



JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY

Volume 13 (1981)

ISSN 1351–3095

Kill Cais in Clayton-le-Woods, Lancashire

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£40 (full)

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£45 (full)*

£18 (associate*)

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ABBREVIATIONS OF COUNTIES AND EPNS COUNTY SURVEYS

Co	Cornwall
Ha	Hampshire
He	Herefordshire
K	Kent
La	Lancashire
Nb	Northumberland
Sf	Suffolk
So	Somerset
Wt	Isle of Wight
CPNE	<i>Cornish Place-Name Elements.</i>
EPNE	<i>English Place-Name Elements, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN BdHu	<i>The Place-Names of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire.</i>
PN Brk	<i>The Place-Names of Berkshire, Parts 1, 2 and 3.</i>
PN Bu	<i>The Place-Names of Buckinghamshire.</i>
PN Ca	<i>The Place-Names of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely.</i>
PN Ch	<i>The Place-Names of Cheshire, Parts 1–5.</i>
PN Cu	<i>The Place-Names of Cumberland, Parts 1, 2 and 3.</i>
PN D	<i>The Place-Names of Devon, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN Db	<i>The Place-Names of Derbyshire, Parts 1, 2 and 3.</i>
PN Do	<i>The Place-Names of Dorset, Parts 1–4.</i>
PN Du	<i>The Place-Names of County Durham, Part 1.</i>
PN Ess	<i>The Place-Names of Essex.</i>
PN ERY	<i>The Place-Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York.</i>
PN Gl	<i>The Place-Names of Gloucestershire, Parts 1–4.</i>
PN Hrt	<i>The Place-Names of Hertfordshire.</i>
PN Le	<i>The Place-Names of Leicestershire, Parts 1–7.</i>
PN Li	<i>The Place-Names of Lincolnshire, Parts 1–7.</i>
PN Mx	<i>The Place-Names of Middlesex (apart from the City of London).</i>
PN Nf	<i>The Place-Names of Norfolk, Parts 1–3.</i>
PN Nt	<i>The Place-Names of Nottinghamshire.</i>
PN NRY	<i>The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire.</i>
PN Nth	<i>The Place-Names of Northamptonshire.</i>
PN O	<i>The Place-Names of Oxfordshire, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN R	<i>The Place-Names of Rutland.</i>
PN Sa	<i>The Place-Names of Shropshire, Parts 1–9.</i>
PN Sr	<i>The Place-Names of Surrey.</i>
PN St	<i>The Place-Names of Staffordshire, Part 1.</i>
PN Sx	<i>The Place-Names of Sussex, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN W	<i>The Place-Names of Wiltshire.</i>
PN Wa	<i>The Place-Names of Warwickshire.</i>
PN We	<i>The Place-Names of Westmorland, Parts 1 and 2.</i>
PN Wo	<i>The Place-Names of Worcestershire.</i>
PN WRY	<i>The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Parts 1–8.</i>

Kill Caiis in Clayton-le-Woods, Lancashire

T.C. Porteus¹, in his study of the medieval hundred of Leyland examined the question of the endowment of land to the hereditary serjeanty of the hundred. No land is mentioned in the earliest grant² of the serjeanty to Gerald de Clayton by King John in 1199 when he was Count of Mortain, and a later reference in 1247³ is ambiguous in that land said to be held by serjeanty included Clayton with two other Lancashire serjeanties, one of which (in Walton-on-the-Hill) is known to have included a land endowment. A further complication arises because the de Clayton family also held the office of seneschal (sometimes called serjeant) in the Barony of Penwortham, for which Albert Bussel, lord of Penwortham, had between 1164 and 1190 granted four bovates of land.⁴ These four bovates were certainly in Penwortham, and Porteus concluded that the office of serjeant of the hundred did not imply land held by serjeanty in Clayton. However the presence of the field-name Kill Caiis in the Tithe Award schedule for Clayton-le-Woods in 1838⁵ requires that the question of a serjeanty land-holding here should be reconsidered. The field named Kill Caiis lay at the edge of the demesne of Clayton Hall, which continued to be held by the Clayton family until the late sixteenth century. (Map 2) Dr. Margaret Gelling has suggested that the name Kill Caiis may have applied to the whole area of

