

ORIGINS
of
STREET
NAMES

by

C Elsie Mullineux

&

Frank Mullineux

Worsley

Little Hulton

ORIGINS
of
STREET
NAMES

Worsley
Little Hulton

by
C Eisie Mullineux
&
Frank Mullineux

c C. Elsie Mullineux

Frank Mullineux

1990

Reproduction by whole or by part must not
be undertaken in any way without written
permission of the authors

During the production of this
book, Frank Mullineux died.
We regret the passing of a
friend.

Streetgate Printers.

Streetgate Printing
&
Stationery
St.Pauls Peel Church Hall
Little Hulton
061-790 0812

FOREWARD

Road and street names originate in various ways from the history of an area and of the people who lived there. This is particularly applicable to Worsley which includes for our purpose Walkden and part of Boothstown. The street names of Little Hulton are equally interesting. They are dealt with separately here because as a local government unit Little Hulton was independent of the rest until comparatively recently.

I wish to thank John Aldred for his collaboration in this book and in all aspects of our local history research, also Kenneth Kilburn for organising the printing of local material of importance to schools and of interest to residents, not forgetting Douglas Jackson who does the actual printing at the Streetgate Printing and Stationery Press which is operated by the two latter people. All the work involved is completely voluntary.

Although it has fallen to me to check the facts and do the actual writing, this book would not have been possible without my husbands exceptional memory and

encyclopaedic knowledge. The post-war street names with local connections are names which Frank himself provided at the request of Worsley Urban District Council as an antidote to flowers, trees and Lake District names.

Constance Elsie Mullineux.

WORSLEY

On the first known map of Worsley drawn at the end of the sixteenth century, Bolton Road and Walkden Road were continuous and were simply described as 'The Highway from Bolton to Worsley and so toward London'. Even as late as the beginning of the last century there were no named roads or streets with the exception of Stanney Street which indicated the line of the roman road lying from east to west through the centre of Walkden. It was not a roman name, 'stanney' meant stony and 'street' was the word the saxons used for a roman road.

LANES

There were lanes however and some of these were named according to their destination, Wardley Lane, Bolton Lane (now Bolton Road), Barton Lane (now Barton Road), and also Moss Lane which led onto the mossland north of the present A6 road. Others had interesting descriptive names.

Shaving Lane was the name given to the northern part of Walkden Road. It probably derives from the old

english word 'scevinge' pronounced 'shaving' and meaning 'on a hill', an obviously correct description. Swiney Lane was the southern portion of Walkden Road and took its name from a field on the western side of the road, the 'swine hey' meaning 'pig field'. Walkden Road itself was a later naming, Walkden was not originally the name of a town it was the name of a brook which, although now culverted under the motorway beneath Worsley Road North, marks the boundary between Farnworth and Worsley. The earliest documentary reference occurs in 1292 when Henry de Worsley granted to Adam de Lever of Farnworth 'certain easements by Walkden Brook'. In 1313 there was a dispute as to the ownership of the land by the brook, a jury visited the place and decided that 'Walkden was neither a town nor a hamlet but only a place within Farnworth'. What did the name mean? 'Den' or 'dene' meant a stream valley, the 'walk' element came from the practice of treading or 'walking' hand-woven cloth in the stream to even the weave and to felt the fibres thereby improving the quality, a process later described as fulling. So the name means 'the stream valley where cloth is fullled'. It gave the name to the adjoining moor and until the

mid nineteenth century what little development existed in the northern part of Worsley was known as Walkden Moor rather than Walkden. Newearth Road was originally known as New Earth Lane. It acquired the name when strips of land were newly taken into cultivation on the eastern side of the lane. Cooke's Lane and Yeoman's Lane were purely local names for Ellenbrook Road, the Cooke family being yeoman farmers at Abbots Fold. Rosin Lane was a nickname for part of it, a name which was in use early in the nineteenth century, the explanation being that one of the people who lived there was a shoemaker and on summer evenings he sat outside his cottage preparing his thread with resin, pronounced 'rosin' in the dialect. The origin of the name Lumber Lane is unknown. Greenleach Lane derives from 'lache' meaning a wet area and 'green' from its appearance as compared with Blackleach, black from its peaty nature, which later gave the name to Blackleach Row now demolished. Bridgewater Road was simply known as the Cow Lane. Old Clough Lane has a more complicated derivation. The stream valley from which it took its name was originally called 'hollow clough' which was later corrupted to 'how clough'. When the local authority gave it an official name

they mistakenly thought that 'ow clough' was a local pronunciation for 'owd clough' and so it was given its present name. Hodge Lane was merely changed to Hodge Road during the last century. Toad Lane at Roe Green did not as its name suggests imply a connection with toads, it was simply a corruption of 't'owd lane', 'the old lane' and an old lane it certainly was, until the nineteen forties there were still thatched cottages to be seen there. Sadly both lane and cottages are now gone. All these 'lane' names belong to the oldest roads in Walkden and Worsley. Delph Lane at Boothstown was named for its proximity to a stone quarry, a very old stone quarry from which stone was probably obtained for the roman road from Manchester to Wigan as it ran through Worsley and Tyldesley.

