

Obediah Seddon

On 1 Nov 1680 Elizabeth Jervis enlisted the help of 'Obedia Seddon of Ryles Green in the parish of Audlem' ... 'my trusty and welbeloved friend' to act on her behalf regarding her husband's estate.

Obediah was considered briefly in Cheshire Jarvis.doc and his life is now looked at in more detail in the hope of establishing more about the networks he was a part of, seeking any connections between him and the Gervis families of Garstang and Nantwich.

There are two known links to Lancashire for John Jarvis of Nantwich: a reference to a farm in Lancashire that John had bought or leased, where his widow Elizabeth considered moving to in the early 1680s; and (an) Obediah Seddon was baptised and buried in Lancashire.

The starting point is three citations for Obediah: his birth in 1653/4, the request from Elizabeth Jarvice in 1680 and his burial in Lancashire in 1736.

Obediah's birth 1654

Obediah was born at Wavertree in the parish of Childwall, Lancashire, early 1654. It is an unusual name and we have assumed that there was only one Obediah Seddon around 1600-1750; no evidence has been found of others of this name but as records for this period may not survive it is possible there was a second OS. Setting aside that possibility...

His birthplace is to the east of Liverpool, shown below in 1904, by which time Liverpool had spread; Wavertree is between Liverpool and Childwall, the Mersey is bottom left. Toxteth Park, mentioned later, is southwest of Wavertree station.



The following is from the Holy Trinity Church, Wavertree website and provides a brief history and an idea of the size of Wavertree:¹

Wavertree in the 1700s

The Village of Wavertree is one of the oldest villages in the neighbourhood of Liverpool. Reference to it is found in the Domesday Book and at the time of the Norman Conquest it was variously called "Vauretea", "Wa've", "Wavre" and "wartree".

¹ <http://www.holytrinitywavertree.org.uk/about-us/our-history>

In prehistoric times there must have been a settlement in Wavertree as a burial site was found in Victoria Park some 150 years ago, during excavation work for the building of new houses.

Wavertree did not grow very quickly at first. In 1731 there were only 50 houses. 60 years later there were 800 houses.

Childwall parish registers

The following typescript entries are from the On-line Parish Clerk (OPC) for Childwall and describes the condition of the parish registers:²

The Church Terrier is a statement of assets belonging to the church at any particular time and includes property, income from tithes, vestments, records, and ornaments for example. The Terrier dated 1778 details the church records thus:-

- 1557-1612 - sound and entire
- 1653-1703 - much torn and imperfect
- 1703-1753 - very clean and correct
- 1753 - in use
- 1754-1772 - marriages only
- 1772 - in use: marriages only

Since then some further records were discovered, having been missing for 130 years. These records accounted for the years 1625-1638 and were in poor condition but have benefited from limited restoration.

Lancaster Archives list the following church records for Childwall:³

LIVERPOOL, Childwall, All Saints; Diocese of Liverpool

For original registers enquire at Liverpool Record Office. See introduction for contact details.

C 1602-1638, 1664-1869, 1898	M 1602-1638, 1664-1869, 1898	B 1602-1638, 1664-1869, 1898	Copy BT	Microfilm	DRL 2/6-15
C 1557-1753	M 1557-1753	B 1557-1753	Copy reg	Printed	LPRS 106, 122
C 1557-1638, 1653-1760	M 1557-1618, 1653-1760	B 1557-1618, 1653-1760	Copy reg	Microfilm	PR 206-210
C 1614-1638	M 1614-1638	B 1614-1638	Index	Microfilm	PR 206-210
			MI	Microfilm	MF 1/296-297, 299 (Owen MSS)

In summary, it seems no baptisms are available 1639 to 1652 inclusive, which is unfortunate as this is when any older siblings to Obediah may have been born. The Bishop's Transcripts do not cover this period either. Marriages are available to 1638 (BT) and from 1653 (PR), and most probably miss his parents' marriage if it took place here. PRs apparently cover burials from 1653 onwards so should include his parent's burials – if the family remained in Childwall.

Childwall: a Lancashire township in the seventeenth century, R. G. Dottie, B.A., M.Phil, also casts doubt about register-keeping in the parish, not elaborated on here (it has no Seddon references).⁴

² <https://www.lan-opc.org.uk/Liverpool/Childwall/allsaints/index.html>

³ <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/898376/L.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.hslc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/135-3-Dottie.pdf>

Accepting surviving records may not tell the full story, searches have been made of the OPC records and all Seddon citations noted: either below, if they may be for Obediah's family, or at the end for other branches of the family. A personal check of the baptismal records available confirms their incompleteness.

- Baptisms 1610-1729; records appear complete 1610-1617; patchy 1618-1628; good 1629-1638; patchy 1639-1655; no records for 1642, 1643, 1647 and several earlier years have just one or two entries instead of a dozen or more
- Marriages 1614-1638 and 1653-1701; gap 1639-1652
- Burials 1653-1713 (none 1615-1652).

There were no Gervis or Jarvis/Jervis entries in these records.

Starting with births/baptisms, the entry records Obediah's birth, it being during the Commonwealth Period.

Birth: 14 Jan 1653/4 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Obadiah Seddon - Son of Thomas Seddon

Abode: Wav'tree

Register: Births & Baptisms 1610 - 1661 from transcripts held at the Liverpool Records Office, Page 5, Entry 5

Source: LDS Film 93694

One sibling of Obediah, who died in infancy:

Birth: 30 Dec 1655 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

John Seddon - Son of Thomas Seddon

Abode: Wav'tree

Burial: 8 Jan 1655/6 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

John Seddon - Son of Thomas Seddon

Abode: Wav[er]tree

The following baptisms, recorded in Latin, were to Thomas and may be a previous generation or from an earlier marriage of Thomas. They include an earlier 'John', but as no burial records survive it is not known whether the 1655 John was a replacement for him, or of a later generation. The location was not noted in any of the baptisms.

Baptism: 25 Jan 1628/9 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

John Sedden - Son of Tho. Sedden

Baptism: June 1633, All Saints, Childwall, Lancs. (on FMP only).

Henry Sedden - Son of Thome Sedden

Baptism: 29 Nov 1635 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Alicia Seddon - fa. Thom[a]e Seddon

Baptism: 27 May 1638 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Katherina Seddon - fa. Thom[a]e Seddon

The first set of baptisms to Thomas SEDDON took place prior to the Civil War. The following notes indicate Childwall was affected (a consequence of being near Liverpool, a major port). Near where Thomas lived may have been the site of a battle:

At the start of the civil war Liverpool was under control of the crown. The ruling Molyneux and Stanley families having royal connections.

in the early parts of the war Battles took place around Manchester and Wigan with parliament gaining control.

The Liverpool royalists took up positions at the east. In the high up area by Childwall church, where any advancing armies could be spotted. Today, there is an area by the church known as 'bloody acre field' – a small field which has remained untouched since civil war times. Never recorded in history, it is thought that a civil war battle took place here. In years since, cannon balls have been found in the area and many people believe this part of Liverpool to be haunted.

