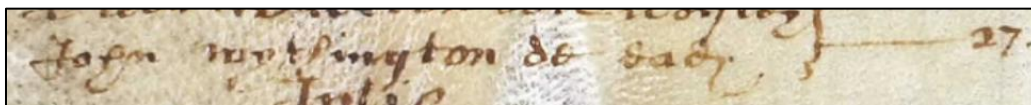


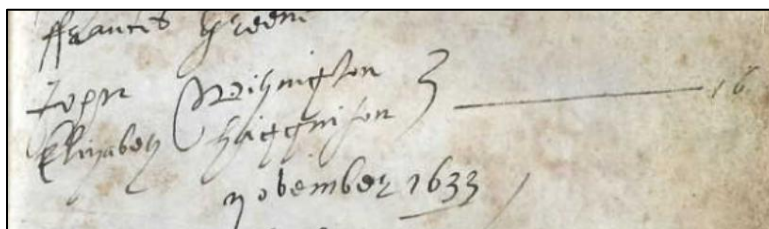
FAMILY GROUP RECORD OF JOHN WITHINGTON AND ELIZABETH HIGGINSON

John Withington of Tildsley was christened 27 June 1604 in Leigh parish, Lancashire, the son of George Withington and Margaret Pennington. The parish registers at the time had no parents listed, but John was listed in his father's will of 1614.



*Baptism record for John Withington in Leigh:
"John Wythington de eodem (the same place as above) - 27"*

John married Elizabeth Higginson 16 October 1633 in Leigh.



*Marriage record for John Withington and Elizabeth Higginson in Leigh:
"John Withington Elizabeth Higginson - 18"*

John was described in a history of Atherton: "*John Withington, nailor died in 1665. His wife was Elizabeth and a daughter of the same name, who had married Edward Green. He had given by agreement to his daughter an ample dowry, but £27 of it was still unpaid at the time of his death. Other daughters were Ann, wife of Richard Lythgoe, and Margaret, unmarried. A son Henry took a pair of looms and all its accessories to be found in the shop. Withington left in all £51 6s. 6d. In this grate and iron chimney he burned coal and cannel.*" (History of Atherton)

John was a nailor in Leigh: "*Nailmaking was a guild mystery, with the special rules governing the admission to the craft, the quality of wares and the service conditions of the young apprentices...the apprentice on shedding his indentures received 6s. 8d. from his master and a piece of iron. They were the guild's rules to regulate the setting up of a new member of the ancient craft.*" (History of Atherton, John Lunn)

These Withingtons are found in the 1642 Protestations:

The men of Atherton who took the Oath of Protestation in Leigh Parish Church before John Atherton, February 1641.

Nicholas Withington

John Withington

Peeter Withington

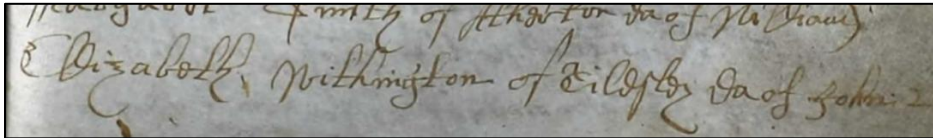
Joseph Withington
George Withington
Henry Withington

"Withington Common, 1612: This thatched homestead lies on the very boundary of the two townships of Astley and Tyldesley. It was for many generations the home of the Withington family. George Withington was buried at Leigh in 1612. Richard Withington and John took the oath in 1641; Thomas and George in 1696. The farm stood originally in Chaddock Lane and the waste, from which its name derives, is still common land, though situate in Astley. In early times the Withingtons were dependent on Chaddock Hall."
(www.tyldesley.co.uk)

John died and was buried 15 November 1665 in Leigh.

John and Elizabeth had the following children:

*1. **Elizabeth**, christened 20 February 1639 in Leigh; married Edward Green in April 1663 in Leigh.



Baptism record for Elizabeth Withington in Leigh: "Elizabeth Withington of Tildesley da of John"

2. **Ann**, married Richard Lythgoe.

3. **Margaret**

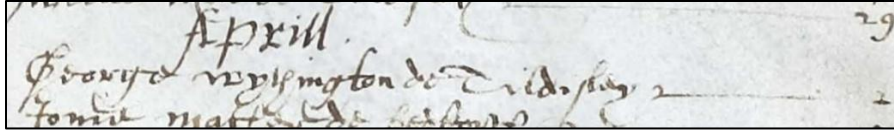
4. **Henry**, christened 3 November 1639 in Leigh.

