In 1976, Raymond H. Lounsbury published the book, *LOUNSBURY Origin, Meaning and Significance* with emphasis on the evidence and conclusions concerning the relationship of the Lounsbury family to Royalty in the Middle Ages. In Chapter One, Lounsbury shares with us that, “While the Angles and Scandinavians were fighting one another for control of the lands north of the Humber River, before the conquest of England in 1066 by the Normans under William the Conqueror, a man is said to have lived at the present site of Londesborough [in the present East Riding of Yorkshire] who was given the nickname of Lodinn in old Scandinavian, Lothaen in old Danish, or Loden in old English. This nickname meant "hairy." Perhaps, like the modern hippie, he merited this appellation because of a luxuriant growth of hair on his head or body.

Loden is also supposed to have possessed a stronghold or fortified place known in his day as a burh or burg. During the Roman occupation of England centuries before Loden's time, a Roman fortification known as Delgovitia is said to have been built on or near the present site of Londesborough. Cited as evidence of the existence of this Roman fort are Roman coins, amber beads, daggers and clasps or buckles which were excavated in an old burial ground. The remains of a Roman road were also discovered in the parish. Undiscovered, however; was any trace of a foundation or inscribed stones which could be expected to be a part of a Roman fortification. Whatever may have been its origin, Loden's stronghold became known as Loden's burg. Plausibility is given this legendary explanation of the origin of the name because Lodenesburg was the name given the parish in the Domesday Survey made in 1086 by order of William the Conqueror.”

### Domesday Book

"...in Evringha (Everingham) with its berewicke Lodenesburg (Londesborough), Toletorp (Tolethorp), Gudmundha' (Goodmanham), there are seventeen carucates to be taxed, [unit of assessment for tax, a carucate was based on the area that a plough team of eight oxen could till in a single annual season. It varied in size from 50 to 100 acres.] and there may be ten ploughs. Eldred, Archbishop (of York), held these for one manor. Now two clerks and one knight have these lands under Thomas, Archbishop (of York), having among themselves three ploughs, and twenty-two villanes [farm servants or workers], having six ploughs and two mills. Ten acres of meadow. The whole manor one mile long, and half a mile wide. Value in King Edward's time [1042-66 A. D.] fourteen pounds, at present [1086] six pounds." Translation from Latin to English provided by Raymond Lounsbury.

In Chapter Two, Raymond Lounsbury suggests that, “if Lodenesburg [variants Lounesburgh and Londesborough] (in addition to being a place name and a title of nobility) were also a surname, it could reasonably be expected that at least some person or persons with the surname of
Londesborough would have resided in the parish at some time in the past....[in his research he found it] baffling to discover that no one with this surname (or variants thereof) has ever resided in the parish of Londesborough."

Evidence is presented throughout Chapter Two to show that the father of Thomas de Lounesburgh (de meaning “from” and was sometimes spelled Lownsburgh) was Reginald fitz Peter (fitz meaning “son of”) and that our Hackness Parish ancestors can be linked to Thomas de Lounesburgh. Reginald fitz Peter was Lord of Lounesburgh when he died in 1286 and a descendant of the Herbert Barony.

Reginald fitz Peter was a military leader in the campaigns of Edward I and resided at Lounesburgh with his family in a capital manor (meaning directly from the Crown). Thomas de Lounesburgh mustered into military service for Edward I on 25 May 1298 at York and fought in the wars in Scotland in the early 1300’s and later became associated with Whitby Abbey, on the North Sea, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Whitby Abbey is one of the oldest Christian centres in Britain and was one of the richest and most influential abbeys in England. Historically Hackness Parish was a part of Whitby Abbey.

More information on the history of Whitby Abbey:

Further evidence that Thomas de Lounesburgh of Whitby was the ancestor of persons with the surname of Londesborough (or variants thereof) can be found in the numbers of persons with this
surname in the areas that were previously owned by Whitby Abbey, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, within a 30 mile radius of Whitby and Scarborough.

It was disappointing to learn that, while Raymond Lounsbury was researching in England, he discovered that the rent rolls of Whitby Abbey are not available in their entirety; so, the descendants of Thomas de Lounesburgh cannot be traced generation by generation to link Thomas de Lounesburgh to our first ancestor in North America - Richard Lownsborough, son of Richard and Elizabeth Lownsborough, of Broxa in the Parish of Hackness.