Whatever happened at Childwall, it was not enough to stop a 1000 strong army of 'roundhead' parliament forces mostly from Manchester marching on Liverpool castle, and many more arriving via boat from the Mersey.

The parliament army killed 80 scouse royalists, took 300 prisoner AND GAINED control of Liverpool castle in April 1643. The Molyneux family and other royalists fled to high up land around Everton for protection.⁵

Thomas Seddon survived the civil war but disappears from sight after the burial of his infant son John early 1656.

A citation from 1650 refers to Thomas Seddon living on the fringes of Childwall and Aigburth:⁶

him I have no further information; but in 1650 the Parliamentary Commissioners say:—

Wee alsoe present and find that there is in Toxteth Parke a Chappell called Toxteth Chappell, and that Mr. Haggon [Huggins] is minist^r there, and is an appved Minist^r and hath for his Sallary or manteynance the pffitts of the Tyths of the said Town or hamett, w^{ch} wee conceiue to be worth nearly forty ffyve pounds p ann, and an Addiconal sume of Tenn pounds from Mr. Ward, Rector of Walton; And that the said Chappell of Toxteth p'ke is farr distant from any other Church or Chappell, and therefore wee think it very fitt to bee made a pish, and that these howses in Aighburgh, formly wthin the pish of Chidwall, to be added vnto it, vidzt, John Walworths, Thomas Seddon, Richard Fisher, Raph Whittfield, Nehemiah Britter, John Holland, George Lawrenson.²

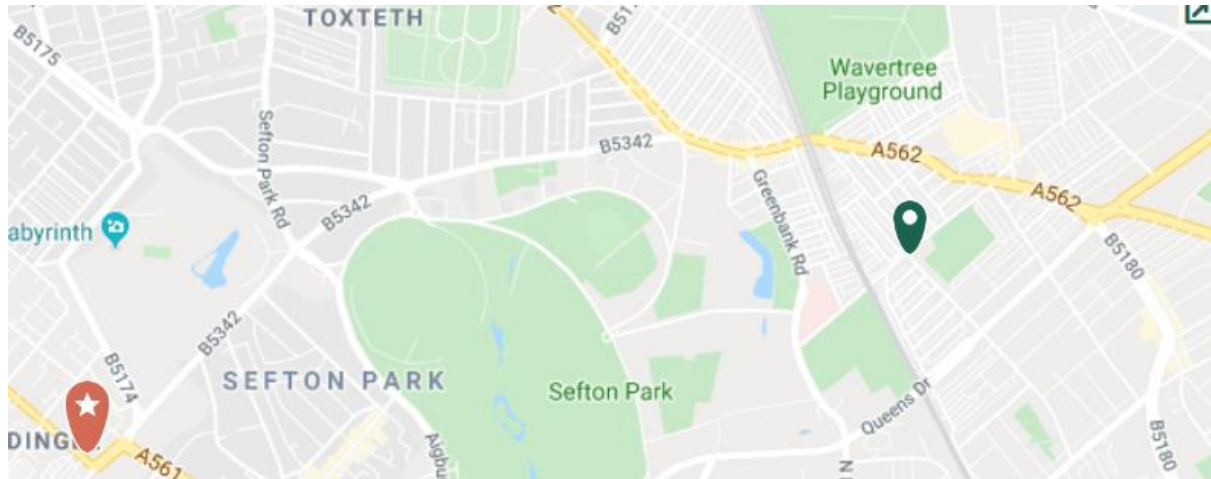
⁵ <http://historyofliverpool.com/english-civil-war-in-liverpool/>

⁶ *Lancashire Nonconformity...Congregational and Old Presbyterian Churches in the County*, Rev B. Nightingale, p. 81.

The following note concerns the same chapel:

*In 1618 the local Puritan community erected the Toxteth Unitarian Chapel on the corner of today's Park Road and Dingle Lane. Since the 1830s it has been known as The Ancient Chapel of Toxteth.*⁷

On the modern map that follows the site of the chapel is marked bottom left, Wavertree is top right (green pointer: Penny Lane).



There are probates for Sed*n, within a ten-mile radius of Wavertree (noted up to and including 1734 – there are later records). No will has been located for Thomas Seddon:

⁷ <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/ancient-chapel-toxteth>

Last name ▾	First name(s) ▾	Year Of Birth ▾	Year Of Death ▾	Year ▾	Record set ▾	Location
Seddon	Oliver	—	—	1582	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Sutton, Prescott, Lancashire, England
Seddon	James	—	—	1588	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Liverpool, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Thomas	—	—	1591	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Toxteth Park [Walton on the Hill], Lancashire, England
Seddon	Ellin	—	—	1607	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Wavertree, Childwall, Lancashire, England
Seddon	John	—	—	1627	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Liverpool, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Ralph	—	—	1637	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Wavertree, Childwall, Lancashire, England
Seddon	John	—	—	1648	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Sutton, Prescott, Lancashire, England
Seddon	John	—	—	1665	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Thomas	—	—	1680	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe [Ormskirk], Lancashire, England
Seddon	Elizabeth	—	—	1684	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Ralph	—	—	1685	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Wavertree, Childwall, Lancashire, England

Seddon	William	—	—	1694	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Raby, [Huyton], Lancashire, England
Seddon	Richard	—	—	1704	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Liverpool, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Robert	—	—	1705	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Liverpool, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Alice	—	—	1721	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Elizabeth	—	—	1726	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Liverpool, Lancashire, England
Seddon	John	—	—	1727	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Thomas	—	—	1727	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Whiston, Prescot, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Robert	—	—	1733	Cheshire Wills And Probate	Cheshire, England
Seddon	Robert	—	—	1733	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Prescott, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Thomas	—	—	1734	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Sutton Prescott, Cheshire & Lancashire, England

Summing up, the 17th-century parish registers are incomplete but those that survive show Thomas was one of several Seddons at Childwall and that Seddons remained here into the 18th century (see other Seddon entries at the end).

Thomas Seddon lived on the fringes of Wavertree and Aigburth, between Childwall and Liverpool, between 1650 and 1656. There are pre-Civil War baptisms to Thomas of John, Henry, Alice and Katherine; if they were elder siblings to Obediah then John died prior to 1655 when another John was baptised. No later record has been found of Henry, Alice and Katherine at Childwall.

No evidence has been found that Obediah stayed in Childwall and his unusual forename was not used by later generations of the Seddon family in Childwall.

There are probate records for Seddon of Liverpool, Toxteth Park, Wavertree (Childwall) from 1588 to 1726 (and possibly later, not checked) indicating some branches of the family held property or land. Note the probate list includes references to Seddon of Bickerstaffe. This branch is considered next.

The Ormskirk Seddons

At around the time Obediah was born at Wavertree, there were Seddon (of Bickerstaffe) baptisms to Thomas at Ormskirk, found whilst searching for Obediah's siblings. As the crow flies Bickerstaffe is 10 miles NNE of Wavertree.

This Thomas Seddon was of Bickerstaffe, with one exception, noted shortly. Obediah Seddon was buried in Bickerstaffe in 1736 and a family connection to the area may have prompted Obediah's move: circumstantial evidence but interesting.

