

TONY BOSTOCK'S LOCAL HISTORY NOTES: DAVENHAM

NINETEENTH CENTURY DAVENHAM

We can produce a detailed description of the village, its topography and its people for the middle decades of the nineteenth century using the tithe apportionment and its associated map, together with the census returns of 1841 and 1851.

This paper will first of all consider the farms of the township and who occupied them along with details of land ownership. Secondly, the paper will 'walk through' the village and detail those who resided here in the mid 19th century.

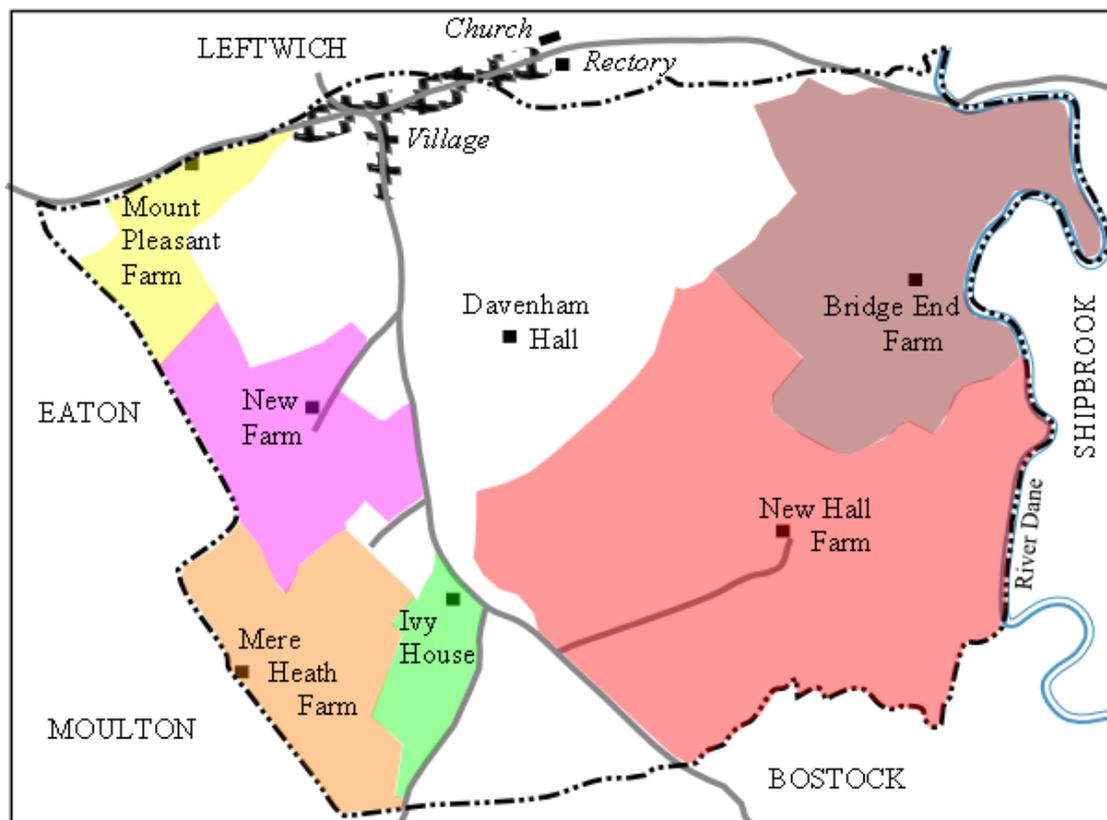


Figure One: Davenham Township showing the village and the surrounding farms, c. 1840

The Farms & Land Ownership

There were several farms in the township during the mid-nineteenth century. These were: New Hall Farm, Ivy House Farm (later Ivy Cottage), Bridge End Farm, New Farm (later Mere Heath Farm), Mere Heath Farm (later and now Dairy Farm) and Mount Pleasant Farm.

John Earle and his wife Elizabeth, their four children and one servant, lived at New Hall Farm in 1841. Ten years later seventy-two years old 'Betty' was a widow and living on the farm with three adult sons, an adult nephew, and a nine-years old grandson, with four servants. This was the largest farm and consisted of 125 acres.

