

LEEKFRITH is an extensive township, between two branches of the river Churnet, and comprising 7500 acres, 877 souls, many scattered houses, and the hamlets of POOL END, 1 ¼ mile N.W.; WHITE'S BRIDGE, where there is a large dye-house, half a mile N.W.; ABBEY GREEN, half a mile N.; MEERBROOK, 3 miles N.; BLACKSHAW MOOR, 3 miles N.N.W.; and UPPER HULME, 4 miles N.N.W. of Leek. At Abbey Green are the remains of an ancient abbey, noticed at page 720, and a Bowling-green. The abbey farm is the property of John Davenport, Esq. At the north end of the township are the moorland farms of Gunsides, Rochside, and Hazlewood. As noticed at page 719, Leekfrith is in the Earl of Macclesfield's manor of Leek, but most of the soil belongs to William Brocklehurst, Esq., John Davenport, Esq., and many smaller freeholders. Upper or Over Hulme gave birth to Richard Caldwell, an eminent physician, who died in 1515. It has a silk mill in the dale, below the lofty mountain rocks, called Leek Roches, (see page 52,) where, some years ago, an immense mass of rocks fell in such a manner as to leave under it large cavern, which has since been occupied as a dwelling by a poor aged woman. Meerbrook Chapelry includes most of Leekfrith township. Its CHAPEL (St. Matthew,) was built and endowed by Sir Ralph Bagnall, who vested it with seven trustees, by deed, dated February, 2nd, 1564. It has about 250 sittings, mostly free. The living is a perpetual curacy, valued at £110, in the patronage of the Vicar of Leek, and incumbency of the Rev. James Turner, M.A., who rebuilt the Parsonage House, in 1828, and in 1845 settled upon the succeeding incumbents five acres of land and two buildings, at Roche Grange, for preaching additional sermons. Mr. William Condlyffe, of Leek, is heir-at-law of one of the original chapel trustees, and has an estate at Upper Hulme, which has been held by his family since 1647. John Stoddard, in 1673, bequeathed out of his lands at Thornyleigh and Leekfrith, three yearly rent-charges, viz., £4 to the curate of Meerbrook, £10 to a schoolmaster for teaching 20 poor children of that chapelry, and £2 for the poor of Gunsides. In 1679, Edmund Brough left out of his lands at Peakstones, 50 shillings yearly to the curate of Meerbrook, and 20 shillings to the poor of Rocheside and Hazlewood. Roger Morris gave £100, and directed one-half of the interest to be given to the schoolmaster, for the education of eight poor children of Leekfrith, and the other for a distribution of bibles. The interest, £4 10 shillings, is paid out of the rent of Swines Moor Farm. Thomas Wood left £30, for which 30 shillings is now paid yearly out of Stock Meadow Farm, and distributed in bread among the poor of the liberty of Meerbrook.

LEEKFRITH.

Marked 1 are at Meerbrook, 2 Middle Hulme, 3 Thorny Lee, 4 Upper Hulme, 5 at Wetwood, 6 White's bridge or Bridge end, 7 Abbey green, and 8 at Pool end.

1 Brassington John, miller
 Gaunt Matthew, Esq., Abbey green
 6 Hammersley William, silk dyer
 4 Hine Thomas, corn miller
 8 Hulme James, wheelwright
 1 Hulme William, day school
 Nixon Robert, district clerk
 4 Parker George, silk throwster
 8 Plant Richard, tailor
 1 Rider George, wheelwright
 Tredwell Solomon, Esq., Highfield Hall
 1 Turner Rev James, M.A., incumbent of Meerbrook

Inns and taverns

7 Bowling Green, Ralph Dixon
 1 Fountain, Charles Armett
 1 Three Horse Shoes, James Wheeldon
 Three Horse Shoes, John Goodwin, Blackshaw Moor

Blacksmiths

8 Finney Thomas
Rider Thomas

Boot and shoemakers

1 Bratt Joseph
2 Brough John
4 Hand Abraham
Wood William

Farmers

(* are Owners)

Armett Mary
4 Ash Mary
Bailey Edward
Beswick William
Batt Ralph
*Brassington Thomas and 3 Samuel
Brocklehurst James
2 *Brough William
5 Brown Matthew
Brixton Thomas
*Carter William
Chappells Joseph
*Clowes John
Clowes William
3 Clowes Thomas
*Clulow James
*Clulow John
Critchlow James
*Findlow Samuel
Findlow John
Fisher James
*Fisher Thomas
Gould James
Gould Thomas
Hassall Edward
Hind George
5 Hind James
Hind Joseph
Hind William
7 Hulme James
2 Hulme John
Hulme Samuel
Hunt John
Lockett John
Lockett William
*Lomas William
Lownds William
Mellor John and Samuel
Mills Joseph
*Mountford John
Mountford Samuel

Needham George
Nixon John and Mary
4 Oulsman James
Pimlett Robert
*Plant John
3 Read Joseph
Riley John
4 Robinson William
*Rogers George
Taylor Thomas
*Taylor William
Turnock Martha
Wood Richard
7 Woolliscroft Ralph, Abbey
Yates William