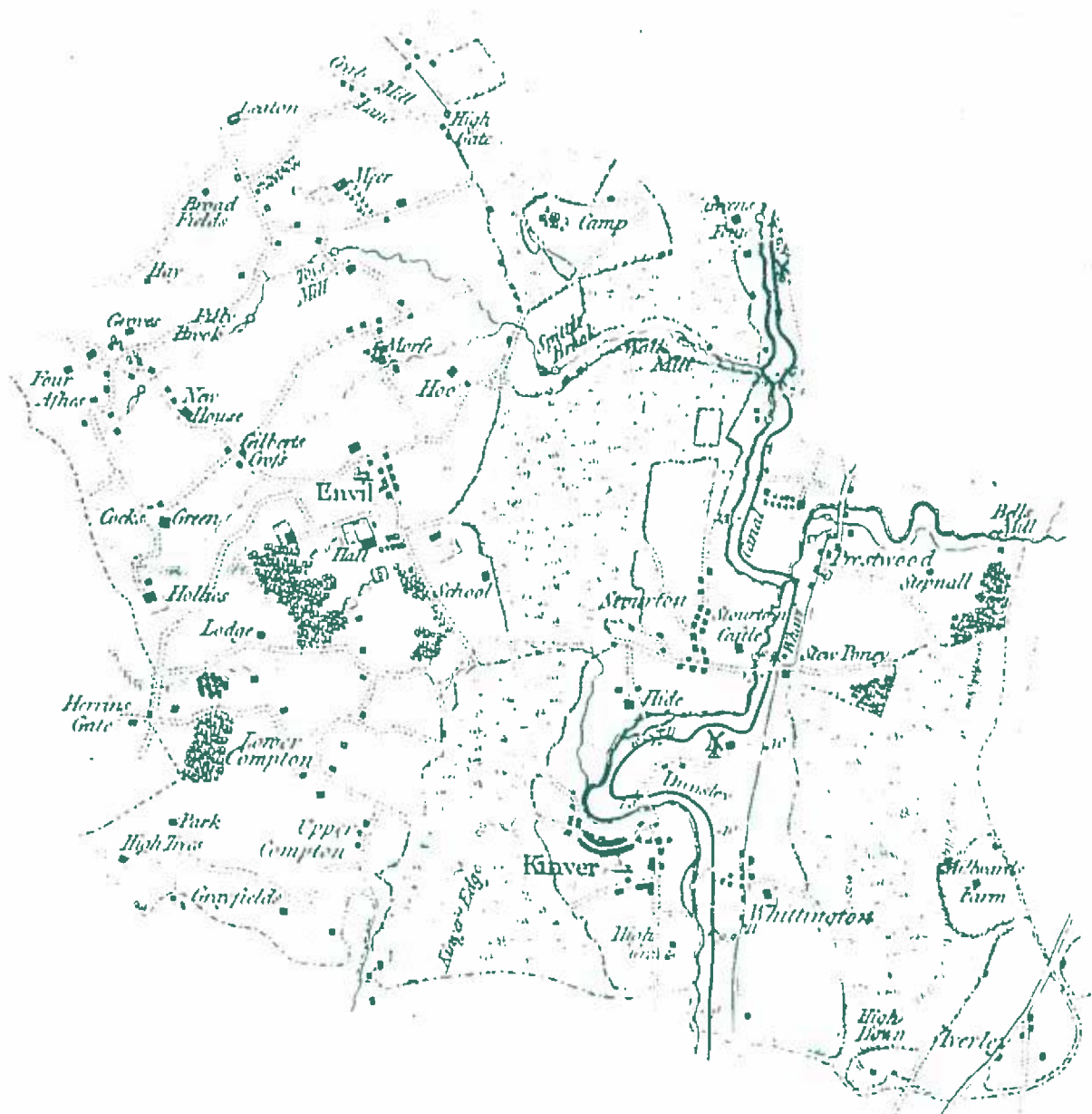


# A HISTORY OF KINVER AND ENVILLE



**KINVER & ENVILLE**

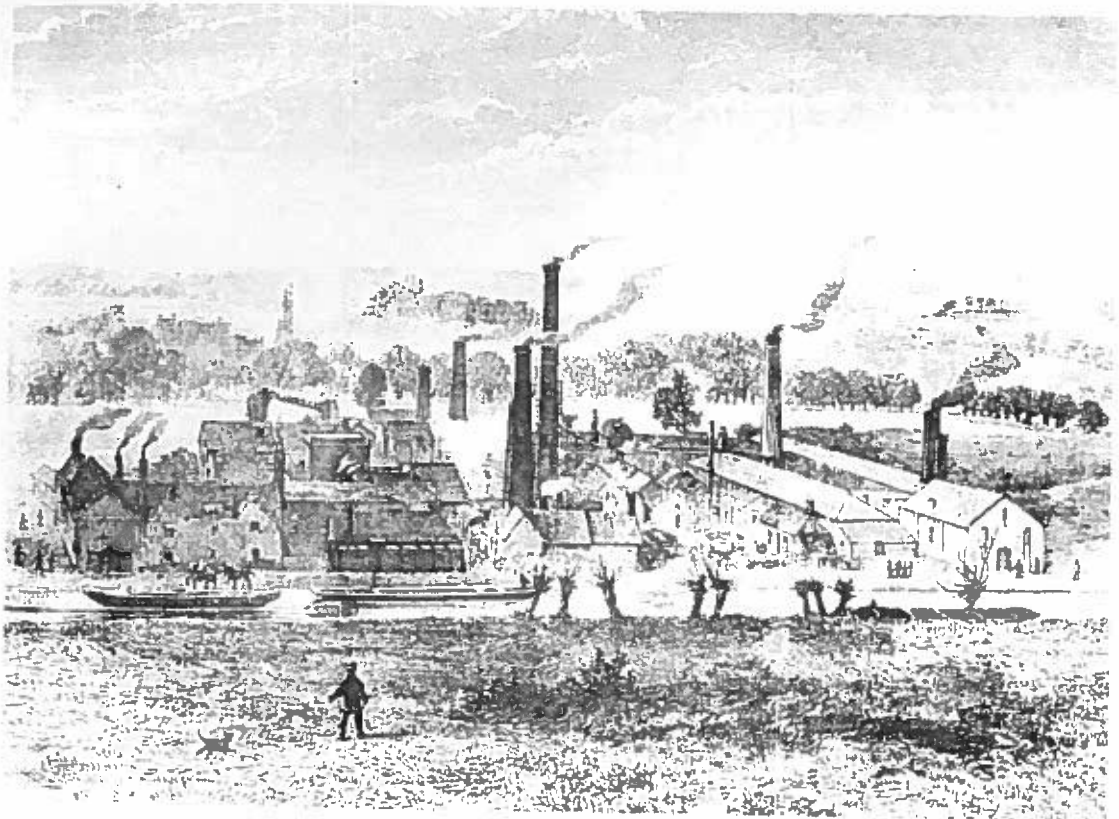
# A HISTORY OF KINVER AND ENVILLE



Being an extract from  
THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE VOLUME XX  
edited by M.W. Greenslade

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Hyde Ironworks c. 1870



Stewponey 1828

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For a full explanation of abbreviations and references and for the original plates and index the reader is referred to the *Victoria County History of Staffordshire*, volume XX.

Grateful acknowledgment is made for permission to reproduce the illustrations. The map on the front cover is a detail from *A Map of the County of Stafford* by William Yates, 1775. The engraving of the Hyde ironworks about 1870, on the frontispiece, is from *Guide to the Iron Trade of Great Britain* by J. Griffiths, 1873. The illustration below it of the Stewponey inn in 1828, and the one of Kinver High Street in 1836, on the title page, are from drawings by R. Noyes in *Staffordshire Views* at the William Salt Library, Stafford. The illustration of Enville Church from the south-east in 1837, opposite page 91, is from a drawing by T.P. Wood in *Staffordshire Views* at the William Salt Library, Stafford. The one below it of Mere Farm from the south-west in 1857, with clementing in progress, is from an engraving in *Illustrated London News*, 26 December 1857, based on a drawing by 'Cuthbert Bede' (the Reverend E. Bradley). The maps of *Enville 1982* on page 92 and *Kinver 1982* on page 120 were drawn by Mary Edwards and Joan Hill from drafts prepared by M.W. Greenslade and N.J. Tringham. The plans of Enville Hall on pages 98, 100 and 101, and of Home Farm, Enville on page 102, were drawn by A.P. Baggs.

The architectural descriptions were prepared in collaboration with A.P. Baggs.

The index consists of the entries under *Enville* and *Kinver* in the index to the original edition of volume XX. It omits all the items indexed under any other heading and the references under *Enville* and *Kinver* to pages not included in this offprint.

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## ENVILLE

THE ancient parish of Enville, 4,986 a. (2,018 ha.) in area,<sup>61</sup> lies on the county boundary with Shropshire. It is rural in character with the grounds of Enville Hall a major feature. The spellings Enfeld, Enveld, and other variants, in use until the late 18th century,<sup>62</sup> derive from Old English words meaning 'smooth field',<sup>63</sup> presumably a reference to the flat ground in the east of the parish. The spelling Envill was used by Christopher Saxton (1577) and some later map-makers. From the late 18th century the spelling Enville was adopted.<sup>64</sup>

A fault runs diagonally through the parish from north-east to south-west. East of the fault the land is flat, lying between 279 ft. (85 m.) and 216 ft. (66 m.). To the west it is undulating, its height falling from 361 ft. (110 m.) in the north-eastern corner to 321 ft. (98 m.) at Lutley in the north and to 288 ft. (88 m.) at Enville village in the centre of the parish. It rises to 484 ft. (147 m.) at Coxgreen in the west and to 670 ft. (204 m.) at No Man's Green in the south-west. Much of the parish boundary with Bobbington is marked by mounds or mounds of earth which existed by the earlier 19th century.<sup>65</sup> An arm of Philley brook forms part of the north-west boundary. In the east the boundary follows Spittle brook and the line of a dried-up tributary. Mill brook forms part of the south-east boundary. Much of the eastern boundary follows Chester Road. The underlying rock is sandstone and breccia. East of the fault the soil is clay; to the west it is generally sandy.<sup>66</sup>

The parish lay in Kinver forest,<sup>67</sup> and the pattern of settlement, a small village and numerous scattered farmhouses, is characteristic of a forest area. Three manors covered the parish: Enville and Morfe, which were settlements in the Anglo-Saxon period, and Lutley, which existed by the mid 12th century. Enville manor lay in the southern half of the parish. To the north of it lay Morfe; the name is of Celtic origin.<sup>68</sup> A tongue of land in the south-western corner of the parish, which included the Hollies, also belonged to Morfe manor. Part of the boundary between Enville and Morfe manors was marked by Sneyd's brook. By the later 12th century the land along the boundary with Bobbington in the north formed Lutley manor. The name Lutley means a small clearing or open space in woodland,<sup>69</sup> and

the area may have been originally part of the extensive woodland in Morfe manor recorded in 1086.<sup>70</sup> Part of Philley brook west of Mere mill divided Morfe and Lutley manors.<sup>71</sup>

In 1086 the recorded population of Enville was 7. There was no recorded population at Morfe, which was then waste.<sup>72</sup> In 1327 Enville had 22 people assessed for tax, Morfe 17, and Lutley 14.<sup>73</sup> In the mid 1520s 57 people in the parish were assessed for tax, and 36 names appeared on the muster roll of 1539.<sup>74</sup> In 1563 there were 41 households.<sup>75</sup> The poll-tax assessment of 1641 listed 219 people.<sup>76</sup> In 1666 ninety-five people were assessed for hearth tax, and a further 29 were too poor to pay.<sup>77</sup> The Compton Census of 1676 returned 500 parishioners.<sup>78</sup> The population was 799 in 1801 and 842 in 1821. It had fallen to 766 by 1831 but risen to 814 by 1841. After reaching 850 in 1861, it declined steadily to 645 in 1901. A rise to 712 in 1911 gave way to another steady decline, the population falling to 657 in 1921, 642 in 1931, 605 in 1951, 515 in 1961, and 468 in 1971.<sup>79</sup>

Enville village lies on the Stourbridge-Bridgnorth road at the foot of a steep ridge. The church stands on top of the ridge. In 1688 the village comprised four houses on the main road, including the Crown inn which existed by 1642 and possibly by 1582, and a further four houses around a green called Bar green on a road running south to Enville Hall from the main road. Another house stood at the foot of the ridge in Blundies Lane.<sup>80</sup> By the later 18th century Bar green had been taken into the hall grounds and most of the houses in the village lay on either side of the main road.<sup>81</sup> The village then had two inns: the Swan, mentioned in 1752,<sup>82</sup> and the Cat, mentioned in 1777.<sup>83</sup> In 1841 there were 15 households in the village and another two on the road to the hall.<sup>84</sup> There was little change until the period between the two World Wars when 10 council houses were built on the north side of Blundies Lane; six privately built houses on the north side of the lane date from the 1960s.<sup>85</sup>

Leigh House farm west of Enville Hall existed by the mid 15th century.<sup>86</sup> It stood on Legh Lane which in the late 17th century ran south-west from Bar green. The lane, although realigned, still existed in the later 18th century but was soon

<sup>61</sup> *Census*, 1971. This article was written in 1981-2. Miss L. Amphlett of Four Ashes Hall, Mrs. E. Bissill of Enville Hall, the Revd. A. A. Collins, rector of Enville, Mr. J. A. Gloss of Whitegates, Enville, Mr. M. J. Scott-Bolton, agent for the Enville Estate, and others named in footnotes are thanked for their help.

<sup>62</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12; S.R.O., D. 42/A/PZ/18-54.

<sup>63</sup> Ekwall, *Eng. Place-Names*.

<sup>64</sup> *Companion to the Leasowes, Hagley, and Enville* (1789); Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 268 sqq.; Pitt, *Staffs.* i. 199.

<sup>65</sup> Above, Bobbington, introduction.

<sup>66</sup> T. H. Whitehead and R. W. Pocock, *Memoirs of Geol. Surv., Dudley and Bridgnorth*, 97, 101-2, 128, 166, 180; P.O. Dir. *Staffs.* (1872).

<sup>67</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>68</sup> *Eng. Place-Name Elements* (E.P.N.S.), ii. 37, 185.

<sup>69</sup> Ekwall, *Eng. Place-Names*.

<sup>70</sup> Below, econ. hist. (agric.).

<sup>71</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, descrip. of Lutley manor bounds 1744.

<sup>72</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 54.

<sup>73</sup> *S.H.C.* vii (1), 252.

<sup>74</sup> P.R.O., E 179/177/106; *S.H.C. N.S.* vi (1), 69-70.

<sup>75</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, p. lxx.

<sup>76</sup> H.L., Main Papers, box 178.

<sup>77</sup> *S.H.C.* 1923, 77-9.

<sup>78</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 33, p. 371.

<sup>79</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* i. 326; *Census*, 1911-71.

<sup>80</sup> S.R.O. 1392; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 7 June 1642; Tp. 1273/12/5, nos. 3, 8.

<sup>81</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/54, plan of Enville Hall grounds c. 1750 (redrawn below, p. 100); Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>82</sup> *Aris's Birmingham Gaz.* 6 Apr. 1752.

<sup>83</sup> S.R.O., D. 42/A/PC/1.

<sup>84</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002.

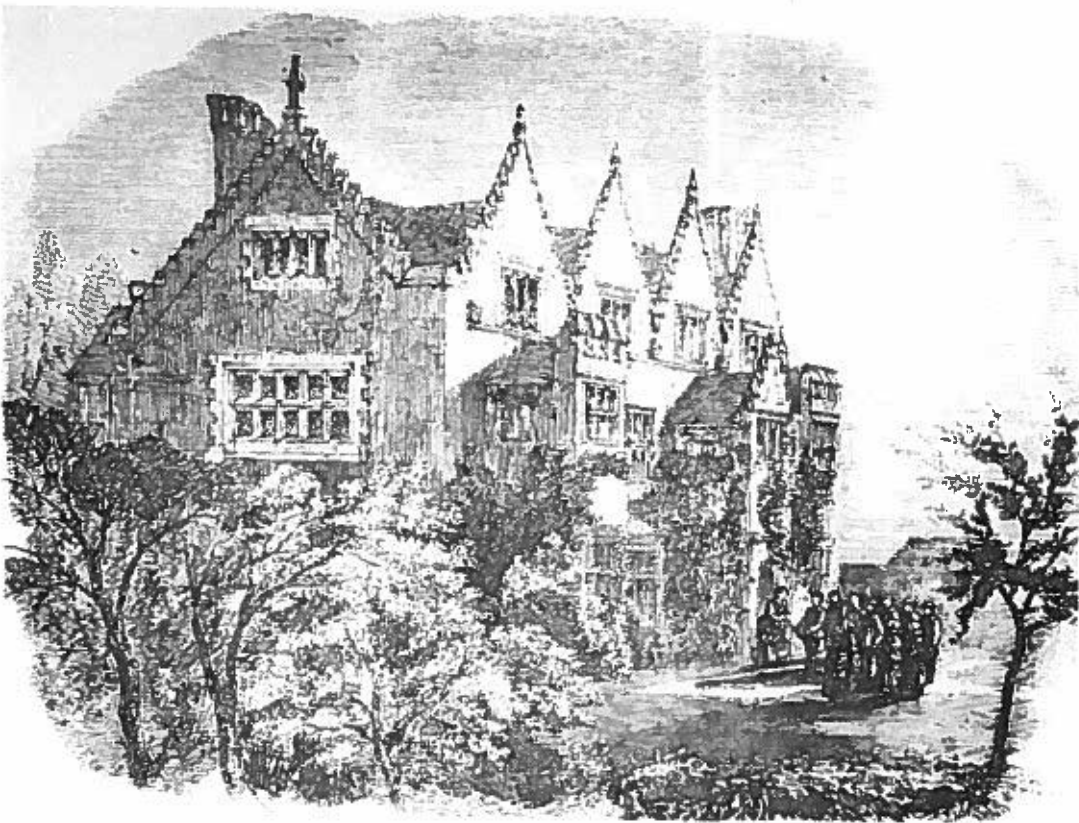
<sup>85</sup> Inf. from Mr. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>86</sup> Below, manors and other estates.





Enville Church 1837

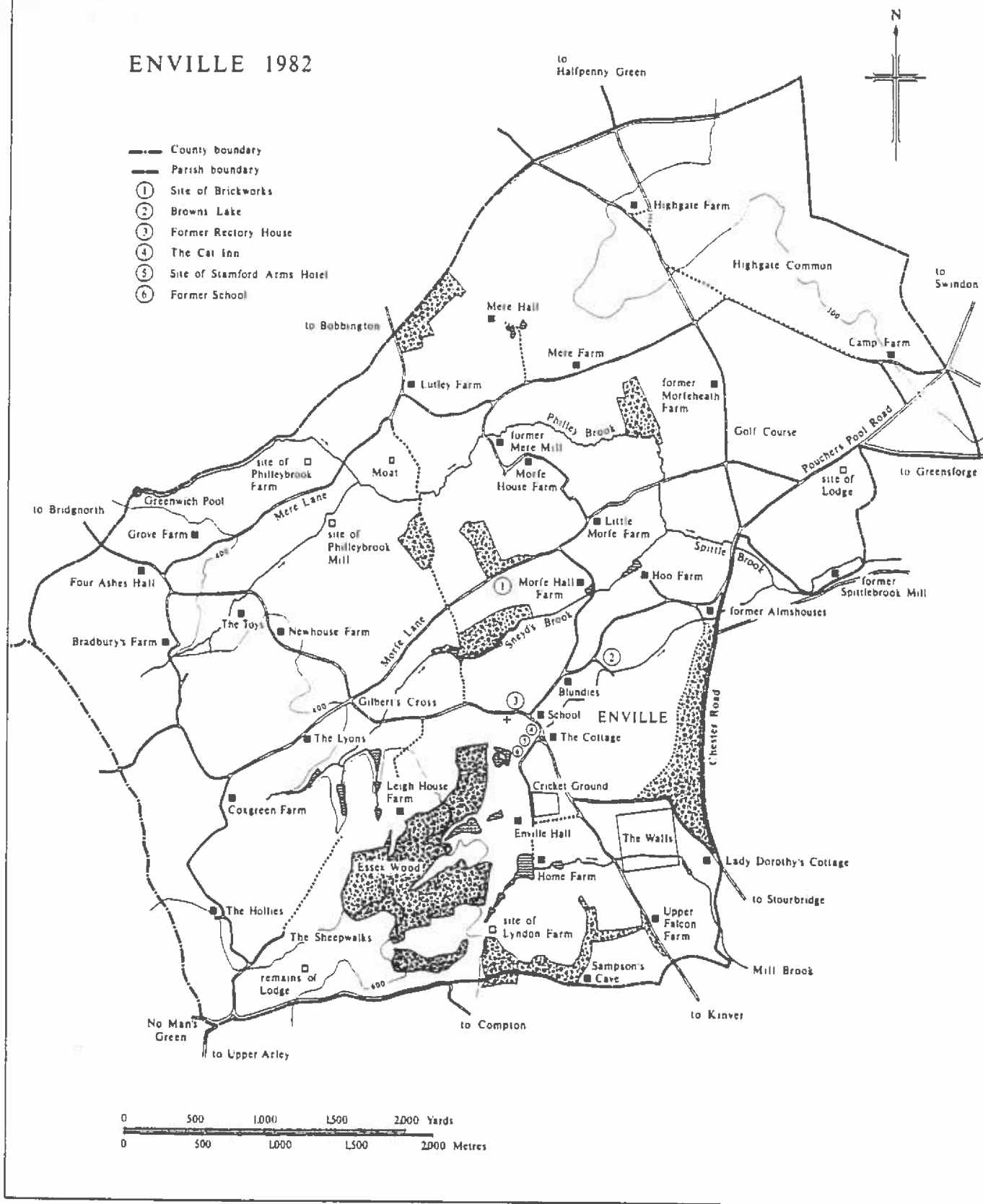


Mere Farm 1857



# A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

## ENVILLE 1982



after taken into Enville Hall grounds.<sup>67</sup> South of Leigh House it passed over an area of high ground known as the Sheepwalks. Because of its name the area has been suggested as a possible site for the pre-Conquest settlement of 'Cippemore', which was waste in 1086; the name probably means sheep moor or shepherd moor.<sup>68</sup> The name Sheepwalks, however, is not found until c. 1800,<sup>69</sup> and in the 17th century the area was known simply as 'the hills'.<sup>70</sup> None the less there was settlement on the Sheepwalks by 1327 when a William de la Hull was mentioned.<sup>71</sup> The Hull, later Hillhouse, was still inhabited in 1692.<sup>72</sup> There was also a warrener's lodge on the southern edge of the Sheepwalks, probably by 1623.<sup>73</sup>

There was settlement at Lyndon south of Enville Hall by 1312.<sup>74</sup> Lyndon Farm was one of five houses there in 1663;<sup>75</sup> it was demolished c. 1961.<sup>76</sup> A rock house called Sampson's Cave on the parish boundary south of Lyndon was constructed by Sampson Allen, who was alive in 1768; in 1770 it was occupied by Thomas Brook. It was still inhabited in 1861 and evidently remained in use into the 20th century.<sup>77</sup> Upper Falcon Farm east of Lyndon had been built by 1688.<sup>78</sup> Lady Dorothy's Cottage north-east of the farm was built in 1755 as a charity school.<sup>79</sup> The area known as the Walls, north of the farm, takes its name from a retreat created by Harry Grey, earl of Stamford (d. 1739), on what was then part of the common. The earl, believing lime unwholesome, built a small wooden house there; it was struck by lightning in 1728, and he built another house with several rooms and a cellar. He enclosed it with a high brick wall forming a square with sides of 400 yd.<sup>1</sup> The site is on a ridge overlooking a small valley to the south and the hills beyond. In 1982 the house no longer stood, but much of the wall survived.

