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JONES

FEW INTERESTING  
DETAILS ABOUT  
GARSTON AND  
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Mr J. Saunders Jones  
encloses for the information  
of the Liverpool Journal, with  
his compliments, copy of his  
pamphlet now issued in  
Garston, & begs to thank  
the Editor for the note recently  
inserted about same.

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*1919*

A FEW INTERESTING DETAILS

ABOUT

# GARSTON

AND DISTRICT

BY

R. SAUNDERS JONES.

LIVERPOOL :

ROCKLIFF BROS. LTD., 44 Castle Street.

—  
1919.



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The material for the following paper has been gathered from various books and papers, and I am indebted to the following for many of the incidents mentioned therein :—

“The Victoria History of the Counties of England and Wales,” *edited* by Messrs. W. FARRER and J. BROWNBILL.

“Catholic History of Liverpool,” *by* Mr. THOS. BURKE, J.P., C.C.

“Liverpool Annals”—GORE’S DIRECTORY.

L. N. W. R. Co.

“Historical Topography of Aigburth and Garston,” a paper read before the Lancashire and Cheshire Historical Society, *by the late* Mr. JOS. BOULT, F.I.B.A., in 1868 (April 30th).

“History of the Royal and Ancient Park of Toxteth,” *by the late* Mr. R. GRIFFITHS.

“Rise and Progress of Liverpool,” *by* Mr. JAMES TOUZEAU, of the Town Clerk’s Department, Liverpool.

“A Retrospect of Garston Church. 1874.”

&c., &c.

“Report of the Medical Officer of Health of Liverpool for 1918.”

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A FEW INTERESTING DETAILS  
ABOUT  
GARSTON AND DISTRICT.

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Early in 1914, I read a paper before the Welsh Presbyterian Chapel Literary Society, giving my recollections of Garston during a residence then, of over 45 years and now, nearly half-a-century, in the same house, and which subsequently appeared in the "Garston Weekly News." It was afterwards printed for private circulation. The kindly reception which it had, induced me to look further into the earlier history of the place, and this has afforded me considerable pleasure.

It would be beyond the scope of a single paper to give the results of my research in various quarters, and I have to acknowledge with thanks the help I have received from perusing the publications mentioned at the beginning of these lines and from friends connected with the place at the present time.

In his excellent and comprehensive book on the "Rise and Progress of Liverpool," Mr. James Touzeau refers to the Garston Manor, and bearing in mind the extension of the boundaries of the city, whereby Garston became part of Liverpool in 1902, the following resolution, passed by the Liverpool Town Council on 1st April, 1778, is not without peculiar interest locally:—

"Upon the report of the Mayor that he had contracted for the purchase of the Manor of Garston, the Royalty of the Fishery, with 14 acres of land, and several ground rents thereto appurtenant, and reading the condition of sale with the contract at the foot, in consideration of £1,950 to be paid in February, 1779, it is unanimously agreed and ordered that the same purchase be carried into execution, and confirmed and the purchase deeds prepared by the Town Clerk in the Corporate

“ name and that the Treasurer do pay the purchase money as soon as the same shall become due and be allowed the same in his accounts.”

The possession of this ancient Manor by the Council was, however, short-lived, for on *2nd* June, 1779, occurs the following :—

Ordered—“ That Mr. Baker shall have a conveyance of the Manor of Garston and premises whatsoever purchased by the Corporation from Mr. Beauclerk upon the terms and conditions mentioned in Mr. Baker’s proposals now read, for all the estate and interest of the Corporation in the premises.”

This sale is again referred to in 1785, when it was ordered that Mr. Baker’s purchase of the Manor of Garston be conveyed to him in the like manner as the Corporation purchased the same. The boundaries of the Manor are not defined, and it is therefore impossible to say how far they coincide with those of Garston taken over by the Corporation of Liverpool in 1902. It is a little singular that Liverpool should twice become possessed of the property.

In reference to the foregoing, I wrote to the present Town Clerk of Liverpool some time ago, asking whether there was any official memorandum in the Council’s records giving any reason for the sale, and he replied as follows :—

“ The Liverpool Records merely mention the purchase sale of the Manor, without in either case giving a reason for the transaction,”

but it is said it was with a view of regulating the fisheries of the Mersey, there being enough salmon trout caught in the river to feed the people of Liverpool and other towns for twelve miles round, and a balance to feed the pigs with. In various houses along the river bank, ice rooms to store the fish caught pending their removal by smacks were in use, and these rooms are still in existence for other uses to-day. One was at Ivy House, Aigburth Road.

In the paper which the late Mr. Joseph Boulton read in 1868 before the Lancashire and Cheshire Historical Society, it is said the price paid by the Corporation for the purchase of the Manor was £1,950, and Messrs. Baker and Dawson paid £2,387 for it.

The Manor of Garston runs nearly two miles in length along the shore of the River Mersey and extends more than a mile in breadth into the interior part of the country, but there is not any common or waste ground except the shore, which is a barren land or shelly or rocks covered with sea-tang, over which the river constantly flows up to the very edge of the enclosed land at spring tides.

