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1. Duxbury History 600 – 1600's



The DUXBURY (Spellings include Duxbury, Dukesbury, **Ducksbury**, Dukesbery, Deuxberry, Duxberry) family originated in Duxbury, near Chorley in Lancashire, England sometime between 600 and 900 (AD). The name Duxbury is believed to have been derived from Deowuc's Burgh, from the original settlement founded by Deowuc, an Angle, (habitational name from a place in Lancashire, recorded in the early 13th century as *D(e)ukesbiri*, from the genitive case of the Old English personal name *Deowuc* or *Duc(c)* (both of uncertain origin) + Old English *burh* 'fort'). From Duxbury the family slowly spread out, initially northeastwards within Lancashire, but as time passed, across

the whole country (thinly) and overseas.

The first Angle in Duxbury probably built his farm in Burgh and either immediately or soon afterwards fortified it. Either at the same time or later another farm was built and fortified on the other side of the Yarrow, and the name of one of its owners, Deowuc, became attached to it. I strongly suspect that Deowuc lived at the time of the Viking invasions c.AD 900, Danes arriving from the south-east and Irish Sea Norse Vikings from Dublin and the Isle of Man.

The first mention of Deukesbir', Dokesburi in records is at the beginning of the 13th C, but one mention of Roger son of Henry son of Ulf de DUXBURY allows a reconstruction of the family back to Ulf b. c.1120. The early names reveal the presence of Anglo-Saxons, Danish and Norwegian Vikings, followed by marriage with minor Normans within three generations after the Conquest. Siward son of Magn(e)us emerges from the mists as the owner of a third of Duxbury and half of Adlington, and the next few generations were the only resident (part) Lords of the Manor of Duxbury, almost certainly living at successive rebuildings of Duxbury Hall near the site of the original Deowuc's burgh.

The next most notable event for the family was the BANASTER Uprising in October-November, 1315 led by Sir Adam BANASTER and others against Thomas Earl of Lancaster and his lieutenant Sir Robert de HOLLAND. Unfortunately, Henry de DUXBURY was on the wrong side, was imprisoned in Lancaster Castle, had to pay 5 marks ransom, also suffered financially from the disastrous harvest, and had to sell some of his lands. Hugh de STANDISH bought the area around Duxbury Hall, built or rebuilt the nearby farm, which became the seat of the STANDISHes until C. 1600, and probably around the time of the Scottish raid as far south as Chorley in 1322, built a Pele tower on the hill behind. Their home from then on was called The Pele/ Peel.

Far from the VCH account of Henry being ruined, he and the next three generations were still Lords of the Manor. Henry's grandson Henry and Hugh's granddaughter Agatha married, which consolidated the DUXBURYs Lordship of 2/3 of the Manor. They had a son John, who seems to have died in 1381 in his mid-twenties (from illness, accident, murder? I favour the murder theory with a long complicated story behind it, involving a STANDISH killing Wat TYLER of the Peasants' Revolt of that year). He left one surviving son John, a young lad at the time of his father's death. His maternal

grandfather Hugh took over the Lordship and administration of his estates. The big DUXBURY grudge must have been that the STANDISHes never gave the Lordship back!

John (c.1377-c.1430) and his son Ughtred (c.1400-1460>) seem to have been the only male DUXBURYs left in Duxbury, which probably explains why they stayed put, farming Duxbury Hall and demesne, while several STANDISHes of Duxbury cousins went to France to fight in the 100 Years War - four of them at Agincourt, Sir Hugh being knighted on the field; Sir Hugh, Sir Christopher and Rowland in later campaigns, the last being knighted C. 1422 and killed in battle at Gerberoy in 1435. A distant DUXBURY cousin was also Mayor of Wigan for two periods c 1400.(The same time as Dick Wittington)

The next two generations appeared as witnesses or jurors, and Ughtred and two of his sons in 1445 were involved in trespass, which came before the courts. There was almost certainly a marriage to a STANDISH (of ?), and Ughtred (c.1470-1513) married Agnes STANDISH of Standish, daughter of a younger brother of the Lord of Standish.