The dates of the baptisms at Ormskirk and Childwall overlap:

Obediah	14 Jan 1653/4	Childwall
Easter	22 Mar 1653/4	Ormskirk
John	30 Dec 1655	Childwall
John (burial)	7 Jan 1655/6	Childwall
Anne	18 May 1656	Ormskirk

It seems there were two fathers coincidentally named Thomas Seddon. The name of the mother was not recorded in the baptisms.

There are six marriages of a Thomas Seddon in Lancashire which took place in the period 1643-1653 (Findmypast). That at Aughton of Thomas **Suddan** to Katherine Charles in 1645 is the best match in location terms, although it precedes the first baptism at Ormskirk by several years. This could be explained by the gap in baptisms at Ormskirk 1646-1652 inclusive, room for up to four children to be born but not recorded. Aughton is where Obediah Seddon was living when he died in 1736.

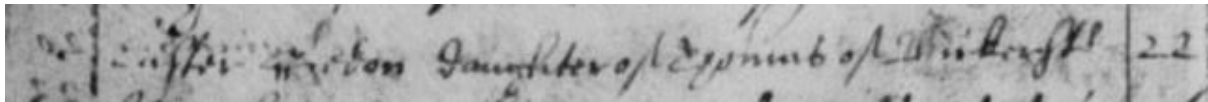
Thomas Suddan England Marriages, 1538-1973	marriage: 12 October 1645 Aughton By Ormskirk, Lancashire, England	spouse: Katherine Charles
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Katherine Charles was probably born around 1610-1630. There are Charles probates in Lancashire in the period 1610 to 1670:

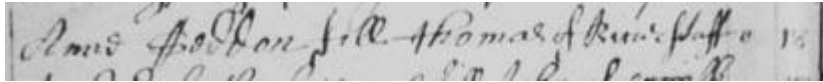
Peter	Charles	1607	Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk	—	Chester
Margery	Charles	1627	Townrowe, West Derby, Walton on the Hill	—	Chester
John	Charles	1633	Bretherton [Croston]	—	Chester
George	Charles	1635	Halsall	—	Chester
George	Charles	1635	Halsall	—	Chester
John	Charles	1640	Mawdesley, [Croston]	—	Chester
Richard	Charles	1665	Mawdesley Croston	—	Chester
George	Charles	1669	Ormskirk	—	Chester

The entries that follow are from searches for S*d*n baptisms at Ormskirk from 1645 to 1676 (Findmypast).

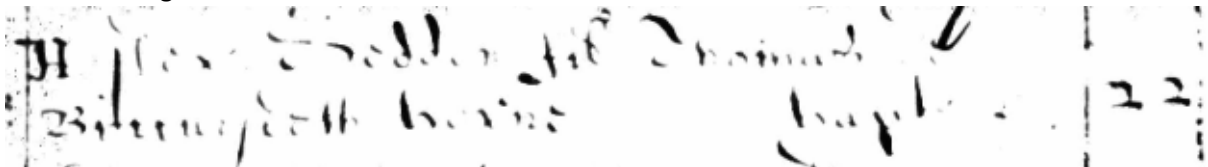
Easter 22 Mar 1653/4



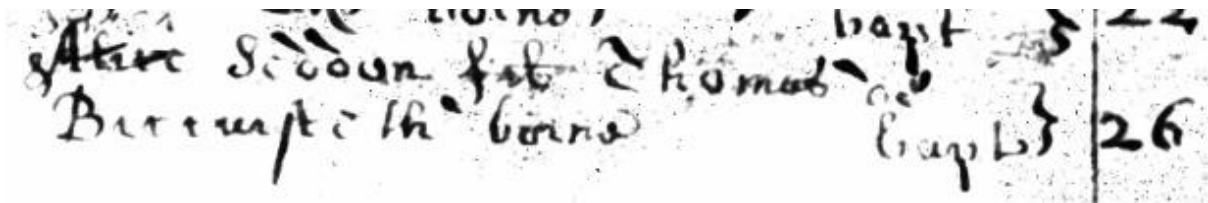
Anne 18 May 1656



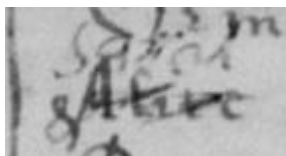
Hester 22 Aug 1658



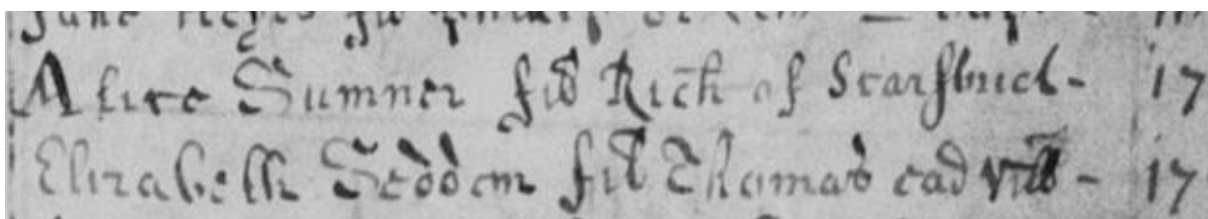
Alice / Sarah 26 May 1661



The name has been altered to Sarah, 'Alice' being crossed out:

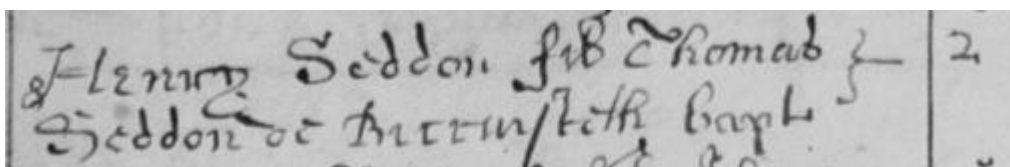


Elizabeth 17 Apr 1664; here Thomas was of the same place as the previous father: Scarsbrick (Scarisbury). Scarisbury is around 4 miles northwest of Ormskirk on the road to Southport and around 7 miles from Bickerstaffe.



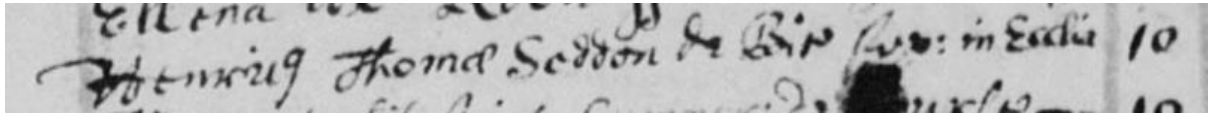
The next baptism (under 6 months later) is to Thomas of Bickerstaffe and the place change and timing of the baptism point to the previous baptism of Elizabeth being to a different Thomas (although one family tree has included both baptisms – see later notes).

Henry 2 Oct 1664:



There are no further baptisms to Thomas to 1676 suggesting Henry was his last child.

A burial at Ormskirk in 1671 has been transcribed as Henry Thomas Seddon but may be an abbreviated 'Henry son of Thomas'; 10 May 1671; he was of Bickerstaffe. It was unusual for a child to be given two forenames in this period.