Mr. Peter Baker was a shipbuilder, and it is recorded that the ship "Kent," 1,100 tons, was launched from Mr. Baker's yard in April, 1773, the largest merchantman then built in the North of England, for a Mr. Kent. Mr. Kent appears to have been an enterprising merchant in Duke Street, Liverpool, and it is believed his name was given to Kent Street, probably in the above year, when it is said the streets of the town were named and the houses numbered for the first time by order of the Vestry. There were then 230 square streets, alleys, &c., 412 houses untenanted, and the poor rate 2/2 in the £. In 1774, Mr. Kent's name appears among the members of the then Chamber of Commerce.

As a lad, Peter Baker served a short apprenticeship as a joiner in the neighbourhood of Garston. He then came to Liverpool, where he worked as a carpenter, eventually becoming a master. At this period, Liverpool took a prominent part in fitting out privateers against the French and other enemies at the commencement of our American troubles in 1775.

Baker accepted a contract to build and fit out a privateer. When the ship was finished she was so clumsy, lop-sided, and of such bad sailing qualities that the merchants rejected her, and she was thrown back on Baker's hands. Already seriously in debt, and unable to sustain such a heavy loss, Baker himself fitted her out as a privateer and christened her the "Mentor." She mounted 28 guns, was 400 tons burthen, and had a crew of 102 hands. The men were a mixed lot, picked up on the quays and landsmen in search of adventure. Baker had a son-in-law named Dawson who had voyaged several times to the coast of Africa and knew enough about navigation to accept the command of the craft on her first voyage. After some delay, the ship set sail down channel, presumably under the King's letter of marque. She had been hovering about the track of the French merchantmen returning from the East Indies for about five days when

Captain Dawson thought of returning, as he could find nothing worth his powder and shot. Falling in with another privateer making for port, Dawson asked if they had seen anything. He got the reply that a Spanish 74 or else a Spanish East Indiaman had just been seen in a certain latitude. Dawson exclaimed he might as well be in a Spanish prison as an English one, for if he went back to Liverpool without something he would most likely be put in prison for debt.

With doubtful vision of doubloons and pieces of eight, he made sail for the Spanish ship. On 28th October, 1778, she hove in sight. He looked at her through his glasses and saw she was pierced for 74 guns. Thereupon he handed the glass to the carpenter, who looked and observed that all the guns were dummies. Dawson straightway attacked in most vigorous fashion and was surprised to find the enemy make such feeble resistance to boarding. She was captured and brought into port and proved to be the "Carnatic," a French East Indiaman, with a cargo of immense value, said to be worth £400,000. It is said that one box of diamonds alone realised the sum of £135,000. She had been three years in the Carnatic, trading in gold and diamonds; and had never heard that war had broken out. When the treasure-laden galleon arrived in the Mersey in charge of her captors, the bells of the town were set ringing and guns fired in honour of the event, whilst both crews, victors and captors alike, were treated with great consideration by the townspeople. They jocosely christened Baker "Lord Baker," and he was made Mayor of Liverpool in 1795, and died in office 7th February, 1796. He had been Bailiff in 1785. He was also a County Magistrate. Out of the proceeds of the prize, Baker built the Hall at Mossley Hill, called by some wag "Carnatic Hall." The Hall was partially destroyed by fire and rebuilt some years ago by the recent owners, the Holland family.

The "Mentor" continued to do service for Messrs. Baker and Dawson, who had by this time established themselves as shipbuilders in Toxteth. She captured two or three more prizes of small value, but in 1782, while on a passage from Jamaica to Liverpool, she foundered off the banks of Newfoundland with a loss of 31 hands.

A curious old painting of the capture of the "Carnatic" hung for many years at Carnatic Hall, until 1886, when it was presented to

the Library Committee as a contribution to commemorate Liverpool in the olden times.

Carnatic Hall, a fine structure, built of Ruabon brick, is situated at the top of Elmswood Road. Carnatic Road, a few yards further along Mossley Hill Road, derives its name from the original building.

To many, no doubt, the meaning of the name Garston is unknown, but Mr. Joseph Boulton, in the paper before referred to, states that Garston—the place of pasture—(from Anglo-Saxon *Gaers*=*Grass*), a name still in use in Sussex, with original significance of meadow. By some, the name is derived from *Gaer*, said to have been a great Danish earl—though Mr. Boulton was not aware of anything in his history to identify him with the locality, whilst the frequent use of the word “Hey”—a meadow in the names of fields and parcels of land—is very corroborative of the original pastoral character of the place. In Camden’s maps of Lancashire and Cheshire the name is printed “Graston.”

