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Ancient Boundaries by Nellie Kirkham.

Part 3: Hassop (Notes on the Boundaries of Hassop Lordship).

The boundary of Hassop in 1432 and 1589²⁶ commenced at Backdale Head cross-roads, then followed a narrow roadway westwards to Longstone Edge. In 1432 this was "the way that lyeth to Tideswell". Nearly half a mile from the main road there is an angle in the boundary, so possibly this was a Gospel Place (see Part 1) as Gospel Mine is close by. All the ground below, including Backdale Mine, Frogatt Grove, and Brightside Mine, was Backdale Pasture. In 1794 articles of agreement were made between Francis Eyre of Warkworth Castle, Northampton, John Robinson of Hassop and William Milnes. They possessed Backdale Pasture divided into thirty-eight shares in differing proportions, Buildings on the mines are shown on the sketch accompanying the agreement. The brook (with enclosures called Sych) rises 1,400 ft further north than it does on modern maps, with two small pools shown where a well is now marked. Nowadays the latter is a small amount of muddy water, with part of a breasting wall. Mr. Booker said that in 1960 there was a sudden flood of sludge and a pool formed, while at the present spring to the south at one time there was a pump which piped water to a dressing plant 160 ft above. It was a never failing source of water.

Miss Meredith gives the area of Backdale Mine etc., as the Brekes (Bretch, Breke or Breache) which was part of Norclay (Narclay) Field, which in 1588 Rowland Eyre enclosed out of the waste as part of his land from which he excluded the inhabitants of Hassop from common grazing, which caused trouble with the freeholders.

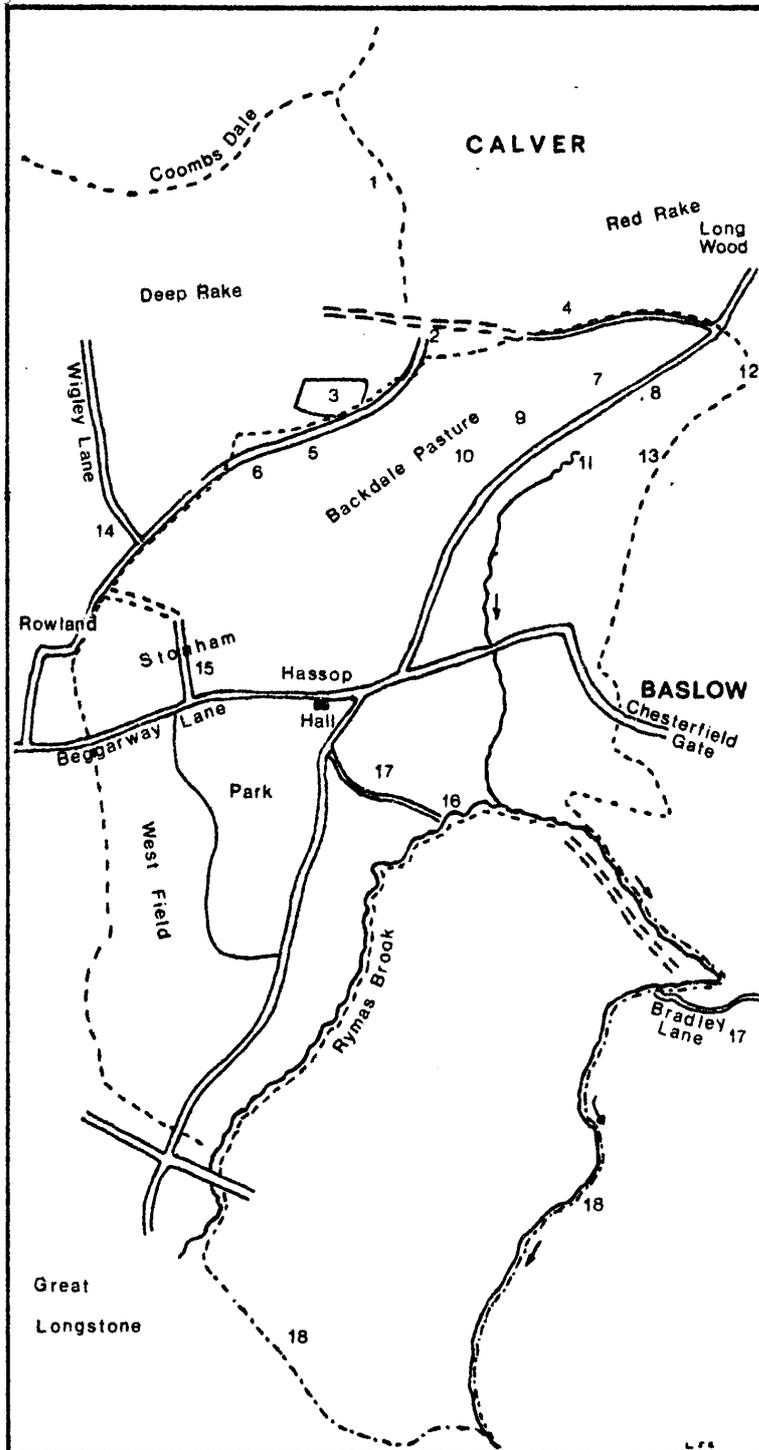
A crude mine-map of 1728, insofar as it can be interpreted, appears to place "Breech Veins all three" on the north side of the gateway to the dressing plant of the Bleaklow Mining Company. It depicts the veins belonging to the partners of a sough, and includes Dogge Rake and Red Rake, which are known, and Long Hole Vein. Another name for Northcliff Plantation is Long Wood. Entries of 1759 and 1762 mention Breechside Sough in Calver, and in Hassop in 1763. So it can be inferred that the sough ranged northwards, under the boundary into Calver Liberty, and possibly it would have a branch to the west in Hassop, for the hillside is extensively mined. This is interesting, for although some of the Calver soughs are identified the course of others is uncertain, including that of the Breach side (Breach) Sough.

