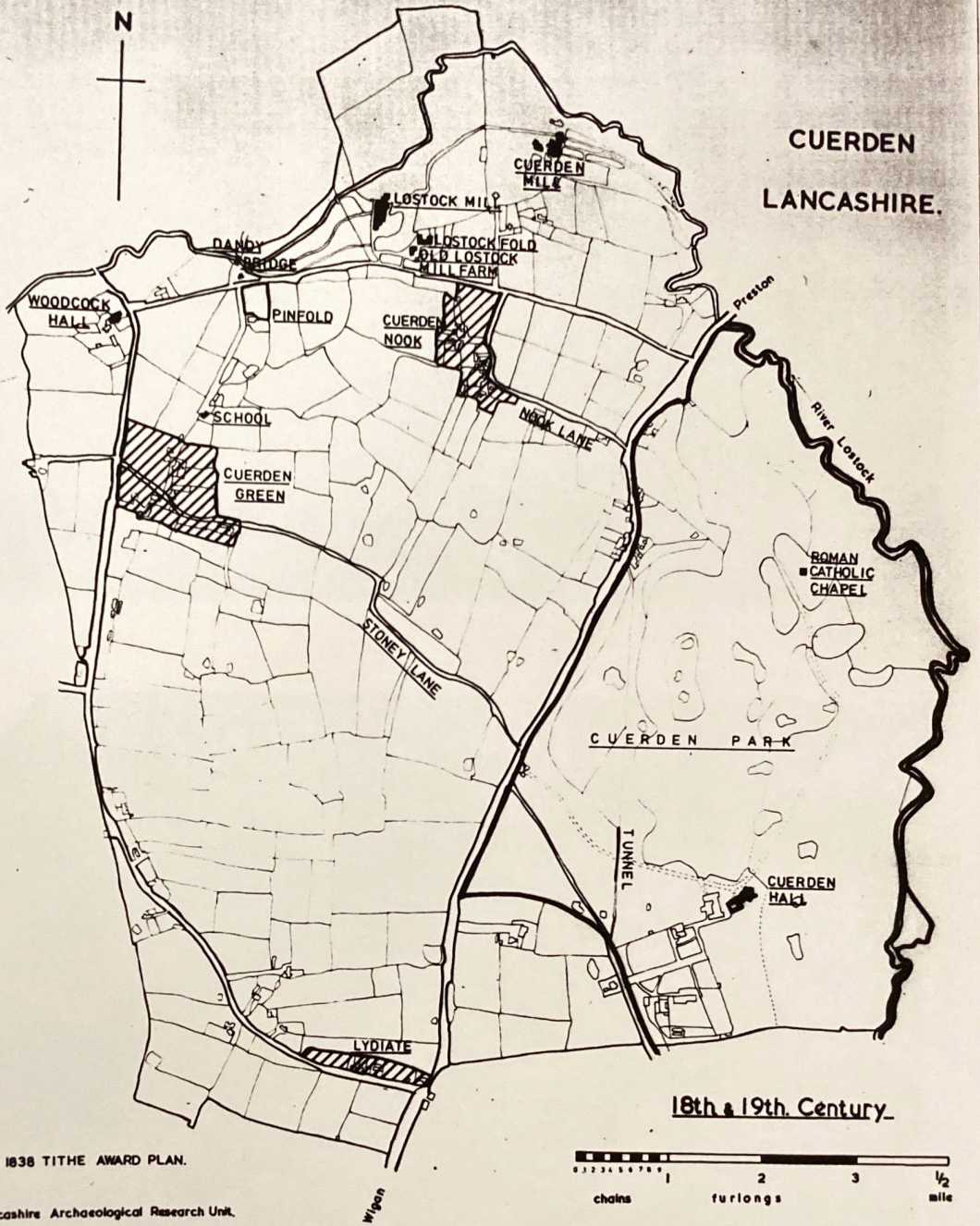
1786 The land tax returns of Preston record Banastre Parker as the sole landowner in Cuerden. From this time onwards Woodcock Hall and its lands become a tenant farm. It is listed in Towneley Parker's estate survey of 1817 as "...Part of Woodcock Hall.." farming nearly 30 acres; likewise the Tithe Award of 1828, shows a similar acreage with minor modifications and the tenant's name is John Sumner.

