

OTHER BRANCHES OF THE ASSHETON FAMILY

As discussed in ‘The Lancastrian Asshetons’ there are many other branches of this amazing family that have received scant attention to date but have appeared as brief pedigrees in old documents recorded in the 16th to 19th centuries. In the course of my researches I have unearthed a certain amount of information about these families but do not intend at the present time to pursue this further. So for anyone interested in the wider Assheton family I have summarised my findings here as a matter of record. One particular shortcoming is the failure to link these branches to the main family documented previously, but I will leave this to others. As a help to anyone undertaking this task I will review the branches in chronological order starting with the earliest:

1. ASSHETON of PENKETH beginning ~ 1300
2. ASSHETON of CROSTON beginning ~ 1310
3. ASSHETON of SHEPLEY beginning ~ 1375
4. ASSHETON of GLAZEBROOK beginning ~ 1480
5. ASSHETON of BAMFURLONG beginning ~ 1490
6. ASSHETON of PRESTON beginning ~ 1545
7. ASSHETON of PENNSYLVANIA beginning 1604
8. Other notable ASSHETONs

It will be noted that all but one of these branches of the family were in what is now Lancashire but in 1699 a Robert Assheton who was descended from the Asshetons of Shepley emigrated to Pennsylvania forming a new branch in the USA. The final section deals with some memorable Asshetons who cannot be linked to any of the branches, many of whom were in the Church, but also a family of four brothers who were first-class cricketers and an economic historian.

ASSHETON OF PENKETH

William Assheton b. ~1300

> Richard Assheton b. ~1335 m. Margery Penketh heir to Penketh Manor

> Thomas Assheton b. ~1370

> Hamlet Assheton b. ~1400 m. Marian Baxter (heir)

> Thomas Assheton b. ~1435 m. Helen Butler

(also George/ Elizabeth/ Jennet Assheton)

> John Assheton b. ~1470 m. Cicely Assheton (dau. Gilbert A. of Bamfurlong)

(also Thomas Assheton)

> Thomas Assheton b. ~1500 m. Dowce Massey

(also George/ Helen Assheton)

> John Assheton b. ~1535 m. Julian Grimsdyke d. 6 Jul 1620

(also William/ Cicely/ Elizabeth/ Eleanor/ Dorothy Assheton)

> Christiana Assheton b. ~1570 m. Hamlet Assheton of Glazebrook

(also Timothea/ Elizabeth/ Anne/ Margaret Assheton)

> Thomas Assheton b. ~1588 m. Katherine Brock 1612 d. 1645

> Capt. John Assheton b. 1614 d. 1643 Bolton

Major Thomas Assheton b. 1616 m. Elizabeth d. 1675

William Assheton b. 1618 d. 1668

Capt. Andrew Assheton b. 1619 m. Alice d. 1679

(also Christiana/ Katherine/ Elizabeth/ Mary/ Margaret Assheton)

From this last family Thomas and Andrew had descendants as follows:

Major Thomas Assheton

- > Col. John Assheton b. 1644 m. Catherine d. 1707 Ormskirk
also Thomas/ Peter/ Katherine/ Frances/ Magdalen Assheton
- > Strange Assheton b. 1691 Ormskirk d. 1756
also Anne/ Katherine/ Elizabeth Assheton

Capt. Andrew Assheton

- > Major John Assheton, Esq b. 1653 m. Mary Rigby 1685 d. 1691
- > James Assheton b. 1687 and
Maria Anna Isabella Margareta Beatrix Assheton b. 1689 m. Richard Venn
d. 1762

We know very little about this branch in its early history except for the two occasions when there was a marriage with an Assheton from a neighbouring branch. The second occurrence was critical in keeping the manor in the family name as the heir Christiana was one of five daughters in her generation and there were no sons. There is an article entitled 'The Family of Ashton of Penketh' that was published in the Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire for the year 1886 which provides some interesting information. From Thomas Assheton born in 1588 onwards we know somewhat more about the families exploits. His eldest son John Assheton was said to have been a Captain in the army who was killed at Bolton in 1643 along with several of his soldiers. The Bolton Massacre was an event in the English Civil War but this didn't occur until 1644, so he might have been caught up in an isolated event.

