

H I S T O R Y of the FAMILY of GREGSON
of WHALLEY, LANCASHIRE.

"GREGSON PEDIGREE"

The original name of the family was a Territorial one - "de Normanton". The de Normantons date from the time of William the Conqueror, and there is no doubt that the founder of the family served under him, for we find mention of a de Normanton whose arms were "argent a saltire gules", temp, Will I; and their ancient motto "Gannire e usire" was Norman-French. The first shield borne by a de Normanton was therefore simply arg, a saltire gu^x.

The first de Normanton of whom there is particular record was named John. He was born cir. 1090, and would appear to have possessed the Manor of Normanton on the River Calder in the West Riding of Yorkshire, from which the family derived their name. It was a stronghold, for a deep moat, of which traces are still visible, was constructed round the Manor House. The old Parish Church of Normanton still contained, at the date of Whitaker's History of Whalley, crumbling fragments of tombs of the de Normantons. To this family also belonged the Manors of Shelf and Fersley (Farsley) both adjacent to Bradford and about 1½ miles N. W. of Normanton.

In cir. 1115 John de Normanton married the heiress of Grenehalghe, Thomasyne the only child of Arthure Bolland de Grenehalghe. It's termination

x Whitaker's History of Whalley "de Normanton, temp. Will I" also Edmondson's Heraldry, Vol. II (1780)

security from sudden attack, for "halghe" originally signified a corner or nook of land in the bend or angle of a river. Grenehalghe according to an old map of Lancashire published in 1598^x is near Garstang at the confluence of the rivers Wyre and one of the Lancashire Calder (the other calder running into the river Ribble near Whalley) and adjoins the ancient limits of the great forest of Bolland (Bowland) on the West, about half way between Preston and Lancaster and 17 miles north west of Whalley. Bolland or Bowland is a pure Saxon word meaning "Heathland" This Thomasyne Bolland was grand-daughter of Sir Michel Broun of Brynsoppe, Lancashire, Knight. This name is on the Battle Abbey Roll among those Norman nobles and gentlemen who accompanied the Conqueror. The Manor of Brynsoppe is about 4 miles N.E. of Wigan with Bryn (the ancient seat of the Gerards of the Bryn) about 4 miles South of Wigan.

Arthure Bolland (cir 1060-1120) was the son of Godfrey Bolland who married (cir 1055) Elenor daughter of James de Calmundelei, Lord of Calmundelei in Cheshire. From this House sprang the Marquesses of Cholmondeley, the Earls of Delamere &c. This Lordship was in existence before the Conquest. Here was founded the Abbey of Vale Royal in 1266, which in later years afforded Sanctuary to two kinsmen of one of John de Normanton's descendants on flight for murder. Godfrey Bolland (cir 1030-1090) was the son of Thomas Bolland and was born cir 1030. Thomas (born cir 1000) married Mary daughter of William Tatton (cir 1025) The Tattons of Cheshire gave rise to the noble house of Egertons of Tatton. Thomas Bolland's father was

x From Drawing No. 6159 Earl. MSS

Arthure Bolland de Grenehalghe (cir 970-1030) He was born cir 970, a date which brings this history well into Saxon times (about a century before the Conquest). This Arthure married Harriott daughter of Hugh Dampport, who from his name would seem to have been a Norman and one of the many Normans who settled in England before the Conquest.

The position of the de Normantons was evidently one of much consequence, for alliances were freely made with the best families of Lancashire - Arthure de Normanton, (whose father John had married Thomasyne Bolland) was born cir. 1120 and married (cir. 1150) Isabel daughter of Sir ffrancis Bradley, Knight, Lord of Bradley Demesne. Bradley Demesne was 4 miles South of Bryn and East of the Demesne of Knowsley (about half way between Wigan and Warrington) Their son George de Normanton married (cir. 1180) Margaret daughter of Sir John Knowles (Knolles) Knight, Feudal Lord of Chepin (now Chipping in Bowland) Chipping is about 6 miles North West of Whalley, and is on the South West border of Bowland Forest and on the South of Wyresdale Forest. George's son Arthur de Normanton (cir 1180-1240) married cir 1210 Anne daughter of Sir James Tunstall, Knight of Tunstall and Thurland. Tunstall is situate on the river Lune close to its confluence with the river Greta, about 10 miles N. E. of Lancaster, and is on the North West border of Bowland Forest and North of Wyresdale Forest. Thurland Castle adjoins the village of Tunstall, and was erected in the reign of Henry IV by Sir Thomas Tunstall, Knight Lord of Tunstall and Thurland.

The son and heir of Arthur de Normanton was Gregory, who was born about 1210 and occupies a

conspicuous part in the Family History. In 1189 Richard I (Coeur de Lion) came to the throne, and with that monarch came the age of the Crusades against Palestine. In order to raise funds he sold all the Crown Lands and offices of State he could, and for 10,000 marks he restored the Vassallage of Scotland. It was at that time an essential part of the education of the heir in every family of importance to be trained to fill a military career, and such would therefore have been the education of Gregory de Normanton. He was born at a period of religious fervour which overspread the whole of Europe, and into which the principal families of England entered with such zeal that many of them utterly impoverished themselves to find funds to support the Crusades, or to found Abbeys. Gregory himself appears to have parted with the Manor of Normanton, for his son Arthur, who was born about 1240, abandoned the strictly Territorial name "de Normanton" and became known as "Arthurus filius Gregorii". The last vestige of the de Normanton property in Yorkshire was disposed of in 1348, when the Manors of Shelf and Fersley (Farsley) were enfeoffed by Benedictus de Normanton an Abbot of Whalley to William de Mirfield, whose Manor of Mirfield is still traceable near Normanton. As to Grenehalghe it is not clear when that estate was parted with, but it would seem that the family of de Normanton settled ultimately in the district of Whalley. In 1490 land at Grenehalghe was owned by Thomas, Earl of Derby, who obtained leave to erect, fortify, embattle, turrellate, crenelate and machiolate a building thereon to protect himself from certain of the nobility of the County, whose estates had been forfeited to the Crown and bestowed upon himself with license to enclose a park. This Castle of Grenehalghe was completely demolished

by Cromwell. It had one door only, and walls of such "exceeding thickness" that it was "impregnable to any ordinance whatever". There was also a "smaller" fortified house at Grenehalghe called Grenehalghe House, co-temporary with Lathom House, Thurland Castle, and Hoghton Tower, all of which were taken and dismantled or destroyed by Cromwell's forces, and this Grenehalghe House was more probably the ancient estate of Bolland 'de Grenehalghe' as this 'smaller House' was apparently existing when Lord Derby erected the Castle. There were, says Fishwick in his History of Lancashire (1894) pp. 90 and 126, still tenable at the outbreak of the Civil War, on the Royalist's side, the Castles at Grenehalghe, Lancaster, Clitheroe and Liverpool, and the smaller fortified Houses of Grenehalghe, Thurland, Latham and Hoghton.

