

TWO FIFTEENTH-CENTURY KINSMEN
JOHN SHAW OF DUKINFIELD, MERCER, AND
WILLIAM SHAW OF HEATH CHARNOCK, SURGEON

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I. JOHN SHAW THE MERCER AND HIS FAMILY

THE economic changes induced by the scarcity of labour and high wages following the years of plague in the middle decades of the fourteenth century produced an increase of tenant farmers and gave rise to an ancillary merchant class, who were able to deal more readily with the produce of farms and sheep walks than the foreign financiers of an earlier time. The merchants not only bought the wool clip but also traded in finished cloth, and lent money to the producers. After the passing of the golden age of demesne farming the landowners, especially in the upland valleys of Lancashire and Yorkshire, turned to this form of trading which steadily increased towards the close of the fourteenth century.

Representative of this merchant class was Robert of the Shaw *mercator*, who heads the list of the taxable inhabitants of Quick in 1379. (Yorks. Arch. Soc., Vol. VI (1881), p. 297). At this period he held the sub-manor of the Shagh in Saddleworth Frith as a mesne under the Radcliffes of Ordsall, who in turn held by grant of Robert of Holand.⁽¹⁾

The expansion of the cloth trade is reflected in the increasing exports by Lancashire and Yorkshire merchants through the port of Kingston-upon-Hull. Early in the fourteenth century both shipowners and the merchants who freighted their ships were generally aliens, but by 1391 many ships were owned by Englishmen and carried the goods of Lancashire merchants to the Baltic provinces and the Low Countries. The customs rolls of Hull show that a group of these men were then exporting cloth. John Shaw and Richard Wolston (the families inter-married) freighted a ship called *Mighell*, belonging to

⁽¹⁾ Sir John Radcliffe of Ordsall gave the Shagh to his son Richard, whose wife Sibilla of Clitheroe held it in dower. Richard was drowned in Rossendale 1380, and his wife re-married Sir Roger of Fulthorp, chief justice of Ireland. At the latter's attainder in 1388 the inquisitions at York and Clitheroe show that the Shagh was worth £4 per annum, and in part at least contained eighty acres of arable and meadow, and six messuages.

Edmund Hopwood, with strait cloth,⁽²⁾ bed blankets and coverlets. Shaw was entered for 10 cloths and 2 coverlets worth £62 10s. 0d. for which he paid duty of 62s. 6d., and Wolston was entered for 24 cloths worth £36. On another ship he exported 65½ cloths and 10 coverlets and John Shaw 37 cloths valued at £55 10s. 0d.

Other members of this mercantile group were John Pilkington, William Walton, William Boteler, John Langton, John Towneley, Henry Preston and Thomas Standish; the last of these also exported corn, beans and peas [Yorks. Arch. Soc., Rec. Ser. (1924), Vol. LXIV].

William and John were sons of Robert of the Shaw, merchant, and both appear in the taxation of Quick in 1379. The first named according to the St. George pedigree [Add MSS., 32, 112, f. 245b, B.M.] continued to hold the Shagh under the Radcliffes and their superiors the Lovells, but after 1424 under the reinstated junior line of Scargill. William Shaw's son Ralph held the land of Hepple in Torkington near Stockport and was indicted for the murder of John of the Sherd, bailiff of Macclesfield forest, at Disley, his land being confiscated and granted to John of Legh of Booths. [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 29 August (1401) 2 Hen. IV.] Charles, George, and William, also sons of William of the Shagh, were associated with the Radcliffes of Todmorden and Hundersfield in a raid on Edmund Walton at Clitheroe in 1429. John Shaw the younger son of Robert was a mercer and lived at Dukinfield [Strype, 2, p. 123], where his business was in relation to the Tame valley towns as well with the markets at Manchester, Stockport and Warrington. It is highly probable that he was the cloth exporter entered in the Hull Customs roll of 1391/2 in view of the marriage between the Wolstons and the Shaws in 1428, and the association with other Lancashire merchants, especially Edmund Hopwood.

Further particulars of John Shaw's trade (or possibly that of his son John) are supplied by the *Palatine of Lancaster Plea Rolls*. The mercer died between 1441 and 1444 when his widow Margaret and his son Edmund, as executors, entered pleas of debt against Ralph of Assheton of Ashton-under-Lyne, gentleman and Sir Nicholas of Longford of Withington. [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/10, m.6, m.7, m.10d, m.11d, m.31d, 25 Hen. VI.]

