ANYONE who had the curiosity to study upon the modern ordnance map the relative extent and boundaries of the townships of Much (or Great) and Little Woolton before they were incorporated in the city of Liverpool, could not fail to be struck by the fact that, contrary to what one would expect to find from their names, Little Woolton is not far from twice as large as its neighbour, the exact figures being given as 1,388 acres as against the 795 acres of Much Woolton. Of course, boundaries change from time to time, even when originally influenced by natural features, but if the words "Little" and "Much" are to be given in this case their ordinary meanings (as I think must be done), the position is a little puzzling and requires an explanation. But it goes some way to clear up the mystery when it is understood that Little Woolton now (as indeed for many hundreds of years) includes not only that township itself, but two other "vills" or homesteads, which once were both separate from it, namely, Brettargh or Brettargh Holt and Wibald's Lee. The latter was in modern times roughly represented by the estate of The Lee or Lee Park, and only occurs, so far as I am aware, as a Domesday estate held by Ulbert, and its medieval history is entirely

1 These notes were compiled many years ago and no opportunity has occurred to revise and extend them, or to take into account recent changes in the rural character of the district. A branch of the family was dealt with by the Rev. Cuthbert Formby, O.S.B., in his paper on "The Brettarghs of Ince Blundell" (Transactions, vol. 86, p. 93). I have notes of many others of the name whom I have been unable to place in the pedigree, though they can hardly have derived from any other place.
The name seems to mean Wigbald's field. It is sufficient here to say that it probably included so much of modern Little Woolton as lies to the south of Belle Vale Road and Nether Lee Road. Thus at one stroke Little Woolton must be reduced by about 450 acres, and the deduction of between two and three hundred acres more for the vill of Brettargh completes the process; and Little Woolton proper then takes its true place as inferior in size to its neighbour. Even if this view of the origin of the names "Much" and "Little" is not accepted, the fact remains that Brettargh, the subject of the following notes, was at one time not a part of Little Woolton and had quite a separate history.

Brettargh Holt lies in the extreme north-east corner of the township of Little Woolton, and could be recognised, roughly, in The Holt Farm of about 230 acres, bounded on the north and east respectively by the townships of Roby and Tarbock, on the west by Naylor's Road and on the south by the Childwall Brook. But there is some reason to think the vill of Brettargh was somewhat larger, and it may have included land farther west up to the Childwall Brook; and certainly, at one time, the owners of Brettargh also possessed Wheathill, a property which now lies in Roby, just across the boundary road.

The place-name Brettargh, pronounced Bretter, occurs in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries as Bretharve, Bretharch and Brettargh. The name itself does not appear in Wyld and Hurst's Place-Names of Lancashire, nor in the Rev. J. Sephton's Handbook of Lancashire Place-Names. Similar variant forms occur for Goosnargh and Grimsargh, and the suffix of these two is explained by Wyld and Hurst as haerg, a temple, grove, hill, or place of worship, and so they may mean Gosa's hill and

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1 Some notes on the later history of The Lee will be found in the Cheshire Sheaf, Series III, vol. 9, p. 8, and vol. 12, p. 33.
Grimm's grove or temple. What then may Brettargh mean? Mr. Sephton's view, communicated to the writer, was that it is equivalent to Bright's erg, that is, Bright's farm or estate. *(Beorht* appears in old forms as *berth, bercht, bright, bret.*) The fact that the form *Bret-sargh* is not found, was not, in Mr. Sephton's view, conclusive, as the genitival "s" is a very uncertainly preserved element.¹ Ekwall also gives the second element as *ergh = shieling, a hill pasture* (which does not fit the case), and the first as apparently the genitive of Old Norse *Breter*, Britons.

From the fifteenth century, the place was called Brettargh Holt, or simply The Holt. The latter has various meanings, such as stronghold, a refuge, or simply, an abode; also a wood or copse or a wooded knoll. Probably 'residence' is all it means here.

The earliest appearance of Brettargh in the records seems to be about 1180–5, which it is probably not wrong in fixing as about the date of a charter ² whereby John, constable of Chester and lord of the barony of Widnes granted the "vill" of Brettargh to William de Suonis. The gift was coupled with the right to pannage and to enjoy all easements belonging to the vill of Little Woolton, and with the obligation to pay an annual rent of 18d. to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, to whom the constable had given Much Woolton, probably only a few years before.³ Nothing more is known of

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¹ The French word *bretasche*, equivalent to Latin *turris* and our *keep*, is noted, but merely to show it has not been overlooked.
² Quoted in *Vic. Co. Hist. Lancs.* (here referred to as *V.C.H.*), iii, p. 118. There is a sixteenth-century copy in the Aston Hall Charters (Brit. Mus.) endorsed, "A true copy of th' originall dede of the Holte." The witnesses were "Ric. de Cestria, Geoffrey his brother, Ric. de Molineus, Ric. Blundell, Hugh de Heccleston, Hugh de Ditton, Eytrop, Ric. de Mohedene, Robert, Warin, Simon the clerk and others."
³ This grant has not been found, but reasons are given by Mr. Robert Gladstone for thinking it was made between 1175 and 1185 in his paper on "Early Charters of the Knights Hospitallers relating to Much Woolton" in vol. 54, p. 175, of the *Trans.* The rent of 18d. is mentioned in the *Inq. p.m.*
Suonis, or of the devolution of Brettargh, for about a hundred years, until we find it in the hands of John de Sutton and his son Robert. The boundaries had been in dispute between Sutton and the abbot of Stanlow, who had been given Little Woolton, and they were settled by a document,\(^1\) executed before 1241, which clearly shows that Brettargh and Little Woolton were then quite separate. But towards the end of the thirteenth century, Brettargh loses its identity as a separate "vill" and becomes merged for ever in Little Woolton. I cannot help thinking this was, in some way, the result of the successful claim to Little Woolton put forward about 1275 by the Hospitallers. To them, shortly after the death of his father in 1190, Roger de Lacy, constable of Chester, had given Little Woolton, but almost immediately took it away and gave it to the abbey of Stanlow. The latter held it for nearly 100 years, but in October 1292 a final arrangement was come to whereby Little Woolton was handed over to the Hospitallers, who thus became the holders of both the Wooltons.\(^2\) In June 1292, we find the prior had included in his alleged manorial rights at Woolton, a claim to felon's goods in Brettargh from which, as we have seen, he derived a yearly rent, and it seems very likely that the payment of rent was treated as showing manorial dependence, and was the cause of Brettargh henceforth being considered as within Little Woolton.