With the funds raised by sale of the family estates we may conclude that Gregory joined the Crusades and that later Benedictus ("the Blessed") as Abbot contributed to the endowment of Whalley Abbey. It was founded in 1173 as Cistercian and was translated from Stanlaw in Cheshire in 1186 by Henry de Laci Earl of Lincoln who built the castle of Clitheroe. The erection of Whalley Abbey was commenced in 1270 and the Church dates from 1296 though the original Church was founded in 628, and by large endowments the Abbey was made very wealthy and became the foremost Abbey in the Kingdom. The distance from Normanton to Whalley was only 42 miles, and there was an easy route which the de Normantons would naturally have taken and must often have taken in their journeys to Grenehalghe, Chipping, Tunstall, and other points in Lancashire. Normanton was on the Yorkshire Calder in the West Riding. Whalley was on another river of the same name near the East border of Lancashire, and was only separated from the source of the

x Whitaker's History of Whalley, Vol I, and vide Gregson's Portfolio of Fragments of Lancashire 3rd. Edn. (1869) p.107.

Normanton Calder by the Watershed, and there is an easy and natural route Westward from Normanton along the valley of the Yorkshire Calder with a gentle rise through Hebden Bridge over the Watershed along what is still known as "The Long Causeway" through Burnley to Whalley. The Normans after the Conquest were not entirely without remorse, and one consequence of the religious zeal now overtaking them was the creation of a desire to atone for the slaughter brought about by William the Conqueror, and so they did all they could towards such atonement by building and endowing Abbeys and Monasteries, and some indeed restored their estates to their former owners where they could be traced.

The shield borne originally by the de Normantons was, as we have seen, the simple one Arg. a Saltire gu. The Canton or corner device, which is an emblem of great distinction, had not yet been gained. ^xThe Canton in a shield is the heraldic signification of some great reward bestowed on the bearer of the escutcheon. It is the most esteemed of all the Sub-Ordinaries, and is only granted as the reward for some great achievement and according to Pory and other heraldic authorities the Checquy is the most Honorable of all the devices with which a Canton may be charged. It is not yet ascertained at what period the augmentation of a Canton to the de Normanton shield was granted, but this much is certain - that it must have been for services performed on the battlefield, and it must be attributed to Gregory de Normanton, as having parted with his estate of Normanton at the period of the Crusadic fervour, he would doubtless have joined the Crusades, where opportunities of heroism were great. A confirmation of this period being the approximate date when the Canton was gained is found in the fact that the arms erected in Whalley Abbey as the arms of one of its pious benefactors

x Vide Gwillim's Heraldry (1724) 6th Edn. p. 5.

bear the Canton, and another conclusion is drawn that it must have been Gregory de Normanton himself who won this very honourable augmentation to the family shield, inasmuch as his son Arthur had not the fame of his father, but a reflected fame only as "Gregory's son" Moreover the motto being Norman-French would assign the date of the Canton to at latest the time when Norman-French was spoken and which went into dis-use soon after Gregory de Normanton's period : In fact the calling of his son "Gregorysonne" shows this. It is called "Canton" because it occupies a Cantel or corner of the escutcheon (from the old french work "canton", a corner), and represents the Banner that has been given to the bearer of the shield by the immediate hand of his Sovereign as the reward for signal services, displaying thereon the symbol of the service rendered: e. g. Ermine is the symbol of the law; an anchor symbolises the sea; and a checquy-board is the symbol of the battle field. The game of checquy or chess is played as it were on the battlefield of a checquy (chess) board, with Knights, castles, pawns, etc. in array.^x The bestowal of the Canton is very rare, as is evidenced by the few shields which bear that augmentation; but the following instances may be noted here to illustrate the significance.

The arms of De Hoghton of Hoghton Tower were augmented by a Canton charged with a thistle, which is the emblem of Scotland. Sir Alexander de Hoghton was created Knight Banneret for heroic services in the War with Scotland (cir.1513) and rewarded with the

x Beatsor's Political Index Vol. I 3rd. Edition (1806) page 6; Gwillim's Heraldry, 6th Edition (1724) sect. II, chap. VI p. 45.

addition to his arms of a Canton charged with the device of a thistle. The arms of Lord Graves bear a Canton charged with an anchor, emblem of the sea. His Great grandfather, Admiral Howe, distinguished himself particularly as leader of the British Fleet in the decisive naval conflict with the French in 1794, for which service he was elevated to the Peerage and received the addition of a Canton to his arms, charged with the device of an anchor. So also for signal Naval services Sir William Geary and Admiral Seymour were rewarded with the augmentations to their shields of a canton charged with an anchor. The arms of Judge Noel bear a Canton charged with Ermine. He excelled in knowledge of law, and received the distinctive device of Ermine and canton to his shield, And so the granting of a Canton charged with a Checquy-board to augment the shield of de Normanton signifies and commemorates some signal deed of heroism on the field of battle and confers the right to a Banner bearing such device. It was moreover the invariable custom for the Sovereign to bestow the Order of Knight Banneret on the recipient of such a distinction (See Clark's Orders of Knighthood (1784) Vol. 1, page 73) Gregory de Normanton would therefore have been created Knight Banneret and his shield augmented thus:

Argent, a saltire gules, with a Canton checquy or and azure. The Canton displaying the "checquy" emblem is somewhat analogous to the modern V.C. the bestowal of the Victoria Cross being a symbol granted for heroism; but while the V.C. dies with the death of the recipient, the Canton with its device remains on the coat-of-arms and is there displayed symbolizing the service for ever.

Crests came into general use at the end of the 13th century when it became necessary for each warrior of rank to assume and wear some personal cognizance without which, since his helmet completely concealed his features, he could not have been distinguished at a time when the ascertained presence of individuals was of such grave importance. The Crest therefore was held to be an ensign of great dignity, and is with justice highly esteemed by those families of England who are able to show a legitimate right to wear a crest.^x The Crest borne by the de Normantons was an arm couped at the elbow, vested charged with two bendlets wavy, argent and sable, holding in the hand arg. two spurs sable; and the motto was "Gannire e usire" ("Win and Wear")^x The Motto is Norman-French, the language which prevailed to a very considerable extent at that period. This Crest and motto remained unchanged in the family until about 1533, after which a battle-axe or an handle sable was substituted for the spurs,^z and the motto was changed, different branches adopting different mottoes.

(Sir) Gregory de Normanton married cir. 1240 Isabel daughter of Sir William Singleton of Singleton, Knight. Singleton is on the river Wyre about 9 miles nearer its mouth than Grenehalghe and that distance from Grenehalghe. Gregory had a son Arthur, his heir. It will be noticed that not one of all the foregoing de Normantons married other than daughters of Knights of high estate. Therefore it may certainly be concluded that each de Normanton was himself a Knight.

x Boutell's Heraldry, 3rd. Edn. pp. 4.264.