A settlement called Hoo in the later 13th century<sup>2</sup> may be identified with Blundies north-east of Enville village: the Blundel family, from whom the name Blundies evidently derives, was living in Enville parish at that date, and land once held by a Walter Blundel was recorded in the hamlet of 'la Hoo' in 1323.<sup>3</sup> A messuage called Blundells c. 1527<sup>4</sup> may have been the present Blundies farmhouse, which incorporates one wing of a 16th- or 17th-century timber-framed house; the rest of the house was rebuilt in brick in the 18th and 19th centuries. Another partly timber-framed farmhouse stood north of Blundies

Farm in the late 18th century;<sup>5</sup> it was probably demolished soon after Lord Stamford bought it in 1811.<sup>6</sup> There were other houses along, and to the south of, the road to Hoo Farm in the late 18th century.<sup>7</sup> Those to the south may have made up a subsidiary settlement called Over Hoo; land at Over Hoo was recorded in 1313, and there was a messuage there by 1446.<sup>8</sup> The houses were probably demolished in the early 19th century after property in that area had been bought up by Lord Stamford.<sup>9</sup> In 1841 there were eight families living at Blundies, one of them at Blundies Farm and the others presumably in the cottages around the junction of the roads to Morfe and Hoo Farm.<sup>10</sup> In the mid 1950s 12 council houses were built in Browns Lake and at its junction with Blundies Lane. A further four council bungalows in Blundies Lane and four council houses in Brookside off Browns Lake date from 1963.<sup>11</sup>

Hoo Farm north-east of Blundies incorporates one wing of a 16th- or 17th-century timber-framed house; the brick front was added in the early 19th century. Further east there was a house on Chester Road south of Spittle brook by 1775;<sup>12</sup> in the late 18th and early 19th century it was occupied as the Cock inn and subsequently used as the workhouse. The three council houses further south were originally built as poorhouses in the early 19th century.<sup>13</sup>

Although the manor of Morfe was described as waste in 1086, the area may not have been depopulated. Mere mill on Philley brook may have existed by 1222,<sup>14</sup> and Morfe Hall Farm to the south on Sneyd's brook may stand on or near the site of the medieval manor house.<sup>15</sup> A small settlement grew up around the junction of Morfe Lane and the road from Enville: two timber-framed cottages, dating probably from the 17th century, survive there, and there were a few houses nearby in 1775.<sup>16</sup> In 1841 there were 19 families living at Morfe, evidently at Morfe House Farm and to the south; a further eight families lived near Morfe Hall Farm.<sup>17</sup> Little Morfe Farm at the junction of Morfe Lane and the road from Enville was built in 1852.<sup>18</sup> There was little subsequent change: the farmhouses and most of the cottages, or their 20th-century replacements, still stood in 1982. The part of Morfe manor east of Chester Road was waste land until the 17th century. A warrener's lodge stood on the waste near Pouchers Pool, probably by 1623.<sup>19</sup> After the waste was inclosed in 1683, two farms

<sup>67</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/54, plan of Enville Hall grounds c. 1750; Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775); R. Baugh, *Map of Salop.* (1808).

<sup>68</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 54; *Eng. Place-Name Elements*, ii. 42-3, 100-1.

<sup>69</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 271 (calling it the Sheep Walk); B.L. Maps, O.S.D. 214 (calling it Sheepwalks).

<sup>70</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, undated survey of Enville manor, 11, 1623 survey; 40, deed of 23 Mar. 1691/2.

<sup>71</sup> *S.H.C.* vii (1), 252.

<sup>72</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville cts. of 14 Mar. 1593/4 and 15 Oct. 1603, and 1623 survey; 40, deed of 23 Mar. 1691/2.

<sup>73</sup> Below, econ. hist. (agric.).

<sup>74</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, deed of 12 Sept. 1663.

<sup>75</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>76</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/58, charity papers; P.R.O., HO 107/1002; P.R.O., RG 9/1985; D. M. Bills and E. and W. R. Griffiths, *Kinver Rock Houses* (Kinver, n.d.), 21.

<sup>77</sup> S.R.O. 1392.

<sup>78</sup> Below, educ.

<sup>79</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 269-70.

<sup>1</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 141.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 17 July 1323.

<sup>3</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of survey c. 1527.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 58, Yorke, valuation of 1791 and undated plan.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. 3, bdle. 29, case for counsel Mar. 1811.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. 54, map of John Downing's estate c. 1781; 58, Yorke, valuation of 1791 and undated plan.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. 8, deed of 14 Aug. 1446; 12/6, no. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Below, econ. hist. (agric.).

<sup>9</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002.

<sup>10</sup> Inf. from Mr. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>11</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>12</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/42, deeds of 29 Mar. 1793, 19 Dec. 1818; below, local govt.

<sup>13</sup> Below, econ. hist. (mills).

<sup>14</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>15</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>16</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002.

<sup>17</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, cash bk. Mar. and Apr. 1852.

<sup>18</sup> Below, econ. hist. (agric.).

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

were established: Morfeheath farm existed by 1723, and Camp farm to the east by 1744.<sup>20</sup>

Gilbert's Cross, where Morfe Lane meets the Stourbridge-Bridgnorth road, was an inhabited area by the 17th century.<sup>21</sup> The cross, which possibly took its name from the Domesday lord of Enville, may have served as a boundary mark between Enville and Morfe manors.<sup>22</sup> There were at least three cottages at Gilbert's Cross in the later 18th century;<sup>23</sup> only one survived in 1982. Newhouse Farm on the main road to the north existed by 1688.<sup>24</sup> Woodhouse, mentioned in 1326 and presumably an inhabited site, stood on the other side of the road from Newhouse Farm. The site was inhabited in 1688 but not in the late 18th century.<sup>25</sup> The boundary with Lutley manor lay immediately to the north.<sup>26</sup> A farmhouse called Lyons west of Gilbert's Cross existed by 1704.<sup>27</sup> The name may have been taken from Lions meadow, mentioned in 1300.<sup>28</sup> The present tall white-brick villa in Tudor style known as the Lyons was built in 1847 for Job Bissell, formerly of Tipton.<sup>29</sup> Coxgreen Farm further west was inhabited by the late 16th century, and probably earlier. The Hollies in the south-west corner of the parish was inhabited by the 16th century.<sup>30</sup>

The earliest settlement in Lutley probably lay near the point where Mere Lane was crossed by a road between Enville and Bobbington.<sup>31</sup> The medieval manor house stood south of the road junction; a moated site survived there in 1982. Lutley Farm at the junction dates from the late 15th century or earlier.<sup>32</sup> There was an inhabited area called Philleybrook west of the moated site in the early 14th century.<sup>33</sup> A house there was known as Philleybrook Hall in the late 17th and earlier 18th century;<sup>34</sup> by the late 18th century it was occupied by farm labourers, and it was demolished in the 19th century.<sup>35</sup> Poolhouse Farm, a 19th-century building of red brick, stands near Mere mill east of the moated site. There was settlement at Mere east of Lutley by the early 14th century, probably near the present Mere Hall which stands north of Mere Lane. The nearby Mere Farm dates from the later 16th century.<sup>36</sup> Further east lies Highgate common, formerly the northern part of the waste which

covered the eastern edge of the parish. Highgate Farm on the edge of the common was inhabited by 1693.<sup>37</sup> The waste was inclosed in 1746<sup>38</sup> but remained uncultivated. A golf course was laid out over the southern part of the common in the later 1930s.<sup>39</sup> In the mid 1950s Staffordshire county council bought 331 a. (134 ha.) north of the golf course and opened most of it as a country park.<sup>40</sup>

Grove Farm west of Lutley was inhabited by the late 14th century.<sup>41</sup> The present farmhouse of red brick dates from the early 18th century.<sup>42</sup> A tenement called Groundwyns on the Bobbington boundary north of Grove Farm existed by 1391.<sup>43</sup> It was probably inhabited then, and there was still a farmhouse there in 1770, when it was also known as Greenage.<sup>44</sup> Nothing more is known of the house which evidently lay near Greenwich Pool. The point where Mere Lane crosses the Stourbridge-Bridgnorth road was marked by four ash trees, mentioned in 1496.<sup>45</sup> There were still four trees standing there in 1817.<sup>46</sup> The site of Four Ashes Hall on the west side of the main road was inhabited by 1680.<sup>47</sup> In 1775 there were at least five cottages near the hall on a lane to Coxgreen Farm;<sup>48</sup> most of them survived in 1982. Toys Farm south-east of Four Ashes Hall existed by 1496.<sup>49</sup> Bradbury's Farm south of the hall is a partly timber-framed building dating from the 17th century.

The main road through the parish, the Stourbridge-Bridgnorth road, was mentioned in 1391.<sup>50</sup> It was turnpiked in 1816 and disturnpiked in 1877.<sup>51</sup> Chester Road, which runs north from the Stourbridge-Bridgnorth road in the south-east corner of the parish, was known in 1300 as Chester Way, being part of the route between the south-west of England and Chester, which continued in use until c. 1800. When Sir John Dugdale inquired about travelling from London to Enville to attend Henry Grey's funeral in 1687, he was advised to take first a coach to Worcester; there he was presumably to take the Chester road to Enville. The stretch running north from Highgate towards Halfpenny Green in Bobbington was turnpiked in 1762.<sup>52</sup>

A coach service between Stourbridge and Bridgnorth stopped at the Cat inn three times a week in 1834. There was only a Saturday omni-

<sup>20</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, will of Gravenor Dyson 1725; 38, licence to appropriate pew in Enville ch. 18 June 1723; Salop. R.O. 2089/25, plan of Enville ch. pews 1744.

<sup>21</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 13 Apr. 1629; S.R.O. 1392.

<sup>22</sup> P.R.O., E 318/39/2101; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 7 Apr. 1614; below, manors and other estates.

<sup>23</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>24</sup> S.R.O. 1392.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/8, nos. 1, 3, 7; Tp. 1273/12/10, no. 2; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/54, undated map of Newhouse farm.

<sup>26</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, descrip. of Lutley manor bounds 1744.

<sup>27</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, deed of 21 Dec. 1704.

<sup>28</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 180; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/10, deed of 17 Feb. 1673/4.

<sup>29</sup> *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1845); date on house.

<sup>30</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>31</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/54, undated map of Newhouse and Fillbrook farms.

<sup>32</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>33</sup> P.R.O., C 143/76, no. 17; *S.H.C.* 1911, 329.

<sup>34</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deeds of 28 Sept. 1632, 26 Aug. 1674; 10, deed of 5 Oct. 1743; 54, undated map of Fillbrook farm.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.* 25, partic. and valuation of Ld. Starnford's Enville estates 1792; L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville.

<sup>36</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>37</sup> S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6, burial of 24 Nov. 1693.

<sup>38</sup> Below, econ. hist. (agric.).

<sup>39</sup> Below, social and cultural activities.

<sup>40</sup> Inf. from Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept. (1982).

<sup>41</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/6, nos. 16, 19.

<sup>42</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, bdle. 6, deed of 20 Jan. 1721/2.

<sup>43</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 11 Nov. 1391.

<sup>44</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, bdle. 22, deed of 26 June 1770.

<sup>45</sup> S.R.O., D. 593/J/15, ct. of 1 Nov. 1496.

<sup>46</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, deed of 7 Apr. 1817 relating to diversion of road.

<sup>47</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>48</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>49</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deed of 1 Oct. 1396 and Lutley ct. of 30 Oct. 1610; S.R.O., D. 593/J/15, ct. of 1 Nov. 1496.

<sup>50</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 11 Nov. 1391.

<sup>51</sup> Below, p. 127.

<sup>52</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 180; Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deeds of 6 Nov. 1440, 24 Mar. 1540/1, 1 May 1673; S.R.O., Tp. 1226, folder 8, Sir John Dugdale to John Huntbach 8 and 15 Jan. 1686/7; Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 28 Oct. 1609; below, Patshull, introduction.

bus service in 1845 and 1850. Omnibuses from Kinver to Wolverhampton stopped in Enville in 1860. Letters were brought by carrier from Stourbridge daily by 1845; by 1850 there was a post office in Enville village.<sup>53</sup>

A gasworks was built south of Home Farm probably in the late 1850s. It served the hall and its outbuildings and was able to provide gas to houses in the village. Still working in 1901, it had ceased to operate by 1921.<sup>54</sup> Water was supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Works Co. by the mid 1920s, and electricity was available by 1935.<sup>55</sup>

The parish had an association for the prosecution of felons in 1811 and 1833.<sup>56</sup> There was a police officer living in the parish by 1846, when repairs were made to a police cottage provided by Lord Stamford.<sup>57</sup> The officer was living in Blundies Lane in 1851 and 1871.<sup>58</sup>

There was a children's convalescent home known as the Cottage in Enville village in 1888. It was still there in 1892, but by 1896 it had moved elsewhere in the parish.<sup>59</sup> Nothing further is known about it.

**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.** The black cherries for which Enville was noted had given rise by the early 19th century to what were called cherry wakes, held on three consecutive Sundays in late July and early August.<sup>60</sup> The wakes were tourist events rather than simply parish festivities; they attracted large crowds from the neighbouring towns and were accompanied by cock-fighting, boxing, and general unruliness.<sup>61</sup> In July 1821 a parish celebration for the coronation of George IV was marred by a disturbance created by men from Wordsley supporting his estranged wife, Queen Caroline. Although the subsequent wakes that year were quieter than usual, Lord Stamford's agent at Enville Hall suggested replacing them with a single Monday wake.<sup>62</sup> The change was soon implemented, and by the mid 1840s organized games and sports were a principal feature of the wake, then held at the end of July or beginning of August.<sup>63</sup> Nothing further is known of the wake.

In 1853 Lord Stamford opened the gardens of Enville Hall to the public.<sup>64</sup> In 1856 he staged a three-day fête in connexion with a cricket festival; there were bands and balloon ascents, and a

firework display on the evening of the last day attracted a crowd estimated at between 60,000 and 80,000 people.<sup>65</sup> In the mid 1850s, when the gardens were open twice-weekly from the beginning of May to the end of September, an average of between 6,000 and 8,000 visited them each week; most came from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, and Stourbridge. In order to accommodate the visitors in time for the 1857 season the earl built the Stamford Arms hotel on a site behind the Cat inn; the hotel could serve 300 people in its two refreshment rooms and had stables for 50 horses.<sup>66</sup> An evening concert of music was held in the hotel in 1882.<sup>67</sup> After the closure of the gardens to casual visitors in 1892 the hotel too was closed. The building survived as a private house, Stamford House, until its demolition in 1950.<sup>68</sup>

Other aspects of social life in the parish reflected the tastes and activities of the owners of Enville Hall. There was a hunt at Enville c. 1790 with the earl as master. In the late 1840s Lord Stamford hunted the Albrighton country at his own expense, keeping the dogs in kennels on the Sheepwalks. He again took the Albrighton Hunt in 1855.<sup>69</sup> By 1800 there was a racecourse east of Enville village on the Kinver side of the parish boundary.<sup>70</sup> It was used for racing and training horses stabled at Enville Hall.<sup>71</sup> The course was maintained until the late 19th century, and its outline still survived in 1982. Race horses were again kept at the hall then, but they were trained mostly on a new ground south of Home Farm.<sup>72</sup>

By 1821 cricket was played on a ground east of Enville Hall.<sup>73</sup> A team was raised by Lord Stamford employing as coaches F. W. Lillywhite, the M.C.C. bowler, and one of his sons in 1846,<sup>74</sup> and R. C. Tinley, another bowler, in 1853.<sup>75</sup> The earl, who was elected president of the M.C.C. in 1851, held cricket festivals at Enville in the 1850s. An All England XI and a United England XI played Lord Stamford's Twenty-Two, made up of professionals and local players, including the earl himself. In 1856 a three-day match attracted a crowd estimated at over 10,000 on the second day.<sup>76</sup> An XI led by the earl played the Free Foresters in 1858, and in 1872 a county team played the M.C.C. at Enville.<sup>77</sup> The ground, which covered 6½ a., was exceptionally smooth and was regarded as superior to that at Lord's.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>53</sup> White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 258; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1845; 1850; 1860).

<sup>54</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/35, John Ewson to Mr. Hackett 30 Mar. 1858; 54, plan of proposed Enville hall gasworks 1858; O.S. Map 1/2,500, Staffs. LXX. 7 (1883 edn.).

<sup>55</sup> Seisdon R.D.C. *Reps. of M.O.H.* 1921, 8; 1925, 8; 1935, 10 (copies in S.R.O., C/H/1/2/2/36).

<sup>56</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/5, outgoing from Staffs. estate, 1833 acct.; 50, letter of John Beckett to Ld. Grey 28 Dec. 1818.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.* 39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.) 1846.

<sup>58</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017(1); P.R.O., RG 10/2928.

<sup>59</sup> Kelly's *Dir. Staffs.* (1888; 1892; 1896).

<sup>60</sup> White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 256.

<sup>61</sup> E. Burritt, *Walks in the Black Country and its Green Border-land* (1869 edn.), 285-6, 288. For a main of cocks held at Enville in 1752 see *Aris's Birmingham Gaz.* 6 Apr. 1752.

<sup>62</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/50, John Beckett to Ld. Stamford 21 and 30 July, 6 Aug. 1821.

<sup>63</sup> Notices of the wake 1845, 1847, and 1850, displayed at the Cat inn, Enville. <sup>64</sup> *Illus. London News*, 2 Aug. 1856.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*; Burritt, *Walks in Black Country*, 284-5; W. G. Watson, *Staffs. Cricket*, 21.

<sup>66</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/43, memo. to Com. of Inland Revenue re Swan Hotel, 1857; Burritt, *Walks in Black Country*, 282-3.

<sup>67</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, notice of concert.

<sup>68</sup> *Gardeners' Chron.* 15 Feb. 1896, p. 200; inf. from Mr. M. J. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>69</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 359-60; J. E. Auden, *Short Hist. of Albrighton Hunt*, 15, 72-3, 77; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.) 1846-8.

<sup>70</sup> S.R.O., D. 1140/2.

<sup>71</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/31, racing accts.; 39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.) 1846.

<sup>72</sup> Inf. from Mr. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>73</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/50, John Beckett to Ld. Stamford 16 July 1821.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.* 39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.) 1846; *D.N.B.* s.v. Lillywhite.

<sup>75</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, Enville estate cash bk., 19 Oct. 1853; H. S. Altham, *Hist. of Cricket*, 92-3.

<sup>76</sup> Watson, *Staffs. Cricket*, 18-21.

<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.* 22, 67.

<sup>78</sup> *Illus. London News*, 1 Aug. 1857.

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In 1979 it was used for one of the qualifying matches for that year's cricket world cup.<sup>79</sup> Enville Cricket Club, established in 1850,<sup>80</sup> was still using the ground in 1983.

Enville Golf Club was founded in 1933. A golf course covering 118 a. was laid out over the southern part of Highgate common in the later 1930s; it was extended in 1971 and again in 1981 when it covered 243 a. The first clubhouse stood on the east side of Chester Road. In 1968 the club moved into Morfeheath Farm.<sup>81</sup>

The custom of clementing, when children sang as they begged for apples and money on St. Clement's day (23 November), was followed at Enville by the mid 1840s.<sup>82</sup> It survived c. 1930 but later died out. It was revived in 1961.<sup>83</sup>

Penny readings at which there was poetry and music were begun by Lady Stamford in the mid 1860s. First held in the school, meetings were later held at Enville Hall. That of 1867 had an attendance of 450.<sup>84</sup>

Two friendly societies, the Enville Amicable Society and the Swan Club, apparently existed by the mid 1780s. They still functioned in the mid 1840s.<sup>85</sup> A sick club existed in 1847.<sup>86</sup> By 1848 there was a coal club, which continued until 1925 or shortly afterwards.<sup>87</sup> Rules for a clothing club were drawn up in 1862.<sup>88</sup>

**MANORS AND OTHER ESTATES.** Before the Conquest *ENVILLE* was held by Alric, a king's thegn. In 1086 William FitzAnsculf held 3 hides there.<sup>89</sup> The overlordship then descended with the barony of Dudley. When the barony was divided in 1323 after the death of John, Lord Somery, the overlordship of 1 knight's fee in Enville was allotted to his elder sister Margaret and her husband John de Sutton.<sup>90</sup> There seems to be no later mention of it.

By the 1250s a mesme lordship of Enville was held by William of Birmingham, lord of Birmingham.<sup>91</sup> In the later 13th and earlier 14th century Enville was held of the Birmingham family as 1 knight's fee.<sup>92</sup> In 1386 Sir John Birmingham conveyed his estates in Enville and Morfe to John Horewood of Kinver.<sup>93</sup> The lordship then descended in the Horewood (later Whorwood)

family with Compton Hallows, in Kinver, until at least 1581, when Enville was held of Thomas Whorwood.<sup>94</sup>

The terre tenant of Enville in 1086 was Gilbert.<sup>95</sup> Ralph of Enville held the manor in 1176 and 1183.<sup>96</sup> He was evidently succeeded by William of Enville,<sup>97</sup> and William by Richard of Enville, who was living in 1207.<sup>98</sup> He or another Richard held Enville in 1227.<sup>99</sup> The manor was later held by John of Enville. He was dead by 1242 when his widow Margery recovered her dower of  $\frac{1}{3}$  knight's fee in Enville, seized by the sheriff when her second husband killed a man and fled the realm.<sup>1</sup> John's heir, a minor when the mesne lord had custody of the manor in the mid 1250s,<sup>2</sup> was probably the Richard of Enville who was lord in the mid 1260s.<sup>3</sup> He was a verderer of Kinver forest in 1271 and was alive in 1276.<sup>4</sup> He was succeeded, probably in that year, by his son William, who was alive in 1286<sup>5</sup> but may have died that year or in 1287.<sup>6</sup> Andrew of Enville was lord in 1291 and still held the manor in 1317.<sup>7</sup> Ralph of Enville, possibly his brother, was lord in 1323 and 1333.<sup>8</sup> Richard of Enville, probably Ralph's son, was lord in 1342<sup>9</sup> and was probably the man of that name recorded in 1355.<sup>10</sup> A Ralph of Enville, one of the foresters of Kinver forest, was killed in Iverley hay in the forest in 1354 or 1355.<sup>11</sup> He was evidently Richard's son. In 1363 Sir Fulk Birmingham granted the wardship and marriage of Joan, daughter and heir of Ralph, son of Richard of Enville, to Thomas Dunclent, rector of Tredington (Worcs., later Warws.), who in 1364 conveyed them to Thomas Lowe of Whittington, in Kinver.<sup>12</sup> It seems that Joan later married into the Lowe family.

Roger Lowe was lord of Enville in 1428 and may already have held the manor in 1421.<sup>13</sup> William Lowe, lord in 1437-8, was probably the William Lowe of Enville who was alive in 1452.<sup>14</sup> Richard Lowe, probably William's immediate heir, forfeited his manor of Milton (Cambs.), and presumably Enville also, when Edward IV was restored in 1471; as Richard Lowe late of Enville he was being sought for various high treasons and felonies in 1472. He was pardoned in 1473; later that year he and his wife Eleanor settled Enville and Milton on themselves and their issue, with

<sup>79</sup> *Wisden Cricketer's Almanack* (117th edn.), 314.

<sup>80</sup> Centenary score card in possession of Mr. J. A. Gloss.

<sup>81</sup> Inf. from Mr. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>82</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.) 1846; *N. & Q.* 2nd ser. iv (1857), 495; above, pl. facing p. 33.

<sup>83</sup> S.R.O., D. 1359/8/2.

<sup>84</sup> Burritt, *Walks in Black Country*, 288, 290.

<sup>85</sup> *Rules and Regulations of Stewponney Agric. Soc. for 1846*, 13 (copy in S.R.O., D. 1273/31); S.R.O., Tp. 1273/39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.) 1846.

<sup>86</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.) Sept. 1847.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid. May 1848; Tp. 1273/24, Enville Coal Club accts. 1868-1925.

<sup>88</sup> Copy in possession of Mr. Gloss.

<sup>89</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 54.

<sup>90</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 258; *Cal. Close*, 1318-23, 630.

<sup>91</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, 338; *S.H.C.* v (1), 109-10. For the Birmingham see *V.C.H. Warws.* vii. 58-9.

