

CHAPTER XVI.

Members of Parliament for the Borough, from 1295 to 1881.

NO part of the History of Wigan is likely to be more generally appreciated than that which pertains to the Borough Elections, and therefore this first volume cannot be better brought to a close than with a digest of the Parliamentary results as a ready reference to the reader. A complete list of members from the earliest times was ordered to be printed by Parliament, so that every member for Wigan, as far as could be ascertained by adepts at research, is given in this list, to which I have been enabled to add information, never before published, from old poll-books and Parliamentary petitions, obtained from the strong chest at the Borough Courts. Independent of this, of course, every important election is treated of in detail in chronological order.

RESULTS OF THE BOROUGH ELECTIONS FROM 1295 TO 1881.

Parliament of Edward I. Assembled November 27th, 1295, at Westminster.
William Le Teinterer
Henry Le Boucher

Last Parliament of Edward I. Assembled January 20th, 1306-7, at Carlisle.
Simon Payer
John Le Merser
No further returns for 240 years.

First Parliament of Edward VI. Assembled November 4th, 1547; dissolved April 15th, 1552.
Alexander Barlow
Thomas Carus

Second Parliament of Edward VI. Assembled March 1st, 1552-3; dissolved March 31st, 1553.
Alexander Barlow
Gilbert Gerard

First Parliament of Mary. Assembled October 5th, 1553; dissolved December 5th.
Alexander Barlow
Gilbert Gerard

Borough Elections.

225

- Second Parliament of Mary. Assembled April 2nd, 1554; dissolved 5th May.
Alexander Barlow
William Berners
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- First Parliament of Philip and Mary. Assembled November 12th, 1554; dissolved January 16th, 1555.
Alexander Barlow
John Barnes
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- Second Parliament of Philip and Mary. Assembled October 21st, 1555; dissolved December 9th.
Alexander Barlow
Gilbert Gerard
-
- Third Parliament of Philip and Mary. Assembled January 20th, 1557-8; dissolved November 17th, 1558.
Ralph Barton
Thomas Smyth
-
- First Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled January 23rd, 1558-9; dissolved May 8th, 1559.
William Gerard
Thomas Bromley
-
- Second Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled January 11th, 1562-3; dissolved January 2nd, 1566-7.
William Gerard
Richard (or John) Fortesque
156— Bye Election for Fortesque, probably deceased, John Radcliffe.
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- Third Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled April 2nd, 1571; dissolved May 29th.
William Gerard
Owen Radcliffe
-
- Fourth Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled May 8th, 1573; dissolved April 9th, 1583.
Edward Fitton
Edward Elrington
-
- Fifth Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled November 23rd, 1584; dissolved September 14th, 1585.
William Gerard
Thomas Grimsditch
-
- Sixth Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled November 15th, 1586; dissolved March 23rd, 1586-7.
William Gerard
Peter Legh of Bradley
-
- Seventh Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled February 14th, 1588-9; dissolved March 29th, 1589.
Peter Legh
William Leicester
-
- Eighth Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled February 19th, 1592-3; dissolved April 10th, 1593.
William Gerard
Michael Heneage

History of Wigan.

Ninth Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled October 24th, 1597; dissolved February 9th, 1597-8.
Edward Legh
Nicholas Smythe

Tenth Parliament of Elizabeth. Assembled October 27th, 1601; dissolved December 19th.
Roger Downes
John Poulteney

First Parliament of James I. Assembled March 19th, 1603-4; dissolved February 9th, 1610-11.
Sir John Poulteney, Knt.
Sir William Cooke, Knt.

Second Parliament of James I. Assembled April 5th, 1614; dissolved June 7th.
All returns lost. Sir Wm. Cooke supposed to be one member.

Third Parliament of James I. Assembled January 16th, 1620-1; dissolved February 8th, 1621-2.
Sir Thomas Gerard
Roger Downes
February 28th, 1620-1—Bye Election, Thomas Gerard, deceased, George Gerard.

Fourth Parliament of James I. Assembled February 12th, 1623-4; dissolved March 24th, 1625.
Sir Anthony St. John, Knt.
Francis Downes

First Parliament of Charles I. Assembled May 17th, 1625; dissolved Aug. 12th.
Francis Downes
Edward Bridgeman

Second Parliament of Charles I. Assembled February 6th, 1625-6; dissolved June 16th, 1626.
Sir Anthony St. John
Sir William Poley, Bart.

Third Parliament of Charles I. Assembled March 17th, 1627-8; dissolved March 10th, 1628-9.
Sir Anthony St. John, 65
Edward Bridgeman, 63
Robert Gardner, 8
Edward Boulton, 1
Peter Houlford, Esq., 1
William Prescott, 1
Milus Pooly, 1

Fourth Parliament of Charles I. Sat for three weeks, in 1639.
Orlando Bridgeman, Ar., 112
Alexander Rigby, Ar., 104
Robert Gardner, 72
Sir Anthony St. John, 4
Simon Every, Ar., 1
Edward Prescott, 1

Borough Elections.