John Taylor, who was born in the 1790s, and his wife Martha had Ivy House Farm. This was occupied in 1841 by John and Fanny Williams.

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Bridge End Farm was situated near to the banks of the River Dane and had about sixty-one acres of land. In 1841 this was home to William and Margaret Carter, their seven children and two servants.

At the time of the tithe survey William Hancock worked the thirty-six acres that formed Mere Heath Farm (now Dairy Farm). By 1851 Samuel Hancock was the farmer.

New Farm situated on Mere Heath contained thirty-eight acres. At the time of the tithe survey this was unoccupied and presumably then 'new', but by 1841 Thomas Perry was the tenant. By 1851 fifty-one years old Thomas lived here with his wife and a son: they had two servants residing with them.

William Warburton, who in 1851 was aged seventy-four worked Mount Pleasant Farm with its twenty-eight acres situated along the Hartford Road. In 1841 his occupation is given as 'butcher' and so it may be presumed that his farm was used for cattle rearing and grazing. At the time of the tithe survey he only had about seventeen acres.

Over three-quarters of all the land in the township was owned by John Hosken Harper who in 1841 resided at Davenham Hall with his wife Annie and their three children and two relatives: they had seven servants to cater for their needs. Ten years later he lived with two daughters, a son-in-law and a niece. The servants then numbered seven of which one was the butler.

Smaller areas were owned by John Brassey (around Firth Fields) and James Tomkinson (the triangle of land bounded by Jack Lane, London Road and the Peck Mill Brook). Richard Plumbley, John Richardson and Abel Trim had smaller estates. Around the church, in Leftwich township, a small estate was owned by William Eccles.

The Village and its Residents

Our tour round Davenham begins at the school in the heart of the village which still stands on the same site at the junction of London Road and Hartford Road. At this time it was a private house in which there was a day and boarding school run by John Burgess and his wife which had been in existence since at least 1824. The school grounds, of a triangular shape and situated along the township boundary with Leftwich, consisted of just over a quarter of an acre owned by a number of local men as trustees.

The schoolmaster, John Burgess was born in Knutsford in 1793 and married a lady named Margaret who was about five years younger. They had four children: Mary Anne born in 1815, Samuel in 1817, John in 1822 and Margaret in 1824. In March 1825 Margaret Burgess died aged thirty-eight. Several years later John married again to Mary Cantry who was born in Chatham, Kent, in 1803 and together they had a number of children: Thomas William in 1837; Robert Broadwater in 1839 who died when twelve days old; another son named Robert Broadwater in 1841; Cecilia in 1842; Augustus Charles Jerratt in 1845; and Caroline Mary Ann in 1849.

At the time of the 1841 census, taken on Sunday 6 June, the family had two female servants living with them and eleven residential pupils. Of these children, whose ages were eight, nine and ten, only two were born in Cheshire. Ten years later the same situation existed with twelve pupils whose ages ranged between fourteen and five of whom only two were born in Cheshire. Of the others two were from Scotland and the remainder from the Manchester, Ardwick and Salford, including two brothers named Frith who may have been children of Thomas Frith who owned two fields on which a number of houses were built by him in the 1830s and known as Firth Fields (now Frith Fields note the change of spelling). At the time of the 1851 census the Burgess family had three female servants living in and were being visited

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by two young children from Wharton named Cawley and by John's thirteen years old nephew from Knutsford named Henry.

John Burgess died in October 1855 aged sixty-two. A year after his death the school premises, consisting of 1,845 sq. yards, were taken back by their original owner, John Hosken Harper of Davenham Hall, and granted to the rector and churchwardens in trust for use as a school for the education of children of the 'labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes of Davenham parish'.¹ Provision was made for administration and management of the school and for it to open at all times for inspection by the government's Inspectors of Schools. Building of the new school was commenced in 1856 and cost £2125 2s 7d of which the government paid £840, the rector paid £1000, James France of Bostock Hall paid £100 and John Hosken Harper in addition to providing the land gave £58: additional sums were also paid by local people. The architect was a Mr Saley of Lancaster and the builder was Mr Dean of Leftwich. The school, which accommodated 250 boys, girls and infants, was said to have been built on 'a considerable piece of ground, enclosed with palisades and tastefully laid out'.² Mary continued to teach and established the Grove House Academy in Davenham with her eldest son Thomas William Burgess.³

Across from the school, on the other side of Hartford Road, there was a block of property owned by a John Carter.

