



BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A Harborne Miscellany

AN EXHIBITION OF LOCAL HISTORY MATERIAL
TO CELEBRATE THE 86TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE OPENING OF HARBORNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 1978

THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition, which marks the 86th anniversary of the opening of Harborne Public Library, has as its theme the history of Harborne. This reflects the surge of interest in local history both among the general public and in local schools, and in order to satisfy this demand every effort is being made to collect material on Harborne. This includes photographs, drawings, maps, plans, documents and of course any printed material.

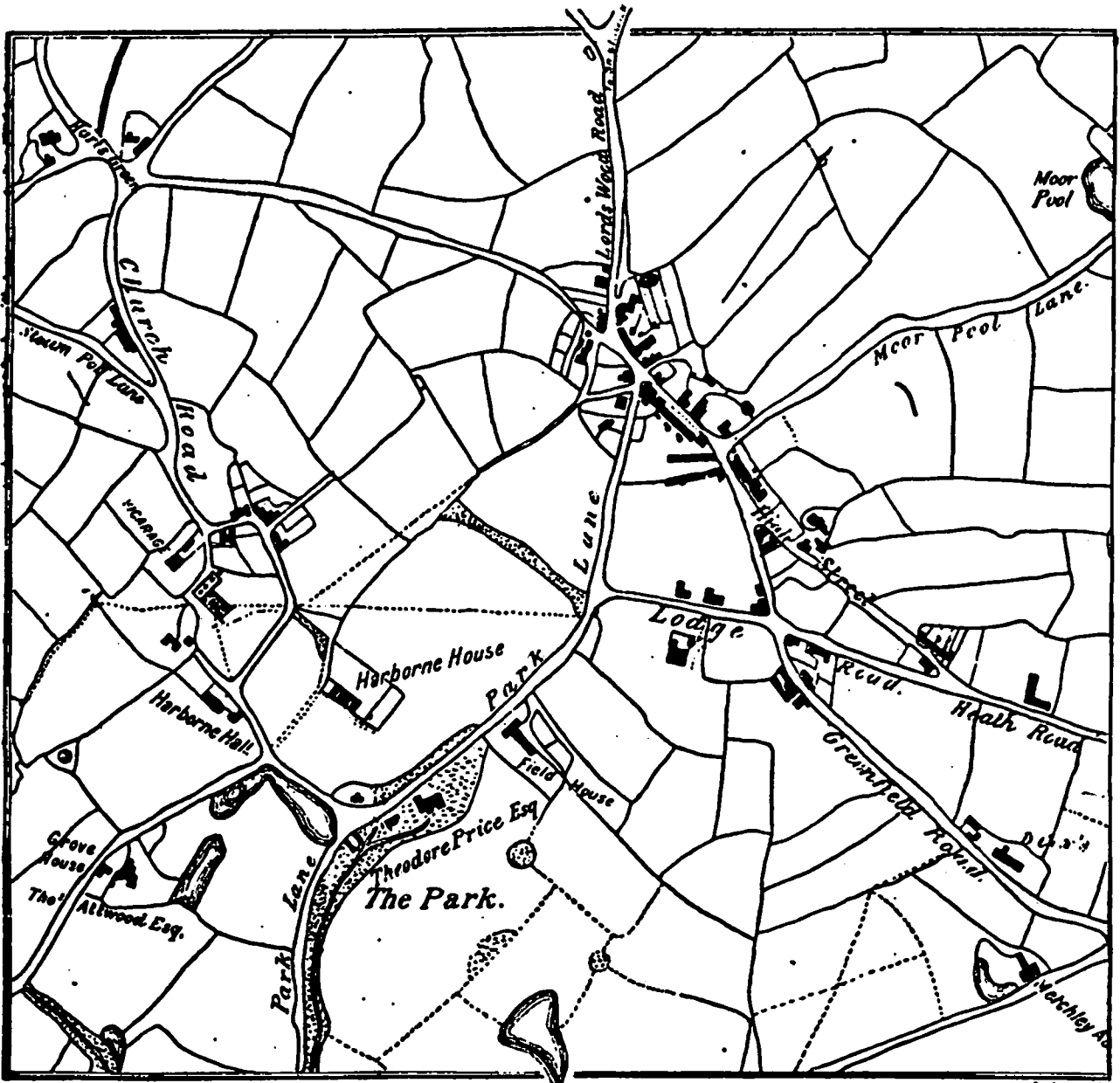
Our collection is steadily growing, but you can help by giving to the library anything you may have on any aspect of Harborne, old or new. This material would be made available to other members of the public and to students carrying out projects. If you feel that you cannot part with it, we can arrange for it to be photocopied and returned to you.