Thomas' second son was Major Thomas Assheton who survived the Civil War and had several children, the oldest of whom was Colonel John Assheton said to have been of Ormskirk. This suggests that he no longer held Penketh and I believe that it may have passed out of the family via the daughter of Major

Thomas' brother Captain John Assheton, named Margaret who had married Robert Heywood of Heywood. Colonel John's brother Thomas Assheton was a lawyer and there was another brother Peter and three sisters. John had a son Strange Assheton also said to have been of Ormskirk, of whom nothing unusual is known except his name, and three daughters. Thomas' third son was William Assheton of whom we know nothing and his youngest son was Captain Andrew Assheton who also survived the Civil War and had a son who became Major John Assheton, Esq.

This John was born around 1653 presumably at Penketh, near Warrington but by the time of his marriage to Mary Rigby he was in London. They married at St Mary-at-Hill in Billingsgate, an Anglican Parish Church, in 1685 and had several children. Perhaps because of his later notoriety his status may have been exaggerated but he served under General Worden who was Treasurer to the Queen, Mary of Modena and was himself Clerk of the Closet to Mary wife of King James II (hence his son's and daughter's names). In 1688 James II was deposed and exiled to St Germain in France, the last Roman Catholic monarch in Britain. A political movement known as Jacobitism (Jacob being the latin form of James) then arose seeking to restore the Roman Catholic king to the throne.

Mary Rigby's father Edward was a Merchant of some standing operating out of Covent Garden and his house the 'Seven Stars' became a regular meeting place of Jacobites. By religion John Assheton was a Protestant and in late 1690 he attended a meeting of Protestant Jacobites (presumably as an Anglican he was part of the nonjuring schism feeling legally bound by their oaths to King James). The meeting resolved to invite Louis XIV of France to forcibly restore James II and Viscount Preston (Richard Graham) agreed to take the necessary papers to St Germain to get support for the conspiracy. Assheton agreed to arrange the trip and hired a boat at London with a friend Major Elliott. Aroused by the requests for secrecy the owner tipped off the authorities and so when the trio embarked carrying treasonable papers they were watched and then arrested at Tilbury on 31 December 1690.

Although Viscount Preston had carried the papers (carefully tied and weighted so they could be dropped overboard if needed) he had carelessly let them fall on the deck and Assheton had picked them up and hidden them on his person. So it was he who was captured with the incriminating evidence, though in the event they were all taken to Whitehall and brought to trial two weeks later.

They were tried separately and Assheton claimed he was visiting France to meet with the exiled queen regarding her debts for which he was held responsible and calling witnesses to support this. But the papers did for him and although all three of them were found guilty of treason and sentenced to death only Assheton was executed by hanging at Tyburn on 28 January 1691. He was attended after his conviction and on the gallows by several nonjuring clergymen and just before his death he gave the sheriff a note stating he was a Protestant and happy to die in the service of James II. This led to further concern by the authorities and the Bishop of Gloucester attempted to refute John's claims. In reply a Jacobite published a staunch defence of John in the 'Loyal Traitor'.

Although John and Mary had had several children only two survived, a son James (named for the king) born in 1687 of whom it is said that the exiled king later created a Baronet at Versailles in honour of his father but I have not confirmed this. Meanwhile Mary had sought sanctuary at St Germain's after John's death but when she refused to convert to Catholicism she was badly neglected and died in 1694 aged only 28. Even then she was refused burial and her father had to arrange for her body to be returned to England at great expense and she was buried in Covent Garden Church. Their other surviving child was a daughter who was named Maria Anna Isabella Margareta Beatrix Assheton in honour of Mary of Modena (who had the same five Christian names in a different order). She was born in 1689 and christened at St James Westminster, London the same year. She married Richard Venn, Rector of St Antholin's Church in the City of London, and they had eight children. She died in 1762 but the last of the true Asshetons of Penketh had already died many years earlier.

