

I could blame the e-mail. An unsolicited message from Robert Hallam in British Columbia set me off on the trail of Waltheof and his Aula (or Hall). Hallam's thesis was that the Aula was located near the golf club at Hallam, probably on the site of the playing fields of Hallam School. He had written a review of the evidence and previous research and has concluded, like T Walter Hall in 1931, that the location at Hallam Head is the most likely. My role in this was to review his thesis and provide some local knowledge as Hallam has never visited Sheffield.

The Documents

One key document is the existence of a mortgage of 1562 generally thought to refer to Stumperlowe Grange Farm. The mortgage document is in the possession of the present owner of the Farm but there is a transcription in T Walter Hall's book 'A descriptive catalogue of the Edmunds Collection'. I will be reviewing the evidence linking this mortgage to the farm later in this paper. Hall produced many transcriptions of manorial records and wrote extensively about Sheffield and from his books I have been able to piece together something of the area of Stumperlowe in the Tudor and early Stuart times and to suggest some family trees from the information provided.

In the third volume, Hall wrote an interesting foreword in which he stated that the

original rolls being lost, efforts were made by William West (the Seneschal to the Earls of Stafford who were Lords of the Manor of Sheffield) around 1580 to re-establish the records of who occupied what land and how they had obtained it. So it is clear that not all the documentary evidence is still existent. The results of West's efforts were written in a document which became known as the *Registrum Copia*.

Stumperlowe at this time was bounded by Carsick Hill Road to the north, Snaithing Lane to the East, Chorley Road to the west with the southern boundary including the present Fulwood Road.

The first reference I read was dated December 1481 when Thomas Carre surrendered two messuages, half a croft known as Odecroft and an 'Oxgang of Hastler'¹ to John Mechell and 18 months later Robert Botere and John Beighton surrendered another messuage and the other

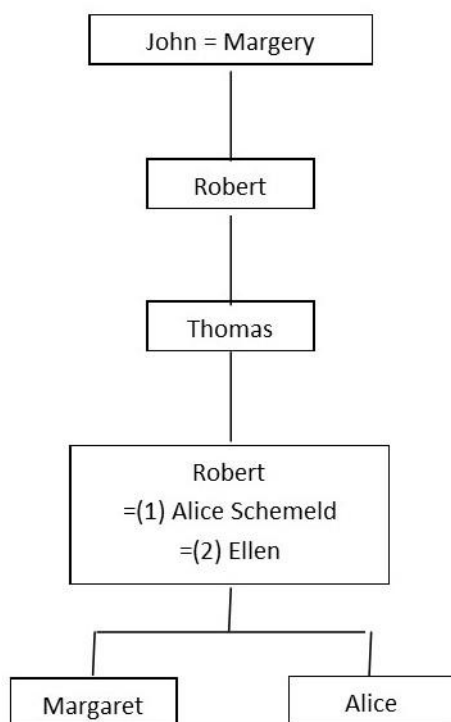


Figure 1 The family tree for John Mechell (b. c.1450)

¹ An oxgang (of bovate) was one eighth of a ploughland. A ploughland was the area of land that could be cultivated in a single year, using a single ox team

half of Odecroft to Margery who was John Mechell's wife. These properties were still in the same family in 1549 when Thomas Mitchell surrendered two messuages and land to his son Robert.

In 1554 one of the messuages was described as being located in 'Hallow at Stumperlowe'. The court record shows that a marriage settlement was being agreed between Robert Mitchell and Alice Schemeld, the widow of George. After this the Mitchell family do not appear in the records until 1603/4 when Robert surrendered the property to Margaret, his elder daughter (or to his younger daughter if Margaret had no children). As this is the last entry for the Mitchell family we can conclude there were no male offspring from Robert and Alice and as the daughters both had the Mitchell name. they were unmarried. We can also deduce that Robert married again, to Ellen and the entries suggest that Robert Mitchell lived to an old age since he was probably of full age in 1549. In fact, Robert Mitchell died about 1610 by which time his daughter Margaret was married to Henry Hall of Midhope² The land remained with the Hall family and it was Henry's son Robert who built the first Stumperlowe Hall about 1650.