the demesne (the neighbouring field, Coarse Angles, having a corruption of *Cails* for the first element) and that the name would survive for a boundary field because there it would often be used to distinguish Clayton demesne from that of neighbouring Crooke Hall. She instances the example of Ismere House near Kidderminster which preserves the name of the old province of Usmere, and Crutchfield in Horley, Surrey which preserves the Domesday name of the hundred of Cherchefelle, later Reigate hundred.

Stewart-Brown⁶ showed that the organisation by which the King's serjeants of Northern England were each responsible for the maintenance of law and order in their respective hundreds was the same system by which the *cais* of Wales and the Welsh border maintained the peace in their commotes. Just as the serjeant could claim 'puture' (food for men and horses) from certain villis within his hundred when he was carrying out his duties, so the *cais* of Wales could claim *cylch*. The term 'puture of the serjeant' is therefore the precise equivalent of *cylch cais*.

The serjeant of a hundred was essentially an administrative officer who was responsible for the maintenance of the king's peace in the hundred. In early medieval Lancashire this was a hereditary post which Cam described as 'almost certainly an archaic survival',⁷ and there are records of the transmission of some Lancashire serjeanties from father to son over

several generations. This might be considered to strengthen the likelihood of an associated land-holding. The serjeant of each hundred, with under-serjeants to help him, worked under the sheriff of the county⁸ and on their journeys round the hundred were entitled to claim food for themselves and their horses from villages in their bailiwick. The serjeant's duties included serving writs and summonses to the court; he had to arrest suspects and take them to jail or obtain sureties for their appearance at court; he carried out distraints on those found guilty and he was responsible for collecting moneys due to the king such as scutages and aids; he was also responsible for keeping the hundred rolls and the accounts. His duties therefore involved considerable clerical work and the presentation of cases at the hundred court as well as the physical task of riding on business round the hundred. His work required him to have ready access to the hundred court, but he also needed to be at a point where many routes would permit him to reach all the settlements in the hundred easily from his home. Presumably also he had to keep a number of riding horses and would need land to maintain them. We might therefore expect that if there were holdings of land associated with his serjeanty, they would reflect these needs.

It is probably therefore no accident that the Clayton holding immediately adjoined Leyland which was the Domesday caput of the hundred. The demesne of Clayton Hall adjoins the boundary with Leyland; and the demesne

of Worden, perhaps the original caput, marches with that of Clayton. Proximity to the court and administrative centre was therefore assured. Later, the partial transference of the administration to Penwortham with the rise of the Barony should require that they, as seneschals of the Barony, should be given land in Penwortham as well. Clayton-le-Woods and Leyland are fairly central to the hundred, so that no settlement would lie more than seven or eight miles from either. Through both townships a Roman road, Margery's 70c,⁹ ran north to south. It was described before 1213 as the 'king's street'¹⁰ and would have permitted rapid travel through the length of the hundred. The Preston to Manchester road which runs along the eastern boundary of Clayton is a ridge-road for much of its length and appears to be ancient. It leads through Chorley to Anderton on the east edge of the hundred (Map 1), and from it a road branches towards Wigan through Standish with Langtree. This 'highway' and a bridge on it are mentioned in a Cockersand charter¹¹ dated 1200-35. On the west side of Leyland township is another north-to-south road leading to Penwortham on which is the perhaps significantly-named hamlet of Straits: this road may link with one through Wrightington called 'the highway'¹² first mentioned in an undated, possibly thirteenth-century, charter and again in 1336. Routes across the hundred from east to west must always have been more difficult because of the low-lying mosses and the tidal swamps of the river Douglas, but three miles south of Clayton an old route

follows the low watershed between the marshy valleys of the rivers Lostock and Yarrow and, passing through Croston, leads to the crossing of the Douglas at Rufford. From Clayton therefore, even with the more limited communications of the middle ages, there was remarkably good access to all parts of the hundred.