It appears reasonable to conclude, though it is not proved, that this north running sough is Breachside Sough, driven in 1728. It was very profitable, much ore being mined in the area it drained in the 1760's to 1780's. Hopkinson calls it highly productive. It was closed down between 1807 and 1816.²⁷

At about 3,000 feet from the road was the "ditch that goeth over Cockerfieldlowe". A portion of this ditch, now more than five centuries old, in 1966 was still distinct as a ditch between two banks.

In 1570, as now²⁸, the Ashford boundary went northwards, following "the same great dyke towards Middleton into a place called Rydall mouthe, and from thence to the nether end of Comsdale leaveing the Lordshippe of Calver on the right hand", from there going up the valley to Blackden (see Part 1). Cockerfieldlowe must be on the high ground of Deep Rake, as from there the ground dips north into the valley which descends to Coombsdale. One meaning of mouth is an entrance to a valley.

HASSOP MAP



1. Rydall
2. Ditch over Cockerfieldlowe
3. Beacon Rod
4. Gospel Mine
5. White Coe Mine
6. Water Hole Mine
7. Backdale Mine. Bleaklow Mining Company Dressing Plant
8. Probably Breechside Sough
9. Frogatt Grove
10. Brightside Mine
11. Spring
12. A small enclosed garden here in 1794
13. Bole Edge Top. Now Bank Mine
14. Hard Nell Mine
15. Old Road
16. Slab Bridge
17. and 17. Packhorse road from Pilsley
18. and 18. Present Boundary Hassop

At the top, near Cockerfieldlowe, where the ditch goes southwards by the boundary wall, in the sixteenth century there was a "stone that stands in a prymme gap in the double ditch end", and the boundary continued "holding ever West to a stone and so to the stones that stand by the wayside that lyeth betwixt Bakewell and Stoney Middleton". Near where the ditch now ends, by the junction of Hassop, Calver and Ashford, a limestone monolith lay in the grass which was undoubtedly far older than the present line of upright boundary stones. A primgap in lead mining was the measurement of part of a meer in a vein which was less than half a meer in length, and which occurred where a vein ranged into another liberty. It belonged to the lord of the field, and in order to work it, and the Lord's meer, the miner had to purchase them from the lord. Great Vein, from White Coe Mine, ranges north-east along the boundary wall, so its workings can be dated to late medieval times.

