

**AQUE**  
**in the Chester county pleas,**  
**CHES 29/1–22**  
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**The Dane**

The river *Dane* rises in Macclesfield forest, near the Three-Shire Mere, and after forming, for some way, a boundary between Staffordshire and Cheshire, enters the latter county, within two miles of Congleton; from which town it passes by Radnor-bridge, Davenport-, Hermitage, near Holmes Chapel to Cranage-bridge, and Byley-bridge; near Middlewich, Croxton, Shipbrook, and Daneham or Davenham, to Northwich, where it falls into the Weever. The course of the Weever is about thirty-three miles, that of the Dane about twenty-two ; the Weever is narrow, deep, and slow; the Dane, broad, shallow, and swift.<sup>1</sup>

20:740 [20 August 1308]

A boy accidentally drowned in the river Dane, by Radnor.

Radnor was, later, a very small township in Astbury parish and in Northwich hundred. Radnor apparently was not functioning as a township in 1308, as the four townships presenting the incident (Congleton, Newbold, Hulme and Somerford) do not include Radnor. In 12:292 (12 July 1300) in a case involving tenements in Somerford, the defendant disputed whether they in fact lay in Radnor [*Et p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>r</sup>cus Will's de Wilburgh<sup>a</sup>m dicit q<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>r</sup>ca ten' que Iidem Rog<sup>r</sup>us & Marg<sup>r</sup>ia & alij posu<sup>r</sup>unt in visu suo sunt in Radenou<sup>r</sup>e, & non in Som<sup>r</sup>ford, & petit iud<sup>r</sup>m, Et si conuincat<sup>r</sup> q<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>r</sup>ca ten' sint in Som<sup>r</sup>ford, dicit &c.*] presumably in the hope that such a finding would defeat the original writ, which at least suggests that Radnor was then considered a distinct entity, if not a fully-fledged township.

The modern townships of Somerford Booths and Somerford-cum-Radnor are divided by the river Dane, with a crossing at Radnor Bridge. The townships south of the river were in Northwich hundred; but those north of the river (Somerford Booths, Hulme Walfield, Eaton and North Rode) are individually sometimes reckoned as being in Macclesfield hundred.

*Id'm Coronator [de Northwico] & s' p<sup>r</sup>d<sup>r</sup>ce vill' [q<sup>a</sup>tuor villate scilic' Congelton', Neubold, Hulm, Sum<sup>r</sup>ford] p<sup>r</sup>sent' q<sup>d</sup> quid' puer subm<sup>r</sup>sus fuit in aqua de Dauen iux<sup>a</sup> Radenor Jud'm Infort' Inuentor Ric'us de Caluilegh' Et nemo inde male creditur De vill' de Neubold qa fec<sup>t</sup> def' coram Just'o in Com' xl.d'*

22:657 [12 May 1310]

The coroner of Northwich hundred and the townships of Somerford, Davenport, Brereton and Kermincham presented that [blank] del Halle of Somerford accidentally drowned in the water at Somerford.

*Infortuniu'*  
.iiij.s'

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<sup>1</sup> *Magna Britannia, Cheshire* p.421.

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*Id'm Coron' & si'lr villat' de Som<sup>r</sup>ford, Dauenport, Brereton' & Kermynch<sup>a</sup>m p<sup>r</sup>sent',  
q'd <sup>2</sup> del Halle de Som<sup>r</sup>ford infortunio subm<sup>r</sup>sus fuit in aqua ap<sup>d</sup> Som<sup>r</sup>ford. Nullus inde male  
credit'. Jud'm infortuniu'. Inuent<sup>i</sup>x Mrger' vx' eius Et no' male credit', vnde de p<sup>r</sup>d'cis villat'  
p<sup>u</sup> lic' comorandi domi .iiij.s'.*

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<sup>2</sup> blank