Mr. John Blackburne, whose father was Mayor in 1760, and he himself in 1788, living at his town house, Blackburne House, Hope Street, Liverpool now the property of the Liverpool Corporation (and used as a Girls’ School) since the time when the Liverpool Institute has been handed over to the Liverpool Education Authority, the premises having been bought through the generosity of some of Liverpool’s leading citizens, was a salt proprietor and had his salt works at the Salthouse Dock in Liverpool. Owing to an explosion in 1793, the works were closed down and removed to Garston, where 57 acres of land had been purchased by Mr. Blackburne to re-erect them, and also for building houses for the workpeople. These works were in operation for about 60 years, and finally were abandoned for the same reason. The property subsequently was purchased by the L. & N.W.R. for railway and dock improvements, but I am well able to remember the cottages being tenanted in the earlier years of my residence in Garston.

Aigburth (*Ackerberth*), the place of many oaks, probably derives its name from a druidical sacred grove of those trees. It was formed into an Ecclesiastical parish in 1844, St. Ann’s Church being built in 1837 and opened in 1838.

Mossley Hill Church was consecrated on *20th* June, 1875, by the then Bishop of Chester, Dr. Jacobson. The money for this Church was left for a Church to be built in the Township of Garston, and this has been strictly and legally adhered to, the edifice being built at the furthest end of the township from the place itself. The first vicar was the present Bishop of Carlisle, Dr. Diggle.

The foundation stone of Grassendale Church was laid on *7th* September, 1852, by the Rev. Augustus Campbell, Rector of Liverpool, and was opened on *14th* August in the following year. This shews how much behind hand we are in these days in the time occupied in the erection of such places.

Mr. Thos. Burke, J.P., C.C., in his book, mentions St. Austin's Roman Catholic Church, Grassendale. On *27th* June, 1838, Bishop Briggs, the Vicar Apostolic, opened this Church "within a mile from the Toll Bar." This Mission was founded by the Benedictines, the land being generously offered by Mr. Peter Chaloner as a gift. Mr. Chaloner, I think I am right in assuming, was a timber merchant at the North end of Liverpool, and his firm is still in existence. He resided at Aigburth Hall. The sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dr. Brown, O.S.B., President of Downside, then the foremost controversialist in England. Some opposition was offered to the erection of this Church by the Vicar Apostolic, who eventually consented on condition that no funds were collected in Liverpool proper, and that a sufficient sum of money was set aside to guarantee an annual income to the priest in charge of £90 per annum. An interesting event in connection with this Church is that the late Major Wm. Redmond, M.P., who was killed in the late war on *7th* June, 1917, was baptized here, he having been born at Laburnum Cottage, Cressington Park, in, I believe, 1857. The altar in the Church was brought from a suppressed Franciscan Convent in Lisbon, to whom it had originally been presented by Cardinal Sousa. The schools attached, which were opened on *8th* May, 1843, were built by Mr. Charles Chaloner (brother of Mr. Peter Chaloner before referred to), of New Hall, Aigburth Hall Road.

St. Francis of Assisi, Garston. A start was made on *8th* July, 1883, with a temporary Chapel dedicated to St. Francis, new schools being added in the October of the following year. Father Fr derick

Smith was placed in charge of this Mission, who in addition to his parochial duties, represented the district for many years on the West Derby Guardians. He also acted as one of the Diocesan Inspectors of Schools until his death, November 26th, 1909. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Roberts, the present Rector.

The only burial accommodation in the neighbourhood was that of Garston Church and the St. Austin's Roman Catholic burial ground at Grassendale, but the Liverpool Corporation, as the Burial Authority for the city, finding that their Cemetery in Smithdown Road was becoming rapidly filled, looked round the neighbourhood for fresh ground and purchased a site adjoining Allerton Hall, containing 233 acres, at a cost of £52,000. This was opened on 29th December, 1909. The closing of Smithdown Road cemetery to all but owners of graves has since made the Allerton site the only place at this end of the city where burials in new graves can take place, the accommodation at Garston and St. Austin's being exhausted. Three Chapels—Church of England, Nonconformist and Roman Catholic—have been erected, and the place has been beautifully laid out under the supervision of the Burials Committee of the Corporation. It is one of the best of their Cemeteries and is largely frequented, especially in the summer, by visitors. Over 8,000 interments have already taken place there.

Through the generosity of one of the leading families of the neighbourhood (the Misses Singlchurst), a Seamen's Church in connection with the Mersey Mission to Seamen has been erected in St. Mary's Road, the foundation stone being laid on 3rd April, 1906, by Miss F. A. Hornby, the first Chaplain being Rev. Thomas Williams, happily still with us, and doing excellent work amongst the sailors frequenting the port. There is also a reading room, and concerts are held during the winter months.

One of the leading residents of the district who took much interest in its welfare was the late Sir Alfred L. Jones, who was well known in many parts of the world as the chief partner in the firm of Elder, Dempster & Co., managers of the African S.S. Co. Ltd. and the British & African S.S. Co. Ltd. and many other shipping and mercantile concerns. His death at the comparatively early age of 63 was doubtless due to his great energy in the many com-

mercial activities he controlled. He was a self-made man and was born at Carmarthen in 1845. He resided during the later years of his life at Oaklands, Aigburth Road, where he died on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1909. He left money to sundry charities, and we in Garston have benefited by his generosity, a sum having been left to assist in the erection of a much-needed Accident and Emergency Hospital for the district. This has now been opened and is doing excellent work. As a tribute to his memory, it has been called the "Sir A. L. Jones Memorial Hospital." It has accommodation at present for 15 in-patients, with room for further extension, but owing to the war, the Committee placed a portion of the building at the disposal of the military authorities for the use of wounded soldiers. This was fully availed of, but the extra cost of maintenance of the soldiers did not fall upon the hospital funds, being defrayed by private benevolence.