* Ashmolean MSS., 834 IV: 3,36b (preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford).

z Harleian MSS 891, 1437, 1468, 1549, &c.

An important landmark is now reached in the history of the family, the foundation of the Surname. On the parting with the Manor of Normanton Gregory's descendants would cease to be "de Normanton", and his heir, Arthur, and his descendants would therefore have to assume another name. Gregory apparently was well known, possible as Knight Banneret and probably as a large contributor to the endowment of Whalley Abbey, and therefore his son Arthur would be amply identified as "Gregory's sonne" and as such he is described in ancient manuscripts. He is simply called "Filius Gregorii": "Arthurus fil Gregorii"; and his father's territorial name "de Normanton" is discarded altogether. The custom of adopting a family surname did not arise till late in the 12th century. This identification (Gregorysonne) adhered to Arthur from his birth and became of the most powerful families in the land and many evidences of its great influence still exist. The

x Ashmolean MSS. 834, IV. 3,36^b

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from any estate, but from his father's Christian name; and thus Arthur perpetuates his father's name through every succeeding generation, while the canton of merit on the field emblazoned on the arms perpetuates his achievements.

Arthur Gregorysonne was born cir 1240 and married (cir 1270) Alice daughter of Sir Richard Assheton of Assheton (Ashton) under-Lyne, Knight and Feudal Lord of Ashton-under-Lyne. This Manor was about 25 miles South-East of Whalley. The Asshetons were at that time one of the most powerful families in the land and many evidences of its great influence still exist. The

x Ashmolean MSS. 834, IV. 3,36^b

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family possessed extraordinary privileges. The town of Ashton-under-Lyne was theirs, and among their strange privileges was that of the exercise of the power of life and death within their Manor. The Assheton family could and did hang a man on their own estate and there is a meadow still called the "Gallows" meadow near the Old Manor House at Ashton-under-Lyne where the executions used to take place. Traces of the Ancient Mansion are still extant. A descendant of the family in the reign of Henry VI (1440), still inheriting extraordinary privileges, rode through Ashton clad in black mail, followed by a numerous retinue and levied a penalty of a wether sheep from every farmer in whose corn a weed of a particular kind was found.^x From this performance arose the curious custom still kept up in the Ashton-under-Lyne on Easter Monday called "riding the black lad". An effigy in black is paraded through the town on horseback, and then, after being shot at is plunged into a stagnant pool. It is then recovered and thrown at the first person that may be met. Like the de Normantons the Asshetons at an early period became identified with Whalley Abbey as endowers or otherwise.

The son of Arthur Gregorysonne, George, was born cir. 1270, and the times becoming apparently more hurried his name was abbreviated to "Gregsonne". The old Ashmolean MS above referred to remarks as to this: "George Normanton, who for the shorter pronunciation "of the worde was called Gregson, and so the name of "Normanton was turned into Gregson". This George Gregsonne married (cir 1295) Alice daughter of Sir Symon Crosse, Knight, and their son Thomas (cir. 1295-1355) married (cir. 1325) Catherine daughter of

x The term "levy blackmail" is traced to this practice.

William Walmesley of Sholay. Sholay is about five miles South-West of Whalley. A seat of the Walmesleys was Dunkenhalgh, which is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ " miles South of Whalley.

Rauf Gregsonne (cir 1325-1385) son of Thomas and Catherine Gregsonne married (cir 1355) Constance daughter of John Hoghton. Hoghton Tower, the seat of the de Hoghtons, is about 13 miles north east of Parbold (a seat of the Lathoms), and 15 miles north of Ince (the ancient seat of the Gerard's of Ince). John Gregson, son of Thomas and Catherine Gregson married cir. 1385 Lucie daughter of James Latham. The seats of the Lathams were Lathom House and Parbold. Lathom House, (besieged by Cromwell) was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles South West of Parbold, and Parbold is 7 miles North West of Ince. Worthington was about 4 miles North of Ince and 5 miles East of Parbold. Ince being 1 mile South East of Wigan. The connection of the Gregson family with that of Norreys of Speke is through Robert Latham of Parbold, who in cir. 1425 married Margaret second daughter of William Norreys of Speke William Worthington of Worthington married in cir. 1430 Jane third daughter of said William Norreys and Thomas Gerard of Ince married Elizabeth the eldest daughter of said William Norreys, who in cir. 1400 himself had married Perceval daughter and heiress of Sir John Harrington, Knight, of Westby.

Thomas Gregsonne, son of John and Lucie Gregsonne, was born cir. 1385 and married cir. 1410 Alice daughter of William Parker of Wyresdale. Wyresdale is about 20 miles north west of Whalley through Chipping, and on the North West border of Wyresdale Forest, and which Forest itself is on the western border of Bolland (or Bowland) Forest. The office of Hereditary Bow-bearer of the Royal Forest of Bolland was vested in this family

of Parker. William Gregsonne son of John was born cir. 1410. He was the first of that name in this history), and married (cir. 1435) Margery, daughter of Thomas Whittingham of Whittingham. Whittingham Hall was about six miles south of Chipping and ten miles West of Whalley. The family of Whittingham for centuries had their Seat at Whittingham (anciently Quintinghay, Quittinghay). In the year 1460 however a singular incident brought about its dispersal, and the old Hall passed into other hands. In that year Thomas Whittingham, the eldest son and heir of Thomas Whittingham (Margery's brother), was slain in his own grounds in his father's lifetime, while leaning against a tree by one of the Singletons of Singleton Hall. His brothers, Seth and Richard Whittingham, in revenge for that bastardly murder, slew one of the Singletons and fled out of Lancashire into Cheshire, to the Abbot of Vale Royal, who was their kinsman, and who gave them land in Swanlow, Cheshire. This Abbey was founded by the Cholmondeleys, and it will be remembered that John de Normanton married Thomasyne whose grandmother was Elenor daughter of James Calmundelei. The son of William and Margery Gregsonne was also named William (cir. 1435-1495). He married cir. 1460 Elizabeth daughter of Oliver Cotton and their son John (cir. 1460-1520) married in about 1485 Margaret daughter of George Cubey or Cuban.^x

In 1455 to 1461 the Wars of the Roses occurred, in which every family of note in Lancashire took part. There perished in these wars 12 princes of the blood, 200 noblemen and 100,000 gentry and retainers. Entire

x The Cowbans were an old Preston family.

families were exterminated. At Towton in Yorkshire, fought in 1461, the slaughter was terrible. The Yorkists gave no quarter, and on the Lancastrian side alone 37,000 fell on the field. Sir William Nevill and many scions of that family were slain at Towton. Following these wars came the war with Scotland, culminating in the battle of Flodden Field, Northumberland, where James IV of Scotland was slain in 1513. In all these wars Lancashire bore the brunt. Sir Ralph Assheton of Middleton and Sir William Norreys of Speke (accompanied no doubt by many of the Gregsons) led part of the forces in the battle of Flodden Field.