A lot of the material which we already have is on display, together with some from the Reference Library Local Studies Department and interested members of the public. As you will see it is not only Harborne past, but also the present (and future!) in which we are interested. We hope that you find the display interesting and would welcome your comments.

W. R. Clarke, A.L.A.
Branch Librarian

The following pages contain a selection of material from the "Harborne Scrapbooks", some of which are on display.

HARBORNE VILLAGE 1834.



Map extracted from Harborne and its surroundings by James Kenward (2nd ed. 1885)

- Grove House:** former home of Thomas Attwood, Birmingham's first M.P. Purchased by William Kenrick in 1876, who completely transformed it, inside and out. House and estate (now Grove Park) later presented to the City by the Kenrick Family. The house itself was demolished in the early 1960's.
- Harborne House:** built about 1790 by Thomas Green, a nail master, soon after he purchased the Manor of Harborne. Purchased by the Church Commissioners in 1921 as a residence for the Bishops of Birmingham. Later renamed Bishop's Croft.
- Harborne Hall:** the present building dates back to the mid-19th century but stands on the site of a much older building. It was rebuilt by Dr. Hart, the founder of the Harborne Volunteer Fire Brigade, which had its headquarters in Serpentine Road. The Hall is now a convent.
- Field House:** one of Harborne's few remaining old houses. Almost demolished, but at present is being renovated. In the drive of the house is a well, considered by many to date back to Roman times, but this still has to be proved.

ARTICLES ON HARBORNE,

by

W. E. Hardwick, M.B.E.

In an old Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire, published over 100 years ago, the following reference to Harborne occurs:—

HARBORNE, or Harbourn, is a pleasant rural village, picturesquely situated about four miles south west of Birmingham. It has many neat houses, and its parish contains about 4,000 acres of land, forming that southern tongue of Offlow Hundred, which is nearly encompassed by Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Salop. The populous iron and glass manufacturing village and district of Smethwick forms the northern division of the parish. The whole parish had only 2,275 inhabitants in 1801, but in 1821 its population had increased to 3,350; in 1831, to 4,227; and in 1841, to 6,657 souls, of whom 5,020 were in Smethwick. In March, 1851, the parish had 10,729 souls, of whom more than 8,000 were in Smethwick, as afterwards noticed.

Harborne forms the south division of the parish, and belongs to the Rev. T. G. Simcox, Mr. Price, and a number of smaller proprietors. Mr. Simcox is lord of the manor. The Church, dedicated to **St. Peter**, was repaired and enlarged in 1827, and has 1,500 sittings, of which 260 are free. The tower has six bells, and near the church are National Schools, erected about ten years ago, and attended by about 200 children. The organ was purchased in 1842, when the church was thoroughly repaired.

The **Vicarage**, valued in K.B., at £4, and now at £624, is in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, and incumbency of the Hon. and Rev. W. T. Law, M.A.

Smethwick, the largest and most populous part of the parish, is now divided into two ecclesiastical districts, and has two churches, viz., the **Old Chapel** and **North Harborne Church**, the latter of which is a vicarage, and is dedicated to the **Holy Trinity**. This neat cruciform structure, in the lancet Gothic style, stands on an eminence in the northern part of Smethwick, and has a lofty spire. It was built in 1838, at the cost of about £3,000, raised mostly by subscription, and partly by grants.

The "**Vicarage of North Harborne**," valued at £240, is in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, and incumbency of the Rev. T. G. Simcox, M.A.