The first cottage and garden [property numbers 34 & 30] were occupied by Hannah Boden, a washerwoman. She had been married to William, a labourer, who was living in the property as early as 1824. William died in 1838 aged fifty-five years. The couple had children: Ellen (born in 1810), Edward (1817), John (1822), Elizabeth (1825), Mary (1827) and William (1832). In the census Hannah was living with her sons Edward and John who were employed as miners, daughter Mary and younger son William. A Martha Boden aged ninety was also present: perhaps she was the grandmother.



Figure Two: Davenham Village c. 1837 from the Tithe Map (Courtesy of Cheshire Record Office)

John Dean lived in the next cottage [32] which in 1824 had been occupied by Edward Dean. John, a weaver, married Alice and had by her several children who were born between 1799

¹ Cheshire Record Office: P6/14/62

² Morris, 1874

³ In the 1861 census she is listed with her son and daughters Cecilia and Caroline. Living with them were seven scholars (four boys and three girls) from Manchester, Liverpool and Shropshire.

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and 1823. John died in 1847 aged sixty-eight and his widow passed away in 1862 aged eighty-four. In the 1851 census Alice lived with her sons John and Edward who were employed as bricklayers and a daughter Charlotte who was a dress maker.

The next cottage [35] was occupied by Richard Amery who was aged eighty-two years and his wife Martha aged eighty: she was buried at Davenham in 1845. In 1824 Richard had been in the same house when his surname was spelt 'Emery'. Living in the same building in 1841 was another octogenarian named John Sothern who died a year later, and a married couple, both in their early twenties, named John and Mary Antrobus. John Antrobus was employed as a flatman and he and his wife may not have lived in the village for very long as their names do not appear in the parish registers nor in the 1851 census.

Next door lived Samuel Grey [31]. Samuel, a labourer, married Charlotte and they had several children between 1831 and 1847. Samuel was not a native of Davenham but was born in Ollerton near Knutsford about 1803 and Charlotte had been born in Wincham in 1807.

Next door lived Thomas Mottershead, a forty-eight years old labourer and rock-getter, with his daughter Sarah aged twenty-four, Thomas, aged fourteen and John aged thirteen. Thomas had been living in the same house in 1824 and had been married to Mary by whom he had had other children: Elizabeth in 1813; Ann in 1821 and Allen in 1823. Mary died in 1830 aged thirty-seven and Thomas lived until he was seventy-four years old. In 1851 he lodged at an address in Firth Fields with John Burgess and his blind son also named John.

Ralph Boden lived in the next cottage [38] and was also a labourer. He married Ann who in 1841 was said to be aged eighty-six and then residing in the cottage with her children Betsy, aged fifty-nine, Ralph aged twenty-seven, William aged twenty-six and Elizabeth aged twenty-three.

On a site which is now occupied by the 'Oddfellows Arms' [40], Joseph Dutton, a salt boiler lived with his wife Anne. In 1824 this property was occupied by John's father Samuel Dutton. Joseph and Anne had three children living with them in 1841: Lydia, Samuel who was a pansmith, and ten years old George.

On the corner with London Road stood the Congregational Chapel [41] on a piece of land which according to the tithe schedule was owned and 'occupied' by William Dale who lived in Church Street. Further round the corner into London Road there was the first of three cottages owned by Peter Such the post master (of whom later). Samuel Maddock had the first of these [42], then John Holland and Daniel Ball the other two [209 & 210]. Between Maddock's and Holland's there was another cottage which was owned and occupied by James Shaw [43]. Samuel Maddock was a labourer and salt boiler who had at least five children by his wife Elizabeth. Shaw had owned this property from some time before 1824 and may have even built the house as his occupation was as a bricklayer. He was born in Leftwich in 1773 and died in 1855 aged eighty-two. Samuel Maddock was a labourer and salt boiler who had at least five children by his wife Elizabeth. John Holland although mentioned in the tithe schedule does not appear in the census returns though he may be the John, husband of Nancy who had a daughter christened in 1838 after which the family seem to have left the village. Daniel Ball, a tailor, was born in Davenham in 1785, son of an earlier Daniel and his wife Martha. Although he was living in the village in 1842, for some reason he does not appear in the census in 1841, nor 1851.