Early in the fourteenth century Brettargh passed into the hands of the most influential family in Lancashire and one whose pedigree probably goes back to pre-conquest times, namely, the ancestors in the female line of William Brettargh in 1609, but no doubt the gradual fall in the value of money and the subdivision of the estates were causes for its non-collection and gradual disappearance. The deed of settlement of Brettargh in 1727–8 does not mention the obligation.

\(^1\) Whalley Coucher, 805–6.

\(^2\) See Mr. Gladstone's paper referred to above.
of the Earls of Derby. From a second wife of Robert of Lathom (d. 1198) there came a family "de Knowsley," and from them again a branch "de Huyton," and it is in the possession of William de Huyton some years before his death, about 1328, that Brettargh is found. How or when he, or his father Henry, acquired it we do not know. ¹

A heavy chain of litigation hung round the necks of William de Huyton and his heirs, but as it chiefly related to the Huyton lands, we need not deal with the facts here. ² It is fairly clear that about 1324 he settled Brettargh and about 100 acres of land on one Avice, according to one account his discarded wife, but according to another (and more probably), his daughter. Avice was then the wife of Roger the Walker (or fuller), son of John the Walker of Tarbock, and they became "de Brettargh" and apparently founded ³ the family of that name. In 1332 Roger was still of Tarbock where we find he contributed 2s. 4d. toward 4s. paid by that township in respect of the exchequer subsidy collected for the Scotch wars of Edward III. ⁴ That Roger and Avice had two sons, William and John de Brettargh, is certain, but then, in the old pedigrees, there follows a succession of Williams whose existence is attested by numerous records, but whose identities are confusing and their arrangement in the pedigree which follows is only tentative. One of them in the time of Richard II is stated by the old pedigrees to have espoused the heiress of Hugh de Ince, and some credence may be attached to this as the heralds

¹ It seems likely that it was for cutting wood upon this estate that the Prior of the Hospitallers complained in 1306 and 1307 against the Huyton father and son. See V.C.H., iii, p. 169.
² The conflicting details are given in V.C.H., iii, 170n.
³ A Sir Hugh de Brettargh, Kt., of Co. Lancs. is mentioned in the pedigree of Hatton of Hatton, Co. Chester (Ormerod, i, 745; ii. 795). His dau. Matilda is said to have married Adam lord of Hatton, who was alive in 1259-60. No other mention of this Sir Hugh has been noticed.
of 1664 allowed the arms of Ince as one of the Brettargh quarterings. There is not much of interest to note during this period save that one John Brettargh, chaplain, was instituted vicar of Eastham, Cheshire, in April 1403, but left in August of that year to become vicar of Rhuddlan in Wales.

Towards the end of the fifteenth century, matters become much clearer, and the descent can be accurately traced, generation by generation, through inquisitions post-mortem, wills, church registers and other records, to living persons who thus have a pedigree of which they may reasonably be proud. Though never a family of the front rank, the Brettarghs of Brettargh Holt were of prominence and position in Lancashire; for many hundreds of years members of the family acted as justices of the peace, and in other official positions, and became connected by marriage with numerous important Lancashire families. But these notes are not intended as a detailed family history, and I have not attempted to do more than to point out in the pedigree which follows, any interesting personalities which occur in it generation by generation. Probably never a rich family, the Brettargh fortunes began to go down hill in the seventeenth century, largely owing to the extravagance and recklessness of Nehemiah Brettargh and his son James. Further heavy liabilities were incurred by James, grandson of the latter, who, it seems, sold the valuable property at Aigburth, which had come to the family in the sixteenth century by the marriage with the heiress of John Toxteth. By consent of his son, another James, the entail of "The Holt" was broken, and the ancestral estates heavily mortgaged. Some time before his death, in 1747, James Brettargh seems to have been forced to leave "The Holt" and he was the last of the family to live there. His sons and grandsons we find in trade in Liverpool, Manchester and abroad, but not apparently with much
success. The will of James Brettargh, who died in 1786, shows that he could do nothing for his sons, and could only leave his daughter his interest in £600 under his mother's marriage settlement. About the year 1790 "The Holt" estate was thrown into Chancery for non-payment of a mortgage; and appears to have passed into the hands of Dr. Thomas Rawson. It remained in the possession of the Rawson family for a considerable time, though they had left Lancashire. At one time used as a school, "The Holt" was subsequently owned by Mr. Froes, and tenanted as a farm by Mr. J. E. Scotson.

