

## Lancashire Records Office

Survey of estates in Leyland, Euxton, Ulnes Walton, Mawdesley, Eccleston, Heskin soon after 1837. Was probably made in connexion with the 1837 lawsuit *Gibson v Hargrave*. As a result the estates were divided in 1856 between Lewis Chadwick Hargrave, Letitia Maria Ahmuty and Rev William Michell later Prebendary of Wells Cathedral, descendants of Mary the sister of Alexander Kershaw.

## Townships - Heskin British History Online

The Mawdesley estates in 1739-44 were purchased by Alexander Kershaw who acquired other lands in Ulnes Walton and elsewhere. He sprang from a Rochdale family, **Note 20**, and amassing a large fortune, he settled at **Heskin**.

He never married but had a number of illegitimate children, three of whom he chose as his heirs by his will of 1786 - Edmund Newman (Kershaw), John **Cooper** and James Kershaw, and their lawful male issue successively, then to the testator's right heirs. He died in 1788, and Edmund Newman (Kershaw) succeeded, and on his death without lawful issue, John **Cooper** followed and when he died in 1833 also without lawful issue, there was a dispute as to the succession.

After a trial in 1837 the estates were adjudged to be the right of the heirs of **Mary Stott**, **Note 21** the sister of Alexander Kershaw, to be held in moieties by (1) Lewis Chadwick Hargrave grandson, and (2) Letitia Maria Ahmuty and her sister Catherine Constantia (Ahmuty) wife of James Charles **Michell**, great-granddaughters. About 1856 the estates were divided. The Mawdesley and Ulne Walton portions were given to Hargrave, the Heskin and Eccleston lands to the Rev William Michell, and lands in Leyland, &c. to Miss Ahmuty who bequeathed them to Mr. Michell and his sister, so that this moiety was reunited. The whole has since been sold in parcels, Heskin Hall having been purchased about 1885 by the late Henry Rawcliffe of Gillibrand Hall, Chorley.

**Note 20**

Baines, *Lancs.* (ed. 1836), iii, 478, 404. A more elaborate account of the family, with a full abstract of the will of Alexander Kershaw, will be found in *Lancs. and Ches. Antiq. Notes* ii, 132-40. An Act was passed in 1834 (4 Will. IV) to authorize the investment of moneys accumulated under the trusts of the will of Edmund Newman Kershaw of Heskin Hall. There are named South Tunley in Wrightington, Lydiate in Eccleston, Newhouse in Heskin and fields in Ulnes Walton. The details in the text are taken chiefly from the printed report of the trial in 1837 *Gibson v Hargrave*, supplemented by information from the Rev Prebendary **Michell** to whom a moiety of the Kershaw estates descended and who has a number of ancient Mawdesley deeds.

The report contains pedigrees and abstracts of wills and other documents. From these appears Edmund Kershaw of Higher Town House d.1689 married Sibyl daughter of Alexander Kershaw of Eales in Hundersfield, (see Fishwick, *Rochdale*, p. 443) by whom he had several children, including Abel, Mary wife of James Bamford and Elizabeth wife of Abraham Gibson. Abel had issue **Alexander Kershaw** of Heskin 1696/1788 and **Mary Kershaw**. X

The plaintiffs at the trial were the representatives of Bamford and Gibson, each claiming moiety, and they alleged that Mary, sister of the testator, was never married to a certain **Ralph Stott**, with whom she lived from about 1713 till her death in 1767. The story ran that on the day fixed for her marriage with someone else, she was riding to church with **Ralph Stott**, pillionwise, the pair ran off together instead and were then made man and wife, the expectant bridegroom being left disappointed. No proof of the marriage was forthcoming at the date of the trial, but evidence was produced from the parish registers, court rolls, &c., that they had always been regarded as married and the jury without hesitation took this view.

**Note 21**

Ralph and Mary Stott had a number of children, of whom **Catherine** married John **Anderson** and Anne married John Hargrave. The Andersons had (besides other issue) a daughter Maria Elizabeth who married John **Ahmuty** of Grenada and whose daughters were two of the defendants at the trial; the Rev. William Michell born 1830 is son of the younger. The other defendant was the son of John and Anne Hargrave; he had a son James Augustine Hargrave of Port Mahon, Minorca, whose children married Spaniards.

## Natchives DDCM 1/16 5 May, 1821 Contents:

Alexander Ritchie, Samuel Holland, Thomas Fairbrother (disposing of forged banknotes), Joseph Hughes (uttering a forged endorsement on a Bill of Exchange), Samuel Pendleton, John Leadbetter (uttering forged acceptances upon Bills of Exchange), James Ryley, John Cooper otherwise **John Cooper Kershaw** (returning to England before their term of transportation had expired), William Smith (sheep stealing) John Dudley (cow stealing), William Lester, John Spencer otherwise John Smith (horse stealing), John Hargreaves, Isaac Dickinson (highway robbery), William Jones otherwise William Ellis, John Dickson, Christopher Dawson, Daniel Watkins, John Ratcliffe, James Bamber, John Knight, Joseph Lee (burglary), Thomas Gill (horse stealing). To New South Wales for life.