

**LORD BURGHLEY'S  
MAP OF  
LANCASHIRE IN 1590**

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Lord Burghley's Map of Lancashire in 1590 by Joseph Gillow

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**JOSEPH GILLOW**

**LORD BURGHLEY'S  
MAP OF  
LANCASHIRE IN 1590**



Lord Burghley's  
Map of Lancashire  
in 1590

With Notes on the Designated Manorial Lords, Biographical  
and Genealogical, and Brief Histories of their  
Estates traced down to the  
Present Day



By

JOSEPH GILLOW

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"Haydock Papers," "Tyldesley Diary,"  
"St Thomas's Priory," etc.*

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### LORD BURGHELEY'S MAP OF LANCASHIRE, 1590

In the Record Office, *Dom. Elis.*, vol. CCXXXV, No. 5, 1590, is a large coloured map on vellum of the county of Lancaster, showing the churches and chapels, with the principal seats of the gentry and their names. It was no doubt drawn up for the Privy Council to assist in tightening its grip, and thus to enable the government to bring extra pressure upon the great landowners to conform to the new doctrines, for it was found that notwithstanding the sanguinary nature of the penal laws passed to stamp out all vestiges of the ancient faith, the vast majority of the gentry and people in Lancashire was completely out of sympathy with the religion established by the Queen's government. Indeed, it has been confidently asserted that the adherents to the ancient faith of the fatherland were more numerous in Lancashire at this period than they were at the commencement of Elizabeth's reign. Even the magistrates and law officers of the county were repeatedly reported to the Council as being mostly temporizers in religion or otherwise recusants. In "A Summarie Information of the State of Lancashire," exhibited by the Lord Bishop of Chester in this very year, *Dom. Elis.*, vol. CCXXXV, No. 68, 1590, it is declared that (1) "the number of the recusants is great, and dothe daillie increase. (2) There maie be seen usuallie every Sonday and holideday, as hath also very lately bene confessed, as many people repayre to place suspected in Religion as to the Parische Church. (3) The Papists every where are grown so confident, that they contempne Magistrates and their authoritye, as maie appere by the late outrage shewed towards the Bishop and his officers at Wigan, as also by the lewde rebellious speeches and usage of the prysoners in the flicete at Manchester." The Bishop concludes, "The people in moost partes of the countie by meanes hereoft, as also throughbe the great securitye wch they have gathered of late by the remysse execution of the penalties imposed upon divers by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, doe slide backe from all dutyfull obedience to the utter contempt and neglect of Religion and the religious service of God." This report is confirmed by "A Vewe of y<sup>e</sup> State of y<sup>e</sup> Countie Palatine of Lancaster, bothe for Religion and Civill government," *Dom. Elis.*, vol. CCXXXV, No. 4, 1590, wherein is circumstantially described the position and character of the magistrates, knights, esquires, gentry, and their wives and families, widows and gentlewomen, the various parishes with their incumbents and number of communicants, the recusants indicted, and the law officers of the county. Unfortunately this particular document only covers the Hundred of West Derby, but there are numerous other reports tending to show that the northern parts of the county were even more opposed to the State religion which the government of Elizabeth sought by the most unjustifiable and savage methods to impose upon the country.

In the British Museum, O.R. Library, 18 D. III, is an ostensible copy on paper of the original vellum map, with additions, omissions and variations in the names of estate owners, specially prepared for the private use of Elizabeth's unscrupulous secretary of state, William Cecil, Lord Burghley. To many of these names his lordship has placed a +, an ominous mark against those gentlemen who, in his opinion, required extra coercion. It is now bound up with a large collection of maps, mostly composed of the series of Saxton's Counties of England and Wales, on the backs of which Lord Burghley has had engrossed the names of the justices of peace in each county, with the dates and places of their being sworn in, who were speci-