

LEYLAND HUNDRED

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LEYLAND	CLAYTON-LE-WOODS	WITHNELL
EUXTON	WHITTLE-LE-WOODS	WHEELTON
CUERDEN	HOGHTON	HEAPEY

This extensive parish, having an area of 19,265½ acres and a population in 1901 of 17,940, appears from its irregular shape to be a remnant of a larger district, from which at various times other parishes have been cut off. At one time the townships of Hoghton, Withnell, Wheelton and Whittle-le-Woods formed a district or lordship bearing the special name of Gunolfsmoors. This part includes most of the hilly country in the eastern half of the parish; in the Leyland or western half the surface becomes comparatively level.

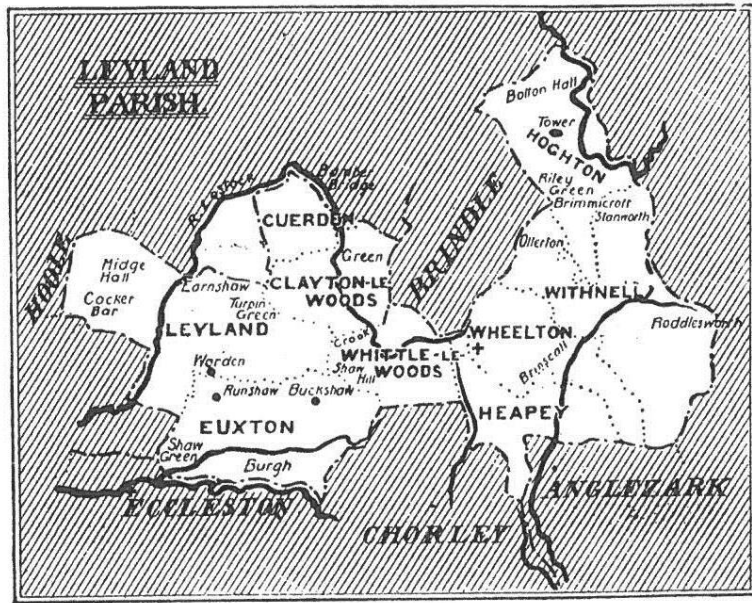
The township was anciently divided into four 'quarters,' viz. Leyland, Euxton, Cuerden with Clayton and Whittle, and the Moors, each of which paid equally to the county lay fixed in 1624.¹ To the fifteenth the various townships paid thus:—Leyland, £1 0s. 2d.; Euxton, £1 5s. 7d.; Cuerden, 15s. 8d.; Clayton, £1; Whittle, 17s. 4d.; Hoghton, 6s. 9d.; Withnell with Roddlesworth, 7s. 8d.; Wheelton with Heapey, 11s.; a total of £6 4s. 2d., when the hundred paid £30 12s. 8d.²

The agricultural land in the parish now amounts to nearly 16,000 acres, and is occupied as follows:—Arable, 2,530 acres; permanent grass, 12,454 acres; woods and plantations, 726 acres.³

Although Leyland stood upon one of the ancient roads to the north, and gave a name to the hundred, there is little distinction about its history. The principal family, that of Hoghton, long had possessions outside the hundred which seem to have been more attractive, as at Lea and later at Walton; the

Faringtons became the principal residents in the western part of the parish about 1560, and have maintained their pre-eminence.⁴ The Reformation left a large number of the minor gentry and people faithful to the Roman Catholic religion.⁵ The Commonwealth sequestrations involved the principal families, as well as many smaller ones, in disaster, for the Faringtons were bound up with the Earls of Derby, and the Andertons were zealous Royalists; the Hoghtons were divided, a Parliamentarian succeeding his Cavalier father.

The passage of the Young Pretender through the



parish in 1745 does not seem to have been marked by any noteworthy incident.

In the last century the various branches of the cotton manufacture and other industries found a resting-place, though agriculture occupies most of the land, and the hill quarries are actively worked.

¹ Gregson, *Fragments* (ed. Harland), 17, 22. The details are: Leyland and Euxton, each £5 11s. 1½d.; Cuerden, £1 2s. 2¾d.; Clayton and Whittle, each £2 4s. 5¾d.; Hoghton with Withnell, £3 3s. 6¾d.; Wheelton with Heapey, £2 7s. 7½d., or a total of £22 4s. 7d., when the hundred paid £100.

² *Ibid.* 19.

³ The details are:

	Arable ac.	Grass ac.	Woods ac.
Leyland	1,484	1,626	114
Leyland	925	6,421	244

	Arable ac.	Grass ac.	Woods ac.
Cuerden	79	615	68
Hoghton	38	1,721	204
Withnell	4	2,071	96

⁴ To the subsidy of 1525 the following contributed in respect of their lands in the parish: Thomas, William, Isabel, and Roger Farington. The others were: John Clayton, Richard Jackson (Kuerden), James Burscough, John Cowper, Robert Swanley (Swansey), and John Woodcock; Subsidy R, 130, no. 86.

⁵ The following compounded for the sequestrated two-thirds of their estates in 1628 and later years: In Leyland, Roger Charnock to pay £6 a year; Euxton, Isabel Anderton £8, John Charnock £2, Robert Hodgson £2 10s., Thomas Moore £2, William Roscow £2, Robert Worthington £2; Cuerden, Ann Banister £2; Clayton-le-Woods, James Anderton £40, Ralph Critchlow £2 13s. 4d., Robert Catterall £3; Hoghton, John Clayton £2, Edward Stubbs £3 6s. 8d., Christopher Taylor £2 10s.; *Trans. Hist. Soc.* (new ser.), xxiv, 173-8.