Within Clayton demesne, several other field-names recorded in the Tithe Award schedule appear to have some antiquity (Map 2). 'Cunnery' is derived from *coninger*, ME a rabbit warren;¹³ and the name 'Rabbit Hills' is a reference to the medieval practice of throwing up hillocks to encourage the establishment of a warren. The association of these names with Kill Caiis would seem to refute any likelihood of the latter being a late antiquarian fake. The emphasis of the double i in spelling *Caiis* suggests a pronunciation *kays* rather than *keys* which is quoted by Rees in Carmarthenshire.¹⁴ Stewart-Brown¹⁵ mentions *kays* and *cais* as appearing in medieval charters of Chirk in Denbighshire, and Russell-Smith¹⁶ quotes *cylcheais* as occurring in the Extent of Chirkland 1391-3 (ed G.P. Jones, p.68) and also a late reference to *cais* as a gloss on *publican* (Luke xviii, 10) in Thomas Salesbury's translation of the New Testament into Welsh. Thomas Salesbury was the eldest son of Sir Henry Salesbury of Llewenny in Denbighshire; so evidently *cais* was extant in North Wales at that time. Russell-Smith¹⁷ in a footnote quotes J. Morris Jones as saying that 'the present *ai* sound is at least as old as the

fourteenth century'. It occurs in modern Welsh as *ceisiad*, 'one who seeks or pursues'. In a note at the end of her paper Russell-Smith¹⁸ gives several examples of the use of *cylch* on the English side of the Welsh border in the middle ages. It appears as *kylək* at Oswestry, Shropshire, in 1272; as *kylh* at Wem, Shropshire, in 1290; and as *kelk* at Davenport, Cheshire, about 1383, suggesting that the use of Welsh legal terms was not confined to Wales and could be found in neighbouring English counties and used alongside English terms.

here is a remote possibility that such a term could have been introduced from North Wales into Lancashire by one of the Welsh followers of Robert Banastre who were granted lands in the county after his defeat at Prestatyn in 1167.¹⁹ One such gave rise to the name of Welsh Whittle in Leyland hundred, but there seems little reason for supposing that a field name would be introduced in such a way to a township some miles from Welsh Whittle. Such an introduction would have to predate the Clayton family's sale of the serjeanty before 1247. They retained their land. Kill Caiis may be a survival from an early period when British was a familiar language in Leyland hundred. There are several British names in Leyland hundred, including Charnock, Heskin, Penwortham, and probably Eccleston and Cuerden.

