

# THE CROSS STREET CHAPEL and ST. ANN'S CHURCH, MANCHESTER

by *L.M. Angus-Butterworth*

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*Butterworth* of Belfield; 6 quarterings. 1st. *Butterworth*; argent, a lion couchant azure, between 4 ducal coronets gules; 2nd. Birdeshill of Birdeshill. Gules, three arrows in pale, points downwards, argent. (The arrows represent bird-bolts, forming a canting allusion to the name.)—3d. *Assheton* of Clegg, barry of 6, argent and sable, over all a bend gules, in sinister chief a cinquefoil sable;—4th. *Belfelde* of Clegg; ermine, on a chief gules, a label of 5 points throughout or. 5th. *Eyre* (of Headon-Grove) argent, on a chevron sable, 3 quarterfoils of the field. 6th. *Clegg* of Clegg; sable, a cross-crosslet crossed, between 4 acorns slipped, or.

## Introduction

The Butterworth family was long seated at Belfield Hall, Rochdale, Its members have included Sir Randal Butterworth (1437-1500), co-founder of the Trinity or Butterworth Chantry in the Rochdale Parish Church, and Alexander Butterworth, D.L., J.P. (1640-1728), who twice served the office of High Sheriff of Co. Lancaster in the reign of Charles II. The following is an account of a younger son who became a woollen merchant.

## Thomas Butterworth the Elder

An indirect result of the system of primogeniture, under which the eldest son had an exclusive right of inheritance to the family estates, was that younger sons had to fend for themselves. Many earned distinction in the Services or the Church, but from Tudor times an alternative was a mercantile career. Enterprise of the latter kind could bring rich rewards. A case in point was when Thomas Butterworth (1653-1717), of a cadet line of the Belfield stock, became a woollen merchant.

Rochdale was very much a wool town. The Arms of the Corporation have as a central feature a "Woolpack *proper*", i.e., in its natural colour, while the crest shows a "Lamb's Fleece

argent", i.e., in silver. Sheep rearing was a major occupation in the mountainous Pennine country, and Thomas Butterworth had therefore wisely chosen to deal in the principal product of the family lands. For the successful development of his undertaking, however, Thomas took the important step of moving his trading activities from Rochdale to the much larger geographical centre of Manchester, and later of forming links with London.

This Thomas Butterworth was married in April, 1678, at the age of 25, to Ann, daughter of John Crowther, citizen of London, by his wife Mary, daughter of Sir Oswald Mosley (1583-1630), of Ancoats and of Hough End Hall, the manor house of Manchester. By this marriage, which took place at Wilmslow in Cheshire because the bride's uncle, the Rev. Francis Mosley, was Rector there, Thomas allied himself to the Mosleys, who were the most powerful mercantile dynasty in Lancashire, descended from Sir Nicholas Mosley, knighted by Queen Elizabeth I.

The Historic MSS Commission has among the *Manuscripts of Lord Kenyon* one that records "Thomas Butterworth of Manchester" as a Volunteer to serve against the Duke of Monmouth in 1685. The rebellion then threatened might have resulted in Civil War, and there was urgent need for gentlemen of good standing to support the authorities by holding themselves in readiness in the same way that commissions were later held in the Territorial Army.

Aided, no doubt, by his father-in-law, Thomas Butterworth next established himself in the City of London. In the 1695 Assessment for the parish of St. Giles Cripplegate he is shown as residing in Moor Lane, his household comprising himself, his wife, and Thomas his son, then aged eleven. At the same time he maintained close links with Manchester, and especially with its famous Cross Street Chapel.