The Herald's Visitation of 1533 (recorded in Ashmolean MS) enters eight children of John and Margaret Gregson, but only three of whom married, namely Thomas, Elizabeth and Richard, all the others dying "sans yssu." Thomas (born cir. 1491) married cir. 1525 Anne daughter of Sir John Nevill of Hornby Castle near Lancaster, Knight, and had one son Thomas, who married cir. 1560 Alicia daughter of Henry Merry. Hornby Castle is about 8 miles North East of Lancaster. Two of the sons of John and Margaret who died s.p. were named John. Elizabeth Gregson (born cir. 1495) married in about 1520 (aged about 25) Sir Richard Hoghton (b. 1469) of Hoghton Tower, Knight, and had four daughters only. She was living in 1533 and was the third wife of Sir Richard. His first wife was Alice Assheton, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Assheton of Ashton-under-Lyne. The second wife of Sir Richard Hoghton was Alice Morley.* Elizabeth's brother Richard Gregson was born cir. 1505 and married cir. 1530-1533 Grace daughter of John Cowell of Lancaster. Richard was the sixth son and

* Sir Richard Hoghton married a fourth wife Anne daughter of Roger Browne of Whitney.

seventh child of John and Margaret Gregson, and would not be likely to have succeeded to much of the family property, even if any property had still remained in the family after the Wars. Such property as might have been possessed by the father, John, appears to have been alienated (possibly confiscated by Henry VII); for no record that Thomas succeeded to any estate can be discovered, and in any event whatever it was would probably have been encumbered by his father to provide dowry for Elizabeth on her marriage with Sir Richard Hoghton. Henry VII certainly made a wholesale confiscation of estates in 1485, on his gaining the throne after the battle of Bosworth Field, and death of Richard III. Many Lancastrian families had sided with Richard, and Henry confiscated the estates of all who took Richards part in this battle, including all the estates of Sir James Harrington, the Pilkingtons &c. It is very probable that John Gregson (Thomas's father) was one of those who took part on the side of Richard III for Sir Richard Hoghton, as his first wife, married Alice Assheton, whose grandfather was Sir James Harrington of Wolfedge and John Gregson would hardly have been hostile to this family and as we have seen the Gregsons were already connected with the Harringtons through the Lathoms, by marriage with a daughter of Sir William Norreys of Speke, whose wife was Perceval the only child of Sir John Harrington of Westby.

Whalley must be taken as the true centre or nodal point of the Gregson family. Benedictus de Normanton was one of its earliest Abbots; the family arms were in the Abbey and are now in Whalley Church; the Gregsons and the Asshetons were allied by marriage and the Asshetons were early identified with Whalley Abbey, and on its dissolution in 1538-9, this family acquired

by a grant not only the Abbey itself, but much of its lands. After the Dissolution of the Abbey there would be a general dispersal of its adherents, but the Registers of the Parish (which were begun in 1538) show that at this date there were settled at Whalley two or three families of Gregsons. Among these Gregsons we find names which were conspicuously associated with the family of Richard Gregson and his predecessors, such as John, Richard, Thomas, Margaret, &c. The dissolution of Whalley Abbey was attended by very terrible tragedies. The last Abbot (John Paslow) was hung in front of his own monastery at Whalley, in company with one of his monks, who was hung, drawn and quartered, and a third "brother of the Order" was hung on the following day on a gallows at Padiham (March 12th - 13th 1537).^x

The Visitation of 1533 enters the family crest of the Gregsons as an arm couped at the elbow holding two spurs. A later Visitation however took place in 1567, which is recorded in the Harleian MSS (no. 1549), which shows that in lieu of the spurs a battle axe was substituted, as the crest of those Gregsons, including Richard, who were named in that later Visitation; and the battle-axe therefore originated between 1533 and 1567 as the crest of Richard and the other descendants of John and Margaret Gregson, and the spurs with the motto "gannire e usire" became extinct.

These Visitations were very unpopular in Lancashire and were looked upon as intrusive inquisitions. Heralds came down accompanied by scribes, registrars &c. and though these Visitations were pursuant to Royal Authority many families point blank refused even to speak with the Heralds. The incomplete records of pedigrees is very

^x Fishwick's "History of Lancashire" (1894) p. 203.

striking, and one is surprised to find how many families, undoubtedly entitled to bear Arms, neglected to enter their descents. In the Visitation of 1533 only 47 Lancashire families (including the Gregsons) entered their descents, and even these furnished very meagre genealogical particulars. Several families after actually granting an audience with the Herald, dismissed him with the utmost rudeness. This led to plain speaking on the Herald's part, and, on recording his visit to Sir Richard Hoghton, who, as his first wife, had married Alice Assheton, the following note entered by the Herald illustrates his resentment. The note reads thus :- "he hath putt away his lady and wife, and keepeth a concubyne in his house," and the Herald also adds, - "he gave me nothing nor made me no good cheere, but gave me proude woordes." Of another gentleman the Herald reports "he married an olde woman, by whom he hedd no yssue, and therefore he would not have her name entered." Of Sir John Towneley of Towneley the Herald says :- "I sogt hym all day, rydinge in the wylde countrey, and his reward was ij^s of w^h the guyde hedd the most p'te;: and the Herald finishes up with, - "I hed as evill a journey as ev'r I hedd." In addition, the Herald adds that Sir John refused to tell him the name of his first wife. So that from all this we can understand that the Heralds who conducted those Visitations were much handicapped, and would certainly not have entered any descents outside the strict limit of their enquiry, though that Richard and Grace Gregson had issue at the date of the 1567 Visitation is noted by the Herald by the usual symbol in his Manuscript. Between the Visitation of 1567 and the Visitation by Dugdale in 1664-5 many of the oldest

Lancashire families had decayed and passed into obscurity.

The crest of the battle-axe was borne by Jesse Gregson of Moor House, Hawkhurst, and by his father William Gregson of Manchester, and being an hereditary symbol this crest should have descended to William through his father Thomas of Manchester and Whalley and through every successive predecessor until its period of origin, which has been shown to have been between 1533 and 1567 in substitution for spurs, and was allowed by the Visitation of 1567 to have been Thomas and Richard Gregson's and therefore any descendant of Richard Gregson should bear his crest (the battle-axe), and conversely any person bearing the battle-axe should have descended either from Richard or his elder brother Thomas.