Set back from the road, among fields on the west side of London Road, part of an estate owned by a Peter Plumley, there were four cottages. The first of these [206] was occupied by Mary Stanley in 1838 and then in 1841 by Ann Stanley of whom nothing is know save for the fact that an eighty years old Nancy Stanley, an 'almswoman' who was born in Wrexham, is listed in the 1851 census. In the neighbouring cottage [207] lived Jane Hodgkinson. She may

have been the wife of William, a rock getter, who occupied a small cottage property owned by Hannah Trim in 1824 and who had a child baptised at Davenham in 1833. Confusingly there was another William, aged seventy in 1841, who married Mary and lived at Davenham Lodge. Further back [208] lived Mary Dutton who may be the Mary who was married to John Dutton the tailor, and died in 1839 aged 57 for she was certainly not listed in the census for 1841. In 1824 John occupied a house and garden owned by Hannah Trim. In the adjoining property [74] we find a John Wilding recorded as the occupier; this seventy-two year old lived alone in 1841 and seems to have been a labourer and salt boiler. Between his cottage and the road lived thirty years old John Williams [75] who in 1841 was described as a 'farmer', though he is likely to have been a farm labourer as ten years later he is described as a gardener. He was born in Leftwich in 1804 and lived with his wife Frances (Fanny), son John, who was a shoe maker, and daughter Mary: he died in 1861 aged fifty-eight.

In the next field owned by the Plumbley family stood another two cottages [71 & 72]. Joseph Hunt, a labourer aged thirty-five, lived with his wife Jane and their children Anne, Sarah and baby Joseph. They had another daughter in 1843 and may have moved away from the village a few years later. James Hodgkinson, a thirty-three years old salt boiler, lived in the next property with his family: wife Martha and sons William and John. Next to them was a house and garden [70] owned by Richard Plumbley and occupied by Thomas Wilding who farmed about ten acres of land. In 1824 this had been the home of a Mrs Plumley.

The next parcel of land containing about four acres was owned by Joseph Lea who lived in a large house [68]. He was a salt merchant and lived here with his daughters Sarah and Hannah and their four servants. Joseph Lea died in 1848 aged seventy seven, Hannah died in 1845 aged sixty-seven and Ann died in 1863 aged thirty-nine. In the 1851 census she is listed as an 'annuitant' and presumably lived in the same house.

The neighbouring house [67] was owned by Mary Trim and occupied by William Whitley, a man in his sixties who was of 'independent' means but seems to have been a doctor. He lived with his daughter Anne aged about forty and another Anne aged in her late seventies who may have been his mother. William may have been son of an earlier William Whitley who died in 1822 aged sixty.

At the junction of what is now Fountains Lane there was a house with about six acres of land [64] owned and occupied by John Richardson who in the 1841 census is described as being a gardener in his late fifties. In 1824 Richardson had been in occupation of this property which was owned by a Mr. Joseph Stainway. In 1841 Richardson lived here with his wife and a lady named Jane Hankey who may have been his mother-in-law and who died that August aged eighty-one.

At this point we come to the end of what was regarded as the 'village' and have reached the border of Mereheath. It is now an appropriate time to return to the village making progress along the other side of the road.