FOLDS

The oldest groups of cottages were described as 'folds' and were associated with farms or where workers were housed near to a coal pit or other place of work. One of these at the top of Harriet Street was called Old Fold . Jackson Fold, once on the side of the present Queen's Close, Parr Fold and

Edge Fold near to Walkden Park, Tyldesley Fold at Roe Green, Ellis Mather Fold at Ellenbrook and Mangnall Fold near to the nursery school in the centre of Walkden all took their names from the men who built them or the people who were living there. Hope Fold Drive south of Manchester Road and on the east side of Christ the King primary school received its name from a fold of cottages associated with Hope Fold Farm, the path through the farm until quite recently was known as Cow Lane. Stable Fold was on the canal side at Worsley. It consisted of a group of cottages and a building where canal horses were stabled.

ROWS

Towards the end of the eighteenth century some workers houses were built in rows rather than folds and so we find Treacle Row, Tup Row and Half Crown Row with nicknames given to them by local people. Tup Row was built to house miners who were brought from Shropshire and men from that county were commonly called Shropshire Tups. It stood on the south east corner of Wardley Street which was demolished when the shopping precinct was developed

in Walkden. Treacle Row just over the boundary into Little Hulton was said to have received that name from an incident when a barrel of treacle rolled from a cart as it was crossing Krocket Wall Brook, which name was a corruption of 'Nook-in-the-Wall' near to the top of Tynesbank. It was said that the tenants took containers to retrieve the treacle including jam jars and chamber pots.

Because the Bridgewater Trustees imposed a fine of half-a-crown (12½p) on miners who were absent from work on the day after pay day, a row of houses built on the east side of Harriet Street at the time was nicknamed Half Crown Row because the miners said that the houses were built with the money deducted from their wages. Opposite to Worsley College on the east side of Walkden Road there stood a row of cottages nicknamed Kentucky Row or Old Kent Row but the origin of these names is not known. Drill Row and later Drill Street, west of Bolton Road and opposite to Cecil Street, took their name from a field on the south side of that street where the volunteers drilled in readiness for a possible Napoleonic invasion. Kellets Row by Argyle Avenue was named after a headmaster of Hulton East School.

Another and curious and self-explanatory nickname was 'squeeze-a-belly-entry', a very narrow entry which was in the Hill Top area south of Brackley Street.

STREETS AND THE EGERTON FAMILY

Many street names in the nineteenth century arose from association with the Earl of Ellesmere's family. During that period most of the house building was controlled by the Bridgewater Trustees who had a projected town plan prepared for the Walkden area with the streets named. It included a plan for the development of Walkden Moor which was never carried out. The eldest sons of the Egerton family were known as Lord Brackley until they inherited the earldom, hence Brackley Street. Harriet Street and Louisa Street are from the forenames of the first Countess of Ellesmere and the third Countess. Beatrice Road and Mabel Avenue were named after the daughters of the third earl while Wilfred Road, Granville Street, John Street, Arthur Street and Algernon Road were named after sons of the Egerton family. Algernon was the third son of the first earl and became the superintendent trustee

of the Bridgewater Trust. He married Lady Alice Louisa Cavendish, hence Cavendish Road. His brother had married the daughter of the Duke of Devonshire and Chatsworth Street is now named after her home. The first earl's sister married the Marquis of Westminster, hence Westminster Road. The second earl married Lady Mary Louisa Campbell daughter of the Earl of Cawdor and so we have Campbell Street and Cawdor Street. His youngest daughter married the Earl of Sandwich giving us Sandwich Street. The third Earl of Ellesmere married the daughter of Lord Mulgrave whose family name was Phipps. He became the second Marquis of Normanby on the death of his father and that is how we get Phipps Street, Mulgrave Road and Normanby Road. Lady Violet Lambton who married into the family later had her name given to Lambton Road in the Hazelhurst area. Hardy Grove off Lumber Lane and Bagot Street at Wardley acquired their names from gentlemen who married into the family. Charles Hardy lived at Wardley Hall when Hart Davies left it. Two of the names commemorated members of the royal family at that time Alexandra Road and Dagmar Street. Francis Egerton was the name of the third Duke of Bridgewater and also of his heir who became the

first Earl of Ellesmere and so Egerton Road, Francis Avenue and Duke Terrace were used at a later date but were not part of the original plan.