The 1570 boundary of Ashford began "neare the Beacon that standeth on the hill toppe above Hassope at a great Double Dyke", and a "little from the same Beacon South eastward" was where the three lordships met. This gives the top of the Edge as an approximate site for the beacon. On some hilltops with this place-name, cressets, or even remains of towers, have been found, where beacons were lit on hilltops for the purpose of giving an alarm or indicating some event of importance. In 1585 among the duties of the Lord Lieutenant of the county was "watching" the beacons, and in 1588, at the time of the Spanish Armada, beacons blazed from hilltops all over the country. In 1804 the beacons flared, drums beat to arms, and the voluntary forces turned out, but it was not the looked-for invasion of Napoleon, but a chance spark from a limekiln somewhere which made the countrymen set the rest of the beacons alight.²⁹ Beacon Rod is the name of an enclosure lower down the hill, a rod is a clearing of trees and bushes to make arable land, an assart.

The boundary, or lordship, stones which are marked on Ordnance Survey maps are a short distance from the wall, probably originally having been set on the true boundary – the now disappeared ditch. They are well-dressed with good lettering, at the earliest they look as if some of them could date from last century. Earlier standing stones had been set up before 1432 by Will Lemyng, Gervase Dobbles of Longstone, and Harry Jackson of Hassop.³⁰

A vein is visible, and there was mining in the open enclosures on the north of Beacon Rod. In 1798 Beeton (or Beacon) Mine title was sold to Waterhole Mine.

In the course of long troubles between the Eyre family and the Duke of Devonshire and between the Eyres and Wright of Great Longstone³¹ there was a dispute over a lead mine "on beacon side" in 1629. In November William Eyre, with his servant Nicholas Thornhill, and John Steades of Rowland his tenant, came to the mine which was in dispute. Here William Telear "was in quiet possession for my la'y of Devon her right". Eyre ordered Telear to come away from the mine or he would "draive him by force", and "did take him by violence to Haddon", for which action Eyre had no pretext or warrant. But when Telear was brought before John Manners of Haddon³² Eyre had nothing to allege against him, only asking Manners to send Telear to a house of correction. The writer of the account said that Eyre did it "on purpose of have my la'y loose her possession".

For over a month Eyre kept servants at the mine, at night two of them were on guard, one with a sword and long staff, the other with a long staff. The next month Thornhill came there "and like to have throttled William Munro". In January there was further violence, for Eyre and Thornhill and six others, including a John Telear, to the mine "whoe stroke and misused" William Singleton who was there keeping possession for the writer of the document. They "broke and pulled the timber in pieces". In the afternoon Thomas Eyre and two servants came and drove Richard and Hardie and Henry Platts from the mine, and "pulled in the grove", took away "the timber by force", and with "manie reproachful words", said that "hee would burne my Tymber before my

face Strike my servants with a staff too", and "where I had one lipped he would make me two".

The account is slightly confusing in that it is not clear who was writing it, but it is among the Wright documents. About March, William Brassington, Eyre's shepherd, brought his sheep upon the ground in question "about ye Doole Ditch wch is with ye Mannor of Ashford". A man who was hired by this parish came up to turn the sheep out of Ashford, Brassington struck him with a staff and Eyre brought his sheep back.³³

Timber means the possession stowes, small wooden models of the miners' winding stowes (winches) which had to be placed at the end of every meer measured in the vein, denoting possession. In certain circumstances, when a miner was illegally in possession, the barmaster threw off the possession stowes and burnt them, but it was an offence for anyone else to remove, burn or damage them. An article of the Ashford Barmote laws in 1626 stated that if any man "pull in any Man's Work" which was in legal possession, "or cut and pull in pieces any Stowes or timber, to hinder him from working" the culprit should forfeit £5 to the lord and £3-6-8d to "the Party grieved" and 33-4d to the barmaster – which was a good deal of money with wages at 1-0d per day.

Blacklow (see Part 1) was of larger extent than the Blakelow (Blacklow) around the beacon, and had always been demesne land. This was land held by the lord of the manor, though portions of it, such as the home farm, could be let off to tenants. The Wrights held a good deal of land in Great Longstone from the time of Edward III. By 1770 they had 181 acres in Blacklow, but in 1611 the Earl of Devonshire appears to have had all the ground of that part of Bleaklow in the region of the beacon. In 1550 he was lord of the manor of Ashford, of which Great Longstone was a parcel, so he had the lead mining rights in this private liberty, also the rights to coal, ironstone, marble and other minerals, with the exception of gravel, clay and sand. Meredith says that the Countess of Devonshire had a jointure in her own right in Ashford.³⁴