They had seven sons, all underage when their father died. Mother Agnes married again, twice, and the eldest son Thomas was all set to inherit not only the estates in and around Duxbury, but also a large MOLYNEUX estate in Orrell, near Wigan. Thomas appears to have squandered his DUXBURY inheritance soon after attaining majority and sold all the estates in and around Duxbury, including Duxbury Hall, between 1522 and 1524. Tudor history is full of gentry who were gamblers or failed merchant adventurers, and we can only assume that Thomas joined their ranks.

The names of six of the seven brothers, and a cousin, appear regularly in early church registers in Lancashire from the late 16th century on, and one can reasonably assume that all the younger brothers went their own way, forced to earn their own living.

2. Duxbury historical facts, 1200 - 1500

1202 Siward de DUXBURY son of Magnei was granted 6 oxgangs of land by Walter de STANDISH

1202 Siward and brother Hugh granted 2 oxgangs of land to Robert son of Ulf.

1227 Adam de BURGH and Hugh de TONGE each sold their one third share of Duxbury to Siward, who now owned it all.

1228 Adam de DUXBURY and Hugh de ALDINGTON held land in moiety in Duxbury and Aldington for which they paid a rent of 2s-9d and 14d respectively to William de FERRERS.

1246 Adam joined with the lords of Standish and Aldington to petition William FERRERS that he should quit them of the services claimed of them by the guardians of the Earl of Lincoln's estates.

1288 Roger de BOLTON and Ellis de TONGE each bought their one third share back again from Adam de DUXBURY.

1315 Henry de DUXBURY, son of Adam, took part in the abortive uprising by Adam de BANASTRE against the Earl of Lancaster and was imprisoned in Lancaster Castle.

1334 Adam DUXBURY, son of Henry, married Agatha daughter of Ralph STANDISH

1335 Adam DUXBURY gave land to Richard son of Ralph STANDISH

1359 Henry DUXBURY sold Highfield to Nicholas de NORREYS, and in 1384 his (?whose) son Robert sold it again to Hugh de STANDISH.

(Land continued to be sold for the next 100 years or so, but even into the 1500s a branch of the DUXBURY family continued to hold land in Adlington and Duxbury itself)

Ughtred DUXBURY gent had 5 tenants who paid a yearly rent of 86s and 14 days shearing.

1513 Ughtred DUXBURY, together with his brother John DUXBURY and John's son Robert, was fined for "breaking the close" of Sir Thomas BROADHURST at Anglezark.

(Thomas DUXBURY, son of Ughtred, sells or signs away land to Rauff and Mather STANDISH)

1525 Richard STANDISH gives to Richard HAYDOCK land recovered from Thomas DUXBURY

1532 there is a grant of life rent from Rauff STANDISH to Thomas DUXBURY concerning his quitting the premises and delivering up the ancient writings, among which was the pedigree of his own family "which though imperfect, were very interesting". Ralph and Hugh STANDISH are variously referred to as Uncles of Ughtred DUXBURY, or "my good friends".

Oliver STANDISH is mentioned as a guardian of Ughtred DUXBURY, notwithstanding that Ughtred has at least six or seven sons, viz: Thomas, Robert, Richard, John, William, Hugh, and perhaps Henry.

1532 an Alexander DUXBURY is also mentioned being granted for his lifetime the peaceful occupation of land in Duxbury by Matthew STANDISH November 1593

3. The Banastre Rebellion, 1315

At an early date Duxbury gave name to a family who owned the estate. In 1288 Adam de DOKESBURY held a moiety of the vill, while in 1358 Nicholas de NORREYS levied a fine upon Henry, the son of Adam de DOKESBURY for messuages and lands there.

Sir Adam BANASTRE held various lands in the Parish of Standish, including Shevington, and in 1315 he led a group of insurgents against Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and his favourite Sir Robert HOLLAND, who was regarded as an upstart. Generally speaking the cause of the friction lay between the Earl and King Edward II (1307-1327). The Banastre Rebellion was fought by many close neighbours of Sir Adam BANASTRE including Sir Henry de LEA of Park Hall in Charnock Richard, Sir William BRADSHAW of Haigh and Henry de DUXBURY.