OTHER STREETS

Less noble names which deserve explanation have been given to streets at various times including Gilbert Street, Brindley Street, Fereday Street, Smith Street, Southern Street, Walker Street, Longley Road, Lansdale Street, Forrester Street, Beesley Green, Priestley Road, Atkin Street, Gibb Street, Thorpe Street, Pennington Street, Lyon Street, Shiel Street, Holyoake Road, Starkie Street, Hirst Avenue and Gorton Grove. The last two are obviously more recent since 'avenues' and 'groves' became fashionable at a later date than streets and roads. There is also a Mullineux Street. It is off Walkden Road north of Walkden Station but even the Mullineux family do not know which if any of them deserves the credit for it.

John Gilbert was the overall manager of the Worsley estates of the Duke of Bridgewater and of the coal mines and the canal. James Brindley was the

consultant engineer on canal construction. Fereday Smith, James Sothern (notice the change of spelling to Southern) and Walter Longley Bourke were superintendent trustees of the Bridgewater Trust. Walter Street and Longley Road meet near to the GPO sorting office opposite the site where stood the Bridgewater Offices. There is no Bourke Street, the name was not commemorated because there was trouble in Ireland at the time concerning a man of that name, not to mention Burke and Hare the Edinburgh murderers. Mrs Walter Longley Bourke switched on the clock on the Bridgewater Offices so that it struck thirteen at one o'clock for the first time on January 1st, 1901. The clock was erected for the benefit of the people of Walkden by the Bridgewater Trustees to commemorate the beginning of the twentieth century and the anticipated ending of the Bridgewater Trust in 1903. Robert Lansdale had been a chief agent of that trust and was a highly respected Worsley man. Richard Forrester was a lesser employee of the trust who had some small authority. He lived at Roe Green and it is told that he 'thrigged about' in the evening driving other people's geese and cattle off the green in order to put his own on and so he got the nickname

of Dicky Thrigg. Beesley was the name of a family who were tenants of a farm at the western end of Roe Green at the end of the sixteenth century and their name has amazingly lingered on. Atkin and Gibb owned cotton mills situated in the streets that acquired their names. Thorpe was a manufacturer of oilcloth and linoleum at Hill Top while the Pennington brothers were mineral water manufacturers next to the now demolished Trinity Chapel, commemorated in Trinity Crescent. James Marsh kept a grocer's shop on Manchester Road at the corner of the street that bears his name. In the Mullineux family he was known as 'Jimmy-split-pea' because his weighing of goods was so careful. The owner of the houses gave his name to Lyon Street at Roe Green now changed to Lyon Grove. Similarly James and Peter Shiel named a street after themselves when they built houses in the vicinity of Cecil Street. These brothers built the first catholic church in Little Hulton. It was blown down in a high wind before it came into use but the houses that they built still stand. John Jacob Holyoake was a pioneer of the co-operative movement and his name was given to Holyoake Road, formerly Kay Street off Walkden Road, when the Walkden Co-operative Society developed

extensive warehouses, milk distribution centre, bakery and botanic brewery there. Hirst and Gorton were local councillors. Nicholas Starkie and his descendants owned Kempnough Hall and land for more than two hundred years. Prior to that the Parr family held the Kempnough estate and they are commemorated in Parrfield Road off Greenleach Lane at Roe Green where Toad Lane used to be.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Landscape features are perpetuated in street names some of which are self-evident. Hill Top Road is an obvious example, Hill Top being one of the highest areas of land on the road to Bolton which rises all the way from Worsley village. Mountain Street on the other hand marks a very small eminence on the west side of Bolton Road at Hill Top. At the end of the last century an Irishman lived there who was always known as 'Paddy o't Mountain'. Some features exist now only in the names but they themselves are interesting reminders of the past. The broad oak which gave its name to Broadoak Road was a well known landmark which stood at the junction of Hazelhurst Road and Worsley Road. It was already

