

## Some localised early plant records from North-west England: then and now

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### ABSTRACT

The plant records of three late sixteenth/early seventeenth-century collectors made in two localised areas of north-west England are examined and the relevant plants' continued survival there, or otherwise, is discussed. Apart from what at that time were already scarce plants or were aesthetically attractive and therefore over-collected, most of them still survive.

**KEYWORDS:** Craven limestones, Great Harwood, botanical history, Thomas Hesketh, Thomas Penny, Thomasin Tunstall.

### INTRODUCTION

In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century, plants growing locally in north-west England were recorded in contemporary herbals, especially those prepared and published by John Gerard (1545–1612), John Parkinson (1567–1650) and Charles L'Ecluse (Clusius) (1526–1609). The latter were compilers of information but the detail came from local botanists who variously sent them specimens, drawings, descriptions, and locality details of any plants they considered interesting. In this particular area of the country at that time, the three most important and prolific were Thomas Penny (c. 1530–1588), Thomas Hesketh (1560–1613) and Thomasin Tunstall (fl. 1620–1630) but, understandably, their areas of activity were usually close to their respective homes.

Two limited geographical areas in which these three were active are considered here. The first is that part of the botanically-rich Craven limestone area (v.c. 64) which includes Ingleborough hill and the woods and ghylls on its south-west side close to the villages of Ingleton and Clapham (grid reference: SD67/77). This region was visited at different times by all three botanists. The second area appears to have been the sole preserve of Hesketh. This was close to his home near Great Harwood, Lancashire (v.c. 59), and included the nearby region around the confluences of the

rivers Ribble, Calder and Hodder (v.cc. 59/60; SD63/73). Additional scattered records by Hesketh from elsewhere in northern England are also known including the west Lancashire (v.c. 59) moss-land near Rufford and Mawdesley (SD41) where he owned a second property, as well as Rosgill, Crosby Ravensworth and Walney Island (the latter three, all in Cumbria, v.cc. 69 & 70). These dispersed records are not discussed here.

### THE LOCAL BOTANISTS

Thomas Penny was born in the small Lancashire village of Gressingham north-east of Lancaster within easy reach of Ingleborough hill. He apparently spent his early years in the area but, after graduating at Cambridge University, took up holy orders and moved to London. Later, between 1565 and 1569, he travelled on the continent, mainly to avoid the religious hostility present in England at that time and whilst abroad spent most of this period pursuing field botany and medical training. Despite having moved away from northern England, he nevertheless retained close links with his birthplace, returning there on occasion and visiting the Ingleborough area. In his will, he made a bequest to the poor of Gressingham "to be distributed at the discretion of Mr Fawcett minister.....". In St John's Church, Gressingham, there is, to this day, a plaque listing previous ministers which includes the said John Fawcett, the incumbent during the period 1562–1590. Penny's interest in botany presumably originated from these early years in north Lancashire whereon some of his local finds were recorded by the contemporary herbal authors of the day, especially Gerard and Clusius. Later, during his time on the continent, he became an expert on the flora of the region around Geneva and was known to other eminent naturalists such as Conrad Gesner, Matthew de l'Obel and Joachim Camerarius. On his return to England, he took up medical practice and also became an

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eminent entomologist. He was a co-author, along with Thomas Mouffett and others, of the posthumously-published *Insectorum sive minimorum Animalium Theatrum* (Mouffett 1634), a very early work on entomology. An account of Penny's botanical work abroad together with additional details of his background, are given in Foley (2006).