As can be seen from their wills, and from the entries in the church register, the Brettargh family were for many generations buried under the chancel within Childwall church. Some of their gravestones were removed during the alterations in 1851, and were used in flagging the nave. A brass plate upon the chancel wall still commemorates some later members of the family.¹ From the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, the Brettargs took a prominent part in the management of the affairs of the parish and church. Their signatures to the wardens' accounts usually appear second in the list of parishioners and follow those of members of the Norris family of Speke, but precede those of the Lathom of Allerton Hall, and the owner of The Lee.

**The Arms.**

To a deed in the Aston Hall Charters (Brit. Mus.), dated the Sunday before the feast of St. Wilfred the Bishop 31 Edward III (1357), by which Avis de Brettargh demised to Wm. de Wolton one-third of the manor of Huyton, there is attached an oval seal of green wax bearing, on a heater-shaped shield, what appear to be three lions rampant, with the legend AVIS DE BRETTARGE.

¹ "Notes on Childwall," *Trans.*, vol. 65, p. 86.
The arms of Brettargh of Brettargh Holt were allowed at Dugdale's Visitation of 1664 as follows:

Quarterly: 1. argent, a fret gules, on a chief or crusilly, a lion passant. (Brettargh.)
2. Argent, a chevron sable, in chief three pellets. (Toxteth.)
3. Or, two bars vert. (Aigburth.)
4. Argent, on a bend azure cotised gules, three mullets or. (Ince.)

The Ince arms appear to have come into the Brettargh coat in the fourteenth century by a marriage with the heiress of Hugh Ince, who was probably of Wigan, and the brother of Gilbert de Ince, and son of Richard de Ince. The Toxteth and Aigburth coats would come in after the marriage of William Brettargh (d. 1585) with the heiress of John Toxteth of Aigburth.

As will be seen in the following pedigree, William Brettargh (d. 1609) refers in his will to "his hanging tables, pictures and seals of arms," and James Brettargh (d. 1666) refers in his will to his coats of arms depicted upon "tables" (probably panels) and seals and in particular to a "table or picture hanging in the parlour" at "The Holt." It was interesting to find in the possession of the family of the late Charles Brettargh, of Egremont, Wirral (a direct descendant), a shield of arms painted upon an oval oak panel, which might be one of these very "tables," though, from the shape and general appearance, one would hardly think it was earlier than the end of the eighteenth century. A coloured shield quarterly of 6 is shown, viz: 1. Brettargh, 2. Toxteth, 3. Aigburth, 4. A coat probably intended for Bushell, i.e. a chevron between three water-bougets, but if so the tinctures are wrong. 5. Ince, 6. Chisenhall. The crest above the shield is a lion's paw holding an ostrich feather. Underneath the coat is the motto "Jehovah Nissi" (God
our Banner). The marriage to a Chisenhall occurred in the sixteenth century, and James Brettargh (d. 1665) married Deborah Bushell, but neither of these wives was an heiress. In any event, the last three quarterings are out of order.

A reproduction is here given of two stones which some years ago were in the garden at "The Holt." The top stone is of the seventeenth century and shows the coat of Brettargh impaling Bushell; it rested upon an earlier date-stone bearing the letters "A.D. 158–W. B.", erected no doubt shortly before the death of William Brettargh in 1585.

The material and authorities which I have used are numerous, but the more important are as follows:


(c) The pedigree in Dugdale's Visitation of Lancashire, 1664.

(d) The account of Brettargh Holt in vol. 3 of Vict. Hist. of Lancashire.

(e) References in the Owen MSS. (Manchester Public Library).
(f) A collection of papers, including entries in a family Bible 200 years old, in the possession of the family of the late Charles Brettargh of Egremont.

(g) A bound manuscript in the possession of the Leeming family of Lancaster, prepared by Joseph Gillow in April 1887, entitled "An Account of the Family of Brettargh of Brettargh Holt, with a brief description and history of Woolton Hall and the old Benedictine Mission.” (I did not find this of much value and noticed many inaccuracies. Mr. Gillow apparently did not know that there were any living descendants in the male line.)

(h) Family papers in the possession of the Leeming family kindly lent, through the late J. Brownbill, by Miss Leeming and her brother. These included some of the references to the Childwall registers which I have incorporated in the pedigree, but I have examined them myself.

PEDIGREE.

I. John the Walker, of Tarbock, Co. Lancs. (V.C.H. Lancs., iii, 119), had a son,

II. Roger the Walker, of Tarbock. He occurs 1324 (V.C.H., loc. cit.) and 1332 (Ex. Subsidy Roll) and was d. by 1346; mar. Avice, dau. (or discarded wife) of William de Huyton (a descendant of Siward son of Dunning, the earliest recorded ancestor of the Lathom and Stanley families), who settled Brettargh in Little Woolton upon her and her issue. (She seems to have mar. (2) Wm. de Stockley (V.C.H., iii, 170). They had issue:

i. William (III).

ii. John (IV).

III. William, "son of Roger the Walker of Brettargh," occurs in 1346 and 1358 (V.C.H., loc. cit.) and 1365 (Aston Hall Charters).
IV. John de "Brettargh" occurs 1346 (loc. cit.). He is stated to have married Margaret, dau. of John Ditchfield of Ditton, Co. Lancs. Perhaps the same as "John de Bretar" of the parish of Childwall, for whose death Richard Flechere of "Wulveton" (Woolton) was pardoned in 1357 (Cal. Pat. Roll).

V. William Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt, son of either (III) or (IV), occurs as a witness 1373, 1378–9 and 1382–3 (Aston Hall Charters); stated to have mar. Katherine . . . and to have had issue:
1. William (VI) (William Brettargh "sen." was a witness in July 1402 (Aston Hall Charters).
3. Margaret.