SOURCES: Leigh parish registers, www.ancestry.co.uk; History of Atherton, by John Lunn.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD OF GEORGE WITHINGTON AND MARGARET PENNINGTON

George Withington was born in about 1560 of Leigh, Lancashire. He married Margaret Pennington (Pennington) 3 July 1583 in Leigh. George had a brother, Oliver, who he mentioned in his will.

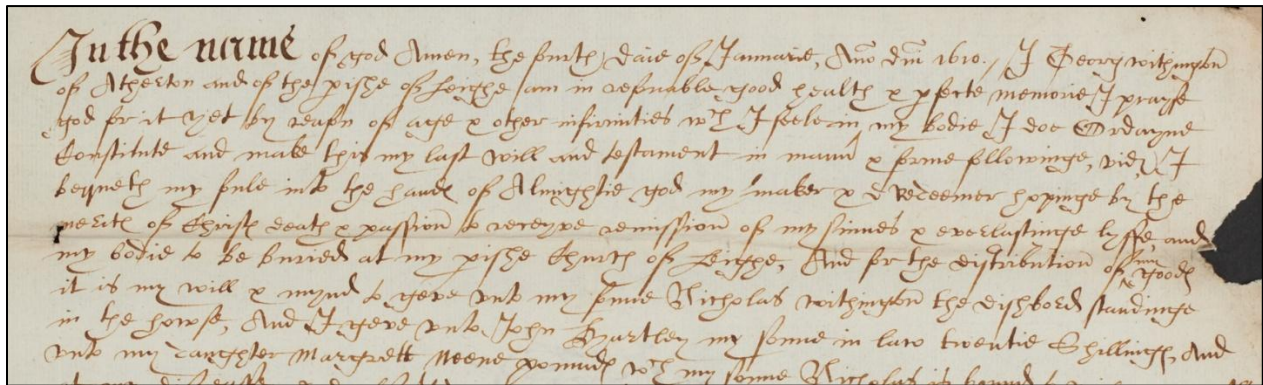
George Withington of Tyldesley died and was buried 2 April 1612 in Leigh.



Burial record for George Withington in Leigh:
"George Withington de Tildesley - 2"

This is the George mentioned in the history of Tyldesley as being of Withington Common like John:
"*Withington Common, 1612: This thatched homestead lies on the very boundary of the two townships of Astley and Tyldesley. It was for many generations the home of the Withington family. George Withington was buried at Leigh in 1612. Richard Withington and John took the oath in 1641.*"

George left a will written in 1610 and proven in 1614.



Will of George Withington of Atherton, 1614

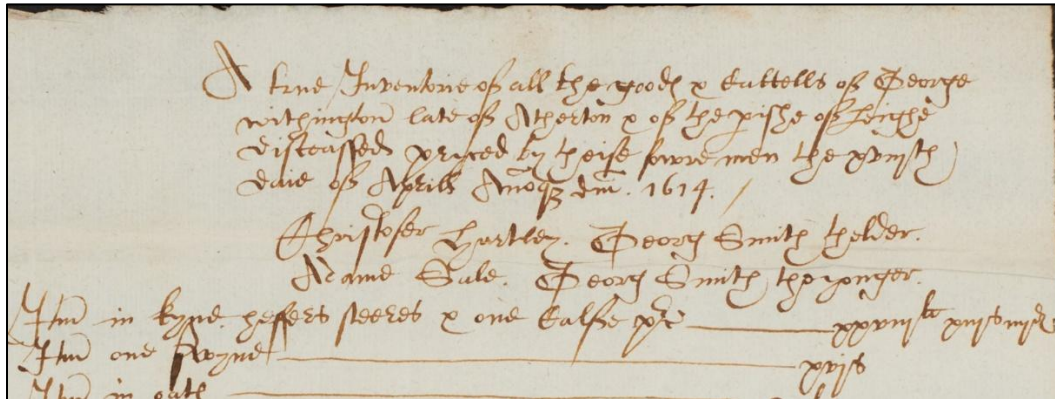
George left a will written in 1610, leaving instructions for his body to be buried in the parish church in Leigh: "*In the name of God Amen, the fourth daie of Januarie Anno Domini 1610 I **Georg Withington of Atherton** and of the parishe of Leighe am in reasonable good health & perfecte memorie I prayse God for it yet by reason of age & other infirmitie which I feele in my bodie I doe ordayne constitute and make this my last will and testament in manner & forme following, viz, I bequeath my soule into the hands of Almighty God my maker & redeemer hopinge by the merites of Christes death & passion to receive remission of my sinnes & everlasting lyffe and my bodie to be buried at my parishe church of Leighe.*"