With the possible exception of the Gregsons of Durham the descendants of Thomas Gregson (grandson of John and Margaret Gregson) who married cir. 1560 Alicia Merry are, so far as can be ascertained, extinct. The Gregsons of Turnditch (Derbyshire) represented the eldest line for several generations and were last of Sharrow and Twyford Hall (Derbyshire). The only other armigerous Gregsons are those of Liverpool, Lancaster and Kent, all of whom bear as their crest, the battle-axe.

Matthew Gregson of Netherton, Whalley, called "Elder" at his death) was known in 1632 as Matthew Gregson "Junior." His father therefore was named "Matthew," and the only "Matthew" baptised at Whalley was the one baptised on 24th February 1570 as the son of John Gregson (who was born prior to 1538 as no baptismal registration is found of any John). This John was lineal ancestor of the Gregsons of Liverpool, Lancaster and Kent and is reputed son of Richard, sixth

son of John and Margaret Gregson. In a publication entitled "Hunter's Familiae Minorum Gentium Stemmata," in which a portion of an independent pedigree of the Gregsons occurs, a note appears as follows "Matthew Gregson, F.S.S., the Antiquarian of Liverpool, deduces "his descent from Richard, sixth son of John and "Margaret Gregson." This Matthew Gregson, F.S.A. was the grandson of Matthew Gregson who married Isabella Yates, daughter of John Yates of Lancaster, Treasurer of the County, and whose grandfather was the Matthew Gregson "the Elder," of Ketherton mentioned above.

Richard Gregson married Grace daughter of John Cowell of Lancaster (cir. 1530-1533). He had two brothers, an elder and a younger, named John (both of whom had died s.p.). Richard's son therefore would not unnaturally be named John (or certainly one of his sons would be so named). Richard's wife's father was named John, as also was his own father. John Gregson married outside the Parish of Whalley (possibly at Lancaster). His son ^{Mathias} Matthew was baptised at Whalley on Feb. 24th 1570. This Matthew was also married outside the Parish of Whalley (cir. 1595). ^{no} His children were John, baptised at Whalley February 26th 1597; Jane, baptised at Whalley, August 2nd. 1601; Matthew, baptised 1603-4 (all the registers at Whalley between 1601 and 1605 are missing, but ^{Mathias} Matthew Gregson Junior of Whalley was living in 1632 as father of a child, Anna, buried on 20th December 1632 at Whalley, and the baptism of no other Matthew occurs at Whalley between 1601 and 1611, and no Matthew Gregson, other than the one who was baptised in 1570, was baptised between 1538 and 1601). After the Wars of the Roses many of the oldest Lancastrian families began to decay. Those who had espoused the cause of Richard III fell on hard times,

and some became completely submerged. The Harringtons and the Nevills were among those who suffered total loss of fortune, and those associated with them, as were the Gregsons, would have fared no better. The Dissolution of the Abbey of Whalley, with its terribly tragic accompaniments, added to the distress. But while some ancient families entirely disappeared, the Gregsons clung to Whalley for two or three more generations. The position of John Gregson is not known. His son Matthew had six children, of whom Matthew "Junior" was third, and this Matthew "Junior" resided at the Nether Town (Whalley), where he rented on long lease from Thomas Braddyll Esquire a house and certain ground. Matthew "Junior" died in 1674, being then styled Matthew Gregson the "elder" of Ketherton. The Gregsons still retained local influence, for in 1616 James Gregson was M.P. for Clitheroe (a seat held in 1640 by Richard Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe). Clitheroe was only about 2½ miles from Netherton and in Whalley Parish.

The eldest son of Matthew Gregson was Luke, who was baptised in 1637 and in earlier years was a yeoman at Walton-le-Dale. He died at Whalley in 1712. To Matthew (the second son of Matthew the "elder") was left a third share in his father's property, the other two-thirds going to a daughter Janet and the wife Alice. Another child Anna, had died in infancy (1632). This Matthew also resided at Whalley. He died in 1707, leaving two sons, Matthew and Thomas. Matthew remained at Whalley, but Thomas migrated to Manchester, where in 1714 he married Elizabeth Worthington. The Worthingtons were an ancient family formerly of Worthington near Ince, and in 1700 of Westhoughton, and were connected with the Norreys

family of Speke, the Walmesleys, the Starkies of
Huntroyde, &c.

The brothers Luke and Matthew Gregson were probably Parliamentarians during the Civil War, as Whalley was strongly in sympathy with Cromwell, and the neighbouring families, the Starkies of Huntroyde, the Asshetons and the Shuttleworths, took an active part on Cromwell's side. The Counties of Lancaster, York and Northumberland were overrun by Parliamentarians and devastated. In 1643 Preston and Manchester were taken, and the walls of Manchester were razed to the ground - Colonel Assheton, Colonel Shuttleworth and Captain Nicholas Starkie laid siege to Hoghton Tower in the same year and captured and dismantled it, the Hoghtons being reduced to the utmost poverty. During the process of dismantling Captain Starkie and 60 of his men were accidentally blown up. Sir Richard Hoghton, the preceding owner of the Tower, had been created Baronet by King James I in 1611, and in 1617 he entertained the King on his tour from Scotland to London in the midst of the most splendid festivities, and on Sunday, the 17th of August 1617, a famous banquet was given to the Royal guest and his retinue, consisting of 56 dishes. Among the dishes was a roast loin of beef, which King James so approved of that in a fit of humour His Majesty knighted that joint "Sir-loin," a title which it has retained ever since. For the preparation of this dinner there were fourteen cooks, all of whom were subsequently discovered drunk in the cellars. Not all the Gregsons passed through the war scathless, for when Newcastle was taken in 1644 one William Gregson was captured and beheaded, and his head placed on a pike upon the principal gate of the City, which it adorned for some years.

The termination of the Civil war left the Asshetons with great influence in Whalley. In 1661-1662 Sir Ralph Assheton caused the beautiful Abbey to be pulled down, but he removed from the Cloisters the escutcheons of the Benefactors, among them being the arms of the Gregsons, which were placed within Whalley Church.

Luke Gregson left three children surviving him, Matthew, Alice (named after his mother) and Ann (after his own wife). Alice married Richard Riding. The son, Matthew, was a Yeoman. He was born in 1683, and married in 1707 a lady of position in Lancaster, Isabella, daughter of John Yates, Treasurer of the County. The Yates's were an old County family, with influence not only in Lancaster, but at Bury, Blackburn and Manchester. Joseph Yates of Blackburn and Manchester was High Sheriff for the County, in 1728, and his kinswoman Ellen Yates of Bury married in 1783 Sir Robert Peel of Peel Hall, near Oswaldtwistle, and was the mother of the great "Sir Robert," the Prime Minister.