Just before his death in 1916, Sir W. B. Bowring, Bart., promised to erect a recreation room at the Hospital for the use of the soldiers who were being cared for there. Sir William was the representative of the Liverpool City Council on the Committee of the Hospital, the Liverpool Corporation having contributed £7,500 towards its erection, in discharge of its liability under the terms of the Incorporation Charter, 1902, to maintain the old Accident Hospital, the cost of which up to that time was on the rates.

Sir William did not live to see his benevolent act carried out, but the room has been completed and paid for, and was opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1916, by Lady Bowring, in the presence of most of the members of the Committee.

As I am writing this paper, I chance to have by me one or two cuttings from the *Liverpool Daily Post* "Day to Day," column, and it would not be uninteresting to make reference to them whilst referring to Garston and its neighbourhood.

Writing on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1914, to the *Liverpool Daily Post*, "R.W.W." sends an interesting note which will start Garstonians of three generations, comparing the present days with those of half-a-century ago. He states that the old Parish Church of Garston, an oblong building of sandstone—the predecessor of the existing hand-

some edifice used to be referred to fifty years since— as “ a stone Church with a wooden steeple, an Irish parson and English people. The steeple was no more than an ‘ openwork ’ shelter for a solitary bell, which sent forth notes hailed as cheerful or doleful according to the occasion. A three-decker pulpit and some square family pews, with seats all round for the quality (?) were features of the “ dull interior.”

The correspondent said nothing about the eloquence of the Irish parson (whether he referred to the late Rev. John Gibson or the late Rev. J. F. Hewson I know not), but he describes the Clerk as an all-round man of the old sort, a servant of the Clergy inside, a sexton outside, and a general tradesman in the *village*. He was possessed of a powerful voice which he effectively used as a leader of response.

In reference to this extract, I well remember the old steeple or wooden belfry. The door to the Church was painted in blue and studded all over with heavy nails (hobnails). I had been many times in the old Church. Doubtless the Clerk referred to was the late Mr. Samuel Rathbone, well known to me for many years. He was by trade a boot and shoe maker and, when I came to live here in 1870, resided at No. 15, afterwards removing to No. 68 St. Mary's Road. I can confirm fully all that is said about him. Mr. Rathbone retired from his duties at the Church about 1884 and went to spend the evening of his life at a village near Chester, where he subsequently passed away. I think some of his relatives still live in this neighbourhood.

In a former pamphlet, I referred to the building of the new Church to take the place of the old one built in 1707. There are few if any of the Committee connected with the building of the new Church still living, the last surviving official having passed away quite recently in Chester, where he had resided since 1875—I refer to the late Mr. J. R. Thomson, J.P., the first manager of Parr's Bank at Garston, and subsequently in a similar position at Chester, afterwards becoming a Director. Mr. Thomson was in his 80th year when he died. Amongst his colleagues on the Building Committee were the late Sir Thomas B. Royden, Hon. Secretary, Mr. Charles Langton, J.P., Mr. Arthur Sinclair, J.P., and Mr. James Wood.

I hope to refer to the old Church again further on in this pamphlet.

One of the sextons after Mr. Rathbone was Mr. Samuel Whitfield, who in turn was succeeded by Mr. Joseph Whitfield. The latter held office for 27 years, and was buried in the Church-yard on 10th September, 1918. During the time he held office, he never missed a Sunday service. He had assisted at 6,508 services, 7,990 baptisms, 1,122 marriages and 4,690 funerals.

A further interesting cutting from the *Daily Post*, from the pen of that same writer, "R.W.W.," refers to the new Stalbridge Dock, and is here produced:—

"With the making of the new dock and the subsequent growth of the place since becoming a part of Liverpool, the topography of Garston has so changed that those familiar with the village in the sixties would scarcely recognise the town of to-day. Particularly is this the case when viewed from the ancient water mill near the Church corner riverwards. Formerly a deep dell existed, carrying the mill stream to its outlet in the Mersey. Both sides of the dale had sloping grassy banks to the water's edge and were embowered with trees. Now this water-worn depression has become a miniature mountain, as high as it was formerly deep. The hollow proved a convenient dumping ground for the material from the new dock. At the South end of the old dock, on its margin stood a solid stone building used for the storage of china clay, but built with a flat roof, as the intention was to run train loads of coal on the summit from the adjacent high ground, the same to be transferred by the truckful to the shipping below. This scheme, however, was never completed. The warehouse, as well as one or two business houses, have all been swept away to provide the great area required for the new dock and the many acres of wharves and sidings. One of the buildings mentioned—a large square block—will be remembered by the older inhabitants as the Dock Hotel [Query, Mersey Hotel]."