Commencing on the 8th October 1315, the supporters of Sir Adam BANASTRE met at Wingates, Westhoughton, and took an oath to live and die together. Their first objective was to capture one Adam RADCLIFFE and his brothers but the party sent on this particular mission murdered Sir Henry de BURY in the process which caused a great commotion and attracted the King's Justices to make enquiry.

Not deterred by this murder, BANASTRE's followers assembled again at Charnock Richard on Wednesday 22nd October 1315 and set off for Wigan, calling at Standish Church on the way to pick up additional supporters. The group spent that night in Wigan commandeering food for their use. A raiding party was despatched to Clitheroe where they captured the castle and 40 lances. Meanwhile the main force set off for Liverpool, via Knowsley, where on Saturday 25th October they attacked Liverpool castle but without success.

A series of forays followed at West Derby, Knowsley, Prescot and Warrington. On Monday 27th October, Halton Castle, situated near the River Mersey, was attacked by lighting fires at the gates and a further 50 haketons together with 100 lances and 100 basinets were captured. Flushed with this success, Sir William BRADSHAW went on to the house of Sir William HOLLAND at Haydock and plundered the contents, stealing 100 sheep, 60 oxen and 12 cows as well. Further properties were then forcibly entered at Newton-in-Makerfield and Sankey; and corn, grain and oats were stolen.

By Friday 31st October 1315, Sir Adam's forces had reached Manchester where they claimed that what they were doing was in the King's name. Having gained further followers the army then turned north arriving at Wigan on the 2nd November. During the marches between destinations, rations were provided by looting and plundering.

Tuesday 4th November saw the army in Preston where, with banners flying, they quickly overcame a small force sent to halt them, killing Sir Walter le VAVASOUR in the exchange. However, strong reinforcements arrived some little while later in the shape of the County Sheriff, Sir Edmund de NEVILL of Middleton, near Lancaster, and a large contingent of about 300 men. They were acting for the Earl of Lancaster and after a battle lasting less than one hour Sir Adam BANASTRE's troops were completely overrun and put to flight.

Several of BANASTRE's followers were killed during the battle and others fled abroad to escape punishment. Sir Adam BANASTRE and Sir Henry de LEA managed to avoid pursuers for a week, hiding in woods and moorland, but they were eventually betrayed by Henry de EUFURLONG while staying in his house in Charnock Richard and were subsequently beheaded.

Henry de DUXBURY was imprisoned and forfeited most of his lands because of complicity in the Banastre Rebellion. Following confiscation Hugh de STANDISH, who was apparently the son of

Robert de HAYDOCK, Rector of Standish, obtained most of the Duxbury Hall Estate. It appears however that the DUXBURY family were left with a sizeable portion of land because descendants sold their portion of the estate to Ralph STANDISH Lord of the Manor of Standish, in the sixteenth century.

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4. Duxbury Manor Land Acquisitions 1135 to present

We became interested in the succession of ownership of Duxbury Manor in the Parish of Standish, Lancashire County, England while reviewing the material in the "Duxbury Family History" by Donald and Ruth Duxbury (copy attached). On a recent trip to Chorley, we visited the Chorley Public Library Reference Room and reviewed the reference material available on the Duxbury Hall. There was only very limited reference material on the period (1135 – 1315) when the Duxbury line occupied the Manor. The vast majority of the information available covered the period from 1756 – 1932, the time the Standishes 1315 – 1898, the Mayhews 1898 – 1932 and the Chorley Corporation 1932 – To Present had an interest in the Duxbury Manor.

The intent of this limited research effort is only to clarify in my mind the involvement of the Duxbury line in the Duxbury Manor property. Land records indicate that Magnei de Duxbury's original acquisition of the land occurred circa 1135. It seems clear that various Duxbury families owned or leased plots of land (messuages) in the area of the principal estate for many years, but direct involvement, by most accounts, appears to have ended by 1335 when Henry de Duxbury, Lord of Duxbury, granted land to Ralph Gogard and Hugh de Standish in payment for his release from Lancaster Castle as a result of his participation in the Banastre rising and Adam de Duxbury, son of Henry, granted Duxbury Manor to Richard, son of Hugh de Standish, ca. 1335.