<sup>92</sup> *S.H.C.* iv (1), 154; *Feud. Aids*, v. 10; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, p. 496; vi, p. 258.

<sup>93</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/3, no. 1. *V.C.H. Warws.* vii. 59, wrongly gives Sir John's date of death as 1380.

<sup>94</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, valor of lands of John Grey 1581.

<sup>95</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 54.

<sup>96</sup> *S.H.C.* i. 78-9, 112.

<sup>97</sup> *S.H.C.* iii (1), 218; *Sir Christopher Hatton's Book of Seals*, ed. L. C. Loyd and D. M. Stenton, p. 34.

<sup>98</sup> *Hatton's Bk. of Seals*, p. 32; *S.H.C.* iii (1), 139.

<sup>99</sup> *S.H.C.* iv (1), 47-8, 59.

<sup>1</sup> *Close R.* 1237-42, 387.

<sup>2</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, ii. 968; *S.H.C.* v (1), 110.

<sup>3</sup> *Close R. (Suppl.)*, 1244-66, p. 48; *Ex. e Rot. Fin. (Rec. Com.)*, ii. 442; *S.H.C.* n.s. vi (2), 43.

<sup>4</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 140; *S.H.C.* 1911, 167.

<sup>5</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 174; *Feud. Aids*, v. 10. The Wm. of Enville whose widow Alice brought a plea of dower in 1279 (*S.H.C.* vi (1), 96) may have been a younger brother of Ric.

<sup>6</sup> *S.H.C.* vi (1), 169, plea of dower by Joan, widow of Wal. (? recte Wm.) of Enville, 1287.

<sup>7</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, p. 496; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 4.

<sup>8</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 17 Oct. 1623; *S.H.C.* n.s. v. 219, 225-6.

<sup>9</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/2, no. 1; *ibid.* 12/4, nos. 5-6.

<sup>10</sup> *S.H.C.* xii (1), 134.

<sup>11</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1354-8, 232.

<sup>12</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/4, nos. 7A, 7B, 8. For Dunclent see *V.C.H. Worcs.* iii. 550.

<sup>13</sup> *Feud. Aids*, v. 22; *Cal. Close*, 1419-22, 206.

<sup>14</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 17 Oct. 1623; *S.H.C.* n.s. iii. 206.

remainder to Richard's heirs.<sup>15</sup> He died in or shortly before 1479, with his two sisters Constance and Elizabeth as his heirs. His widow Eleanor, who remarried twice, held a life interest in a moiety of the manor and was still living in 1497. In that year Thomas Arnold and his wife Margaret, daughter and heir of Richard Lowe's sister Elizabeth, conveyed to John Whichcot the elder and two others the reversion of that moiety. In or before 1510 Whichcot's son John conveyed the moiety to Edward (from 1513 Sir Edward) Grey of Whittington, in Kinver.<sup>16</sup> By 1527 the other moiety had passed to Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley; in 1528 he and his son Sir John Dudley sold it to Grey.<sup>17</sup>

Sir Edward Grey died in 1529 and was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas. Under Sir Edward's will a younger son Francis was to have a moiety of Enville for life when he came of age; it is not clear whether the provision took effect.<sup>18</sup> Thomas, who moved from Whittington to Enville before 1548, was M.P. for Staffordshire in 1554. He died in 1559 in possession of the whole manor and was succeeded by his son John, aged nine.<sup>19</sup> John, who was three times M.P. for the county, died childless in 1594,<sup>20</sup> and Enville passed to his widow Jane as dower; she was still alive in 1608.<sup>21</sup> Under settlements made by John and his brother Edward, John's estates passed to Ambrose Grey. He was a younger son of a distant cousin, Sir Henry Grey of Pyrgo, in Havering-atte-Bower (Essex), from 1603 Lord Grey of Groby.<sup>22</sup> Jane conveyed her interest in the manor house to Ambrose c. 1605, and he took possession of the house shortly thereafter. Although he was living at Lutley in 1608, he had moved to Enville by 1614.<sup>23</sup> He died in 1636 and was succeeded by his son Henry.<sup>24</sup>

Henry Grey died in 1687, having devised his estates to John Grey, a younger son of his cousin Henry, earl of Stamford.<sup>25</sup> John, three times M.P. for Staffordshire, died in 1709. He was succeeded by his son Harry, who in 1720 became 3rd earl of Stamford on the death of his cousin Thomas. Enville then descended with the earldom. Harry died in 1739. His son Harry (d. 1768) married Lady Mary Booth (d. 1772), daughter and heir of the wealthy George, earl of Warrington (d. 1758), and their son George Harry, the 5th earl, was created earl of Warrington in 1796. The style 'earl of Stamford and Warrington' was used until the death of George Harry, the 7th earl, in 1883, but the shortened form 'earl of

Stamford' was still commonly employed.<sup>26</sup> The 7th earl left all his English estates to his widow Katherine for life; on her death in 1905 the Staffordshire estates passed, under the earl's will, to her grandniece Catherine, daughter of the Revd. Henry Payne, rector of Enville, and wife of Sir Henry Foley Lambert, Bt. The Lamberts took the name Grey later in 1905. Sir Henry died in 1914 and Lady Catherine in 1925. Their son Sir John Foley Grey, Bt., died in 1938 and was succeeded by his daughter Eileen, who married the earl of Harrington in 1942 and Mr. J. P. Bissill in 1947.<sup>27</sup>

Nothing survives of a medieval manor house unless fragments of one were incorporated in the brick house which Thomas Grey built at Enville before 1548.<sup>28</sup> The new house contained hall, parlour, chapel, armoury, kitchen and other service rooms, and at least 18 chambers.<sup>29</sup> It faced south and lay round three sides of a courtyard which was a little under 40 ft. square; the fourth side was closed by a wall with a central gateway. The hall occupied the ground floor of the central range. There were octagonal turrets in the angles between the ranges. In the 1680s short wings extended outwards from the south ends of the side ranges, and a long two-storeyed service wing extended east from the hall range. Amenities in the house then included water-powered spits in the kitchen.<sup>30</sup>

By the mid 18th century the wall closing the courtyard had been removed, small additions had been built on the west side of the house, and there was a large outer entrance court flanked by walls. On the east side of the house an enclosed court had been created in the early 18th century. Beyond it the stables are of similar date.<sup>31</sup> They have been attributed to William Baker of Audlem (Ches.), who was at Enville in 1748 and was paid for plans in 1750,<sup>32</sup> but they have architectural details which appear to be earlier than the mid 18th century. Baker's work was perhaps on the nearby Home Farm.

The accession of the 5th earl in 1768 was followed by increased building activity; the death of his mother in 1772 no doubt substantially increased his income. Sir William Chambers produced designs for a large new house, probably in or before 1772,<sup>33</sup> but they were not used. In 1773-4 Robert Mylne also designed a new house for Enville which was not built.<sup>34</sup> Instead the earl enlarged and remodelled the old building. A pedimented classical wing of three storeys and nine

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, 276, 308; *S.H.C.* xi. 251; *S.H.C. N.S.* iv. 186.

<sup>16</sup> *S.H.C.* xi. 252; xii (1), 178; *S.H.C.* 1917-18, 290 n.; *P.R.O.*, C 1/174, no. 24; *P.R.O.*, C 140/69, no. 12; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12, deed of 12 Mar. 1509/10; below, Kinver, manors and other estates.

<sup>17</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/11, Enville cts. of 8 July 1527, 26 Oct. 1528; 12, deed of 14 Dec. 1528.

<sup>18</sup> *P.R.O.*, C 142/49, no. 53.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* 127, no. 46; *P.R.O.*, E 150/1054, no. 2; *S.H.C.* 1917-18, 339-40; below.

<sup>20</sup> *S.H.C.* 1917-18, 359. The date of his death is given as 1593 and 1594 in *P.R.O.*, REQ 2/42/70, and as 1595 in *P.R.O.*, C 142/517, no. 4.

<sup>21</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/11, deed of 1 Aug. 1608; 12, deed of 12 Dec. 1591; *P.R.O.*, C 2/Eliz. 1/G 3/56.

<sup>22</sup> *V.C.H. Worcs.* iii. 218.

<sup>23</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/11, deed of 1 Aug. 1608; *S.H.C.* v (2), 339.

<sup>24</sup> *P.R.O.*, C 142/554, no. 64.

<sup>25</sup> For this para. see, unless otherwise stated, *Staffs. Pedigrees 1664-1700* (Harl. Soc. lxiii), 111-12; *S.H.C.* 1920 and 1922, 166-7; *Complete Peerage*, xii (1), 224-8; xii (2), 356; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/6, deed of 9 Nov. 1683.

<sup>26</sup> The shortened form has normally been used in the present volume.

<sup>27</sup> Burke, *Peerage* (1970), 1531.

<sup>28</sup> *P.R.O.*, E 326/11298; Erdeswick, *Staffs.* 381.

<sup>29</sup> *L.J.R.O.*, B/C 11, Thos. Grey (1566).

<sup>30</sup> Plot, *Staffs.* 40-1, 121, 337, and pl. VII (reproduced above, facing p. 96), pl. XXXII fig. 1.

<sup>31</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/54, plan of Enville Hall grounds c. 1750.

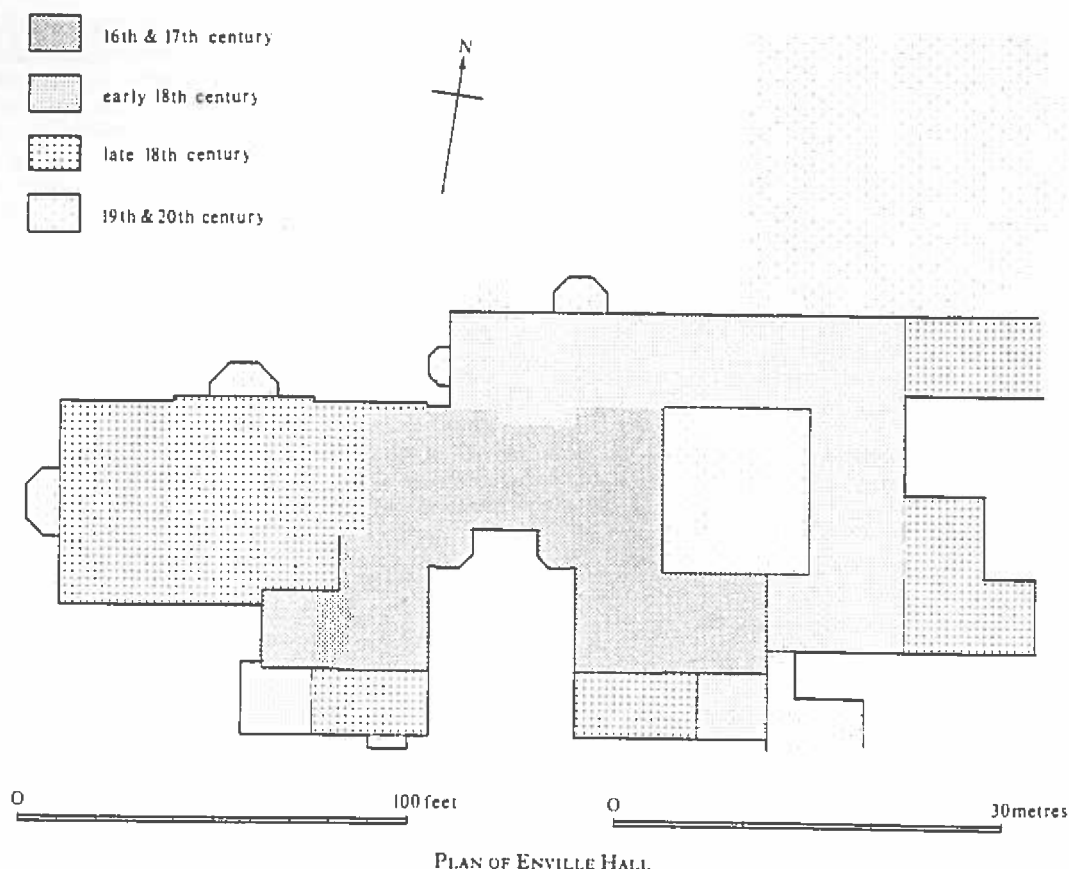
<sup>32</sup> *S.H.C.* 1950-1, 119; Pevsner, *Staffs.* 130-1; Colvin, *Biog. Dict. Brit. Architects*, 431.

<sup>33</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/55, plans by Chambers; *Archit. Review* (1953), 190.

<sup>34</sup> A. E. Richardson, *Robert Mylne*, 94-5, 97-9.



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bays was added to the west end of the north front by John Hope of Liverpool. Hope also produced a design for gothicizing the south front, but it was not adopted.<sup>35</sup> Instead the side ranges were enlarged and given embattled parapets, and the front of the hall range and the turrets were gothicized in a style unrelated to Hope's surviving design. The brickwork was rendered. Most of the work on the south front had been completed by 1773. A view of it, showing the alterations, appears on the dinner service decorated with views of English country houses which Josiah Wedgwood made for Catherine II of Russia in 1773-4. The view of Enville is evidently based on a picture which Lord Stamford offered to lend Wedgwood in 1773.<sup>36</sup> An entrance screen had been added by 1796.<sup>37</sup> In 1776 Mylne sent Lord Stamford drawings for cornices in three rooms at Enville and for a dining-room ceiling.<sup>38</sup>

There is no evidence of further major work on the house until the 1870s. In 1875-6 Thomas Smith of Stourbridge (Worcs.), the estate architect, produced designs for remodelling some of the principal rooms. He died in 1876; the work which was carried out was principally from

designs produced in 1876-7 by Andrew Heiton the younger of Perth. Heiton added bays to the north and west fronts and altered and redecorated the principal rooms.<sup>39</sup> In 1904 the house was badly damaged by a fire, although at the west end only the upper floors seem to have been affected.<sup>40</sup> The rebuilding was from designs by Richard Creed of London. The kitchen area was extensively rebuilt, the enclosed court was glazed over, and the remains of a ballroom, perhaps added by Heiton, at the north-east corner of the house were demolished. A new main entrance was made through the former library in the original west range, to the south front of which a porte-cochère was added.<sup>41</sup>

There was a park within a pale at Enville in 1548; it was timbered and was stocked with deer.<sup>42</sup> In 1634 the demesne included a 177-a. park, adjoining the Hall, and the 30-a. Essex Wood.<sup>43</sup> The park was then described as pasture; land within the pale was being cultivated in the early 17th century, and by the 1640s there were no deer in the park.<sup>44</sup> By 1688 the area within the pale had been divided into closes. The demesne was bounded on the north and west by Legh

<sup>35</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/55, elevations by Hope; *Archit. Review* (1953), 190, dating elevations 1773.

<sup>36</sup> Hermitage, Leningrad, 'Frog' service, piece no. 709 (photograph supplied by Mr. J. Harris of the R.I.B.A.); *Burlington Mag.* (Aug. 1980), 557; J. Wedgwood, *Personal Life of Josiah Wedgwood*, 152. The picture has not been found. For another view of the house, see above, pl. facing p. 96.

<sup>37</sup> W.S.L., Staffs. Views, iv. 169.

<sup>38</sup> Richardson, *Mylne*, 107-8.

<sup>39</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/31, specifications of addns. and altera-

tions 1875; 54, plans by Smith and Heiton; *Brierley Hill Advertiser*, 15 July 1876. For views of the S. front c. 1900 see W.S.L. 16/1/77; *Country Life*, 16 Mar. 1901, p. 339.

<sup>40</sup> *Blackcountryman* (Autumn 1979), 44-50; W.S.L. 16/5/77; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/31, sched. of claim for fire damage 1904.

<sup>41</sup> Plans by Creed in S.R.O., D. 3929 and Tp. 1273; plaque dated 1906 on S. front of Enville Hall.

<sup>42</sup> P.R.O., E 326/11298.

<sup>43</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 3 Jan. 1633/4.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.* 11, Enville ct. of 12 Apr. 1610; W.S.L., S.MS. 467, p. 91.

Lane, on the east by Mill Lane, and on the south by the slopes leading up to the ridge on which stood Lyndon Farm. Within that area the woodland was concentrated on the tops of the hills along the western boundary. Two streams, one west of the house and the other running down from Lyndon, fed several man-made pools. The garden lay north of the house. The stables and malthouse were some distance south of it and were reached by a drive, on the axis of the south front, which ran across an intervening paddock. Immediately west of the garden and paddock were orchards. From them a track led up into the hills and ultimately to a warrener's lodge a mile to the south-west.<sup>45</sup>

The first planned landscaping was apparently undertaken in the early 18th century.<sup>46</sup> By c. 1750 the park had been enlarged, chiefly by the 4th earl (1739-68), who took in the Leigh House and Lyndon estates; contemporaries noted that having married an heiress he could afford to buy property adjoining his demesne and to spend large sums on beautifying his estate.<sup>47</sup> A double avenue was planted from the Kinver road to the south forecourt of the Hall. Parallel to it a single avenue was made from the Kinver road to Lyndon Farm, aligned with a rotunda at the head of the valley above Lyndon. South of Lyndon the extended park was bounded by a long wood with a winding drive along its inner edge. A rectangular lake, Temple Pool, was made on the site of the old stables, and in 1747-8 a new Home Farm was built below the dam at the east end of the lake, perhaps to designs by William Baker.<sup>48</sup> At the centre of the lake was a Chinese temple on an island; it had been built before 1750 and was one of the earliest recorded chinoiserie garden buildings in England.<sup>49</sup> In the woods along the western edge of the park there were sinuous paths, picturesque buildings, and viewpoints with vistas along cleared alleys. Closer to the Hall the walled garden was enlarged westward, taking in one of the orchards and the lowest of the old pools. The pool was reshaped as a regular trapezoid, and the embankment between it and the next pool upstream was extended to form a terrace which ended at a summerhouse in the north-west corner of the enlarged garden.

The names of the designers of the earlier 18th-

century landscaping are not known. Sanderson Miller designed a greenhouse built in 1750 and a castellated gateway south-west of the Hall,<sup>50</sup> and he may have been responsible for gothicizing Lyndon Farm and the warrener's lodge in the outer park.<sup>51</sup> In 1754 a friend of Miller found that one of the Gothic buildings, perhaps the greenhouse, had been altered by 'some Shrewsbury man',<sup>52</sup> probably T. F. Pritchard. By then the poet and landscape gardener William Shenstone had become Lord Stamford's adviser at Enville. He first visited the estate in 1750 and continued to do so until his death in 1763.<sup>53</sup> His work was carried on by, among others, Booth Grey (d. 1802), second son of the 4th earl.<sup>54</sup> As a result of their influence remaining elements of the formal landscaping were altered. Straight avenues were broken up; Temple Pool was given an irregular outline, its island and temple being removed and a new classical boat house being built at its south-east corner; the regular clumps of trees on the Lyndon ridge were joined into a single wood. The pools on the stream from Lyndon were remodelled to form a cascade, below which the stream wound through a glade and was crossed by a simple wooden bridge.<sup>55</sup> Shenstone was commemorated by Shenstone's Chapel on the edge of a wood below the rotunda.<sup>56</sup> Enville, with the other Shenstonian gardens at Hagley (Worcs.) and the Leasowes, in Halesowen (Worcs.), became a place of pilgrimage for cognoscenti. To make visits easier a carriage road was laid out round the park.<sup>57</sup>

By the early 19th century the type of landscaping represented at Enville was out of fashion.<sup>58</sup> Interest in the surroundings of the Hall did not revive until the accession of the 7th earl in 1845 and the arrival in 1847 of a new head gardener, John Aiton, almost certainly one of the distinguished family of horticulturists.<sup>59</sup> In 1848 John Pope & Sons, Smethwick nurserymen, submitted plans for 'new grounds' to Lord Stamford,<sup>60</sup> perhaps for the enlargement of the north garden, which was to be the main area of activity in the late 1840s and 1850s. A large workforce was employed to produce some of the most spectacular gardens in the Midlands.<sup>61</sup> The 18th-century walls on the north and west sides of the old garden were removed, and by the mid

<sup>45</sup> S.R.O. 1392.

<sup>46</sup> For the following para. see, unless otherwise stated, S.R.O., Tp. 1273/54, plan of Enville Hall grounds c. 1750 (redrawn below, p. 100).

<sup>47</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 270; W. Shenstone, *Letters*, ed. M. Williams, 488.

<sup>48</sup> Plaque on building. For Baker see above.

<sup>49</sup> *Travels of Dr. Pococke*, ii (Camd. Soc. N.S. xlv), 231; Shenstone, *Letters*, 284; H. Honour, *Chinoiserie*, 150-1; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/18, survey of part of Enville 1750.

<sup>50</sup> Shenstone, *Letters*, 256-62.

<sup>51</sup> A. C. Wood and W. Hawkes, *Sanderson Miller of Radway* (Banbury Hist. Soc. 1969), 109.

<sup>52</sup> *An Eighteenth-Century Correspondence*, ed. L. Dickens and M. Stanton, 306. It has long been assumed that the greenhouse was the same building as that now known as the Gothic summerhouse, in the 1770s as the billiard room, and in the 19th century as the museum. Mr. T. Mowl, however, has suggested that the greenhouse was short-lived and that the surviving summerhouse was designed by Henry Keene: *Jnl. of Garden Hist.* iii (2), 134-43.

<sup>53</sup> Shenstone, *Letters*, 256 n., 284, 448-9, 486, 488, 494, 496-7, 528, 649-51.

<sup>54</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 271; *Gent. Mag.* lxxii (1), 377.

<sup>55</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 271, where it is attributed to Shenstone.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* where the design of the chapel is attributed to Shenstone; [J. Heely], *Description of Hagley, Envil and the Leasowes* (Birmingham, n.d. but earlier than 1777), 126, apparently rejecting the idea.

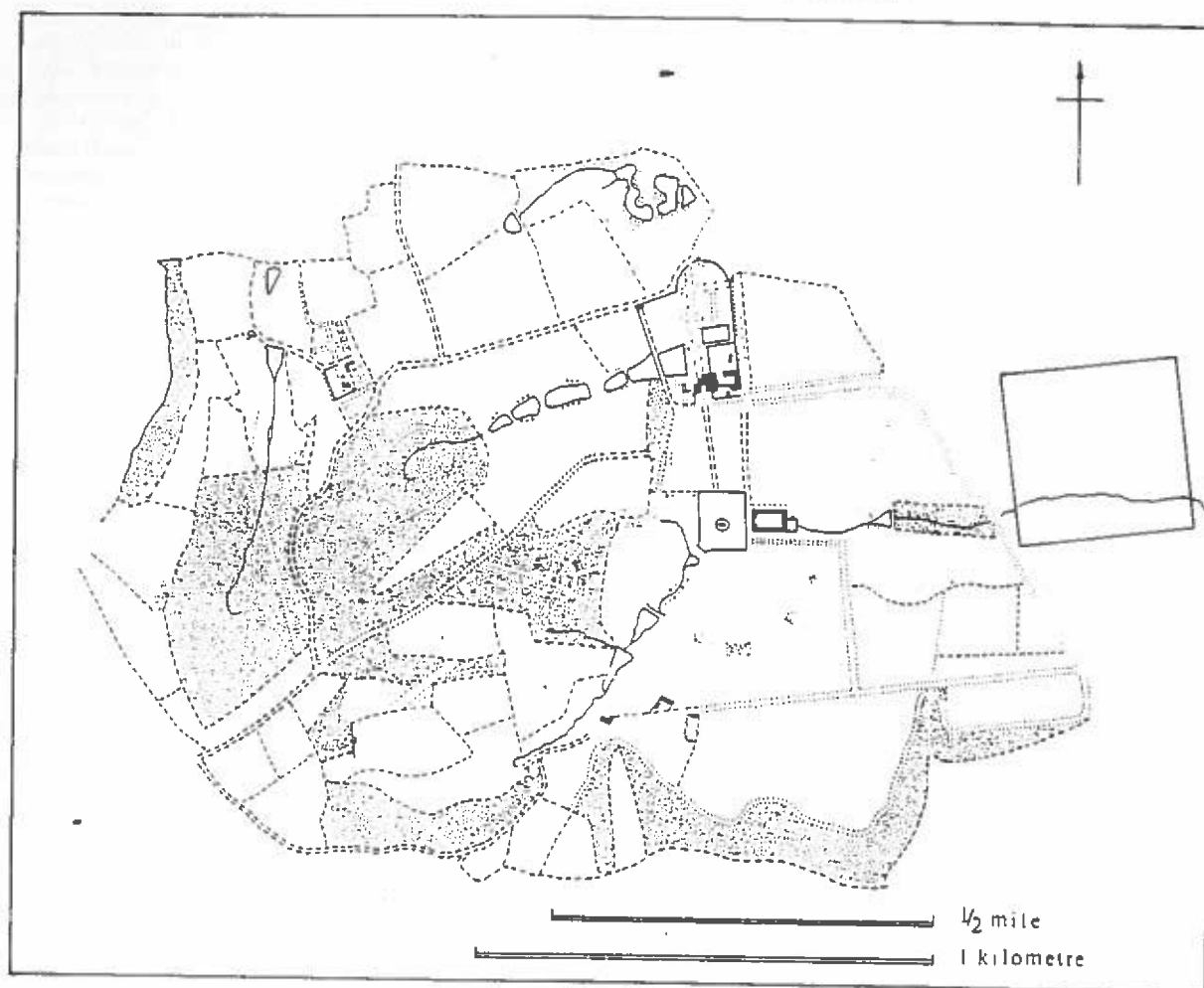
<sup>57</sup> See e.g. *Companion to the Leasowes, Hagley, and Enville* (1789), 95-7, 108. See also [Heely], *Description*; J. Heely, *Letters on the Beauties of Hagley, Envil, and the Leasowes* (1777). A German translation of Heely's *Letters* was published in Leipzig in 1779.