ASSHETON OF CROSTON

John Assheton b. ~1310 m. Emma Winwick

> John Assheton b. ~1345

Richard Assheton b. ~1347

Thomas Assheton b. ~1350 m. Alice Lea heir to Croston Manor d. 1407

> Sir William Assheton b. ~1385 m. Anne Millington d. 1467

> Thomas Assheton, Esq b. ~1415 m. Ellen Urswick

> Thomas Assheton, Esq b. ~1450 m. Margaret Scarisbrick d. 1496

> Thomas Assheton, Esq b. ~1485 m. Agnes Standish d. 1528

> Richard Assheton, Esq b. ~1520 m. Jane Hesketh 1545 d. 1582

> Thomas Assheton b. 1547 m. Elizabeth Twyford 1574 d. 1622

(Richard Assheton b. 1553 m. Joan Cleyton 1584 d. 1610

> Thomas Assheton b. 1588

William Assheton b. 1589 m. Elizabeth Chamberlyn 1619 d. 1659)

(Capt Roger Assheton b. 1555 d. 1592)

(Richard Assheton b. 1556 d. 1556)

> Richard Assheton b. 1586 m. Anne Kitchin heir to Pilling d. 1621

> Thomas Assheton b. 1604 d. 1640

(Richard Assheton b. 1614 m. Dorothy Whitmore d. 1665

> Anne Assheton b. 1632 heir to Croston m. John Trafford

> Assheton Trafford d. 1663)

(also Henry Assheton b. 1615 and Hillary Assheton b. 1617)

> John Assheton b. 1630 a delinquent, disinherited m. Bridget

Not very much is known about this branch of the family but I can provide a few snippets that I have gleaned. Again I cannot identify the origins of the first John Assheton at the head of this pedigree, but his marriage to Emma Winwick was very beneficial to the family. Firstly her brother Sir John de Winwick who was rector of Wigan bequeathed them the manor of Mourholm in Carnforth for nine years and secondly her brother Sir Richard de Winwick who was canon of Lincoln probably gave their son Thomas a position in the Cathedral as he was buried at Lincoln Cathedral in 1407. It was this son Thomas Assheton born in 1350 who married Alice Lea the heir to Croston Manor creating the Croston branch. His son Sir William Assheton is the only Knight in the line that I have identified but others could have purchased a knighthood for a price. Sir William was initially married to Alice Lacy but he divorced her because of a precontract pledging him to Alice Brackley then married Anne Millington instead. This is the earliest record I have come across for a divorce and it was certainly extremely rare in those days, usually requiring dispensation from the Pope.

Following Sir William we have a succession of three Thomas Asshetons, the third of these being only a minor when he inherited the Manor of Croston. The young Thomas was given a difficult time as his wardship was traded several times including on one occasion to Hugh Assheton, a kinsman though how closely related I cannot tell. Hugh finally sold it to Ralph Standish and when Thomas gained his majority he married Agnes Standish his daughter. By now the moiety was described as the Manor of Croston and Mawdesley, but it is difficult to tell if the latter had been added or was always a part of the estate as the hamlet of Mawdesley is closely connected to Croston. His son Richard was also a minor when Thomas died in 1528, though he did well for himself being a Gentleman Usher to the Earl of Derby at one point and holding the manor for many years.

It seems as though Richard may have split the estate as his eldest son Thomas took Croston but another son Richard appeared to hold Mawdesley as did his son William. In any case Thomas' grandson, also Thomas Assheton, inherited Croston in 1622 because the former's son Richard had just predeceased him. The grandson was only 17 years old at the time and ten years later he refused a knighthood by paying £10, presumably because it would have cost far more to accept. Sadly he died the following year and so Croston passed to his brother Richard although this was contested for a time by another brother Hillary who

was a merchant overseas. The family were devout Catholics unlike the Penketh branch, but for some time they had escaped conviction for recusancy. But Thomas and Richard were avowed Roman Catholics, and eventually Richard's estates were sequestered under the Commonwealth and he was charged with both recusancy and delinquency. Thomas' son John had also been declared a delinquent and so Richard's daughter Anne became the heir and when she married John Trafford the estate passed out of the family ending this branch.