At one time, this hotel was kept by Mr. Samuel Tickle, who passed away May 26th, 1917, at Chocktañ, Oklahoma, U.S.A., at the ripe age of 84.

A few words about the present population, &c., may be of interest.

My good friend, Dr. Hope, the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Liverpool, in his annual report for 1918, quotes the population of Garston Ward as 28,764. No. of Births in 1918, 576; rate 20 per 1,000. Deaths, 440; rate, 15.3

The lowest death rate in the city area was in Fazakerley, 10.3, population 6,482; and highest in Exchange, 30.3, population, 35,573. Total population of the city, 781,948. Births (rate 21.9 per 1,000) 17,133. Deaths (rate 19.5 per 1,000) 15,267.

The death and funeral this last week of Miss Alice Winder, at the advanced age of 104, proves that Garston is a very healthy place to live in, and we have still amongst us many who have reached the age of four score years and over.

In the *Garston Weekly News* of 22nd November, 1919, it is stated that Miss Winder was born on 19th June, 1815, the day after the battle of Waterloo. She had lived under six sovereigns, and her one wish was to live to see the country again at peace. This wish has been gratified. On her hundredth birthday the King sent a gracious message of congratulation, and the village residents organised a celebration on that day. Children were conspicuous in the gathering and Miss Winder was told that the little ones were glad to see her, and she replied "Aye, and I am glad to see them; I was always fond of the children."

An Address was also presented, and amongst those taking part in the notable assembly were the Vicar, Rev. T. Parnell Rowe, M.A., Revs. J. Shaw and Thomas Williams, while the Rev. T. Cole, a former great friend of hers, also wrote a loving letter. It is a coincidence that Mr. Cole, who had been ill for some time, should also have passed away the same day.

Miss Winder was a native of Higher Wyresdale, near Lancaster. For many generations members of the family have been associated with agricultural pursuits in North Lancashire, and the family is still represented in the Preston district. Mr. Thomas Townson, a nephew, is the only representative in the Liverpool area.

Miss Winder learned dressmaking and served as a sewing-maid in several families, her last place being with the Lockett family, of Grassendale House, the members of which have always demonstrated an affectionate regard for their old and honoured servant. Some 25 years ago, she retired from service, and the late Mrs. Lockett left her a comfortable annuity. For some years she has been lovingly cared for by Mrs. Wilkins, of 11 Wilson Grove, at whose house she passed away on 17th inst. She was buried on 20th inst. at Garston Church, the officiating clergy being the Vicar and Curate of the Parish. A large congregation attended to pay their tribute of respect and affection to her memory.

By the courtesy of the Vicar of Garston, Rev. T. Parnell Rowe, M.A., I have been privileged to peruse an old pamphlet, dated 1874, concerning the old Garston Church, and from which the following information has been extracted. As it is of an interesting character, I think the present residents might like to have on record some of its history.

#### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION.

The Chapel of Garston, dedicated to St. Michael, was given in 1261 (46th Henry III) by Thomas de Grelle to his son Peter, who was Warden of Manchester in 1235. In the Valor of Pope Nicholas (1291) there appears "Geston, £26 13s 4d." Dame Cecill, Lady of Torbroke by will, dated 7th March, 1466, bequeathed to the "Chirche of Gerston" iiii s. iiii d. In 1650, the Chapel was reported to be in ruin and decay and no incumbent there "for the present." Bishop Gastrell says that "after being for many years ruined and disused, no service having been performed in it since the Reformation, it was rebuilt in 1716, by Mr. Edward Norris of Speke, with £300 left by his mother for that use, and £60 given by himself."

A font having been discovered in the ruins, and there being several graves in the Churchyard, it is inferred that the old Chapel was consecrated, and the pedestal and socket of a stone cross may still be seen in the Churchyard.

The new building was not so large as the old one, but was built on the same site. It was quite destitute of any architectural pretensions, surmounted with a cupola and bears the date on Southern

wall, 1707. It was, however, subsequently considered fit to be made a Parish Church, to which the whole of the township of Garston and Speke and part of Allerton were annexed—a district comprising about 4,800 acres and being about six miles in length, with an average breadth of about one-and-a-quarter miles (see note at end). Though this has been reduced by the foundation of the districts of St. Anne's (930 acres) and St. Mary's (820 acres), there is still left attached to Garston Church an area of nearly 3,000 acres, with a population in 1871 of 5,000 souls, of whom by far the greater portion (4,500) reside in the *Village* of Garston itself.