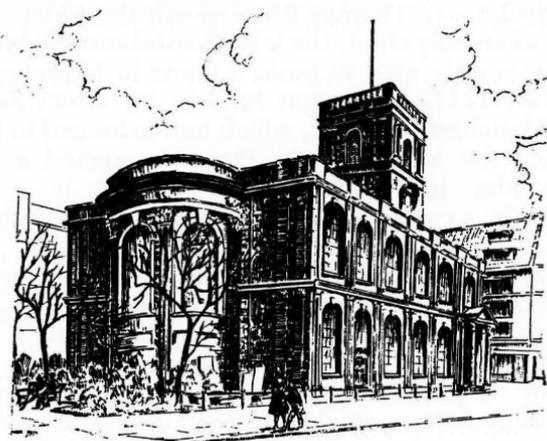
The rise of Manchester as a great mercantile centre was due in large measure to the enterprise and capacity of a small group of interrelated families, of which the Butterworths were one. Those concerned were dissenters, and built the Cross Street Chapel, of which Dr. Robert Halley, D.D., wrote: "Of the meeting-houses of Lancashire, that of Manchester was the largest and most important, as it was appropriated to the use of what was probably the most wealthy congregation of nonconformists in the country. 'The great and fair meeting-house' was opened on 24th June, 1694. Some of the best families of the town, as the Mosleys, the Gaskells, the Butterworths, and the Bayleys, immediately occupied the chief pews of the sanctuary, and gave a character of respectability and importance to the place." The Minister of this celebrated establishment is now, nearly three centuries later, the Rev. E.J. Raymond Cook, M.A., B.D.

At the beginning of the 18th century Manchester was still a

small country town, with timber-framed houses lining Market Stead Lane. Provision for worship consisted of the Collegiate Church, now the Cathedral, which was the Tory rallying point, and the Presbyterian (now Unitarian) Chapel in Cross Street, supported by the Whigs, who took their name from a Scottish group that marched to Edinburgh in 1648 to oppose the court party.

The Mosleys were lords of the manor of Manchester, and in 1693 Lady Anne Bland, the daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Mosley, succeeded to that position. She was a leader of fashion in the town, and a member of the Low Church party, who supported the Hanoverians. Her mother had been a Presbyterian, and Lady Bland herself began by worshiping at the Cross Street Chapel, then in the charge of its first minister, the Rev. Henry Newcome. When, however, Newcome died in 1695, Lady Bland wished to use her wealth to found a church of her own.

In 1708 a petition was addressed to Parliament seeking permission to build the new church. The petition being granted, on 18th May, 1709, Lady Bland laid the foundation stone at one end of a large cornfield known as Acres Field, where Mancunians annually held a three days' fair after harvest. On 17th July, 1712, St. Ann's Church was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester. The relationship between the Collegiate Church and St. Ann's was very cordial, and for a period it was the accepted custom to attend "the old church" in the morning and "the new church" in the afternoon, or vice-versa. This was convenient while the community was a small one, but was not continued when the population grew and other churches were built.



**St. Ann's Church, Manchester.** In this view of the Church from the south-east, the elegant and graceful semicircular apse is shown. The spire, together with the balustrade and the ornamental urns appearing in the earlier drawings, having become unsafe, were taken down in 1777.

Architecturally St. Ann's Church is a beautiful example of the Renaissance style, which represented a return from the great Gothic period of increasing elaboration to the simpler, sterner spirit of classical architecture. This style, of which Sir Christopher Wren was the greatest exponent, became characteristic of the 18th century.

