

Evidence of our presence in Bowland Forest begins with our records shown there from 1322 in the 14th Century section. All the information given for the 12th and 13th Centuries is intended as a base for further research into when we first arrived in Bowland and where we may have been prior to this. Ongoing DNA research in England, Ireland and Norway may eventually tell us more about our origins while, ongoing transcriptions and publications of ancient documents may eventually provide us with more early family records (Mk. Sep 2014)

INTRODUCTION

Familial DNA Scientist at Leicester University, who later identified the remains of Richard III, concluded that we are a single source family and of Norwegian Viking origin. Academics so far believe we were among the humans who originated in Africa about 200,000 years ago and settled in the Black Sea area, a once fertile farming land before being flooded by the sea. Over thousands of years, we then travelled North West across Europe to Scandinavia where we became Norwegian Vikings. Our researcher Keith believes we may have come from Norway via Iceland.

The current theory from academics is that we may have been among those Vikings who settled in Ireland and invaded Lancashire, England from Dublin in the 9th Century. Our records show that we had settled in Bowland Forest, Lancashire/Yorkshire border by 1300 with family members still living there to this day.

From Dr Turi King to volunteer DNA contributor Roy Swinglehurst:

Hi Roy,

Not at all. Yes, in fact in the group of 40 of you who are all related, 34 are Swinds, 6 Swings. I managed to get samples back from 56 out of 752 listed carriers for the surnames (d and g variants) in the electoral rolls. I sent out well over a hundred packs to people with your surname. Probably best to clarify that when I say your surname I mean both d and g variants.

And yes, if you look at the network I sent you - the diagram with lots of blobs on - there are other Swind(g)s who aren't related, genetically, at least. Each circle is a Y chromosome type and the bigger the circle, the more people I found with that Y chromosome type. Now, the other thing I had to take into account was that as the Y chromosome is passed down from father to son, there can be little mistakes in the copying process so there will have been some variation occurring on the Y over time. So if two men with same or similar surname shared a Y chromosome type through a common ancestor some 15 generations back, it could well be that, 15 generations later, in the present, their Y chromosomes are no longer identical but are similar enough that we know they must be related. So, the other chaps who aren't in the big group of you who are all related could be

1. the descendants of other people who took on the surname hundreds of years ago but they haven't had as many kids, or just through sampling randomly, I didn't happen to hit many of them or they didn't return packs
2. adoptions - people who took on the surname but originally different surname
3. illegitimacies - one man's surname, other man's Y chromosome

Looking at them, most of them are single individuals. There are two blobs which are where two chaps have the same Y chromosome. Sadly, without knowing the entire genealogy of everyone involved, we can't tell which of the three scenarios hold for these chaps.

My research was restricted to England but I did take one Swindlehurst (who is in the 40) from Canada as they knew ancestry back to Cheshire and she was a friend of mine from Cambridge so she had a male line relative take part. I was just going to email her to let her know about you and to put you in contact.

Hope that helps.

Best wishes,

Turi

From Prof. Stephen Harding, Viking expert & colleague of the Dr Turi King DNA research team:

But in a separate study we also looked closer at the link between the Y-DNA of men possessing the same surname and one of the names we chose were the Swindlehursts who seem to derive from the Forest of Bowland region of North Lancashire. And indeed many of the Swindlehursts had identical Y-chromosome types and many also belonged to the group R1a1, which we can definitely connect with Norwegian Vikings.

Fourth the current extension of the Wirral -West Lancs survey to N. Lancs, Cumbria, Durham and Yorkshire - over 2000 volunteers recruited, and our work with the Norwegians - recruiting over 400 men whose ancestry goes back many generations to specific parts of Norway - from their DNA results we can get a good picture of what the genetic profile of different parts of Norway (& also the rest of Scandinavia) was like in the Viking age [the results of all this should be available by the end of the year].

Update from Steve Harding Oct 2014 after request for any new information on the Vikings arrival in Bowland:

... discussed this with my colleague Dr. David Griffiths. I'm afraid we also belong to the 'no academic groups' category. Late 9th early 10th century is the best we can offer. Bowland is not a million miles from the Cuerdale discovery (dated to the 1st decade 10th century) and also not that far from York. David points to the work of the late Mary C. Higham who did important work on the place names and landscape of the area and also to Denise Kenyons 1991 book on the Origins of Lancashire (1991) but you probably already know that one. If we come up with anything we'll let you know!