described as the broad oak when the tollgate was built nearby on the turnpike road from Pendleton in 1754 and must by its description have been even then a very old oak tree. There were hazelnuts to be gathered in the wood nearby judging by the name of the hall and estate which became Hazelhurst Farm. Until the nineteen fifties there was a very old two storey brick building with stone mullioned windows attached to the present three storey farmhouse. It had been the home of John Massey when he was agent for the Egerton family even before the Duke of Bridgewater inherited Worsley. To the north of it cottages clustered round Hazelhurst Green. The Warke north of St Marks Church Worsley derives from 'le walwerke' meaning the 'earth work wall' which is certainly one of our oldest descriptive names. The area known by that name in early documents changed to 'Old Warke' during the sixteenth century and is now reduced to 'Warke' which is simply the dialect pronunciation of 'work'. The Mews is the name given to a group of houses built to the south of Worsley Old Hall on the site of the stables and coach houses of Worsley Hall. The houses on The Green at Worsley are not as old as their appearance might suggest, the green itself was created only after 1901 when

the Bridgewater Trustees centred their works yard at Walkden rather than Worsley. Farm Lane off Barton Road led to Grange Farm long before the houses were built there. Granary Lane on the other hand led away from the granary which stands alongside the canal and has now been converted into offices. The upper storey was used at one time for the storage of fodder for the horses. Roe Green gets its name from the roe deer which were presumably a feature of the area. The name occurs on the first known map of Worsley circa 1595 but it was an old community even at that date. Wardley Hall Lane led from Roe Green to the hall and for part of its length was known as Nanny Lane. Old Hall Lane leads to the western entrance of Worsley Old Hall but before the farm and stables were built it turned down towards the eastern end. Booths Hall Lane leads to two halls the newer of which is often called Old Booths Hall but there remains a portion of a still older hall which stands nearer to the canal.

Each locality had its own pinfold or pound where stray animals were impounded until claimed by their owners. There was one at Little Hulton and another at the western end of Beesley Green but Pinfold Road

was built on Pinfold Farm which stood at the junction of Bridgewater Road and Park Road and which took its name from the nearby pinfold. The flour mill from which Mill Brow took its name stood on Worsley Road at the bottom of the brow until the end of the last century. It was mentioned in documents from 1376 but since the manor of Worsley was certainly established before 1195 the manor cornmill presumably was equally ancient. The first house on the left at the bottom of Mill Brow was the original Church of England Boys Home and immediately behind it was the old mill dam. The cottages further up the brow were built by the eighteenth century and some possibly earlier. Beanfields is a pleasant and precise descriptive name. The oldest inhabitants can remember the wonderful scent of the bean plants in flower where they grew in profusion in fields to the south of Barton Road, not to feed the people but to feed the horses. The canal from its inception and everything connected with it was totally dependent on the horse. Park Road was part of Hilton Lane until 1905. The name was changed when the third Earl of Ellesmere sold the land for Parr Fold Park for a mere ten shillings (50p) to the local authority for the recreation of the people of

Worsley. Hilton Lane simply means the road leading to Little Hulton and was previously known as Hulton Lane. Mesne Lea means 'demesne field', land belonging to the lord of the manor. This name truly applies to Mesne Lea Grove off Lumber Lane but is less appropriate to Mesne Lea Road which is north of the East Lancashire Road. Oakwood Avenue and Oakwood Drive east of Old Clough Lane took their names from Oakwood House which was built by Samuel Hurst who lived there in the first half of the nineteenth century. He owned a mill in Walkden north of Hill Top. Amongst later owners were Edward and Wilfred Lane who had a mill at the corner of Atkin Street and Sandwich Street. It eventually became a social club for the employees of Burgess Ledward's mill, later Courtaulds, and is now a restaurant. Formerly a gatehouse stood on the A6 road which had oak leaves carved into the stonework as a reminder of trees that formerly grew there. Memorial Road was not constructed until the Walkden Monument was erected after 1866 as a memorial to the first Countess of Ellesmere.

LATER NAMES

It was after the 1914-1918 war that local authorities began to build housing estates and to give to the streets in each estate names deriving from similar categories. The Birch Road estate for example was given tree names and the roads were planted with the appropriate tree although Birch Road itself was replanted with holly trees when the birches were taken out at the time the road was widened. On the eastern extension of that estate after the second world war the streets were given Lake District names which was something of a fashion at that time but was without local connection. For the Whittle Street estate the word 'side' was added to words with some local connection to give a unified character to the estate. Whittle Street itself was a much older name which relates to the Whittle brook, a stream which gave the name to the area of Walkden along Manchester Road and on the eastern side of Bolton Road. When the National Coal Board offices were demolished in Bridgewater Road an opportunity was lost to preserve the local connection with the site by using alien names based on historic greek towns, Athens Drive, Corinth Walk