By coincidence, another person with a great interest in plants, but born rather later than Penny, lived within a mere five kilometres of Penny's Gressingham birthplace. This was a lady, Thomasin Tunstall, whose plant collecting virtues were extolled by John Parkinson, herbalist to James I. In his book *Paradisi in sole paradisi terrestri* Parkinson (1629) described her as "a courteous Gentlewoman.....who dwelleth at Bull-banke, neare Hornby castle in those parts...". Bull Bank, although now rebuilt, still exists as a farm, situated close to the River Greta, and with the village of Tunstall (as in her name) and Thurland Castle, little more than a kilometre away. The castle was once owned by the Tunstall family and it is possible that she was born there. An earlier Thomasin Tunstall, born around 1544, was the daughter of the then owner Marmaduke Tunstall and could have been Thomasin's mother or grandmother, whilst Francis Tunstall, who sold Thurland Castle around 1605, was of an age to have possibly been her father. Little else is known of her background but there is a record in St John's Parish Church register in the village of Tunstall, dated September 29, 1632, which may relate to her. This lists the marriage between Thomasin Smythies de Tunstall and Thomas Smyth. Also, Farrer & Brownbill (1914) state that, in 1629, Thomasin Tunstall and Alice Clopton, both of this area, compounded for two thirds of their estates liable to sequestration for recusancy and were each fined £2 10s. a year. This also may refer to her. She was apparently very familiar with the Ingleborough area (as was Penny) and sent plants collected there to John Parkinson in London.

The third person under consideration is Thomas Hesketh who was born at Martholme Hall, Great Harwood, in 1560. An extant record in the local parish register for 15 May of that year records his baptism: *Thomas Hesketh filius secundus Thome Hesketh militis* (i.e. second son of the knight, also called Thomas Hesketh). On his father's death in 1588, Thomas was left property at the village of

Mawdesley in west Lancashire. Until that time, his early life would have been spent at Martholme, but he now moved to his inherited property whilst his widowed mother continued to live on at Martholme Hall. However, in 1593 he returned there to live with his mother again. This is confirmed by an entry into the Great Harwood parish records for October that year because, as a non-conforming catholic, he was considered to be a recusant, a penalty for which was the necessity to register his current place of residence. This entry, also extant, states: *Thomas Hesketh gent a Recusant did /notifie/ his Cominge to the martholme to dwele /wth his mother/ to me Wm Herris Cur' of the Chappell of moch Harwood the fowrte day of october A<sup>o</sup> Regni Elizabeth nunc Regine xxxv<sup>o</sup> 1593*. So, for much of his life prior to the publication of Gerard's "Herball" (Gerard 1597), he lived at Martholme making excursions into the surrounding countryside as well as to the Ingleborough area. Around the turn of the century, he moved to nearby Clitheroe where he practised as a doctor, Parkinson (1640) referring to him as "a painefull Chirurgion [surgeon] and Simplist [plant collector] of Lancashire". He was held in high regard by Gerard who considered him "a diligent searcher of Simples [plants]" who had discovered many plants "likewise, never before his time remembered or found out". Also that he was "a curious [enquiring] gentleman in the searching forth of Simples ... [and] ...in the knowledge of plants". It is quite possible that Gerard, prior to the publication of his *Herbal* in 1597, visited Hesketh at Martholme and met his mother (Lady Alice) as he refers to Martholme as "my Lady Heskiths house" (see *Tragopogon porrifolius* below); they may also have made an excursion together to Walney Island (Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria). Matthias de L'Obel (1538–1616), the king's 'botanographer', also recorded some of Hesketh's finds and Hesketh must have met both Gerard (see *Nartheicum ossifragum*, below) and de L'Obel (see L'Obel 1655) in London since both of them record his having brought plants to them.

(A) THE CRAVEN LIMESTONES/INGLEBOROUGH AREA  
(V.C. 64)

At the time of these early records, this area was variously considered to be either in Yorkshire or in Lancashire and Gerard, especially, was

notoriously inconsistent in regards to geography. However, nowadays this area is firmly within the former county.

*CARDAMINE PRATENSIS* L.