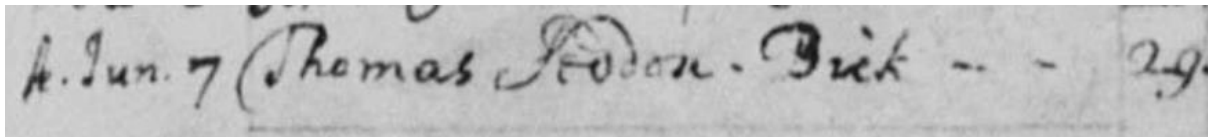


Thomas was not the only Seddon father in Ormskirk area: in the period 1636-1676 there were baptisms to Henry, John (possibly two of), William and Edward Seddon. These have not been noted.

Summing up, citations show more than one branch of the Seddon family lived in the parish of Ormskirk by the mid-1600s, over 80 years before Obediah Seddon was buried nearby. The forenames Henry, John and Thomas occur in both Childwall and Ormskirk (but they are common names).

The gap in Ormskirk baptismal records covering the earlier years of Thomas's marriage means the extent of his family is unknown, but it seems he had four daughters (Easter, Anne, Hester, Sarah) and one son, Henry, who may have died as a child. Hester may be a 'replacement' for Easter.

The burials at Ormskirk have not been searched with intent at this point, but a brief check shows they include the burial of Thomas Seddon 29 May 1680.



The timing and location being Bickerstaffe points to this being the father who baptised children 1654-1664 at Ormskirk. The will may give Thomas's occupation, the name of his wife and details of surviving children, some of whom may have married by 1680.

Thomas was one of two Seddon of Bickerstaffe who left wills in the 1663-1680 period:

Seddon, John, of Bickersteth, yeoman	...	...	...	...	1665
Seddon, John, of Withington	...	...	...	...	1674
Seddon, Peter, of Pilkington, yeoman	...	...	...	...	1664
Seddon, Ralph, of Outwood	...	...	...	...	1675
Seddon, Richard, of Hindley	...	...	...	...	1676
Seddon, Richard, of Liverpool	...	...	...	Admon	1674
Seddon, Richard, of Rainhill	...	...	...	Inv	1663
Seddon, Robert, of Kearsley	...	...	...	...	1670
Seddon, Thomas, of Bickerstaffe	...	...	...	...	1680

Findmypast 'Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858' includes later probate records (Sed*n. limited to those within 5-mile radius of Ormskirk):

Last name	First name(s)	Year Of Birth	Year Of Death	Year	Record set	Location
Seddon	John	—	—	1665	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
Seddon/Suden	Henry	—	—	1671	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Westhead Within Lathom, Ormskirk, Lancashire England
Seddon	Thomas	—	—	1680	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe [Ormskirk], Lancashire, England
Seddon	Elizabeth	—	—	1684	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Alice	—	—	1721	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
Seddon	John	—	—	1727	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Bickerstaffe, Lancashire, England
Seddon	Hugh	—	—	1733	Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858	Lathom, Lancashire, England

The timing of Thomas's death, shortly before John Jarvis died, may have resulted in property becoming available.

Settlement 1675

One other citation: Thomas Seddon in a settlement case. Settlement issues arose when people fell on hard times (or were considered at risk of doing so) and their current parish was reluctant to provide support, instead aiming to return them to the parish where they had settled status. The following TNA settlement citation is in the right area but the catalogue entry is brief; the original document may have more details.

Reference: QSP/440/31

Title: Ormskirk and Lathom -- settlement of Thomas Seddon and Anne his wife.

Date: c1675

Held by: Lancashire Archives, not available at The National Archives

The map below shows Lathom. It is around 3 miles southeast of Ormskirk, near Bickerstaffe. Aughton (southwest of Ormskirk) is also shown. This is in the same general area as Thomas was living in 1664, but there are contra-indicators: Thomas left a will in 1680 so had some land or property then; there is no evidence his wife was Anne; he was of Bickerstaffe in 1680, not Lathom.



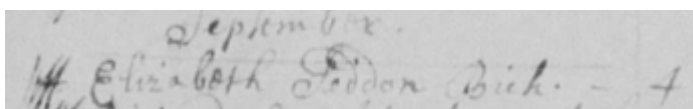
The Ormskirk Seddon family has been researched by Christopher Leonard Patterson.⁸

Thomas Seddon

Birthdate: October 1620
Birthplace: Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
Death: May 29, 1680 (59)
Bickerstaffe, Lancashire, England
Place of Burial: Ormskirk, Lancashire, England
Immediate Family: Son of [John Seddon](#) and [Isabel Walworth](#)
Husband of [Elizabeth](#)
Father of [Anne Seddon](#); [Hestor Seddon](#); [Sarah Seddon](#); [Elizabeth Seddon](#) and [Henry Seddon](#)
Brother of [William Seddon](#); [Ann Seddon](#);
[Robert Seddon](#); [Henry Seddon](#); [Elinor Seddon](#)
and 3 others

Managed by: [Christopher Leonard Patterson](#)
Last Updated: December 7, 2014

Note he ascribes the burial of Elizabeth of Bickerstaffe 4 Sep 1684 to the wife of Thomas. It seems likely that she was the wife of Thomas as an Elizabeth Seddon of Bickerstaffe, widow, left a will proved 29 Sep 1684 at Chester.



Summing up: Thomas Seddon of Bickerstaffe left a will in 1680, suggesting he had some property or land. In 1665 John Seddon, also of Bickerstaffe, yeoman, left a will and he may be the father of

⁸ <https://www.geni.com/people/Thomas-Seddon/600000006360296089>

Thomas or his brother or uncle. There are later Seddon of Bickerstaffe wills, the latest proved in 1727, under ten years prior to Obediah's burial here.

The Seddon families from the Liverpool area also left wills: it is a common surname which makes it difficult to evaluate the importance of the parallels between the Childwall and Ormskirk families: they lived in broadly the same area; both the Liverpool and Ormskirk families left wills; there are some shared forenames.

Obediah 1680

Returning to the subject of this research, the next sighting of Obediah is in 1680, at which point he was 26, of Ryles Green, parish of Audlem, and a trusty friend of Elizabeth Jarvis.

Royal's Green is east of Burleydam, in Cheshire. The 6" to mile OS map from a survey of 1875, published 1881, shows a scattering of buildings and two farms: Walkmill and Rookery; and a workhouse to the west.