In 1620, as a widow, the Countess administered the estates during the minority of her son, so she would have lot and cope etc., on Beaconside. Apparently also before 1631 she was farmer of lead ore tithe in parts of north Derbyshire, over which there was a suit between her and Lord Deincourt. But the phrases in the document "my la'y of Devon her right" and reference to her "losing possession" sound as though she actually had taken title to the mine.³⁵

White Coe and Waterhole Mines lie on the southern edge of the boundary. Between them two stones, one of which is still visible, marked the division between Waterhole and Brightside's possessions, which later in the eighteenth century included White Coe. Where the Hassop boundary turns southwards slight signs of the ditch are visible along it. The boundary joins the old roadway, and if the wall at this junction is followed westwards a short distance, there is what might be, though it is uncertain, a continuation of the ditch alongside the wall.

The old boundary followed "the high way to Pekelow cross", which is now lost, though it could be suggested that perhaps the cross stood where Wigley Lane leaves the roadway to continue steeply north as a narrow packhorse lane. From the cross the boundary went to a stone "that stands in the (outgate?) betwixt Hassop and Roland", (1432) or "to a Stonne lyinge in Rowland towneheade" (1589) and then to a "well alias wall at the nether end of Roland towne and so to an Ashe at Rowland close". The 1432 boundary went "down to pye wall" and then to the ash "in Roland close end".

The hamlet of Rowland has no real street, but a few scattered houses and farms face all ways. Some of the backs of the houses and buildings are old and unaltered, many of the fronts appear to have been renewed last century, when lead mines were prosperous. The phrase "well alias

wall" possibly indicates where the short stretch of the road from east to west in the centre of the village is a walled causeway over a north-to-south dip in the ground, with a "well" in the next enclosure to the south. Here there is a slightly raised line down the centre of the field, as though over a drain. It is possible, but unproved, that this is the line of Hard Nell Sough. Mr. Somerset Calver says that the village drain ran down this field and suggested that if it was the sough the sewage was turned into it. He added that this field below the causeway was said to have been a washing floor, and to be exceedingly belland. As water from sough-tails were often used for a washing floor, this is further probable evidence.

A probable meaning for "pye wall" is a small old lime-kiln, pyes being the name for these. In north Derbyshire they are still referred to as "pudding pies".

At Beggarsway Lane (Blind Lane) from Hassop to Longstone, the boundary crosses into the park of Hassop Hall. There is a well-preserved pinfold on the north side of the road. The park was much smaller, much of West Field and its enclosure being taken into it later. The subsequent laying out of the park must have destroyed many features, so the meer stones are not traceable. Many of the plantations date from the eighteenth century when alterations were made to the house and gardens, and a hot house and a very large greenhouse were erected. The Eyre of that time was said to be "possessed of a greater number of exotics" than any other gentleman in this part of the country.³⁶

The boundary continued to "Hassopee Ryse and as the water runneth to the stonne brydge" then to "a place called heyforde, now called towste Ford", (1589), or "down to the hayforth", (1432), and "after Rymbles to the toyst betwixt Hassop and Byrchills", (1432), "so follows the rymbels to a towste", (1589).

The ancient boundary was the present one until it joined Rymas Brook, then it followed this east-of-north to where the present boundary – having left the brook – joins it again at Toast Bank Wood, so that a large tract of land, now in Hassop, did not then belong to this manor. A map of Rowland Eyre's estate of Hassop manor in 1752 is the same as in 1432.³⁷

The stone bridge is a stone-slab bridge crossing the brook, with a narrow, walled, packhorse roadway going up to Hassop. This was part of the way from Chatsworth to Castleton taken by Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) when he journeyed round Derbyshire before writing his "Wonders of the Peak". He rode to Pilsley and Hassop on what he described as a "rugged track" which was the old packhorse roadway which still curves down the hillside below Pilsley, crossing the Bakewell main road, and over the old slab bridge up to Hassop. The next part of the way will now be lost through Hassop Park to Beggarsway Lane. From there no doubt he would take the old roadway, now a belt of trees, through Stonham enclosures, not the present road to Rowland, then north-east out of the village, up Wigley Lane, and so onto the Edge. He described how steep this way was, with "many a tug and weary strain" for their horses. They came to the mines on the top, where two miners had been killed, "before our feet, a Corps digg'd up we see ... t'other lies buried in the Earth". A crowd had gathered on the hillocks, among them were two weeping women whose men had been killed.³⁸

Down at Rymas Brook there is also a large monolith which may mark Heyford. After the brook the boundary to Chesterfield Way, or Gate, or Wheatlands Lane in 1589, the way to Baslow, and thence to a ditch "called bole edge toppe", or Hassop Dyke, where the lead smelting "Boyles" were in 1432, and "so to the way where we began these meres".