<sup>58</sup> J. C. Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Gardening* (1830 edn.), 1076, noting that Enville grounds were 'formerly celebrated'.

<sup>59</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/31, garden acct. bks. 1827-54. Aiton was born at Richmond (Surr.) in 1810, the son of a Hugh Aiton: P.R.O., HO 107/2017(2), p. 227; Surr. R.O., Richmond par. regs. For the horticulturists Wm. and Wm. T. Aiton, both with Richmond connexions, see *D.N.B.*

<sup>60</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, Enville estate cash bks., 5 Apr. 1848. For the firm see *V.C.H. Staffs.* xvii. 108.

<sup>61</sup> Rest of para. based on *Florist* (1855), 325-9; E. A. Brooke, *Gardens of Eng.* (1857), Enville; *Jnl. of Horticulture*, xxxii (1864), 353-6, 372-6, 393-6; E. Burritt, *Walks in the Black Country and its Green Border-Land* (1869 edn.), 279-82.



ENVILLE HALL: PLAN OF THE GROUNDS c. 1750

1850s flower and ornamental gardens had been created which covered over 70 a.<sup>62</sup> Fountains were installed in two large pools north-east of the house; one of them threw up a jet 180 ft. To feed them a reservoir holding over 4 million gallons was constructed at Batch north of Essex Wood; water was raised to it by two steam-pumps. At the centre of the new gardens stood a large conservatory, mixed Gothic and Moorish in style, erected in 1855<sup>63</sup> to designs by Gray & Ormson of London. Within the gardens were a Chinese pagoda, an aviary (1850-1),<sup>64</sup> an eagery (1856),<sup>65</sup> more pools and fountains, many specimen trees, large shrubberies, extensive lawns, ribbon borders, and ornamental flower-beds. In 1855 one ribbon border was 400 yd. long and there were 102 flower-beds; in 1864 there were 160 flower-beds, and over 100,000 bedding plants were used during the season. New nurseries and kitchen gardens, including a walled area of 4 a., were laid out in the 1850s. Between the walled area and the Enville Hall cricket ground was an

orchard, where by 1864 there was another large conservatory. From 1853 the pleasure grounds were open to the public.<sup>66</sup>

Once he had created the gardens Lord Stamford seems to have made few alterations. In 1896 a gardening journal recommended Enville's 'large old-fashioned garden' in which ribbon borders and carpet bedding could still be seen. The gardens were still maintained to a high standard, though less lavishly cared for than formerly.<sup>67</sup> After the division of the Grey estates in 1905 the elaborate flower gardens were gradually abandoned. The pumps for the reservoir were sold for scrap during the First World War.<sup>68</sup> The kitchen gardens were leased in the early 1920s.<sup>69</sup> The conservatory of 1855 was partly taken down c. 1928 and demolished in 1938. The house and a portion of the grounds were requisitioned by the army during the Second World War, and as a result many of the park monuments were neglected. Several, including the boat house on Temple Pool, were afterwards demolished, as

<sup>62</sup> *Florist* (1855), 325, says c. 100 a., which may be an exaggeration.

<sup>63</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/47, Enville Hall vouchers Dec. 1855, sub-bdle. 27. For a view see above, pl. facing p. 96.

<sup>64</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, Enville estate cash bks., 20 Nov. 1850-25 Dec. 1851.

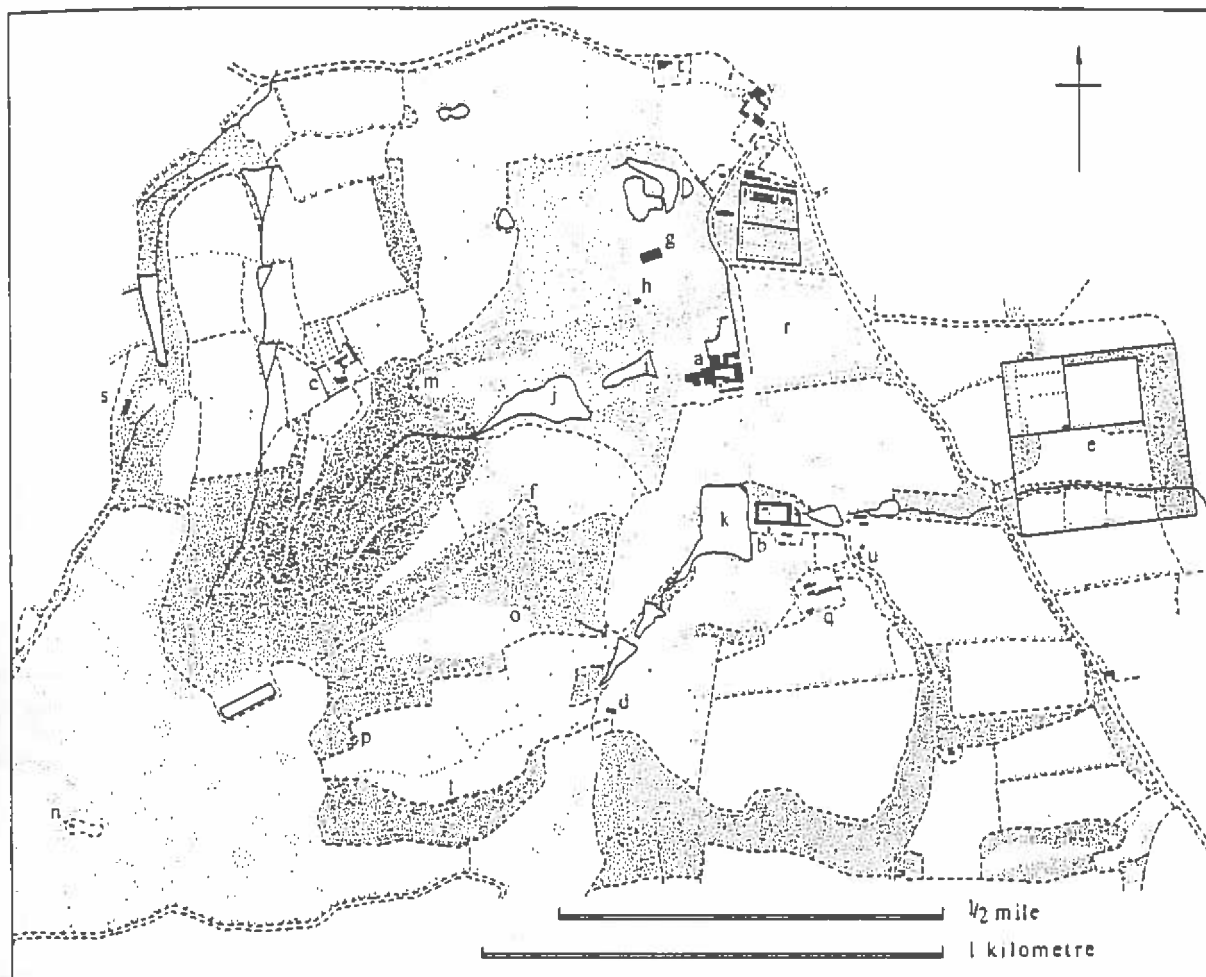
<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.* 5 and 7 Apr., 24 May 1856.

<sup>66</sup> Above, introduction (social and cultural activities).

<sup>67</sup> *Gardeners' Chron.* 15 Feb. 1896, 199; *Country Life*, 16 Mar. 1901, 336-40.

<sup>68</sup> Jay, 'Bobbington', 96.

<sup>69</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/31, kitchen garden accts.



ENVILLE HALL: PLAN OF THE GROUNDS c. 1880

a Hall b Home Farm c Leigh House Farm d Lyndon Farm e The Walls f Gothic Gate g Conservatory h Museum i Haha Pool j Jordan Pool k Temple Pool l Shenstone's Chapel m Pagoda n Sheepwalks House o Round Hill p Rotunda q Pheasantry r Cricket Ground s Engine House t Enville Church u Gasworks v Stamford Arms Hotel

was Lyndon Farm. The castellated gateway was restored c. 1980, and the restoration of the Gothic summerhouse was begun in 1982.<sup>70</sup>

**LEIGH HOUSE** in the manor of Enville, so named by the early 17th century,<sup>71</sup> was held by the Leigh family probably by the mid 15th century. John Leigh and his son William held land in the parish in 1440 and 1453.<sup>72</sup> William had probably succeeded his father by 1462 and was still alive in 1478.<sup>73</sup> About 1527 his son Robert's estate in Enville manor comprised a freehold house and virgate and a pasture held at will.<sup>74</sup> Robert was succeeded by his son John, whose son Richard died before 1577. Richard's son Thomas made his career in London and in 1596 or 1597 was appointed to be a clerk sitter in the Wood Street Counter, a London prison. In or

before 1621 he conveyed his estate in Enville manor to his son John in return for an annuity. He may have been the Thomas Leigh who was buried at Enville in 1629.<sup>75</sup> His son John, secondary of the Poultry Counter, another London prison, went to London for the law terms but lived at Leigh House during the vacations; it was later recalled that 'getting a place in London and growing rich thereby, [he] set up for a gentleman'. In the 1620s he bought land at Hoo.<sup>76</sup> He died in 1642 and was succeeded by his son John, who was succeeded in or shortly before 1645 by his brother Richard.<sup>77</sup> Richard was succeeded in 1674 or 1675 by his son John (d. 1700).<sup>78</sup> By 1704 the estate had passed to Richard Leigh, by 1721 rector of Eastham (Worcs.). In 1712-13 he sold his estate at Hoo, and in 1739 his son John sold

<sup>70</sup> Inf. from Mr. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>71</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, deed of 20 May 1609.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid. 11, deed of 4 Apr. 1440; 12, deed of 8 Jan. 1452/3. For the descent of the estate to 1687 see, unless otherwise stated, *Heraldic Cases in Ct. of Chivalry 1623-1732* (Harl. Soc. cvii), 52-9.

<sup>73</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, deed of 18 Sept. 1462; *S.H.C. N.S.* vi (1), 113.

<sup>74</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of survey c. 1527.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid. Enville ct. of 20 Nov. 1621; S.R.O., D. 3578/1/1, 30 Dec. 1629, which may in fact record the burial of Thos. Lee of Hoo.

<sup>76</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/10, deeds of 21 June 1620, 30 Sept. 1624, 11 Dec. 1640.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid. deeds of 17, 18, 19 Oct. 1645; S.R.O., D. 3578/1/1, burial of 12 June 1642.

<sup>78</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deed of 10 Mar. 1673/4; *Index of P.C.C. Wills*, ix (Index Libr. lxvii), 129; S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6, 10 Oct. 1700.



the reversion of Leigh House and the rest of the estate to Thomas Robbins of Enville, who was probably acting on behalf of Lord Stamford. Richard died in 1740. In 1741 Lord Stamford advanced the money which enabled Robbins to pay off a mortgage on the property and to extinguish any claims on the estate which might be made by Richard's surviving son, Thomas Leigh of Bradninch (Devon). In 1744, in return for a further payment, Robbins conveyed Leigh House to Lord Stamford.<sup>79</sup> In 1982 it was part of the Enville Hall estate.

The low brick buildings which form the south-west portion of the present Leigh House incorporate part of a timber-framed building which may be of late medieval origin. A tall brick building was built against the older range c. 1700. The new work had an irregular cruciform plan. The shortest arm houses a fine staircase with corkscrew-twist ballusters. The south-eastern arm was removed in the later 18th century, possibly at the same time as the earliest buildings were rebuilt or encased in brick.<sup>80</sup>

The Shadwells of *LYNDON*, from whom the dramatist and poet Thomas Shadwell (d. 1692) claimed descent,<sup>81</sup> held land in Enville manor in the early 14th century. In the 1520s a Thomas Shadwell held a messuage and a virgate in the manor as a free tenant and 3 crofts at will.<sup>82</sup> He was granted arms in 1537 and died c. 1553.<sup>83</sup> In 1544, when he sold land at Lutley, he was apparently living at Worcester.<sup>84</sup> His estate passed to his younger son Edward; in the early 17th century Edward and his son John were buying more land in the parish.<sup>85</sup> Edward died in 1630 and was succeeded by John, who died in 1653.<sup>86</sup> The estate then passed to John Shadwell's son Thomas, an Exchequer clerk. In 1666 his house at Lyndon, assessed at seven hearths, was occupied by two of his relatives, a John Shadwell and Thomas's brother-in-law John Wilcox. In 1668 Thomas bought the Beamish Hall estate in Albrighton (Salop.), and thereafter neither he nor his descendants lived at Lyndon. Thomas was succeeded in 1682 or 1683 by his son Lancelot (d. 1713), whose son and heir Thomas died in 1731, heavily in debt, leaving as his heir a son Lancelot, a minor. The younger Lancelot, a London chemist, sold the Lyndon estate in 1747

to the tenant, Lord Stamford.<sup>87</sup> In 1982 it was part of the Enville Hall estate. The house was demolished c. 1961.<sup>88</sup>

The manor of *LUTLEY* existed by 1166 when it was held of Gervase Paynel, lord of Dudley. The overlordship descended with that of Enville until the 14th century, passing in 1323 after Lord Somery's death to his sister Margaret and her husband John de Sutton.<sup>89</sup> In 1365 Philip Lutley, the lord of Lutley, agreed to hold the manor of Sir John Botetourt of Weoley castle, in Northfield (Worcs.), the son and heir of Margaret de Sutton's younger sister and coheir Joan.<sup>90</sup> About the same time Philip married a kinswoman of Sir John.<sup>91</sup> In 1506 it was held of John Mytton, one of the heirs of the Botetourts, as of his manor of Bobbington.<sup>92</sup>

William of Hagley held 1 knight's fee in Hagley (Worcs.) and Lutley of Gervase Paynel in 1166.<sup>93</sup> He was probably the William of Hagley who witnessed a charter of Paynel c. 1154,<sup>94</sup> and may have been the William of Hagley who held land in Staffordshire in 1130.<sup>95</sup> The tenant of 1166 may have been succeeded by Roger of Hagley.<sup>96</sup> In 1183 Lutley was held by Philip of Lutley,<sup>97</sup> probably the Philip of Hagley who witnessed another of Paynel's charters in 1187.<sup>98</sup> He was perhaps the Philip of Lutley who was alive in 1213,<sup>99</sup> but a William of Lutley was active between 1202 and 1208.<sup>1</sup>

The lords of Hagley created a mesne lordship, presumably by settling Lutley on a younger son. A Philip of Lutley held the manor in the 1220s, and about the same time a Robert of Hagley seems to have held Hagley.<sup>2</sup> In 1242-3 Lutley was held as  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee of the lord of Hagley,<sup>3</sup> who still held the mesne lordship in 1323.<sup>4</sup>

From the early 13th century until c. 1369 all the known lords of Lutley were named Philip Lutley.<sup>5</sup> One was a Staffordshire M.P. in 1332; he, or more probably a son and successor, was killed in 1352 by the men of Sir Hugh Wrottesley of Wrottesley, in Tettenhall.<sup>6</sup> The son of the man killed, another Philip Lutley, was escheator, sheriff, and three times an M.P. for the county. He was succeeded c. 1369 by his brother John.<sup>7</sup> In 1415 John, who was childless, sold the manor to Sir Humphrey Stafford 'with the silver hand',

<sup>79</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/3, 36, deeds of 11 Feb. 1711/12, 28 Mar. 1712; 38, abstract of title to Hoo; 39, abstract of title to John Cherrington's estate; 44A, deed of 5 June 1741; S.R.O., D. 3578/16, burial of 11 May 1740.

<sup>80</sup> The plan of the house is shown on S.R.O., Tp. 1273/54, plan of Enville Hall grounds c. 1750; for a view of the house before the demolition of the S.E. arm see W.S.L., Fac. 360.

<sup>81</sup> D.N.B.

<sup>82</sup> S.H.C. vii (1), 252; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of survey c. 1527.

<sup>83</sup> *Trans. Salop. Arch. Soc.* 3rd ser. ix. 90.

<sup>84</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deed of 11 Oct. 1544; 12, deed of 10 Oct. 1544.

<sup>85</sup> *Trans. Salop. Arch. Soc.* 3rd ser. ix. 90; S.H.C. n.s. iii. 28; n.s. iv. 60; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 28 Oct. 1609.

<sup>86</sup> *Trans. Salop. Arch. Soc.* 3rd ser. ix. 90, corrected from S.R.O., D. 3578/11, 27 July 1653.

<sup>87</sup> *Trans. Salop. Arch. Soc.* 3rd ser. ix. 90-1, misdating sale of Lyndon; S.H.C. 1923, 77; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/10, abstract of title to Lyndon.

<sup>88</sup> Inf. from Mr. Scott-Bolton. For a view see below, pl. facing p. 112.

<sup>89</sup> S.H.C. i. 201; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 258; *Cal. Close*, 1318-23, 630.

<sup>90</sup> *Charters and Muniments of Lyttelton Fam.* ed. I. H. Jeayes, p. 46.

<sup>91</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1361-4, 267; 1364-7, 400; S.H.C. xiv (1), 121.

<sup>92</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, iii, p. 565; above, Bobbington, manor and other estates.

<sup>93</sup> S.H.C. i. 201.

<sup>94</sup> S.H.C. 1941, 61.

<sup>95</sup> S.H.C. i. 4, 12.

<sup>96</sup> S.H.C. iii (1), 216.

<sup>97</sup> S.H.C. i. 112.

<sup>98</sup> Dugdale, *Mon.* v. 204.

<sup>99</sup> S.H.C. ii (1), 84, 94; iii (1), 44, 64, 142-3, 161.

<sup>1</sup> S.H.C. iii (1), 75, 87, 143.

<sup>2</sup> S.H.C. iv (1), 47, 220-1; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* i, p. 1; *V.C.H. Worcs.* iii, 133.

<sup>3</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, ii. 968.

<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* vi, p. 258; *Cal. Close*, 1318-23, 630.

<sup>5</sup> For the period from 1242-3 to 1327 see *Bk. of Fees*, ii. 968; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, p. 496; *Feud. Aids*, v. 15; S.H.C. v (1), 144; vii (1), 252.

<sup>6</sup> S.H.C. 1917-18, 60, arguing, however, that the M.P. was the man killed in 1352.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 104.



## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

retaining a life interest.<sup>8</sup> He died in 1416, before payment for the manor had been made in full, and was succeeded by a relative, Catherine Cole. In 1422 she and her husband Robert agreed to complete the sale, but it was not until 1427 that they did so.<sup>9</sup> Lutley then descended with Amblecote, being disputed after the execution of Humphrey Stafford, earl of Devon, in 1469 between his three cousins and coheirs and Humphrey Stafford of Grafton. Unlike Amblecote it was held by the earl's widow Isabel from 1483-4 until her death in 1489. It was then allotted to Eleanor Strangeways, one of the coheirs, passing to her son Henry Strangeways in 1502 and to his son Giles (later Sir Giles) in 1504.<sup>10</sup> In 1540 Sir Giles sold it to Walter Wrottesley of Wrottesley.<sup>11</sup> In 1560 Wrottesley granted a 50-year lease of the house and demesne lands to Richard Whorwood, a younger son of the Whorwoods of Compton, in Kinver, and in 1590 Walter's grandson Walter Wrottesley sold the manor to Michael Moseley of the Mere.<sup>12</sup> It then descended with the Mere and was part of the Enville Hall estate in 1982.

The medieval manor house evidently stood on a moated site in Moat field, between Philley brook and a lane leading from a meadow known as Chapel Yard to Mere Lane. The house is said to have had a chapel, and there are earthworks in Chapel Yard. Stonework was visible on the moat platform in the early 1970s. Coins and other artifacts, including what was said to be a stone font, were dug up in the area in the early 19th century.<sup>13</sup> A manor house which was included in the lease of 1560 to Richard Whorwood may have been the house in the vill of Mere which William and Francis Whorwood quitclaimed to Michael Moseley in 1590 with their other property in the vill; it was possibly the house at Lutley in which Ambrose Grey was living in 1608.<sup>14</sup> It is not clear whether that house was the moated building or, as seems possible, the present Lutley Farm. Lutley Farm stands near the moated site and is a late medieval house consisting of a hall and cross-wing, retaining its original plan and some of the timber framing of both wings. An upper floor was inserted in the hall in the earlier 17th century and its walls were rebuilt in brick in the 18th century, but it still has its low medieval roofline. The south-east cross-wing was partly rebuilt in brick and heightened in the 19th century, and a long dormer was put into the roof of the hall c. 1952.<sup>15</sup>

An estate in Lutley manor known as *FOUR ASHES* existed by 1680, when Henry Wollaston (d. 1720) was living there.<sup>16</sup> Henry was succeeded

by his son Thomas (d. 1722), whose property in Enville was inherited by his daughter Elizabeth. In 1725 she married Joseph Amphlett of Woodhampton, in Astley (Worcs.), who died in 1758. Their son Joseph died unmarried in 1811. His nephew and heir James Amphlett Grove died unmarried in 1854. He left the estate in the first instance to Ann Dunne, a great-granddaughter of Thomas Wollaston.<sup>17</sup> She failed to make Four Ashes Hall her principal residence, one of the provisos in Grove's will, and in 1855 the estate consequently passed to her younger son Charles Dunne. Charles changed his surname to Amphlett, in accordance with the will.<sup>18</sup> The estate then comprised Four Ashes Hall with 39 a. attached, the 98-a. Crump Hillocks farm, the 73-a. Lutley Mill farm, and Grove farm, of which 187 a. lay in Enville parish.<sup>19</sup> Charles Amphlett was succeeded in 1891 by his son Charles (d. 1921). Charles's heir was his brother the Revd. George Amphlett (d. 1944), whose eldest daughter Miss Leila Amphlett occupied the Hall in 1982.<sup>20</sup>

A mid 18th-century drawing at the house, which is labelled in a later hand as a plan of Four Ashes Hall, shows a house apparently of the late 16th or early 17th century, with a centre range and two long wings. Nothing in the present house can be identified as forming part of the building shown on the plan. The appearance of the house is dominated by additions and alterations of the mid and late 19th century, but some of the walling towards the back courtyard is probably of the later 18th century. A contract for building work in 1814<sup>21</sup> makes it clear that additions were being made to an older house. The main work under the contract consisted of the present dining room and drawing room, but some earlier features, notably the 18th-century mahogany doors, were re-used.<sup>22</sup> The kitchen wing was rebuilt in the mid 19th century, and a number of 18th-century fittings were re-used. Perhaps at the same time the large bay windows were added to the dining room and drawing room. The library and the study were added to the west end of the house in two stages in the late 19th century. North and west of the kitchen yard there are extensive brick outbuildings of the 18th and 19th centuries. At some distance north-west of the house is a large late 18th-century stable and farm building; it has a symmetrical main elevation with a central pediment and a roof-top cupola.