From Assheton the executor's claimed 50s. 7d. and from Longford £8 8s. 3d. These figures represent cloth sales as

⁽²⁾ Broad cloth was 12 yds., strait cloth 6 yds. in length, and kerseys less than 6 yds.

revealed by the claim against Ralph Assheton. It was stated that on 20 September 1441 Assheton purchased from John Shaw at Warrington 8 yds. of woollen cloth, 11 yds. of russet coloured woollen cloth, 6 yards of "checker", $6\frac{1}{2}$ yds. of green coloured woollen cloth of "kersay" for 42s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of the said 50s. 7d., which was to be paid at Christmas following. Further on 5 November of the same year Assheton took from Shaw $1\frac{1}{2}$ yds. of linen cloth "sanguine" coloured, 2 yds. of "kersay" and 1 yd. of "checker" for 8s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. of the balance of 50s. 7d., also to be paid at Christmas. Ralph, though frequently requested, refused to pay either John Shaw or his executors. "He says he does not owe the executors any money;" he was ordered to appear before the justices. There are no details of the larger purchases by Sir Nicholas of Longford which must have represented a considerable transaction. There is also another plea, entered on several rotulets, in which the same executors claimed 60s. 0d. against John of Hyde, gentleman, of East Halghton (opposite Dukinfield). Further there is an entry in which Margaret and Edmund through their attorney put themselves against the same John of Hyde in a plea of debt of £8 1s. 4d. "He to be taken", *etc.* [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/6, m.1d, 23 Hen. VI.] It is very probable that there was an earlier marriage between the Hydes and the Shaws as shown by the arms borne by both branches of the latter (Heath Charnock and Dukinfield) which are the same as those of Hyde and derive from the de Stockports from whom the Hydes descend.

It is just possible that John the mercer was twice married in view of the close association between the Harringtons and the Shaws. A John Shaw married early in the fifteenth century Ann, the heir-general of Roger of Elston, near Preston, and had issue two daughters, Joan and Isabella, heirs of the manor of Elston. The feoffees of Sir James Harrington of Brixworth namely, Sir Thomas Harrington of Hornby, Sir Richard Molyneux, Richard Balderston, Henry Halsall and John Elleswyk parson of Ribchester, gave the king 10s. in 1445 for licence to agree with Isabella and Joan, daughters and heirs of John Shaw, in a plea of covenant of the manor of Elston, and of 8 messuages, 85 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow and 5 acres of wood in Halghton, Ribchester and Preston, and a moiety of the water mill in Halghton. The premises were conveyed to the feoffees for 100 marks. [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/9, m.7, 24 Hen. VI.] The manor passed to Margaret Harrington and by her husband Christopher Hulton, to their daughter Jane, who married Roger Ashaw of Hall-i'the-Hill, Heath Charnock, whose family was intermarried at this date with the Shaws of

Shaw Place, Heath Charnock. It is suggested that John Shaw held the manor for his life, and after his death it passed to the daughters of his first marriage with Ann Elston.

The places associated with the business of John the mercer are clearly indicated by the bequests in the will of his son, Sir Edmund [P. C. C. Milles 121] 1487/8. The latter desired that 200 gowns of Welsh frieze, part white, part black, should be given to 200 poor men together with 12d. each, in the towns of Saddleworth, Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne, Mottram, Stockport, Manchester and Cheadle. Further he bequeathed 40 marks to each of the churches of Ashton-under-Lyne and Stockport, to buy a suit of vestments of blue velvet, and to the church of Mottram in Longdendale 40 marks for building the steeple. Moreover, he founded a grammar school at Stockport parish church, where his father and mother were buried, and a chantry chapel at Woodhead on the lonely pack-horse track to Yorkshire.

These legacies indicate the local zone of business interests of the mercer and the trade route by which cloth was despatched to Yorkshire for export via the Longdendale pass across the Pennines.

We find that in 1423, on the death of Maud, Lady Lovell, daughter of Sir Robert of Holand, the jurors at the *inquisition post mortem*, for Longdendale, included John the mercer and Warine of the Shaw, and it is noteworthy that in 1503 Sir Thomas Lovell was named as overseer in the will of Sir John Shaw, alderman of London, the grandson of John the mercer. In an earlier generation Robert of the Shaw, merchant, who had served under the Black Prince in Aquitaine was a member of the *inquisition post mortem* held in 1361 on the lands in Cheadle of Hamo of Baggilegh along with William of the Downes of Taxal and others. In 1362 Robert is associated with Robert of the Downes of Taxal and others on the *inquisition post mortem* on the lands of Robert of Newton in Longdendale. In the will of Sir Edmund Shaw, eldest son of John the mercer, there is mention of his cousin, Geoffrey Downes, to whom he left fifty marks and desired him to use part for a covered cup of silver, parcel gilt, with a token thereon to show that it came from a goldsmith and kinsman. It was to be accepted by Geoffrey and "my good lady Ingoldesthorp, in whose tender devotion I have great confidence . . . she to have my soul the more tenderley in her good remembrance."³

⁽³⁾ Joan Ingoldesthorp was sister of the Yorkist leader John Tiptoft, earl of Worcester, and married Geoffrey Downes for her second husband: they were the founders of the Downes chantry at Pott Shrigley.