One of the most confusing issues is the use of Duxbury Hall and Duxbury Manor in various references. Apparently, the term Hall* and Manor** may have been used rather loosely, which tends to complicate the issue from our perspective. There is a reference that Duxbury Manor was granted to Richard de Standish by Adam Duxbury in ca. 1335. There is, also, a reference that Duxbury Hall and various lands were sold to Ralph de Standish in ca. 1520-1524. Further complicating the real property issue is that the property was sold and divided at death to various people including male relatives, male siblings and dowers to female siblings.

There are, as you might expect, what appear to be some inconsistencies in the various records that we reviewed. What appears to have happened in ancient times was the Manor property was held by Siward de Duxbury ca. 1202, added to by a grant from Walter de Adlington. Siward, in turn, granted land to Ralph de Standish and to his brother's (Ulf's) son, Robert de Duxbury. Ulf, apparently, had two sons, Robert and Henry. Robert granted his property to his uncle, Hugh de Duxbury, ca. 1260. No further records are available on this line until Ughtred ca. 1448. Apparently, the property passed to Ughtred's son, Richard, in ca. 1448. In turn, the land was passed on to Richard's son, Ughtred, ca. 1513 who granted certain lands to his uncles, Matthew and Humphrey Standish. Ughtred's son, Thomas, sold Duxbury Hall and various lands. He, also, surrendered Duxbury ancient writings and pedigree to Ralph de Standish in an exchange for life rent ca. 1520 – 1524. When Thomas died, his son (we assume), Alexander, was removed from the property ca. 1533.

The Duxbury line that, apparently, was involved with the Manor that can be traced to the present time was that originating with Ulf's son, Henry. A succession of Henry's descendants were: Roger ca. 1220, Adam ca. 1246, Henry ca. 1315, who granted land to Ralph Gogard and Hugh de Standish in payment for his release from Lancaster Castle as a result of his participation in the Banastre rising, and Adam who granted Duxbury Manor to Richard, son of Hugh de Standish, ca. 1335.

At this point, it becomes unclear as to what happened. On one hand, we have the children of Adam Duxbury (Henry ca. 1357, Hugh ca. 1357 and Agnes ca. 1350, doing various things with Duxbury Manor. On the other hand, we have the Standishes in possession of the land that can be traced from the transfer by Henry de Duxbury ca. 1315 to the present.

It is reported that Duxbury Manor, in the late nineteenth century at the zenith of the Standish ownership, was comprised of 6,054 acres of land. The Carr family (1841-1856) added 1,900 more acres. It was large, but would not have put the owners in the class of the very wealthy of the time, and they would have been classed as gentry.

Perhaps, someone who has an interest in the early Duxbury history can shed more light on such subjects as the succession of the estate and the use of terms like Hall* and Manor**, as they were used in medieval times in England.

Two early family trees follow. The first is a part of the genealogy "Duxbury Family History" compiled by Donald and Ruth Duxbury published in 1992, and the other is a part of the book "Duxbury in Decline 1756-1932" by W. Walker published ca. 1995.

