



36-37 Hen. VI. in a feud with Roger de Mottrum, and entered into recog. in £40 with surties (Tho. Masy of Podynton, Ric. de Clyve, Ralph Maynwaryng, &c.) to keep the peace; and two years afterwards, Snelleston having aided and abetted in the imprisonment of the said Roger, the latter executed to him a quit-claim of all right of action in consequence. (Recog. Rolls.) After this occurs a notice, somewhat remarkable in the light of the subsequent devolution of this hamlet, showing the early connection of these gentlemen with Lancashire^a.

Thomas de Snelleston de Asthull (most likely son of the last named) in 19 Hen. VII. vests all his "messuages and lands in the counties of Chester and Lancaster" in William Moldworth, Robert Snelleston, and others; test. John Maynwaring of Pever, &c.

John Snelson of Astle occurs 2 Eliz. in the Inq. of Randle Manwayringe of Badyley and Carincham, esq. as holding, with Edward Astley, land in Astley, out of which issued a 3s. frank-rent, of which Manwayringe (who also had lands here and in Chelford) died seised. From him is supposed to have descended John Snelson of Astle, gent. 21 Jac. I. (who may be identical with John Snelson de Snelson, gen. 22 Jac. I.), whose wife Margaret died in 1649. As will presently be noticed, it has been said that at about this period the family terminated in an heiress, but no direct evidence of any sort bearing on the fact has, so far, occurred, though it has been specially sought. This, however, by no means renders the assertion improbable; and there is a variety of circumstances pointing to the probability of the statement set forth by Mr. Ormerod. It appears that (within the last two centuries) the greatest part of the present estate had been acquired by the successive purchases of the family of Parker. But as the earlier title to a small portion of the estate cannot well be traced, and as it is certain that the heiress of the Snelstons would bring little, the question is quite open to further research. The close connection of the two families for many generations, assuming the descent of the Parkers of this place from those of Coppenhall, renders it probable that they married an heiress, or at least a daughter, of the Snelstons or Snelsons. It seems that the Parkers of Astle had been previously settled in Newton, which adjoins Middlewich, and are sometimes described as of the latter town (of which, in Edward III.'s reign, the Parkers of Coppenhall were joint farmers). The first of the name who occurs at Newton, Robert Parker, lived 38 Hen. VIII. In the Middlewich Registers they may be traced, unconnectedly, up to the reign of Elizabeth. At Middlewich also, in Henry the Eighth's reign, were settled some of the Snelstons, who had salt mines there. But supposing this argument to fail, it has already been noticed that in the preceding reign, the Snelstons of Astle held lands in Lancashire; and if, as is probable, these lands were in Bolton, or that neighbourhood, there are two marriages of the Parkers (as will be seen in the subjoined pedigree) by either of which those lands might have descended (maternally) from the Snelstons, and with them a small estate here, as is perfectly consistent with the extent of the Parker estate, and the dates of the various purchases. It is probably to this that Dean Cholmondeley refers, though stated too generally by Mr. Ormerod, in the following paragraph:]

It may here be observed that in 9 Eliz. Edward Astle levied a fine of 100 acres of land in Astle (Harl. MSS. 2010), and perhaps the family ultimately became merged by an heiress in that of Stanley of Astle hereafter mentioned.

The *Snellestons* of Asthull, an unidentified branch of the family of the lords of the adjoining manor of Snelston, whose estate there can be no doubt extended into this hamlet, first occur as *grantees* here in 2 Hen. IV. when John de Snelleston of Over Pever had a grant (given at Chelleford) of lands in Asthull from Richard son of Thomas del Clogh (perhaps one of the Asthulls, surnamed from the Clogh of Astle), in the presence of sir Thomas le Grosvenor, kt. Robert de Toft, Thomas de Falughes, Thomas de Snelleston, and John le Ward of Capesthornc.

Thomas de Snelleston the witness, was son of this John, and perhaps the same with Thomas de Snelleston who in 1408 was a tenant, for years, of lands of sir John Lovel, in Copenhale, where at the same time Nicholas le Parker, John son of John le Parker, and Thomas le Parker (of Coppenhall), were also tenants in fee, and for years, of the same knight. In this year Nicholas Parker, William Snelleston, William Smalwode, and others (all of Astle or Coppenhall), were indicted for the murder of Thomas Malbon (Rec. Ro. 8 and 9 Hen. IV.). This connection is noticeable for reasons hereafter mentioned. Before 10 Hen. VI. Thomas son of John de Snelleston had vested lands in Asthull in the vill of Chelleford, in William Maynwaring, John Byrkyn and Henry Willoby, chaplains, and in that year there was a new appointment of feoffees, and the lands were duly conveyed by the former feoffees and vested in Thomas de Asthull, chaplain, Hugh de Asthull, Ralph de Lee, and others. Harl. MSS. 2074. Thomas Snelston, sen. nup de Chelford yomon 31 Hen. VI. occurs in the Plea Rolls, and is doubtless the settlor last mentioned.

Thomas de Snelleston, probably son of the last, occurs

^a See a note to Snelson, p. 564. And it may be added, that in 1525, the Snellestons acquired a settlement in Middlewich, Hugh Snelleston in that year having been created a burges, with licence to boil and sell salt; and 1527, Edward Snelleston, of Middlewich, and Elizabeth his wife, were both created burgeses, and had a similar licence. Recog. Ro.—II.