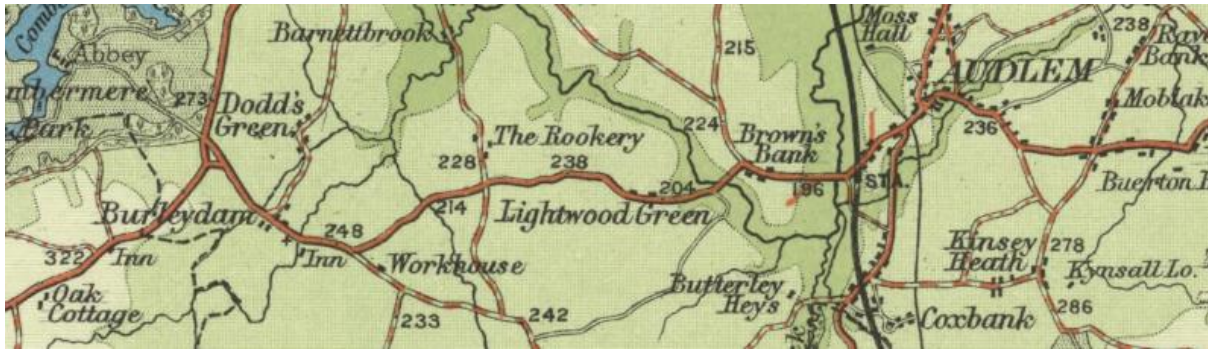


In 1680 Royal's Green was in the township of Dodcott cum Wilkesley, Audlem parish:

- **Dodcott cum Wilkesley** was a township in the ancient parishes of Audlem and Wrenbury Parishes, Nantwich hundred (SJ 5454), which became a civil parish in 1866.
- It includes the hamlets of Burleydam (part), Butterley Heyes, Cheshire Fields, Combermere, Lightwood Green, Pinsley Green, Royal's Green, Smeaton Wood and Wilkesley.
- The population was 755 in 1801, 631 in 1851, 626 in 1901, 451 in 1951, and 380 in 2001.⁹

Royal's Green was too small to be marked on the 1902 ½" to mile Bartholomew map but was around the 'o' of Workhouse:

⁹ <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/CHS/dodcott>



Obediah had moved around 40 miles from his birthplace in Lancashire. He may have moved with his parents or he perhaps was working as a farm servant. If he was an apprentice in a trade it seems likely he would have been based in or near a market town; Royal's Green is out in the sticks. There is no evidence that there was an early Quaker Meeting House near Royal's Green. What prompted him to move here remains a mystery.

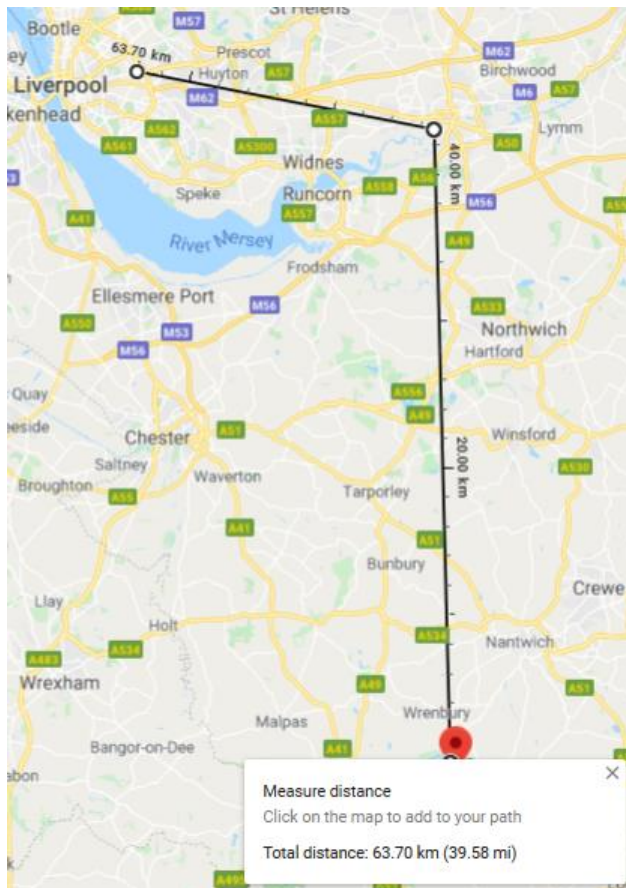
Elizabeth Jarvis's reliance on Obediah following her husband's death suggests they were well-acquainted and that he could be entrusted with visiting Chester, around 20 miles from Royal's Green, to sort out the administration on behalf of Elizabeth. Obediah must have been intelligent and able to read and write.

The Jarvises may have met Obediah Seddon through the Quaker Meeting at Nantwich. Most of the men's monthly meetings took place at Nantwich, Edleston and Malpas, all within 7 miles or so of Burleydam, which is marked on the map below. His name does not come up in the monthly meeting minutes in the period following John's death in 1680 (however the early minutes were sparse on detail).

It is possible the acquaintance grew from the broader quarterly meetings that John Jervis junior attended. (An aside: it is interesting that John junior was not given the task of handling the administration paperwork which instead fell to Obediah; was this because John junior was Elizabeth's stepson?)



The next map shows Obediah's birthplace and where he moved to.



Looking at Obediah Seddon's neighbours in Royal's Green, in case they offer some clues, the Moore family lived here at around the same time; Arthur Moore left a will, Suzannah was intestate:

Moore, Arthur, of Royles Green 1674

Moore, Suzannah, of Royles Green ... Admon with Inv 1679

Geoffrey Whitney (c. 1548 – c. 1601), a poet known for his collection *Choice of Emblemes*, lived at Royals Green towards the end of his life.¹⁰ Neither is much help.

There are two 17th buildings in Royal's Green: The Royals, formerly a hunting lodge and nearby farm outbuildings. There is no indication Royal's Green had a wind or watermill (see later).

The next citation for Obediah Seddon is in 1717 and places him in Aughton, his home when he was buried in 1736.

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dodcott_cum_Wilkesley

Obediah Seddon 1717

From *Lancashire Papists' Estates* The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire Volume 98, pub. 1945: *The Registers of Estates of Lancashire Papists 1717-1788*

(An excerpt from the introduction provides context)

As the main value of the Registers of Papists' Estates is genealogical and topographical it is not intended to discuss the penal laws of the later Stuarts. Under them the Roman Catholics had been excluded from the benefits of the Toleration Act, so that their religious services were illegal, and the Act of 1700 "for the further preventing the Growth of Popery" prevented Catholics from educating their children except in their own houses, and disallowed their inheriting or purchasing land. There was, however, little real persecution, although they were obliged to pay a double Land Tax; and, after the discovery of Atterbury's plot they were, in 1722, taxed to an amount of £100,000 in addition to the other taxes.

In order that the estates of Catholics could be taxed to the full whenever occasion required, an Act was passed in 1715 "to oblige Papists to register their Names and real Estates" ...

There were, in Lancashire, about 1100 estates registered, ranging from the tiny properties of husbandmen to the great estates of such families as Molyneux, Gerard and Clifton. ...

For the sake of conserving space certain conventions have been adopted:—all leases are for three lives, the number of those in being only being given, and the lessor is the person registering the estate; any exceptions are stated.

The volume is indexed by name. There is no Gervis or similar.

THIRD ROLL.