David: Our Viking forebears were prone to giving names to places, a characteristic very useful to a group of people accustomed to travelling long distances. Blackpool is a good example (or, in Viking-speak, Dublin). It shouldn't (in my view) be a cause for surprise if such names turn up anywhere in Europe - and North America. I can see no difficulty in accepting that Swyn, Swein (or whoever) was occupying/farming/living on Ongle's farm (= Ongle's argh). The gh, whatever the pronunciation in 902AD, is now silent in Grimsargh and Goosnargh, probably through laziness, and could easily have become k elsewhere. Mix that up with a semi-literate, hard-of-hearing, arthritic cleric and anything could result. Notwithstanding the current received wisdom about Anglesey (ie that Angle is a corruption of Ongl and doesn't mean Island of the English) there were a few Anglo-Saxons around when William instigated his programme of ethnic cleansing in 1069AD.

Thus, in my un-educated fashion, I am happy to accept that my pagan ancestors lived for a while on an Anglo-Saxon settlement at the back of Chorley, long enough in fact for the place to be given a specific appellation.

Paul (retired Germanic Languages Teacher) :

c.1320 William de Swynytwait is transcribed into Swinthwaite

Swyneheved is transcribed into Swainshead.

The point is that Swyn can be/has been transcribed into Swain/Swin, which to my mind is further evidence that the name origin was Swyn/Sweyn, a knight's "companion"/valet, etc.

Paul update Oct 2014:

This "aules large" is new to me. Possible meanings:

aula is Latin or Greek for "hall", "assembly" or "court".

"large" may come from "largesse", a bestowal of gifts.

I haven't (yet) changed my mind that "Swin" comes from "swain", a sort of squire who may have been given a piece of land for services rendered.

The map doesn't show any link to this (yet!).

Mk update Oct 2014. Another V.I.P. in the quest to learn more about our family is professional researcher for the Bowland area: Chris Spencer. Our own Chris first told me about him but David has already met him and is hoping to work with him in the future to share information. Chris Spencer has his own website:

<http://www.chrispencer.co.uk/> and obtains original documents to transcribe as explained in this following extract from the e-mail he sent us -

"...I am currently working on the very earliest court rolls for the Liberty of Bowland/Manor of Slaidburn, translating them from Latin, etc, with a view to publishing them shortly, probably all the Henry VIII ones in the first instance (I am aiming for 2015 publication). There are many references to the Swindlehursts therein - John senior and junior and Robert crop up very regularly.

I am also aware of a significant branch of the family at Hill in Grindleton from at least 1600 onwards, possibly earlier, who were considerable owners of copyholds in Grindleton. One of their line attended Oxford and two generations were CofE clergymen, but in Wales! ..."

Paul: Again re Chris' [Chris Spencer's] email, his reference to the court rolls of liberty, ties in with Aules Large, "Aules" being perhaps a court, and "liberty" being a generous interpretation of "large" (-esse).

Some of the questions arising include:

Are we related to any of the Irish Viking royalty?

When did the Vikings first settle in Bowland and were we among them?

[Vikings may have been in Bowland from about 850 A.D.]

With our land there on the bow of the River Hodder, did we give Bowland Forest its name?

Prior to arriving in Bowland, did we live in the Anglezarke area and work for the Lords of Lathom, a Saxon originating family much opposed to the Vikings?

Did we help in the building of Burscough Priory and/or the original wooden Lathom Hall?
Were we among those who built the first wooden Halls of Leagram and/or Browsholme?
Before acquiring our surname, were we previously called Swinley and perhaps, before that, Swin?
Our former German Language Teacher Paul believes this may have originated from Swain - an Aid to a Knight - perhaps an Aid to Sir Robert Fitzhenry who gave us our surname providing land in the 12th Century around the time of his building of Burscough Priory. Apparently, it was traditional for Lords to give their loyal Swains some of their Land
Another theory is that it may be a first name perhaps after the Viking King Swein?

----- 12TH CENTURY.

How, where and when did we acquire our surname?