Returning to Richard Assheton born in 1520, he had a son Richard born in 1553 that I previously described as Richard Assheton of Mawdesley. This Richard was well educated, finishing at Gray's Inn in 1578 and becoming MP for Newton in Makerfield in 1601 and 1604. He was also Steward of Newton from 1601 to his death and was made a Freeman of Preston in 1602. His son William Assheton born in 1589 was also MP for Newton in 1614, made a Freeman of Preston in 1622 and Commissioner of Swans for Lancashire, Cheshire and elsewhere from 1627-9. He died in 1659 leaving no will and no heirs. He had a brother Captain Roger Assheton born in 1555 who unlike his Penketh cousins was a Catholic. In 1585 he was serving under Sir William Stanley who was in the Low Countries guarding Deventer from the Spanish. With the encouragement of Assheton, Sir William gave the town back to Spain and went over to their side in 1587.

Cardinal William Allen published a defence of this act in a letter he sent to Roger Assheton (R.A.) but his days may already have been numbered. In late 1587 Assheton returned to England and was apprehended in Kent carrying a marriage dispensation from the Pope giving him permission to marry his second cousin. He was arrested and by January 1588 he was in the Tower of London. By the end of the year he was ill and so was transferred to easier confinement in Marshalsea. From here he escaped and made his way to Lancashire to get help from his family. Finally he was arrested at North Shields in Northumberland whilst trying to escape overseas. He was transferred from Durham to York and finally to Canterbury where he was tried and sentenced. In 1592 he was taken to Tyburn to be hung, drawn and quartered where he died a resolute Catholic to the end, professing his faith.

ASSHETON OF SHEPLEY

Sir John Assheton b. 1375 Ashton-under-Lyne

> Sir Thomas Assheton b. 1403

> Sir John Assheton b. 1435

Edmund Assheton b. 1437

Jeffrey Assheton b. 1440 m. Margery Manners (heir of Shepley)

> Thomas Assheton b. 1465 m. Miss Bagshaw

> Henry Assheton b. 1495 m. Anne Marland (of Rochdale)

> Thomas Assheton b. 1520 m. Elizabeth Tatton (of Wythenshawe)

(Richard Assheton b. 1522 & Robert Assheton b 1525)

> Robert Assheton b. 1545 m. Katherine Thompson (of Ashton-u-Lyne)

(Richard Assheton b. 1547 also Jane/ Agnes/ Elizabeth Assheton)

> Thomas Assheton b. 1570 m Alice Sandford (of Salop) d. 1624

> Robert Assheton b. 1604 m. Jane Walker (of Ashton-u-Lyne)

(also Jane/ Elizabeth Assheton)

> John Assheton b. 1630 m. Sarah Lever

(William Assheton b. 1635 also Lydia/ Frances/ Jane Assheton)

> Thomas Assheton b. 1655

(John Assheton b. 1658 also Elizabeth/ Jane/ Anne Assheton)

> Samuel Assheton b. 1680

In this case the origin of the branch is known and derives from the third son of John Assheton of Ashton-under-Lyne born in 1435 who was the son of Sir Thomas Assheton the alchemist. This third son was Jeffrey Assheton born in

1440 at Ashton who married Margery Manners who was the only daughter and heir to the Manor of Shepley which was in the parish of Ashton. The manor was passed down the family quite uneventfully for nine generations and there is scant information about this branch except for a couple of events.