The Machon family also features in the court rolls of the time. The first reference is in 1495 when William surrendered to his son Robert a house, 2 oxgangs and 4 acres of land and the same property was handed on to Robert's son, also called Robert, in 1551. The most extensive reference to this family is the mortgage dated November 1563 when Robert and his son William raised £24 for a period of 18 years a sum which in today's terms represents about £4,800. John Dale was the husband of Emmot Machon and they were probably married some time in 1563 as another court roll entry records that in January of that year the Machons, father and son, surrendered to John Dale two crofts and seven acres of land at Hallam and there is specific mention of the fact that John Dale was betrothed to Emmot Machon. The occupiers of the land were Richard Hall and John Stone who are also mentioned in the mortgage. This mortgage was arranged in the same year that Robert Machon's mark as a cutler was authorised by the Court and provides evidence that Robert's livelihood derived from a mix of farming and industrial use.

From these two transactions we can deduce that the Machon family gave John Dale some land as part of a marriage settlement. Emmot was likely to be Robert's daughter and brother of William and John Dale was a weaver living in High Storthever³ with sufficient means to provide a loan to his father-in-law. The property mortgaged included a messuage (which is generally thought to be Stumperlowe Grange Farm) where Richard Hall lived and the land attached to it. In 1597 John Dale passed land onto his younger son Laurence and as his will was proved in 1600, his death can be

² See More of the Mayfield Valley' by Muriel Hall, p19

³ Hall puts a ? after this suggesting that he was not able to read the original. As the Machons were 'of Hallam within the parish of Sheffield in the county of York' and John Dale was of High Stothover in the said county Dale was not a local man.

was around 1598.

The Machon family next appears in the court rolls some fifty years later when in 1612 Ralph Machon and his son Robert surrendered to Archibald Meales, a joiner, a little close called the Pingle which was at the nether end of the Ryestorth. The court roll records that Robert Barnsley and Thomas Machon were witnesses to this transaction and further locates Ralph Machon in Hallom and Thomas Machon (brother of Ralph) in Stumperlowe. It is interesting to note that the rolls identify these two places as being distinct and might help to locate Ralph's dwelling. Just below the top of Tom Lane near the site of the present day primary school there was a farm called, in the 19th century, Hall Carr House. Hallam village was probably centred on the junction of Tom Lane, Pitchford Lane and Redmires Road so this farm could be that of Ralph,

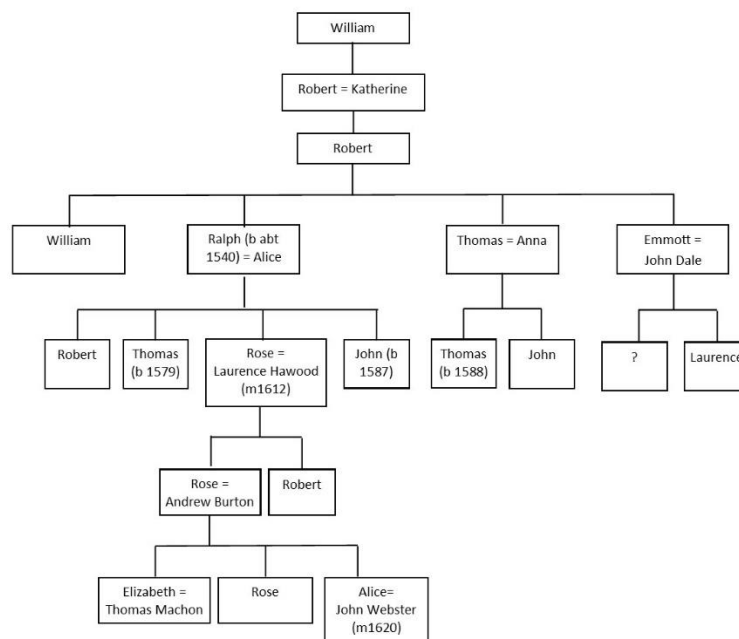


Figure 2 The Machon family tree

On the same day, Thomas was at the court on his own behalf when he arranged for his elder son, also called Thomas to take over Stumperlowe Grange Farm and other land (the Long Meadow, the Flowery Field) whilst he moved into a cottage near the farm.