The boles were somewhere along Bank Wood Ridge. Very approximately 1,600ft along the boundary, on the top of the ridge, is some slightly disturbed ground with what appears to be a short length of trackway near it. On a very crude map of 1794, something, it is impossible to

guess what, is indicated on the boundary about here, and there seems little likelihood of there being anything but boles on this ridge.³⁹

Field Names.

(From Plan of Manor of Hassop 1752, B.C. *ibid.* 242. Hassop Backdale Pastures, B.C. *ibid.* 1142. Information from Mr. J. Somerset. Plan of Calver 1752 *ibid.* 243)

Hassop	Torrs Pasture	2
	Stonham	from 128 to 119
	Coat Close	27
	Norclay	approx. 23, 24, 25
	Narclay	22
	Sych	approx. 21
Calver	Widhammouth Close	240, 239
	Long Flatts	202, 203
	Coombs Close	154, part of 156
	Thirds Pasture	153
	New Intake	Southern part of 153

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- 26 Meredith, R., "The Eyres of Hassop": Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, Vol. 84 pp9-19, 1964
- 27 Plan of the manor of Hassop 1752. Sheffield Reference Library, Bagshawe Collection 242. Plan of Hassop Backdale Pasture, Bagshawe Collection 1142, 431a and 546. North Derbyshire Mining Co. plan and Brightside Mining Co. Prospectus, Brook-Taylor Collection. Hopkinson, G.G. "Five Generations of Derbyshire Lead Mining", Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society 78, pp 13, 18. Information from Mr. J. Somerset of Calver.
- 28 Wager Documents, a transcript given me by Mr. R. Thornhill.
- 29 Cox, J.C. "Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals" (1890) Vol. 1 p22. A. Bryant "Years of Victory" (1944) p77.
- 30 Leeming was chamberlain to John Manners in 1578-1581. Dobble occurs fairly widely in 1599 – Pilsley, Chesterfield and district.
- 31 Meredith *ibid.* 85 pp72-76.
- 32 John Manners (1604-1679). The main line died out, and he became the 8th Earl of Rutland in 1641. It is not clear why Eyre went to him, as he did not hold any official post such as J.P.. Thomas Eyre (d. 1652), son of Thomas, succeeded to many estates, on his death there was included 100 acres of land in Great Longstone, one meadow, and 8 acres of pasture in socage by fealty and yearly rent of 2-6d. It is impossible to distinguish between various William Wrights. In 1615 one was a yeoman of Great Longstone (b. 1587). In 1648 one of Great Longstone had been a papist commander for the King, in 1650 his estate was seized and secured by Parliament, rents were to be stayed in tenants hands. In 1668 one was listed under lead merchants and had an income of £500 p.a.
- 33 Wight *ibid.* p228.

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- 34 P.R.O. Exchequer E/134/8. Calendar State Papers Domestic, Chas. 1, 1631-33 p121. Brooke-Taylor *ibid.* Senior Map 1611, Chatsworth Collection.
- 35 Christian, Dowager Countess of Devonshire, daughter of Lord Bruce, married the 2nd Earl of Devonshire who died in 1628, leaving her with four children. The eldest, William (b.1617) became a ward of the Crown. During his minority, by good management she paid off debts and improved the estates. She was a strong Royalist. As a delinquent she was assessed for £1,000, but because most of her estates were in places "under the power of the King's Army", or were paying rates under the protection of Parliament, she was discharged being left to make voluntary contribution.
- 36 Bray *ibid.* p160. Pilkington, J. View of the Present State of Derbyshire. Vol. II p429 (1789).
- 37 Cameron has Rymelesbrok c1270. Rimeles 1340. He says it is a difficult word, possibly rima, a border, of bank.
- 38 Hobbes, T. Wonders of the Peak. (5th Edition 1683).
- 39 Plan Buckdale *ibid.*