The mention of *cousin* both by Sir Edmund Shaw and his son Hugh, suggests that Margaret Shaw, the wife of John the mercer, may have been a member of the Downes family. If not, Geoffrey was certainly a near relative.

The political sympathies of John Shaw's family were those of the Yorkist party. Thus Edmund the eldest son was appointed engraver to the Mint in the first year of Edward IV's reign [Patent Rolls, 1 Ed. IV, c.66, n.495, m.17] and on 18 June 1480 he and Sir Thomas Montgomery were given the manors and lands of John Shawardyn during the minority of his heir and the latter's marriage. In his will Sir Edmund Shaw left bequests for masses in memory of Edward IV, his sister the duchess of Exeter (later married to Sir Thomas St. Leger, with whom Sir Edmund had dealings in plate) and for Sir William, Lord Herbert, first earl of Pembroke, another prominent Yorkist. Ralph Shaw, D.D., the youngest son of John the mercer, was chaplain to Edward IV, and employed by the erudite John Tiptoft, earl of Worcester, in the matter of a gift of books to London in 1471. A daughter of John the mercer married a Lathom of Rainford, a family also connected by marriage to Nicholas Harrington of the Hornby family. Again the Heath Charnock Shaws were related through the Wolstons to Sir William Harrington, K.G. of Hornby and Farleton. Lastly it should be noted that after the raid of the Saddleworth Shaws and Todmorden Radcliffes in Clitheroe in 1429, Thomas Harrington, Sir William's son, was one of the mainpernors.

As mentioned above the eldest son of John Shaw the mercer was Edmund, who in his youth was associated with the Lathoms of Mossborough in Rainford. In 1443-4 Sir Thomas Stanley entered a plea against John Lathom of Rainford, gentleman for cutting timber and illegal fishery at Rainford. In the following year Edmund Shaw of Rainford, yeoman, and William Lathom of Rainford, yeoman, and others were cited by Stanley for destruction of his mill dam at Rainford and fishing in his separate fishery, committing damage to the extent of £20. [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/6, m.6, 22 Hen. VI; also 15/8, m.16d, 27 Hen. VI.] At this date Edmund was apprenticed a goldsmith in London to Robert Boteler, a name which suggests Warrington associations. William Lathom may also have been an apprenticed goldsmith in London; his son Ralph was a leading goldsmith. The Rainford connection continued probably on account of the Lathom-Shaw marriage. Later a feud arose between the Orrells of Rainford and Edmund and John Shaw possibly over unpaid debts. In 1464-5 Robert Orrell charged Edmund Shaw of London, late of Rainford, goldsmith, John

Shaw of Rainford, yeoman, and Thomas Spekynton late of London, 'osteler', with robbery of goods worth 40 marks [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/31, m.9, 5 Ed. IV.]

At this date Edmund was fourth warden of the Goldsmiths' Company and was security for the master of the Mint. In 1465-6 it was presented that John Shaw late of Rainford, yeoman, had five years before stolen from Robert Orrell at Rainford, two leather doublets worth 4 marks 3s. and 2 pairs of hose worth 17s. The jury said that he was not guilty. [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 29, m.24d, 6 Ed. IV.] Edmund Shaw was amongst those who contributed to the cost of the Goldsmiths' Company riding to meet Edward IV on the king's entry into London on his accession. He was the eleventh goldsmith to hold the office of mayor of London, being elected 13 October 1482, and according to More was knighted the day before the coronation of Richard III, and made a Privy Councillor. In the following year Richard's impoverishment necessitated the sale of a large quantity of the royal plate to Shaw worth £550 13s. 4d. What is more ominous is a grant to Sir Edmund Shaw and Thomas Tyrrell, esquire of the body and brother of Sir James, who is supposed to have been implicated in the murder of the princes, of the manor of South Ockendon, Essex, in 1485 [Pat. Rolls, 2 Ric. III, m.22]. At this time the office of engraver to the Mint held by the Shaws carried the privilege of free access to the Tower without challenge by the officers. The grant suggests reward by Richard III for a specific service by Shaw and the Tyrrells. Sir Edmund died on 20 April 1488 and was buried in his chantry chapel in the church of St. Thomas of Acres, London.