Ar: "Among the odds and ends left by Frank Swinglehurst is a newspapercutting dated 29th March 1910 from the 'Burnley Express' regarding the Swinglehurst family. It states - Swinglehurst spelt in all its various ways, has been for centuries closely connected with the district of Chipping [Forest of Bowland, Lancashire side] The Swinglehursts (Swynhulhursts) had a lease of land about 1190 [1184] when Sir Robert Fitzhenry, Lord of Lathom, gave part of his land in Aules-Large [to Adam de Swynhillhurst] which was called 'Swynleyhurst' or 'pig-grazing wood'. The Lord of Lathom had jurisdiction over most of Lancashire and was the forerunner of the Stanley family who became Earls of Derby."

Could the hyphen in Aules-Large signify missing or illegible letters?

We have yet (Sep 2014) to identify an area in Bowland which may have been named 'Aules-Large'. If not in Bowland or Bowland itself, Aules-Large may have been an early spelling variant of Anglezarke where a place named 'Swynleyhurst' was recorded in the 13th Century. See 13th Century below.

From Peter Iles, Archaeology Advisor: On a somewhat pedantic note, the quote from the Burnley paper somewhat simplifies the 'Lord of Lathom' story. If you have not already seen them, the volumes of the Victoria County History for Lancashire (William Farrer and John Brownbill, 1909-12, republished by Dawsons of Folkestone in 1993) which contain the parish histories for Bowland (Vols. 6 and 7) and Lathom (Vol. 3) make interesting background reading.

From Sue, Lathom Trust: With reference to your enquiry as to your family history connections with Lathom, there are in fact no 'Lathom papers' as such. The Derby family papers were extensively destroyed in World War 2 at Knowsley. The Earls of Lathom papers are understood to have been burnt in the local colliery furnaces in the early 1920's at the time of the sale of the estate by the 3rd Earl.

I would suggest that you contact Lancashire Record Office at Preston.

From Steve of the Lathom Trust: Further to Susan's response I can let you know that not all of the Lathom/Stanley documents perished in the colliery fires at Skelmersdale in the 1920s. During our recent deerpark survey we identified and located grants and deeds etc dating back to the de-Lathoms, some as early as the 12th century. These can be found in the Lancashire Record Office listed as DDLm. A search on the Access to Archives website under Lathom or Burscough Priory should bring up some early documents that might be of interest to your research.

[Mk: If our name did begin in 1184, this was 5 years before Richard I (the Lionheart) became King of England. Richard born 8 Sep 1157, was King from 6 July 1198 to his death 6 April 1199. It is not yet known whether any of our family joined him in the Crusades]

Where was Swynhilhurst?

Ar: Where is Swynhilhurst? Early records locate it near where Browsholme Hall stands today, in the accounts of John Lombard; the Collector of Rents for King Henry VIII, a farm is referred to as being at a place called "Lees with Swynehurst" Without this latter information John William Swinglehurst in his research at the beginning of this century had pin-pointed it as being on a tributary of the Hodder, only one and a half miles south of Whitewell near a place called Middle Lees. This is a steep sided and well wooded valley (perhaps once known as Swindale) and when John William questioned a local farmer he learned that a wood there was known as Swinglehurst Ings [Since named Ing Wood] and that a pile of stones nearby may be the remains of a settlement. [A 1940's arial photo had the ground floor remains of a house on the Hodder bank at Ing Wood]

After many years researching and going to the areas, our Chris Swindlehurst of Skipton found and supplied most of our following family records up to 1700 and many others beyond then. At the same time, he researched his own direct line and branch from the late 1600's to the present day.

Chris: I believe that that wood still exists as Pale Wood. [Mk. The Wood was apparently so named because of its use for making wooden palings, as used by our family to fence the Royal Hunting Parks of Bowland. It is also a source of Sulphur and probably known to the Romans from their road close by. With the other ingredients necessary for making black powder (gunpowder) on our land, it may be possible that our family knew how to make it. If so, we may have been among the first in England to produce it and possibly for use in our mining activities. We became manufacturers of gunpowder in the 19th Century and may have been involved with the Gunpowder Plots of c1600. With family in Westminster at the time, we also had families in the Counties where many of the plotters lived and we did marry into the family of at least one of them]

Chris: It may never be possible to trace our line directly back to Adam de Swyneleyhurst I am however, sure that he is directly related to all the subsequent Swindlehursts wherever they lived or died.

The Forest was administered locally on behalf of the King, there were various Courts and other bodies involved and the Swindlehurst name features several times over the years as employees, witnesses, defendants etc. A Feudal system was in operation, where of the persons occupying land did not own the land but leased it from others in a rigid social order, from peasant to King.