Thomasin Tunstall sent a double-flowered plant of this to John Parkinson in London (Parkinson 1629: 389): “Cardamine flore pleno. Double Cuckow flowers .... in Lancashire, from whence I received a plant, which perished, but was found by the industrie of a worthy Gentlewoman, dwelling in those parts heretofore remembred, called Mistresse Thomasin Tunstall, a great lover of these delights”. *C. pratensis* is still very frequent here in damp grassland and elsewhere in the north although, understandably, the double variety appears to be ignored nowadays.

*CARDUUS HETEROPHYLLUM* (L.) HILL

This thistle, of quite striking appearance, was known to, and had been sketched by, Penny prior to 1581 where he must have seen it in the fields around Ingleborough. Clusius (1583: 655–657) stated “... cuius descriptionem & iconem mihi anno 1581. Londini communicavit C.V. Thomas Pennaeus Londin-ensis medicus”....”in pratis ad radices montis Englebrow totius Angliae celsissimi in Comitatu Eboracensi. Floret Iulio & Augusto”. It is still a frequent plant in these parts.

*CEPHALANTHERA LONGIFOLIA* (L.) FRITSCH

Parkinson (1629: 348) stated that “The second [i.e. *C. longifolia*] growth in many places of England, and with the same Gentlewoman [i.e. Thomasin Tunstall] also before remembred, who sent one plant of this kinde [this would be from Helks Wood, Ingleton] with the others [*Cypripedium calceolus*, see below]”. However, due to extravagant over-collecting, it appears to have met the same fate there as did the *Cypripedium*. In the early days it was also known from other woods within the area around Settle, Clapham and Ingleton and there is a localised reference to its presence near Brackenbrow, Ingleton in the eighteenth century. It appears to have persisted at the latter for some time and was seen there by F A Lees in 1869 (Lees 1888). However, no further records have been traced, from either there or elsewhere in this area. More recently it was known until the 1930s from a hazel coppice at Far Arnside (v.c. 69) but this locality is c. 25 kilometres to the west of the Helks Wood and the other Craven sites. The nearest occurrence for *C. longifolia* nowadays lies well to the

north in Cumbria (v.c. 69/70) where it occurs at a few sites in open *Fagus* woodland

*COCHLEARIA PYRENAICA* DC

This plant of damp, bareish places on upland limestone was sent to Parkinson by Tunstall (Parkinson (1640: 286): “It has also been found growing upon Ingleborough hill in Lancashire, assured me by a worthy Gentlewoman Mrs Thomasin Tunstall remembred in my former booke for many things, found growing in those parts by her meanes which were not known to be growing in England, and thereof shee sent to me up some for a manifestation of the truth.”. It is still widespread here and common in suitable habitats.

*CYPRIPEDIUM CALCEOLUS*

Parkinson (1629: 348) recorded that the plant “...groweth likewise in Lancashire, neare upon the border of Yorkeshire, in a wood or plece called the Helkes [Helks Wood], which is three miles from Ingleborough, the highest hill in England, and not farre from Ingleton, as I am informed by a courteous Gentlewoman, a great lover of these delights, Mistris Thomasin Tunstall, ...and who hath often sent mee up the rootes to London, which have borne faire flowers in my Garden”. Nowadays long since extinct both at Ingleton and virtually everywhere else in England, it has been the victim of deplorable over-collection, especially in those early days. Its spectacular appearance and value as a garden plant meant that it was highly coveted. A letter noted by Curtis (1941) which was written in 1781 mentioned a man having brought about forty wild plants to sell at Settle market; plants also were on sale at nearby Ingleton. It appears to have survived at Helks Wood until the late-eighteenth century. Withering writing in 1798 quoted a Mr Thornbeck, an Ingleton surgeon, who told him that it had been “lost in Helks Wood for some years” and Dawson Turner in 1805 recorded that he had searched there for it in vain, “a gardener of Ingleton having eradicated every plant for sale” (see also Lees 1888). It lingered on in a few other parts of Craven into the twentieth century but was eventually reduced to a single, currently surviving, plant. However, re-introductions have recently taken place at some former sites and so eventually it may again become a more familiar sight.

