

From "The Annals of Prestwich" by PRESTWICH HERITAGE SOCIETY, supplied by JW Barrett (barrett828@sky.com), June 2008

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## SCHOLES, OF PRESTWICH.

We have no exact data whereon to fix the time when this family first became associated with Prestwich, but certainly they were here in the time of Edward VI., for we find George Schellas and Peter Scholles as witnesses to an inventory of the church goods at Prestwich, taken in 1553. We have copied several names from the old parish records; but in consequence of the obscure way in which they have been entered, it is difficult to trace their residences in all cases with exactness. From 1553 to 1850, covering a period of 297 years, the following have resided in Prestwich or its immediate neighbourhood, and many of them held official positions as churchwardens, surveyors of highways, and overseers. One of them, the Rev. Jacob Scholes, was curate of Prestwich from 1692 to 1753, a period of sixty-one years. Between 1699 and 1714 he baptised at Prestwich five sons and four daughters. In 1719 he was licensed by Bishop Gastrell to the incumbency of Ringley, an appointment not necessarily withdrawing him from Prestwich, the requirements being in those days probably confined to one service on the Sunday, with but little occasional duty. In the year 1729 the chapel of Unsworth was erected, mainly through his exertion, the cost of its erection being defrayed by subscription, and a rate levied for the purpose. In the following year he contributed the sum of £200 towards its future endowment, to meet a grant of a similar amount from the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. He died in 1753, and was buried in the chancel, now the nave, of Prestwich Church. In 1753 the name of John Scholes appears in the old parish documents; 1759, Thomas Scholes, merchant; 1766, Adam Scholes, of Pilkington; 1768, James Scholes; 1779, Thomas Scholes, of Bent, afterwards of High Bank; 1788, Richard Scholes; 1792, John Scholes, of Hardman's Fold; 1815, Jacob Scholes, of Woodhill; 1826, George Scholes, of High Bank. In 1827 another George Scholes appears as residing at Polefield. Several tombstones, both inside and outside the church) record the names of several members of this family, viz. : John Entwistle Scholes; John Scholes; Esther Scholes; Thomas Scholes, of Hilton Lane; Robert Scholes, of Tetlow Fold.

Of this family, although very numerous, we have no reliable evidence showing where they sprang from, but a suggestion has been made that they first came from Elton, near Bury, while others give the neighbourhood of Ringley as the place of their origin. Certainly we find the name of John Scholes, of Elton, as the principal benefactor to the poor of the hamlet of Prestwich

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in 1698, when he contributed the sum of £17 10s. The Parliamentary register of voters for Prestwich in 1847 contains the names of Frederick Scholes, who then resided at Arlington Place, Oxford Street, Chorlton-upon-Medlock---he owned a freehold house and land in the occupation of John and Henry Blackley; Joseph Seddon Scholes, Bath Cottage, Golcar, Huddersfield, owner of freehold land called Butterstile; Francis Scholes, 9, Lever Street, Manchester, freehold houses and land,

occupied by Martha Clough and others; also Thomas Seddon Scholes, of High Bank, banker, afterwards of Sedgley Old Hall. This was the last of this particular family of Scholes who resided in Prestwich. Although about seventy years ago the family of Scholes owned nearly one-half of the land in Prestwich, at the present time there is no member of this family bearing the name living in Prestwich, and the lands once belonging to them have passed into other hands. There is now a road in Prestwich named after them.