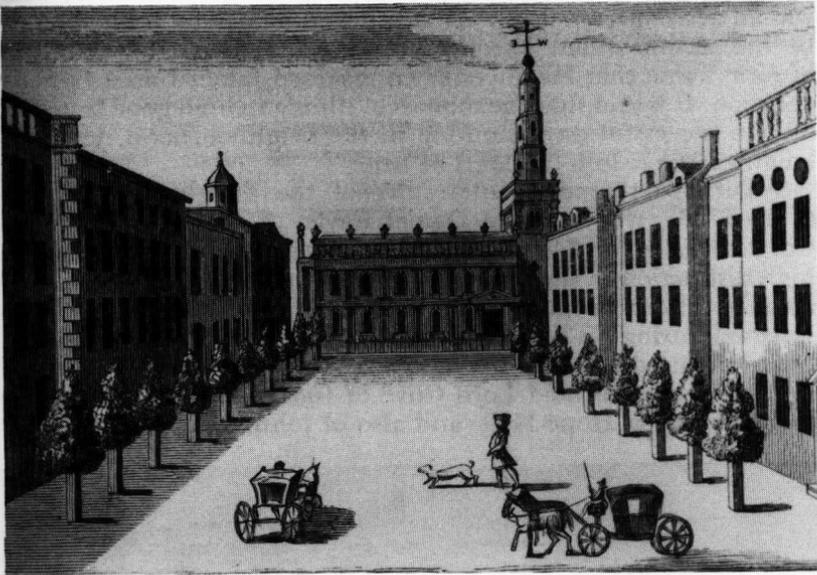
There is a strong tradition that Wren had a part in designing St. Ann's, due to a statement by John Byrom (1692-1763), famous as the author of the carol "Christians Awake", that it was modelled on St. Andrew's, Holborn. Recently, however, it has become known that John Barker, an architect from Rowsley in Derbyshire, was involved, for in February, 1709, he left instructions that letters could be addressed to: "My lodgings near the new church in Manchester, or left with any of my men, the carpenters there". His part may have been limited to the woodwork, for the original wrought ironwork is by Robert Bakewell, and it is noticeable that he does not refer to the all-important stonemasons.

The Church has much fine Communion plate, including an ewer-shaped flagon of 1701, eight pieces presented at the time of the consecration in 1712, and two flagons and an alms dish dated 1716.

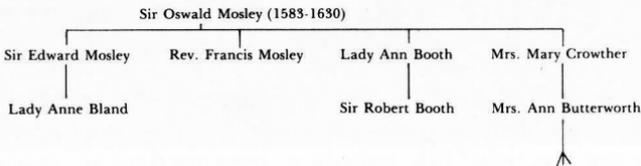
### **Thomas Butterworth the Younger**

A generation later we have Thomas Butterworth the Younger (1684-1745), who was married on 5th August, 1707, to Frances, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Duckinfield of Duckinfield, Bart. He in turn played his part in the rapid development of Manchester as a great commercial centre. At the death of his father, Thomas Butterworth the Elder, in 1717, he inherited, as an only child, the latter's substantial fortune, part of which he promptly used to build a home in Manchester.

In May, 1717, he bought land in St. Ann's Square, then known as Manchester Square, which had belonged to the Baguley family since the Middle Ages. Here he erected a "messuage" which, besides its gardens, had behind it a warehouse surmounted by a cupola. The premises were eventually sold by his grandson, Colonel Thomas Butterworth Bayley, D.L., J.P. (1744-1802) to Heywood Brothers, the Liverpool bankers, who wished to establish a branch in Manchester. The site is now occupied by their successors, Williams & Glynn's Bank. The ornamental feature of the cupola afterwards appeared prominently in panoramas of the town. The Square, with the adjoining King Street, quickly became the fashionable centre of Manchester, the more so when Lady Ann Bland, a first cousin of the Butterworths, provided the funds for the building of St. Ann's Church at one end:



**St. Ann's Church and Square, Manchester.** The Church was consecrated on 17 July, 1712, and within a few years St. Ann's Square had been laid out and planted with trees in imitation of the fashionable squares of London and Bath. The earliest house in the square, built in 1717, was that of Thomas Butterworth the Younger, and is shown with its cupola at the top left of the picture.