The estate known as *THE MERE* was built around a virgater's holding in the manor of Lutley. A family which took its name from the

<sup>8</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deed of 13 Dec. 1415.

<sup>9</sup> S.H.C. xi. 229; xvii. 56, 58; B.L. Eg. Ch. 1682.

<sup>10</sup> V.C.H. Worcs. iii. 217-18; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 276; *Complete Peerage*, iv. 328; *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII.* iii, p. 565; above, Amblecote.

<sup>11</sup> S.H.C. xi. 282; Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deed of 30 June 1540.

<sup>12</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deeds of 20 July 1560, 27 Sept. 1590; below (the Mere).

<sup>13</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 276; Scott, *Stourbridge*, 282-3; Stour and Smestow Arch. Research Group, *Field Survey Reps.* i (1970-3), 3.

<sup>14</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deeds of 20 July 1560, 9 June 1590; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deed of 1 Aug. 1608.

<sup>15</sup> Local inf.

<sup>16</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Tettenhall, John Shawe to

Daniel Rowley 1680; S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6, burial of 1 July 1720.

<sup>17</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, family tree and bdle. 4, abstract of title to Lutley farm and mill; Burke, *Land. Gent.* (1952), 36.

<sup>18</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, copy of will of James Amphlett Grove; Burke, *Land. Gent.* 36.

<sup>19</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, abstract of valuation of estate of James Amphlett Grove.

<sup>20</sup> Burke, *Land. Gent.* 36.

<sup>21</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, draft contract between James Amphlett Grove and John Smallman of Quatford (Salop.) 1814.

<sup>22</sup> The 18th-century fireplace and ornaments in the drawing room were introduced in the 20th century: inf. from Miss Amphlett.

Mere held land there by the early 14th century. Philip atte Mere acquired lands in Lutley and Bobbington in 1391 and 1392, and in 1398 his father Roger atte Mere conveyed to him the family's estate in Lutley.<sup>23</sup> A Thomas atte Mere held the land by 1422 and was alive in 1446.<sup>24</sup> Humphrey Mere died in or before 1496.<sup>25</sup> In 1509 Humphrey's house and virgate at the Mere passed to John Moseley of Whittington, in Kinver, and to Moseley's brother-in-law Henry Longmore of Upper Arley (Staffs., later Worcs.). Moseley was alive in 1511 but had died by December 1513, when Longmore conveyed his own interest in the estate at the Mere to his sister, Moseley's widow Agnes, for life, with remainder to her son Nicholas Moseley of the Mere and his heirs.<sup>26</sup> Nicholas was still alive in 1552, but his son John had succeeded by 1568, when he made a settlement of the estate.<sup>27</sup> John was succeeded by his youngest brother Michael, a Londoner, who is said to have bought the Mere from him shortly after 1568.<sup>28</sup> Michael bought land in the parish from 1568 and Lutley manor in 1590.<sup>29</sup> He was succeeded in 1592 or 1593 by his son Nicholas, who was still alive in 1638.<sup>30</sup> The estate continued to pass from father to son: Walter (d. 1656); Walter, high sheriff in 1711 (d. 1712); Acton (d. 1745); Walter Acton, high sheriff in 1757 (d. 1793); Walter Michael (d. 1827); Walter.<sup>31</sup> W. A. Moseley left the Mere some time between 1765 and 1778, and it seems that thereafter no member of the family lived in the parish. In 1849 Walter Moseley sold the estate with Lutley manor to Lord Stamford. It then included 738 a. in Enville.<sup>32</sup> The land was part of the Enville Hall estate in 1982.

Two houses at Mere formed part of the estate sold to Lord Stamford in 1849. Both survived in 1982. The older and more substantial, known in the earlier 19th century as the Mere<sup>33</sup> and in 1982 as Mere Farm, stands on the north side of Mere Lane. Part of a later 16th-century wing survives at the back of the house, and the eastern or service wing probably incorporates a structure of similar date. Early in the 17th century the house was largely rebuilt in brick to give it a tall front range with gables and a projecting porch and bays with canted sides.<sup>34</sup> North-west of it is the house known by 1838 as Mere House<sup>35</sup> and in 1982 as Mere Hall. It is the east end of the mid 18th-century stable block of a vanished house. Behind are barns of the same period, laid out symmetric-

ally. The stables were originally approached from the south through a tall central doorway; beyond them the barns formed the north side of the rickyard and foldyard.

The buildings at Mere Hall comprise the sole visible remains of the house which in the mid 18th century was the seat of the Moseleys and was known as the Mere. It stood south-east of Mere Hall, and a modern farm reservoir covers the site. The house was L-shaped and was approached from Mere Lane along a tree-lined avenue. West of the house were gardens, ponds, and an orchard, and north of those were the stables and barns which survived in 1982 as Mere Hall.<sup>36</sup> The house was demolished or destroyed by fire in the early 19th century,<sup>37</sup> and it was presumably then that part of the stables were converted into a farmhouse.

Before the Conquest *MORFE* was held by three free men. In 1086 William FitzAnsculf held 5 hides there, which were waste, in demesne.<sup>38</sup> By 1167 the manor had been subinfeudated, and the overlordship descended with that of Enville, passing in 1323 to Margaret de Sutton and her husband John. Morfe was still held of the Suttons in 1432, and in 1504 Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, arbitrated in a dispute over possession of the manor, perhaps as overlord.<sup>39</sup>

In 1166-7 Peter son of William (Peter of Birmingham) held the manor, and Hugh of Morfe who c. 1154 witnessed a charter of Gervase Paynel, lord of Dudley, probably held it of him;<sup>40</sup> Hugh may have been Peter's son but is unlikely to have been the Hugh son of Peter recorded in 1175-6 and 1213-14.<sup>41</sup> After 1171 William son of Peter of Birmingham, with the assent of his son Brian, granted Morfe to Roger, another of his sons, to hold as  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee.<sup>42</sup> Roger was possibly the Roger son of William recorded in 1177-8 and presumably the Roger of Morfe whose gravestone was discovered at Enville church in 1762.<sup>43</sup> Morfe had escheated or reverted to the senior branch of the Birmingham by 1221, and in 1222 William of Birmingham, Peter's son or grandson, granted Henry of Birmingham a moiety of 2 hides at Morfe to hold as  $\frac{1}{2}$  knight's fee. William retained the other moiety.<sup>44</sup>

The moiety which William retained and a mesne lordship over the other moiety descended in the Birmingham family with the mesne lordship of Enville.<sup>45</sup> In 1263 the Birmingham's

<sup>23</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deeds of 5 July 1310, 1 May 1321, 24 Feb. 1390/1, 24 Dec. 1392, 15 Sept. 1398.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. deed of 1 May 1422; *S.H.C.* 1928, 48.

<sup>25</sup> S.R.O., D. 593/J/15, 1 Nov. 1496.

<sup>26</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deeds of 15 Nov. 1509, 11 Nov. 1511, 4 Dec. 1513.

<sup>27</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deeds of 3 Apr. 1552, 9 Oct. 1568.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. commonplace bk., p. 180.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. deed of 20 Oct. 1568; *S.H.C.* xiv (1), 197; xv, 165, 167, 192; xvi, 105, 126.

<sup>30</sup> P.R.O., PROB 11/82 (P.C.C. 59 Nevell); Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deed of 20 Mar. 1637/8.

<sup>31</sup> Burke, *Land. Gent.* (1952), 1834; *Gent. Mag.* xcvi (2), 367-70; *Trans. Worcs. Arch. Soc.* n.s. xxxi, 44-8, misdating sale of estate; S.R.O., D. 3578/1/1, burial of 30 Dec. 1656.

<sup>32</sup> Nat. Libr. Wales, *Cal. of Deeds and Docs.* iii, pp. 308-9; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/32, deeds of 9 Sept. 1778, 15 Feb. 1849; L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville.

<sup>33</sup> O.S. Map 1", sheet LXI. SE. (1833 edn.); S.R.O., Tp. 1273/32, parties. and plan of Mere estate 1848.

<sup>34</sup> Above, pl. facing p. 33.

<sup>35</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville.

<sup>36</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775; 1799); Salop. R.O. 2089/27, map of 'The Meer Farm', n.d.

<sup>37</sup> It seems to be the Mere Hall shown on B.L. Maps, O.S.D. 214 (c. 1815), but it does not appear on L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville. Burnt material, apparently from the house, was discovered when the farm reservoir was excavated: local inf. (1982).

<sup>38</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv, 54.

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* 1430-7, 132; below.

<sup>40</sup> *S.H.C.* 1941, 48-9, 60, 67. For the Birmingham family see above.

<sup>41</sup> *S.H.C.* i, 79, 191-2. The identification is suggested in *S.H.C.* 1941, 67.

<sup>42</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/10, no. 1.

<sup>43</sup> *S.H.C.* i, 90; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 275.

<sup>44</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 327, p. 9; *S.H.C.* iv (1), 218-19.

<sup>45</sup> For the mesne lordship see *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ii, p. 496; vi, p. 258; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/6, nos. 8, 18.

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

demesne moiety seems to have amounted to 44s. rent, 12 a. of wood, and 12 villein holdings;<sup>46</sup> in 1346-7 there were at least 10 tenants who held 276 a., 3 more who paid 20s. rent, and a mill.<sup>47</sup> In 1386 Sir John Birmingham granted his estate in Morfe to John Horewood of Kinver.<sup>48</sup> The mesne lordship of the whole of Morfe then descended in the Whorwood family until at least 1581.<sup>49</sup>

Henry of Birmingham, who received the other moiety, became known as Henry of Morfe.<sup>50</sup> He was dead by 1256.<sup>51</sup> His successor, Henry, died between 1296 and 1302.<sup>52</sup> The second Henry's son Henry made a settlement of the manor in 1327 and died in or shortly before 1330. His son Henry, a minor, died in or before 1332 leaving a widow Joan, who was holding a third of what was described as Morfe manor in dower in 1347.<sup>53</sup> Under the settlement of 1327 Henry was succeeded by his brother John Morfe, who came of age in 1335.<sup>54</sup> John died in 1355 and was succeeded by his son Henry, who came of age in 1375.<sup>55</sup> Henry was still alive in 1408 but was dead by 1411 when his daughter and heir Catherine and her husband John Corbyn quitclaimed the manor to Edmund Lowe, lord of Whittington in Kinver, Richard Leveson, and Nicholas Russell.<sup>56</sup> The manor then descended in the main with Whittington. In 1482, however, it was held by Humphrey Lowe's widow Alice, who that year made a settlement of it. On her death it was to go to her daughter Eleanor's son John Grey, with remainder to his brothers Robert and Henry.<sup>57</sup> In 1504 Lord Dudley cited the settlement when, acting as arbitrator between Henry Grey's son George and George's cousin Edward (later Sir Edward) Grey, he awarded the manor to George. Edward, who was already in possession, ignored the award, and in 1507 George formally abandoned his claim.<sup>58</sup> Sir Edward died in 1529, leaving a life interest in Morfe to one of his younger sons, William.<sup>59</sup> William was still in possession of the manor in 1581.<sup>60</sup> By 1588 it had passed to his nephew John Grey.<sup>61</sup> It then descended with Enville and was part of the Enville Hall estate in 1982.

There was a manor house at Morfe in the 14th century, probably the hall which in 1295 stood at the end of a green way leading from Morfe wood. It may have had a chapel.<sup>62</sup> About 1530 William Grey leased the manor house to John Watkins

and his wife. It was burnt down soon afterwards and rebuilt by Watkins at his own expense.<sup>63</sup>

There was a small estate in the manor of Morfe, known as *COXGREEN* by 1593.<sup>64</sup> It took its name from the Cox family, members of which held land in the parish by the 15th century. They were then generally described as yeomen or husbandmen.<sup>65</sup> A John Cox was one of the wealthier parishioners in 1539.<sup>66</sup> He was perhaps the John Cox, gentleman, who in 1572 settled a house and land in Morfe on Francis Cox and Francis's son Thomas. Francis was alive in 1584 but had presumably died by 1593 when Thomas settled the house and land on himself and his heirs.<sup>67</sup> Thomas was probably the Thomas Cox the elder who, with Thomas Cox the younger, executed a further settlement of the estate in 1618.<sup>68</sup> The younger Thomas died in 1621. His widow Frances held the Coxes' estate in Morfe and Enville after his death, but c. 1625 it passed to Richard Leigh, a London haberdasher and brother of John Leigh (d. 1642) of Leigh House. Richard's son Thomas may have been a minor when Richard died in 1650; it was Richard's widow Mary who opposed demands for heriot and held Coxgreen in 1654.<sup>69</sup> Thomas Leigh was described as a London merchant when he bought more land in the parish in 1664. He died at Worcester in 1692 and was succeeded by his son Richard.<sup>70</sup> Richard apparently moved from Coxgreen to Worcester. By will dated 1725 he devised a life interest in his property in Enville, Kinver, and Alveley (Salop.) to his sister Ann, wife of the Revd. Richard Leigh of Leigh House, with remainder to Ann's son Richard Leigh. In 1735 the younger Richard sold part of the estate to the Revd. John Downing of Enville. Coxgreen itself seems to have passed to the Hale family of the Hollies.<sup>71</sup> In 1982 it was part of the Enville Hall estate.

The oldest part of the present building is the timber-framed ground floor of the north-west wing, the central part of the service cross-wing of a late-medieval house whose plan is preserved in later rebuilding. The parlour cross-wing appears to have been extended south-eastwards by a timber-framed range in the later 16th or early 17th century. In the mid 17th century the older part of that cross-wing and the hall range were rebuilt in brick, a fine open staircase being put into the cross-wing. Later alterations included

<sup>46</sup> *S.H.C.* iv (1), 154.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.* xii (1), 50-1, 55, 64; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12/6, nos. 9-10.

<sup>48</sup> Above, p. 96.

<sup>49</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, valor of lands of John Grey 1581.

<sup>50</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, ii, 968.

<sup>51</sup> R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, iii, 141 n.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.* 143.

<sup>53</sup> *S.H.C.* xi, 38, 128; *Cal. Fine R.* 1327-37, 196; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12/9, no. 3.

<sup>54</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, pp. 33-4.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.* x, p. 279; xiv, p. 179.

<sup>56</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 18.

<sup>57</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12/9, no. 9.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.* no. 10; Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 10.

<sup>59</sup> *P.R.O.*, C 142/49, no. 53.

<sup>60</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, valor of lands of John Grey 1581.

<sup>61</sup> *S.H.C.* xvii, 235-6.

<sup>62</sup> *B.L. Add. Ch.* 27651; *S.H.C.* xi, 128; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* viii, p. 33; x, p. 279; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12, deed of 2 Feb. 1294/5.

<sup>63</sup> *P.R.O.*, C 1/1294, nos. 21, 24.

<sup>64</sup> *S.H.C.* 1930, 344.

<sup>65</sup> *P.R.O.*, C 88/114, no. 64; *Cal. Pat.* 1429/36, 325; *S.H.C.* xvii, 123; *S.H.C.* n.s. iii, 222, 224; n.s. iv, 95, 107-8, 131, 196; n.s. vi (1), 158, 160.

<sup>66</sup> *S.H.C.* 1923, 69.

<sup>67</sup> *S.H.C.* xiii, 291; xv, 152; xvi, 126; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/11, deed of 25 Mar. 1593.

<sup>68</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/11, will of Ric. Leigh; *ibid.* Morfe ct. of 20 Nov. 1621, lists of suitors 27 Oct. 1625, 18 Jan. 1633/4, and 19 May 1654, and papers in case Leigh v. Grey, draft receipt 1650; *Heraldic Cases in Ct. of Chivalry 1623-1732* (Harl. Soc. cvii), 53, 56.

<sup>69</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/10/Wilmott's, deed of 1 Apr. 1664; Tp. 1273/11, deed of 6 Feb. 1666/7 and will of Susanna Leigh; *S.R.O.*, D. 3578/1/6, burial of 3 Nov. 1692; *Index of P.C.C. Wills*, xi (Index Libr. lxxvii), 171.

<sup>71</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/3, deed of 26 Mar. 1718; Tp. 1273/10/Wilmott's; below.

the division of the hall into two rooms, the demolition of both ends of the service cross-wing and the rebuilding of its upper storey in brick, and the removal of a south-eastern block. The house was restored in 1981.

Two estates at *THE HOLLIES* in the manor of Morfe existed by the 16th century, held by yeomen whose families later rose to gentility. Both estates eventually descended to non-resident proprietors and were sold to the Greys of Enville Hall.

A William Gravenor was one of the free tenants of the manor of Enville in the late 1520s.<sup>72</sup> By 1550 he had been succeeded by a John Gravenor, who was dead by 1559. His son and heir Edward was in 1574 described as of the Hollies and was styled gentleman. In 1575 Edward held a freehold estate in the manor of Morfe as well as another in Enville manor. He died c. 1580 and was succeeded by his son John, a minor.<sup>73</sup> John was succeeded in or shortly before 1621 by his son Edward, who died in 1654, having devised his estate to his nephew Henry Dyson of Inkberrow (Worcs.). Henry died in 1659 and was succeeded by his son Gravenor, then a minor. Gravenor Dyson died in 1726, leaving the estate to his grandson William Holmer.<sup>74</sup> Holmer, who was living in Kinver by the 1740s, died in 1744, having devised the estate to trustees for sale. Most of the land was added in 1747-8 and 1776 to the Enville Hall estate,<sup>75</sup> of which it was part in 1982.

The house, which was assessed at seven hearths in 1666,<sup>76</sup> was sold by William Holmer's widow to Thomas Brettell of Stourbridge in 1759.<sup>77</sup> The present house, a plain 18th-century brick building, was remodelled in the earlier 19th century, probably soon after 1802 when Brettell's son, also Thomas, sold it to John Hale, the owner of the other estate at the Hollies.<sup>78</sup> It was known as the New House by 1845.<sup>79</sup>

The other estate at the Hollies, said in the 18th century to have been originally 1½ yardland,<sup>80</sup> was held in the 16th century by the Hale family. Thomas Hale of the Hollies, yeoman, was a presentment juror from 1586 to 1606.<sup>81</sup> A Thomas Hale the elder died in 1627; his son, another Thomas Hale, died in 1630 or 1632.<sup>82</sup> William Hale of the Hollies, son of the last-named Thomas, styled himself gentleman and claimed to bear arms.<sup>83</sup> He died in 1681 and was succeeded by his son John (d. 1710). John's son

and heir, another John, was succeeded in 1745 by his son Corbett.<sup>84</sup> In 1750 and 1752 Corbett sold land in Enville and Morfe to Lord Stamford but retained the bulk of the estate.<sup>85</sup> He died in 1794 and was succeeded by his son John (d. 1808). John devised all his property not settled on his wife Polly to his mother Mary, who already held part of the estate in dower, with remainders to his wife and his daughter Mary.<sup>86</sup> In 1821, at the time of Mary's marriage to Hugh Montgomery Campbell (d. 1846), the two widows settled the Hollies itself (69 a.) and Coxgreen farm (218 a.) on her. In 1849 her son and heir Capt. H. J. M. Campbell, a regular soldier then serving in Canada, sold all his property in the parish to Lord Stamford; it comprised the land settled in 1821 and the 119-a. New House farm lying north of the Hollies.<sup>87</sup> In 1982 it was part of the Enville Hall estate.

William Hale's house was assessed at eight hearths in 1666.<sup>88</sup> It stood south of the Dyson house and was evidently the more substantial of the two in the later 18th century, when it had an enclosed garden. It was known as Hollies House in the late 1830s.<sup>89</sup> The house still stood in 1858 but had been demolished by 1882.<sup>90</sup> Part of what may have been the house survived in 1982, incorporated into farm buildings.

Edwin, a free man, held 3 hides at *CIPPE-MORE* in 1066. In 1086 Roger held the land of William FitzAnsculf, but it was evidently abandoned soon afterwards. The site of the settlement may have been in the Sheepwalks area in the south-west corner of the parish.<sup>91</sup>

The *RECTOR Y* manor is discussed below.<sup>92</sup>

**ECONOMIC HISTORY. AGRICULTURE.** Cultivation in the parish was not extensive in 1086. Enville manor, which lay in the forest, had land for 4 ploughteams; 1 team was in demesne with 1 slave, and a further 1½ team was worked by 5 villeins and 1 bordar. With meadow and woodland Enville was worth 24s., the same value as before the Conquest. Morfe, where there was land for 6 teams, was waste. At 'Cippemore', possibly in the south-west of the parish, there was land for 4 teams; 2 teams were in demesne with 3 slaves, and there were 5 bordars. With woodland the manor was worth 10s., the same value as before the Conquest.<sup>93</sup> By 1300 the whole parish lay in Kinver forest.<sup>94</sup> Assarts in

<sup>72</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of survey c. 1527, Enville ct. of 26 Oct. 1528.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. Enville ct. of 18 Apr. 1559; Tp. 1273/12, deed of 10 Feb. 1574/5; L.J.R.O., B/C/11, John Gravenor (1559), Edw. Gravenor (1580); *S.H.C.* xiv (1), 179-80.

<sup>74</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville and Morfe cts. of 20 Nov. 1621; *S.H.C.* v (2), 120-1; Nat. Libr. of Wales, *Cal. of Deeds and Docs.* iii, p. 203.

<sup>75</sup> S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6, burial of 22 Mar. 1743/4; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deeds of 1 Sept. 1747, 11 Feb. 1747/8; Tp. 1273/11, deed of 2 Sept. 1747; Tp. 1273/41, will of Wm. Holmer and deeds of 27 and 28 Dec. 1744, 15 Jan. 1776.

<sup>76</sup> *S.H.C.* 1923, 77.

<sup>77</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/41, deeds of 24 and 25 Mar. 1759.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. deed of 25 Mar. 1802.

<sup>79</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/40, deed of 8 Apr. 1845.

<sup>80</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deed of 23 Jan. 1749/50.

<sup>81</sup> *S.H.C.* 1929, 1930, 1932, 1935, and 1940, *passim*.

<sup>82</sup> S.R.O., D. 3578/1/1, burials of 17 May 1627, 1 Mar. 1629/30, 29 July 1632; *S.H.C.* v (2), 165.

<sup>83</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deeds of 29 Sept. 1638, 18 Dec. 1648; *S.H.C.* v (2), 165-6.

<sup>84</sup> *S.H.C.* v (2), 166; S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6, burials of 21 June 1681, 22 Aug. 1710, 29 Sept. 1745; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deed of 23 Jan. 1749/50.

<sup>85</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deeds of 23 Jan. 1749/50, 25 Jan. 1751/2.

<sup>86</sup> S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6, burial of 20 Feb. 1794; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/35, wills of Corbett and John Hale.

<sup>87</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/40, deeds of 7 and 8 June 1821, 8 Apr. 1845, 21 Aug. 1846, 14 May 1847, 3 Sept. 1849, and declaration on title to Hollies.

<sup>88</sup> *S.H.C.* 1923, 77.

<sup>89</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775); L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville, no. 119.

<sup>90</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/18, partics. of tithe on Hollies Estate 1858; O.S. Map 1/2,500, Staffs. LXX.10 (1883 edn.).

<sup>91</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv, 54; above, introduction.

<sup>92</sup> Below, church.

<sup>93</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv, 54.

<sup>94</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 180.

