

T. PATTON & SONS

General Carriers

PARSONS LANE, BURY

Telephone 890



**HEAVY LIFTS UP TO
15 TONS A SPECIALITY
ON EIGHT-WHEELER
WAGONS AND TRAILERS
FOR 14 TON LOADS**

ESTABLISHED HALF - A - CENTURY

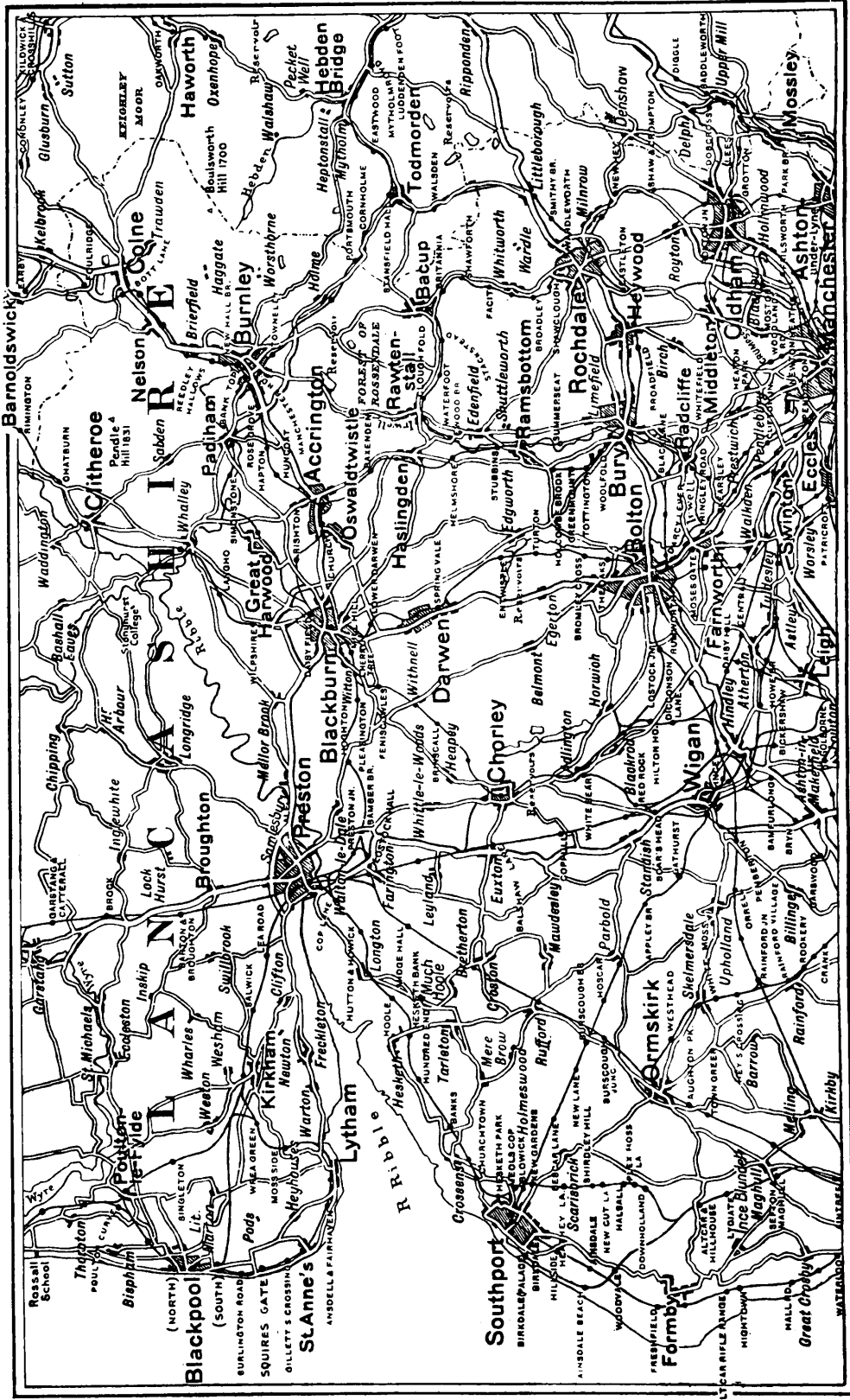
HISTORICAL NOTES.