The Robert Assheton born in 1604 received a Grant of Arms by letters patent for Assheton of Shepley in 1632 and had a second son William Assheton born in 1635 at Shepley whose son was another Robert Assheton born in 1670. This latter Robert Assheton a lawyer immigrated to America in 1699 founding the Assheton of Pennsylvania branch of the family which will be discussed shortly. The final name on the pedigree is Samuel Assheton born in 1680 at Shepley of whom we know very little except that in 1713 he sold the manor to John Shepley of Stockport, grocer and so the estate passed out of the family. I assume that Samuel had no heirs and so decided to dispose of the manor in this way.

ASSHETON OF GLAZEBROOK

Humphrey Assheton b. 1480

> Hamlet Assheton b. 1515 d. 1576

> Hamlet Assheton b. 1550 1st m. Elizabeth d. 1590

> John Assheton b. 1583 d. 1623

(Richard Assheton b. 1585 and from 2nd m. Christiana Assheton >

Thomas Assheton b. 1588)

> Hamlet Assheton b. 1620 m. Alice d. 1663

From this fairly brief pedigree it can be seen that this branch did not endure for very long although nothing is known about the start of the line. The branch seems to have ended in 1663 when the third Hamlet Assheton was hanged at Chester for murder. It appears that he killed a tapster (a person selling ale or wine) and may have been drunk at the time. He was buried three days later on 10 September 1663 at Warrington. His wife died in November 1664 and I can find no record of a child, but in any case the manor would have been forfeited.

ASSHETON OF BAMFURLONG

Richard Assheton b. 1490

> John Assheton b. 1525 m. Jane Gerrard d. 1603

> Richard Assheton b. 1555 m. Margaret Harden d. 1594

(also John/ William/ Thomas/ Elizabeth/ Alice/ Jane Assheton)

> Richard Assheton b. 1593

> Mary Assheton b. 1625

Bamfurlong was in the Assheton family since at least 1305 but nothing is known about the early members of this branch. In the 17th century it passed to the Gerrard family of Ince, possibly via the marriage of Mary Assheton.

ASSHETON OF PRESTON

Thomas Assheton of Croston b. 1547

> Richard Assheton b. 1586 m. Anne Kitchin heir to Pilling d. 1621

(Henry Assheton of Littlewood b. 1588 m. Julia Elston of Brockholes
also Isabel/ Anne Assheton)

> Thomas Assheton b. 1604

Richard Assheton b. 1614

Henry Assheton of Preston b. 1615 1st m. Anne Turner of Haigh

> Dorothy Assheton b. 1645

2nd m. Anne Barrow of Wigan

> Richard Assheton b. 1651

(also Thomas/ Hillary/ Elizabeth Assheton)

It is not clear how Henry Assheton born 1615 came to be known as 'of Preston' or what happened to his son Richard Assheton born in 1651. Henry though was recorded as a recusant, so his family were clearly Catholic.

ASSHETON OF PENNSYLVANIA

Robert Assheton of Shepley b. 1604 m. Jane Walker

> (John Assheton of Shepley b. 1630)

William Assheton, Gentleman b. 1635 m. Frances Bradshaw 1668

> Robert Assheton, Gentleman b. 1670 m. Margaret 1690 emig. 1699 d. 1727

(also Frances/ Mary/ Rachel/ John Assheton)

> (William Assheton, Esq b. 1691 m. Elizabeth Herring d. 1723)

Ralph Assheton, Esq b. 1695 m. Susanna Redman 1716 d. 1746

> Dr Ralph Assheton b. 1736 m. Mary Price 1766 d. 1773

(also Elizabeth/ Susannah/ Robert/ Ralph/ William/ Thomas/ Margaret/

Frances Assheton, none of whom lived beyond 37 years)

> Susannah Assheton b. 1767

Anna Maria Assheton b. 1768

Frances Assheton b. 1770 m. Joseph Henry d. 1852

Maria Assheton b. 1772 m. John Claxton 1794 d. 1807

Robert Assheton of Shepley born in 1604 had two sons, John Assheton born in 1630 who inherited Shepley and William Assheton, Gentleman born in 1635 who was an Attorney-at-Law, Coroner and Deputy Herald at Arms. In 1668 William married Frances Bagshaw who was a first cousin of William Penn, a Quaker and founder of the Province of Pennsylvania. William Penn was the son of Admiral Sir William Penn and was born in 1644 at London. In 1681 he was granted title to a large land holding in America by King Charles II to satisfy a debt that the king owed to Penn's father. Penn immediately set off for America organising a general assembly to run the colony and founding Philadelphia. In 1687 he conveyed 3000 acres of land in Pennsylvania to Robert, Frances, Mary, Rachel and John Assheton, the children of his cousin Frances.