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Morfe and Lutley were recorded in the later 13th and early 14th century.<sup>95</sup>

The number and distribution of open fields in the parish reflects a gradual process of bringing forest woodland into cultivation. Each of the three manors had its own set of fields, and there was in addition, within Enville manor, a separate set for Lyndon. Cross (later Cress) field, mentioned the early 14th century,<sup>96</sup> lay north of Enville village on the west side of Blundies Lane.<sup>97</sup> It was still open in 1648.<sup>98</sup> An open field called Moorland lay in the same area near Blundies in the early 14th and early 15th century.<sup>99</sup> There was evidently a field north of Blundies between the lanes to Morfe Hall Farm and Hoo Farm in the early 14th century; it may have been called Middle field.<sup>1</sup> By the late 16th century there was an open field in that area lay called Mill field, evidently named after the mill at Morfe Hall Farm.<sup>2</sup> Mill field was still open in the late 18th century.<sup>3</sup> Hale field, mentioned in 1333, lay east of Browns Lake. It had 17 a. in strips in the early 18th century and was still open in 1773.<sup>4</sup> Brook field, probably lying further east where there is a tributary of Spittle brook, may have existed by 1331, when Smallbrook field was recorded. Brook field was still open in 1662.<sup>5</sup> Nether field and Hell field, both mentioned in 1589, lay in the same area as Brook field. Nether field was still open in 1612 and Hell field in 1662.<sup>6</sup> Ast field, mentioned in 1327, lay south of Browns Lake; it was known as Heath field by 1713 and was still open in 1756.<sup>7</sup> Horestone (later Whetstone) field, mentioned in 1333,<sup>8</sup> probably lay south-west of Ast field. Although a close called Whetstone field was mentioned in 1704, the surviving open land may have been renamed Crown field. Crown field was still open in 1791.<sup>9</sup> Hall field, mentioned in 1569, lay to the south. Still open in 1676, it had been inclosed by the late 18th century.<sup>10</sup>

There were three open fields at Lyndon. Deepdale field, mentioned in 1458, lay south of Lyndon and stretched into Kinver; it was described as an open field of Lyndon in 1543.<sup>11</sup> Mill

field, mentioned in 1543, evidently lay near Mill brook.<sup>12</sup> Lyndon (later Old) field existed in 1594; it lay next to Mill field and stretched eastwards from Lyndon as far as the Enville-Kinver road.<sup>13</sup> The three fields were inclosed in 1672.<sup>14</sup>

There were at least three open fields for Morfe manor. Bosenhill field, mentioned in 1316, lay west of Morfe House Farm.<sup>15</sup> It contained inclosed land by 1622.<sup>16</sup> Whittenhill field, mentioned in 1385, lay east of Morfe House Farm; it was mostly inclosed by 1688.<sup>17</sup> Street field, lying further east and bounded by Chester Road, was mentioned in 1610;<sup>18</sup> it was partly inclosed by 1622.<sup>19</sup>

Selions in Holywall field and Chelwastre field in Lutley were mentioned in 1385.<sup>20</sup> The position of the fields is unknown. There were two open fields at Mere in 1605: Lee or Level field, which lay north of Mere, and Bold field, which stretched east of Mere as far as Chester Road. Both fields contained open land in 1711.<sup>21</sup>

There were 4 a. of meadow in Enville manor in 1086.<sup>22</sup> Three doles in Dole meadow at Hoo were mentioned in 1624; doles still existed there in 1756.<sup>23</sup>

The eastern part of the parish was waste in the Middle Ages. In the early 16th century Sir Giles Strangeways, lord of Lutley, tried to inclose Clare Hays, common to Lutley and Mere. In 1535 local people pulled down hedges which he had erected round 200 a. of waste there.<sup>24</sup> Clare Hays appears to have remained open until 1746, when it was inclosed by agreement. The lord of Lutley received 100 a., and the remaining 172 a. were shared among the lord and the freeholders.<sup>25</sup> Morfe heath to the south was inclosed by agreement in 1683, when it covered 500 a.<sup>26</sup> Waste at Lyndon was inclosed in 1663.<sup>27</sup> Inhabitants of Morfe, Enville, and Lyndon had pasture rights in Checkhill waste over the eastern boundary in Kinver.<sup>28</sup>

There were a number of greens in the parish. Church green was mentioned in 1342<sup>29</sup> and presumably lay near Enville church. Bar green between Enville village and the hall existed by

<sup>95</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 110, 114; *B.L. Add. Ch.* 27651.

<sup>96</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12, undated grant by Phil. of the Mere and his w. Lucy to Phil. Bryd.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.* 35, undated partics. of Wm. Kay's land; 54, map of John Downing's estate c. 1781.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.* 11, deed of 18 Dec. 1648.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.* 12, undated grant by Phil. of the Mere and his w. Lucy to Phil. Bryd, and deed of 7 Oct. 1409; 58, Yorke, valuation of 1791 and undated plan.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.* 12, undated grant by Phil. of the Mere and his w. Lucy to Phil. Bryd; 12/4, nos. 3, 5, 13.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* 11, deeds of 9 Jan. 1579/80, 1 Mar. 1588/9.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 58, Yorke, undated partics. and plan.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* 12/4, no. 4; 54, map of John Downing's estate c. 1781; 58, Yorke, undated partics. and plan.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* 11, deed of 29 Sept. 1662; 12/4, nos. 3, 13.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* 11, deeds of 1 Mar. 1588/9, 29 Sept. 1662, and Enville cts. of 14 Mar. 1593/4, 27 Oct. 1612.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 12/4, no. 1; 12/5, no. 3; 12, deed of 10 Feb. 1712/13; 33, deed of 17 Apr. 1756; 58, Yorke, undated partics. and plan.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 11, deed of 21 June 1620; 12/4, no. 4; 12, deed of 10 Feb. 1578/9.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 8, deed of 10 June 1704; 35, undated partics. of Wm. Kay's land; 58, Yorke, undated partics. and plan and 1791 valuation.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* 6, deed of 4 Dec. 1676; 12, deed of 10 Feb. 1578/9; 54, map of John Downing's estate c. 1781.

<sup>11</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdl. 24, ct. of 27 Apr. 1458, E 12/S, Kinver copyhold estates, 1831 survey and map, no. 199; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12/1, no. 8.

<sup>12</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12/1, no. 8.

<sup>13</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/11, Enville cts. of 16 Oct. 1594, 25 Apr. 1601.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 44A, partics. of lands in Lyndon fields 18 Jan. 1671/2.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 6, no. 3; 54, undated map of John Downing's estate.

<sup>16</sup> *Salop. R.O.* 2089/ADD, deed of 28 July 1622.

<sup>17</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 17; *S.R.O.* 1392.

<sup>18</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/11, Morfe ct. of 12 Apr. 1610; *S.R.O.* 1392.

<sup>19</sup> *Salop. R.O.* 2089/ADD, deed of 28 July 1622.

<sup>20</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 17.

<sup>21</sup> *Salop. R.O.* 2089/ADD, deeds of 14 May 1605, 26 May 1711.

<sup>22</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv, 54.

<sup>23</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/10, deed of 30 Sept. 1624; 33, deed of 17 Apr. 1756.

<sup>24</sup> *S.H.C.* n.s. x (1), 141-3; *S.H.C.* 1912, 71-5.

<sup>25</sup> *Salop. R.O.* 2089/ADD, deed of 28 May 1746.

<sup>26</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/38, deed of 3 Mar. 1681/2 and memo. of 25 June 1683.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.* 6, deed of 12 Sept. 1663.

<sup>28</sup> Below, Kinver, econ. hist. (agric.).

<sup>29</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/4, no. 6.

the late 14th century; it was taken into the hall grounds during the 18th century.<sup>30</sup> There was evidently a green near Coxgreen Farm in 1593;<sup>31</sup> a triangle of waste ground survived west of the farmhouse in 1982. No Man's green in the south-west corner of the parish on the county boundary was mentioned in 1601 and 1624.<sup>32</sup> In the north of the parish a green at Hoo was enclosed c. 1550,<sup>33</sup> while Bendey's green west of Morfe House Farm and Careley green north of Mere mill still existed in the late 18th century.<sup>34</sup>

There was extensive woodland in the parish in 1086, 1 league in length and  $\frac{1}{2}$  league in breadth at Enville, 2 leagues in both length and breadth at Morfe, and 1 league in length and breadth at 'Cippemore'.<sup>35</sup> Some of the woodland evidently lay south-west of Enville Hall in the area of what was later called Essex Wood: in the earlier 14th century it was called 'Evezetowode', a name of Old English origin.<sup>36</sup> Assarts had been made there by the earlier 14th century, but there was still a 30-a. wood there in 1634.<sup>37</sup> Lutley wood was mentioned in 1271, and the wood of the lord of Enville in 1330.<sup>38</sup> Morfe wood was mentioned in 1295. Trees cut down there in 1355 included oak, ash, and pear; there was probably no timber left by 1366, when the wood was described as an assart.<sup>39</sup> Trees were planted by the earls of Stamford on Highgate common in the east of the parish in the earlier and late 18th century. Lord Stamford had 168 a. of woodland in the parish in 1798 and 200 a. in 1800.<sup>40</sup> By 1840 there were 299 a. of woodland, including the 90-a. Essex Wood.<sup>41</sup> Regular sales of timber from the Enville Hall estate were made in the 19th century.<sup>42</sup> In 1982 there were at least 173.6 ha. (429 a.) of woodland in the parish.<sup>43</sup>

Barley was grown at Enville in 1342, and barley, beans, and peas at Morfe in 1377.<sup>44</sup> Rye, wheat, and barley were grown at Enville in 1566. Thomas Cox of Coxgreen had wheat, peas, barley, and oats in his barns in 1621, and in 1625 the same crops, with wheat and barley predominating, were growing in fields north-east of Enville village. On a farm at Lyndon in 1634 the main crops were rye and peas. Wheat and barley were the chief crops on a farm at Enville in 1670 and on another at Philleybrook in 1689; oats and peas were grown in smaller quantities on both farms.<sup>45</sup> There was a hopyard west of Enville Hall

in the late 1680s.<sup>46</sup> Surviving inventories for the later 16th and the 17th century suggest that arable farming did not predominate in the parish; on many farms animals, especially sheep and cows, were notably more valuable than crops.

Grazing for 200 sheep was included in a grant of land in Morfe in 1316.<sup>47</sup> Three shepherds were among those taxed in Enville manor in 1332-3.<sup>48</sup> In 1551 virgaters in Enville manor were limited to pasturing 100 sheep, half-virgaters 60, and those holding a nook 30.<sup>49</sup> In Lutley manor half-virgaters were limited to pasturing 10 sheep in 1560.<sup>50</sup> John Wilcox of Lutley had 80 sheep and 26 lambs in 1558, and Thomas Grey of Enville had 100 sheep in 1566. Richard Garbett, rector of Enville, had a flock of 114 sheep in 1592, and had 13 tods of wool in his house.<sup>51</sup> By 1603 the number of sheep that a virgater in Enville manor was allowed to pasture had risen to 120.<sup>52</sup> A flock of 112 sheep was recorded at Enville in 1625, and one of 75 at Lyndon in 1634. There was a flock of 130 sheep at Morfe in 1668 and one of 160 at Enville in 1690.<sup>53</sup> A sheepcot at Lyndon was mentioned in 1743.<sup>54</sup>

Tithe on dairy produce was paid to the rector of Enville in 1535.<sup>55</sup> In 1558 John Wilcox of Lutley had 6 cows and 4 calves, and in 1566 Thomas Grey of Enville had 14 cows. The herd of Thomas Cox of Mere in 1615 included a cow and calf, 6 cows in calf, and 2 yearling calves. Richard Pratt of Enville had 9 cows, 1 heifer, and 1 calf in 1632. At Philleybrook in 1688 Francis Devey had 10 cows and 1 bull, and at Enville in 1690 Elizabeth Hodgetts had 7 milch cows; both had cheese and cheese presses in their houses.<sup>56</sup>

Herds of 14 pigs were kept at Morfe in 1556 and at Mere in 1563. Thomas Cox of Coxgreen had 12 pigs in 1621, and there was a herd of 12 at Four Ashes in 1678. At Philleybrook in 1688 Francis Devey had 3 sows with 20 young and 6 hogs; the herd was the largest recorded in the period.<sup>57</sup> Turkeys were among the poultry kept by Richard Garbett in 1592. In 1621 Thomas Cox of Coxgreen had 10 turkeys, 8 geese, and a gander as well as other poultry. A gaggle of 28 geese belonged to Francis Devey of Philleybrook in 1688.<sup>58</sup> In 1544 Thomas Deyse of Lyndon left a hive of bees to endow a light in the parish church. Richard Garbett had 10s. worth of bees in 1592, and in 1634 John Pitchford of Lyndon

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. 54, map of Enville Hall grounds c. 1750 (redrawn above, p. 100); below, p. 115.

<sup>31</sup> S.H.C. 1930, 344.

<sup>32</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 25 Apr. 1601; 12, deed of 10 Oct. 1624.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid. 11, Enville ct. of 18 Apr. 1550.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. 54, undated map of Morfe manor; L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville, no. 783.

<sup>35</sup> V.C.H. Staffs. iv, 54.

<sup>36</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/4, no. 2; *Eng. Place-Name Elements* (E.P.N.S.), i, 147, 198; ii, 279-80.

<sup>37</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 3 Jan. 1633/4; Tp. 1273/12/4, no. 2.

<sup>38</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/4, no. 2; S.H.C. v (1), 144.

<sup>39</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, deed of 2 Feb. 1294/5; S.H.C. xii (1), 136, 143-4; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 275.

<sup>40</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/18, rent roll of Ld. Stamford's Staffs. and Worcs. estates 1798, 1800; *Express & Star*, 12 Feb. 1971.

<sup>41</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville.

<sup>42</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/21.

<sup>43</sup> Inf. from Mr. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>44</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/4, no. 5; S.H.C. xiv (1), 147.

<sup>45</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Thos. Gray (1566), Thos. Cox (1621), John Spittal (1625), John Pitchford (1634), Ric. Elliott (1670), Fra. Devey (1689).

<sup>46</sup> S.R.O. 1392.

<sup>47</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 3.

<sup>48</sup> S.H.C. x (1), 129.

<sup>49</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 15 June 1551.

<sup>50</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, ct. of 29 Apr. 1560.

<sup>51</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, John Wylcockis (1558), Thos. Gray (1566), Ric. Garbett (1592).

<sup>52</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 15 Oct. 1603.

<sup>53</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, John Spittal (1625), John Pitchford (1634), Humph. Toy (1668), Eliz. Hodgetts (1690).

<sup>54</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/44A, deed of 19 May 1743.

<sup>55</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 103.

<sup>56</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, John Wylcockis (1558), Thos. Gray (1566), Thos. Cox (1615), Ric. Pratt (1632), Fra. Devey (1689), Eliz. Hodgetts (1690).

<sup>57</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Humph. Hale (1556), Hugh Clare (1563), Thos. Cox (1621), Kath. Ellyotts (1678), Fra. Devey (1689).

<sup>58</sup> Ibid. Ric. Garbett (1592), Thos. Cox (1621), Fra. Devey (1689).



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had 3 hives. In 1638 Humphrey Jevon of Enville had a half share in 10 hives, which were placed out in different parts of the parish.<sup>59</sup>

The chief crops in 1801 were barley and wheat; turnips, oats, and peas were also grown.<sup>60</sup> At Newhouse farm c. 1840 wheat, barley, and peas were grown.<sup>61</sup> In the later 19th century barley, rye, and turnips were the main crops in the parish.<sup>62</sup> Oats, wheat, and barley were the chief crops on the home farm in 1918, but turnips, swedes, and mangolds were also grown.<sup>63</sup>

Nearly a third of the parish was pasture in 1840, and at Newhouse farm nearly half the cultivated land was sown with grass.<sup>64</sup> A herd of over 160 cattle belonging to the home farm were grazed on the Sheepwalks in 1826,<sup>65</sup> and by the late 1830s the farm was producing large quantities of milk.<sup>66</sup> The purchase of an Ayrshire bull in 1839 and of Channel Island cows in 1851 and 1853 was evidently an attempt to improve dairy stock. Indian cows were also introduced.<sup>67</sup> In 1853 the farm won a prize from the Worcestershire Agricultural Society for the best milking cow.<sup>68</sup> There was a dairy herd at Newhouse farm c. 1840.<sup>69</sup> In the mid 1880s the herd at Coxgreen farm included Channel Island and Ayrshire milking cows; cattle were also being raised for meat.<sup>70</sup> In 1919 there were 19 milking cows, 66 one- and two-year olds, and 17 calves on the home farm.<sup>71</sup>

There was a flock of 316 sheep on the home farm in 1844.<sup>72</sup> At Coxgreen farm in 1885 there was a flock of 46 Shropshire ewes with lambs, and at Mere farm in 1808 there were 150 Shropshire sheep.<sup>73</sup> Pigs were an important item of stock on the home farm in the 1840s, and bacon pigs were regularly sold.<sup>74</sup> There were also sales of hens, ducks, geese, turkeys, and guinea fowls in the 1830s and 1840s; the turkeys were apparently kept on the Sheepwalks.<sup>75</sup> A bee-hive maker was living on Highgate common in 1871.<sup>76</sup> In the early 1920s a new stock of Italian bees was introduced at the home farm.<sup>77</sup>

Crops were grown on 832 ha. (2,056 a.) of the 1,455.3 ha. (3,956 a.) of farmland returned in 1979. Barley predominated, with sugar beet and wheat also being grown. One farm specialized in vegetables. There were 5 dairy farms and nearly 1,500 cattle in the parish. Another farm specialized in pigs, of which there were over 1,400.

There was also some sheep and poultry farming.<sup>78</sup> On the heavier soil in the west of the parish the farms were mainly dairying mixed with arable; arable was predominant on the lighter soil in the east.<sup>79</sup>

A 'fruiteress' was living on Highgate common in 1841.<sup>80</sup> In 1979 two farms specialized in fruit and horticulture; most of the 9 ha. (22 a.) of fruit was under strawberries.<sup>81</sup>

Until the early 16th century there were no large landowners in the parish. About that time the Greys of Whittington, in Kinver, acquired the manors of Morfe and Enville. In 1533 Thomas Grey, who had moved to Enville from Whittington, bought the estate which had belonged to the chantry of Our Lady in Enville church. In the late 16th century another Whittington family, the Moseleys, who had acquired the Mere estate earlier in the century, bought the manor of Lutley and other land in the parish. From the late 17th century the Greys of Enville Hall pursued a policy of buying up property in the parish, often from landowners who were no longer resident. Philleybrook farm was bought in 1683, and Newhouse farm was part of the Greys' estate by 1688.<sup>82</sup> The Leigh House estate was bought in 1744, and the estate at Lyndon in 1747. One of the two estates at the Hollies was bought piecemeal in the mid and later 18th century.<sup>83</sup> Estates at Hoo, evidently the later Hoo farm and Blundies farm, were bought between 1763 and 1811; the land bought in 1811 overlooked Lord Stamford's pleasure grounds and was 'so great an object . . . that he took long and infinite pains in obtaining it'.<sup>84</sup> In 1840 Lord Stamford owned 2,538½ a. in the parish; the other chief landowners were Walter Moseley of the Mere with 738 a., James Amphlett Grove of Four Ashes Hall with 402½ a., and Polly Hale of the Hollies with 234½ a.<sup>85</sup> Most of the farms on the Grey estate were then of medium size, c. 150 a.; Newhouse farm (247 a.) was by far the largest.<sup>86</sup> The Hale estate, which included Coxgreen farm, and the Moseley estate were both bought by Lord Stamford in 1849.<sup>87</sup> In 1982 nearly four fifths of the parish, 1,561 ha. (3,857 a.), belonged to the Enville Hall estate. Medium-sized farms were still characteristic. Of the 15 farms recorded in 1979 only 2 were over 200 ha. and 3 were under 50 ha.<sup>88</sup>

<sup>59</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Thos. Deyse (1544), Ric. Garbett (1592), Humph. Jevon (1638).

<sup>60</sup> S.H.C. 1950-1, table facing p. 242.

<sup>61</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/18, Enville and Bobbington tenants c. 1840.

<sup>62</sup> P.O. Dir. Staffs. (1868; 1872).

<sup>63</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, Enville estate acct. bk. 1919, return to Bd. of Agric. and Fisheries for 1918.

<sup>64</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/18, Enville and Bobbington tenants c. 1840.

<sup>65</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/50, John Davenport to Ld. Stamford 20 May 1826.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid. 27, home farm stock bk.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid. stock bk. Nov. 1839; cash bks. Mar. 1851, Oct. and Nov. 1853; J. P. Sheldon, *Dairying*, 134, 143.

<sup>68</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, cash bk. Nov. 1853.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. 18, Enville and Bobbington tenants c. 1840.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid. 53, Coxgreen farm sale cat. 1885.

<sup>71</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, Enville estate acct. bk. 1919, return to Bd. of Agric. and Fisheries for 1918.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid. 25, stock valuation 1843-4; 50, John Davenport to Ld. Stamford 20 May 1856.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid. 53, farm sale cats.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid. 25, stock valuation 1843-4; 27, stock bk.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid. 27, stock bk.; cash bk. Dec. 1853.

<sup>76</sup> P.R.O., RG 10/2928.

<sup>77</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, corresp. of Geo. Mytton of Lyncroft Apiary, Lichfield, in acct. bk. for 1919.

<sup>78</sup> M.A.F.F., agric. returns 1979.

<sup>79</sup> Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept. *Farm Open Days: Blundies Farm, Enville*, 13 July 1980 (copy in W.S.L. Pamphs. sub Enville).

<sup>80</sup> P.R.O., HO 102/1007.

<sup>81</sup> M.A.F.F., agric. returns 1979.

<sup>82</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 7 Mar. 1682/3; S.R.O. 1392.

<sup>83</sup> Above, manors and other estates.  
<sup>84</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/35, deeds of 21 and 22 Jan. 1763; 37, Dan. Clarke to Hugo Worthington 19 July 1824; 38, abstract of title to Hoo; 39, abstract of title to John Cherrington's estate; 41, deeds of 18, 22, and 23 Feb. 1773; *Staffs. Advertiser*, 18 Mar. 1809.

<sup>85</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville.

<sup>86</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/18, Enville and Bobbington tenants c. 1840.

<sup>87</sup> Above, manors and other estates.  
<sup>88</sup> Inf. from Mr. Scott-Bolton; M.A.F.F., agric. returns 1979.

In the later 19th century Lord Stamford carried out extensive rebuilding of farm buildings on his estate, notably on Home farm, Morfe House farm, and Morfeheath farm. The bricks were made at the brickworks in Morfe.<sup>89</sup>

Permission to construct a rabbit warren in the north-east part of the parish was given by Walter Wrottesley, lord of Lutley, to Nicholas Moseley of the Mere and his son John in 1543.<sup>90</sup> A warrener lived near Four Ashes in 1629, and there was a warrener's lodge at Mere in 1711.<sup>91</sup> When Clare Hays was inclosed in 1746, the lord was allowed to kill as many rabbits as he wished within 10 months; thereafter the tenants were free to kill any which remained.<sup>92</sup> The lord of Enville had a warrener's house known as Enville lodge by 1623; it probably stood near the southern edge of the Sheepwalks.<sup>93</sup> The ruins of a late 17th-century building stood there in 1982. A warrener was living on Morfe common in 1623.<sup>94</sup> He may have lived in the lodge which in 1688 stood south of Pouchers Pool Road. The lodge was still standing in 1747.<sup>95</sup>

**FAIR.** In 1254 the Crown granted William of Birmingham a fair in Enville manor on the eve, feast, and morrow of the finding of the Holy Cross (2-4 May).<sup>96</sup> Nothing further is known of it.