and Sparta Avenue. Bridgewater Estates were more imaginative in their use of names in Landrace Drive and Saddleback Close in Boothstown because the houses were built on land which had been a small farm where pigs were kept. The latest developments by Peel Homes in the Mosley Common area include names connected with mining which is a reminder that Mosley Common pit was the last working pit in Worsley, a township where coal mining had been the dominant industry for centuries. Cannel and Crumbouke (pronounced crum-buck) are the names of coal seams. Ingles, Bellpit and Queen Anne Pit were the names of coal mines and Longwall is a method of mining coal. Penrice Fold is named after Wallace Penrice who from being a mining engineer in the time of the fourth Earl of Ellesmere became a director of Bridgewater Estates in 1943 and finally managing director of the estates when Jesse Wallwork, who founded the company, died in 1951. The odd name out is Herevale which has no local connection but is the name used by Peel Homes for a particular design of house.

HEADACHES FOR POSTMEN

In 1946 the duplication of street names in the postal area was causing problems. The matter was discussed by the Urban District Council in the town hall, the building between the College of Technology and the entrance to Parrfold Park in Walkden Road. Amongst others there were two Duke Streets, two Elm Groves, two Longley Roads, two Peel Groves, two Worsley Roads and to add to the confusion three Alfred Streets. There were also two Smith Streets, two Park Roads and two Church Streets as well as a Church Road.

Duke Street, Wardley was changed to Duke Terrace, Elm Grove off Greenleach Lane became known as Elm Terrace, Longley Road in Worsley is now Longley Drive, Peel Grove Little Hulton has been changed to Armitage Grove and Worsley Road in Little Hulton has become Worsley Road North to distinguish it from Worsley Road at Worsley. Alfred Street, Wardley is now Alfred Terrace while Alfred Street, Worsley is Alfred Avenue. Alfred Street off Harriet Street, Walkden was allowed to keep its original name. New street names today are checked by the Planning

Department to ensure that duplications no longer arise.

LITTLE HULTON

Little Hulton has maintained a separate identity from the remainder of Worsley since 1541. Prior to that it was like Worsley part of the ancient parish of Eccles but when the parish of Deane was created in that year Little Hulton was included in it, at a time when the parish was the unit of local government as well as of church affairs. Following an Act of Parliament in 1662 when large parishes were divided into townships for the purpose of civil administration Little Hulton became a township within the parish of Deane while Worsley itself, including that part of it which later became known as Walkden, became a township within the parish of Eccles. After 1837 when public health and the care of the poor were made the responsibility of the Board of Guardians Little Hulton although so close to Worsley was part of the Bolton Poor Law Union while Worsley belonged to the Barton Poor Law Union and so the administrative separation remained. It was not until after 1933/34 when Worsley and Little Hulton became part of Worsley Urban District that these two at last became one unit. Little

Hulton had had its own Local Board since 1872. Historically then Little Hulton demands separate treatment.

MAIN ROADS

Street Gate was an old name, a very old name for a length of Manchester Road on each side of the junction with Cleggs Lane. As with Stanney Street at Walkden 'street' denotes the line of the roman road. The word 'gate' used by the saxons meant 'road' and did not indicate the existence of a gate as we use the term. Manchester Road needs no explanation, simply the road to Manchester. Being so long in length it is divided for convenience into Manchester Road West and Manchester Road East, Cleggs Lane being the dividing line between the two. Cleggs Lane itself was named after a grocer who had a shop there, in the dialect it was commonly called Clegg Lone.

Peel Lane earlier known as Swiney Lane, received its name from a site described in early documents as 'the Peel of Hulton' indicating 'a fortified dwelling on a hill', possibly the site where Peel Hall was eventually built. But which Peel Hall?

There were two. Yates Peel Hall now a hospital is a victorian mansion built in the same place as an earlier hall known as Wicheves. Kenyon Peel Hall, a fifteenth century building now demolished could mark the original site of the Peel, there were features in the cellars under the hall which suggest the existence of an earlier building, but there is a document of 1546 which describes 'the Peel of Hulton or Wicheves Hall' suggesting the opposite. The district of Little Hulton which included the two halls and later the church became known as 'Peel' and so the owners of both halls used that name although only one of them could have been on the site of the original Peel of Hulton.

Armitage Avenue which runs south from the traffic lights in the town centre down to a junction with Peel Lane is a comparatively recent road. The Armitage family after whom it was named lived at Yates Peel Hall early this century. Elkanah Armitage was a mill owner.