The head of the family owned the family property, and if there was any to pass on it went to the eldest son. The effect of this was that the younger son usually got very little and in two or three generations there could be considerable differences in the comparative wealth between members of the same family. Some Swindlehursts prospered and rose above the peasant class to positions of influence others remained in poverty.

13TH CENTURY.

Mk: The surnamed Swain families of England, including Lancashire, may be of numerous Scandinavian origins and may or may not be the origins of the Swin part of our name. The following information is presented in case we are from any of the Swain trees.

Paul: "Lancashire Inquests 1205-1307" 1212 references to "Swain", e.g. Swain Fitz Alric, Adam Fitz to my mind, these suggest Swain. To status, rather than occupation

From Patronymica Britannica, a dictionary of the family names of the United Kingdom - Page 335 by Mark Antony Lower - 1860

1 SWAIN. The A-Sax. ttran, a pastoral servant, and the Scand. Streya, a proper name originally of the same import, have impressed themselves upon many localities, which in their turn have given designations to families. Among those which do not occur in gazetteers are Swainston, Swainsland (now Sways-land), Swanston, and others. SWAINE. SWAYNE. }. A Scandinavian personal name of great antiquity, introduced here under the Danish rule. Domesday shows us several persons (tenants in chief and otherwise) called Svain, Suain, Suanus, Suuen, Swen or Sueno, some of whom are specifically stated to have held lands under Edward the Confessor. Suain of Essex, supposed by Morant to have been of Danish origin, was ancestor of the famous Henry de Essex, temp. Henry II. 2. The A-Sax. swan : see previous article. The forms in the Rotuli Hundredorum are Le Swein, Le Sweyn, and Sweyn. SWAINSON. See under Swaine. Tho name of Swcynson has existed for ages in Denmark. In the XI. and XII. centuries we find it here in the forms of Filius Suani and Fitz-Swain. In Domesday the wife of Edw. filius Suani was a chief-tenant in Essex. The well-known ascendancy of the Danes in Yorkshire from the time of Etbelred, A.D. 808, downwards, accounts for that district being the principal habitat of the name. The Swaynsons were located at Briggeholme, in the parish of Giggleswick, early in the XII. century, and they remained in that district until the middle of the XVIII. Early in the XII. century Adam Fitz-Swain or Swainson, was lord of Hornby Castle. " You have the advantage (says the Rev. Jos. Hunter, addressing one of the family,) of having had a line of ancestors living in a good position in the county where Sweyn, the son of Alaric, and Adam, the son of Sweyn, had such large possessions." Beatson's Polit. Index. I. 4. Inf. Eev. Edw. C. Swayneon, H.A., the existing representative of the family.

Professor Ron Catterall has carried out a great deal of research into his own origins and, in the process, has produced a mass of data about other families and subjects. The following extract from his work potentially shows connections between the histories of Catterall, Swindlehurst, Robin Hood and Sir Gawaine and the Green Knight [of the fictitious King Arthur Camelot stories], together with a list of references to the Swindlehursts:

Athelstan bought the whole of Amounderness ('at great personal expense') in 930 from the then current Viking settlers. He gave most of it to St. Peters in York, but there is a manuscript in the Harley collection saying that part of it went to a local Athelstan family of whom the king was 'bel-pere'. This family resided at the place now called Elston on the north bank of the Ribble, east of Preston. Michael Athelstan was one who received the grant of Catterall in 12?? from William II of Lancaster, and he took the name Catterall.

In the original Gest of Robin Hood (around 1360-70) there is a reference to Wyresdale.

[Some historians believe the Sherwood Forest of the fictitious Robin Hood stories was in fact based on a Forest further north - e.g. Bowland or Gisburn Forest. Some believed the name Bowland came from its use in making bows. The green clad Robin may have some link with the Green Knight of the Sir Gawain poem. We had families in Bowland, Wyresdale, Gisburn and Nottinghamshire]

I strongly suspect that the final journey of Sir Gawain was the old medieval road over Fiendsdale Head (roughly from Bleasdale Tower area to the Langden Castle and the Trough road). This was the main route from Ribblesdale to Lancaster before the present Trough of Bowland route was opened.

Something like 10% of the vocabulary in Gawain is of Old Norse origin - Vikings from Dublin settled the whole of Amounderness from about 850-7 onwards and displace the local Celtic British very significantly.