*PINGUICULA VULGARIS* L.

Gerard (1597: 645) recorded “Pinguicula sive Sanicula Eboracensis – Butterwort” in “...a

field called Crag-Close, and ... upon Ingleborow fels.....". The Crag-Close locality is thought to be in the Settle area where Hesketh is known to have operated (see *Primula vulgaris* × *P. veris*, below). This will be a Hesketh record. Rocky ground, of which there is a great deal in the area, is sometimes referred to as a "close". The Ingleborough record, however, is probably Penny's. The plant still survives in many such localities in the area.

*POLYGONATUM ODORATUM* (MILLER) DRUCE

Unlocalised, but this must be a Hesketh record from Clapham since it was from precisely these woods that he also recorded the hybrid *Primula* (see below), Gerard (1597: 758) stating: "that sort.....with broad leaves groweth in certaine woods in Yorkshire called Clapdale woods, three miles from a village named Settle". *P. odoratum* still occurs on nearby scars from where it was recorded quite recently (P. Abbott, pers. comm., 2008).

*PRIMULA FARINOSA* L.

On a return visit to the area in 1581, this was recorded by Penny as "Primula veris flore rubro", Clusius (1583: 342) stating: "Anno verò 1581, dum Londini essem, de C.V.D. Pennaeo intellexi copiosè admodum nasci in Angliae Septentrionalibus locis pratis humidis & pascuis, atq;". Although only localised to northern England, this will be from this area of Craven where, even nowadays, it is still frequent in damp areas over limestone. Hesketh also knew it near to his Lancashire home (see below).

*PRIMULA VULGARIS HUDSON* × *P. VERIS* L.

Recorded by Hesketh (Gerard 1597: 637): *Primula veris Heskethi* – Mr Hesketh's Primrose. "the Primrose found by Mr Hesketh growes in a wood called Clap-dale [near Clapham], three miles from a towne in Yorkshire called Settle". It appears to be this hybrid and is the first British record. A later comment in the appendix to Johnson's revision (Gerard 1633) seems to suggest a cultivar: "if Mr Hesketh found it there, it was some extraordinary luxurious floure, for now I am well assured no such is there to be seene". The hybrid often occurs where the parents grow close together and is not uncommon in the area and is probably still present at Clapham. Hesketh's record is also acknowledged by de L'Obel (1655: 118).

*RUBUS CHAMAEMORUS* L.

Recorded by both Clusius and Gerard, although that of the former is almost certainly the earlier of the two. Clusius attributed the discovery to Penny who had sent him a description and an excellent drawing, both of which he reproduced in his book. He stated (Clusius 1583: 117–119): "De Chamaemoro: ..... iconem & descriptionem nobis communicavit c.v. Thomas Pennaeus suprà memoratus, atque Chamaemorum appellare placuit...../..... aperta loca amat, summósque montes, & magna copia inter Ericas provenit monte Ingleborrow totius Angliae celsissimo, duodecim miliaribus à Lancastria. Later, Gerard (1597:1386) under *Vaccinia nubis* (Cloud-berrie) said it had been found on two high mountains, one "in Yorkshire called Ingleborough, the other in Lancashire called Pendle....", the latter locality being referred to Hesketh as the finder (see below). *R. chamaemorus* still occurs on Ingleborough and other high hills within the area.

*SEDUM ROSEA* (L.) SCOP.

As with *Rubus chamaemorus*, this was first found first by Penny who had sent it to Joachim Camerarius prior to 1588. He (Camerarius 1588: 139) recorded it as "Rhodia radix" as found "in Anglia in monte Engleborreno [Ingleborough] dicto, .....ubi flores & semen producit, ut ad me scripsit Doctiss. & rerum naturalium peritiss. Medicus D. Thomas Pennaeus Anglus". Gerard (1633: 532) also noted that "Rhodia radix"... "groweth very plentifully in the North part of England, especially in a place called Ingleborough Fels", whilst Parkinson (1640: 739–740) recorded what appears to be the same plant (*Sedum laciniatus* foliis Small Houseleek with divided leaves) "on the Mountaines of Lancashire with us as Mr Hesketh told us". However, there is no precise reference to Hesketh having found it on Ingleborough. *Sedum rosea* was reported as rare in Yorkshire by Lees (1888), occurring on high exposed grit or slate rocks. However, it is still known from Ingleborough from where Penny certainly knew it.