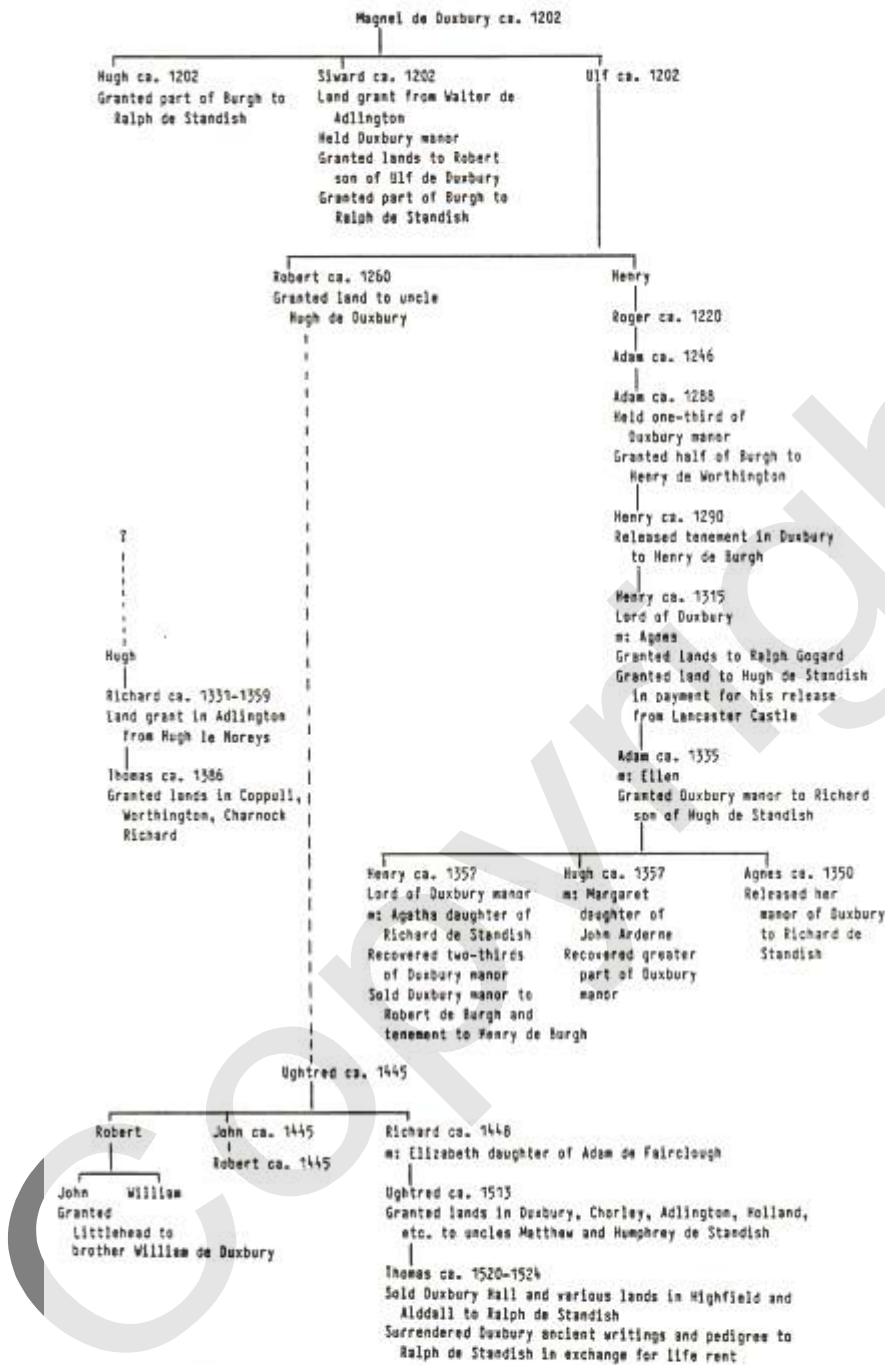
The dictionary defines:

*Hall as "the house of a medieval chieftain or noble"

**Manor as "consisting of a Lord's demesne and of lands within which he has the right to exercise certain privileges and extract certain fees"

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DUXBURY OF DUXBURY, PARISH OF STANDISH
 Established 12th Century
 Original Land Acquisitions Circa 1155



*Based on information from The Victoria History of the County of Lancaster (Volume 6). London: Archibald Constable and Company Limited, 1912.

Approximate years indicated refer to documented accounts of events in lives of descendants of Magnel de Duxbury.