It appears that there was no endowment, nor terriers, belonging to the Church, but in 1717, Mr. E. Norris gave £300 for the augmentation of the living, and Thomas Marsh and John Huyton, tenants of Mr. Norris, left £20 and £10 respectively, the interest to be paid to the "Curate." In a terrier belonging to the Vicarage of Childwall, made in 1778, there is the entry that "The tithes of pig, goose, hemp and flax, in the townships of Speke and Garston, belong to 'Garston Chappell.'" It further appears "that the tithes of Garston was worth £36 per annum, and Mr. James Anderton, formerly held it in lease from the Bishop of Chester, but by reason of Mr. Anderton's delinquency, it had been 'sett and farmed' by Mr. Peter Ambrose, agent for sequestration 'to the use of the publike.'" Mr. Norris paid sixteen shillings a year for small tithes and Easter roll for his own house (Speke Hall).

Inside the Church there was a monument to Edward, brother of Sir W. Norris, and tablets commemorative of John Blackburne, of Hawford (Worcestershire) and Garston, a junior branch of the Hale family and formerly Lord of the Manor of Garston, and also of the Watt family of Speke, patrons of the living. The vaults of these two families were within the Church, the former about the centre of the aisle and the latter in front of the Communion steps.

In the Churchyard, on the right of the footpath are gravestones with Latin inscriptions in memory of Mr. Holme, the first incumbent of the new Church, and of Jonathan Casson, incumbent, who died in December, 1804, aged 45. On the left of the footpath, a Latin inscription on a tombstone commemorates the piety and learning of Spencer Madan Thomson, who died in 1818. It may

be worth mentioning that both here and at Hale, the old practice exists of inscribing on the upright gravestones the name of the family to whom the particular burial place belongs.

The living was in 1834 certified to be of the value of £138, and in 1869 to be worth more than £200, but not £250 per annum. The registers commenced in 1777. Respecting the various appointments and other matters of parochial interest, it will be more convenient to present them somewhat in the form of a diary, as otherwise from the intricacy of the details, they will not be clearly followed. \* We therefore purpose giving—

## II. LIST OF MINISTERS.

19th JUNE, 1716. Edward Norris writes to Dr. Wainwright, Chancellor of the Diocese: "Mr. Holme desired me to acquaint you in order to his obtaining a license, that I had made choice of him for schoolmaster of Woolton School, and also to officiate in my new Chappell at Garston. If this [application] is defective in form, I shall be ready at any time to sign any instrument drawn according to form." Three graves belonging to the Holmes' family are in the Churchyard.

16th APRIL, 1730. John Norris was presented to Curacy by Richard Norris.

6th MAY, 1738. Thomas Barlow nominated to Curacy by Lord Sydney Beauclerk, fifth son of first Duke of St. Alban's, who married Mary, niece of Edward Norris, and heiress of Speke, the male line having become extinct. Mr. Barlow was also appointed to be schoolmaster and principal teacher in the Free School at Garston, in succession to the Rev. John Norris. He died 13th September, 1773, and is buried close to the right-hand side of the footpath.

1st JANUARY, 1774. Abraham Ashcroft presented to the living by Topham Beauclerk, son of the above Lord Sydney Beauclerk. The records give the names of the Curates appointed by Mr Ashcroft :

1775, James Ashton; 1778, Ambrose Liverpool; 1779, Thomas Johnson, Schoolmaster; 1783, Joseph Walker; 1784, James Ashton (? second time).

31st JANUARY, 1786. Jonathan Casson, nominated by Lady Diana Beauclerk, daughter of the Duke of Marlborough, and wife of the above-named Topham Beauclerk.

16th FEBRUARY, 1805. James Ashton, of Huyton (? same as above), nominated by Richard Watt, Esq., "with the consent of Caleb Fletcher and William Greenup, executors for the property vested in me." Mr Watt had purchased the Speke estate from Charles George Beauclerk, son and heir of Topham and Lady Diana Beauclerk.

2nd JANUARY, 1810. Marcus Aurelius Parker, presented to the living by Richard Watt, Esq., but resigned it 4th January, 1811.

22nd JANUARY, 1811. John Vause, presented by R. Watt, Esq. The following gentlemen were Curates during this incumbency :

William Hewson	appointed	1811
T. S. Boustead	"	1813
Richard Alanson	"	1813
Robert Brough	"	1814
John Gibson, 9th September		1816

9th JANUARY, 1836. John Gibson, B.A. (the last Curate), admitted to the benefice, which he retained till his death, 15th February, 1869, aged 74. He had the assistance as Curates of :—

Henry Jones, B.A.	appointed	1864
William Henry Casey, B.A.	"	1866
John Brack	"	1868

23rd APRIL, 1869. John Fitzgerald Hewson, B.A., presented to the living by Miss Watt and the trustees of the Speke estate. Curates :—

Samuel Lancaster Laidman,	10th January,	1873
Alfred Walton,	8th June,	1873.

A few circumstances connected with the Parish will be mentioned under the title of--

### III. STRAY NOTES.

1819. Date over entrance of Old School, Chapel Road.

15th January, 1828. Order in Council defining the boundaries of the district attached to Garston Church.

1838. Church licensed by Bishop Sumner for celebration of marriages.

19th June, 1844. Order in Council separating St. Anne's district from Garston Parish.