Pure speculation, no evidence at all: can we link Swain de Catterall to the Swein of Swindlehurst? Catteralls are descended from Swain de Catterall (born ca. 1120) and his son Richard de Catterall (born ca. 1150), and possibly also from Suani, daughter of Swain (around in 1160-1170) married Robert de Goosnargh. Note also the link to the Mitton area. A Catterall held land in Chipping in 1242.

See the Fine Rolls of Henry III (you might look through these for Swindlehurst) (<http://www.finerollshenry3.org.uk/index.html>). This has Henry of Whittington's application to take custody of the son of Richard son of Swain - May 1223 and the taking into custody the lands of Isolda daughter of Robert son of Bernard - June 1222

There is a hunting scene in Gawain where a wild boar is hunted in a valley with a fast running stream. Could well be the Hodder at Ing - pure speculation of course! You can read the text at: http://catterall.net/ME/gawain/Gawain_frames.html. Line pull-down menu (top right), select 1560, click Go. The wild boar hunt starts on line 1561 and ends 1618. The valley and river could well be the Hodder at the Ing. If you are not happy with Middle English, a reasonable translation is by James Winny, 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight', Broadview Literary Texts, Canada, ISBN 0-921149-92-1 (paperback) 1992 but reprinted many times, pp. 88-9

From Tom Smith's History of Chipping:

"Among the Derby MSS. are deeds, without dates, but of the time of John and Henry III. (1199-1272), in which grants of land in Chipping are made by Robert, son of Richard de Chepyn, to Richard, son of Leodovic de Knoll; by Robert, son of Roger, son of Sir William de Chepyn, to William, son of Adam de Aula. Also by William the carpenter to Thomas, his son, of land called Birchenle_s; and by Henry de Thelewell to Richard de Knoll of land near the Kirk Brigg."

[Mk: This Adam de Aula appears to be from the Knolls family but needs to be further checked for any connection with our Adam of Aules-Large. 'Aules' commonly became the present day 'Hall' and appears to refer to an area's administration Hall]

From British History Online for Anglezarke:

Dep. Keeper's Rep. xxxvi, App. 204; also Burscough Reg. fol. 50. The grant was made between 1232 and 1240. The land was called Swinleyhurst, on the northern border. Prior Benedict and the canons afterwards granted Swinleyhurst to Randle de Heapy and his heirs at a rent of 3s.; Randle had held under the Lathoms. The bounds went along the Shaw of Ledewarden, the cliff, the deepest part of the carr, Swinley Syke to the west part in Whithenley Brook, Ledewarden Brook as it divides Anglezarke and Wheelton, and so to the starting point. The easements included mast in the wood of Anglezarke, fuel, and timber for building; *ibid.* fol. 27.

[Note: We have no evidence so far that anyone took their surname from this Swinleyhurst unless it was Adam of Aules-Large or associated with the Anglezarke Swinleys as in Swinley Sykes above]

In 1334 Sir Thomas de Lathom, Thomas de Thornton, Robert del Bulhalgh, and William de Anderton were convicted of having disseised Richard son of Adam de Rivington of common of pasture in Anglezarke; *Coram Rege R.* 297, m. 94. For grant of free warren see *Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, p. 396. Thomas de Lathom had in or before 1343 leased 'Bronuleshol' and other lands in Anglezarke to Hugh de Swinley and Roger his son at a rent of 30s.; John de Swinley was the previous tenant; *Add. MS.* 32106, no. 1179. Messuages and lands in Anglezarke were included in a settlement of the estate of the younger Sir Thomas de Lathom in 1376; *Final Conc.* ii, 190.

Paul: De Hoghton Deeds and Papers No.1214. 17 Edw. III 1343 Oct. 28. Thos de Lathum leases for 12 years to Hugh de Swinlegh and Robt. his son, 2 places (sic) of land in Anlasargh namely Brounys Holmys [Browsholme??] and the land where John de Swinlegh formerly held of Grantor and le Bonk between Le Lowe feld and Yarowe.

[Mk: Could the above 'Bronuleshol' be Browsholme? If so, did the Lathoms consider Bowland Forest part of Anglezarke?]