The land on this side of the road was owned by John Hosken Harper and formed part of the Davenham Hall estate. The first property [115] is a cottage occupied by a Frances Mulliner, a forty something lady of independent means. A short distance down towards the village stood a cottage [116] owned and occupied by Mary Trim, a spinster, and next door another of her cottages [223] occupied by George Shaw. Mary Royle Trim, to give her full name, was born in Davenham in 1795 the daughter of Abel Trim and Hannah Royle who were married at Davenham in 1782. Abel died of consumption in 1805 and by 1824 his widow Hannah was the owner of about fifteen acres of land including many houses and cottages including the Bulls Head Inn: her father's occupation was as a malster. Mary never married and died in 1844. George Shaw was a forty three years old joiner who occupied one of the Trim's cottages and had been back in 1824. He had been born in Davenham, one of the children of

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James Shaw, a slater, and his wife Betty. In 1841 George lived with his wife Nancy, their adult sons James and Edward, who were also joiners, and their daughter Ann.

We now return to the heart of the village and a range of several terraced properties that abut the Bulls Head Inn. The first of these [77] was an outbuilding owned by Abel Trim and occupied by John Teather the licensee of the inn. Peter Such owned the next five cottages. The first [217] was occupied according to the tithe return by William Grice and by the census a baker named Samuel Grice; second was the cottage [216] occupied by John Buckley, a mason; next [78] was that owned by John Wilson; then [215] that owned by Mrs Sims and lastly the cottage [214] of Richard Shakerley. At the end of the terrace Fanny Trim, widow of George and daughter of Abel, owned and occupied a cottage [80]: she was born in 1817. Despite the fortunes of the Trim family it is interesting to note that in 1841 Frances Trim was described as a 'pauper' meaning that she was living on the parish poor relief: she resided with her son John, aged twenty and employed as a 'druggist'; Mary, aged sixteen and employed as school mistress; Richard, a seventeen years old brick setter; twelve years old Henry, and ten years old Ellen.

The next property is the Bulls Head itself. This inn has a long history. It is first noticed in the mid-eighteenth century when occupied by John Royle but later passed through his daughter's marriage to Abel Trim a man who originated in Witton parish. The inn then passed to his son John and his wife Elizabeth who had a number of children baptised at Davenham church between 1808 and 1814: John died in 1815. Then, in 1824, William Brereton and his wife Elizabeth, John Trim's widow, kept the inn. The next publican is John Teather a man who was born in Lincolnshire but married to a lady from Daresbury. In conjunction with the inn, the publican also had access to the two large fields at the rear of the Bulls Head.

In a cottage adjoining the north end of the Bulls Head stood a cottage [81] with a garden owned by Mary Trim and occupied by Thomas Foxley whose name does not appear in the 1841 census. He was born in Davenham and was employed as a salt boiler and had a number of children by his wife Elizabeth during the 1830s.

At this point we enter Church Street, but before doing so we ought to mention the 'island' of properties at the junction of London Road and Church Street. Originally this block of property was larger than it is today for here were at least three separate buildings. One was a cottage [47] owned by Richard Vickers and occupied by Robert Forster, and the other, another cottage owned by Vickers but occupied by Mary Riding who in 1851 was working as a 'mangle woman'. Vickers lived along Church Street and is listed in the census as a man of independent means in his seventies living with his wife, Sarah, who was of a similar age. In 1824 he seems to have owned the same properties then occupied by Mary Carter and Samuel Gregory. At the end of this 'island', butting into London Road stood the Toll Gate house which in 1841 was occupied by John Hares, aged forty-nine, with his wife Martha and seventy-eight years old George Hares.

The first properties on the south side of Church Street were all owned by Mary Trim. There stood a terrace of several cottages each with a garden plot in the fields behind. The first [82] was occupied by a forty-seven years old charwoman named Mary Buckley and her children: William, a mason; Thomas, a mason; Samuel an apprentice mason; Lucy and Elizabeth. Her husband Thomas had died the year before the 1841 census aged sixty. Mary lived until she was seventy-six in 1868. Next door [83] lived a relative, Thomas Buckley a thirty years old labourer and his wife Catherine and their children. At the time of the tithe return the next property [84] was unoccupied but the next [85] was occupied by Samuel Dewsbury a salt boiler and labourer and his wife Hannah. The next cottage [86] was unoccupied. The last in the terrace was occupied by Thomas Shaw, a thirty-five years old builder, his wife Margaret and their children.