Matthew Gregson, who married Isabella Yates, had six sons three of whom survived him, Luke, Thomas and William, all of whom, following the example of their second cousin, Thomas, left Whalley as young men. Luke (born at Whalley in 1716) went to Lancaster, Thomas (born at Whalley in 1721) went to Liverpool, and William (born at Whalley in 1723) also went to Liverpool. Their second cousin Thomas, as we have seen, went to Manchester. It is little wonder that this general migration from Whalley took place, for Whalley had become a small stagnant village. It had never recovered the decadence caused by the Dissolution of its Abbey, while Manchester, Liverpool and Lancaster, recuperating from the Civil war, were ripe for industrial advance. The stagnation of Whalley is

shown by the circumstance that when Matthew Gregson (Luke's brother) died, his estate was under £20, less probably than he had received from his father's Will. When his son Thomas went to Manchester it was a very small place. In 1688 it had only 500 ratepayers, and barely 3000 inhabitants of all classes. Its Town Hall was a wooden structure, erected in 1656, soon after the close of the war. Lancaster was also very small, and in 1695 its rateable value was only £600. While Liverpool was styled "the Creeke of Chester". But from these dates onwards the woollen and other industries of these towns began to obtain a world wide fame and were attracting to them men, not only from the surrounding districts, but from all civilised countries. It seems almost incredible when one considers the Liverpool of the present day that in 1556 (in the life of John Gregson of Whalley) Liverpool had only 151 householders, and a total population of less than 1,000. It had only one Warehouse called the "Common Warehouse", and the keeper only had £1. 2. 8 wages per annum.* x

Of the Whalley Gregsons, Thomas, who settled in Manchester, had one son, William (baptised in 1717), who went South and settled at Brightling in Sussex. His eldest son William, purchased Great and Little Wigsell near Salehurst, Sussex (whose old stone moated Hall is still extant). His second son Jesse, who resided in Cavendish Square, London, and Hawkhurst, Kent, also became a large landowner in Kent and Sussex, and was a D. L. for Sussex and J. P. for both Counties. He built Moor House, Hawkhurst (called Collingwood since 1829). This property was sold on his death s.p. 1824, and

* Fishwick's "Lancashire".

x In 1650 Liverpool contained only 138 houses and cottages, and was called "the poor decayed town of Leverpole".

became the Seat of Sir John Herschel the Astronomer. Jesse Gregson was buried at Brightling, and his Hatchment was hung in Hawkhurst Church. His father William founded what is known as "Gregson's Charity" for a supply of bread every Sunday for the poor of Brightling. William was buried at Brightling (1787), and his son William (Jesse's brother) was buried at Brightling (1809), his Hatchment being hung in Brightling Church. The arms displayed thereon were those of the ancient Gregsons of Whalley. William and Jesse bore the crest a cubit arm in armour, charged with three bendlets wavy sa., holding in the gauntlet ppr, a battle-axe sable, headed or and the motto Arg. "Hors janua vitae," sa. William Gregson (the elder brother of Jesse) had three sons surviving, John who married Anne Shuttleworth (from whom descend the Gregsons of Angel Court, London), Jesse who married Mary Hicks (from whom descend the Gregsons of Rockford and Southend, Essex) and William, who married Harriet daughter of Thomas Barrow of Great and Little Delmonden, and Great Pix Hall, Kent (from whom descend the Gregsons of Kent). The father of this Thomas Barrow was for 40 years one of the Bodyguard of King George the Third at the Tower of London. He married Elizabeth granddaughter of Sir Thomas Dunk of Hawkhurst, Knight, who founded and endowed the Free School and six Almshouses in 1718.

Coming now to Luke Gregson, who migrated to Lancaster, his son, Samuel, was twice Mayor of Lancaster (1817 and 1825). He married in 1792 Bella, daughter of Bryan Padgett of Caton, near Lancaster, and their first son Samuel was twice M.P. for the Borough of Lancaster (1847-8 and 1852-1864)^x their second son Bryan Padgett

x Samuel Gregson amassed a large fortune as an East India Merchant in London and built endowed and donated "Christ Church" to the Town of Lancaster. He also built and donated to that Town the Public Baths.

(born 1795) was J.P. and D.L. for the County Palatine - their third son Matthew married Anne daughter of Matthew Gregson F.S.A., and their daughter Anne married the late Sir Francis Sharp Powell of Horton Old Hall, Bradford, Bart., M.P. for nearly 30 years for Wigan. The fourth son of Samuel and Bella Gregson, Henry of Moorlands, Lancaster, was also twice Mayor of Lancaster (1850 and 1861).

Thomas Gregson, who migrated to Liverpool, became a successful blockmaker and shipbuilder. Of his sons, Matthew (the second) was the noted antiquarian and F.S.A. His house in Liverpool, owing to his ever open hospitality, was called "Gregson's Hotel". He was offered knighthood by Prince Rupert but declined it. He was foremost in developing the Blue Coat Schools, Liverpool Library, Royal Institution, Botanical Gardens and Academy of Arts. To him also Liverpool owes the introduction of the art of Lithography and the invention of paint, varnish and printers ink manufactured from burnt grain and sugar. He met his death by a fall from a ladder in his library in 1824. He married (first) Jane Foster of Liverpool, and (secondly) Anne daughter of John Rimmer of Warrington by his wife Catherine daughter of George Leigh of Coughterington Hall, Cheshire. The Gregsons were already associated with the Leighs of Coughterington.

In 1712 Thomas Leigh and Thomas Gregson of Manchester were co-trustees of the "Drinkwater Charity". Robert Drinkwater died in 1688. His only child and heiress, Susan Drinkwater, married (cir. 1628) Thomas Patten of Patten Lane, Warrington and their first son and heir, Thomas Patten, in cir 1658 married Mary Leigh sister of George Leigh of Coughterington, whose great granddaughter

was said Catherine Leigh wife of said John Rimmer. The Leighs were seated at West Houghton as well as Oughterington and William Leigh of West Houghton was High Sheriff for Lancashire in 1731, three years after Joseph Yates of Manchester. In an old oak box preserved in a Chest in the Archives of the Court Leste of Manchester is a Bond entered Oct. 24, 1712 of payment by Thomas Leigh and Thomas Gregson of 12. 10. 6 "Drinkwater's money". The grandson of this Thomas Gregson was Jesse Gregson of Moor House. John (the third son of Thomas) was a Banker in Liverpool and Mayor in 1784; and his son William was a Barrister of Lincoln's Inn. He matriculated at Brazenose Coll., Oxford, in 1806 (aged 17) was B.A. at 21, and M.A. at 24. He became Under-Secretary in the Home Department, and drafted the great Reform Bill of 1830 for Sir Robert Peel, remote kinsman through the Yates's. The eldest son of Thomas the Blockmaker and Shipbuilder, William, went to Lancaster, and was a successful Blockmaker. He was made Freeman of Lancaster in 1783, and subsequently retired to Liverpool. The fourth son of Thomas, James Gregson of Liverpool, was Bailiff of Liverpool in 1813, and married the sister of William Rigg (who was Bailiff of Liverpool in 1806) and daughter of James Rigg. Their daughter Mary Ann Gregson married Thomas Starkie Shuttleworth, Bailiff of Preston in 1827, and their daughter Louisa Shuttleworth married Richard Pudsey Dawson of Hornby Castle, once the home of the Nevill whose daughter married Richard Gregson's eldest brother, Thomas.