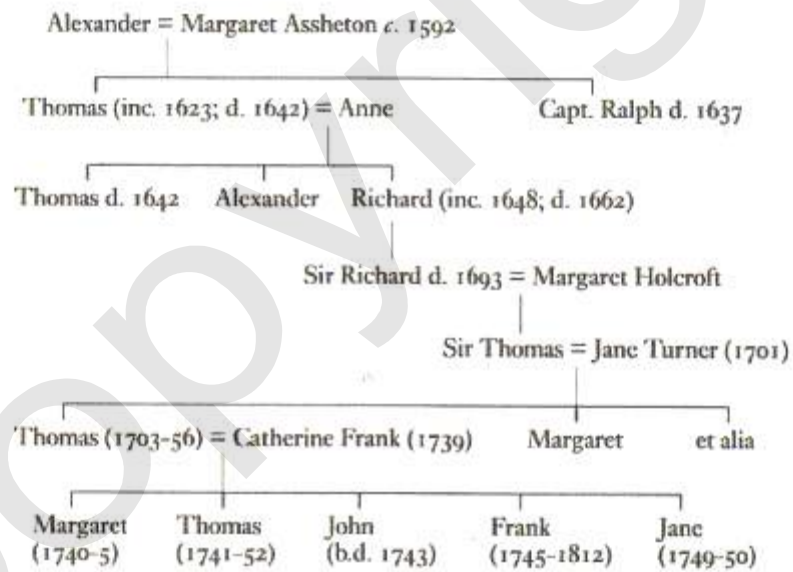
m: = marriage

Duxbury in Decline

SOME EARLY INCUMBENTS OF THE STANDISH OF DUXBURY ESTATE

1315	Henry de Duxbury lost his lands after the Banastre rising Hugh de Standish – d. 1326
1326	William
1335	Richard
1356	Hugh – m. Alice Standish of Standish
1421	Christopher
1437	James – (third son of Sir Christopher; Sir Rowland d. 1435)
1462	James – also lord of Chorley manor
1471	Sir Christopher – knighted at Hopton Field, 1482
1495	Thomas
1517	James
1567	Thomas
1599	Alexander

A PROBABLE FAMILY TREE, 1590–1790

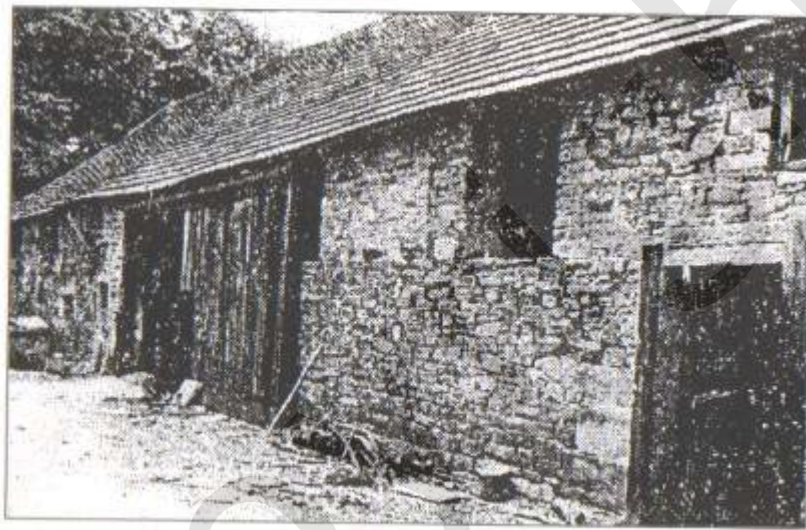


Source: *Duxbury in Decline* By W. Walker

5. Duxbury Hall in history

With the original land acquisition reportedly occurring ca. 1135, I suggest that we can speculate that there were some sort of living accommodations. While I don't have any information on what they were, I am certain that they were very primitive. There is a great deal of speculation, but the structure pictured below may have been an early Duxbury Manor Hall. The timbers used to construct the structure have been dated to the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The structure corresponds roughly to a medieval great hall, and there is no evidence of an alternative hall nearby.

In any event, there is no available evidence of any structure dating to the 1335 period when the Standish era started, other than the mention of the granting of the manor to Richard de Standish in ca. 1335.