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A short distance further on along Church Street, Mary trim owned another two cottages [89 & 90]. The first of these was occupied by John Birkenhead, a fifty years old joiner who had been born in Davenham in 1790. The next was occupied by John Dickenson a blacksmith and his family.

Of these several properties along Church Street which were built on land owned by the Trim family they are all mentioned in 1824 when in the possession of Hannah Trim. The occupants were then William Hodgkinson, Elizabeth Boden, Samuel Dewsbury, James Kettle, John Dutton, Thomas Buckley, Ralph Birkenhead and Peter Burgess. Of these the cottages occupied by Dewsbury, Buckley and Birkenhead remained in the same families.

A little further along the street we come to the boundary with Leftwich township which will be dealt with a little later. Crossing over onto the north side of Church Street the first property met with is a cottage and garden [57] once owned by Samuel Andrews and occupied by John Dutton. Andrews had also owned the neighbouring property [221] which in 1841 was occupied by Charles Pinnington a shoemaker.

Adam Cliff owned the next five properties. The two neighbouring properties [56 & 55] were occupied by John Burgess a school master and William Horton, aged thirty-seven, a carpenter, his wife and their four children: they still lived here in 1851. The next cottage [220] was listed in 1824 as the property of Samuel Cliffe and described as a 'house, shop, bakehouse and garden'. Then and in 1841 it was occupied by Mathew Hulme and his wife; he was a schoolmaster who was born in 1769 and died in 1843. The next building [219] was occupied by William Williams a thirty years old grocer, his wife and their two daughters, and Francis Buckley who was a school master. The last of Cliff's properties [54] was occupied by Samuel Drinkwater, junior, a twenty-eight years old joiner and his wife.

The next house [53] was owned by William Brereton and occupied by William Fletcher a thirty-five years old organist and music master who was married to Anne Bagaley in 1837: he was born in Durham. The couple had several children Isabelle, who was born in Bridgenorth in 1834, Emily, William, Syrett, Christopher, Septimus, Agnes and Richard. It seems that his first wife Jane died in 1836.

Frances Forster owned the next two cottages [52 & 205]. The first was occupied by William Shaw a tailor and his young family. The next one was occupied by Elizabeth Jones, a fifty years old school mistress. Forster, born in 1789, lived with his wife in the neighbouring house [50]. In 1824 Francis' father, John Forster who died aged eighty-six in 1836, occupied the house then described as being a 'house, shop, bake-house, outbuilding and garden' and also held a nearby croft containing three-quarters of an acre. At that time the two cottages [52 & 205] were occupied by John Wakefield and Robert Totty.

Richard Vickers lived in the large house situated about half way along Church Street [49]. He was living here as early as 1824 and was still here in 1851 when he died aged eighty-five years. He was born in Bunbury and married a lady named Sarah who was born in Ireland: his occupation is given as 'Proprietor of Houses'.

William Dale' house comes next [48]. He and his wife Elizabeth ran a boarding school here. Dale, son of George Dale, was born in Bostock in 1795 but his wife hailed from Nottingham. In all Dale owned seven properties, including his own residence, in Davenham in 1824, one of which was listed as a 'Dissenting Chapel'. This chapel was of the Congregational sect and was established in 1822. It was said to be 'a new built house near the Toll Gate on the Northwich-Middlewich road'. In 1852 the congregation moved further down Hartford Road to the premises later used by the Independent Methodists and the old chapel was then occupied by Wesleyan Methodists who had met in a cottage in what is now Fountain Lane; these Methodists then moved in 1856 into a new chapel in Firth's Fields.

By 1839 Dale only had his own house and the chapel in his possession as many of the others had been purchased by Peter Such one of his tenants. In 1841 the family included three children: Thomas, Joseph and Sarah. They had two female servants to assist them with their nine pupils aged between fifteen and six years (seven boys and two girls) of which only one was born in Cheshire. By 1851 there were six pupils and sons Joseph helped as a tutor and daughter Sarah was a governess. Three grandchildren lived with them as did Samuel and Esther Crewe from Liverpool who were described as 'visitors', and a George and Grace Mitcheson, the former being an apprentice and 'visitor' and the latter a governess. This school seems to have closed with the death of Elizabeth Dale in 1854.