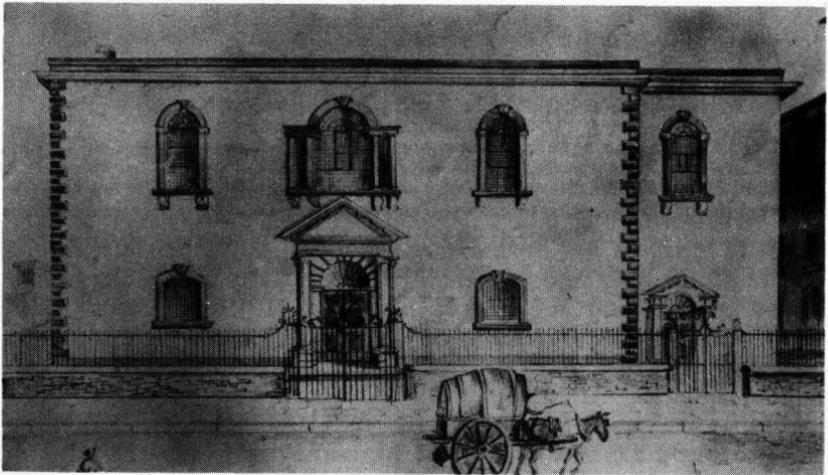
Lady Ann Bland became Lord of the Manor of Manchester in 1693 on the death of her father, Sir Edward Mosley. On 18th May, 1709, she laid the foundation stone of St. Ann's Church, which was consecrated on 17th July, 1712. The church was dedicated to St. Ann, the Virgin Mary's mother, being a compliment both to the Founder and to Queen Anne, the reigning Stuart monarch.

The family of Thomas Butterworth the Younger consisted of three daughters, Susanna, Ann and Jane, who eventually became his coheiresses.

The eldest, Susanna (1710-1772), became the wife of Sir

Henry Hoghton, Bart., of Hoghton Tower, Co. Lancaster, who was an active Member of Parliament and held what is claimed to be the second oldest baronetcy in the kingdom. It was at his historic home that his ancestor entertained James I on a famous occasion. It is said that the monarch, dining in high good humour after a successful day's hunting in the neighbourhood, jestingly knighted the *sirloin* (surloin) of beef.

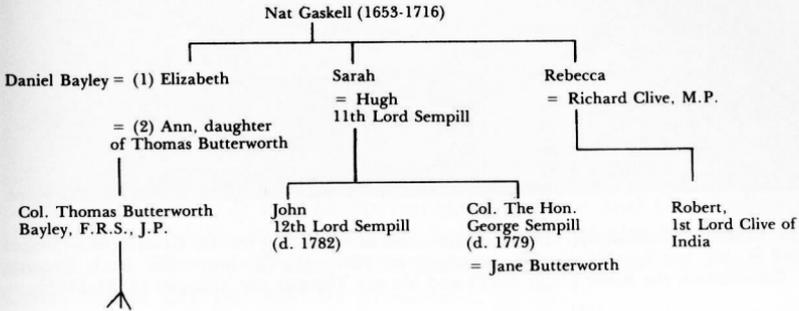
Perhaps the most interesting of the daughters was Ann (1713-1795), who married Daniel Bayley, D.L., of Hope Hall, Co. Lancaster, on 24th June, 1736, for her descendants attained high distinction in the church, the law, the arts, and especially in colonial administration. Her father gave her £3,800 (then a large fortune) during his lifetime, and left her further money and real estate at his death. By her marriage Ann became the aunt of Robert, the celebrated Lord Clive of India, who as a boy often came to stay at Hope Hall, and also of John, Lord Sempill.



**The Old Cross Street Chapel, Manchester:** The original Chapel, shown in the illustration, was built in 1694, but was tragically destroyed by enemy action in 1940. The Chapel was the oldest place of worship in the town apart from the Collegiate Church. A new Chapel, of great architectural distinction, was erected on the same site in 1959.