SIR WILLIAM MOLYNEUX, BARRONETT, VISCOUNT MOLYNEUX OF MARYBURGH IN THE KINGDOM OF IRELAND: (pp. 131-271)

In Aughton (pp. 263-265)

A mill and kiln let to **Obediah Seddon** for the lives of himself and Thomas and John his sons, at £1. 3s. rent and the usual boons. (p.264)

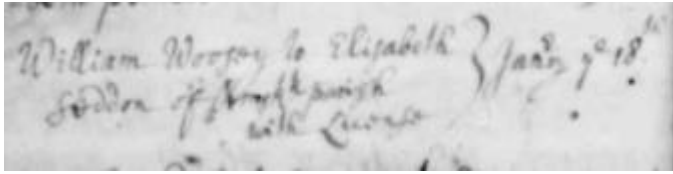
(From the typescript copy it is not clear if the landowner was Caryl, Lord Molyneux or Edward Starkie. The former was the major landowner but an earlier item was owned by Starkie and the item after that for OS mentions the owner as Molyneux. Possibly Molyneux let to Starkie who sublet to Seddon? Ownership may be clearer in the original MSS)

A cottage and ten., let to Elizabeth Woosey for the lives of Richard Woosey, Mary his sister, and William Ascroft, at 3s. 4d. rent and 2s. in lieu of boons; in consideration of £6. In the tenure of **Obediah Seddon**. (p.265)

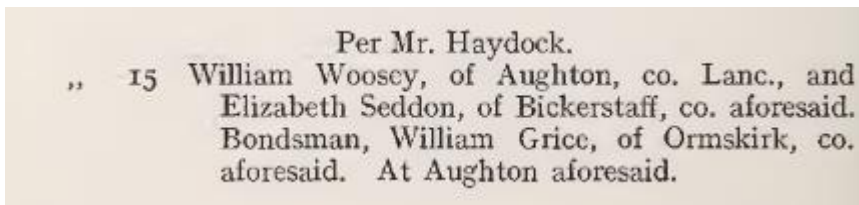
(I reckon this was a sub-letting to Obediah from the Wooseys, Molyneux being the owner; but I could be wrong)

The property Obediah tenanted at Aughton suggests he was a miller (Quaker Oats?) and possibly a maltster.


A CoE marriage at Aughton between William Woosey and Elizabeth Seddon of Aughton parish 18 Jan 1696/7 could be relevant as Elizabeth Woosey was the tenant of a cottage and tenement in Aughton let to Obediah 20 years later.



Elizabeth Seddon and William Woosey married by licence dated 15 Jan:

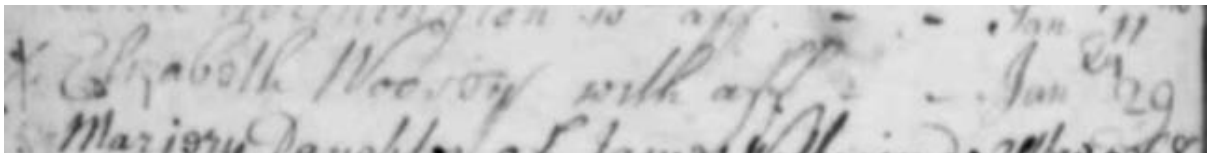


Elizabeth Woosey, widow, of Aughton left a will:

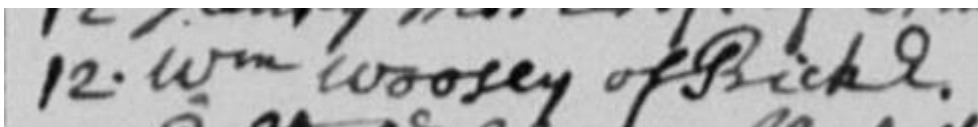
 **Record Transcription:**
Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858
[Learn about this record set](#)

First name(s)	Elizabeth
Last name	Woosey
Year	1733
Date	12 Jun 1733
Occupation	Widow
Place	Aughton

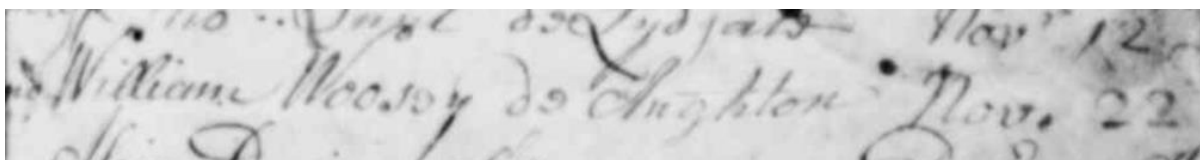
She was buried at Aughton 29 Jan 1732/3:



Two burials of William Woosey were recorded locally: 12 Apr 1709 at Ormskirk (he was of Bickerstaffe); or at Aughton, 22 Nov 1729:



The later burial (below) was at Aughton, the same place as Elizabeth, but it is a little odd that the tenure citation of 1717 noted Elizabeth's name, not her husband's.



The following notes refer to the Woosey/Seddon marriage and include limited detail free of charge:

Elizabeth Anderton (born Woosey), 1697 - 1741¹¹

Elizabeth Anderton (born Woosey) was born in 1697, at birth place, to William Woosey and Elizabeth Woosey (born Seddon).

William was born in 1670, in Aughton.

Elizabeth was born in 1675, in Ormskirk.

Elizabeth was baptized on month day 1698, at baptism place.

She had 2 brothers: Peter Woosey and one other sibling.

Elizabeth married James Anderton on month day 1717, at age 20 at marriage place.

James was born on February 20 1699, in Latham.

They had one son: James Anderton.

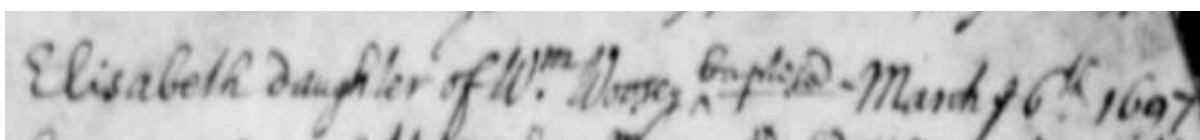
Elizabeth lived at address.

Elizabeth passed away on month day 1741, at age 44 at death place.

The baptism of Elizabeth senior at Ormskirk can be verified:

Elizabeth d/o John Seddon, 26 Feb 1674/5.

The baptism of her daughter Elizabeth is also verified, 6 Mar 1697/8 at Aughton:



The other name linked to Seddon and Woosey in 1717 is William Ascroft. There is research into this family of Aughton and Bickerstaffe at <http://docplayer.net/104184484-John-was-a-son-of-john-ascroft-senior-also-an-aughton-farmer-but-born-in-the-adjacent-township-of-bickerstaffe.html> .

It notes in 1657 the body of Henry Ashcroft was seized for burial at Ormskirk, rather than in the Quaker burial ground at Bickerstaffe

Summing up: the marriage between Elizabeth Seddon and William Woosey in 1696/7 links the two families together and the tenancy at Aughton could have arisen as Obediah was related to Elizabeth / her father John Seddon.

The move of Obediah from Wavertree (his birthplace) to Aughton is easy to explain, being not much over 10 miles. However, he was in Royal's Green in 1680 and a move from there to Aughton is more of an undertaking, although if he had links to the family of Seddon in the area a family illness or

¹¹ https://www.myheritage.com/names/elizabeth_woosey

death may have prompted the move. There is some evidence that members of the Ascroft (or Ashcroft) family, also named in the agreement cited in 1717, were Quakers.