227

Long Parliament. Assembled April 13th, 1640; dissolved April 20th, 1653.

Orlando Bridgeman (Royalist)
Alexander Rigby (Parliament)

Sir Orlando Bridgeman expelled the House 29th April, 1642. New writ ordered 30th December, 1645,
and John Holcroft elected March 30th, 1646.

Commonwealth. Assembled July 5th, 1653; dissolved December 12th.

No returns from Boroughs.

Under Protector Oliver Cromwell. Assembled September 3rd, 1654; dissolved January 22nd, 1654-5.

No return from Wigan.

Second Parliament under Protector. Assembled September 17th, 1656; dissolved February 8th, 1657-8.

No return from Wigan.

Under Richard Cromwell, Protector. Assembled January 27th, 1659; dissolved April 22nd.

Hugh Forth
Robert Markland

First Parliament of Charles II. Assembled April 25th, 1660; dissolved December 29th.

Hugh Forth } together { John Molyneux
William Gardiner } with { Roger Stoughton
Election void, because of double return. New writ issued.
October 22nd 1660.—John Molyneux
Roger Stoughton

Second Parliament of Charles II. Assembled May 8th, 1661; dissolved January 24th, 1678-9.

Charles Earl of Ancrum
Geoffrey Shackerley

Third Parliament of Charles II. Assembled March 6th, 1678-9; dissolved July 12th, 1678-9.

Charles Earl of Ancrum (Tory)
Roger Bradshaigh (Tory)

Fourth Parliament of Charles II. Assembled October 17th, 1679; dissolved January 18th, 1680-1.

Charles Earl of Ancrum (Tory)
William Bapkes (Whig)

Fifth Parliament of Charles II. Assembled at Oxford March 21st, 1680; dissolved March 28th, 1681.

Charles Earl of Ancrum (Tory)
Richard Viscount Colchester (Whig)

History of Wigan.

First Parliament of James II. Assembled May 19th, 1685; dissolved July 3rd, 1687.
 Charles Earl of Ancrum (Tory)
 Lord Charles Murray (Tory)

Convention. Assembled January 22nd, 1688-9; dissolved February 26th, 1689-90.
 Sir Edward Chisenhall, knt. (Whig)
 William Bankes (Whig)

First Parliament of William and Mary. Assembled March 20th, 1689-90; dissolved October 11th, 1695.
 Peter Shackerly (Tory)
 Sir Richard Standish Bart. (Whig)
 January 24th, 1693-4.—Bye Election, Sir Richard Standish, deceased, John Byrom.

Second Parliament of William and Mary. Assembled November 22nd, 1695; dissolved July 7th, 1698.
 Peter Shackerley (Tory)
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Tory)

Third Parliament of William and Mary. Assembled August 24th, 1698; dissolved December 19th, 1700.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh, Bart. (Tory)
 Orlando Bridgeman (Tory)

November 24th, 1699.—Election petitioned against unsuccessfully by defeated candidate, Alex. Rigby.

Fourth Parliament of William and Mary. Assembled February 6th, 1700-1; dissolved Nov. 1st, 1701.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Tory)
 Orlando Bridgeman (Tory)

Fifth Parliament of William and Mary. Assembled December 30th, 1701; dissolved July 2nd, 1702.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Tory)
 Sir Alexander Rigby, Knt. (Whig)

First Parliament of Anne. Assembled August 20th, 1702; dissolved April 23rd, 1705.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Tory)
 Orlando Bridgeman (Tory)

Second Parliament of Anne. Assembled October 25th, 1705; dissolved April 15th, 1708.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Tory)
 Emanuel Howe (Whig)

Third Parliament of Anne. Assembled November 18th, 1708; dissolved September 23rd, 1710.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Tory) } Brothers
 Henry Bradshaigh (Tory) }

Fourth Parliament of Anne. Assembled November 25th, 1710; dissolved August 8th, 1713.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Tory)
 Henry Bradshaigh (Tory)

April 27th, 1713.—Bye Election, Henry Bradshaigh, deceased, George Kenyon (Tory).

Fifth Parliament of Anne. Assembled February 14th, 1713-14; dissolved January 13th, 1714-15.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Tory)
 George Kenyon (Tory)

State of poll—Sir Roger Bradshaigh, 128; George Kenyon, 104; Earl of Barrymore (Tory), 87.
 March 3rd, 1713-14. Barrymore's petition against election was dismissed.