William Gregson (the third surviving son of Matthew the yeoman of Whalley) became Mayor of Liverpool in 1762, and his son William was Town Clerk of Liverpool.

Bryan Padgett Gregson of Caton married Hannah Gibson of Kirkby-Lonsdale (1831) and their son Bryan Padgett Gregson of Caton married in 1873 at Termonfechin, County Louth, Ireland, Marguerite Jeanne eldest daughter of George Henry Pentland of Black Hall, County Louth, J.P. by his second wife Sophia Mabella, 2nd. daughter of Rev. Alexander Montgomery of Beaulieu, County Louth, J.P., Bryan Padgett Gregson was J.P. for the County of Lancaster, and died in 1901, and was buried at Caton. His eldest son, Bryan Padgett Gregson of Caton, was born in 1875 and other surviving issue are Henry Pentland Gregson, Hannah Mabella Gregson and Marguerite Rosamond Hazzard Gregson.

Henry Gregson of Moorlands married Anne daughter of Morecroft Kirkes, R.N. and of his two sons the elder, Samuel (Moorlands) Gregson born 1838, married Ada Marian daughter of John Barker of Broughton Lodge, Cartmel, Lancs. and is represented by Richard Eustace Stockdale Gregson, Barrister-at-law, Shanghai, and the younger, Matthew Henry Gregson, born 1846 (Major late R.E.) married at Bombay Mary Emma Griffith Savage, daughter of Lieut-General Henry Savage, Col. Commandant, R.E. of the Ards - County Down. His sons are Henry Guy Fulljames Savage Gregson, Major A.C.D. late East Kent Regt. (the Buffs) and Geoffrey Kirkes Gregson, Captain R.A. The crest borne by the Gregsons of Caton and Moorlands is a cubit arm vested, bendy wavy of six, arg. and gu., holding in the hand of the first a battle-axe or,

with handle sable, environed round the wrist with a ribband of the second. The motto "Nisi Dominus frustra."

The above history is believed to be capable of much enlargement, for with a family so ancient and so intimately connected with other of the oldest families in Lancashire for over 900 years there must be many records preserved either in libraries or Museums or private families which would refer to the de Normantons and their descendants. It would be of extreme interest to know exactly the service for which the Canton Chequy was granted. The family has been so local, indeed within the immediate district of Whalley for so long, and in absolutely unbroken male descent for so many centuries that there cannot fail to be a large number of Manuscripts directly bearing on its history. Whalley itself is the Nodal point of settlement of the family, one member at least of which was Abbot of the Abbey. Until the dissolution of the Monasteries (in 1535-1539) the Monks were the principal register-keepers of baptisms, marriages and burials for the Parish. Hence the registers for the Parish of Whalley would have been kept at Whalley Abbey. This Abbey was not dissolved till 1538, at which date the Registers in the Parish Church of Whalley commence, so that no gap exists, provided those kept by the Monks are available.

At Richard Gregson's period (1520) travelling was never undertaken except for some definite end. With the exception of the old Roman roads (Whalley and Blackburn to Manchester, Blackburn to Lancaster &c.) the Lancashire roads (even down to 1770) were proverbial for badness, - "as bad as a Lancashire road". The road between Wigan and Preston in 1770 contained

ruts four feet deep floating with mud. With travelling so restricted, there was little intercourse with the neighboring Counties, in fact until comparatively recent years the rustic of Lancashire talked of "going to England" when any crossed the border of the County. Lancashire families in the neighbourhood of each other therefore very frequently intermarried, and the intermarriages of the Gregsons with families whose domiciles were all within a few miles of Whalley may be cited as illustrations. These families, which are among the oldest and best in Lancashire, include the Asshetons, de Hoghtons, Yates, Lathams, Walmsleys, Worthingtons, Starkies, Shuttleworths &c. and it is with these families that a sequence of marriages with the Gregsons has occurred from cir. 1276 to the year 1830.

To begin with Arthur Gregorysone, we find that he married (cir. 1276) Alice Assheton of Assheton-under-Lyne. These Asshetons were ancestors of the Asshetons of Domham, Whalley, Cuerdale, Great Lever and Middleton. Elizabeth Gregson married Sir Richard Hoghton of Hoghton Tower (cir 1520), who married as his first wife Alice Assheton of Assheton-under-Lyne. The son of this first marriage Thomas Hoghton, married Katherine daughter of Sir Thomas Gerard of the Bryn and died leaving Jane sole issue. Sir Richard Hoghton married as his second wife Alice Morley, and their grandson Sir Richard Hoghton married (cir. 1590) Katherine daughter of Sir Gilbert Gerard of Bronley Staffordshire, and Ratcliffe Hoghton, son of the last named Sir Richard, married Anne Walmsley of Sholey near Whalley while Mary Hoghton, the sister of this Sir Richard, married Sir Thomas Walmsley of Dunkenhalgh near Whalley.

Thomas Gregsonne, grandson of Arthure Gregorysonne, married (cir. 1325) Catherine Walmesley of Sholay, and in 1590 Sir Thomas Walmesley of Dunkenhalgh (a direct descendant of the Walmesleys of Sholay) married Anne Shuttleworth of Ribbleton Hall daughter and heiress of Robert Shuttleworth of Hackings (Seion of the Shuttleworths of Gawthorpe). In cir. 1680 Richard Walmesley of Sholay married Jane Hoghton, sister of William Hoghton of Park Hall, and their direct descendant John Walmesley of Westwood House in the Manor of Ince married Mary Gerard of Ince, and their son Richard Walmesley married (cir. 1785) Sarah Worthington daughter of James Worthington.

Raufe Gregsonne, son of Thomas Gregsonne, married (cir. 1355) Constance Hoghton.

John Gregsonne son of Raufe, married (cir. 1385) Lucie Latham, and in cir. 1425 Robert Latham married Margaret second daughter of William Norreys of Speke; Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, married Thomas Gerard of Ince; and Jane, the third daughter, married William Worthington of Worthington.

Thomas Gregsonne, son of John, married (cir. 1410) Alice Parker of Wyresdale near Bolland Forest. Mary Parker of Cuerden Hall married Richard Assheton of Middleton.