The last daughter, Jane, was twice married: 1st., on 19th December, 1750, to Francis Jodrell (1723-1756), of Yeadsley Hall, Yeadsley-cum-Whaley, and Twemlow, Cheshire; 2nd., in June 1775, at the Collegiate Church of Manchester (now the Cathedral), to Colonel the Hon. George Sempill (d. 1779) younger brother of the 12th Lord Sempill (d. 1782). If Colonel Sempill had lived another three years he would have succeeded to a title created c. 1487, the first baron being killed at Flodden in

1513. A strange position arose through this second marriage late in life, for she became Ann's niece as well as her sister:

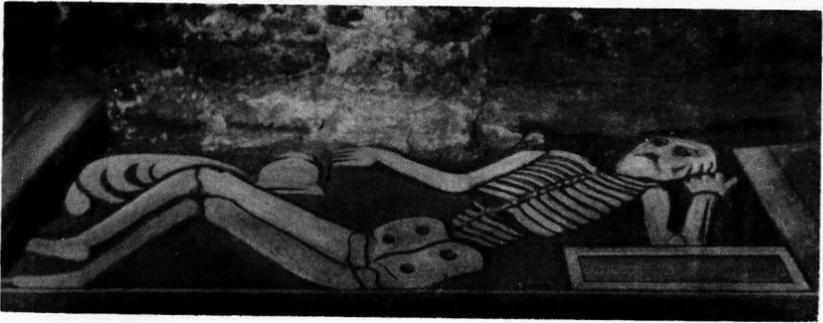


By her first marriage Jane was the mother of two daughters, Frances, who became the heiress of Yeadsley, from whom are descended the Cotton-Jodrells and the Viscounts Combermere; and Elizabeth, heiress of Tremlow. By a deed dated 16th September, 1776, there was a "Settlement of the estates of Miss (Elizabeth) Jodrell in the Counties of Chester, Lancaster, York and Derby, previous to her marriage with Egerton Leigh, Esquire, of High Legh".

### Foundation of the Butterworth and Bayley Charity

On 4th April, 1735, Ann Butterworth (1649-1736), whose mother was, as we have seen, a Mosley, did "give and grant" £500 to Trustees by Deed Poll to provide practical help for poor children. It will be appreciated that this was then a very substantial sum, equivalent to many times that amount in the heavily depreciated currency of today.

Ann had recently celebrated her 85th birthday, an event that was remarkable in a period when life expectancy was very low, and therefore well worthy of being marked by the founding of the Charity. A pleasant example of family affection was when, on 1st November, 1762, Daniel Bayley, who had married one of Ann's granddaughters, gave an additional £100 to increase the endowment of her Charity. From this time it became the "Butterworth and Bayley Charity", thus recording the benevolence of both the founders. The Charity continues to



**The Skeleton Tombstone.** This curious *memento mori* lay in the Cross Street Chapel until it was lost in the wartime bombing of 1940. It commemorated both Thomas Butterworth the Elder (1653-1717) and his son Thomas the Younger (1684-1745).

flourish after nearly two and a half centuries of useful work. The Ordinances have remained practically unchanged, but are liberally interpreted.

### **The Ordinances of the Charity**

The Deed Poll establishing the Charity stipulated that the capital sum should be put forth at interest for binding apprentice the children of:

- I. "*Poor Protestant Dissenting Ministers*", or
- II. "*Decayed Tradesmen, who should have been of sober and religious behaviour, and of good credit and reputation*".

The children should be such as the Trustees select for the purpose, and the apprenticing should be to some useful Trade or occupation. Comprehensive assistance might be given by the provision of outfits (including clothes, books, tools, etc.), and the payment of fees, travelling expenses or the like, to enable them to enter a trade, profession or occupation, or to go into service. Payments could also be made, including the cost of maintenance and travelling expenses, to enable them to receive instruction in workshops or at classes or otherwise, so as to prepare them for further instruction or for employment.

The Charity Commissioners, in a report made in 1825, stated that "no application is refused, provided the child on whose behalf the application is made is a real object of charity", and further, that "it is for the benefit of all persons being Protestant, whether of the Church of England or Dissenters". The capital fund of the Charity had at that time multiplied severalfold, invested mainly "in three-per-cent consols", as being safe in those days of comparatively stable values, besides "a balance at Bankers bearing interest".