The **National Schools**, attached to Trinity Church, were built in 1840—1, at the cost of

about £1,000, raised by subscriptions and grants, and have room for 400 children.

In the same district is an **Infant School**, established in 1836, by Mr. and Mrs. Moillet.

SMETHWICK OLD CHURCH, or **Chapel**, was built in 1723, with £800, left for that purpose by Mrs. Dorothy Parkes, who also endowed it with 75 acres of land in Smethwick, and 33 acres at Warley-Wigorn, now let for about £250 per annum, out of which the incumbent pays £10 yearly for charitable uses.

This small church has a square tower, and about 300 sittings. It was repaired and beautified with three stained glass windows about four years ago, when a new organ was purchased, at the cost of 185 guineas.

The **perpetual curacy** is in the patronage of trustees, and the Rev. Edward Addenbrooke, B.A., is the incumbent.

The **Independents, Baptists and Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists**, have small chapels in the parish.

The **Free School** at Harborne, and the **Master's House**, were rebuilt about 1821, at the cost of £800, of which £350 was raised by subscription. The original school and house were built many years before, by subscription, on land given by Sir Thomas Birch, upon which Henry Hinckley, in 1730, built three houses, as an endowment for the school, which has also the dividends of £125 three per cent. consols.

The **Dame's School**, near the old church at **Smethwick**, has an endowment of £8 9s. 9d., arising from £136, secured on the tolls of the Birmingham and Coventry turnpike, and bequeathed in 1723, by Dorothy Parkes, and an annuity of 33s. 9d., paid by the Birmingham Canal Company, for a piece of land.

HARBORNE.

Post Office at Samuel Dugmore's. Letters despatched at 7 p.m., via Birmingham.

Akers, Rt., Tin Plate Worker, Wood Cottage.

Amos, Samuel, Gardener, etc.

Aston, E., Maltster and Coal Owner.

Birch, Charles, Esq., Coal Master, Abbey.

Bodington, Mary & Son, Corn Millers.

Browning, Chas. Lloyd, Carrier.

Cooke, Jno., Esq., Manufacturer, Beech Hill.

Cox, David, Artist, Greenfield House.

Dugmore, Samuel, Parish Clerk and Post Master.

Haines, Wm., Solicitor, The Lodge.

Harford, Miss, Beech Hill Cottage.

Iliffe, Chas., button manufacturer, Field House.

Jones, David, Iron Master, Harborne House.
Law, Rev. Jas. Thos., M.A., Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield, Stapylton House.

Law, Hon. and Rev. Wm. Towry, M.A., Vicar and Chancellor of the Diocese of Bath and Wells Vicarage.

Millington, Thomas, Steel Convertor.

Mussell, Jane, Florist.

Newey, Jno., Builder, 11 and Tinsmith Cooper.

Reynolds, Benjamin, William., Gentleman.

Roberts, W., Esq., Merchant, Abbey.

Rose, Benjamin, gardener, etc.

Rutter, Thomas, Nail Manufacturer.

Sanders, Joseph, Original Washing and Bleaching Powder, Blacking and Sand Tablet Manufacturer.

Short, Thomas, Manufacturer, Clent House.

Simcox, Howard, Land Agent and Surveyor.

Skelton, Rev. Wm., J., B.A., Curate.

Smallwood, Noah, Gun Implement Manufacturer.

Turner, John Chas., Omnibus, etc., Proprietor.

Weston, John Pix, Registrar.

Whitehouse John, Agent to Birmingham Fire Office, etc.

Wilmot, Edward D., Merchant Hall.

Woodward, Mr. Joseph.

Yeomas, Mr. Wm.

INNS AND TAVERNS.

" Bell," Peter Matthews.

" Cross," Benjamin Clary.

" Duke of York," W. H. Cutler.

" Green Man," Ann Westwood.

" Harborne Tavern," Chas. Jackson.

" King's Arms," James Newey.

" King's Head," Samuel Perrin.

" New Inn," John Wyatt.

ACADEMIES.

Tonks, Mrs.

Voce, Louisa.

Wrapp, David.

National School, Luke Twigg and Eliza and Lucy Dugmore.

BEERHOUSES.