First Parliament of George I. Assembled March 17th, 1714-15; dismissed March 10th, 1721-22.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Whig)
 James Earl of Barrymore (Tory)

Second Parliament of George I. Assembled October 9th, 1722; dissolved July 17th, 1727.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Whig)
 James Earl of Barrymore (Tory)

First Parliament of George II. Assembled January 23rd, 1727-8; dissolved April 18th, 1734.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Whig)
 Peter Bold (Tory)

Second Parliament of George II. Assembled January 14th, 1734-5; dissolved April 28th, 1741.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Whig)
 James Earl of Barrymore (Tory)

Third Parliament of George II. Assembled December 1st, 1741; dissolved June 18th, 1747.
 Sir Roger Bradshaigh (Whig)
 James Earl of Barrymore (Tory)

March 11th, 1746.—Bye Election, Sir Roger Bradshaigh, deceased, Richard Clayton (Whig).

Fourth Parliament of George II. Assembled November 10th, 1747; dissolved April 8th, 1754.
 Richard Clayton (Whig)
 Hon. Richard Barry (Tory)

Fifth Parliament of George II. Assembled May 31st, 1754; dissolved March 20th, 1761.
 Hon. Richard Barry (Tory)
 Sir William Meredith (Whig)

First Parliament of George III. Assembled May 19th, 1761; dissolved March 12th, 1768.
 Fletcher Norton (Whig)
 Simon Luttrell (Tory)

February 1st, 1762.—Fletcher re-elected on being appointed Solicitor-General.

December 24th, 1763.—Fletcher re-elected on being appointed Attorney-General. Opposed at the election by George Byng, Esq., who polled 39 votes against 71 for Mr. Norton. Registered voters, 129.

Second Parliament of George III. Assembled May 31st, 1768; dissolved September 30th, 1774.
 George Byng (Whig)
 Beaumont Hotham (Whig)
 John Smith-Barry, Esq.

State of Poll—Byng, 57; Hotham, 54; J. H. Smith-Barry (Tory), 44.

History of Wigan.

Third Parliament of George III. Assembled November 29th, 1774; dissolved September 1st, 1780.

George Byng (Whig)

Beaumont Hotham (Whig)

May 23rd, 1775.—Bye Election, Hotham appointed Judge, John Morton (Tory).

August 21st, 1780.—Bye Election, John Morton, deceased, Henry Simpson Bridgeman (Tory).

Fourth Parliament of George III. Assembled October 31st, 1780; dissolved March 25th, 1784.

Henry Simpson Bridgeman (Tory)

Hon. Horatio Walpole (Whig)

State of Poll—Bridgeman, 58; Walpole, 36; Sir Richard Clayton, Bart. (Tory), 33.

September, 1782.—Bye Election, Henry Simpson Bridgeman, deceased, John Cotes (Whig).

May 2nd, 1783.—Bye Election, Walpole appointed Secretary and Registrar to Chelsea Hospital, Hon. H. Walpole re-elected.

Fifth Parliament of George III. Assembled May 18th, 1784; dissolved July 6th, 1790.

John Cotes (Whig)

Orlando Bridgeman (Tory)

Sixth Parliament of George III. Assembled November 25th, 1790; dissolved May 20th, 1796.

John Cotes (Tory)

Orlando Bridgeman (Tory)

Seventh Parliament of George III. Assembled September 27th, 1796; dissolved June 29th, 1802.

John Cotes (Tory)

Hon. Orlando Bridgeman (Tory)

June 21st, 1800.—Bye Election, Hon. O. Bridgeman succeeded to Peerage, George William Gunning (Tory).

Eighth Parliament of George III. Assembled November 16th, 1802; dissolved October 24th, 1806.

Robert Holt Legh (Tory)

John Hodson (Tory)

Ninth Parliament of George III. Assembled December 15th, 1806; dissolved April 29th, 1807.

Robert Holt Legh (Tory)

John Hodson (Tory)

Tenth Parliament of George III. Assembled June 22nd, 1807; dissolved September 29th, 1812.

Robert Holt Legh (Tory)

John Hodson (Tory)

Eleventh Parliament of George III. Assembled November 24th, 1812; dissolved June 10th, 1818.

Robert Holt Legh (Tory)

John Hodson (Tory)

Twelfth Parliament of George III. Assembled January 24th, 1819; dissolved February 29th, 1820
 Sir Robert Holt Legh, Bart. (Tory)
 John Hodson (Tory)

First Parliament of George IV. Assembled April 23rd, 1820; dissolved June 2nd, 1826.
 James Alexander Hodson (Tory)
 Lord Lyndsay (Tory)

State of Poll—Hodson, 50; Lyndsay, 43; Viscount Newport (Tory), 31.
 April 6th, 1825.—Bye Election, Lord Lyndsay succeeded to Peerage, James Lindsay (Tory).

