

Early History

Patrick Mobberley and the Priory to St. Augustine

First mentioned in a charter dated 1190 when King Richard 'The Lionheart' sold his English estates and set out for Palestine on the third Crusade, Augustine de Brethmete inherited Mobberley and gave a moiety (half) to his younger brother, Patrick, for Patrick's lifetime. It was Patrick, mentioned in charters between 1190 and 1220, who first took the name Mobberley as his surname. In 1206 he founded a small priory of regular Canons of the order of St. Augustine, and also took an interest in two salt houses at Northwich. But due to a reducing number of canons, Patrick handed over the foundation to Rocester Priory in Staffordshire. Because of irregularities in its endowment, the Mobberley priory was finally closed.

The Mobberley's of Mobberley

John de Mobberley was Patrick's younger brother and heir of Augustine.

Ralph de Mobberley, thought to be John's son, became lord of Mobberley and a judge mentioned in an Assize Roll of 1260.

William de Mobberley, first son of Ralph, married Maud, daughter of Robert Downes of Chorley and heiress of Gawsworth. William was sheriff of Cheshire in 1319, took as his seal the Fitton arms of Gawsworth inherited by his wife, and placed upon a canton the three Cheshire garbs (wheatsheaves).

Sir Ralph de Mobberley was William's son by his first wife. Ralph was requested by the Black Prince to recruit archers to serve in France during the Hundred Years War, but in 1361 he fell sick and died without leaving a legitimate male heir. His body was brought back to Cheshire and buried on his Lower Peover estate.

The Mobberley Arms

(Source: Ormerod's History of Cheshire)



Two 14th Century Documents

c.1360. Petition of John de Leycestre to the prince (Edward III - the 'Black Prince') stating that he was in possession of the manor of Modburlegh by assignment of Sir Ralph de Modburlegh his uncle, and left a servant to keep the same, Hugh de Chaterton and others of the county of Lancaster came and ousted him by force, while petitioner was out of the country, and still hold the manor without regard for the commandments of the prince, or of John Delves lieutenant of his Justice of Chester, and praying in consideration of his costs both at Caleys (Calais) and in London to re-enter and have again his inheritance. Undated (French).

1361. Declaration of John de Wynkefeld, Knight, in a suit between John de Leicestre and Hugh de Chaderton and Margaret his wife (said to be daughter and heir of Sir Ralph de Modburle knight), concerning the manor of Modburle and other lands of Sir Ralph in Co. Chester, that sir Ralph came to him before Reynes (Reims), at the beginning of the sickness whereof he died, and said that before his journey to Gascony he enfeoffed certain chaplains, John Spendlove and others, of said manor and lands upon certain conditions dependant on his will, and said that his heritage should not be dismembered, but should he die said chaplains were to enfeoff Jon de Leicester his nephew of the whole, to him and his heirs, but that this was private, because his wife had a daughter (Margaret) which he did not hold for his, and she should never inherit, nor any other but said John; and again a little before his death prayed him to aid his said nephew, as he has testified before the prince and others. Dated London 11 June 35 Edward III (1361).

Four 17th Century Wills

1628: Will (Nuncupative) of George Mobberley the elder of Plumley dated 12 June 1628.

To be buried "in the visual burial place of his ancestors within the chappell of Lower (Nether) Peover."

Son, George Mobberley, wife Elline and three children William, John and Ellin Mobberley.

"But in case the said William Mobberley doe not return home."

Witnesses: John Mobberley and Peter Frodsham.

Inventory of George Mobberley the elder late of Plumley:

by James Norbury; Thomas Wood & Rich Broome. 3 July 1628.

1647: Will of Richard Mobberley of Pott Shrigley, husbandman, dated 1 April 1647.

Body to be buried in Prestbury parish church

Pasture held by testator by virtue of a surrender made by the late Thomas Shrigley of Berrestall, Esq., called Lower Field and Lower Field Wood.

Present wife Joane Mobberley and her son Francis Cleaton

Brother Thomas Moberley. Maude Leeley, widow; Anne Howley, wife of Richard Howley

Thomas Potts in Adlington. Elizabeth Sydall, wife of Thomas Sydall. Margery Sharmon, wife of Raphe Sharmon; her sister Anne Walley; Godsons William Wyld, Thomas Wyld &

Richard Small. Edward Wyld, Thomas Wyld & Anne Wyld. Cosin Richard Moberly of Newton. Stepson Francis Cleaton & cousin Richard Moberley, Executors.

Witnesses: William Shertt, Hugh Howley, Peter Lownds.

Inventory of Richard Moberley of Pott Shrigley, by John Dauempport, Thomas Alen, James Vppton & William Pimlott.

1652: Will of Anne Mobberley of Plumley, Co. Chester, widow.

To Ellen Mobberley: the great table in the house, sideboard, pann & "hoiser".

To Jean Wood & Ellin Wood: £10 each. To Elizabeth Wood, dau of Richard Wood : £10

To 6 younger children of Ellen Wood of nether Pever & to the 4 younger children of Richard Wood: a beast each. Residue to Thomas Wood, son of Thomas Wood & Thomas Wood son of Richard Wood; Wearing apparel to be divided between Ellen Mobberley, Jean Wood, Elizabeth Wood & Ellen Wood.

To Thomas son of Richard Wood: the bed which is at his father's,

To Thomas son of Thomas Wood; two beds; Kinsmen Thomas Wood & Thomas Wood: executors.

Witnesses: John Stretch & Richard Litler.

Proved 28 Feb 1653 by Thomas Wood

1654: Will of John Moberley, yeoman of Plumley, Great Budworth, son of George,

To dear loving wife Anne Moberley of Plumley:
all my goods & wealth; she to be sole executrix.

Date 1 May 1652.

Witnesses: Tho. Jesup & Geo. Wilson, notary public. 10 July 1654:

Letters of administration issued to Tho. Wood, executor of Anne Moberley, the executrix.

Parish Registers

Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII 's Vicar General, Introduced the continental system of Parish Registers into England and Wales (Scotland commenced in 1558, and Ireland in 1634). Many of those early registers were far from complete. Some parish priests were slow to adopt the new system, while others were lax in maintaining continuity until 'reminded'. Some registers were not started until 1597 when Elizabeth I ordered all miscellaneous records to be gathered together and copied into one register. However, some priests felt so over- burdened with this task that they omitted earlier records. Even worse, during the Civil War in England, some soldiers billeted in parish churches during the winter used the registers as fuel for heating. The surname is first found in extant registers in the 1560's. It is also recorded in Staffordshire from 1572 (around 1611 a Ralph Mobberley born circa 1550 and possibly a descendant of the family of the Dilhorne/Cheadle area of Staffordshire, settled in the Lye/Oldswinford district of Stourbridge in north Worcestershire. This was about the same time as the first glassmakers arrived from the continent, and it is thought that, as many of Ralph's descendants were brick makers, he too may have begun making bricks used to build the early glass furnaces that fired the developing world famous Stourbridge glass industry.