VI. William Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt; his name occurs as witness 1420–35 (Aston Hall Charters); appears to have mar. Mary, dau. and heiress of Hugh Ince, and is stated to have had issue:
1. William (VII).
2. Hugh.
3. Henry.

VII. William Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt; he (or his son) occurs as witness 1461–73 and 1477–84 (Aston Hall Charters). In June 1485 William "Bretter" of Little Woolton, who was charged with uttering false coin at Warrington, being described as a "yeoman," objected that he should be styled "gentleman" and his claim was allowed (Pal. of Lanc. Plea Roll 63, m. 14);
stated to have mar. Florence or Frances . . .
and to have had issue:
1. William (VIII).
2. Hugh.
3. Edward, a clerk.

VIII. William Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt; he (or his son) was a justice of quorum for Lanes. 1502; d. before 1505; mar. Joan, dau. of John Eccleston of Eccleston, Co. Lancs. As his widow she sued Randle Billington for dower of 20 houses and 250 acres of land in Oscroft in Tarvin, Co. Chester, 1505-6 (Ormerod, Cheshire (1882), ii, 307). They had a son,

IX. William Brettargh of Brettargh Holt; commissioner for subsidy 1514; mar. Eleanor, dau. of W. Lathom of Parbold and Allerton ("Ellnor Bretter" was bur. at Childwall 21 Jan. 1577). His inq. p.m. 1527 shows that he held a cottage, dovecote and 100 acres in Little Woolton (i.e. Brettargh Holt), held of the Prior of St. John by fealty and a rent of 18d. (the same service as in the charter to Wm. de Suonis, ante, p. 213) (V.C.H., iii, 118-19). Issue:
1. William (X).
2. ? Thomas, party to actions relating to Woolton and Garston property 1584-6 (Cal. Duc. Lanc.).
3. Anne, mar. Wm. Spencer of Huyton or Hooton.

X. William Brettargh of Brettargh Holt; 11 years old at inq. p.m. of father. Died 1585. His inq. p.m. shows he held the Holt, a dovecote and water mill, of Queen Elizabeth (as of the dissolved priory) by a rent of 18d., a windmill in Little Woolton held of Sir Wm. Norris of Speke (Lee Mill, purchased in 2 Eliz. from Sir W. N.
for £60 (Aston Hall Charters); also Aigburth Hall and other lands in Garston (V.H.C., iii, 119); mar. Anne, dau. and co-heiress of John Toxteth of Aigburth, and so acquired estates there, some of which he sold in 1573 (V.C.H., iii, 126). May have had a second wife, as “Catherine widow of Wm. Brettargh arm.” was bur. at Childwall 3 Jan. 1600. Leased the Holt estate to Ed. Norris of Speke in 26 Eliz. (Aston Hall Charters). Issue:

1. William (XI).


XI. William Brettargh of Aigburth; died in his father’s lifetime, circa 1582. Inventory dated 31 Oct. 1583 and admon. granted 1 March 1601–2 to relict. In Oct. 1601 there were proceedings in the Consistory Court, Chester, relating to a pretended admon. promoted by Thomas Lineal, alderman of Chester, and Kath. his wife, against the relict, Ed. Chisenhall and Wm. Brettargh. The relict stated her husband died about 18 years ago in London or “subarbes” thereof, without a will. She was Maud (alias Matilda), dau. of Thos. Chisenhall of Chisenhall, Co. Lancs. Admon. of her estate gr. Chester 19 March 1617–18 to her son-in-law Wm. Fox, for the use of Jonathan, William, Joshua and Chisenhall, children of her son Richard deceased. Issue:

1. William (XII).

2. Richard Brettargh; d. by 19 March 1617–18, leaving issue:

(a) Chisenhall Brettargh of Hindley; captain; lieut. at the siege of
Lathom; contributor to erection of Hindley Chapel; bur. Wigan 12 Dec. 1645; mar. Alice . . ; probably it is her will, as "of Duxbury," pr. Chester 11 Aug. 1685 by dau. Elizabeth. They had issue:
(1) Edward Chisenhall Brettargh, alive 1664, apparently dead by 1685.
(2) ? Jonathan Brettargh, ob. s.p. before 1664.
(1) Elizabeth, bap. 19 Aug. 1644 at Wigan; alive 1685.
(2) Frances, d. before 1685.
(c) William Brettargh. One Gulielmus Bretherus matric. at Douay 27 May 1599, with other Angli ut pauperes (Douay Diaries (1878), App. IV 1).
(d) Joshua Brettargh.
3. John Brettargh; apparently mar. (1) Alice Lever, at Bolton 3 Sept. 1605, she bur. Childwall 3 Feb. 1607–8, and (2) Alice, dau. of Robt. Leche, LL.D., Chan-

1 Ex inf. the Rev. Cuthbert Formby, O.S.B.
cellor of Chester 1562 (mar. lic. 31 March 1609). Nuncupative will of John Brettargh, of Little Woolton, gent., dated 14 Jan. 1623; bequeathed his goods to his wife Alice; admon. gr. Chester to widow 9 Feb. 1623-4. One of the witnesses, Scholastica Fox, is described in a deposition as wife of William Fox *generosus*, aged about 40. Inventory inc. "a tack of sowing grounde to continue yet fyve yeares" value £30 p.a.