OTHER POSSIBLE RECORDS

Clusius (1601: 237) recorded *Trollius europaeus* L. [as *Trollius flos*] in mountains in northern England: "ex septentrionalibus Angliae montibus erutum recenter Londini

anno octuagesimo primo supra millesimu & quingentesimus conspiciebam” but without a finder. Even earlier he (Clusius 1583: 372), using the name “Trollius flos”, had commented on it having been known in England growing amongst *Primula farinosa*: “...in Anglia inter primulas flore rubro”. Knowing of the Penny-Clusius connection in relation to *P. farinosa* and other plants, these references very probably originate from Penny and from this area where it still survives in small populations.

Gerard also gave a few additional northern England plant records, but without direct attribution but these almost certainly will have originated from Hesketh. He reported that *Hypericum tetrapterum* Fries “... Square S. Johns Grasse”... “groweth plentifully in the North part of England, especially in Landsdale and Craven” (Gerard 1633: 542). Again, this is the first record for Britain. He also described *Digitalis purpurea* L. “Fox-Gloves...in Landesdale [Lonsdale, north-east of Lancaster], and Craven, in a field called Cragge-close [see *Pinguicula vulgaris*, above], in the north of England” (Gerard 1633: 791) and also *Parnassia palustris* L. “Grasse of Parnassus...in Landsdall [Lonsdale] and Craven, in the North parts of England” (Gerard 1633: 840). These plants are all still present in the area in suitable habitats.

To these may be added *Valeriana officinalis* (“Mountaine Setwall, or Nardus”, Gerard 1633:1081) also at Crag-close, and both this and *Phyllitis scolopendrium* (“Harts tongue”) on Ingleborough (Gerard 1633:1139), both of which may also be relevant here.

(B) NORTH-EAST LANCASHIRE (MAINLY V.C. 59)

All the records from here are attributable to Hesketh (some possibly jointly with his mother). Other than his discoveries in Craven (given above) and those near his inherited property in west Lancashire, most of the remainder are from a limited area within a few kilometres of his Great Harwood home. Both his birth-place, Martholme Hall, and its associated gate-house, still survive. Into the stonework are carved the letters “T H” and the dates 1561 and 1577 commemorating the renovation work carried out there by his father. Hesketh must have spent much time wandering the local countryside and would have known this area in detail. Most of his records are provided by Gerard who possibly also visited Martholme.

*LATHRAEA SQUAMARIA* L.

This remarkably localised record was given by Gerard (1597: 1388) as “Dentaria maior Mathioli – Great Toothwort, or Lungwort [which] groweth likewise neere Harwood in Lancashire, a mile from Whalley [Whalley], in a wood called Talbot banke”. This wood is on the bank of the Calder about three kilometres downstream from Hesketh’s home at Martholme. The plant was seen around 1827 at what is probably Hesketh’s original locality: “George Ward...informs me that...that he had found this plant about 35 years ago [i.e. c.1827] between Whalley and Harwood, about a mile from the former place and near to the river Calder” (Ashfield 1862). This wood is now very overgrown, a recent search for the plant being unsuccessful but it could still survive there. It still occurs nearby at Mitton (pers. obs. 2006) and is also known elsewhere in the vicinity.

*LEPIDUM LATIFOLIUM* L.

This was recorded by Parkinson (1640: 856) for Sawley further to the north but this may be a mis-spelling for Whalley which is closer to Hesketh’s home. In either case it is most likely to originate from him. It is normally a plant of coastal areas but is sometimes naturalised inland and there are modern records from as close as 3 km to the south-east of Martholme (S. Bungard, pers. comm., 2005).