Four years later, Thomas Machon the younger purchased from his uncle Ralph seven acres of land east of the Cowpasture (itself east of Tom Lane) and west of a lane called Pearson's Green (Snaithing Lane?) for £60. The land called Cowpasture was given in 1616 by Ralph to his eldest son Robert and to the younger sons if Robert had no heirs. A year later, these two younger sons gave the land over to their sister Rose and her husband Laurence Hawood. From this, we may speculate that both Robert and his father had died in the intervening period, a possibility given weight by noting that in

May 1617, just a month after receiving the Cowpasture, Rose and Laurence rented the same land out to Andrew Burton for 21 years at a rent of 'one penny at Pentecost if then demanded'. The court roll named Rose, Laurence and Alice Machon, 'her mother' which would only be the case if Ralph had died.

The fee of one penny at Pentecost was clearly a peppercorn rent and the transfer of land was between members of the same family. Indeed, Andrew Burton was the husband of Rose, the evidence being an entry in 1625 naming 'Andrew Burton and Rose his wife' as well as his daughters Elizabeth, and her husband Thomas Machon the younger, and Alice and her husband John Webster. There is another lovely example of a peppercorn rent when an entry under the name of Beighton records that the rent was to be 'one red rose in flower'.

It is clear that the majority of transactions in the court rolls were between members of a family, often concerned with sharing out the land held by a father to his children, both sons and daughters. If this is the case then the details in the rolls can be used to identify possible family connections. In 1618, Robert Machon settled a 'customary messuage lately erected in Hallam' on Nicholas West, the son of Francis West and it is likely that Nicholas West was a grandson of Robert Machon. The property seems to have changed hands frequently over the next two years as Nicholas passed it on to Geoffrey Harwood who in turn passed it to John Hadfield. Geoffrey was the son (or grandson) of Laurence and John Hadfield was a probably a son-in-law (husband of Rose?) as in 1623 he received the old house and the Pingle from Laurence and Rose.

As the Pingle had been surrendered to Archibald Meales the joiner in 1612 and was again the property of a descendent of Ralph by 1620, it is evident that not all the transactions that took place have been recorded in the edited versions of the rolls and indeed the original record of the transaction may have been lost. It is also clear that the terminology used in the rolls covered a number of situations and the phrase 'surrendered to the use of may have covered a complete hand-over of land or simply a short-term arrangement.

In 1625 Andrew Burton shared his land between his daughters and their husbands, By 1630, John Hadfield had acquired the property of the other sons-in-law and had sold it on to Hugh Spooner of Crookes.

During the middle years of the 16th century, there were two branches of the Machon family living in the area, Ralph whose family can be traced through to the 1620s and his brother Thomas. In March 1596/7 Thomas purchased from William Topham some land which included the Flowery field. In 1612 Thomas attended the Court to register that he had passed this on to his son, also Thomas, a dwelling and land; the details of this entry will be explored later. Thomas the elder continued to live in a cottage that was part of the property until his death in 1628. In 1633 the rolls recorded the transfer of this property to Thomas the younger and further named the dwelling as Head Fire

House. The entry provides the date of the elder Thomas' death and the approximate age of the younger Thomas. It is entries such as these that are so valuable to the genealogist and family historian.

The property purchased by Thomas included a smithy in 1593 and so if it was used as a manufactory for iron products by Thomas the elder then both he and his brother Ralph were engaged in the cutlery industry.

The Barnsley family was the third family to feature in the rolls during this period. Their first appearance was in 1549 when John Barnsley surrendered a close called Snaith Inges to his son, also called John, who was required to make good the mill pond. Forty years later, when John the younger died, his son Robert inherited Snaith Inges, paying a fine of 3s 4d to have his inheritance confirmed. Robert leased Snaith Inges to Thomas Lee in 1612 for 16 years on payment of two pence at Pentecost. The last entry in the period covered, dated 1620, records that George Barnsley was the grandson of Robert senior and that George's father, also Robert pre-deceased Robert senior, leaving George as heir. George was 12 years at the time. Hall notes that George 'did fealty on Thursday in the week of Easter 1629' when he had reached his majority.

The final piece of evidence of the Barnsley family comes from the Harrison Survey of 1637 in which is recorded a close at Stone Delph between lands in the use of Thomas Barnsley and George Barnsley. Thomas could either be a brother or, more likely, an uncle of George. The name of the close has been perpetuated as there is a street of houses called Stone Delph which has its entrance near Stumperlowe Grange Farm and finishes at the southern edge of Hallam Field. Thomas himself was living in a tenement with a dwelling and 'heyhouse' under one roof with a close called Hallam Field.