1. Scholastica, bap. 23 Feb. 1582/3 (Childwall Reg.) and mar. Wm. Fox (of Toxteth) on 24 July 1599 at Childwall.

2. Anne.

XII. William Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt; age given as 14 at *inq. p.m.* of his grandfather 1585; bap. 8 July 1572 at Childwall: High Constable of West Derby 1600; d. 23 April and bur. at Childwall 25 April 1609; *inq. p.m.* 27 Sept. 1609 (*Lancs. Inqs. p.m.*, Rec. Soc., i, 139); he held the Holt and 170 acres of the King, rent 18d., Aigburth Hall, several houses and 96 acres in Garston, held of Sir Wm. Norris as of the manor of Garston, rent a barbed arrow or 3d. Will dated 8 April 1608, proved P.C.C. (Dorset 66) by widow Anne on 27 June 1609: "to be buried in the sepulchre of my fathers in the chancel of the parish church of Childwall, being the ancient and accustomed place of burial belonging to me and my ancestors before me for my house of Brettargh Holte and no filthy superstition of Popery shall be used about my funeral"; refers to settlements of
1 Aug. 1603 (parties, self, Rob. Duckinfield of Duckinfield esq., Ric. Gerrard, B.D., parson of Stockport, Robert Hyde of Norbury esq. and Hamnet Hyde, his son and heir) under which he gave the Holt to his wife Anne for life in lieu of dower; to his dau. Anne his capital messuage "Aikburghe" in Garston (then occupied by his mother Maude), with fishings in the Mersey and Otterspool; his son Nehemiah may redeem it for £100; his interests in Co. Derby and one-fourth of manors of Penyston and Newton-on-Derwent, Co. York, under deeds of 1 July and 29 Aug. 1603 between self and Hamnet Hyde, he devised to Rob. Dukinfield and John Bruen of Stapleford esq. in trust for dau. Catherine and on her death unmar. for dau. Elizabeth; to son Nehemiah his books, "hanging tables, pictures and seals of arms." Witnesses, Edmund Hopwood (? the vicar of Childwall), Edw. Aspinwall, John Brettargh, Wm. Singleton, Thos. Aspinwall, Thos. Orme, Wm. Fox.

Mar. (i) Katherine, dau. of John Bruen of Bruen-Stapleford, Co. Chester, a celebrated Puritan.¹ She d. 31 May 1601, aged 22, and bur. Childwall 3 June (Lancs. Fun. Certifs., i, 37). Issue: a daughter Anne who mar., by licence dated 11 July 1622, Gilbert Gerrard of Crewood, Co. Chester. William Brettargh mar. (2), on 5 August 1602 at Stockport, Anne, dau. of Wm. and Margaret Hyde of Urmston, Co. Lancs., who may have mar. (2) — Aldem. They had issue:

1. Nehemiah (XIII).

1. Lydia, bap. 15 May 1603 at Stockport, bur. 16 Dec. 1603 at Middleton.

¹ For her, see V.C.H. Lancs., iii, 119n.
The Brettarghs of Brettargh Holt in Woolton.

2. Katherine, bap. Childwall 5 Aug. 1606, mar. Edward Stockley at Prescot 1 Feb. 1633/4. He seems to have d. before 1667 and she was dead by 1671 (Prescot Court Rolls).


XIII. Nehemiah Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt, bap. 1 June 1606 (Childwall Reg.); aged 3 years 4 mos. and 7 days at inq. p.m. of father; compounded for £10 instead of taking up compulsory knighthood 1631; freeman of Liverpool 1644; d. 27 Sept. 1659 (see account of his son James); bur. (?) at Childwall 3 Oct. 1659 as "of Aigburth"; mar. 3 Feb. 1624-5 Catherine, dau. of Ed. Smith of Knowsley. ("Scislie," wife of Nehemiah Brettargh esq. of Aigburth, was bur. at Childwall 23 Jan. 1656/7.) Issue:

1. James (XIV).

2. William; of Prescot and Penketh; burgess of Liverpool 1662; entered on Preston Guild Roll 1642; and living in 1679; mar. Anne Gleve of Warrington, who was probably the Anne Brettargh, late of Prescot, widow, whose admon. granted Con. Court, Chester, 20 March 1697, to Mary, wife of John Horton of Penketh, blacksmith. They had issue, Nehemiah Brettargh, born 30 March 1658 at Childwall, and living in 1660.


1. Anne, mar. Christopher Powell.


3. Katherine, born 24 Sept. 1629 (Childwall Reg.).
XIV. James Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt; born 23 Sept. 1626; aged 38 at Visitation of 1664; paid hearth tax for The Holt on 9 hearths in 1662; entered a pedigree at Dugdale’s Visitation 1664; freeman of Liverpool 1662; executed a settlement upon his younger children of the Aigburth property and of Wheathill in Roby. Of him and his father, William Blundell of Crosby, in one of his mortuary letters in 1666 to Laurence Ireland (Trans. Hist. Soc. Lanc. & Ches., vol. 36, p. 37), writes:

"... the death of a certain young squire in these parts is very remarkable; but I shall tell you a word of his life. He was adorned in the days of usurpation with the virtues then in fashion. He was a singular zealot, a very sufficient preacher; in short he was, as they used to call it, a gifted man. But afterwards when the wind turned and had blown hypocrisy out of the doors, my gentleman’s mask fell off, and then he appeared no better than one of the wicked. In fine, he drank lustily and followed the ‘ging’ or rather led it, a private ‘ging’ of his own in Prescot Parish. But this new course of his within a few years was interrupted by a dropsy with which notwithstanding he struggled a long time very courageously, and had gained much ground, so that away he ventures to Warrington, where passing the day merrily, and returning well laden in the night he catched a grievous fall on the highway, from whence being carried to his house he ended the unhappy play with a tragic exit. This was the eldest son of that honest good fellow with the two hard names (Nehemiah Brettargh), who having practised the same jovial trade for some 20 or 30 years, and going merry to bed (at the house of your noble friend, with whom you must divide the Commons) was found to be stark dead the following morning."