*MAIANthemum bifolium* (L.) F. W. SCHMIDT

Gerard (1597: 330) lists “Monophyllon – One Blade” as occurring “... in Lancashire in Dingley [Dinckley] Wood, six miles from Preston in Aundernesse; and in Harwood [Great Harwood], neere to Blackburne”. Both of these localities are very close to Hesketh’s home and although he is not specifically named, there can be little doubt these are his records. Nowadays, Dinckley Wood is much reduced and modern searches have been unsuccessful. The plant was probably only doubtfully native there in those days and is now long since gone, as it is from Great Harwood.

*NARthecium ossifragum* (L.) HUDSON

According to Gerard (1597: 89) “Asphodelus Lancastriae verus – The true Lancashire Asphodil” was found by Hesketh at “Martom” [Martholme] and that he “... brought the plants thereof unto me for the increase of my garden”. Hesketh also found the plant at Mawdesley, near his other property.

TABLE 1. PAST AND PRESENT OCCURRENCE OF PLANTS RECORDED BY PENNY, HESKETH AND TUNSTALL

Species	Source	Finder	Recorded prior to:	Locality	Current status
<b>(a) Craven/Ingleborough area</b>					
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Parkinson (1629: 389)	Tunstall	1629	Near Ingleborough	Still very frequent
<i>Carduus heterophyllus</i>	Clusius (1601 cxlviii)	Penny	1581	Below Ingleborough	Frequent
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Parkinson (1629: 348)	Tunstall	1629	Helks Wood, Ingleton	Long extinct; was known nearby until at least 1859
<i>Cochlearia pyrenaica</i>	Parkinson (1640: 286)	Tunstall	1640	Ingleborough	Still frequent
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	Parkinson (1629: 348)	Tunstall	1629	Helks Wood, Ingleton	Extinct since the late eighteenth century
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Gerard (1633: 791)	Hesketh (probably)	1597	Ingleton area	Frequent off the limestone
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Gerard (1633: 542).	Hesketh (probably)	1597	“Craven area”	Still present
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Gerard (1633: 840)	Hesketh (probably)	1597	“Craven area”	Still present
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Gerard (1597: 645)	Penny; Hesketh	1597	Ingleborough and near Settle	Still present
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Gerard (1597: 758)	Hesketh	1597	Clapdale wood, Clapham	Still present on nearby scars
<i>Primula farinosa</i>	Clusius (1601: 301)	Penny	1588	Unlocalised but in the Ingleborough area	Still occurs
<i>Primula vulgaris</i> × <i>veris</i>	Gerard (1597: 637)	Hesketh	1597	Clapdale wood, Clapham	Probably still there but overlooked
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	Gerard (1597: 1091 & 1386)	Penny; Hesketh	1597	Ingleborough	Still present
<i>Sedum rosea</i>	Camerarius (1588)	Penny; Hesketh	1588	Ingleborough	Still present
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Clusius (1601: 237)	Penny	1588	Unlocalised but in the Ingleborough area	Very local

TABLE 1. CONT...

