

Bleasdale Village, England

by R. Carter Blaisdell, Editor

Bleasdale village is tucked away in a corner of Lancashire County, England, near Chipping, Goosnargh and Longridge, all north of Preston, the county seat, and northwest of Manchester. This is the area where the Bleasdale family originates. When our patriarch **Ralph Bleasdale** arrived at Pemaquid Point, ME, in 1635 he was bearing what is the most dominant spelling of our family name in England today.

My wife, **Anita**, and I traveled around England and Scotland in August with my sister, **Marijean Blaisdell Davis**, and her husband, **Darrol D. Davis**, Arnold, CA. We prepared with maps and advice by a cousin, **Richard Douglass**, Chesterbrook, PA, who put us in touch with **Brian Rhodes** of Longridge. Brian's grandmother was a Bleasdale.

Thanks to Brian's chauffeuring we were able to see so much more of the area. The roads around Bleasdale are narrow and winding. The homes are tucked behind tall, thick hedges that give a message, "Don't bother us." This area has had that reputation for generations.

As one man once said, "You're not in Lancashire now, lad. We're nowt to do with them. Up here's Bleasdale. It's bin that way since afore the Roman times." The families' blood lines go back to the Early Bronze Age II, 1700—500 BC, estimated dates for Bleasdale Circle, a small village with nine huts and a ceremonial circle, all enclosed by a circle of oak poles, discovered in 1898.

Near Bleasdale Circle are Bleasdale School and St. Eadmer Anglican Church with a separate parish hall. "Eadmor's chapel" was on a 1598 map of Lancashire and in 1610 was "a chapel without service in the king's chase." Unfortunately, Brian was uncertain of the property from which our patriarch Ralph Blaisdell originated. Another visit is due.