John the second son of John Shaw the mercer was also in Rainford until c. 1460, but later of Rochford, Essex. There appears to have been some association between the Shaws and the Pastons. In July 1470 Sir John Paston (Gairdner, *Paston Letters*, Vol. II, p. 401) obtained a loan from Edmund Shaw on the security of twenty silver dishes, and in 1496 William Paston made a declaration before witnesses that his servant Thomas Andrew was quit of all reckonings. The witnesses included Master John Shaw, alderman of London; Master Urswyk, archdeacon of Richmond; Master Hyde, and Master Dr. Middleton. It is thus possible that the John Shaw, servant of Sir John Paston in 1472, was the John formerly of Rainford. John Osborn wrote to Paston "If it please you to take myn symple avyse in your wode sale, selle non in gret, bot make fagottes and astele, and lete alle your grete and good tymber and trees stande, and ze shall make resonably mony to your

worshp, and to your best aveyle, as John Shaw, your servaunt shall telle you. . . .”

John Shaw's son, John, the mercer's grandson, was apprenticed a goldsmith to his uncle Edmund whom he succeeded as engraver to the Mint on 26 April 1482. He thrived on the change of dynasty being in high favour with Henry VII and his ardent supporter, Sir Reynold Bray.

John was prime warden of the Goldsmiths' Company in 1491 and appointed searcher in the Port of London, 26 February 1492 at which time he was joint-master of the Mint with Sir Bartholomew Reed. In September 1495 he represented London in Parliament and as sheriff he was knighted at the foot of London Bridge after the battle of Blackheath, 17 June 1497 on the king's entering London. He was elected mayor of London in 1501 and instituted the annual mayoral banquet at the Guildhall, where he was instrumental in rebuilding the kitchens. During his later years many payments were made to Shaw in connection with the building of St. George's Chapel, Windsor [*Excerpta Historica*, S. Bentley (1831), p. 108: *Privy Purse Expenses*, Hen. VII 1496 and 1498, p. 120], and for the building of Sir Reynold Bray's manor house in Northamptonshire at Ohecote. Payment was also made to him for setting jewels and for the *George* of the Garter.

Sir John Shaw lived at Horndon House, Essex, formerly his uncle's home. He died 26 December 1503.

The sister of Sir John and daughter of John Shaw of Rainford and Rochford married William Poyntz, lord of the manor of North Ockendon; he was receiver of Essex for Henry VII's queen, Elizabeth. In North Ockendon church there is a fine brass depicting Poyntz in armour and his wife with their family of twelve children and the arms of Poyntz and Shaw.

The youngest son of John the mercer, Ralph Shaw, graduated at Cambridge B.A. 1460, and proceeded M.A., B.D. and D.D.; he was probably a fellow of Queens' College. His first benefice was Stockton rectory in Wiltshire, in the gift of the bishop of Winchester, to which he was presented in 1463, but received papal dispensation to hold an additional benefice [*Cal. of Papal Letters*, p. 493, 1465]. He was free to exchange benefices as often as he pleased. In 1464 he was presented to the rectory of Harleton, Cambridge, and later elected prebend of St. Paul's 1476-7, as well as prebend of North Grantham, Salisbury the following year.

The part Dr. Ralph played in preaching at St. Paul's Cross against the validity of Edward IV's marriage to Elizabeth Woodville and the bastardy of her children, pertains to a

wider field of discussion. Suffice to say here that despite the obloquy cast by the Tudor writers and the fluctuating political forces around the throne, the family retained favour under Richard III and Henry VII. Ralph Shaw was buried in St. Paul's in 1484 "afor the blessed figure of our Lord Jesus called the Rode of the North Door".

In his will he mentions his sister Maud who was then living in Manchester, and a nephew Edmund Lathom son of his sister to whom he left money for schooling, [P.C.C., Logge 9.] Thomas Lathom was appointed executor, he was probably of the Huyton Lathoms of Wofall; Gilbert Lathom rector of Kirk Andreas, Isle of Man, in 1542, mentions Edmund in his will: Gilbert was brother of Thomas Lathom of Wofall and the founder of Prescot grammar school. Another daughter of John the mercer married Henry Harsnape or Haresnape, a family connected with the Daltons of Bispham.

Returning to John Shaw the mercer, he and his wife Margaret were buried in the parish church of Stockport. His eldest son Sir Edmund ordained that the "connyng" priest of his grammar school at Stockport should accompany his scholars to the parish church on Wednesdays and Fridays, "unto the grave ther wher the bodies of my fader and moder lyen buryed and ther say togeder the psalm of *de profundis* with the Versicules and Collette ther accustomed after Salisbury use, and pray especially for my soule and for the soules of my fader and moder." This tomb bearing the arms of the Shaws lasted until the "restoration" of the church in 1810, when it was cast out on to a rubbish tip at Waterloo and the stone later used in an outhouse wall until this was finally destroyed.