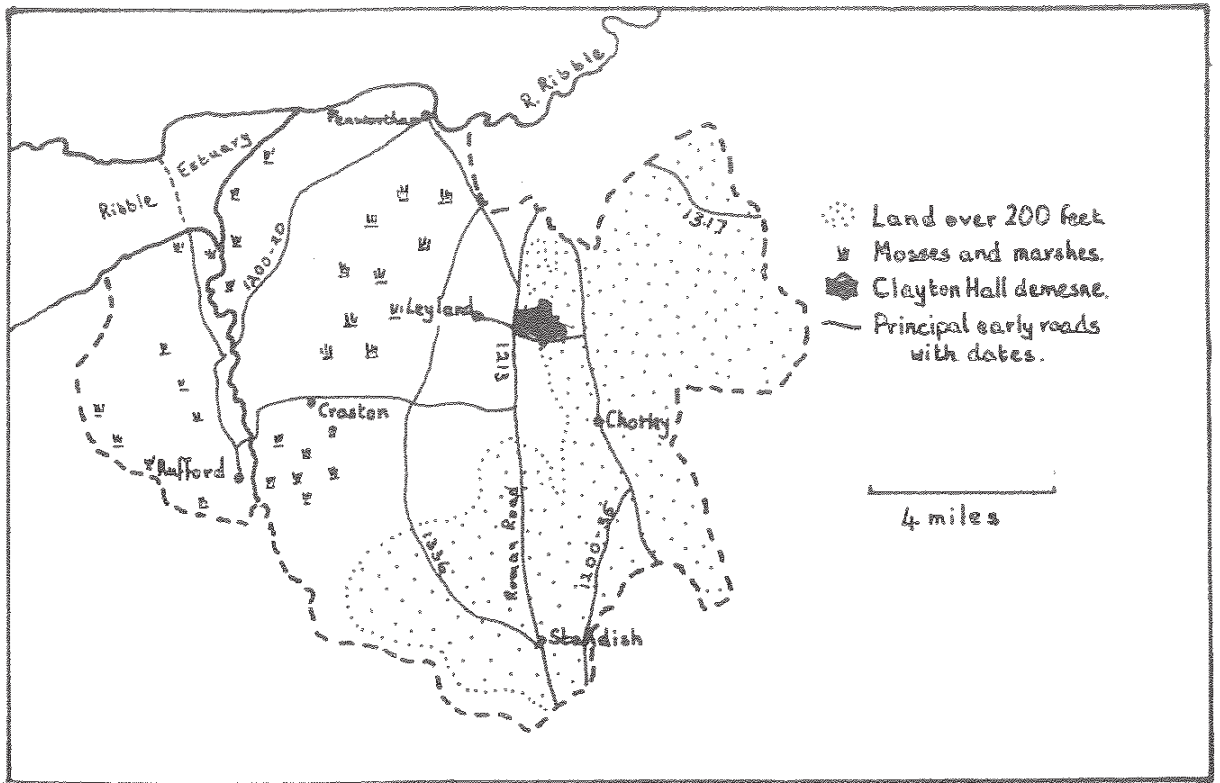
The existence of the field name Kill Caiis in a holding associated with a medieval serjeanty suggests

that the piece of ground was the tangible sign sign of the holding of the office, and it would seem worthwhile therefore to examine field names in the estates of other serjeanties in Lancashire. This has been done, except for Pendlebury in Salford, for which the Tithe Award is not available. At Singleton in Amounderness and Walton-on-the-Hill in West Derby no field-name can be found which resembles Kill Caiis. In the Hundred of Lonsdale, however, the serjeanty was confirmed in 1199 to Adam de Kellet 'with three carucates of land in Kellet belonging to that serjeanty'.²⁰ Adam de Kellet's descendants in 1292 alleged that his ancestors from the Conquest had held the serjeanty and the land that went with it.²¹ By 1324 Sir Robert de Hollande held the manor by being serjeant of the wapentake of Lonsdale.²² The estate was split up in the seventeenth century, and by 1819 the manor was apparently held by the Cole family of Beaumont Cote. On one of the tenant farms of their estate the field-name Fiddle Case is listed in a survey of 1821,²³ and also in the Tithe Award of 1840.²⁴ The capital F is written in copybook cursive script and it is possible that the name may have originally been Kill Case which someone struggling with the written form has tried to make sense of in English. The 1840 shape of the field is irrelevant to the name as it is triangular.