**MILLS.** The mill recorded at Morfe in 1222<sup>97</sup> may have been on the site of the present Mere mill on Philley brook. In 1321 Philip Lutley, lord of Lutley, had a mill on the boundary between Lutley and Morfe manors. An agreement made that year with Henry Morfe, lord of a moiety of Morfe, allowed Philip to extend the mill pond over Henry's land.<sup>98</sup> Although Philip worked the mill, it evidently belonged to the manor of Morfe: in 1332 Henry's widow claimed from Philip dower in what were described as two mills,<sup>99</sup> and in 1346, 1349, and 1362 Sir Fulk Birmingham, lord of the other moiety of Morfe, made leases of the mill, then called Aylewynes mill, to the lords of Lutley.<sup>1</sup> In 1356 the mill at Morfe was described as ruinous, but it was working again by 1403.<sup>2</sup> A corn mill and a fulling mill, evidently under the same roof, were stated in 1442 to be held of Lutley manor.<sup>3</sup> In 1496 Eleanor Strange-ways, lady of Lutley, leased the mill, then called

Aldwyns mill, to Stephen Toy, with land called Walkmill pool.<sup>4</sup> Humphrey Toy held the mill in 1570, and it remained in the Toy family until 1778, when it was bought from the family by W. A. Moseley, owner of the Mere estate.<sup>5</sup> Known as Toys mill in 1775 and 1834,<sup>6</sup> it was called Mere mill by 1841.<sup>7</sup> The mill, a two-storeyed brick building, continued to work until c. 1935;<sup>8</sup> it still stood in 1982.

A mill on Philley brook upstream from Mere mill may have been the mill belonging to Lutley manor in the 15th and 16th centuries.<sup>9</sup> It probably stood south-west of the original site of Lutley manor house: in 1632 a corn mill there was held with Philleybrook Hall farm.<sup>10</sup> By 1727 the mill was owned by Joseph Amphlett of Four Ashes Hall, whose family still held it in 1840.<sup>11</sup> The owner in 1848 was Walter Moseley, who sold it the following year to Lord Stamford.<sup>12</sup> The mill was probably dismantled soon after.

The mill which belonged to Henry Wilcox of Lutley at his death in 1603 may have been the mill on Philley brook at Hay House (later Toys Farm): Wilcox's property, which included land called Walkmill pool, lay in that area.<sup>13</sup> In 1638 John Toy of Lutley assigned a moiety of a mill at Hay House to his son Edward; it was then worked as a corn mill.<sup>14</sup> By 1704 the other moiety was held by Henry Wollaston of Four Ashes Hall.<sup>15</sup> Wollaston had evidently acquired the Toys' moiety by 1712, when he settled on his second son what were described as two corn mills under one roof. They were known as Lutley or Lower mills in 1746, but there was only a single mill by 1797. In 1829 it was sold to J. A. Grove of Four Ashes Hall.<sup>16</sup> It was still working in 1845.<sup>17</sup>

There was probably a mill on Sneyd's brook at Hoo Farm by the mid 1840s. James Parrish, who farmed there, was described as a miller in 1845 and 1850.<sup>18</sup> In 1982 traces of a building survived at the northern corner of a pool near the farmhouse.

There was a mill on Sneyd's brook at Morfe Hall Farm probably by 1507, and certainly by 1609.<sup>19</sup> Edward Hawkes held it in 1698 and 1730, and it was known as Hawkes's mill in 1760.<sup>20</sup> A mill pool survived south of the house in 1982.

In 1574 the mill later known as Spittlebrook mill was granted by John Grey, lord of Enville, to Richard Lee of the Hoo.<sup>21</sup> It was probably the

<sup>89</sup> Below, industries.

<sup>90</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deed of 20 Oct. 1543.

<sup>91</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 26 Sept. 1629; Salop. R.O. 2089/11, deed of 26 May 1711.

<sup>92</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deed of 28 May 1746.

<sup>93</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, 1623 survey; Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>94</sup> Ibid. 54, map of Heath farm 1747; S.R.O. 1392.

<sup>95</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1247-58, 338.

<sup>96</sup> P.R.O., CP 25(1)/208/3, no. 27.

<sup>97</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 5.

<sup>98</sup> *S.H.C.* xi. 38.

<sup>99</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 10; S.R.O. 1485/1/10; Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, 17th-cent. copy of deed of 8 Mar. 1361/2.

<sup>1</sup> *S.H.C.* 1913, 162-3; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 18.

<sup>2</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/8, no. 1.

<sup>3</sup> S.R.O., D. 593/15.

<sup>4</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, Lutley cts. of 4 Oct. 1570, 1 June 1654, 30 Oct. 1690, 27 Apr. 1713, and descrip. of Lutley manor bounds 1744; S.R.O., D. 1021/1/12.

<sup>5</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775); White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 258.

<sup>6</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002.

<sup>7</sup> Sherlock, *Ind. Arch. Staffs.* 166.

<sup>8</sup> *S.H.C.* xi. 229, 282; xvii. 35-6.

<sup>9</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deeds of 28 Sept. 1632, 17 June 1670; B.L. Maps, O.S.D. 214.

<sup>10</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, bdle. A, deed of 17 Jan. 1726/7; L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville, no. 702.

<sup>11</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/32, parties. and plan of Mere estate 1848 and deed of 15 Feb. 1849.

<sup>12</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Hen. Wilcox otherwise Taylor (1603); Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, Lutley ct. of 30 Oct. 1610.

<sup>13</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/P/3, deed of 30 June 1638.

<sup>14</sup> S.R.O., D. 740/9/1.

<sup>15</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, bdle. 4, abstract of title to Lutley farm and mill, and valuation of Smith estate 1797.

<sup>16</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1845).

<sup>17</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1845; 1850).

<sup>18</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville ct. of 17 Oct. 1623, and 1623 survey; 12, bk of deeds and evidences, p. 10.

<sup>19</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Enville; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/3, deed of 29 Sept. 1760.

<sup>20</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deed of 1 Mar. 1579/80 (spelling Lee as Leigh).

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

fulling mill held by a Roger Higgs in 1516:<sup>22</sup> the name Higgs mill was used for the mill on Spittlebrook in 1679, 1681, and 1728.<sup>23</sup> In 1580 Richard Lee granted his mill to Thomas Leigh of Leigh House, who seems to have converted it to a blade mill by 1603.<sup>24</sup> It was probably a corn mill again by 1656<sup>25</sup> but was working as a fulling mill in 1704 and 1773.<sup>26</sup> By 1817 it was a corn mill once more.<sup>27</sup> Bought by Lord Stamford in 1849 when it was known as Spittlebrook mill,<sup>28</sup> it was rebuilt and continued to work until c. 1920; the machinery was removed c. 1967.<sup>29</sup> The five-bayed, three-storeyed brick mill still stood in 1982; the miller's house, dating from c. 1750,<sup>30</sup> stood nearby over the Kinner boundary.

There was a mill on Mill brook at Lyndon c. 1527 and in 1594.<sup>31</sup> It was probably the mill leased by Ambrose Grey to John Pitchford in 1609; when John Pitchford, presumably the same man, died in 1634, he was living at Lyndon.<sup>32</sup> Lord Stamford still had a mill there in 1753. Its working was presumably affected by the creation of Temple Pool, and it was later demolished.<sup>33</sup>

There were two windmills in the parish in 1808. One was south of Mere Lane and east of Four Ashes and still stood in 1820. The other was at Woodcock Hill south of Morfeheath Farm and still stood in 1840.<sup>34</sup>

**INDUSTRIES.** Fulling was done at Mere mill by 1442, at Spittlebrook mill probably in 1516 and certainly in 1704 and 1773, and possibly at Toys Farm mill in or before 1603.<sup>35</sup>

There was a glover living in the parish in 1563.<sup>36</sup> In 1712 Henry Wollaston of Four Ashes settled a tanhouse, barkhouse, and tanpits at Lutley farm on his son Henry, a tanner. The buildings had been demolished by 1829.<sup>37</sup>

In addition to the possible use of Spittlebrook mill as a blade mill in 1603,<sup>38</sup> a scythesmith was living at Mere in 1662 and a locksmith at Enville in 1688.<sup>39</sup> John Collings, a bucklemaker and spectacle maker, was living in the parish in 1756; he and his son were both working as spectacle

makers in 1772.<sup>40</sup> Land called Nailor's meadow west of Little Morfe Farm suggests nail making there before 1838.<sup>41</sup> There was a nailer at Gilbert's Cross in 1841 and two at Highgate common in 1861.<sup>42</sup>

A brickmaker lived at Four Ashes in 1674.<sup>43</sup> Enville brickworks west of Morfe Hall Farm was established c. 1850 by Lord Stamford. It produced bricks for the extensive reconstruction of farm buildings on his estate in the later 19th century. Still operating in 1888, the works had closed by 1901.<sup>44</sup> Two brickmakers, father and son, were living near Gilbert's Cross in 1851; both were still working in 1861, but only one in 1871.<sup>45</sup>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT.** In the mid 1250s the lords of Enville, Morfe, and Lutley all held view of frankpledge. The lords of Enville and Morfe paid 2s. each for it, the lord of Lutley 12d.<sup>46</sup> Michaelmas and Easter great courts were being held at Enville in the late 13th century and at Morfe in the early 14th century.<sup>47</sup> By 1603 small courts for Enville and Morfe were held on the same day, and by 1621 it was the practice to hold the court for Morfe in the morning and that for Enville in the afternoon.<sup>48</sup> At Lutley in the later 1490s there was an annual Michaelmas court, apparently concerned only with small court business.<sup>49</sup> By 1560 and until at least 1788 small courts for Lutley were held at irregular intervals; the court was held at Four Ashes in 1654 and 1657; in 1713 and 1728 the meeting place was William Aingworth's house at Mere, probably the present Mere Farm. The court met at the Mere in 1738, 1744, and 1774.<sup>50</sup> A court for the rectory manor was held in 1458; the only other known courts were held in 1624 and 1691, when the rectory house was the meeting place.<sup>51</sup>

There was a constable for Enville and another for Morfe in 1377.<sup>52</sup> By 1666 the parish formed a single constablewick.<sup>53</sup> A pound was mentioned in 1612 and 1615<sup>54</sup> and stocks in 1827.<sup>55</sup> By 1784 a biennial rent of 4s. for frith silver was paid to the

<sup>22</sup> H.W.R.O.(H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, deed of 22 Apr. 1516.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, deed of 18 July 1681; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/32, abstract of title to Spittlebrook mill 1846 reciting deed of 18 July 1679; 42, will of John Barker 16 Mar. 1727/8.

<sup>24</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deed of 1 Mar. 1579/80 and Morfe ct. roll of 15 Oct. 1603.

<sup>25</sup> H.W.R.O.(H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, rental of Lady Whorwood's lands 1656.

<sup>26</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/36, deeds of 24 and 25 June 1709; 42, deed of 14 Dec. 1773.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. 37, 'Mr. Gilbert Brown's papers', Aug. 1817.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. 36, deed of 11 May 1849.

<sup>29</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1916; 1924); Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept., Water Mills (South) file.

<sup>30</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/7, deed of 10 Dec. 1824.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid. 11, Enville ct. of survey c. 1527 and ct. of 16 Oct. 1594.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid. ct. of 17 Oct. 1623; L.J.R.O., B/C/11, John Pitchford (1634).

<sup>33</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/58, Enville tithes, draft claim for tithe exemption c. 1810. It is not shown by Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>34</sup> R. Baugh, *Map of Salop.* (1808); C. and J. Greenwood, *Map of Staffs.* (1820); B.L. Maps, O.S.D. 214; L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville, no. 419.

<sup>35</sup> Above, mills.

<sup>36</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, deed of 31 Mar. 1563.

<sup>37</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, bdle. 4, abstract of title to Lutley farm and mill.

<sup>38</sup> Above, mills.

<sup>39</sup> H.W.R.O.(H.), E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, deed of 2 June 1662; *Heraldic Cases in Ct. of Chivalry 1623-1732* (Harl. Soc. cvii), 55.

<sup>40</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/33, deeds of 17 Apr. 1756, 17 Dec. 1772.

<sup>41</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville, no. 520.

<sup>42</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002; P.R.O., RG 9/1985.

<sup>43</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Thos. Sallaway (1674).

<sup>44</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273, plans for Enville Brick Works 1848, Tp. 1273/27, Enville estate cash bk.; O.S. Map 1/2,500, Staffs. LXX. 3 (1883 and 1903 edns.).

<sup>45</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017(1); P.R.O., RG 10/2928.

<sup>46</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 110.

<sup>47</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6/1/1; Tp. 1273/12/6, nos. 1, 4.

<sup>48</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville cts. of 15 Oct. 1603, 12 Apr. 1610, 20 Nov. 1620, 20 Nov. 1621, 23 Apr. 1636.

<sup>49</sup> S.R.O., D. 593/J/15.

<sup>50</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, ct. rolls, and deed of 29 Nov. 1744.

<sup>51</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, deeds of 29 May 1458, 26 Oct. 1624; 38, deed of 19 May 1691.

<sup>52</sup> *S.H.C.* 4th ser. vi, 9.

<sup>53</sup> *S.H.C.* 1923, 77-9.

<sup>54</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, Enville cts. of 18 Apr. and 27 Oct. 1612, 27 Apr. 1615.

<sup>55</sup> S.R.O., D. 42/A/PK/17.

earl of Stamford by the constable of Enville.<sup>66</sup> It was still being paid c. 1840.<sup>67</sup>

There were two churchwardens by the mid 16th century.<sup>68</sup> There was a parish clerk by 1640.<sup>69</sup> In 1698 he received wages of 18s. 8d., made up partly from payments by the principal landowners in the parish and partly from fees, which included 1s. for ringing the bell every hour.<sup>60</sup> By 1769 he was paid by the churchwardens; his salary was £5 10s. by 1784.<sup>61</sup> In the mid 1740s there was a nobbler, responsible for keeping people awake in church.<sup>62</sup>

There were two overseers of the poor by 1699.<sup>63</sup> The poor were badged by 1769.<sup>64</sup> In the early 19th century the former Cock inn was used as a workhouse.<sup>65</sup> Poorhouses were evidently built in 1718, when Henry Wollaston gave £6 towards the cost.<sup>66</sup> They may have replaced an earlier poorhouse. In 1745 what was described as an old house called the parish house was leased, together with poor's land in Enville village, to the earl of Stamford; the following year the earl agreed to provide a road to the 'new erected houses', presumably the poorhouses.<sup>67</sup> Although maintained by the parish, the houses were called almshouses from the later 18th century.<sup>68</sup> In 1810 the houses, of which there were then eight, were ruinous; it was decided to demolish them and build six houses on waste ground by Chester Road at the joint expense of the parish, the rector, and Lord Stamford. They had been built by 1818 and appear to have been refurbished by Lord Stamford in the later 1830s.<sup>69</sup> At least one of the houses was still an almshouse in 1863, when the vestry appointed a new occupant.<sup>70</sup> In 1960 the parish council sold the houses to Seisdon rural district council for £500, which was invested as the capital of the Almshouse Trust. Under a Scheme of 1978 the trust was amalgamated with several charities to form the Enville Poor Charity.<sup>71</sup> In 1982 the houses were occupied as three council houses.

In 1836 the parish became part of Seisdon poor-law union.<sup>72</sup> It was in Seisdon rural district until 1974, when it became part of South Staffordshire district.<sup>73</sup>

**CHURCH.** Architectural evidence shows that there was a church on the present site on the ridge

north of Enville village by the 12th century. The patronage of the rectory was evidently held by the lord of Enville manor by the earlier 13th century: during a minority in the lordship in the mid 1250s William of Birmingham, the mesne lord, held the patronage as guardian.<sup>74</sup> The lord of Enville was patron in 1291.<sup>75</sup> In the 1360s, during another minority, Sir Fulk Birmingham presented to the church. His son Sir John Birmingham presented in 1382, and the patronage continued to be held by the Birmingham family.<sup>76</sup> By 1522 it descended with an acre in Ast field.<sup>77</sup> The acre was known as the Advowson acre by 1698.<sup>78</sup> By the mid 17th century, however, it appears that the land was regarded as descending with the patronage.<sup>79</sup> In 1522 Edward Birmingham sold the acre, and with it the patronage, to John Whorwood of Compton Hallows in Kinver.<sup>80</sup> John's grandson Thomas Whorwood presented in 1571.<sup>81</sup> In 1604 Thomas granted the next turn to John Fowke of Gunstone, in Brewood, one of his creditors. Fowke acted as patron in 1619, when he presented his son Anthony.<sup>82</sup> The patronage reverted to Thomas Whorwood's son Gerard, who died in 1627.<sup>83</sup> It remained in his family until 1677 when his great-grandson, Wortley Whorwood, sold it to Richard Avenant of Shelsley Walsh (Worcs.), an ironmaster.<sup>84</sup> Avenant presented in 1681 and 1682.<sup>85</sup> The patron in 1685 was George Palmer; in 1686 Henry Palmer presented George Southall, also rector of Pedmore (Worcs.). In 1687 Thomas Tyrer, perhaps the Halesowen lawyer of that name, presented Southall's son-in-law William Bowles.<sup>86</sup> Bowles died in 1705, having by then acquired the patronage himself.<sup>87</sup> In 1706 Tryer and Thomas Bowles, possibly acting as trustees, presented Henry Bowles, probably William's brother. In 1718 William's sister, Bridget Downing, presented her son John Downing, who by 1736 held the patronage in his own right. He died in 1737, leaving the patronage to trustees who were to present one of his sons when qualified. Henry Bowles Downing, John's second son, was duly presented in 1743, acquiring the patronage at the same time.<sup>88</sup> Henry died in 1765 leaving the patronage to one of his younger sons, John, who presented himself in 1770.<sup>89</sup> In 1794 John sold the patronage to Richard Wilkes of Chapel Ash, in Wolverhampton

<sup>66</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/43, Staffs. rentals.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid. 18, Enville and Bobbington tenants c. 1840.

<sup>68</sup> S.H.C. N.S. vi (1), 188; S.H.C. 1915, 98.

<sup>69</sup> S.R.O., D. 3578/1/1, burial of 5 June 1640.

<sup>70</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Enville.

<sup>71</sup> S.R.O., D. 42/A/PC/1, churchwardens' accts.

<sup>72</sup> S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6, burial of 6 Dec. 1746.

<sup>73</sup> S.R.O., D. 42/A/PO/90.

<sup>74</sup> S.R.O., D. 42/A/PC/1, overseers' accts.

<sup>75</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/42, declaration of Ann Nicholls 12 June 1861; above, introduction.

<sup>76</sup> Enville ch., char. boards.

<sup>77</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/10, deed of 20 Aug. 1745.

<sup>78</sup> S.R.O., D. 42/A/PC/1, overseers' accts. 1771, 1782.

<sup>79</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/50, John Beckett to Ld. Grey 24 Apr. 1810, John Davenport to Ld. Stamford 14 Sept. 1839; L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville, no. 304; *Poor Law Abstract*, H.C. 82, pp. 420-1 (1818), xix.

<sup>80</sup> S.R.O., D. 3578/4, 16 Mar. 1863.

<sup>81</sup> Inf. from Mr. J. A. Gloss; below, chars. for the poor.

<sup>82</sup> 3rd Ann. Rep. *Poor Law Com.* H.C. 546, p. 164 (1837), xxxi.

<sup>83</sup> O.S. Map 1/100,000, Staffs. Admin. Areas (1967 and 1974 edns.).

<sup>84</sup> S.H.C. v (1), 110.

<sup>85</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 204.

<sup>86</sup> S.H.C. N.S. iv. 133-4, 141; N.S. vi (1) 91; N.S. x (2), 115, 118, 151.

<sup>87</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/3, no. 8.

<sup>88</sup> S.H.C. xiii. 287; L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Enville, 1698.

<sup>89</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, deed of 26 May 1658.

<sup>90</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/3, no. 8.

<sup>91</sup> S.H.C. 1915, 98.

<sup>92</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 2 Nov. 1604; P.R.O., IND 17003, p. 21.

<sup>93</sup> P.R.O., C 142/354, no. 104.

<sup>94</sup> P.R.O., CP 25(2)/725/28 and 29 Chas. II Hil. no. 14; below, Kinver, econ. hist.

<sup>95</sup> P.R.O., IND 17008, p. 91b.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.; J. Ball, *William Caston*, 52, 64.

<sup>97</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 274.

<sup>98</sup> P.R.O., IND 17009, p. 156; 17012, p. 80; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/42, release of Jane Downing 26 Mar. 1745; *Caston*, 52, 54.

<sup>99</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/42, copy of Hen. Downing's will; P.R.O., IND 17012, p. 80.

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(d. 1797). Wilkes's second son, also Richard, inherited it and presented himself in 1800.<sup>90</sup> He died in 1824 leaving it to a cousin, Thomas Price, a minor canon of Worcester cathedral, who presented himself. Price died in 1836, and the patronage descended to the younger Richard Wilkes's sister Sarah, wife of Henry Jesson of Trysull. In 1841 Sarah gave it to her son Cornelius, himself rector of Enville since 1837.<sup>91</sup> In 1859 he sold it to Lord Stamford; it then descended with Enville manor, and the patron in 1981 was Mrs. Eileen Bissill.<sup>92</sup>

The rectory was worth £8 in 1291.<sup>93</sup> In 1535 the income was £28 gross (£27 3s. net), from glebe, tithes, oblations, and Easter offerings.<sup>94</sup> In 1598 the tithes and oblations, except those from the Hale estate at the Hollies and the tithes of hemp and flax, were leased, with barns at the rectory house, for £120 a year. In 1633 the rectory was valued at £160.<sup>95</sup> In 1636 the glebe comprised a house, 3 a. of garden and orchard, 37½ a. of closes adjoining the curtilage and the churchyard, 24 a. in the open fields of Enville township, and a dole of meadow; the tithe of hay was leased for £6 6s. 8d. a year and the remaining tithes, offerings, and oblations for £120 a year. By 1698 most of the tithe of hay had been replaced by moduses; other tithes were generally paid in kind.<sup>96</sup> The rector was one of the inhabitants of Enville who had pasture rights in Checkhill waste in Kinver, and when the waste was inclosed in 1804 he was allotted 78 a. there.<sup>97</sup> The average income of the rectory c. 1830 was £1,084 gross (£979 net).<sup>98</sup> In 1840 tithes and moduses were commuted for a rent charge of £900.<sup>99</sup> In 1841 there were 124 a. of glebe, including the 78 a. at Checkhill.<sup>1</sup> The Checkhill land was exchanged with Lord Stamford for 35 a. at Compton in Kinver in 1854.<sup>2</sup> In the later 1880s the glebe comprised 77 a. with a gross estimated rental of £114.<sup>3</sup>

A rectory manor, known in 1546 as the Parson's manor, existed by 1458, when a tenement on the Bobbington boundary called Groundwyns, apparently part of Lutley manor in 1391, was surrendered and regranted in the rector's court.<sup>4</sup> Chief rents totalling 11s. 6d. were paid to the rector by four tenants at or near Groundwyns in 1698; they were still paid in 1776 and seem to have been, with heriots, the rector's only source of income from the manor.<sup>5</sup>

A rectory house east of the church was recorded in 1342.<sup>6</sup> In 1592 it included a parlour, hall, seven chambers, offices, and a newly built study or library in which the rector, Richard Garbett, had books worth £4. There was also a dovecot; barns, approached from the main road through a gatehouse, were mentioned in 1598.<sup>7</sup> In 1666 the rectory house was assessed at seven hearths.<sup>8</sup> In 1698 the house, partly rebuilt by William Bowles, rector from 1688, consisted of four bays; there were nine bays of barns and two of stabling, with a large foldyard covering c. 1½ a. Bowles also replanted the garden and orchard.<sup>9</sup> The house was rebuilt by Richard Wilkes, rector 1800-24;<sup>10</sup> he may have retained parts of the earlier building. The principal rooms, at the east end, have early 19th-century decorations, as have the small library and staircase. At the west end are additions in a later 19th-century plain Gothic style, probably built by Lord Stamford for the Revd. Henry Payne. The house ceased to be the rectory in 1975 and was empty in 1982, when the rector was living in West Cottage in Enville village.<sup>11</sup>

There was a curate in 1533, the rector being a pluralist and evidently non-resident, and another in 1558.<sup>12</sup> About 1619 John Evans was curate. He had practised magical arts in the neighbourhood for some five years and lived with the rector, John Colombyne, who encouraged his activities. Evans resigned the curacy c. 1620 apparently because of growing local hostility when his spells and cures failed to work. He then set up as a teacher in the parish.<sup>13</sup> Edward Archer was appointed curate in 1632, the rector being a lunatic. Archer left Enville in 1640, but there was another curate in 1651.<sup>14</sup> There was a curate in 1730; he was then also teaching grammar at Enville free school.<sup>15</sup> A curate was appointed in the later 1850s, and there was normally one until the early 1890s.<sup>16</sup>

A chantry at the altar of Our Lady was founded by Philip Lutley in 1362 and ordained in 1372.<sup>17</sup> The right to appoint a priest descended with Lutley manor.<sup>18</sup> The chantry was endowed with an assart called Morfe wood in 1366.<sup>19</sup> By 1369 the endowment was worth £4 in rents, and the reversion of a 20s. rent had also been given. The rents, paid by parishioners in Enville, Morfe, and Lutley, were mostly 1s. or less.<sup>20</sup> In 1535 the chantry was worth £6 13s. 4d.<sup>21</sup> When it was suppressed in 1548 it had an income of £8 17s. 11d.