Peter Such occupied the premises described as being a 'house, bakehouse and garden' which in 1841 was the 'Post Office', he being the 'Post Master'. In 1824 Such had leased this site from William Dale, but by 1839 he was the owner of this and several other properties in the village. Peter, born in the 1790s, married Mary and had children: Peter, Mary, George. Living with them in 1841 was seventy years old Charles Rowbotham who may have been Peter's father-in-law. Peter died in 1871 aged seventy-six.

On the corner of London Road stood Thomas Drinkwater's timber yard [45] and behind this John Legh had a cottage [44]. He was a sixty-two years old labourer who lived with his wife and adult son John who was a brick setter. Next door [212] lived Thomas Davies a forty-five years old labourer and his young family. Each of these last three properties were owned by Peter Such. On London Road, opposite the school, James Shaw owned and occupied a cottage which he had held since at least 1824; James was a bricklayer.

Just outside the village centre and off Hartford Road there were a dozen cottages with long narrow garden plots built on a field owned by Thomas Firth. Firth a banker who resided at Hartford Lodge, acquired two crofts called Near Croft and Far Croft which contained four acres of land and was in possession of these as early as 1824. During the 1830s he began to build the cottages along an access road. According to the tithe return there were thirteen cottages and gardens of which, from the far end, the first two were owned by Charles Purcell, the next two by Daniel Antrobus and the remainder by Firth. The occupiers in 1840 were: Samuel Drinkwater, Joseph Kettle, John Winpenny, John Wakefield, George Pickstock, an unoccupied cottage, Stephen Evans, James Bostock, Samuel Dunn, Richard Chantler, George Profitt, Ralph Moors, and Thomas Firth, who was not related to the owner. By the day of the census in 1841 some of these cottages had changed hands.

According to the census, in the first of the two cottages owned by Purcell, lived Samuel Drinkwater, a fifty years old joiner, and his family. Next door lived Joseph Kettle, another joiner, with his five children of whom the eldest, Thomas, aged about twenty, was a brick layer. Living with them was seventy-five years old James Kettle who died five years later. In the cottages owned by Antrobus the family of John Winpenny is not present, but next door John Wakefield, a sixty-one years old labourer lived with his wife and a lodger. It might be that Wakefield's son Peter, a twenty-one years old labourer and later a salt boiler, had taken Winpenny's cottage for he is shown as living at an address in Firth Fields with his wife Mary and the family of Thomas, aged thirty-seven, and Marie with their six children.

In the first of Firth's cottages lived Ann Pickstock, with two generations of a Kettle family. The occupants of the next two cottages is not known. After that in the census we find James Bostock's children living alone perhaps because he and his wife were away on the river where he was employed as a flatman. Living in the home were Hannah, aged sixteen, Sarah, aged twelve, Josiah, aged eight, and my great-great grandfather Thomas, aged three.

Samuel Dunn, a twenty-five years old block maker and later a ships carpenter, with his family held the next cottage. Next door lived Richard Chantler and his family yet the census lists

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them as living on Mere Heath: this seems to be an error for there is no other record of this family name in the township.

George Proffit and his wife, Hannah, shared their home with the family of James Such, a mason, and his wife Alice: in all there were eight people living in the building. Next door lived Ralph Moors a fifty-five years old labourer, with his wife and their six children.

It is not known who lived in the last cottage, once occupied by Thomas Firth. In fact according to the census there were two families who lived in Firth Fields whom we cannot trace to a particular home: those of William Ellison and John Dutton.



Figure Three: The area around the church, c. 1837 from the Tithe Map (Courtesy of Cheshire Record Office)

The Leftwich township parts of Davenham Village

The first part to consider is that behind the present Davenham School. Here in a parcel of ground edged by Green Lane we have four houses. Fronting on to London Road lived Joseph Goulding a forty-one years old joiner [522]. His wife Elizabeth was a dress maker. They lived with their seven children in premises described as being a 'House and Shop'; they also owned the large garden to the rear. Fronting onto Hartford Road [520] lived John Dobell a twenty-five years old tailor with his wife Eliza and their six years old daughter. He had two apprentices living with him and a twenty years old clerk who was born in Ireland. Thomas Johnson lived in a house with a smithy attached [523] known in 1851 as 'Green Lane House'. Johnson, a retired brewer, was born in 1801 and of independent means. He lived with his sister Catherine and her daughter Mary Anne. On the very corner of Green Lane stood a house occupied by Benjamin Hotham and his wife and their twenty years old daughter: Hotham was described as an agent. This house [529] was owned by William Warburton.