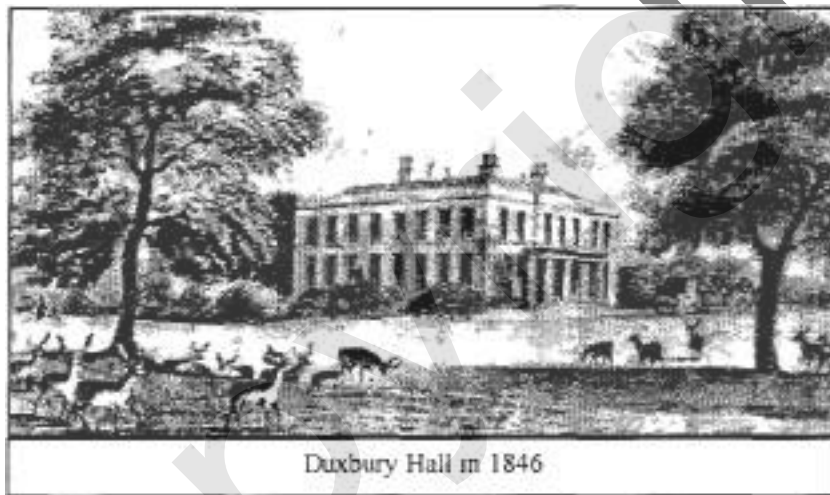


*Duxbury Barn and yard.
(Photograph first published in the Lancashire Evening Post).*

What we do know is that there was a Duxbury Hall in existence prior to 1756, a late medieval tudor hall. The then existing structure was remodeled beginning in 1823 and was a two story rectangular building a hundred feet by eighty feet with five reception rooms and cantilevered staircase. On March 2, 1859, the Hall was destroyed by fire at a loss of 10,000 to 15,000 English pounds. The hall was rebuilt after the fire at a cost of 20,000 English pounds, using insurance proceeds. From the drawings available, it appears that new building was substantially the same on the exterior as the one destroyed by fire.



Duxbury Hall ~1840



Duxbury Hall in 1846



Duxbury Hall, circa 1850 (Chorley Library).

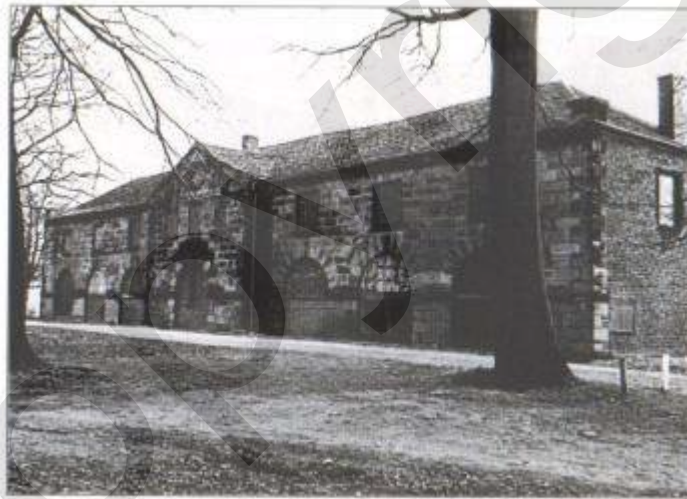
In 1932, Constance Mayhew sold Duxbury Hall to the Chorley Corporation for 18,000 English pounds. The Hall was demolished by 1956 because of a defective internal storm water drainage system and neglect, not because of an explosion as has been reported.

Duxbury in Decline



Duxbury Hall, circa 1905 (Chorley Library).

Two buildings remain of the Standish era Duxbury Hall complex, a Coach House and a Stable Block .



The coach house in 1985.



The stable block in 1985.

Copyright etc

The information here is collated from several sources and is purely to provide an overview in one place, note the references below. The information above dealing with the hall is based on a book "Duxbury in Decline 1756-1932" by W. Walker published ca. 1995.

References

1. © Hellen Moorwood, 1998, <http://www.duxbury.plus.com/bard/index.htm>
2. 2,3 Peter Duxbury, <http://www.duxburymk.net/>
3. 4,5 Compiled by John and Emily Duxbury

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