II. WILLIAM SHAW THE SURGEON AND HIS FAMILY

In his *Berviarum Bartolomei*, 1380, John of Mirfield, canon and surgeon to St. Bartholomew's hospital wrote:—"long ago physicians used to practice surgery but nowadays there is a great distinction between surgery and medicine and this I fear arises from pride, because surgeons work with their hands; but . . . he cannot be a good physician who neglects every part of surgery and . . . a surgeon is good for nothing who is without knowledge of medicine." The status of surgery tended to degenerate towards that of the barber's trade, but the surgeons proper, mostly those who had served under a military system of indenture, or were attached to the great households, formed

a guild on similar lines to the college of St. Côme in Paris. The senior members of the guild were served by surgeon apprentices, who after satisfactory examination following seven years of study obtained a licence to practice their profession. In the early fifteenth century the designation of a military surgeon was commonly "yeoman", whose pay was that of an archer, 6d. a day. Under the system of indenture a surgeon might compound for a lump sum for his services during a stated period at the time of contract: Thomas Morstead, chief surgeon to Henry V, was paid 12d. a day plus an allowance of 100 marks a quarter for supervising the surgical organisation of the army; his twelve assistants each received 6d a day.

Towards the latter part of the fifteenth century qualified surgical practitioners were styled *surgeon* in writs, in contradistinction to the members of the barber's corporation, who, beside tonsorial work and minor surgery had to superintend brothels and were concerned with delousing as a side occupation. (Charter of Barber Surgeons 1462.)

William Shaw of Shaw Place, Heath Charnock, belonged to the Guild of Surgeons being styled *surgeon* in a prothonotary's writ of 1483. He was the elder son of William del Shaw junior of the vill of Quick in Saddleworth Frith⁽⁴⁾ as shown by a pedigree drawn up by Richard St. George, 1613, for Robert Shaw of High Bulhalgh, with transcripts of relevant charters. [Add. MSS. 32111 B.M.] Most of the charters were discovered in Preston in recent years and are now in the Lancashire Record Office.

The family were long settled at "the Shaw" in Saddleworth which they held as mesnes under the Stapletons and their successors, the Scargills, and for a time the Holands and their Radcliffe nominees. Robert of the Shagh is named in the *Concordia* between the abbot of Stanlaw and the parishioners of Saddleworth c. 1270-1280 [Chetham Soc., O.S., Vol. 10, p. 150], he appears from the early Staveley deeds to have been a member of that family [Raines MSS., Vol. XV, p. 10, Chetham Library]. From Robert the descent can be traced through the Shaw charters [L.R.O., DDL] and taxation returns [E. 179/206/47, Lay Subsidy 1332] to *Robert of the Shagh, mercator*, who heads the list of sixty-four people returned in the subsidy of 1379 for Quick, and entered under the wapentake of Morley [Yorks. Arch. Soc., Vol. VI (1881), p. 297]. His wife was probably a Hyde of Halghton, a family closely connected to the Staveleys [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/7, m.1d., 23 Hen. VI];

⁽⁴⁾ His father, William senior, held the lordship of "the Shaw" under the Radcliffes of Ordsall.

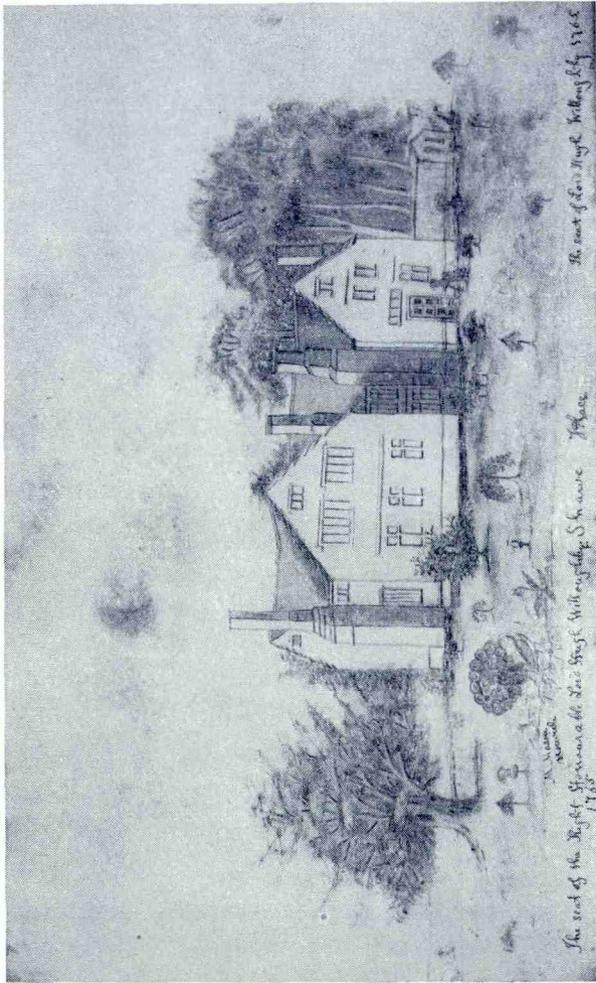


Plate 1. SHAW PLACE, HEATH CHARNOCK,
Reproduced from an eighteenth-century drawing