James Brettargh was bur. 25 Oct. 1665 at Childwall; will dated 23 Oct. 1665, pr. at Chester 7 Nov. 1666, with admon. to widow; "to be buried in the sepulchre of my fathers in the middest of the Chancell of the parish Church of Childwall"; to Jonathan, his son and heir "all coates of armes whether depicted uppon
tables or engraven uppon seales, what belong to me and have anciantly to my progenitors, viz. one seale ring of gold, one silver seale and one table or picture hanging in the parlour belonging to Bretargholt and all seales or tables of the Bretarghs coate that I shall have at the time of my departure out of this world";
to his brothers-in-law, John and Edward Bushell of London, merchants, a gold seal ring with a death's head engraven, to his sisters-in-law, Alice Smith and Mary Cudworth, a similar gold ring enamelled after the best fashion. He mar. Deborah, dau. of John Bushell, of Mickle-dale, Co. Chester. She appears to have m. (2) John Chandler of Liverpool, alderman (mar. lic. Chester, 23 March 1667-8, where she is termed spinster). She may be "Mrs. Challenge," bur. at Childwall 24 July 1686. Her will, as Deborah Bretargh, alias Chandler, of Bretargh Holt, dated 11th July, with cod. 16 July 1686, proved Chester 2 Aug. 1686 by Edward Bushell; "to be buried in the Chancell next to my husband James Bretergh in Childo";
left £48 to Mordecai Cocket when he had settled the Cockshead estate on her granddaughter Deborah, his wife, and her children; mentions her daughter "Hutchins"; signs the will "Deborah Chandler" but used a seal marked "D.B." Issue:
1. Nehemiah, born Sept. and bap. 27 Dec. 1650 (?) (Childwall Reg.).
2. Jonathan (XV).
3. Edward Bretargh, born 7 May 1657 (Childwall Reg.).
4. James Bretargh, born 5 April 1658 (Childwall Reg.).

2. Mary, born 24 June 16— (Childwall Reg.); mar. at Childwall 2 July 1667, Randle Richardson of St. Peter's, Chester, linen draper, by lic. dated 29 June 1667. They had issue: Edward and Phoebe. Mrs. Mary Richardson was bur. at Childwall 8 July 1685.


4. Elizabeth, born in London 13 April 1655 (Childwall Reg.), probably mar. 27 May 1680 at Childwall, John Plombe of Grassendale.

5. Catherine (?) mar. —— Hitchmough.


XV. Jonathan Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt; aged 8 in 1664; born 25 May 1656 (Childwall Reg.); ed. Huyton School; settled all his estates in 1681 subject to certain charges to meet his many debts; bur. at Childwall 19 Feb. 1684-5; will dated 6 Feb. 1684-5, pr. Chester 23 May 1685 by wife Anne and brother-in-law Henry Orme of Prescot; "to be interred in my burial place belonging to my family within the parish church of Childwall"; mar. 17 Nov. 1674, at Childwall, Anne, dau. of —— Orme of Little Woolton. She was possibly the same as "Mrs. Ann Breterige of Huyton par. from Wheatele" [Wheathill], bur. Childwall 16 Jan. 1685-6. Issue:
1. James (XVI).
2. John, bap. 18 June 1677 at Childwall, bur. 4 April 1678 there.
3. Nehemiah, born 2 and bap. 5 Feb. 1678/9 at Childwall.
4. Thomas, born 30 Nov. and bap. 16 Dec. 1680 at Childwall as of Roby; mentioned in grandmother's will 1686. Perhaps the same as "Thomas Brettargh, late of Liverpool, but in the West Indies, merchant" whose admon. was gr. Chester 26 Dec. 1717 to John Bailey of Warrington, his principal creditor.
5. William, born 12 Jan. 1684; student at Douay; deacon.

XVI. James Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt, born 24 Nov. and bap. 8 Dec. 1675 at Childwall; educ. Jesus Coll. Camb., ad. 19 Oct. 1693, scholar; a deed (Coleman Coll., Liverpool Pub. Lib.) dated March 1711/12, between this James Brettargh and Thos. Cooke, then of Little Woolton, his uncle, John Hurst of Scholes, Thos. Cobham of Prescot, and Sam. Williamson of Crompton, watchmaker, recited his ownership of about 40 acres of copyhold land in Little Woolton, and his debt of £336 to Cooke, and settled the copyholds, together with The Holt and 80 Cheshire acres, upon trust for sale and payments of debts. Some of the land was sold and part of the debts paid, but in 1726 a further sum of £550, afterwards increased to £1,400, had to be raised by mortgage of The Holt to
the exors. of Wm. Clayton. In 1728 James Brettargh had incurred more debts and a deed of 1 Feb. 1727/8 (Coleman Coll. 45, Lancs.) was entered into between James and his son James, Isaac Green, Wm. Taylor, Dan. Lawton and Thos. Cobham, under which the two last were to sell portions of the property to pay debts and keep down the interest on the Clayton mortgage, and to provide £300 due to Ann Hancock and her son Anthony Wells, £500 for younger children, £150 owed by James the son to his brother Thomas, any surplus (after an annuity of £40 to wife Anne) to go to son James. James Brettargh probably sold his interest in the Aigburth Hall property to the Tarleton family (whose heiress Dorothy appears to have inherited also the part not owned by the Brettarghs¹). He had been recommended for appointment as J.P. but objected to as "in debt and young" (Norris Papers); bur. 31st July 1747 at Childwall; will not found; mar. Anne, dau. and coh. of John Hurst of Scholes in Eccleston, Co. Lancs., by lic. 11 Feb. 1696, for Newton Church. She was bur. at Childwall, Nov. 1762; her will, as "of Prescot," dated 18 Dec. 1758, refers to arrears of a jointure of £40 a year out of Brettargh Holt, and left her property to sons James and John and dau. Elizabeth Wagstaff; will sealed with Bushell seal; codicil 18 Nov. 1762; admon. with will and codicil annexed gr. Chester 4 Aug. 1763 to James her son; second grant 18 Feb. 1788 to James Brettargh jr. her grandson and next of kin; third grant de bonis non, 21 May 1792, to Holt Clelland, wife of Robert Clelland of