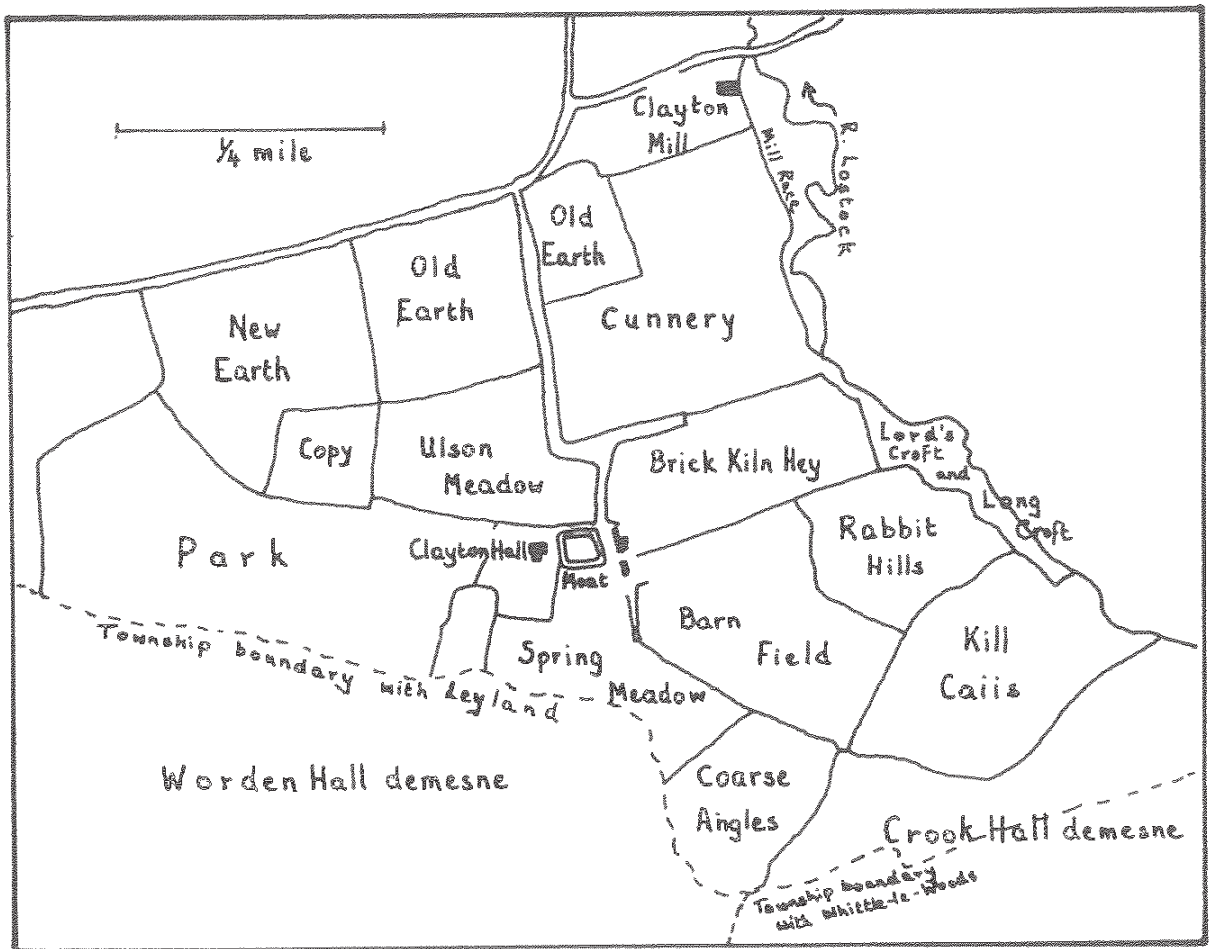
All these serjeanty holdings show features in their site and situation comparable with those of Clayton. They are rarely far from the capital manor of the hundred: Singleton is furthest from the caput (at

Ribby), but the hundredal estate of Amounderness had been very considerably broken up, and both caput and serjeanty holding may have changed site; Pendlebury is next to the Domesday caput of Salford, and on the Roman road from Manchester to Wigan and on the ridge road to Preston. Walton-on-the-Hill adjoins West Derby, and though no Roman roads appear to be identified in West Derby hundred both villis stand on the sandstone ridges which were certainly significant routeways from prehistoric times. Nether Kellet township is next to the Domesday caput of Halton in Lonsdale hundred; and not far from the later caput of Lancaster, and the principal crossing of the river Lune. Roman roads follow both sides of the Lune, so as at Clayton there were reasonably good communications with other settlements in the hundred.

MARY A. ATKIN



Map 1. Medieval Roads in the Hundred of Leyland, Lancashire.



Map 2. Clayton Hall demesne, Clayton-le-Woods.

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