Hart, Joseph 11 Milnes, J.

Harrison, Frederick.

Monk Levi II Pinn Cs.

Satchwell, William.

Westwood, John.

BLACKSMITHS.

(*Wheelwrights).

Astley, W. II, Gale, W.

*Downing, Paul.

*Newey, Samuel.

*Wainwright, Joseph.

BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.

Carr, W. II, Green, Joseph.

Miles, James II, Rose, Joseph.

Slater, Charles.

FARMERS.

Allen, Peter ; Allcock, Thomas ; Bramwich, Thomas ; Cox, William ; Downing, George ; Green, Hugh, and Butcher ; Harrison, Mary and James ; Harrison, Frederick ; Hodgetts, J. II, Lee, W. ; Newey, James and Samuel ; Osborne, Joseph ; Pearman, Francis ; Rutter, John ; Smart, James ; Tibbetts, Thomas ; Thornecroft, John and Whitehouse, Edward.

GROCERS.

Harlow, John ; Paviour, Thomas ; Priest, Thomas ; Powner, George ; Stevenson, Richard ; Tallis, Sarah ; and Taylorson, George.

PAINTERS, etc.

Hand, Richard and Stubbs, Richard.

SHOPKEEPERS.

Hampson, William ; Monk, Thomas ; Richardson, Benjamin ; Rose, Charles ; Satchwell, William ; Satchwell, Esther ; Westwood, John ; and Wyatt, John.

Extracted from the series of articles written by William Hardwick (the head master of St. Peter's School) in the Harborne Parish Church Magazine between 1935 and 1941.

Harborne Tenants, Limited.



THIS Society has been established to promote the erection, co-operative ownership, and administration of houses on land at Harborne. The system has been in operation in other parts of the country since 1888, and the experience of Ealing Tenants, Ltd., Garden City Tenants, Ltd., Bournville Tenants, Ltd., and other societies which preceded ours has fully confirmed the expectations of the promoters. The dangers sometimes arising from the individual ownership of houses and always accompanying speculative building are avoided, while the interests of the tenant and of the investor are harmonised by an equitable division of the profits, and the consequent additional care bestowed upon the property by the tenants.

The Formation of the Society.

Rather less than a year ago, on June 25th, 1907, a meeting was held in the Harborne Institute. Its object was to consider the option held by Councillor J. S. Nettlefold on 36 acres of land between Lordswood, Ravenhurst, and Wentworth Roads, Harborne, and the question of the development of this Estate on Co-partnership Lines.

Mr. Nettlefold explained the object of the meeting, and then Mr. Crossley Greenwood gave an address and answered questions on the principles of Co-partnership building.

A resolution was carried approving of the formation of the Society on Co-partnership lines, and a Provisional Committee was formed. This was the beginning of Harborne Tenants, Ltd.

The Provisional Committee consisted of Messrs. J. S. Nettlefold, T. W. Ryland, C. Napier Clavering, P. J. Church, E. J. Clark, and C. Kelsey. This committee promptly started work, appointing officers, solicitors, architect, auditors, &c., drawing up rules and prospectus, and concluding financial agreements.

At the first General Meeting of the Society the acts of the Provisional Committee were approved. Mr. Nettlefold was elected chairman, and the members of the Provisional Committee, together with Messrs. F. M. Lea and G. W. Kenrick, were selected to form the regular Committee.

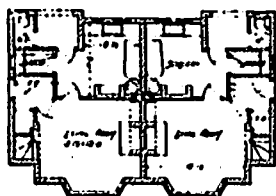
The Estate.

The Estate, which cost £15,800, contains 54 acres of undulating land. It lies within the City of Birmingham, and is only two and a half miles from the centre of the town, to which it is connected by train and omnibus.

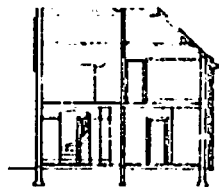
Harborne Station is in close proximity to the Estate, and negotiations are in hand with a view to obtaining direct access to it.

Though so near to the town, it is still easy to get into the country from the Estate, and many pleasant walks are to be found within short distances. Harborne is one of the healthiest parts of the town, and tenants may be sure that on the Estate exceptional conditions in this respect will prevail.