from Robert "the merchant", descend the family of William Shaw, surgeon, who bore arms a chevron between three lozenges [Seals to Shaw deeds; and Peter Shaw, B.D., Cooper's *Athenae Cantab* (1861)], and that of John Shaw, merchant, of Dukinfield, who bore similar arms within a bordure as used by his son, Sir Edmund, mayor of London [Coll. of Arms; and Stow, *Survey of London* (1598)], and the latter's nephew Sir John Shaw of Essex also mayor of London and one of the masters of the Mint [monument at North Ockendon, Essex]: the bearings are those derived from de Stockport, through the Hydes, who were descended from a daughter of Robert of Stockport.

The father of William the surgeon, namely, William del Shaw, married Joan⁽⁵⁾, the only daughter and heir of William Wolston by his wife Emma daughter of Sir William Harrington of Hornby [St. George pedigree]. In 1434 Wolston settled all his messuages and lands in Heath Charnock after his decease on William Shaw and Joan his wife (daughter of William Wolston) and to their son William and his issue, with remainder to Sir William Harrington and his heirs [Add. MSS. 32111, 214-20 B.M.]. In the same year a settlement of the lands of Wolston Place was made by fine levied at Lancaster, 10 September 1434, by which William Shaw the younger and Joan his wife were granted by the feoffees, Peter of Bradshaw and Henry del Rowe, twenty acres of land, two acres of meadow and eight acres of pasture to them and their heirs, with remainder to William Shaw the elder and Joan his wife for their lives, to Alan brother of William Shaw the younger, to the heirs of Joan wife of William Shaw the elder, and lastly to Sir William Harrington of Hornby and his heirs. The feoffees also granted one messuage (Wolston Place), twenty acres of land, two acres of meadow and eight acres of pasture to William Shaw the younger for two years, and after to William Shaw the elder and Joan his wife for their lives with remainder to William Shaw the younger and Joan his wife and their heirs, to Alan Shaw and his heirs, to Joan the wife of William the elder and her heirs, and in default to William Harrington and his heirs. [Lancs. Record Soc., Vol. 50, p. 100.] The occasion of this settlement was the marriage of William the future surgeon and Joan daughter of William Gerard of Ince, near Wigan.

His father William del Shaw was probably a merchant like his grandfather, Robert, and his kinsman, John Shaw of Dukin-

⁽⁵⁾ Joan, late wife of William Shawe senior, of "Hethchernok", and Anella Pilkington late of "Rovynnton", servant, with others had to answer for divers felonies. Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/29, m. 25, 6 Ed. IV.

field. His life was typical of the unsettled times of the early fifteenth century. In 1429 William del Shaw, yeoman, was charged before Sir John Stanley and James del Holt, along with his brothers Charles and George del Shaw of Saddleworth Frith, Yorkshire, gentlemen, Christopher and Geoffrey sons of William Radcliffe of Todmorden, gentlemen, William son of Richard Radcliffe of Hundersfield, gentleman, and several others of stealing a purse with 100 shillings of gold and silver from Edmund Walton, when they broke into the house of Alice del Brendwood at Clitheroe on Sunday next before Palm Sunday, 1429. They were concealed by John Walker of Waddesworth, Yorkshire, who was also indicted. Sureties were provided by Thomas Harrington of Tatham [son of Sir William of Hornby], Richard of Hodelston, Hugh of Aughton and John Banastre. All were acquitted [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/2, m.25, 7 Hen. VI].

William's sister Ann married Thomas Ashaw of Hall o'th Hill, Heath Charnock, a family at feud with the Wolstons in 1401. [Chetham Soc., N.S., Vol. 87, p. 28.]

In 1441 William Shaw the son was impleaded for debt along with Roger Booth of Bury, yeoman, and others by James of Heaton for £15. [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/4, m.10, 20 Hen. VI.] Shortly before this time he must have commenced his apprenticeship in surgery. It will be recalled that his father and mother retained Wolston Place according to the 1434 settlement, and a few years later, in 1444, he indented for service in the king's retinue. He received a lump sum payment upon his engagement by Robert Worthington of Worthington to join the royal retinue then proceeding to France. The occasion was the despatch of a strong force with the embassy of William de la Pole, earl of Suffolk, to conclude a treaty with France and to obtain the marriage of Margaret of Anjou with Henry VI. [Pal. of Lancs. Plea Rolls, 15/6, m.18d, 23 Hen. VI.]