Second Parliament of George IV. Assembled November 14th, 1826; dissolved July 24th, 1830.
 James Alexander Hodson (Tory)
 James Lindsay (Tory)

First Parliament of William IV. Assembled October 26th, 1830; dissolved April 22, 1831.
 James Alexander Hodson (Tory)
 James Lindsay (Tory)
 State of Poll—Hodson, 54; Lindsay, 45; J. H. Kearsley (Tory), 12; Jas. Hardcastle (Whig), 7;
 Richard Potter (Whig), 3.
 March 1st, 1831.—Bye Election, Hodson resigned, John Hodson Kearsley (Tory).

Second Parliament of William IV. Assembled June 14th, 1831; dissolved December 3rd, 1832.
 John Hodson Kearsley (Tory)
 Ralph Thicknesse (Whig)
 State of Poll—Thicknesse, 30; Kearsley, 24; Hon. R. B. Wilbraham (Tory), 15; Potter (Whig), 4.

Third Parliament of William IV. First after passing of Reform Bill. Assembled January 29th, 1833;
 dissolved December 30th, 1834.
 Ralph Thicknesse (Liberal)
 Richard Potter (Liberal)
 State of Poll—Thicknesse, 302; Potter, 296; J. Whittle (Liberal), 212; J. H. Kearsley (Conservative),
 174. Number of registered electors, 483.

Fourth Parliament of William IV. Assembled February 19th, 1835; dissolved July 17th, 1837.
 John Hodson Kearsley (Conservative)
 Richard Potter (Liberal)
 State of Poll—Kearsley, 296; Potter, 191; C. Standish (Liberal), 166. Number of registered voters, 512.

First Parliament of Queen Victoria, August, 1837.
 Charles Standish (Liberal), 249
 Richard Potter (Liberal), 245
 J. H. Kearsley (Conservative), 229
 Peter Greenall (Conservative), 211
 Standish and Potter returned.
 On Mr. Potter's acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds.
 William Ewart (Liberal), 261
 J. H. Kearsley (Conservative), 259

History of Wigan.

Second Parliament of Queen Victoria, July, 1841.

Peter Greenall (Conservative), 273
 Thomas B. Crose (Conservative), 268
 Charles Standish (Liberal), 264
 Charles P. Greenfell (Liberal), 263

This return was petitioned against, and in 1842, on Mr. Crose being declared unduly elected, Charles L. Standish (Liberal) was elected.

September, 1845, on decease of Mr. Greenall.

Hon. J. Lindsay (Conservative), 274
 R. A. Thicknesse (Liberal), 211

Third Parliament of Queen Victoria, August, 1847.

Hon. J. Lindsay (Conservative), 274
 R. A. Thicknesse (Liberal), 211

Fourth Parliament of Queen Victoria, July, 1852.

R. A. Thicknesse (Liberal), 366
 Hon. J. Lindsay (Conservative), 356
 F. S. Powell (Conservative), 324

October, 1854, on decease of Mr. Thicknesse.

Joseph Acton (Liberal), 339
 F. S. Powell (Conservative), 334

Fifth Parliament of Queen Victoria, March, 1857.

F. S. Powell (Conservative), 493
 Henry Woods (Liberal), 447
 Hon. J. Lindsay (Conservative), 308

Sixth Parliament of Queen Victoria, April, 1859.

Hon. J. Lindsay (Conservative), 500
 Henry Woods (Liberal), 476
 F. S. Powell (Conservative), 273

Seventh Parliament of Queen Victoria, July, 1865.

Hon. J. Lindsay (Conservative)
 Henry Woods (Liberal)

April, 1866, on the resignation of the Hon. J. Lindsay.

Nathaniel Eckersley (Conservative), 411
 John Lancaster (Liberal), 349

Eighth Parliament of Queen Victoria. First election on the enlarged register. November, 1868.

Henry Woods (Liberal), 2219
 John Lancaster (Liberal), 2186
 Nathaniel Eckersley (Conservative), 1920
 John Pearson (Conservative), 1875

Borough Elections.

233

Ninth Parliament of Queen Victoria, February, 1874.

Lord Lindsay (Conservative), 2493
Thomas Knowles (Conservative), 2401
John Lancaster (Liberal), 1883
William Pickard (Labour Candidate), 1134
Henry Woods (Liberal), 1029

Tenth Parliament of Queen Victoria, April 1st, 1880.

Lord Lindsay (Conservative), 2946
Thomas Knowles (Conservative), 2913
John Lancaster (Liberal), 2880
Colonel McCorquodale (Liberal), 2655

On Lord Lindsay being raised to the Peerage, July 18th, 1881.

Mr. F. S. Powell (Conservative), 3005
Mr. J. Lancaster (Liberal), 2536

This Election was petitioned against, and Mr. Powell unseated, April 1st, 1881.