¹ See Chesh. Sheaf, III, vol. 27, p. 50, etc.
Liverpool, schoolmaster, granddaughter of decd. and sister by the father's side of James Brettargh, late of Pendleton, fustian weaver, decd. Issue:

2. James (XVII).
3. Thomas, bap. 3 Nov. 1702 at Childwall; of Manchester, chapman; mar. 25 June 1723, at Middleton, Mrs. Elizabeth Lever of Alkrington; she d. 4 Jan. 1781, aged 75, and bur. 8 Jan. at Middleton as the relict of T. B. "of Holt" (M.I.). They had issue at least two daughters, Frances, bap. 27 April 1724, bur. 2 July 1726 at Middleton, and Elizabeth, d. 4 Dec. 1776 in 48th year and bur. at Middleton (M.I.).
5. John, of Little Woolton and of Liverpool, mariner (?); bap. 3 Aug. 1705 at Childwall; d. 21 Aug. and bur. at Childwall 23 Aug. 1779; admon. gr. Chester 29 Nov. 1779 to daughter-in-law, Catherine; mar. Matilda (? Crane); she d. 13 Aug. and bur. 16 Aug. 1779 at Childwall. John, his wife, Edward, Elizabeth and Barbara Crane, appear as defendants in 1746 in a suit by Jos. Fluitt re a sixth of the advowson of Ashton-on-Mersey (Coleman Deeds, Manchester Public Library). Issue:

(a) William Brettargh, bap. 4 July 1736, at Huyton (?); a merchant and captain in African trade at Liverpool; freeman of Liverpool 1769 on apprenticeship to Foster Cunliffe
The Brettarghs of Brettargh Holt in Woolton.

& Co.; d. at Liverpool 15 March and bur. Childwall 19 March 1776.

(b) Edward Brettargh, bap. at Childwall 3 Oct. 1734. (An Edward, s. of Mr. John Brettargh of Roby, was bur. there 25 Oct. 1735. The will and codicil of Edward B. of Ormskirk, 26 May 1802, pr. Chester 15 Dec. 1802, by widow Catherine, power reserved to Jonathan Brettargh of Trafford another exor. to prove: mentions a son Richard.)

(c) Nehemiah Brettargh; may be one of two of that name, bur. respectively 5 June 1745 and 17 May 1777 at Childwall, or he whose admon. as "of Liverpool, mariner, bachelor," granted at Chester 20 Feb. 1797 to Wm. Brettargh of Liverpool, his nephew and next of kin.

(d) Thomas Brettargh, bur. at Childwall 23 Sept. 1758 (Gillow).

(e) George (Gillow).

(f) Jonathan, ob. inf. according to Gillow.

(g) Henry Brettargh, bap. 14 Dec. 1752 at St. George's Church, Liverpool (Gillow); bur. at Childwall 27 Nov. 1778 (brass plate on chancel wall); admon. gr. Chester 29 Nov. 1779 to widow Catherine (dau. of —— Atkinson of Manor, near Cartmel, and of Walton Hall, near Liverpool. She became admix. of her father-in-law's will, Nov. 1779. Issue: William Brettargh, of Liverpool; his tuition
granted 29 Nov. 1779 to his mother; he then aged 3 and having goods of his grandfather John; bur. at Childwall 23 Nov. 1804, aged 28; mar. Margaret, dau. of John Kendal of Lancaster, at St. Paul's, Liverpool, 6 Oct. 1794, d. 27 March 1832 and bur. Bermondsey (Gillow). Issue: a son, Thomas, who ob. s.p., and two daughters, (a) Margaret, b. 1802, mar. at St. Benetfink, London, John Rickards of Kirkland in Kendal, J.P., mayor of Kendal, who assumed the name of Yeates by Royal Lic. 31 May 1837 and left issue (inter al.) G. H. Brettargh Yeates of "Brettargh Holt" in Kendal. Cyril Ernest, the latter's only son, was mar. 9 Nov. 1911 at St. James's, Spanish Place, London, to Gretta, eld. dau. of late Peter Macfie Wright of Glasgow; and (b) a daughter Harriet, b. 1803, mar. Thomas, s. of John James of Lydney, Gloucestershire.

(h) Elizabeth; perhaps the unnamed dau. bur. at Childwall 18 July 1748.