I visited Londesborough, Whitby and Hackness in October 2012. Londesborough is a village and civil parish in the East Riding of Yorkshire, England. It is located about 2.5 miles (4 km) north of the market town of Market Weighton.

The first historical record of a church at Londesborough was in the early 12th century, when the powerful, Herbert the Chamberlain, granted it to his son, William, a priest, treasurer and Archbishop of York. William was declared a saint in 1267 by Pope Honorious III. His feast day is celebrated on 8 June. The most likely building date of All Saint’s Church is between 1110 and 1130 and it is likely that Herbert built the church.
The church has a south Norman doorway which dates from the original church built by Herbert; but, it is not the oldest artifact inside the south porch which was added in 1579. That credit goes to a small Anglo-Danish cross which is set into the wall above the south door. The cross probably dates to the 10th century and the medieval, scratch sundial underneath is from a later date.

On the south side there are also two, tall, ancient Yew trees.

It is apparently difficult to date the cross and dial artifacts exactly. They are estimated to be from the 9th-11th century. They would have been excavated from close by the church, possibly the churchyard, and the cross-head was built into the wall above the Norman doorway (south side). There are carvings on the shaft and head of the cross that show distinct marks of both Saxon and Danish workmanship.
Scratch dials were in use before clocks were invented to tell the time. Before mechanical timepieces, sundials used the sun's position in the sky to tell the time of day. The earliest known sundials were Egyptian obelisks. Sundials indicate the time by casting a shadow onto a surface known as a dial plate.

A scratch dial has a small hole in the wall of a church (about 3/4 inch in diameter and an inch deep) and is surrounded by lines radiating from it at particular angles like the spokes in a wheel. The lines represent the times, of the various Sunday services and were spaced out accordingly when the dial was made. To use a scratch dial, a finger is inserted into the hole perpendicular to the wall, and the edge of the sun's shadow from one's finger is looked at against the lines scratched into the stone. A visitor can then see how long it will be before the next service, if the sun is shining!

Medieval scratch dials date from 1100 to 1600 and are usually found on the south walls of churches near the main door or the priest door. They are placed at about four to five feet above the ground. With the rebuilding and restorations of churches, the dials can end up almost anywhere on a church, even the north wall. They are frequently found inside a porch that was added later and over the south door as is the case for All Saint’s Church.

Thomas de Lounesburgh, son of Reginald fitz Peter, the Lord of Lounesburgh, was possibly baptized here.

All Saint’s Church may possibly have been built on or close to the site of a pagan temple that belonged to Coifi the high priest who was Christianized by St. Paulinus in 625 - at about the same time that he converted King Edwin of Northumbria. It is believed that there was also a summer palace in the area that belonged to the Saxon kings of Northumbria during the 6th and 7th century. When the
Local lake was drained back in 1895 a small section of Roman pavement was discovered; Londesborough village lies on the route of a Roman road.

![Local lake on the grounds of Londesborough Park.](image)

Londesborough village lies on the route of a Roman road.

![View of All Saint's from Londesborough Hall grounds.](image)

Bird’s eye view drawing of Londesborough Hall, grounds, All Saint’s Church and village by Leonard Knyff (Dutch draughtsman and painter, 1650–1721) and engraved by Johannes Kip (Dutch draughtsman, engraver, and print dealer, 1653–1722) and reproduced as a plate in the book, *Theatre De La Grand Bretagne*. The Formal Gardens drawn above are from plans of London architect, Robert Hook, who designed the gardens in 1679-80. This print of c1700, now in the British Library, London, UK, along with two other drawings are all that remain of the impressive mansion which was likely built in 1589 by Francis Clifford, the 4th Earl of Cumberland, in the year of his marriage. Londesborough Hall was designed and built with turrets and battlements like a castle with 3 storeys and 7 bays.

In 1753 the estate passed to William Cavendish, who became the 4th Duke of Devonshire and owned Chatsworth House.

Londesborough Hall, which was built in 1589, was rarely visited by the Dukes of Devonshire and neglected for many years, when it was demolished in 1818 – 1819, for financial reasons by the 6th Duke of Devonshire, William Cavendish’s grandson. The 6th Duke of Devonshire had a surplus of grand homes, a large accumulating debt inherited from his father, and many other expensive interests to pay for, including his reconstruction and addition of the north wing to Chatsworth House in 1823.