Hilton Lane could equally well have been called Hulton Lane. The early spelling 'Hyllton' explains why Hilton and Hulton both occur in the area as

place names, surnames and street names because the saxon letter 'y' had a pronunciation between 'u' and 'i' and the alternative spellings arose as a result. The name means of course 'the place on the hill'.

STREET NAMES AND WICHEVES HALL

This hall belonged in the early years of its existence to the Hultons of Hulton, the Worsleys of Worsley, the Tyldesleys of Tyldesley and the Fleetwoods of Rossall. Hulton, Worsley and Fleetwood have been used as street names in Little Hulton.

Madams Wood Road refers to a widow known as Madam Mort who lived at Wicheves. She was a member of the Mosley family, lords of the manor of Manchester and was married to a member of the Mort family of Dam House at Astley. Mort Lane, at the bottom of Peel Lane, reminds us of that family. It was after her husband died that Madam Mort planted the extensive wood to the south and south east of the hall. Many people still living remember it with pleasure, partly for the delicious ice cream sold nearby which could be enjoyed while walking through the wood,

partly for the carpet of bluebells in the spring, a delight to see and partly in the hope or fear of seeing the grey lady, traditionally the ghost of Madam Mort said to haunt the wood that she had planted.

In her will Madam Mort left a large sum of money to build a church at Peel and her nephew Sir Joseph Yates, a Manchester attorney who inherited her estate, added to the sum which had proved to be insufficient when the building of St Paul's Church was started. His name was given to the old hall by local people and became known as Yates Peel Hall to distinguish it from the Peel Hall where the Kenyon family were living. Yates Drive is named after him. His son eventually sold the hall to Ellis Fletcher, a coal mine owner. It was his son Matthew Fletcher who had the present hall built. Matthew Fletcher's daughter Charlotte who inherited the hall married Mr Wynne Corrie of Oswestry and so we find Wynne Street and Corrie Street. When she went to live at Oswestry she rented the hall to Harrison Blair who owned a chemical works on the moss by the Kearsley boundary and he gave his name to two streets, Blair Avenue and Harrison Street. It was due to his

generosity and the enthusiasm of his wife that Blair's school was built in Bridgewater Street and St John's church in Bolton Road. It is said that Mrs Blair used to stand at the top of Smith Fold with a collecting box to catch the miners as they came home from the pit at Engine Fold on pay day.

It was Charlotte Wynne Corrie who eventually gave this Peel Hall to Lancashire County Council in the 1920s for use as a hospital.

Sir Charles Barry was the architect of the victorian mansion and Barry Street commemorates his work. He also designed the Houses of Parliament.

KENYON PEEL HALL

The Asshawes, the Rigbys and the Kenyons who owned this hall for long periods of time all provided names for streets on the land which had once belonged to them. The hall itself which stood some distance to the south of the Kenyon Arms Hotel was demolished by 1958 a victim of dry rot, wet rot and death watch beetle. It stood opposite the row of shops on Kenyon Way and is commemorated in the name

Hallstead. Apart from Pennington Close all the street names on the Kenyon Way estate have connections with the hall. Cloudstock and Carrfield were names of fields on the hall farm. Owlwood is a shortened form of Oowlerwood which occurs on an old map and that in turn is a corruption of Alder Wood. Wildwedsheg is a very old name for the stream which existed as a boundary in the area and this has been shortened to Wildbrook. Dovecote Lane, Arbor Grove and Greencourt Drive are reminders of features in the hall grounds while Briar Hill and Fern Lea Grove are derived from wayside plants. A vestige still remains of the pleasant lane which ran south from Manchester Road immediately to the east of the Kenyon Arms. Peel Park Crescent and Park Way suggest both the parkland of the old estate and the present small park at Peel.

Joseph Pennington who gives the name to Pennington Close was the chairman of Worsley Urban District Council in the first two years of its existence and again in 1953, which was Coronation Year, in honour of his long service to the town. He was leader of the Labour group of the council for 33 years and was much involved in the creation of the Salford

and it is to be hoped that these will reflect the history of their time and place.

The City of Salford Street Atlas and Wigan Street Atlas are recommended for further reference.

overspill housing schemes. His son Councillor Bernard Pennington continues the family tradition.

WHARTON HALL

In the early thirteenth century Ralph Wharton acquired from Geoffrey de Worsley, lord of the manor of Worsley, a small estate at the western end of Little Hulton. The small half-timbered hall there gave its name to a coal mine, to the church, to the lane and latterly to Wharton Crescent. A branch of the Mort family of Astley and Peel owned the land and hall from 1688 to 1785, Mort Fold off Cleggs Lane derives its name from this family. The hall became a tenanted farm house let to William Green after 1881 when the Bridgewater Trustees bought it from the Potter family who had owned the estate along with Wharton Colliery. Like Kenyon Peel Hall, Wharton Hall was demolished in the 1950s.