Woodcock Hall was a three-storeyed brick building with stone plinths, quoins and lintels. It had three gables on the front facade, a projecting porch and fine oak staircase.

It was visited by the Ordnance Survey field officers in 1955 who reported that the interior was a good deal modernized; by 1966, a later visit reported that the building had been demolished and no trace remained.

An early photograph of the Hall appears in Volume 6 of the Lancashire Victoria County History.

The farm still exists, a modern house having been built to replace the old one.

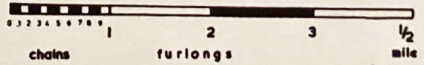


**CUERDEN
LANCASHIRE.**

18th & 19th. Century.

Based on the 1838 TITHE AWARD PLAN.

Central Lancashire Archaeological Research Unit.



CUERDEN HALL, CUERDEN. N.G.R. SD 56402385.

Cuerden Hall as it exists today is largely of early 19th. Century date, incorporating part of an earlier hall.

It is traditionally accepted that this earlier house was built by Banastre Parker in 1717. Some basic measurements of the building are included in the account of Cuerden Hall in the Victoria County History, Vol. 6. Further details could be deduced from a study of the existing building with the aid of the plans drawn by Lewis Wyatt between 1815 and 1819; negative copies of which have recently been acquired by the Corporation.

However, there is evidence of an even earlier house. In 1564 only two land-owners contributed to the land subsidy in Cuerden - John Cuerden and William Woodcock - representing the two main houses of the township: Cuerden Hall and Woodcock Hall. Again, a hundred years later, in 1666, the principal houses were those of Christopher Banastre and Thomas Woodcock, of the two halls respectively, each with 6 hearths.

A brief glimpse of Cuerden Hall as it was at the end of the 16th. century is afforded by a post mortem inquisition of the goods and chattels of John Cuerden of Cuerden. He was the same John Cuerden as the one mentioned above and he died in 1601.

Whilst the name of the Hall itself is not mentioned, it must, by inference, have been Cuerden Hall; there was no other, and Thomas Woodcock was living at Woodcock Hall. It seems as if the Banastres of Bank Hall, Bretherton, owned Cuerden Hall and John Cuerden leased it from them. It will be noted below that one of the rooms in the house is named 'Mr. Banastre's Chamber'. Nevertheless, John Cuerden appears as a man of some consequence in Elizabethan Lancashire, serving in several public offices in the county. Through marriage to one of the Farington daughters he held lands in Farington, Hutton, Longton and Walton-le-Dale, in addition to Cuerden.

End High Chamber :

1 feather bed
 2 bolsters
 2 pillows
 3 coverletts
 2 blankets
 1 shed bed with curtains
 1 chest
 1 chair
 2 stools

1 high bed with curtains
 truckle bed
 cupboards with coverings
 3 chairs
 2 stools

End Chamber :

2 feather beds
 2 bolsters
 1 pillow
 1 chaff bed
 4 coverletts
 4 blankets

1 stand bed with curtains
 2 pair of bedstocks
 1 coffer
 1 buffet stool

Lower Parlour :

1 feather bed
 3 bolsters
 2 other beds
 4 coverletts
 3 blankets

2 pair of bedstocks

Mr. Bannesters Chamber :

1 feather bed
 1 bolster
 2 pillows
 1 covering
 1 double blanket
 3 single blankets

Closet :
 1 stand bed with curtains
 1 cupboard
 1 chair
 2 buffet stools
 curtains for the windows

Kitchen Chamber :

2 feather beds
 2 bolsters
 1 pillow
 1 covering
 4 coverletts
 1 double blanket
 3 single blankets

2 pair of bedstocks with curtains
 1 trunk
 1 cupboard with covering
 1 chair
 2 buffet stools

Brewhouse Chamber :

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| 2 | feather beds | 1 | high bed with curtains |
| 2 | bolsters | | truckle bed |
| 1 | pillow | | cupboards with coverings |
| 2 | coverletts | 3 | chairs |
| 2 | double blankets | 2 | stools |
| 3 | single blankets | | |