The other part of the village that lay in Leftwich was around the church. We start at the township boundary as it crosses Church Street and follow along the north side. The first set of properties were owned by William Eccles who lived further down on the other side of the street. Ann Kettle lived in the first [591] in 1839 but it is unclear as to who lived here in 1841. It seems that the building had been divided into two dwellings, one occupied by Ralph Birkenhead and the other by Thomas Wilding. Birkenhead was a fifty years old brick-setter who lived with his wife and their five children. Ten years later his daughter-in-law Ann, then thirty-four years old, and her two children were here along with her father-in-law, sixty years old Ralph, and brother-in-law, twenty-one years old Ralph, both brick-setters. In the neighbouring property, Wilding, who was also a bricklayer, was in his late thirties and had a

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wife and two children: living with them was Sarah Welsh who may have been Wilding's mother-in-law. They were still here in 1851.

Next door [590] it seems that another house had been divided into two cottages. Here lived Joseph Jones who was the church sexton aged about thirty years who lived with his wife and their six children of whom the eldest was aged eleven. By 1851 this same cottage was occupied by George Lewis, a thirty-three years old coachman, who was born in Cumberland. His wife and their eldest daughter were also born in Cumberland, but their other daughter was born in Portsmouth suggesting that the family had moved considerable distances. In the adjoining cottage lived Samuel Dewsbury, a fifty years old agricultural labourer, who lived with his wife and five children. He was still here in 1851 when his grand-daughter Ann Birkenhead was also living with them.

The White Lion Inn, formerly the White Hart, is the next building in the street [589]. In 1841 the licensee was eighty years old John Whitlow and his wife Nancy and their sixty-five years old female servant. In the same building lived Whitlow's forty-eight years old son John, a bricklayer (or brick setter) with his wife, Mary (nee Barrington), their son Henry and a female servant named Anne Bostock. John and Mary were still there in 1851. The occupier of the inn also held a field known as 'Little Nabbo' which lay along the street just passed the church.

In 1824 these last three houses had been occupied by Samuel Maddock, John Bowden and Charles Gleave at the White Lion.

The next building was the old school [587] owned by the rector of Davenham. Prior to 1787 the school had been conducted in part of the church. In 1851 Thomas Dewsbury, a twenty-eight years old local man, was the teacher of this National School and he lived here with his wife Ellen.

Just east of the school lived seventy years old Job Widders in his own house [586] with his wife Betty (formerly Stubbs) whom he married in 1837. He moved to Lostock Gramam and died in 1843. In 1839, although he owned the house it was occupied by his son Joseph.

Four unoccupied cottages are listed in the census, behind which stood William Grice's home [585]. He was a thirty-five years old draper and tailor who lived with his wife Grace and their four children: living with them in 1841 were three apprentices and a female servant. By 1851 here were six children and one apprentice: he employed two men who lived elsewhere. The family had lived here since at least 1824.

The next four properties were all owned by Samuel Allman and occupied by George Burgess [584], William Waller [583], Thomas Drinkwater [582] and Thomas Shaw [582a].

Opposite the church stood the rectory which, in 1841, is not listed. Ten years later it was the home of the rector, Reverend Thomas France, aged forty-eight, his wife Helen, and their infant son: they had five servants. Helen's unmarried sister, Elizabeth Hornby, lived with them.

Next door lived William Eccles [564] a thirty-five years old man of independent means. Living with him and his wife and child was a Charles Pearson and his wife and their child. In all there were eight servants. By 1851 William was dead leaving his widow Cecilia to mind their three children.

To the south of the village lay Mere Heath and this will be the subject of a separate paper.