

Extract from :-

General History and Description of Cheshire,
By Samuel Bagshaw, Sheffield. January 21st 1850.

W H E E L O C K

Is a township and pleasant village in a neighbourhood richly diversified with picturesque beauty, half a mile S.S.W. from Sandbach, intersected by the North Staffordshire Railway and the Trent & Mersey canal; a considerable part of the village north of the Wheelock is in Sandbach township; here are salt works, two breweries, and three silk factories, only one, however, of the latter is now occupied. Messrs. Bull, of Congleton, employ upwards of 70 hands in this establishment; the township contains 666a, 2r, 3p. of land, of a light, sandy nature, and at the last census in 1841, there were 120 houses and 574 inhabitants; population in 1801, 189; in 1831, 440. Tateable value, £2,223:16:0. G.H.Ackers, Esq. is the land owner. The vicarial tithes were commuted in 1839 for £49.14.3, which are paid to the vicar of Sandbach. The impropriate tithes, £75 are paid to James Skerratt, Esq.

Wheelock gave name to an ancient family, who possessed the manor as early as the reign of Henry II. Upon the death of Richard de Wheelock without issue, in 1439, this manor passed to Thomas Worth, who married the heiress of that family: the only daughter of Mr. Worth, brought it to Richard Leversage, Esq. During the civil war, William Leversage sold this manor, to the wrongful disinheritor, as it is said, of his nephew, then in his minority, to Thomas Stephens, Esq. who continued in possession in 1662. The immediate descendants of the Leversages, who are called by Webb in his Itinerary esquired of special respectable tradesman at Nantwich. The Manor of Wheelock was sold by Mr. Stevens to Richard Vernon, Esq. of whose trustees it was purchased by Edward Power, Esq.; about the year 1786 the Ackers family became possessed of it. G.H.Ackers, Esq., is the present proprietor.

The small river Wheelock passes through the township, and falls into the Dane below Middlewich; on both sides this river, in the townships of Sandbach and Betchton, brine springs are found at a depth of 60 yards and salt is made in considerable quantities: it is conveyed along the Trent & Mersey canal on the bank of which commodious warehouses have been erected.

A Chapel of ease dedicated to our Saviour, was erected at a cost of about £1,000, which was chiefly raised by subscriptions; it is a small brick fabric, and has an endowment of £300 from the rural chapel fund. The living is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the vicar of Sandbach, and incumbency of the Rev. Thomas Gardner Morgan. A neat parsonage has been erected a short distance south east from the chapel.

The Independent Chapel. A neat small structure, will hold 200 persons. The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel will accommodate about 250 hearers. The Baptist Chapel at Wheelock Heath is a venerable fabric, the congregation of which, in former times, were frequently honoured with the ministrations of the celebrated Matthew Henry.

Post Office Receiving House at Mr. George Martin's. Letters arrive at 7.30 a.m. and are despatched at 7.30 p.m.

Marked x are in Sandbach Township.

Alderson, Thoms. lime burner.	x Beech William, butcher
Caulton Jane & Fanny, semny	Cockbean, Samuel, bricklayer
Davenport, The Misses.	Dawes Saml. manager brewery
x Dumville Nathan, Saddler	Faram Samuel, timber mert. & builder
x Farr John, hair dresser	x Farr Mrs. Ann
x Fox Joseph, linen and woollen draper.	Hailsten Ts. grocer & draper
x Horsfield James & Son, guano bone, coal & brick merchants.	x Johnson Matthew, iron fndr. & shopkeeper
Martin John, traveller	Martin James & Geo. grocers, baker & chemists
Morgan Rev. Thos. Gardener Parsonage.	x Pollitt & Richard, corn miller
x Poole George, millwright & shopkeeper	X Rhodes George, wharfinger
X Tomkinson Wm. Manager at Messrs. Bull's	x sproston James, joiner
x Wharton John, toy dealer	stringer, James, gentleman, Mount Pleasant
x Williamson Thos. H. Salt works proprietor	x Wilkinson Charles, shopkeeper & brickmaker

Blacksmiths

x Dunning Thomas
Ravenscroft George

Farmers

x Cotton James
Lowe John
Pedley John, The Hall
X Singleton Richard
Whittaker James
Witter, Ts. White Hall

Tailors

Brewers

Moss & Shaw
Plant Joseph (Saml Dawes Manager)

Public Houses

Golden Lion, Rebecca Lowndes
Nag's Head, Eliz. Coates
x New Inn, Jas. Jones

Beerhouses

x Cotton James
X Dunning Thomas
x Lowndes "
x Proudlove James
x Singleton Rhi.
Thorley James

Shoemakers

Allmark Ts. The Heath
x " Thomas
x Cooke George
x Hilditch Ralph