So this Swinleyhurst in Anglezarke was land owned by Burscough Priory ('built' by Sir Robert FitzHenry) up to 1232-1240 and the name may have arisen from an earlier Swinley (of John de Swinley 13th/14th Centuries Anglezarke) being leased a Hurst?? Swinleyhurst and Swinleys of Anglezarke may or may not have any connection to our origins in Bowland. There may well have been land in both Bowland and Anglezarke with the same description and Adam of Aules-Large may be from either.

National Archives: 1230-1264: Robert son of Richard, Lord of Lathom to Burscough Priory: Grant of part of his land called 'Swinlehehurst' in Anglezark: (Lancs)

[Mk: Note the 'he' in the above spelling instead of the 'y'.]

Henry Langta paid 33s4d for the farm of Swynhulhurst. [in our Bowland records]

[Note: of Duchy of Lancaster records: depositions Standishe v Kirshaw [alias Kyrshaw/Kershaye] re land at Anglezarke c1605-1607 [ref: DL 4/53/55]; deposition Anderton v Langton re land at Charnock Heath and Anglezarke c1585 [ref: DL 4/27/9]; and grant by Robert son of Richard lord of Lathom, to Burscough Priory, of part of his land called Swinlehehurst in Anglezark, mid 13th cent [DL 25/645]]

14TH CENTURY.

Mk: I think there was a since missing 1300 accounts record showing just 5 farm owners (one with 2 farms) in Bowland, including a William Swynhilhurst. If so, he may have been the father of the following Adam and Nicholas. The following William may be the same one as 1300 or his son. May also have been the only surviving Swynhilhurst from the family line of Adam in the 1184 land lease or grant (if that was the start of our surname)

1315-17: Wikipedia. A great famine spread across Europe, including Great Britain, causing millions of deaths. The Great Famine started with bad weather in spring 1315. Universal crop failures lasted through 1316 until the summer harvest in 1317, and Europe did not fully recover until 1322. The period was marked by extreme levels of crime, disease, mass death, and even Cannibalism and infanticide.

1320's Ar: ... the Swinglehursts had the tenancy of Fairdockhouse otherwise known as Faredokesholm or Ferrakhouse and later as Farrick, from the 1320's and they continued to thrive there. Their importance grew and they were being referred to as "Gentlemen" and "Esquire" in the later records.

"The History of Chipping" describes the house as being pleasantly situated among the Bowland Knottes three miles north east of Chipping village. Part of the original building still remains: one room, wainscotted with dark oak, contains a panel over the fireplace on which is painted a hunting scene showing the house as it stood in the early part of the 17th century. On the gable end of the out-buildings is the inscription in raised letters - "John Parkinson; Dorothy his wife and Thomas his son 1716" and on a pump in the yard "J.C.P.1819" (John Cline Parker). All these were direct descendants of the Swinglehursts.

Mk: Our nearest market town was Chipping and its Church St Bartholomew may have been our main or only place of worship and records registration. Chipping was one of the parishes laid to waste by the Scots in 1322 so many of our records and family may have been lost at this time.

THE START OF OUR RECORDS IN BOWLAND (unless the Aules-Large of c1190 was also in Bowland) :-

1322: 46 shillings and eight pence.- paid to Adam de Swynhilhurst and Thomas de Crumbilholme for the upkeep of the paling around Laythegryme Park (Leagram) both with old and new pales, shores and nails from the materials of the King by an agreement for the whole made by the Seneschal [From the Accounts of the Master Foresters of Bowland]

1322 - paid to the same Adam for the upkeep of the New Launde below Fence in Bouland close to the Knottes by agreement for the whole made by the Seneschal - 3s. 3d. [From the Accounts of the Master Foresters of Bowland]

1323/24: Register of the Farms of the Vaccaries of Bouland (18th year Edward II)

.... William de Swynelhurst for a Vaccary there ...20s [From the Accounts of the Master Foresters of Bowland]

1324: Ar: William de Swynelhurst has a vaccary at Knottes, just across the river from the original settlement and just outside the deer park. Fair Oak (or Faredokehouse or Farrick as it was known) is on the Knottes. Greystonlegh is next to Fair Oak. Burholme (Byerholm) is just north of Whitewell. Almost on the site of the original settlement is the Legh. Spaldingtonmon close was a waste plot in the chase of Leagram. By the 1400's all these places are tenanted by Swinglehursts and all are within a mile or two of each other.

1332: Swynhillhurst, 'Farm around Browsholme'. Ref. wood fencing boundary work of 'Laythegryme Park' and 'New Launde, close to the Knotts' [name of a farm].