4th September, 1854. The Bishop of Chester conveyed the right of nomination to Garston Chapel to Lady Mary Beauclerk, after her husband's death.

8th February, 1855. Order in Council separating St. Mary's district from Garston Parish.

29th May, 1861. Additional land to the burial ground consecrated.

6th November, 1865. Foundation stone of the new National School laid. Cost of the buildings and land, £1,780, of which the Education Department granted £354.

1866. Testimonials presented to Rev. John Gibson and the Rev. Henry Jones. During the Curacy of the latter gentleman, and probably on 12th February, 1865, the congregation was dismissed once without any service, owing to a miscarriage of notes between the two clergymen, both of whom were ill.

13th December, 1866. Church licensed under the new Act of Parliament for the celebration of marriages, baptisms, churchings and burials.

6th January, 1867. First Sunday evening service held.

17th January, 1867. Living constituted a Vicarage under Lord Blandford's Act.

March to May, 1867. Church closed for re-painting, &c. No services were held for two Sundays, after which the Reading Room was engaged.

1868. Testimonial to Rev. W. H. Casey.

November, 1870. Steps first taken to enlarge the National Schools, so as to accommodate 700 children. The work was completed in 1872, at a cost of £1,558, towards which the Education Department made a grant of £449.

21st January, 1871. Speke School-room licensed for divine service.

1st November, 1872. Foundation stone of new Church in Speke.

Easter, 1873. Church Building Committee appointed.

29th September, 1873. The Mission Church (formerly Wesleyan Chapel, Chapel Road), opened as a supplementary Church.

IV. In concluding, the pamphlet from which I have quoted goes on to say:

“ With respect to the future, it may be well to quote from the circular issued by the Church Building Committee in May, 1874 (the officers of which I have already mentioned earlier in this pamphlet). The Church Building Committee, in appealing to the public for assistance, beg to state that the existing Parish Church provides accommodation for only 250 worshippers out of a resident population of 6,000, which is constantly increasing, and which is moreover exclusive of a floating population in the Dock of about 300. The greater portion of the residents belong to the working class, to whom it will be an impossibility to erect such a Church as the neighbourhood requires without aid from the general public. The proposed building (designed by Messrs. T. D. Barry & Son, Architects), is estimated to cost about £6,000, towards which £3,000 has already been promised in answer to the above appeal. To aid in this worthy object a number of ladies and gentlemen organised a Bazaar, held in the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, 8th, 9th and 10th December, 1874, which it was hoped would be as successful as the most sanguine of the promoters could wish.”

The pamphlet from which these details are extracted was intended for sale at the Bazaar. In a letter written to me early in 1914, at the time of the death of my father, the late Mr. R. W. Jones, J.P., Mr. J. R. Thomson, J.P., Chester, who has but this year only passed away at the ripe age of 80, and who was the Hon. Treasurer, told me the net sum realised by that effort was £3000.

The following may be useful in comparing the areas of the Parishes mentioned :—

Area of original district, 1828,

	A	R.	P.
In Garston Township	1625	0	27
Speke ... ..	2504	2	26
Parts of Allerton	694	1	12
	—	—	—
Total	4824	0	25

Area of present Ecclesiastical Districts.

(1) ST. MICHAEL'S, GARSTON—

	A.	R.	P.
In Garston Township	440	3	30
Speke ... ..	2504	2	26
Allerton ... ..	27	3	3
	—	—	—
Total	2973	1	19

(2) ST. ANNE'S, AIGBURTH—

	A.	R.	P.
In Garston Township	714	0	30
Allerton ... ..	218	2	16
	—	—	—
Total	932	3	6

(3) ST. MARY'S, GRASSEDALE—

	A.	R.	P.
In Garston Township	470	0	7
Allerton ... ..	347	3	3
	—	—	—
Total	818	0	0

The inscriptions on the monument erected in the Church to Edward Norris was as follows:—" Edward Norris, M.D., was the fifth son of Thomas Norris, Esq., by Catherine, the daughter of Sir Henry Garriway, Knight, Lord Mayor of London. He married Ann, the daughter and heiress of Peter Gerrard, of Creewood, by whom he had issue, Thomas, Susanna and Catharine.

“ He died *22nd* July, 1726, in ye 62 year of his age. He was educated to the profession of Physic in the University of Oxford, and College of Brazen Nose. Went Secretary to his brother, Sir William Norris, Ambassador from King William III to Aureng Zee. Served in parliament in the reign of King George I for the Borough of Liverpool, and having always preserved his virtue and honour and a true love of the established religion, laws and liberties of this country, he retired with his family, in which he placed his chiefest happiness upon earth, and lived in tranquility at Speke, the seat of his ancestors, and was gathered to them in peace.”

He was of a spirit gentle and courteous, his temper was sweet and easy, his mind serene and equal, his judgment was cool, but his heart warm with affection to his friends, benevolence to mankind and zeal for the glory of God.

The kindness between him and all his relations in every degree was perfect.

The poor that wanted his advice received his charity with it.

This Chapel was raised from a heap of ruins by the liberality of his mother and himself.