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

BURY has no architectural remains that attest its age and establish its claims to antiquity ; but whether considered as a town, township, or ecclesiastical parish, it is of considerable age. It has been a place of human habitation from pre-Saxon and even from pre-Roman days. In September, 1908, excavations were being made in the playground of the old Grammar School in the Wylde, and two cinerary urns were discovered. Both contained human bones, and in one was a dagger. One of the urns, being already well advanced in decomposition, crumbled on discovery ; the other, which was in a good state of preservation, was transferred to the Public Museum, where it may still be seen with some of its contents. These urns dated from the Bronze Age, which in this country may be taken to mean at least a thousand years before the coming of the Romans or the commencement of the Christian era.

The discovery had a distinct significance in its bearing upon the history of Bury. The urns were found on the edge of the old Churchyard of the parish, and within a few yards of the site of the crenellated and embattled manor house known as Bury Castle. Their discovery in such a locality gives colour to the theory that for at least three thousand years the present centre of Bury—the Market Place as it is termed—has been the site not merely of an isolated abode, but of the homes of an organised community ; in other words a township, or, after the coming of Christianity, a parish.

In Roman times Bury—under some other name—was probably a British village. No evidence has been discovered, or is known to exist, that it was ever a Roman station ; but at Affetside, three miles away to the north-west, a short length of the ancient Watling Street is picked up. This is on the section lying between Mancunium (Manchester) and Coccium (Wigan). The belief that a portion of Walmersley Old Road, formerly connecting Bury with Edenfield, was of Roman origin, rests upon no stronger foundation than popular tradition, reinforced in quite modern times (1864) by the discovery on a Walmersley farm, half-a-mile to the east of the road, of an urn containing several hundred coins of the period between the reigns of Gallienus and Maximian (A.D. 260—305). Camden believed that Cocky Moor (between two and three miles to the west of Bury) was the site of the military station of Coccium, mentioned by the Emperor Antoninus, but the existence of the name (of the origin of which there has always been considerable doubt) was



Copyright. M. 1128
 SCALE 0 5 10 MILES
 G. W. BACON & CO., Ltd., Norwich St., Fetter Lane, E.C.

probably the only ground for the belief. The ordnance survey of Roman Britain, which is based on modern research, identifies Coccium with Wigan, and this view is the one taken in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (1929 Edition).

The place-name "Bury" is Saxon, and means a town or stronghold. The name is in itself evidence that a settled community existed in Saxon times; and the known existence of a church in early Norman days—probably not the first building dedicated to Christian worship on the site—supports this view. In Saxon times every town was, more or less, a place of defence. There is no doubt that the town of Bury—though it would be little more than a hamlet as we count places to-day—grew up around the church, and beneath the protecting shadow of the Castle walls. When times were peaceful the inhabitants carried on their everyday avocations. In times of war, and possibly when the Franklin or Lord whom they served, and upon whose protection they relied, quarrelled with some equally turbulent neighbour, they would flock within the enclosed walls, and would remain there until a more propitious day arrived, and it was once again possible for the peasant to look to his husbandry, with a reasonable hope of gathering in the harvest or the fruits of the season.

BURY CASTLE.

The Scottish marauders were generally held up, or their plunder lust was satiated, before they came as far south as Bury; but when dynastic troubles in which the Scots were interested were brewing—which occurred in the time of the Commonwealth, and again when Bonnie Prince Charlie was seeking what he claimed to be his own—Southern Lancashire experienced what had been a seasonal visitation for Northumbrian and Cumbrian dalesmen in the days before the union of the two kingdoms; and the castle, if still standing, might then have renewed its old usefulness as a shelter for peaceful citizens. There is a tradition that the Roundheads battered down the walls of Bury Castle in the civil wars of Charles the First's time. The authors of the *Jubilee Souvenir* of Bury give almost a circumstantial account of a battle fought in the vicinity of Bury, and state "that an entrenchment was thrown up at the bend of the river near Walmersley, at a place now designated Castle Steads, and from this place and a wood there they (the Parliamentarians) battered down the walls of the castle . . . On one side of Bury Lane were enclosures for grain, orchards, and gardens. The produce from these had not been garnered, and during the fight lay crushed and soaked in blood; the owners or defenders dying on the desecrated lands. The town was captured, and two days later the castle was destroyed and demolished. For more than a century afterwards it was said that all grain grown on the fields of strife were streaked as if with gore, owing to the baptism of blood the grounds had received. It is more than likely that the name Redvales or Redivale sprang from this conflict."