SURNAMES

Builders of new property, subject to the approval of the Planning Department of the local authority, may suggest names for the streets they have developed.

At times they use their family names, Cocker Street and Seddon Street are examples of this, while Grundy Street is possibly named after the wife of one of the brothers who founded Seddon's Builders.

Prescott was the name of the builder of that row of houses which fronts onto Hilton Lane immediately to the north of Prescott Street and three generations of the family lived there. Some street names whose origins are uncertain could fall into this category or derive from well known local characters who originally lived there such as Stevenson Street, Harrop Street, Pemberton Street and Longshaw Drive. John Longshaw was an official at Cleggs Lane Chapel in the early years of its existence. Eastham Way, like Joseph Eastham School, was named after the local councillor who spent many years in the service of the community.

Topps Lane, named after a mill-owning family, led to the large house in which they lived known as The Rothwells. Topps Lane is gone but Rothwell Lane is in the same area. The Ridyards, father and son, were senior officials of the Bridgewater Trust who lived in Hilton Lane. Clark Crescent was named

after the owners of a mill in the north west of the town. Aspinall Close and Crescent Grove lie immediately to the north of the old Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and commemorate the chief engineer of that line. Captain Fold was an old name for a group of cottages north west of Cleggs Lane but no one now remembers who the captain was though the name survives in Captain Fold Lane.

Newcombe Drive off Spa Lane commemorates a most interesting man and his connection with Little Hulton. Henry Newcombe was a clergyman at Manchester Cathedral. His wife being an invalid the doctor recommended that she should go to Little Hulton Spa for the benefit of her health. She came to stay with a farmer friend of her husband in Hilton Lane and he lent her a horse so that she could visit the Spa Well and take the water daily.

The Well was at the northern end of Spa Lane at its junction with Old Lane. Spa Crescent, Spa Grove and Wellstock Lane are recent developments using the historic connection. Henry Newcombe became non-conformist and under the Five Mile Act was not allowed to live or preach within five miles of the

church where he had been a Church of England clergyman so he came to live with the farmer in Hilton Lane and attended Ellenbrook Chapel. He wrote in his diary that he felt sad attending chapel but not being allowed to preach. He also wrote that while in Little Hulton he had been gathering hazel nuts and added "which puts me in mind of my youth". When the Act of Toleration was passed in 1689 he was able to preach again in Manchester and the non-conformists there subscribed to the building of Cross Street Chapel and installed Henry Newcombe as the minister.

GROUP NAMES

There seems to be only two streets named for trees, Hazel Avenue and Beech Grove, two for birds, Kestrel Avenue and Falcon Drive and two Lake District names Coniston Avenue and Thirlmere Drive. There are a group of river names off Hilton Lane in the area known as Engine Fold:- Calder, Kent, Trent, Weaver, Derwent and Avon. A group of flower names occurs off Madams Wood Road near to Peel Lane:- Buttercup Avenue, Petunia Walk, Freesia Avenue, Narcissus Walk, Harebell Avenue and Jonquil Drive. Strangely

the bluebell was omitted from this group although this is the very place where the bluebells had flourished.

When the first Salford overspill housing estate was built after the war centred on Coniston Avenue north of Manchester Road East it was decided to choose names of places in Salford to mark the connection and also to remind the incomers of the link with their home town. These names include Adelphi, Buile Hill, Irwell, Kersall, Ladywell, Langworthy, Weaste, Broughton, Claremont, Bexley, Windsor, Regent, Ordsall and Seedley. The second overspill estate west of Peel Lane having been built on the land belonging to Kenyon Hall was allotted street names which perpetuated that connection.

FARMS AND FIELDS

Brynheys Close takes its name from Bryn Farm which was on the portion of Kenyon land that lay to the north of Manchester Road West. The farm had been given the name because the family had connections with the village of Bryn in Shropshire. Mount Skip was an old name for an area of land which gave its

name to a farm which used to be on the northern portion of the Mount Skip housing estate. Baron Fold and Bullows (also spelt Bulloughs) were farms on the western side of Cleggs Lane which derived their names from the owners or long-standing tenants. Sod Hall was a very old farm and in its later days a decrepit one. The 'hall' is probably a sarcastic nick-name, 'sod' is possibly a reference to its roof being thatched with sod. George Jones was the farmer there in 1871. It was suggested to the education committee that they should call the school built on that farm land Sod Hall School. They not surprisingly declined but accepted the alternative suggestion of Dukes Gate. This gate had been the entrance to an old lane just beyond Sod Hall Farm which was used as a way to Bolton via Highfield Hall, Marsh Lane and Bradford Road.