And that he might, not by any means in the cause of example, of defacing the decency of this place, which he hath adorned.

He expressly directed that his body should be interred in the adjacent burying ground. There it is deposited in hopes of the resurrection of the just.

But he shall dwell in the temple not made with hands, through the mercy of Christ Jesus.

This monument was erected by Ann Norris to the memory of her dear husband.

The writer of the pamphlet (unnamed) from which I quote consulted the following books for information :—

- (1) Baines' "History of Lancashire."
- (2) Gregson's "Lancashire Fragments."
- (3) "Nobilia Estranus." Vol 21. Cheetham Society Papers.

#### GARSTON JUBILEE INSTITUTE.

The foundation stone of this building was laid on Wednesday, *23rd* July, 1890, at 3 p.m., by Miss Mary Ashton, of Oldfield, in the

eleventh year of the episcopate of the Right Rev. J. C. Ryle, D.D., Lord Bishop of Liverpool. T. Oliver, D.D., Vicar. E. W. Turner and R. G. Tushingam, Churchwardens.

Mr. J. Kennedy, who drove the "Rocket" engine to Manchester, with Geo. Stephenson, in 1830, died at 10 Eaton Road, Cressington Park, in September, 1886, aged 96 years.

#### GARSTON DOCKS.

Whilst preparing this paper, I came across an interesting pamphlet issued by the L. & N.W.R. Co, I think at the opening of their Stalbridge Dock, and from which the information has been obtained.

These docks, the property of the London and North-Western Railway Company, are free from Liverpool Dock Rates, the only liability being for Harbour and Light Dues, in addition to the dues recoverable under the Railway Company's special Acts of Parliament.

Garston is recognised as a cheap port by both shipowners and merchants, consequently its resources are continually taxed. Under these conditions, the Railway Company some years ago obtained powers for the construction of a third dock.

The first dock, the old dock, covering an area of 76 acres, was opened on 21st June, 1853.

The second, or North Dock, was opened in 1876, and covers 8 acres.

The Stalbridge Dock, the third dock, before referred to, named after the then Chairman of the Railway Company, Lord Stalbridge, was opened by him on 24th February, 1909, and covers an area of 14½ acres.

Being a railway port, goods are naturally transferred direct from ship to railway wagon, or *vice versa*, thus reducing handling and obviating costly cartage, advantages representing a great saving to merchants.

At the time of the opening of the Stalbridge Dock, vessels up to 5,000 tons carrying capacity could be dealt with, but a new channel has since been completed, enabling vessels of 10/12,000 tons to enter the port. The channel is about 800 yards long and 300 feet wide, and leads direct from the Garston deeps to the new Stalbridge Dock entrance.

The Dock accommodation is as follows :—

	Width at Entrance	Berthing Space
	-----	-----
Old Dock ... ..	50 feet	2160 feet
North Dock ... ..	55 „	2400 „
Stalbridge Dock ... ..	65 „	3170 „
with a lock 276 feet long.		

Communication passages exist between the North and Old Docks, and a further communication between the Old and New (Stalbridge) Docks of 65 feet has been constructed.

To show the increase in the trade of the port, I believe I am correct in stating that in the year 1867, the shipments of coal, &c., amounted to 450,000 tons, whilst in 1907 the total imports were : 666,011 tons. Exports, including coal, 2,738,131 tons.

In the latter year, the vessels cleared totalled :

Steamers, 3,980 ; Sailing Vessels, 480 ; Lighters, 4,110.

Extensive warehouse accommodation exists in connection with the docks, and a very large business in minerals is conducted through the port, viz., sulphur, copper, manganese, iron and other ores. Floored berths of special character, and accommodation exist in these berths for upwards of 100,000 tons of mineral cargo. The import of minerals during 1907 was 391,553 tons. Special premises adequately fitted with appliances for the purpose of sampling mineral ore have been provided and are much appreciated by merchants and analytical chemists concerned in the trade.

There are also about 48 acres of ground especially levelled for timber storage, and provided with sidings at convenient distances from each other, so as to admit of cargoes being laid down, sorted, piled or selected, as may be necessary. Special accommodation for heavy logs has been provided, and a travelling crane is available for stacking, &c., which is capable of piling logs to a height of 30 feet.

There are regular weekly sailings of steamers to Rouen, Bordeaux and other French ports, and to Jamaica and the Canaries in connection with the banana trade of Messrs. Elders & Fyffes Ltd., special accommodation having also been provided for housing the bananas on arrival at Garston.

Some 70 miles of sidings exist at the port, of which 8 miles are actually on, or alongside the quays, and therefore available for direct working of cargoes from shipside to trucks or *vice versa*.

The traffic dealt with at the docks since has shown a considerable increase on the figures already quoted.

The Railway Company recently informed me that in 1918 the traffic dealt with, excluding coal, amounted to 750,000 tons. Owing to various restrictions, 1918 was not a normal year so far as coal was concerned, but they have handled in 12 months as much as 2,500,000 tons.

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