1335: two shillings- paid for making a gate on the north side of the Park by an agreement for the whole made by the Seneschal [From the Accounts of the Master Foresters of Bowland]

1335 custody of the paling of the Park. Wage for Nicholas Swynhilhurst working there felling and splitting oaks for the pales and rails and making 150 of pales at 12 pence per hundred. Paid 18 pence [From the Accounts of the Master

Foresters of Bowland]

1341: Accounts of John de Radcliff, Keeper of Clitheroe Castle 1341 Tenants of Royal Forest of Bowland (8 tenants in all)Swinelhurst 30s.

Chris: In 1341 John Radcliffe. Keeper of Clitheroe Castle set the rent of 30s. for Swinelhurst Farm and charged Adam de Swinelhurste 3s.4d for 10 acres of waste land.

Ron Catterall: VCH 6 notes Adam, Nicholas and William Swinhilhurst in the accounts of Leagram Park. - and Whitaker 1347-8. [??] Also notes Christopher Harris of Fairoak (shared with the Swindlehursts) married Mary, daughter and heir of Robert Swinglehurst. Harris took the King's side in the Civil War and as a recusant and delinquent his estate was sequestered. He was farmer of the rectory of Chipping in his wife's right. See above.

1346: Adam Swinglehurst dies in London of the Plague. This is probably the above 1341 Adam de Swinelhurste. One or more of those mentioned above may have gone to London with him.

NOTE THIS LARGE GAP IN OUR RECORDS FOUND SO FAR - FROM 1347 TO 1421

The Plague ("Black Death") reached England in 1348 and by 1349 covered the entire Country killing about half of the population. The next epidemic was 1361-2 killing about 20% of the population.

Arthur:

Bowland Forest

Bowland Forest was for centuries a Royal Estate preserved as the haunt of red and fallow deer or as a source of timber. Very little was done by Royal Command or otherwise to change this and consequently towards the end of the Middle Ages it was found that nature was no longer producing enough timber or livestock to resist the encroachments of those who hunted, sometimes by Royal License but more often without.

In the 14th century it became the practice to restrict many of the deer to Launds or large Deer Parks where they could be adequately supervised and reared as a useful source of protein. The parks also contained wild cattle and some horses.

Bowland parks were New Launde and Radholme (on opposite sides of the Hodder at Whitewell) and at Leagram in the Chipping ward. The Swinglehursts were concerned directly or indirectly with all three of these parks as the following story will show. At Leagram which was the largest of these, a ditch was laboriously dug and planted with thorns. Beyond the ditch was erected a stout fence 6 ½ miles in length. It seems that the fence was in the main built by the Swinglehursts and the Crumbilhornes. [Mk: We have been in touch with a descendant of the Crumbleholmes, Richard, who is researching his tree from these Bowland days when our families worked together. He is developing his own website for displaying his on-going findings - <https://sites.google.com/site/crumbleholmefamilyhistory/>]

Outside the Launds the pastures were farmed out to various tenants and held for generations by the same family. There were eventually eight of these large pastures known as vaccaries, and these were at Battris, Burholme, Browholme, Greystonleigh, Lickhurst, Eshknott, Harden and StapleOak. Apart from Leagram, the Swinglehursts were connected at one time or another with at least three of these.

The stock for the vaccaries was farmed out by the Lord, and elaborate records were kept of these. For example, in 1422 the stock comprised 9 bulls, 179 cows and heifers, 42 young oxen, 44 bullocks and 150 calves. Of these the largest concentration was at Leagram where the Lords were the De Hoghtons of Hoghton Towers. Later it passed to the Sherburnes of Stonyhurst who eventually purchased it.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Bowland was described simply as a wooded area. A visitor in 1350 described the inhabitants as "*few, untractable and wild*" and the place as "*in a manner inaccessible to man*" Yet these "*Untractable and wild*" people which numbered about 370 able bodied souls elected their own form of Government. A Bow Bearer and Chief Steward (Seneschal), Keepers and a Bailiff who were required to attend annually "*two Swainmotes, a Woodmote court, two Courts Leet and two Courts Baron to which inhabitants of Bowland do suit and service, in which all such as fell anie wood without lycens, or kill anie deere, will be fyned: also all actions under 40 shillings will be tryed*" and "*no one to keep any dog bigger than will go through a stirrup to hunt deere out of their corne.*"