Some of the building material from Londesborough Hall may have been salvaged and used in the addition to Chatsworth House which has been passed down through 16 generations of the Cavendish family. The house architecture and collection has been evolving for five centuries now.
In 1845, George Hudson, the “Railway King” bought the Londesborough estate and built a private station near the estate on the Hull to York line. Facing bankruptcy in 1849, Hudson sold Londesborough to the banker, Alfred Denison, who as Earl Londesborough developed the “Shooting Lodge” into an Elizabeth style Country House to the north of the original Hall site. This house remains today and can be glimpsed from across the Park near Easthorpe.

The Ordnance Survey map below of Londesborough area shows the alignment of the avenue of trees to the private train station and the site of the original Londesborough Hall. The present day Country House is located north of Londesborough at Londesborough Park on this map.
An entrance gate to Old Londesborough Hall on Low Street, next to the church wall – 18th Century.

Remains of the terrace wall and steps that were constructed to provide a level surface for the formal gardens.
13 recessed arches survive today and show us something of the magnificence of the 17th Century gardens around the Londesborough Hall mansion. In 1724 it was written, of Londesborough Hall, that there were 600 head of deer in the park! This wall is known as “the Deer Shelters”. Whether or not these arched shelters were originally built for feeding and sheltering deer is open to debate.

Wide set of steps, which incongruously lead from nowhere to nowhere now.

Old Walled Kitchen Garden in the distance, with the central canal which runs through the centre of the overgrown garden and then drains out from the ornamental lake.
Private Driveway to present Country House at Londesborough.

Londesborough Park

This County House has been known by a variety of names, the Shooting Box, Londesborough Lodge and Londesborough Park. The Shooting Box was a small hunting lodge built in 1839, likely by Jeffry Wyatville, the architect who modernized Chatsworth House and designed the north wing. After 1850, the Shooting Box was enlarged to the current Tudor style house in the photograph.

It is currently for rent. “The present owner, who is in her 80s, and inherited the property in the 1950’s would love another family to take it on. Rental opportunities for properties such as this are rare and it could be a dream family home for someone moving to the area or locals looking for a home with a difference,” says Emily Spokes of Carter Jonas in 2012.
If you want to flee the madding crowd, but don’t have the deposit to buy a house in the country, what about renting a fabulous nine bedroom house in East Yorkshire for the next 10 years for the same price as renting a two bedroom apartment in Kensington, west London.

A stately home for rent: The house, which has beautiful interiors, a walled garden and heated swimming pool, is currently let for £15,000 a year, but the agent is looking to increase this to around £25,000 a year. Available from 1st May through Carter Jonas York office.

Rental advertisement accessed at: http://www.primelocation.com/homes-news/country-house-rent/

Most of the information for Londesborough Hall, All Saint’s Church and area was collected from the following sources:

1. Information Board located beside All Saints Church.


Inside Cover of Londesborough History of an East Yorshire Estate Village

Notes:

1. There is no reference to Thomas de Lounesburgh, son of Reginald fitz Peter - the Lord of Lounesburgh in the book written, in 1977, by David Neave.

3. In Raymond Lounsby’s book, the following reference about Thomas de Lounesburgh can be substantiated. “In the town of Stowe St. Mary late in October, 1299, Thomas de Lounesburgh was assaulted at nightfall by Thomas de Norfolk who with others was keeping the night watch. Driven against a wall and beaten with an “iron-pronged fork” (pitchfork), Thomas de Lounesburgh struck back with a staff in self defense and delivered so heavy a blow on his assailant's head that death resulted. In an inquest held on November 3, 1300, the jurors agreed that he had acted in self defense without “desire for felony or malice.” He received a royal pardon and commendation for his good services in the War with Scotland.” Calendar of Patent Rolls, 29 Edward I, v. 3, p. 564. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1895.

I found the following: 4 February 1301, Calendar of Patent Rolls Edward I, v. 3, p. 564. Accessed at http://sdrc.lib.uiowa.edu/patentrolls/e1v3/body/Edward1vol3page0564.pdf “Pardon by reason of his service in the Scotch War to Thomas de Lounesburgh for the death of Thomas de Norfolk as it appears by an inquisition of the sheriff and coroners that he killed him in self defence [defense].”