George left bequests to his family members, including his wife Margrett, children Nicholas, Henrie, John and Margrett, and his son-in-law John Hartley: "*And for the distribution of my goodes it is my will & mynd to geve unto **my sonne Nicholas Withington** the dishbord standing in the howse. And I geve unto **John Hartley my sonne in law** twentie shillings. And unto **my daughter Margrett** neene poundes which my sonne Nicholas is bound to give my executor at my disceasse. And also I doe geve unto everie child which I am grandfather unto three shillings fowre pence. And I doe lykewyse geve unto everie one which I am godfather unto twelve pence. And further it is my will & mynd that after my burial & funeral expences being discharged the residue of my goodes to be devyded into three partes whearof one parte I geve unto **Margrett my wyffe**, and another parte I geve unto **my fowre children viz, Nicholas, Henrie, John, & Margrett**, to be devyded equallie amongst theyme. And the other & last parte I take to my selfe, whearof the one half I geve unto **Margrett my daughter**, and the other halfe to be devyded into twoe*

partes, whearof the one parte I geve to **my sonne John**, and the other parte I geve unto **Margret my wyffe and my sonne Henrie** to be devyded equallie betwixt theyme. Lykewysse I doe appoynte **Margrett my wyffe, and Nicholas Withington my sonne** to be my executor to execute & performe this my last will & testament as my trust is in theyme."

George mentioned his brother Oliver, who was also a witness to the will: "Lastie I doe bequest **my brother Oliver** to see all things performed according to this my will. Witnesses hearof **Nicholas Hurst Oliver Withington & Robte Morris**."

An inventory was created for George after his death.



Inventory for George Withington

The inventory was taken in April of 1614. It listed items from his estate, including farm animals "kyne, heffers, steeres & one calfe" one "swyne", crops of "oates", "wheate", "malte & barlie" and "tythe corne". Household goods included "one silver spoone", "brasse & pewter" and some "quishans" (cushions). The appraisers also listed "dung & mucke" with a value of six shillings and eight pence. The inventory also included "one closse of ground in Shakerley" and "one closse of ground in Westhaughton".

Margaret died and was buried 20 February 1631 in Leigh.

George and Margaret had the following children:

1. **Nicholas**, christened 25 February 1586 in Leigh; married Alice Astley 1608 in Leigh;
2. **Henrie**, christened 22 February 1590 in Leigh: "Henry Withington, of Leigh, co. Lancaster, England, and Dorchester, Mass., the ancestor of most of those of the name the United States, was baptized in the parish of Leigh, co. Lancaster, England, 22 Feb. 1580/90, the son of George and Margaret Withington, and died at Dorchester, Mass., 2 Feb. 1666/7. He married first, at Leigh, in Sept. 1615, Anne Leech, who was buried at Leigh 26 Sept. 1621, daughter of Richard and Anne (Yale); secondly, at Leigh, 30 Sept. 1622, Elizabeth Smith, who died at Dorchester, Mass., 16 Feb. 1660, sister of Thomas Smith, a well-known merchant of London; and thirdly, at Dorchester, in June 1662, Margery (Turner) Paul, who died at Dorchester 20 May 1676, widow of Richard Paul of Taunton. A deed of settlement from Henry Withington to her is dated 25 June 1662. With his second wife, Elizabeth (Smith), and his four children, he came to Dorchester, probably in the same ship (the James) with Rev. Richard Mather and his company, arriving

10 Aug. 1635...He was one of the signers of the covenant by which the Dorchester church was founded, and was the first ruling elder of the church, continuing in that office for twenty-nine years until his death. He was one of the selectmen of Dorchester in 1636, and was otherwise prominent in the affairs of the town and church, though there appears to be no record of his having been made a freeman. He shared in the division of lands in Dorchester; was a blacksmith by trade, and was one of the founders and original shareholders in the first ironworks in the American Colonies, on Mill River in Taunton." (Frederick Scherer. *Henry Withington of Dorchester, Mass., and Some of His Descendants*. *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. (New England Historic Genealogical Society, Apr; Jul, Oct 1921; Jan 1922), 75:142-44.)

*3. **John**, christened 27 June 1604 in Leigh; married Elizabeth Higginson 16 October 1633 in Leigh; occupation: nailor; buried 15 November 1665 in Leigh.

4. **Margrett**

SOURCES: Will of George Withington of Atherton, 1614; Leigh parish register.

Withington Common still exists. John Lunn the author of the histories of Tyldesley and Atherton later fought to save Withington Common from developers. It is now a triangular greenspace in Astley.



Withington Common near Chaddock Lane (Google Maps)



Withington Common (Google Maps)



Trees in Withington Common (Google Maps)



Withington Common (Google Maps), the ancient home of the Withingtons