William Shaw at Adlington on the feast of St. George was retained by Robert Worthington, and by his hand accepted the king's wages of 6 marks 2 shillings to go in the king's following to France, but he withdrew at Portsmouth. Thereafter he returned to Lancashire but when charged with treason on 27 April at Chorley by the sheriff in his tour of Leylandshire he fled to Cheshire. On 2 February 1445 the sheriff was ordered to arrest him on a charge of treason, and on Thursday in the second week of Lent 1445 he was brought before the justices at Lancaster. The sheriff, Sir John Biron, made the presentment that the indictment was insufficient in law, and

William Shaw was "without a day"; the elastic and constructive law of treason with all the severity of its penalties could not plausibly be extended to desertion in this case.

Surgeon William's only daughter Katerine married Thomas son and heir of Richard Chisnall of Chisnall in Standish. In the marriage contract Richard Chisnall, Henry Worthington of Blaynscogh, Alexander Bymson (one of the lords of Shevington) and Geoffrey of Nortonley became bound in 100 marks to William Shagh to perform the marriage covenants of Thomas son of Richard Chisnall and Katerine daughter of William: 9 February 1456-7. [L.R.O., DDL/577.]

William Shaw's eldest son, John, was born about 1435-41; in pleadings in the duchy court 1511 he gives his age as seventy, but in defending his rights to a portion of the manor of Rivington in 1507 he said that he was nearly eighty [Lancs. Rec. Soc., Vol. 32, p. 35]. John Shaw married about 1460 Elizabeth daughter of Christopher Haydock by his wife Margaret Bulhalgh, heiress through her mother to the Bulhalgh estate in Anglezarke and the Brodhurst property of the Great House, Rivington, and a moiety of that manor.

Richard son of Henry, son of Alexander of Gamelslegh gave Roger of Brodhurst 1317 an eighth part of Rivington [Add. MSS. 32111, B.M.] which descended through Roger his son and William the grandson to Helena Brodhurst the great granddaughter, who was first married to Robert of Bradshaw and had issue Margaret the wife of Anthony Banastre, and secondly to Richard Bulhalgh. The latter was sworn upon the mass book in Eccles church 1433 in the presence of Sir Geoffrey le Massey, Hugh of Tyldesley, Thomas of Tyldesley, Thomas of Chaydock and Oliver of Parre that he stood in full possession of all his lands in Anglezarke and Rivington, and that he would levy a fine at the next sessions at Lancaster in favour of his son James, and the latter's issue by Margaret the daughter of Richard of Parre, of Kempnough hall, Worsley [St. George pedigree. Add. MSS. 32111, B.M.]. There was no issue of this marriage, and the heirs of Robert Bradshaw by the first marriage of Helena Brodhurst were banned by a former award made by Sir Thomas Stanley in 1439-40. Thus the inheritance passed to Margaret, sister of James Bulhalgh, who had married Christopher Haydock, and to their daughter Elizabeth, who conveyed the same to her husband John, son and heir of William Shaw the surgeon.

James Bulhalgh also by charter 1461 settled on John Shaw all his lands and messuages in Rivington and Anglezarke [Add. MSS. 32111, B.M.]. He died without issue in 1480.

It is noticeable that William Shaw the surgeon is seldom mentioned in local affairs at this time; for instance when on 19 December 1474 old Alexander Pilkington of Rivington the owner of the larger moiety of the manor swore on his death bed that he had made no assignment of his lands in Lancashire or at Mellor in Derbyshire for a term of lives or years, this was witnessed by Giles Lever, vicar of Bolton, and many local families, including the Hultons, Levers, Heatons, and John Shaw but not the father [Add. MSS. 32107; 1717 B.M.]. Again in 1482 John Shaw witnessed a grant by Richard Wigan the elder to Robert Anlesargh (as feoffee) of all his land in Heath Charnock [Towneley MSS. 2046. Add. MSS. 32107, B.M.], and in 1487 John Shaw of Heath Charnock, Thurston Anderton of Anderton esq., and Thomas Longworth of Longworth were bound to Robert Pilkington of Rivington in £20 concerning a marriage agreement between Alice, daughter of Laurence Ashaw, and Richard, son and heir of Robert Pilkington. This suggests that most of William's professional life was in other parts and we have some indication of the direction by a grant from Thomas, Lord Stanley, on 2 September 1478, who by charter passed at Anglezarke, "as steward of the hospital of the lord king", gave to William Shaw and John his son and heir, forty waggon loads of turf yearly from the turbaries in the manor of Anglezarke to be used in the tenement of William Shaw called Shaw Place in Heath Charnock, formerly Wolston's, rendering a red rose yearly if demanded [Add. MSS. 32111, 21420, B.M. Pedigree 1613]. It is possible that Shaw was attached as surgeon to the Stanley household.