Sons of Obediah Seddon

The citation from 1717 places Obediah and two sons Thomas and John, in Aughton.

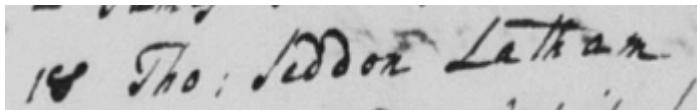
The baptisms of Thomas and John have not been found in the Quaker records on Findmypast. There are some Quaker Seddon baptisms in Cheshire covering two generations:

John	Sedden	1684	Daniell	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire, Staffordshire
Daniel	Seddon	1712	John	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire, Staffordshire
Catherine	Seddon	1719	Jon	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire, Staffordshire
John	Seddon	1725	John	Cheshire	Cheshire	Cheshire, Staffordshire

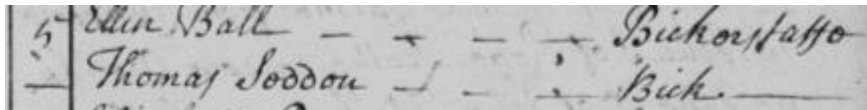
Daniel Seddon, the father in the 1684 baptism, was of Great Budworth, Cheshire.

The CoE registers includes three burials of an adult Thomas Seddon at Ormskirk in the period 1717-1787:

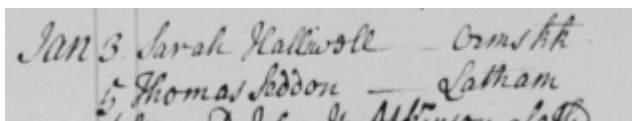
18 Sep 1727, of Latham



5 May 1734, of Bickerstaffe



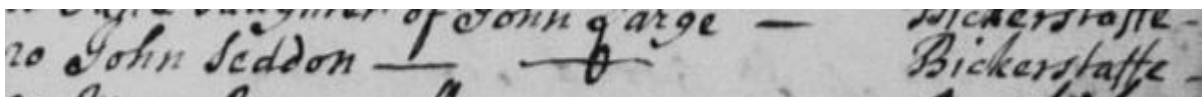
5 Jan 1739/40, of Latham:



The Thomas of Bickerstaffe may be the son of Obediah.

Similar searches for John:

20 Apr 1727, of Bickerstaffe (yeoman, left a will):



4 Feb 1754, of Bickerstaffe:

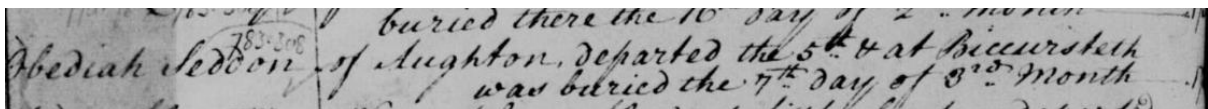


Also two later adult burials: 1 May 1765, of Ormskirk and 13 Nov 1771 of Lathom.

Summing up: the surname Seddon is sufficiently common in the Ormskirk area for it to be uncertain what happened to the family of Obediah Seddon; only CoE citations have been found to date, whereas it is feasible the sons were Quakers. However no citations have been found in the Friend's records. The will of John Seddon 1727 may provide some useful detail.

Burial of Obediah Seddon 1736

The Quaker burial ground at Bickerstaffe is shown below.



Burial 7 May 1736 of OS of Aughton at the Quaker burial ground in nearby Bickerstaffe.

A burial of Catharine Seddon in the same burial ground three years later could be the wife of Obediah: she died 26 and was buried 28 Oct 1739. She was of Bickerstaffe. She may have moved in with one of her children after her husband died.

Joseph Coppock	of Ormskirk	8 10				
Catharine Seddon	of Bickerstaffe, widow	8 26	8 28	1739	Bickerstaffe	
		0 10	9 21	1739	Liverpool	

Appendix

Earlier Seddon baptisms, Childwall: (baptism register starts 1557, the OPC index below covers 1557-1609)

Thomas	3 Jul 1592
Johannes	25 Mar 1594
Ellina	10 May 1596
Henricus	13 Dec 1601
Ric[hard]us	7 May 1606
Alicia	16 Feb 1607/8

Other Seddon families in Childwall parish

The entries have been grouped into families, including baptisms, marriages and burials.

Marriage: 10 Aug 1628 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Henry Seddan - Prescott parish

Katharin Hill - Prescott parish

Baptism: 3 Jan 1635/6 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Thom[a]s Seddon - f. Henrici Seddon

The following entries are for family in Wavertree, where Thomas Seddon lived in the mid 1650s:

Marriage: 2 Mar 1662/3 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Raph Seddon - Wavertrie

Martha Henshaw - the Towne aforesaid

Baptism: 17 Dec 1663 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Josiah Sedden - Son of Raph Sedden

Abode: Wavertrie

Baptism: 27 Mar 1666 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Ellin Sedden - Daughter of Raph Sedden

Abode: Wavertree

Baptism: 28 Sep 1670 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Joshua Sedden - Son of Ralph Sedden

Abode: Wavertree

Baptism: 9 Dec 1673 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

John Sedden - Son of Raph Sedden

Abode: Wavertree

Baptism: 9 May 1677 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Samuel Sedden - Son of Raph Sedden
Abode: Wavertree

Burial: 7 Mar 1684/5 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Ralph Seden -
Abode: Wav'tree

A later generation:

Baptism: 14 Sep 1696 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Bridget Sedden - Daughter of Henry Sedden
Abode: Little woolton

Baptism: 27 Mar 1699 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Samuel Seddon - Son of Henry Seddon
Abode: Little woolton

Baptism: 6 Jul 1701 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Edmund Seddon - Son of Henry Seddon & Bridget
Abode: Little woolton

Burial: 7 Aug 1701 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Edmund Seddon - Son of Henry Seddon
Abode: Little woolton
Notes: buried at Prescot

Marriage: 16 Oct 1701 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
John Seddon - this par.
Eleanor Scot - this par.
Married by license

Baptism: 11 Aug 1702 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Mary Seddon - Daughter of John Seddon
Abode: Little woolton

Baptism: 18 Oct 1705 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Henry Sedden - Son of John Sedden
Abode: Much woolton

Burials not linked to family groups:

Burial: 30 Jun 1659 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.
Ellin Sedden, spinster -
Abode: Toxteth Park

Burial: 21? Jul 1686 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Ellin Seden -

Abode: Wavertree

Burial: 23 Oct 1690 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Ralph Seddon - Son of Josiah Seddon

Abode: Halewood

Burial: 1 Nov 1697 All Saints, Childwall, Lancs.

Jane Seddon - wife of Jossiah Seddon

Abode: Much woolton

Other citations – non-CoE Seddon

The Game of Love in Georgian England: Courtship, Emotions, and Material Culture, Sally Holloway

Below p. 177, then p. 23. The couple were Unitarians.