## The Trustees

By a convenient arrangement the Trustees of the Cross Street Chapel became the first Trustees of the Charity. A tradition of family interest has been maintained, in that L.M. Angus-Butterworth was elected Chairman of Trustees in 1967 in succession to Sir Charles Garonne Renold, Kt., LL.D., J.P. (1883-1967). Angus-Butterworth served until 1980, when he resigned upon reaching the age of eighty. He was followed as Chairman by Peter Robinson, F.C.A., and in the line of succession is Michael J. Braid, LL.B., F.C.A., of Butterworth descent, now Deputy Chairman. By a fortunate chance the premises of Laces & Co. (incorporating Goulty and Goodfellow), the firm of Solicitors who act as Secretaries of the Charity, are situated in Chapel Walks, Manchester, directly overlooking the Cross Street Chapel and its grounds.

## A Family Skeleton

Some very interesting Butterworth memorials are preserved in the Cross Street Chapel. Among the items is a richly embroidered *Communion Table Cloth*, the gift of Thomas Butterworth the Younger. This is lettered "T.B., 1737" in gold thread.

Also in 1737 the same donor presented a handsome set of five *Brass Candelabra*. The central one, larger than the other four,



**Brass Candelabrum** formerly in the Cross Street Chapel. In 1737 Thomas Butterworth the Younger presented a handsome set of five Brass Candelabra to the Chapel. To begin with these were intended for candles, but were adapted first to gas and them to electric light. The central one, which appears above, was larger than the others. All went in the 1940 blitzkrieg.

bore an inscription to the effect that it had been given by Thomas Butterworth "of Manchester, Gent". These Candelabra, originally intended for candles, were successively adapted to gas and then to electric light. The picture shows the central candelabrum in 1917.

The old *Pulpit Bible* was bequeathed by Mrs. Ann Bayley (née Butterworth), Hope Hall, in 1792. This is a folio "Vinegar" Bible printed in 1717, and so called because of a printer's error by which "vinegar" appears for "vineyard". It contains many engravings, and on the fly-leaf is written a copy of the terms of the bequest—"And to the care of the Trustees of the Chapel I attend, I bequeath the large folio Bible which I had from Mrs. Trafford, for the use of the congregation of Dissenters of which I have been a member all my life".

The Chapel Plate includes a *Silver Chalice*, 5½ inches high, with an inverted bell-shaped body on foot, and having elegant side handles. The date letter is much worn, but the piece is evidently of the early 18th century. An inscription reads: "The gift of Ann Bayley, 1790".

The *Gravestone* marking the resting place of Thomas Butterworth the Elder, and also of his son Thomas, the donor of some of the gifts referred to above, bore a truly remarkable *memento mori* in the form of a very quaint representation of a recumbent skeleton.

The Chapel suffered badly from enemy bombing attacks during the Second World War, and when the remains of the old building were removed prior to reconstruction, the Butterworth gravestone met a sad fate. The demolition gang broke it up and carted it away as rubble.

### Authorities

1. *Documents in the Archives of the Trustees of the Butterworth and Bayley Charity.*
2. *Deeds in the possession of Williams and Glyn's Bank, Manchester.*
3. Edwards, Edward: "*Manchester Worthies and their Foundations*" (1855).
4. Foster, Joseph: "*Pedigrees of the County Families of England.*" Vol. I, Lancashire (1873).
5. Halley, Dr. Robert, D.D.: "*Lancashire: Its Puritanism and Nonconformity*" (1872).
6. Saxon, the Rev. Canon Eric, B.A., B.D.,: "St. Ann's Church, Manchester (c. 1970).
7. Wade, Richard.: "The Rise of Nonconformity in Manchester" (1880).

Part Pedigree