Primrose Avenue off Hilton Lane was named to commemorate Primrose Farm which took its name from that area on the west side of Hilton Lane known as Primrose Bank. On the east of the lane was Primrose Hill. We know that a hundred years ago primroses grew wild in Hilton Lane, in Old Clough Lane and at Roe Green.

Names ending in '-field', '-hey' and '-croft' are sometimes old field names perpetuated, for example Hope Hey, Belcroft and Carrfield. Some are invented to sound pleasant such as Beechfield, others though recently created are commemorative, Stockfield is one of these. The stocks at Little Hulton stood near to the Antelope Hotel, known locally as Poor Dick's and the field was on the northern side of the main road, where Stockfield Drive now stands. Wellstock and Cloudstock are also old field names used for modern roads.

The word 'croft' was historically applied to the cottage where a weaver lived and the field where he bleached his linen but later it was generally used for waste land or spare ground and that often became a place where children chose to play. Croft Street just north of Manchester Road West at the town centre probably derived its name from a brickcroft there which was land where clay was dug to make bricks. Names with 'moor' and 'moss' in them refer of course to the rough moorland and weeter mossland the lay on the northern edges of the town. Moorfield and Mossfield are common names in areas

where rough land was enclosed and cultivated and when streets were developed on such land they frequently were given those names.

BUILDINGS

There are streets in Little Hulton which take their names from particular buildings, a church, a chapel, a vicarage, a school, a gatehouse, the 'co-op' and even a pub. Church Street was between Martin Street and Manchester Road West, the church referred to being no doubt Peel Church. Chapelfield Drive off Hilton Lane led to the sports field belonging to Walkden Wesleyan Chapel which was also known as Walkden Moor and then St. Andrews East. Parsonage Avenue is a reminder of Parsonage Farm. The farmhouse had once been the vicarage for St. Pauls Church at Walkden. It was Wharton School that provided the name for School Street. The gatehouse was the entrance on Manchester Road which led to Yates Peel Hall to the south hence Gatehouse Road. Cooperative Street is at Greenheys where a co-op branch shop once stood on the north side of the A6.

The Shamrock Inn after which Shamrock Court is named

has a datestone built into the interior wall, a datestone that once belonged to a primitive Methodist chapel which previously stood on the same site. But before the chapel was built a cockpit stood there. Cockfighting was a popular sport even in the nineteenth century and large sums of money were gambled on favourite birds. Perhaps some future builder will commemorate that connection.

INDUSTRIES

Near to Gilded Hollins by the western boundary of Little Hulton in the mid-nineteenth century stood the Highgate Lane cotton mills. Highgate Lane was then a length of the A6 road in that area and now the name is kept in Highgate Lane and Highgate Drive off Captain Fold Road. Belcroft Grove is a reminder of Belcroft Pit which took its name from the field where the pit was sunk. To the south of the A6 in Wharton Lane was Wharton Colliery and nearer to the Kenyon Arms was Hanging Bank Colliery. There is a letter box built into the wall alongside the White Horse Hotel which still bears the name Hanging Bank, a name once used for an area of land near to the place where a stream flowed under the road.

Highfield Road led to Bank Colliery in an area known as Upland and the road used to go by field paths to Highfield in Farnworth by way of Captain Fold and Bullows Farm. Now Bank Grove, Bank Lane and Upland Road are there or thereabout.

There were a number of small unnamed coal pits dotted about Little Hulton. One of these was at Smithfold at the bottom of Smithfold Lane. It was developed into Smithfold Colliery in the 1860s by John Gibson who was also a leader in the establishment of the Primitive Methodist Chapel now St. Andrews. At the top of Smithfold Lane on Manchester Road stood a row of houses nicknamed Cuckolds Row for reasons which can best be imagined. At the eastern end of this row the London and North Western Railway passed under the road to Little Hulton Station and the appropriately named Bridge Lane went southwards at that point to join Smithfold Lane near to the Colliery.

Roscoe's Foundry and Bennis's Engineering Works, representatives of twentieth century industry are unfortunately not yet commemorated by street names. As building in the area extends new names will arise

and it is to be hoped that these will reflect the history of their time and place.

The City of Salford Street Atlas and Wigan Street Atlas are recommended for further reference.