Wythenshawe Hall & The Tatton Family
After the Norman Conquest in 1066, Earl Hugh of Chester granted control of lands to his Barons.

In 1119 Hamon de Macy is mentioned in records as holding lands from Dunham, to Baguley and Northenden.

He built a motte & bailey castle at Dunham Massey, where he made his home.
Dunham Massey and the grass mound the possible site of Hamon de Macey’s Motte & Bailey Castle.
Documents held in Manchester Ryland’s Library refer to Robert de Mascy as having a lease of lands in Northenden, and adjacent lands, including Wythenshawe, and Kenworthy.

In 1370 Wythenshawe was granted to a Robert de Tatton of Kenworthy, probably when he married Alice Mascy.

This was the beginning of the Tatton family’s 600 year holding of the area of Wythenshawe.
The Tatton name originated in the area now enclosed by Tatton Park. Tatton was a place name which was said to have existed in Saxon times.

When the Normans arrived in the area some of them took their names from this local name.

For example Alan of Tatton.

Alan de Tatton.
In the 15th Century some of the Tatton's lived in Chester and held important posts.
William Tatton Vice Chamberlin of Chester.
John Tatton was Sheriff in 1503.
Robert son of John decided to build a house at Wythenshawe to replace an older one that may have been damaged by fire.
Robert Tatton built his house the centre part of which forms the current building.

He acquired lands in Northenden, and built a corn mill, an inn the Ferry Inn, and operated a ferry service across the River Mersey.

Robert combined the manors of Northenden and Etchells, as well as taking control of Peele Hall.

In 1539 Robert Tatton married Dorothy Booth daughter of George Booth of Dunham Massey.
A drawing of an old brass of Robert & Dorothy Tatton which was once in St Wilfrid’s Church Northenden
Robert Tatton’s son William inherited the Hall and lands and married Mary Fitton of Gawsworth Hall.

When William died in 1611 his son Robert inherited but gave it all up to his youngest son William. This William drowned in the Mersey in 1617, and his ten year old son Robert became heir.

He being too young to control his estate was declared a ward of the crown, so that all the lands were administered until he matured.
The River Mersey at the point where William Tatton drowned in 1617 whilst crossing.
Robert Tatton married Anne Brereton in 1628.

Robert was a supporter of the King.

In 1646 he began to fortify the Hall to protect it from the Parliamentarian army. There was a moat around the house, and this was repaired.

Neighbours & friends brought food and weapons.

More than fifty tenants & friends formed a defence force.
The Siege of Wythenshawe Hall

- On Nov 21\textsuperscript{st} 1644 a small parliamentarian force led by a Captain Adams surrounded the house. The defenders resisted until February the next year when they surrendered, after a canon was fired at the house causing damage near the dining room.

- In the battle 3 men on the roundhead side including Captain Adams & 6 defenders of the house died. Six skeletons have since been excavated near the Hall.
Robert Tatton was ejected from his house and was eventually brought before Parliament & declared a delinquent. After intervention by influential friends he was allowed to have his house back on payment of a fine of £707. This was the beginning of a period of severe financial difficulty which lasted for several generations.
The next few generations of Tatton’s married daughters of wealthy land owners, Leigh’s of Lyme Hall, and in 1745 a William Tatton married Hester daughter of John Egerton of Tatton Park. T. E Tatton married Mary dau. of Col. T Cholmondeley in 1877.

Increasing wealth allowed the family to extend the existing hall.
Robert Tatton the defender of the house in his old age.
Windows in St Wilfrid’s Church dedicated to Thomas Tatton & Emma Tatton
In the 19th Century & early 20th Century the family enjoyed a period of stability. Tatton family photos show them enjoying friends & family events at Christmas.
Thomas Egerton Tatton died in 1924 & he was succeeded by his son Robert Grenville Tatton who came under pressure from Manchester Council, who wanted to buy the Tatton lands, to develop a new Garden City. In 1926 Robert Tatton because of debts, and death duties sold his house, and all his substantial lands.

Lord & Lady Simon purchased the Hall & Park and donated it to the city for the future benefit of the people of Manchester.
A page from the scrapbook of the Tatton’s
Interior of the house in 1903
Wythenshawe Hall in 2012.
Support the Hall.

The Friends of Wythenshawe Hall invite anyone interested to join our group, whose aim is to open the Hall on a regular basis, and to secure its future. If interested please leave your name and contact details with staff here today, or contact:

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