Robert Assheton, Gentleman born in 1670 at Salford would have been only 17 years old when he and his siblings were granted this land in America and it would be another 12 years before he would emigrate there. In 1690 he married Margaret and they had two sons William born in 1691 and Ralph born in 1695 both at Salford, whilst he completed his training to become a lawyer. In 1699 he and his family left for Pennsylvania where he was quickly accepted, no doubt because he had been invited by the Proprietor William Penn himself as his close relative. From 1701-16 he was the Town Clerk of Philadelphia, he was elected Recorder in 1708, appointed to the Provincial Council in 1711 and made a Master in Chancery in 1722. He was also appointed Prothonotary (Chief Clerk) and in 1722 Justice of the Supreme Court of the Province.

His son William Assheton, Esq returned to England to be trained at Gray's Inn and by 1714 was Judge of the Admiralty in Pennsylvania. In 1722 Robert Assheton stepped down from the Provincial Council allowing his sons William and Ralph to be appointed in his place. Sadly William died in 1723 at the age of 32, leaving a wife Elizabeth, daughter and son Thomas Assheton who went to Barbados. In 1764 Thomas returned to Pennsylvania where he became a merchant, married and had one daughter Harriet who ended up in New Orleans. Robert's other son Ralph Assheton, Esq also became a lawyer and by 1716 was the Town Clerk of Philadelphia following his father. Like his brother William he was appointed a Provincial Councillor in 1722 where he continued until his death in 1746. He married Susanna Redman in 1716 and they had nine children, though four of these died in childhood and none of them lived beyond 37 years.

The only son to survive long enough to marry and have children was Dr Ralph Assheton born in 1736. As a young man he studied medicine at Edinburgh and then returned to Philadelphia where he continued to practice until his early death in 1773. Ralph married Mary Price in 1766 and they had four daughters in the brief time before his death. The oldest of his children was Susannah, known as Susan, born in 1767 and who never married but did leave behind a record of her life in 'Susan Assheton's Book'. The second daughter Anna Maria also never married, but the other two Frances and Maria did and both had children of their own. However, this branch of the family would effectively die out when Frances died in 1852 as there were no male heirs to carry on the name.

OTHER NOTABLE ASSHETONS

1. JOHN ASSHETON (preacher) – b. 1350, MA in Theology from Merton College, Oxford. Early follower of John Wycliffe (philosopher and theologian). In 1382 he was singled out with 3 others for prosecution by Archbishop William Courtney. Appeared at Blackfriars on 18 June and was expelled from university despite declaring his allegiance to the faith of the church. Later seized on Archbishop's orders and on 27 November he recanted and was allowed to return to Oxford. In 1387 he was denounced by Bishop Wakefield of Worcester as a Lollard and prohibited from preaching.
2. HUGH ASSHETON (archdeacon) – b. 1489, commenced a MA at Oxford in 1507 but soon after received a grace from Cambridge to study Canon Law. He became a Canon and Prebendary at St Stephen's, Westminster in 1509; Prebendary of Strensall, York in 1515; Rector of Grasmere, Ambleside in 1511; Archdeacon of Winchester, 1511; Archdeacon of Cornwall, 1515; and Archdeacon of York, 1516. He was also Comptroller of the Household of Lady Margaret Beaufort who became his patroness, Rector of Barnake, Lichfield and in 1522 Rector of Burton Latimer, Northants. He was a great benefactor of St John's College, Cambridge and although he was buried at York in 1522 there is a magnificent tomb of him at St John's.
3. WILLIAM ASSHETON (cleric) – b. 1641 at Middleton, Lancashire. His father was Rector of Middleton. In 1658 he went to Brasenose College, Oxford where he gained a fellowship in 1663 with a BA. He entered holy orders, gained his MA and began regular preaching. The Chancellor of the university appointed him Chaplain and he gained the degree of DD in 1673. He became Prebendary of Knaresborough the following month and his patron procured him the livings of St Antholin's, London and Beckenham, Kent where he settled from 1676. Many years later he was asked to become Master of Brasenose but was too infirm by then. He died at Beckenham in September 1711 and was buried in the local church.