Dairyhouse Chamber :

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | feather bed | 1 | stand bed with curtains |
| 2 | bolsters | | |
| 1 | pillow | | |
| 1 | covering | | |
| 1 | coverlett | | |
| 1 | double blanket | | |
| 1 | single blanket | | |

Maids Chamber :

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 2 | feather beds |
| 2 | bolsters |
| 5 | coverletts |
| 2 | blankets |

Servants Chamber :

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 3 | chaff beds |
| 3 | feather bolster |
| 9 | coverletts |
| 2 | blankets |

Closet :

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | chest |
| 1 | cupboard |
| 1 | little coffer |

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | arcke with other things in the Chamber over the hall |
| 6 | new feather bed cases and 6 bolsters |
| 2 | pairs of holland sheets |
| 2 | holland pillow cases |
| 21 | pairs and 1 odd sheet of flaxen cloth |
| 47 | pairs of canvas sheets |
| 17 | pairs of flaxen pillow cases |
| 17 | flaxen table cloths |
| 17 | canvas table cloths |
| 10 | flaxen towels |
| 18 | canvas towels |
| 38 | flaxen table napkins |
| 89 | canvas napkins |
| 4 | flaxen cupboard cloths |
| | A quantity of salt |

1	candle chest	2	little chests
18	new cushions	10	coarser cushions
1	great chest in the barn		
3	great pans	3	hinge pans
5	brass or tin pans	7	pots
14	candlesticks	1	mortar and pestle
1	chafing dish to hold burning fuel		
3	bronze ladles	2	basins and jugs
8	pewter cans	2	tins
1	cup	3	great pewter bottles
48	storage vessels		great pewter dishes weighing 9 stone
1	pewter bottle	16	little pewter dishes
14	plates	10	pottery dishes
6	big saucers	15	little saucers
6	little pewter dishes	4	saucers
1	cupboard in the pantry	1	salt box
1	brewing vat	1	cooler
1	large vat for beer	6	large tubs (washing)
	tubs in the brewhouse	15	barrels
1	cheese press	3	boards
2	sifting boxes	6	butter tubs
1	churn	23	basins and troughs

Cheese vats, stands, mugs, laggin and moulds

Boards in the dairy

Quantity of large pails and tubs

5 pairs of old bedstocks

Boards and coverings in the hall

19 chairs and stools

1 cupboard in the parlour

1 still

Boards and forms in the kitchen

Tubs, boards and shelves in the larder

Quantity of candles, tallow and grease

Glasses and cups

Quantity of bottles and cans

" " sacks and curtains

1 pair of scales

Quantity of baskets and measuring vessels

" " wool and woollen yarn

" " boards and other wood in the out loft

" " turf and coal

1 cistern

Quantity of linnen yarn and cloth

1 half fire-grate with chain

5 fuel-carriers, 2 racks and 4 pairs of tongs with pot hooks

2 broiling irons, with toasting irons

1 fire iron, 2 brandirons with fire pot and iron shovels

1 dripping pan

1 frying pan

2 iron chaffinge dishes

3 pairs of bellows
 Quantity of trenchers
 " " dishes and wicker baskets
 " " butter and cheese

5	turf spades	1	cutting axe
5	foot spades	2	hatchets
4	forks	1	gouge
5	pitchforks		saws
4	ploughs with irons	1	adze
5	harrows with iron pins	2	hacks
7	iron chains	2	dung rakes
4	pairs of clamps	6	hooks
4	axletree pins	2	hand knives
3	sets of a wheel	1	scythe
6	axletrees		

Quantity of rakes

1 board
 2 plough beams with other wood things in the Workhouse
 new ox yoke

3	belly-bands		
3	halters		
4	wainropes with cart tresses and horse gear		
2	hay wains		
2	hay carts		
3	muck wains		
4	pairs of wheels	16	yokes with bows
5	turf wains	2	barrows
a	horse hide	2	ladders
		3	saddles with bridles & girths

1 fire pan
 12 chamber pots
 1 silver salt with a cover double gilded
 1 bowl double gilded
 4 silver drinking vessels
 9 silver spoons
 2 silver bowls
 10 silver spoons

Books