In cir. 1541 Adam Hulton of Hulton married Clemence daughter of Sir William Norreys of Speke, and their daughter Margaret Hulton married Richard Assheton of Downham, Whalley, (cir. 1570). In cir. 1654 John Starkie of Huntroyde near Whalley married Alice Norreys, and his son John Starkie of Huntroyde married (cir. 1685) Ann daughter of William Hulton of Hulton Park and Farnworth and their daughter Mary Starkie of Huntroyde married (cir. 1715) Peter Worthington of Westhoughton,

and in 1714 Thomas Gregson of Manchester married Elizabeth Worthington.

Westhoughton is about 12 miles North West of Manchester and 3 miles East of Ince and 6 miles East of the ancient seat of Worthington. It was a popular custom in those days for brides to come in from the country to be married in the "Old Church" at Manchester.

In 1753 Henry Shuttleworth of Ribbleson Hall and Great Bowden Grange, Leicestershire, married Catherine only child and heiress of Charles Bletsoe of Easton Hall, Northamptonshire. Henry Shuttleworth was High Sheriff of Leicestershire in 1755. His son Henry Shuttleworth married Anne Assheton and Jesse Gregson of Moor House (grandson of Thomas Gregson of Manchester and Whalley) married their daughter Catherine Shuttleworth (1811) and John Gregson (nephew of Jesse) married her sister Anne Shuttleworth.

In 1701 Josias Gregson was Guild Mayor of Preston. Edmund Assheton was Guild Mayor in 1722, and married Mary Gregson (daughter of said Josias). Elizabeth Assheton sister of this Edmund Assheton, married Barton Shuttleworth of Cuerdale and Gawthorpe near Whalley. She was daughter of Richard Assheton of Downham (near Whalley) and Cuerdale, whose father (Captain) John Assheton of Cuerdale married Anne Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe. This Barton Shuttleworth was Guild Mayor of Preston in 1702, and his grandson was Robinson Shuttleworth of Preston.

In cir. 1764 Diana Starkie daughter of Nicholas Starkie and sister of Le Gendre Starkie of Huntroyde married Robinson Shuttleworth of Preston and their grandson Thomas Starkie Shuttleworth of Preston in 1830 married Mary Ann Gregson daughter of James Gregson of

Liverpool, whose grandfather was Matthew Gregson of Whalley. Robinson Shuttleworth was Mayor of Preston in 1794 and High Sheriff for Lancashire in 1795.

It is clear therefore from all these successive intermarriages that these families maintained the intercourse with each other which was originally established at a time when travelling was a serious undertaking and places like Manchester, Preston, Liverpool, Whalley, London and Great Bowden were remote from each other.

PEDIGREE of JAMES GREGSON of CALIFORNIA

A member of the Gregson Family that settled at
Whalley, Lancashire, England

1. de Normanton born prior to 1066 in Normandy came to England with William the Conqueror;
2. Son - John de Normanton, born circa 1090 - Thomasyne Bolland;
3. Son - Arthure de Normanton, born circa 1120 - Isabel Bradley;
4. Son - George de Normanton, born circa 1156 - Margaret Knowles;
5. Son - Arthur de Normanton, born circa 1186 - Ann Tunstall;
6. Son - Gregory de Normanton, alias Gregsonne, born circa 1210 - Isabel Singleton;
7. Son - Arthur Gregorysonne, born circa 1240 - Alice Assheton;
8. Son - George Gregsonne, born circa 1270 - Alice Crosse;
9. Son - Thomas Gregsonne, born circa 1296 - Catherine Walmsley;
10. Son - John Gregson, born circa 1330 - Lucy Latham;
11. Son - Thomas Gregson, born circa 1385 - Alice Parker;
12. Son - William Gregson, born circa 1410 - Margery Whittingham;
13. Son - William Gregson, born circa 1436 - Elizabeth Cotton;
14. Son - John Gregson, born circa 1461 - Margaret Cubey or Cuban;
15. Son - Richard Gregson, born circa 1505 - Grace Cowell;
16. Son - John Gregson, reputed son of, born prior 1538, married outside Whalley.

REGISTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF WHALLEY LANCASHIRE.

17. Mathias Gregson filius Johis, born Feb. 4, 1570, died 1647.
(His brother) Nicolaus filius Johis Gregson, Bpt. Nov. 10, 1586, buried Nov. 30, 1586
Nicolaus Gregson. Father Matthiae Gregson, Bpt. May 12, 1611,
Richardus Gregson. Father Matthiae Gregson, Bpt. June 20, 1619,
Jacobus Gregson, Father Matthiae Gregson, Bpt. Feb. 8, 1621,
18. Thomas Gregson. Father Matthiae Gregson, Bpt. Sept. 5, 1624,
Anna Gregson. Father Matthiae Gregson, Bpt. Jan. 26, 1625,
Jeneta Gregson. Father Matthiae Gregson, Bpt. Mar. 18, 1626.

REGISTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE.

19. John, son of Thomas Gregson, L.B., Dec. 30, 1654;

REGISTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF WOODPLUMPTON, LANCASHIRE.

2. Son - John de Normanton, born circa 1090 - Thomasyne Bolland;
3. Son - Arthure de Normanton, born circa 1120 - Isabel Bradley;
4. Son - George de Normanton, born circa 1156 - Margaret Knowles;
5. Son - Arthur de Normanton, born circa 1186 - Ann Tunstall;
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REGISTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF WOODPLUMPTON, LANCASHIRE.

20. John, son of John Gregson, C.G., Oct. 7, 1689;

REGISTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH NOT FOUND.

21. William, son of John Gregson, born circa 1723; 1723

REGISTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF WOODPLUMPTON, LANCASHIRE.

22. Betty, daughter of Wm. Gregson, L.B., Dec. 6, 1752,
John, son of Wm. Gregson, L.B., Dec. 12, 1756,
Robert, son of Wm. Gregson, L.B., Nov. 26, 1749.

REGISTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF LITTLE BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

23. Nicholas, son of John and Ann Gregson, L.B., Mar. 3, 1798,
24. James Gregson, son of Nicholas and Mary, L.B., Dec. 12, 1823.

Reference is hereby made to "History of the Gregson Family of Whalley, Lancashire", a document of thirty-two typed pages, purchased by me from, The College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, London, England. Number four and followed down to number seventeen - Mathias Gregson (Bpt. 1570) in the Whalley Parish Register beginning 1538; and to the Registers of the Parish Churches listed, examined by me personally, and wherein can be found births and marriages and deaths of those followed.

Full credit is hereby given to my sister, Dr. Letitia B. Osks, without whose genealogical research the foregoing would not have been undertaken or completed and in whose hands I have placed the above mentioned document and the Armorial Bearings of the Gregsons, painted in stained vellum and certified by the College of Arms as filed therein by George Gregson, Gentleman, in 1663.

August 15, 1968
Shoshone, California, U.S.A.
Robert N. Reid

Robert N. Reid