The location of the Minster Church of St. Mary is in the town of Stow, in Lincolnshire which is south of Hull and Gainsborough.

4. Our Lounsborough lineage below from Thomas de Lounesburgh up is extracted mostly from the research of Lounsbury, and documented in his book: Raymond H., (1976), LOUNSBURY Origin, Meaning and Significance with emphasis on the evidence and conclusions concerning the relationship of the Lounsbury family to Royalty in the Middle Ages, Bridgeport, Vermont: Raymond H. Lounsbury and other Pedigrees online for the descendants of Herbert the Chamberlain.


Richard Lounsborough (baptized 1634, Hackness Parish), Richard, ... (unknown ancestors) ... Thomas de Lounesburgh, Reginald, Peter (Piers), ... (Herbert Barony) ... Herbert, Herbert, Herbert the Chamberlain of Winchester (1060-1130) [orphaned infant, illegitimate and only son and heir of Herbert II, Count of Maine, France. Herbert III was taken into custody by William, the Duke of Normandie (adjacent county). The Duke of Normandie, also known as William the Conqueror became William I, King of England in 1066. Herbert was brought to England and his identity kept secret. Herbert was given lands and manors in Yorkshire; so, King William could be assured of legally keeping the County of Maine in France according to the arrangement that William made to become the heir of Herbert II.]

5. Londesborough Park Walk, National Trail, Yorkshire Wolds Way
Try a Trail easy access walks

Londesborough Park

From the attractive village centre the walk follows the Yorkshire Wolds Way through the parkland of the Londesborough Estate as far as the lake and then returns the same way.

This is a moderate walk, with a maximum slope of 1:7. The path is likely to be suitable for people with impaired mobility or with a pushchair. We hope to get wheelchair access as well as the gates from the village have been altered.

The walk has no steps or slopes. Path conditions vary depending on the recent weather.

Distance
A short stroll of under 1½ miles (2km) return.

Path details
Leaving the road the route follows a short rough track with a maximum climb slope of 1:7. The parkland track is rough in parts with slopes of 1:9 to 1:20. Walking on the verge avoids the worst of the mud.

Start
Park by the church in the centre of the village. (Map: OS Explorer 284, Grid ref SE 888464)

Route
Walk to the east end of the village and turn right down a short rough track into the estate parkland. Bearing left along the Yorkshire Wolds Way the route reaches the ornamental lakes.

Return by the same route
A short walk around the village on the tarmac road makes a pleasant addition to the day.

Nearest facilities
There are occasional toilet and refreshment facilities in the village at Bank Holidays, otherwise all facilities are available at Market Weighton.

How to get there
Londesborough is situated 2½ miles (4km) north of Market Weighton.

Points of interest
An excellent information board close to All Saints Church gives a detailed account of this fascinating estate village. Probably the site of a Roman settlement, the present estate was created by the third Earl of Burlington in the 17th century. It was also owned at one time by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. The Duchess being brought to our attention recently in the film starring Kiera Knightley. Although demolished in 1819, parts of the original hall can still be seen on the south east side of the village. The hall was also occupied at one time by the 'Railway King' George Hudson.
Londesborough Park

1. From the church follow the road to the east. If time allows, a visit to the church is worth the detour.

2. At the end of the village turn right down the track.

3. Ahead are the gateposts marking the entrance into the parkland.

4. The field gate is usually locked. Access is via the kissing gate.

5. On the right you can see the deer shelters previously used on the estate.

6. Turn sharp left at the sign. Parts of the route are rough but there is easy walking on the grass verges.

7. Go through the gate and straight on.

8. Turn right as the paths fork.

9. The lakes. Return by the same route.


“Ruins of Whitby Abbey” (2) by Cecil Deyo. Accessed from my cousin, Cecil, and permission to share obtained.


“Chatsworth House, Derbyshire” (1) by Frank Barrett Accessed at Daily Mail Online, Travel, 8 March 2010, http://www.dailymail.co.uk

“Chatsworth House, Derbyshire” (2) by the Marquis of Granby Hotel. Accessed at http://www.marquisofgranbyhotel.co.uk/Attractions/Chatsworth_House/


“Ordnance Survey Map of Londesborough” provided with permission by Arnold Underwood (Dales Trails). Accessed at http://www.dalestrails.co.uk/Londesborough.htm