4. JOHN WILLIAM ASSHETON (bishop) – b. 1866, he attended a grammar school in Wakefield before going to University College, Oxford. After entering holy orders he began his ministry as a Curate in Northampton. In 1896 he emigrated, going to Australia where he was Rector at Brisbane, Vicar of East St Kilda and finally Anglican Bishop of Grafton from 1921 to 1938. He died in 1964 in his 98th year. It is not clear if he is from the Lancashire Assheton family.

5. PERCY ASSHETON (cricketer) – b. 1895 at Calcutta in India. He was a medium-fast bowler and played for Essex mainly but had occasional matches for the MCC. He died at Bigbury-on-Sea in 1934. He was the oldest of four brothers who were all first-class cricketers.

6. GILBERT ASSHETON (cricketer) – b. 1896 at Bromley, Kent he was educated at Winchester College then served in the Royal Field Artillery during WW1 where he won the Military Cross (MC). After the war he went to Cambridge University, captaining the cricket and football teams in 1921. He played 62 first-class matches between the wars for Cambridge University and Worcestershire. He was also headmaster of Abberley Hall Preparatory School, served as a magistrate and was Deputy Lieutenant of Worcestershire in 1968. He died in 1981 at Abberley.

7. SIR HUBERT ASSHETON (cricketer) – b. 1898 at Calcutta in India he was educated at Winchester College and Trinity College, Cambridge. Like his brother Gilbert he was commissioned in the Royal Field Artillery during WW1 and won the MC. He also played cricket for Cambridge University and was captain in 1922. In all he played 71 first-class matches, mainly for Cambridge and Essex, and in 1922 was Cricketer of the Year. In addition he played football for several clubs including West Bromwich Albion. But at the end of 1922 he joined the Burmah Oil Company and played little sport thereafter although he did appear for both India and Burma against the MCC. He was High Sheriff of Essex in 1943, MP for Chelmsford from 1950-64, made a Knight Commander (KBE) in 1959 and President of the MCC in 1960-1. Hubert died at South Weald, Essex in 1979.

8. CLAUDE THESIGER ASSHTON (footballer & cricketer) – b. 1901 at Calcutta in India he was educated at Winchester College and Trinity College, Cambridge. He played football for Corinthians and once in 1925 for England as captain. He played cricket for Cambridge University and Essex, captaining the Cambridge side in 1923. In all he played 127 first-class matches and got centuries on four occasions. Outside sport he qualified as a Chartered Accountant and worked for the London Stock Exchange. In 1938 he was commissioned into the Auxillary Air Force as an acting pilot officer and at the outbreak of WW2 he was called to active service and promoted to flight lieutenant. In 1942 he was posted to No. 256 Squadron RAF and was killed when the Bristol Beaufighter he was navigating collided with a Vickers Wellington in mid-air on a training exercise over North Wales. Two of his uncles and his brother-in-law also played first-class cricket as well as his three brothers.

9. THOMAS SOUTHCLIFFE ASSHETON (economic historian) – b. 1889 he was educated at Ashton-under-Lyne secondary school and Manchester University. He was Professor of Economic History at the London School of Economics from 1944 and Emeritus Professor from 1954 until his death in 1968. He was President of the Manchester Statistical Society, 1938-40 and the Economic History Society, 1960-3. He published many books on the economy of the 18th century. It was revealed in 2012 that he had turned down a knighthood in 1957.