For local government purposes Harborne Tenants, Ltd., will come under the Corporation of Birmingham and the Guardians of the Poor of the King's Norton Union.



GROUND FLOOR



SECTION



FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

The Manor of Harborne

Extract from: Victoria County History of Warwickshire,
Volume 7 - Birmingham (1964).

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In 1086 the Bishop of Chester held HARBORNE as a member of his manor of Lichfield. Harborne was held of him by Robert and there was land for one plough.⁸³ In 1293 Harborne owed suit yearly to the view of frankpledge held by the bishop at Lichfield.⁸⁴ The overlordship of the manor continued in the hands of the bishops of Coventry and Lichfield until the 16th century, when it was apparently granted to Sir William Paget as pertaining to the manor of Longdon (Staffs.) which he received from Henry VIII in 1546.⁸⁵ After the attainder of Lord Paget in 1587,⁸⁶ Harborne was named among the manors held of the queen's manor of Longdon, which had lately belonged to Lord Paget and before that to the bishop.⁸⁷ There is no later record of the overlordship, though it presumably reverted to the Paget family with Longdon.

In 1166, Henry FitzGerold held $\frac{1}{2}$ knight's fee of the Bishop of Coventry,⁸⁸ and this probably comprised Harborne and Smethwick, two manors (within a single parish) which were in one tenure until c. 1710.⁸⁹ His son Warin FitzGerold (d. 1217-18)⁹⁰ was said in 1222 and 1260 to have held Harborne,⁹¹ and in 1216 the Sheriff of Staffordshire was ordered to give Warin's land in Harborne to Thomas de Erdington.⁹² Warin's heir was his daughter Margaret who married first Baldwin de Rivers (d. 1216), and then Fawkes de Breauté (d. 1226).⁹³ Giles de Erdington claimed land in Harborne and Smethwick from Fawkes and Margaret in 1221, and from the Abbot of Halesowen in 1260.⁹⁴ Thomas de Erdington, who died in the reign of Henry III and was said to hold Smethwick and Harborne by a charter granted to him by Fawkes,⁹⁵ was apparently he to whom the manor was granted in 1216, and the father of Giles. Their claim was however unsuccessful, since Margaret granted the manor to Halesowen Abbey⁹⁶ which held it until the Dissolution. Her grant was probably made before 1227⁹⁷ when the abbot was said to hold a free tenement in Harborne, and certainly before 1229 when the abbot summoned Margaret to acquit him of services claimed from him by the bishop as chief lord of the fee. Margaret replied that she did not

hold of the bishop; this plea was accepted, since the abbot was unable to deny it.⁹⁸

In 1242 the abbot held $\frac{1}{2}$ fee in Harborne of the bishop, the de Rivers mesne lordship being ignored,⁹⁹ as it was in 1284 when the holding was specified as being both there and in Smethwick; the abbot then paid a mark yearly for it.¹

The abbey retained the manor until 1538 when it was surrendered to Henry VIII.² In the same year it was granted with Halesowen to Sir John Dudley, later Duke of Northumberland.³ After being forfeited on his attainder in 1553, it was granted in the next year to his nephew Edward, Lord Dudley (d. 1586).⁴ Edward's son held it at the time of Lord Paget's attainder in 1587,⁵ and sold it to Sir Charles Cornwallis in 1604.⁶ Sir Charles died at Harborne in 1629⁷ and his grandson Charles held the manor in 1634.⁸ He sold it in 1661 to Thomas Foley.⁹ Philip Foley was holding it in 1685 and 1690,¹⁰ and sold it c. 1710 to George Birch (d. 1721)¹¹ who was followed as lord by his son Sir Thomas (d. 1757), justice of Common Pleas.¹² Sir Thomas's son George sold the manor after 1786¹³ to Thomas Green, a nail-master and justice of the peace. It next passed to his nephew,¹⁴ Thomas Green Simcox (d. 1828)¹⁵ whose son the Revd. T. G. Simcox was lord in 1834, 1851,¹⁶ and probably in 1871, when he still lived there.¹⁷ In 1908 the lord of the manor was said to be the Marquess of Anglesey. The principal landowners then were the trustees of the Revd. H. K. Simcox (d. 1905), Lord Calthorpe, and Sir H. A. Wiggin, Bt.¹⁸