1. Elizabeth, bap. 25 Aug. 1707 at Childwall; mar. —— Wagstaffe, who d. before 1758; she was alive in 1762.


3. Margaret, bur. 4 Oct. 1716 at Childwall.

XVII. James Brettargh, of Brettargh Holt, Salford and Liverpool; born 18 March and bap. 29 March 1701 at Childwall; "of Salford" 1728; bur. at Childwall 28 Jan. 1786; mar. circa 1732 (?) Sarah Chaddock, dau. of Dr. (?) Peter Chaddock of Astley; she d. in 1764 and was bur. at Childwall 5 July. By his will, dated 23 Jan. 1786, he gave to his dau. Holt, his interest in £600 under his mother's marriage settlement; exors. his daughter and his friend James Barrow; pr. Chester 2 July 1789 by daughter Holt. Issue:

1. James (XVIII).
2. Peter (XIX).
3. William. The Lancashire Jacobite in the Manchester rebel regiment of 1745, who was condemned to death in 1746, but in Jan. 1748–9 was removed from the New Gaol, Southwark, to Gravesend for transportation for life. (Pal. Note Book, ii, 18; iii, 245; iv, 49; and L. and C. Antiq. Soc., xli, 1). (In the Cheth. Soc. vol. of Admissions to Manchester Gr. Sch. his father is, incorrectly, I think, given as James Brettargh "of Leigh, attorney.") In 1771 he writes to his brother Peter from the office of Mr. Entwistle in Antigua, saying he has not heard from home for 14 years and was quite in ignorance of family affairs. He had been ill and was in poor circumstances, and had written to his father for assistance, but had very poor hopes of his doing anything. (Owen MSS., vol. 79, fo. 549.1)

1 In 1886 the original letter was in the possession of Thomas Brettargh (XXI). See note by J. Owen in Manchester Notes & Queries, vol. vi, 233.
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I. Holt, mar. Robert Clelland of Wavertree, schoolmaster. She was alive 1792.

XVIII. James Brettargh, of Whitefield in Pendleton, Eccles, Co. Lancs., fustian weaver; d. 1791; possibly the same as J. B. of Manchester parish, who mar. 30 Dec. 1753, at Eccles, Alice Walton of Eccles; will, dated 2 Feb. 1791, pr. Chester 18 July by son Stephen Brettargh and Joseph Redford; estate under £5,000; left to his sons Peter, Stephen and William, and daughters Hannah Rigby and Betty Redford, his interest in “The Holt” estate, then in Chancery for payment of mortgage money. (I have no further particulars of this, the senior branch of the family, or the present representatives of it.)

Issue:
1. Peter Chaddock Brettargh.
2. Stephen.
3. William.

XIX. Peter Brettargh (son of Jas. Brettargh (XVII) ); of Salford, linen weaver; b. 1735 (entry in family Bible); bur. Trinity Ch., Salford, Dec. 1815, aged 80; mar. 20 Feb. 1756, at Coll. Ch., Manchester, Jane, dau. of John Wadsworth of Salford. She bur. 27 Jan. 1768 at Trinity Church. He may have married (2) 12 Dec. 1769, Hannah Thumpstone, widow, of Salford, at Coll. Ch. He had issue:
1. Richard, b. 8 Sept. 1758; bap. 17 Dec. at Trinity Ch., Salford; bur. 7 April 1772 there.
2. John, b. Dec. 1760 and bap. 7 Dec. at Trinity Ch.; d. 14 May 1805, aged 44; mar. Sarah . . . Issue:
(1) John, bur. 26 Oct. 1792 at Trinity Ch.
(1) Sarah, d. c. 1807.
(2) Elizabeth, bur. 24 Aug. 1789 at Trinity Ch.
(3) Jane, (?) bap. 19 June 1784 at Coll. Ch.; d. 8 Feb. 1788.
3. William, bur. 19 Feb. 1766 at Trinity Ch.
4. William (2), bur. 16 Jan. 1768 at Trinity Ch.
5. Peter (XX).
1. Catherine, b. 18 Sept., bap. 7 Nov. 1756 at Trinity Ch.

XX. Peter Brettargh, b. 26 Dec. 1762; d. 1 May 1839, aged 76 years 4 mos. and 5 days; bur. St. Ann's Ch., Manchester, 4 May; mar. 16 Jan. 1800, at Coll. Ch., Elizabeth Spencer, widow, dau. of James Wood of Bury, and sister to Mrs. Porter of Bury. She was b. 2 Aug. 1764 and bap. 28 Aug. at Bury. She d. 9 Jan. 1824 and bur. St. Ann's, Manchester. Issue:
1. Thomas (XXI).
2. John, b. and d. 3 Sept. 1808.

XXI. Thomas Brettargh of Manchester, warehouseman; b. 2 Oct. 1805; d. 28 Oct. 1889 at Cooke Street, Hazel Grove; bur. at Trinity Ch., Salford (M.I.); mar. 2 Feb. 1836, at Coll. Ch., Ruth Baxter of Manchester. She d. 22 June 1858, aged 47, and bur. at Trinity Ch., Salford (M.I.). Issue:
1. William (XXII).
2. Charles (XXIII).
3. Arthur.
   2. Elizabeth, b. 19 Sept. and bap. 2 Dec. 1838 at Coll. Ch.; d. 18 Aug. 1839.

XXII. William Brettargh, b. 28 Feb. and bap. 3 May 1840 at Coll. Ch.; d. 29 Nov. 1871, aged 31, and bur. 5 Dec. in Tottenham Cemetery, London; married ... and seems to have had issue, a son and two daughters.

XXIII. Charles Brettargh of Egremont, Cheshire and Liverpool; merchant; b. 9 March 1846; d. 6 Oct. 1910, aged 64, and bur. at Wallasey; mar. 6 May 1868, Sarah Ann, youngest dau. of James Garner of Manchester. She was living in 1912 at "Woolton," Liscard, Cheshire. Issue:
   1. Charles, b. 29 March 1869, d. March 1914 at Santiago, Chile.
   2. Sydney, of "Woolton," Liscard; b. 22 April 1871.
   3. Frank, b. 22 Dec. 1877.
   4. Francis Woolton, b. 20 March 1881.
   1. Marie.
   2. Ruth, d. 12 July 1889.