As the chart shows, the court rolls alone have provided evidence of five generations of one family.

[The Land and Buildings](#)

Harrison's Survey and the court rolls both refer to lanes with names which have long since fallen into disuse. From Harrison's survey we have Mospeate Lane, a name which the same as that of a house on Slayleigh Lane near its junction with Stumperlowe Hall Road. Both references to Mospeate Lane describe it as a boundary, both to the North and South, suggesting that it was in an east-west alignment. From Ordnance Survey map of the 1850s and present day maps, it can be deduced that Mospeate Lane was the name given to what is now Slayleigh Lane.

Harrison also has Griffin Sick Lane. According to Muriel Hall, Griffin Sick was a small stream beginning on Hallam Field and followed a path just to the north of present day Slayleigh Lane before traversing the grounds of Stumperlowe Hall and so down to Nether Green. Harrison used Griffin Sick Lane as a northern and southern boundary

descriptor which indicates an East-West alignment and was probably the name used for Fulwood Road where it rises from Nether Green. Other lanes referred to by Harrison are Porter Lane and Willow Lane which he used as a western boundary, suggesting a north-south alignment. Willow Lane was probably the first part of Stumperlowe Lane from Fulwood Road. The court rolls mention Tom Lane which is still existent and Pearson's Green Lane which may be the present day Snaithing Lane.

The most intriguing lane is referred to in 1564 when it used as a boundary to a piece of land. The court roll entry is 'a close of land in Hallom abutting at one end on Tom Lane south and at the other end on Kirkgate east'. Now there is only one place where Tom Lane has an east-west alignment which is just below its junction with Stumperlowe Hall Road. As Kirkgate provides an easterly boundary, its alignment must be north-south which suggests either the present day Snaithing Lane or a track that has been lost. The name Kirkgate is also fascinating in that there is no record of a church building in the vicinity at this time.

The court rolls provide evidence of buildings some of which were in existence for nearly a century (the period covered in this paper) whilst in other instances, an estimate of the date of erection can be deduced. In 1551 there is reference to a cottage where the widow of Robert Machon was living. Attached to the cottage was a piece of land called the Pingle which was 'lying opposite the door' to the cottage. The Pingle was later described as 'a little close called the Pingle, otherwise the Netherend of the Ryestorth containing by estimation 3 roods in Hallome between Tom Lane easterly and northerly by land of Thomas Dale southerly and land of the same Ralph called Ryestorth westerly" This fixes the location of the Pingle and hence the cottage. By 1620 the cottage had become known as the 'Old House' but it was still associated with the Pingle.

In the same way, there are frequent references to the Cowpasture, the Ryestorth and the Netherfield. These can all be located from the detail in the rolls. The Cowpasture was immediately east of Tom Lane, on the other side from the Pingle, The Ryestorth incorporated the Pingle and extended from Tom Lane westwards to Stumperlowe Hall Road and the Netherfield was east of the Cowpasture towards Snaithing Lane.

There are some old buildings still standing in the area. The first, now known as Stumperlowe Cottage, was for many years derelict and its crucks were clearly visible. It has now been restored as a residence The dwelling that the Barnsley family owned in the 16th century is still standing on Snaithing Lane and there a number of cottages in the area that have been standing for well over a century

Stumperlowe Grange Farm has clearly been the site of occupation for many years. Today there are two dwellings on the site, one an old barn which like Stumperlowe Cottage has a cruck frame construction; the other is built of stone and has undergone many alterations in its lifetime The exact age of the building is not known; it is depicted

on a map of 1737 by William Fairbanks and may well be the dwelling Thomas Machon passed on to his son in the 1630s, Harrison described Stumperlowe Hall Farm as 'Beighton House' with a little barn, a beast house, a smithy and an Old House. On the Fairbanks map there a ruin is marked and this could be the old house referred to by Harrison.