Harborne House, the former manor-house, stands east of the parish church on the other side of Old Church Road. In 1871 it was the seat of the lord of the manor.¹⁹ Since c. 1911²⁰ it has been used as a residence for the bishops of Birmingham diocese and is now known as Bishop's Croft. The house, a brick building with stone dressings, is thought to have been erected by Thomas Green in the late 18th century.²¹ It consists of a central three-storied block flanked by pedimented side wings. The wings appear to have been much altered in the early 20th century and many of the internal fittings are of this date although in imitation of earlier styles. A chapel was built to the south-west of the house in 1923.²²

⁸³ C 137'61.

⁸⁴ V.C.H. Staffs. iv. 43.

⁸⁵ Plea Rolls (Coll. Hist. Staffs. vi(1)), 244.

⁸⁶ L. & P. Hen. VIII, xxi(2), p. 165.

⁸⁷ Complete Peerage, x. 282.

⁸⁸ Shaw, Staffs. i. 212.

⁸⁹ Red Bk. Exch. (Rolls Ser.), 263.

⁹⁰ Shaw, Staffs. ii. 124.

⁹¹ Rot. Litt. Claus. (Rec. Com.), i. 363, 371.

⁹² Plea Rolls (Coll. Hist. Staffs. iv(1)), 22, 145.

⁹³ Ibid. 22; Rot. Litt. Claus. (Rec. Com.), i. 281.

⁹⁴ Rot. Litt. Claus. (Rec. Com.), i. 363; Complete

Peerage, iv. 316-21; Plea Rolls (Coll. Hist. Staffs. iv(1)),

145.

⁹⁵ Plea Rolls (Coll. Hist. Staffs. iv(1)), 17, 22, 144.

⁹⁶ Cal. Inq. p.m. i. p. 287.

⁹⁷ Plea Rolls (Coll. Hist. Staffs. iv(1)), 145.

⁹⁸ Ibid. 53.

⁹⁹ Ibid. 75, 78.

¹⁰⁰ Bk. of Fees, ii. 968.

¹⁰¹ Feud. Aids, v. 7.

¹⁰² Fines (Coll. Hist. Staffs. xii(1)), 186.

¹⁰³ L. & P. Hen. VIII, xiii(2), p. 191.

¹⁰⁴ Cal. Pat. 1554-5. 23.

¹ Shaw, Staffs. i. 212.

² Fines (Coll. Hist. Staffs. xviii(1)), 45.

³ D.N.B.: C 142'463 97.

⁴ C 60 528 56; C.P. 25(2) 597.

⁵ Notes on Birm. manors, T/S, Local Hist. Department, B.R.L.

⁶ B.R.L. 324256, 297365.

⁷ Erdeswick, Survey of Staffs. ed. Harwood (1844), 312; *Visit. of Wars. 1682-3*, ed. Metcalfe, 47.

⁸ C.P. 43'385 rot. 214; Erdeswick, Survey of Staffs. 312; Burke, Land. Gent. (1846), i. 98; B.R.L. Catalogue (1918), 300.

⁹ C.P. 25(2) 1477 26 Geo. III Mich.

¹⁰ Shaw, Staffs. ii. 111; Burke, Land. Gent. (1846), i. 98; T. Presterne, *Harborne once upon a time*, 19, 23

¹¹ Burke, Land. Gent. (1871), 1264.

¹² White, Dir. Staffs. (1834), 356; (1851), 703.

¹³ Burke, Land. Gent. (1871), 1264.

¹⁴ Kelly's Dir. Birm. (1908), 19.

¹⁵ Burke, Land. Gent. (1871), 1264.

¹⁶ Russell Wakefield, 2nd bishop, was the 1st to occupy the house.

¹⁷ Presterne, *Harborne once upon a time*, 23.

¹⁸ Date stone on chapel.

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