Name of man	Occupation or Social Rank	Religion	Name of woman	Occupation or Social Rank	Religion	Dates of Courtship	Location	Type of Source & Repository
9 James Nicholson (1718–73)	Linen merchant from a respected merchant family	U	Elizabeth Seddon (1721–91)	Daughter of the gentleman Thomas Seddon of Seddon's House, Bickerstaff, Ormskirk	U	1738–40	Liverpool	L—JRL & LIRO

Christian couples rooted their letters in biblical doctrines to debate the virtuous or selfish nature of humanity. The Unitarian lovers James Nicholson (1718–73) and Elizabeth Seddon (1721–91) used debates about human nature as the founding doctrine of their courtship between 1738 and 1740. As Elizabeth argued in December 1738, 'with regard to moral virtues we are in a Great measure free agents . . . I think no moral virtues will bring us to Heaven, tho' there is no attaining Heaven without

The Registers of Estates of Lancashire Papists 1717-1788 Volume 1¹²

Surnames recorded in Aughton:

Ascroft Aspinwall Aughton Bamber Barber Barker Barton Bastwell Bayley Bicksteth/Bickstoth Bostock Bushell Butchard Cary Chadock Charles Croocoe Fairclough Fenshaw Finch Fisher Fogg Goulbourne/Golbourne Halsall Harrocks Hesketh Hodgkinson Hulme Ince Jump Kilshaw/Killshaw Langley Leatherbarrow/Letherbarrow Martindale Meadow Mercer Miller Molyneux Moorcroft Norris Pye Robinson Rollinson Rothwell **Seddon** Smith Southworth Stanistreet Stanley Starkie Sudell Swift Taylor/Taylor Tyrer Underwood Valentine Webster Welch Whiteside Woods Woolfall Woosey Worthington

Other Seddon citations from this volume (there are no Garvis/Gervis/Jarvis/Jervis)

¹² No evidence found that other volumes were published

CHRISTOPHER INCE OF AUGHTON, gentleman: Ince Hall in the parish of Wigan, let to Thomas Lawson for a year at £27 rent, less leys, taxes and repairs.

A mess, and ten. in Ince let to Thomas Ince for 2 lives at 19s. rent, in consideration of £40. In the tenure of Elizabeth Green.

A mess, and ten. in Ince let to Thomas Ince at 12s. 6d., in consideration of £33. In the tenure of **Matthew Seddon**.
(p. 97)

SIR LAWRENCE ANDERTON OF LOSTOCK, b a r o n e t ...

In Rumworth:

A mess, and ten. let by Sir James Anderton, bart., to **George Seddon** for the lives of himself, Dorothy his wife, and Ann his daughter, at 12s. rent and 7s. 6d. boons; in consideration of £70.
(p. 106)

In Heaton:

A mess, and ten. called Seddons Tenement, and a parcel of land in Horwich called Coal Brow, let to **James and John Seddon** for the lives of John, and William and James his sons, at 22s. 8d. rent and 10s. 2d. boons; in consideration of £100.
(p. 109)

The following citations refer to Nether Wyresdale

EDMUND SYKES OF NETHER WERSDALE, y e o m a n : A mess, and ten. in Ellell, 10 ac. (let to John Wilson of Ellell at £7. 17s. 6d. rent,) at 6s. 8d. rent. (p. 7)

EDWARD HARRISON OF BROUGHTON, h u s b a n d m a n : A mess, and ten., 30 ac., in Netherweirdale¹¹ (let to Henry Gibson, from year to year at £18 rent) held for 3 lives at £8. 12s. rent, 1 day ploughing or 3s., 2 days leading of turves or 4s., and 3 days shearing or 3s. A moiety of a mess, and ten., 18 ac., in Broughton, let to Thomas Greenalls from year to year at 28s. rent; paying 50s. yearly to mother. (p. 21)

The format suggests SYKES and HARRISON (the latter being the surname of the wife of Edward Jarvis's wife of 1615) were Catholics.

Location of Aughton mill

Obediah was the tenant of a mill and kiln at Aughton in 1717.

The following are from the *Victoria County History*, available online. The first suggests the mill was owned by Starkie (the piece later mentions John had a grandson named Edward)

John Starkie was almost immediately involved in disputes with his neighbour Lawrence Ireland of Lydiate. (fn. 71) Shortly before the death of John Starkie in 1626, his windmill and various lands, including the Furlongs and Broad Carr, (fn. 72) were the subject of family disputes. His son Henry, to whom he had refused to make any allowance for many years, put in a claim to them. The rector of Aughton expressed his belief that the 'unnaturalness' of the father to plaintiff and the persuasions of the stepmother and others would greatly endanger Henry's overthrow and be the ruin of that house. (fn. 73) Possibly this anticipation was justified, as the family seems to have declined in importance. For instance their manor was ignored in 1657, when it was awarded that Uplitherland was a particular district and a distinct manor, Bartholomew Hesketh being sole lord; and that Aughton was another distinct manor, Caryl Lord Molyneux, Lawrence Ireland, and Bartholomew Hesketh being the

three lords of it; boundaries were then fixed by the referees. (fn. 74) In 1640 the lands of Richard Tatlock were said to be held of Lord Molyneux, Edward Ireland, Bartholomew Hesketh, and Edward Starkie 'as of their manor of Aughton.' (fn. 75)

Henry Starkie, the son, died in 1639. His will mentions his wife, Edward his son and heir, and other children. (fn. 76) Edward Starkie was one of the 'commanders and officers' in the siege of Lathom House, thus taking part with the Parliament. (fn. 77) He recorded a pedigree at the visitation of 1664, describing himself as forty-six years of age. (fn. 78).¹³

Gaw (fn. 2) Hill is a little to the south. (fn. 3) Aughton proper is on the south-western slope of the hill. Here is the church, with the old hall to the north-west, and **water-mill and windmill** formerly adjacent Further to the north-west is Walsh Hall. A mile east of the church is Town Green, with Moor Hall still further to the east. Holt Green is south-east of the church, and has the Mickering a little to the south. From near the last-mentioned farm the Cock Beck flows west to Sudell Brook, and in the angle between the confluence is Brookfield, to the south of which, on the border of Maghull, was formerly a **water-mill**. ... In the same district is **Whimbrick Mill, formerly a windmill**, but now worked by steam. ... The following 'Papists' registered estates here in 1717: John Bamber, Peter Butchard, James Halsall, Christopher Ince, Thomas Leatherbarrow, and Thomas Molyneux, of Lydiate.¹⁴



Mill Lane is marked on the NW side of Aughton on the 6" to mile OS map surveyed 1845-1846, published 1849.

Some notes on Aughton, Revd W A Wickham 'read 26 November 1908'¹⁵

¹³ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol3/pp292-304#p22>

¹⁴ <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol3/pp284-291>

¹⁵ <https://www.hslc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/60-4-Wickham.pdf>

Aughton is divided from Ormskirk by a narrow brook, which scarcely interrupts the continuity of the long street in which Ormskirk ends and Aughton begins. After leaving Ormskirk the great road from the north leads up Holburn Hill for some distance until the summit is reached, and here, close by a disused windmill, stands the modern Christ Church, with its wide prospect, its trim, well-kept churchyard, and its school-house. On the other side