In 1612, the court rolls recorded the fact that Thomas Machon the elder had surrendered to his son Thomas his dwelling with orchard and closes. The description of the property in 1612 is very similar to that in 1593 when it was sold by Thomas Archdale to William Topham who in turn sold it to Thomas Machon in 1596 and it is reasonable to speculate that the Beighton House described by Harrison in 1637 was same property that Archdale sold in 1593

The mortgage deed of 1562 which is thought by many to relate to Stumperlowe Hall Farm has already been described. As it was Thomas's father Robert who mortgaged a property in 1562, involving Thomas's eldest brother in the arrangement and Thomas was the youngest of three brothers who are all featured in court rolls, it is unlikely that the mortgaged property would have come to Thomas Further it is clear that Thomas purchased his property from outside the family. From these considerations, the claim that the mortgage of 1562 refers to the present day Stumperlowe Grange Farm is far from justified.

The court roll record of the mortgage refers to a messuage, two crofts and a close of seven acres. The messuage and two crofts could have been the house occupied by Robert Machon's mother when she was widowed. The scenario presented now becomes one which has been repeated down the ages: Robert's mother, a widow since 1551 has recently died and his daughter is about to marry. Robert gives his daughter the house that had recently become unoccupied and which had a nominal value of £24. The clause in the mortgage about repayment in 18 years perhaps reflects an arrangement between Robert and his son-in-law, the details of which are lost after 450 years.

Conclusion

The area of Stumperlowe is now predominately suburban with many detached and semi-detached houses. It still retains much evidence of its past such as Stumperlowe Hall Road and Chorley Road which follow the lines of the ancient lanes and ancient buildings which were farms but are now private residences. In the 16th and early 17th centuries the area was home to the Machins, the Mitchells and the Barnsleys who all made a living from a mixture of agriculture and industry. They were generally able to make provision for their off-spring and land remained within the extended family for generations.

The court rolls provide a valuable source for family historians and genealogists as in

addition to the details of the land being transferred there are many facts about the relationships which allow family trees to be sketched as has been shown.

Date	From	To	What
4 December 1481	Thomas Carre	John Mechell	Messuage Odecroft Oxgang
3 June 1483	Robert Bawcooke	Margery, wife of John Mechell	Messuage Odecroft Oxgang
5 December 1525	Thomas Mitchell		2 Messuages, Odecroft oxgang
12 February 1548/9	John Barnsley	John Barnsley, younger	Oxgang Snaithings
29 October 1549	Thomas Mitchell	Robert Mitchell	2 Messuages, Odecroft oxgang
17 July 1554	Thomas & Robert Mitchell	Alice Mitchell	Messuage & Odecroft
19 January 1562/3	Robert Mitchell	John Dale	2 Crofts & 7 acres
26 Nov 1564	Robert Mitchell	John Dale	Close abutting Tom Lane
10 April 1593	Thomas Archdale	William Topham	Dwellinghouse etc
8 April 1591	John Barnsley elder	Robert Barnsley	Oxgang Snaithings
19 January 1603/4	Robert Mitchell	Daughters	2 messuages, oxgang Odecroft
21 April 1612	Ralph Machon	Archibald Meales	Pingle
21 April 1612	Thomas Machon Elder	Thomas Machon younger	House & land
12 May 1612	Robert Barnsley	Thomas Lee	Close at Snaithings
04 March 1617	Robert Machon elder	Robert Machon younger	Com pasture
15 April 1617	Ralph Machon	Thomas Machon	7 acres
11 September 1617	Ralph Machon	John Machon	2 acres
11 September 1617	John Machon	Laurence Harwood	Cowpasture

Date	From	To	What
11 September 1617	Ralph Machon	Robert Machon	Cowpasture
11 September 1617	Laurence Harwood	Andrew Burton	Cowpasture
05 May 1618	Robert Machon	Robert Harwood	Cottage with 4 bays
01 April 1619	Robert Machon	Nicholas West	New house & barn with 4 bays Overly field
18 May 1619	Nicolas West	Geoffrey Harwood	
20 April 1620	Geoffrey Harwood	John Hadfield	New house & barn with 4 bays, Upperley field hague
15 September 1618	Robert Machon		
20 April 1620	Robert Barnsley	George Barnsley	Messuage
20 April 1620	Laurence Harwood	John Hadfield	Old House and Pingle adjoining
30 December 1623	Laurence Harwood	John Hadfield	cottage with fold, Netherley field and Cowpasture