In 1484 William Shaw and his son John became indebted to William Clayton and William Anderton of Worden and the following writ was issued by the prothonotary:—"Richard to the sheriff of Lancaster we order thee to take William Shagh late of Heth Chernock in thy county, *surgeon*, John Shagh late of Heth Chernock in thy county, *yeoman*, otherwise John Shagh son and heir of the said William, Christopher Mathyer late of Anderton in thy county, husbandman, if they are to be found in thy bailiwick, and keep them safely so that thou shallst bring them before our justices at Cliderow, on Tuesday in the vigil of the Exaltation of the Cross (13 September), to reply to William Clayton son and heir of James Clayton esq., and William Anderton of Werdon of a plea that the said William Shagh shall pay them back 40 marks, and of a plea that the said John Shagh shall pay them back 40 marks, and of a plea that the said Christopher shall pay them back 40 marks, which they owe them and unjustly withhold as they say"

[Pal. of Lancs. Writs Proton., file 1 and 2 Ric. III, Pl. 20/9]. On the dorse is the entry, "William Shaw and all the others named in this writ were not found in my bailiwick."

It is interesting to note that William Anderton named in the writ was son of Oliver who was murdered by his wife Ellen Kenyon and his sons. William Anderton's son Thurstan was closely associated with William Shaw's son John, in a dispute with the Pilkingtons concerning the lands of Rilshurst in Rivington. By indenture 26 January 1488 Thurstan Anderton of Anderton, esq., and John Shaw of Heath Charnock on the one part, and Robert Pilkington of Rivington on the other were bound to the observance of the award of William Worthington of Worthington, esq., Edmund Langton of Wigan and James Urmston of Ince concerning the claim of John Shaw to the land of Rilshurst in Rivington. In another Towneley transcript the disputed land is called Gilshurst [Towneley MSS. 1951 and 2047. Add. MSS. B.M.]. The modern name is Gilsbrook.

There is no further mention of William Shaw, surgeon, but his son John continued to live at Shaw Place according to duchy pleadings in 1507 between him and the Brodhurst descendants, Robert Banastre and Hugh Eccleston, where it is stated that "John-a-Shaa of the parish of Standish with great force keeps the said lands [Rivington and Anglezarke] from the plaintiffs which John is a man of great riches living near to the said lands and mony gret gentleman in that country mayntain hym." [Lancs. Rec. Soc., Vol. 32, p. 33.]

John's son James, born in 1462, married his kinswoman Constance, daughter of William Gerard of Ince, and they were cited to appear, 13 February 1528-9, before Bishop Thomas in St. Paul's Cathedral, his marriage being within the proscribed degrees of consanguinity [Towneley MSS. 2012. Add. MSS. B.M.]. From them Shaw Place and the Rivington property descended in the family until Peter, son of the Rev. Peter Shaw, fellow of the Manchester College, sold the estate to Lord Willoughby of Parham about 1700, but John Shaw, Peter's grandson, married Elizabeth the sister and coheirress of Hugh, Lord Willoughby [the fifth baron of the 1685 creation] and succeeded to the Rivington portion of the former Shaw inheritance [Coll. of Arms, Salt ped. Also Hulme wills, L.R.O.]; on his wife's death in 1787 this was divided amongst their sons and daughters [Pal. of Lancs. Feet of F., bdlc 373, m.122. Will P.C.C., 1787]. The Anglezarke property of High Bulhalgh, was purchased about 1606 by Robert Shaw of Trafford, the deputy sheriff, from his cousin Robert of Shaw Place, and

descended through the vicars of Cockerham, Robert and his son Laurence Shaw, to the latter's son Robert who broke the entail and sold the property on 22 November 1732 to John Breres, linen draper of Chorley. The remainder of this portion of the estate in Tockholes, Livesey and Ulnes Walton were conveyed by Fleetwood Shaw, linen draper of Preston, son of Robert Shaw, junior, of High Bulhalgh to Edward Bullen in 1765. Fleetwood Shaw was buried at Preston in 1778 and was pre-deceased by his son Henry, the surviving son Richard endeavoured to recover the estate without avail, and an interesting letter [DDL/608] concerning this venture is preserved in the Lancashire Record Office. The letter is dated 11 September 1773.