Species	Source	Finder	Recorded prior to:	Locality	Current status
<b>(b) North-east Lancashire</b>					
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Gerard (1597: 1388)	Hesketh	1597	Talbot Bank wood, Whalley-Great Harwood	Unconfirmed but nearby at Mitton and elsewhere
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Parkinson (1640: 856)	Hesketh (probably)	1640	Sawley (but perhaps misspelled: Whalley?)	Not known but probably extinct. Whalley is near to Hesketh's home
<i>Maianthemum bifolium</i>	Gerard (1597: 330)	Hesketh	1597	Dinckley and Great Harwood	Extinct
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Gerard (1597: 89)	Hesketh	1597	Martholme (Great Harwood)	Occurs nearby of Wiswell Moor
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Gerard (1597: 328)	Hesketh	1597	Dinckley and Martholme (Great Harwood)	Extinct. Recently recorded nearby at Clitheroe
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Gerard (1597: 645)	Hesketh	1597	Great Harwood	Probably extinct but present nearby on Wiswell Moor
<i>Primula farinosa</i>	Gerard (1597: 639)	Hesketh	1597	Great Harwood	Extinct. Last record in 1907 *
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Gerard (1633: 1505)	Hesketh	1597	Martholme (Great Harwood)	Perhaps extinct but known from an adjacent tetrad
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	Gerard (1597: 1091 & 1386)	Hesketh	1597	Pendle Hill	A shy flowerer, known there until the 1930s and probably still present.
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Gerard (1597: 1091)	Hesketh	1597	Great Harwood	Frequent
<i>Teucrium scordium</i>	Gerard (1597: 535)	Hesketh	1597	Great Harwood	Extinct (probably planted)
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Gerard (1597: 596)	Hesketh	1597	Banks of the River Calder (Great Harwood)	Extinct but known some distance away near Nelson

\* It was known at Great Harwood, possibly at Hesketh's precise site near Martholme, as recently as 1907 (*Lancashire Naturalist* 1: 80). The last record in the immediate area was at Hardhill Common between Whalley and Clitheroe, surviving there up to the middle of the twentieth century.

These appear to be the first British records. It may still be present in the vicinity of Martholme and certainly survives just a few kilometres to the north-west in the Wiswell Moor area (D Earle, pers. comm., 2005).

*PARIS QUADRIFOLIA* L.

“One-Berry, or Herbe True-love” was known “...in Blackburne at a place called Merton [Martholme] in Lancashire; [and]... in Dingley [Dinckley] wood, six miles from Preston in Aundernesse...” (Gerard (1597: 328). Both localities are at, or very close to, Hesketh’s home and again, although he is not mentioned by name, they must undoubtedly originate from him. The more likely place for the plant to survive will be at Dinckley but there are no modern records from there. Savidge et al. (1963) gave a record for the plant in woods at Moreton Hall, Whalley, a locality only about one kilometre from Martholme. It was more recently recorded near Horrocksford Quarries, Clitheroe in 1964 approximately ten kilometres to the north of Martholme.

*PINGUICULA VULGARIS* L.

Gerard (1597: 645) recorded “Pinguicula sine Sanicula Eboracensis – Butterwort, or Yorkshire Sanicle. ...a field called Crag-Close, and at Crosby, Ravenswaith, in Westmerland, upon Ingleborow fels.....and in Harwood neere to Blackburne”. The record for Great Harwood will certainly be Hesketh’s. Currently not known precisely from here, it still survives in small numbers on Wiswell Moor, less than 4 kilometres to the north (S Bungard, pers. comm.).

The Crag-Close locality is in the Settle area where Hesketh had been known to operate (see *Primula vulgaris* × *P. veris*) and may be his record. It seems to be a local or vernacular name since rocky ground, of which there is a great deal there, is sometimes referred to as a “close”. The plant still survives in such localities.

*PRIMULA FARINOSA* L.

Gerard (1597: 639) calls this “Birds-eine?” and that “...plants grow very plentifully in moist and squally grounds...in Harwood neere to Blackburne...”.

This is one of the first British records for *P. farinosa*, a northern England plant of damp ground over base-rich substrates. Again, although not mentioned directly by name, the “Harwood” locality must originate from Hesketh; it is towards the plant’s southern

British limit. It was “still to be found .....at Great Harwood...”, possibly at Hesketh’s precise site near Martholme, as recently as 1907 (Anon, 1914). Close to Martholme there were several calcareous flushes (perpetuated by the locality name “Allsprings”). One such flush near to the bank of the Calder about a kilometre downstream of Martholme, still survives but, unfortunately, in the absence of the plant. *P. farinosa* was also frequently recorded in the general vicinity, especially around nearby Pendle Hill. The last record appears to have been on Hardhill Common between Whalley and Clitheroe where it survived until the middle of the twentieth century but drainage and agricultural activity has resulted in its loss nowadays.

*PRUNUS PADUS* L.

“Cerasus avium nigra & racemosa – Birds Cherry, and blacke Grape Cherry tree..... groweth likewise in Martome Park [Martholme], foure miles from Blackeburne, and in Harward [Great Harwood] neere thereunto; in Lancashire almost in every hedge...”. Gerard (1633: 1505). Currently it is known from an adjacent tetrad to Martholme (D. Earl, pers. comm., 2005).

*RUBUS IDAEUS* L.

Gerard (1597: 1091) says that “Rubus idaeus” – Raspis, or Hinde-berry” is not wild “except in a fielde by a village in Lancashire called Harwood [Great Harwood] not farre from Blackburne [Blackburn]”. Again, surely a Hesketh record from near Martholme and probably still present there as it is a common plant in the general area.

*RUBUS CHAMAEMORUS* L.

The source of the first British record is confused but there is little doubt that it was either from near the summits of Ingleborough or Pendle. Under *Vaccinia nabis* (Cloud-berry) Gerard (1597: 1386) stated it was found on two high mountains, one of which is “in Yorkshire called Ingleborough, the other in Lancashire called Pendle.....found there by a curious gentleman in the knowledge of plants, called Master Hesketh, often remembred”. However, as remarked earlier regarding *Sedum rosea*, Thomas Penny who predated Hesketh by thirty years or so, probably first found it on Ingleborough although Hesketh’s record for Pendle will be the first for that hill. At the latter locality it has always been a shy flowerer, but flowering plants were recorded there in 1934



(Turner 1934) and where it almost certainly still survives. Its very shy flowering on Pendle is unusual but this was also noted, even into the past (Dobson 1864; 1881), Leigh (1700). The distinctly crude illustration reproduced by Gerard will probably have originated from Hesketh. It appears to show a plant both in flower and in fruit and for that reason it is perhaps more likely to relate to one he saw on Ingleborough rather than Pendle.

*TEUCRIUM SCORDIUM* L.

“Scordium – Water Germander.... in a meadow by Harwood in Lancashire” Gerard (1597: 535). Although not named, this must be Hesketh’s record from near his Martholme home. Presumably introduced and not now known there of course, this is a plant of calcareous soils, sometimes found on river banks. It is now extremely rare anywhere in the British Isles.

*TRAGOPOGON PORRIFOLIUS* L.

Gerard (1597: 596) states that “Tragopogon purpureum – Purple Goats-beard.....growes not wild in England that I could ever see or heare of, except in Lancashire upon the banks of the river Chalder [Calder], neere to my Lady Heskiths house, two miles from Whawley [Whalley]”. This mainly Mediterranean plant can occur as a casual or is introduced for use as a vegetable. It is occasionally found within the area. Martholme Hall, where Thomas was born and his mother lived, is on the banks of the Calder close to this spot. This unusual direct reference to Lady Hesketh may mean that she had personally sent a specimen to him, or that Thomas had done so mentioning its presence near to his mother’s home, or even that Gerard

had seen the plant there if he had visited them at Martholme. The most recent record appears to have been at Reedyford near Nelson (v.c. 59) in 1927 which is about 12 kilometres from Martholme (Savidge *et al.* 1963).

SUMMARY

Many of the plants recorded by the three early botanists still survive within the areas discussed. The Craven area, especially, is undeveloped commercially, although farmland will have come under much more intensive cultivation recently. Since Hesketh’s day, the town of Great Harwood has grown and spread widely, and again, agriculture has intensified but, despite this, many of his plants survive locally. As expected, the major losses have been of the more attractive plants, the rare orchids, which were ravaged through over-collection even as early as the seventeenth century. The past and present occurrence of each of the plants discussed is summarised in Table 1.

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