<sup>90</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/42, sched. of title deeds to advowson and copy of Ric. Wilkes's will; P.R.O., IND 17012, p. 81.

<sup>91</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/42, sched. of title deeds to advowson and copy of will of Revd. Ric. Wilkes.

<sup>92</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/42, deed of 8 July 1859; *Lich. Dioc. Dir.* (1982).

<sup>93</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 103.

<sup>94</sup> *S.H.C.* 1934(2), 8; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1633-4, 344. For the Hale estate see above, manors and other estates.

<sup>95</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Enville.

<sup>96</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 59; below, p. 138.

<sup>97</sup> *Rep. Com. Eccl. Revenues*, 476-7.

<sup>98</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*; L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Enville.

<sup>2</sup> W.S.L., M. 1018.

<sup>3</sup> *Returns of Glebe Lands*, H.C. 307, p. 64 (1887), lxiv.

<sup>4</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 11 Nov. 1391; 12, deed of 29 May 1458; *S.H.C.* 1910, 56-8.

<sup>5</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Enville; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, deeds of 29 May 1458, 26 Oct. 1624; above, local govt.

<sup>6</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/4, no. 6.

<sup>7</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Ric. Garbett (1592); *S.H.C.* 1934(2), 8.

<sup>8</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Enville.

<sup>9</sup> *S.H.C.* 4th ser. x, 10, stating, in 1830, that house had been rebuilt by late rector.

<sup>10</sup> *Inf.* from the rector and Mr. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>11</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 99; L.J.R.O., B/C/11, John Wylcockis (1558).

<sup>12</sup> P.R.O., STAC 8/255/24; printed sheet relating to Evans in W.S.L. Pamphs. sub Enville; below, educ.

<sup>13</sup> *Alum. Cantab. to 1751*, ed. Venn, i, 37; *Calamy Revised*, ed. A. G. Matthews, 14, 414; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1633-4, 344; *S.H.C.* 1915, 65, 67, 99.

<sup>14</sup> *Lich. Dioc. Ch. Cal.* (1858 and edns. to 1892).

<sup>15</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1361-4, 267; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 275; Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deed of 12 July 1372.

<sup>16</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deeds of 12 July 1372, 30 June 1540.

<sup>17</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 275.

<sup>18</sup> Salop. R.O. 2089/ADD, deed of 24 Aug. 1375.

<sup>19</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii, 101.



and the priest was granted a pension of £6.<sup>22</sup> In 1553 the Crown gave the chantry estate to two speculators, who sold it immediately to Thomas Grey of Enville.<sup>23</sup> It then consisted of the former priest's house and another house,  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate at Enville, a house and  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate at Lyndon, a cottage, several crofts, and rents in Enville parish, and a mill in Kinver.<sup>24</sup> The property was incorporated into the Grey estate.<sup>25</sup> The chantry priest's house may have been the newly built cottage at Bar green mentioned in 1375.<sup>26</sup> His house certainly stood at Bar green at the Dissolution.<sup>27</sup>

There was evidently an altar dedicated to St. Nicholas in the Middle Ages: in 1556 the St. Nicholas aisle of the parish church was mentioned.<sup>28</sup> There were lights on the rood screen in 1503 and one at the Lady altar in 1544.<sup>29</sup> By 1549 a paschal light had been endowed by Isabel Brauntley.<sup>30</sup>

Edward Archer, curate in the 1630s, was a puritan.<sup>31</sup> In the mid 1630s the wife of Ambrose Grey, lord of Enville, attended puritan lectures in neighbouring parishes.<sup>32</sup>

In 1830 there were two services on Sunday and a monthly communion service.<sup>33</sup> In 1892 there were daily communion services early in the morning and one at noon on the first Sunday in the month.<sup>34</sup>

There was a chapel of St. Michael at Lutley by 1367; there was also an altar of St. Michael there, possibly served by a chantry priest. What may be the remains of the building were visible in 1982 in a field near the site of Lutley manor house. The chapel recorded at Morfe in the 14th century may have been in the manor house.<sup>35</sup>

The church of *ST. MARY*, an invocation in use by 1742 although St. Laurence was used in the 16th century,<sup>36</sup> is built of red sandstone and consists of a chancel, a four-bayed nave with north and south aisles, north and south porches, and a south-west tower. The nave and south aisle date from the 12th century, and two contemporary sculptures are reset on either side of the arcade. One is of a priest with his right hand raised in blessing and his left hand holding a fan; the other is of a bishop.<sup>37</sup> The north arcade and aisle were added in the 13th century, and the chancel was rebuilt to its present size. A 13th-century effigy of a priest survives in a canopied niche on the north side of the chancel.<sup>38</sup> A new

east window was inserted in the earlier 14th century, and the south aisle was evidently remodelled at the same time. The unbuttressed south-west tower was probably there by that date.<sup>39</sup> Glass dating from the 14th century survives in the east window of the chancel and the east window of the south aisle.<sup>40</sup> Four misericords in the chancel date from the later 15th century;<sup>41</sup> they may be 'the long seats formerly belonging to the chantry' which were on the north side of the chancel in 1697.<sup>42</sup> An alabaster table tomb raised by Anne Grey as a memorial to her husband Edward Grey (d. 1559), herself, and their children, formerly stood on the north side of the chancel. It was moved to its present position at the east end of the south aisle c. 1872.<sup>43</sup>

The chancel was remodelled in the 18th century, the lateral walls being given exterior classical pilasters and round-headed windows. The south porch too was built or rebuilt in the 18th century.<sup>44</sup> By 1756 there was a gallery in the south aisle lit by two dormer windows.<sup>45</sup> In 1820 the gallery, then used by the singers, was replaced by one in the north aisle for singers and Sunday-school children. The lower part of the tower was converted into a vestry.<sup>46</sup> A new vestry on the north side of the chancel was built in 1825. At the same time the two-decker pulpit, which stood on the south side of the nave by 1744, was moved to the south side of the chancel arch.<sup>47</sup> A later pulpit stood in the same position in 1982.

The church was restored by G. G. (later Sir Gilbert) Scott in 1872-4. The tower, west end, north and south porches, and lateral walls of the chancel were rebuilt; the plaster was removed from the interior walls, and the capitals of the arcade piers were recut. The north gallery, the aisle dormers, and the box pews were removed. The vestry was converted into an organ chamber and a new vestry created by screening off the east end of the north aisle.<sup>48</sup> The south wall was rebuilt in 1968.<sup>49</sup>

The plate in 1552 consisted of a silver chalice and paten and four cruets; there were also two brass crosses. A piece of silver at the foot of the rood had been removed. In 1553 only two cruets were mentioned.<sup>50</sup> Mary Grey (d. 1690) gave a silver chalice in memory of her son Thomas.<sup>51</sup> A silver-gilt chalice and paten, silver flagons, and a silver almsdish were given by Lord Stamford in 1763.<sup>52</sup>

<sup>22</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 99, 101; *P.R.O.*, E 318/39/2101.

<sup>23</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1553, 218-19; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/12, deed of 12 Feb. 1552/3.

<sup>24</sup> *P.R.O.*, E 318/39/2101.

<sup>25</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, valor of lands of John Grey 1581.

<sup>26</sup> *Salop. R.O.* 2089/ADD, deed of 24 Aug. 1375.

<sup>27</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/8, undated survey of chantry rents.

<sup>28</sup> *L.J.R.O.*, B/C/11, Humph. Hale (1556).

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.* John Wilcox (1533), Thos. Deyse (1544).

<sup>30</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 99.

<sup>31</sup> *Calamy Revised*, ed. Matthews, 14, 414; *S.H.C.* 1915, 67.

<sup>32</sup> *S.H.C.* 4th ser. x, 10.

<sup>33</sup> *S.R.O.*, D. 3578/3/1, reg. of services.

<sup>34</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1364-7, 400; above, manors and other estates.

<sup>35</sup> J. Ecton, *Thesaurus* (1742), 108; *L.J.R.O.*, B/C/11, Thos. Tomyns (1540), Thos. Deyse (1544), John Wylcockis (1558), Eliz. Bradney (1592).

<sup>36</sup> *T.B.A.S.* lxix, 17.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.* 17-18.

<sup>38</sup> Below, plate facing p. 192.

<sup>40</sup> *T.B.A.S.* lxviii, 50-1; *Torrington Diaries*, ed. C. Bruyn Andrews, iii, 226.

<sup>41</sup> *T.B.A.S.* lxvii, 50-1; above, plate facing p. 113.

<sup>42</sup> MSS. at Four Ashes Hall, bdlc. A, deed of 14 Oct. 1697.

<sup>43</sup> *T.B.A.S.* lxx, 20-1; *W.S.L.*, Staffs. Views, iv, 183; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1868; 1872).

<sup>44</sup> Below, plate facing p. 192.

<sup>45</sup> *Salop. R.O.* 2089/25, plan of Enville ch. pews 1744, endorsement.

<sup>46</sup> *L.J.R.O.*, B/C/2/1820-3, pp. 73-5; *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/50, Enville ch. bdlc.

<sup>47</sup> *Salop. R.O.* 2089/25, plan of Enville ch. pews 1744; *L.J.R.O.*, B/C/5/1825, Enville; Lichfield Cathedral Libr., Moore and Hinckes drawings, ix, no. 16.

<sup>48</sup> *L.J.R.O.*, B/C/5/1871, Enville; *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1884).

<sup>49</sup> Note in show case in church.

<sup>50</sup> *S.H.C.* N.S. vi (1), 188; *S.H.C.* 1915, 98, describing the chalice as partly gilt.

<sup>51</sup> Enville ch., char. boards.

<sup>52</sup> *T.B.A.S.* lxviii, 34-5.



## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

There were four bells and a sanctus bell in 1552 and 1553.<sup>53</sup> Michael Moseley gave a bell in 1626, and four bells, possibly those which existed in 1552, were recast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester in 1718. A further three bells were cast by John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough in 1876.<sup>54</sup> A tower clock was given by Thomas Shadwell, son of Edward Shadwell of Lyndon, in 1659. A second dial was added by Harry Grey c. 1700. In 1769 a caretaker was paid £1 11s. 6d. a year for looking after the clock. A new clock, in memory of Lord Stamford (d. 1883), was installed c. 1884.<sup>55</sup>

The shaft and base of an ancient cross stand in the churchyard south of the church. The burial ground was extended in 1857 and 1915.<sup>56</sup>

The surviving registers date from 1627 and are complete except for 1686–8.<sup>57</sup>

**NONCONFORMITY.** In 1845 a house at Four Ashes occupied by John Standon was registered for protestant dissenting worship.<sup>58</sup> In 1855–6 Richard Smallman opened his house in Enville for worship by Wesleyan Methodists. On Sundays there were morning and evening services, the latter taken by a preacher from Gospel Ash chapel in Bobbington. The cause flourished but was abandoned c. 1857 because of opposition from the rector, Cornelius Jesson.<sup>59</sup>

**EDUCATION.** There may have been a school in the parish in the late 16th century: John Key, a schoolmaster, was described as formerly of Enville in 1598.<sup>60</sup> In 1625 John Evans of Four Ashes, formerly curate of Enville, offered tuition in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and mathematics.<sup>61</sup>

A free school for six poor boys of the parish was established by Edward Gravenor of the Hollies, who by will of 1654 endowed it with an annual £5 from land at Swindon, in Wombourne. The boys were to be chosen by the churchwardens and overseers and by the owner of Gravenor's house at the Hollies, who was to have two votes.<sup>62</sup> Latin was apparently taught by 1666, when the foundation was called Enville grammar school. By 1710 the master gave an English education alone, although in 1730 Latin was taught by the curate of Enville.<sup>63</sup> By the early 19th century the schoolhouse was the building now known as Swinford Cottage, standing in the village on the road leading to Enville Hall. The

rector, Richard Wilkes, added a Sunday school to the free school c. 1807, and Lord Stamford built a separate schoolroom, now the garage of the cottage, which enabled the schoolhouse to be used solely as the master's residence.<sup>64</sup> The master received an annual £30, raised by subscription, for teaching the Sunday school. There were 35 weekday pupils c. 1818, of whom 6, still appointed in accordance with Gravenor's wishes, were supported by the foundation and 15 by Lord Stamford, his family, and other individuals.<sup>65</sup> There were 35 boys and 5 girls at the school in the mid 1830s.<sup>66</sup> By the mid 1840s it was a National school with 43 boys and 20 girls.<sup>67</sup> In 1860–1 there were two teachers, a married couple, who received a salary of £69 13s. 6d. from the endowment, voluntary contributions, and school pence.<sup>68</sup> In 1861 a new school was built opposite the Cat inn by Lady Stamford.<sup>69</sup> It received a government grant by 1869.<sup>70</sup> There was an average attendance of 97 boys and girls and 36 infants in 1907.<sup>71</sup> The school, which was extended c. 1957,<sup>72</sup> was known as Enville parochial school by the late 1860s; in 1959 it was renamed the Countess of Stamford and Warrington primary school. In 1981 it was a C. of E. junior (controlled) school with an average attendance of 27.<sup>73</sup>

Under a Scheme of 1978 the foundation was amalgamated with the charity of Henry Grey for apprentices and the charity of Peter Lafargue to form the Enville Education Charity. The income was to be spent on grants to Enville schoolchildren and to young people starting on a trade or profession, and also on grants to provide books at schools attended by Enville children. The income in 1980 was £157, of which £40 was spent on a grant to an apprentice.<sup>74</sup>

A charity boarding school to prepare 12 girls for domestic service was established in 1755 by Lady Dorothy Grey (d. 1781), a daughter of the 3rd earl of Stamford.<sup>75</sup> The girls, admitted between 5 and 7 years old, remained at the school until they were 17 or went into service, whichever was the sooner. Entrance was restricted to girls from Enville and any other Staffordshire parish where the Grey family had property. Each girl on leaving was to receive a Bible, a prayer book, and copies of *The Whole Duty of Man* and *Wilson on the Sacrament*, funds permitting. The mistress was to be an Anglican, over 30, and unmarried. To support the school Lady Dorothy settled a rent charge of £50 from land in

<sup>53</sup> *S.H.C.* N.S. vi. (1), 188; *S.H.C.* 1915, 98.

<sup>54</sup> Lynam, *Ch. Bells Staffs.* 11.

<sup>55</sup> Bennett, *Enville*, 30; *S.R.O.*, D. 42/A/PC/1.

<sup>56</sup> Lich. Dioc. Regy., B/A/2(i)/P, pp. 635–40; V, p. 511.

<sup>57</sup> All except those in current use are in *S.R.O.*, D. 3578/1.

<sup>58</sup> *S.H.C.* 4th ser. iii. 99.

<sup>59</sup> J. H. Mees, *Story of a Hundred Years: Handbk. of Wesleyan Methodist Church Stourbridge Circuit* (Stourbridge, 1928), 112–13 (copy in Stourbridge Libr.).

<sup>60</sup> *S.H.C.* 1935, 55.

<sup>61</sup> B. Capp, *Astrology and the Popular Press*, 235, 305.

<sup>62</sup> 5th *Rep. Com. Char.* 616; *P.R.O.*, ED 7/108/132.

<sup>63</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/4/5; *S.R.O.*, D. 3578/1/2.

<sup>64</sup> *Digest of Returns to Sel. Cttee. on Educ. of Poor*, H.C. 224, p. 859 (1819), ix (2); *P.R.O.*, ED 7/108/132; L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Enville, no. 11; B/V/6/Enville, 1841.

<sup>65</sup> *Digest of Returns to Sel. Cttee. on Educ. of Poor*, 859; 5th *Rep. Com. Char.* 617.

<sup>66</sup> *Educ. Enq. Abstract*, H.C. 62, p. 876 (1835), xlii.

<sup>67</sup> *Nat. Soc. Inquiry*, 1846–7, Staffs. 4–5.

<sup>68</sup> *P.R.O.*, ED 7/108/132.

<sup>69</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1888); below, plate facing p. 145.

<sup>70</sup> *Rep. of Educ. Cttee. of Council, 1869–70* [C.165], p. 641, H.C. (1870), xxii.

<sup>71</sup> *Public Elem. Schs. 1907* [Cd. 3901], p. 565, H.C. (1908), lxxxiv.

<sup>72</sup> *S.R.O.*, D. 1359/7/1.

<sup>73</sup> *Rep. Educ. Cttee. of Council, 1869–70*, 641; *S.R.O.*, surv. of sch. records 1965, Enville; inf. from the headmistress (1981).

<sup>74</sup> Below, chs. for the poor; inf. from Mr. J. A. Gloss.

<sup>75</sup> For this para. see 5th *Rep. Com. Char.* 617–18; *Digest of Returns to Sel. Cttee. on Educ. of Poor*, 859; J. Heely, *Letters on the Beauties of Hagley, Envil, and the Leasowes* (1777), ii. 63–4; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 274.

Lincolnshire; of the income £2 10s. was set aside for the rent of the school land and for repairs to the building. In 1757 Lady Dorothy gave a further £20 a year from the same property in Lincolnshire. Lord Stamford gave £100 in 1764, and Thomas Evans, archdeacon of Worcester, gave £100 in 1815. The income, however, was insufficient to maintain a full complement of 12 girls, and the number had fallen to six by 1806; it was then further reduced to four. There continued to be an annual deficiency of c. £20, met by Lord Stamford. By will proved 1819 he left £450 to the school, and its annual income c. 1820 was £101 2s. 10d., of which the mistress received £7. There were only three girls at the school in the mid 1830s and five in 1860.<sup>76</sup> The school still functioned in 1925 but was closed soon afterwards. From c. 1930 the building, in the south-east corner of the parish, was occupied as a private house known as Lady Dorothy's Cottage.<sup>77</sup>

Under a Scheme of 1978 the foundation was opened to both girls and boys in the parishes of Enville, Bobbington, and Kinver, preference being given to those from Enville. The income was to be spent on grants to children attending secondary schools, to students at places of further education, including universities, and to young people starting on a trade or profession; on travel bursaries; and on grants to students studying music or other arts. In 1981-2 the income was £3,186.95, from which two grants of £100 and £158 were made.<sup>78</sup>

There was a dancing master living in Enville in 1759; by 1766 he had moved to Kinver.<sup>79</sup> There was a private school at Four Ashes in 1778.<sup>80</sup> There was a girls' boarding school in the parish in 1819; a drawing master then living in Enville may have taught there.<sup>81</sup> A private school with nine boys and nine girls existed in the mid 1830s.<sup>82</sup> Mary and Sarah Norris ran a school in Enville village in 1841 and 1851.<sup>83</sup> In 1860 and 1864 Jane and Ellen Harcourt ran a school, probably in Moos Cottage near the church where they were living in 1861.<sup>84</sup> By 1888 a Miss Buraston was running a private school at Four Ashes; she continued it to c. 1900.<sup>85</sup>

**CHARITIES FOR THE POOR.** By deed of 1667 Henry Grey of Enville Hall gave a rent charge of 56s. from 12 a. in Enville. The gift was evidently in consideration of £56 given to him by the parish officers. The money was accumulated poor's stock,<sup>86</sup> of which £46 16s. 8d. was pre-

sumably made up of the benefactions of 14 people named on the charity boards in the church.

By deed of 1690 Tomyns Dickins the elder of Morfe gave c. 10 a. in Enville, the income to be distributed among the poor of the parish six days before Christmas and at Easter. The income from the land and from £30 raised by the sale of timber was £6 in the late 1780s. In 1819 the income was £10 10s., disbursed in doles of between 1s. and 5s. on St. Thomas's day (21 December); there were 96 recipients that year.<sup>87</sup>

By 1727 Abigail Watts, widow of a rector of Enville, had given £10, the interest to be divided between two poor widows. There was an income of 10s. in the late 1780s, but distribution stopped c. 1802. In 1819 the accumulated arrears were distributed by the rector among 19 widows.<sup>88</sup>

By will of 1773 John Elcock left £6, the interest to be distributed in 3d. loaves to the poor on Whitsunday. About 1820 the income of 5s. was supplemented by bread bought with 'sacrament money'.<sup>89</sup>

By deed of 1807 Lord Stamford invested £518 15s. to produce an income of £25 for the relief of the poor. The distribution, made by the earl and his successor, was in the form of sheets, blankets, and clothing.<sup>90</sup>

Under a Scheme of 1978 the above five charities were united as the Enville Poor Charity, which also included the Almshouse Trust established in 1960. The income in 1981 was £472.39, of which £100 was spent in a grant to one family.<sup>91</sup>

Edward Gravenor of the Hollies (d. 1654) left £10 to produce an annual 10s. which was to be distributed at Michaelmas in 3d. doles to 40 poor parishioners, chosen by the churchwardens and overseers and by the owner of Gravenor's house. An owner of the other Hollies estate, Corbett Hale (d. 1794), doubled each share to 6d. The increased distribution was still paid c. 1820.<sup>92</sup> Nothing further is known of the charity.

Henry Grey (d. 1687) also left £100, the interest to be used each year in apprenticing two poor boys from the parish. In 1732 the money, together with the charity of Peter Lafargue, was used to buy 8 a. in King's Norton (Worcs., later Birmingham).<sup>93</sup> The income was £5 in 1737 and had increased to £5 5s. by the late 1780s.<sup>94</sup> There was a limited demand for the charity: only nine apprenticeship indentures survive between 1724 and 1782, and by 1820 there was an accumulated surplus of £31 1s. 2d. The income c. 1820 was £12 12s., of which 10s. was paid in respect of Lafargue's charity.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>76</sup> *Educ. Enquiry Abstract*, 876; G. Griffith, *Free Schs. of Staffs.* 627.

<sup>77</sup> *Staffs. Endowed Chars.* 57; *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1916; 1924; 1928; 1932); S.R.O., Tp. 1273/52, bdles. of sch. accts.; below, plate facing p. 145.

<sup>78</sup> Inf. from Mr. Gloss.

<sup>79</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver X, deeds of 20 Feb. 1759; 3 July 1766.

<sup>80</sup> A. L. Reade, *Reades of Blackwood Hill* (priv. print. 1906), 187 n.

<sup>81</sup> *Digest of Returns to Sel. Cttee. on Educ. of Poor*, 859; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24, Enville reg. of apprentices 1802-19, no. 52.

<sup>82</sup> *Educ. Enq. Abstract*, 876.

<sup>83</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002; HO 107/2017(1).

<sup>84</sup> *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1860; 1864); P.R.O., RG 9/1985.

<sup>85</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1888 to 1904).

<sup>86</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, deed of 20 Oct. 1667; *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 620.

<sup>87</sup> *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 620; *Char. Dons.* 1786-8, ii. 1144-5; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/44A, deed of 20 June 1691.

<sup>88</sup> *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 621; *Char. Dons.* 1786-8, ii. 1144-5.

<sup>89</sup> *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 621; *Char. Dons.* 1786-8, ii. 1144-5; Enville ch., char. board.

<sup>90</sup> *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 621-2; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24, char. accts. 1807-23; Tp. 1273/50, bdle. marked 'Poor at Enville'.

<sup>91</sup> Inf. from Mr. J. A. Gloss. For the Almshouse Trust see above, local govt.

<sup>92</sup> *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 621; above, manors and other estates.

<sup>93</sup> *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 619.

<sup>94</sup> S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6; *Char. Dons.* 1786-8, ii. 1144-5.

<sup>95</sup> *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 619; S.R.O., D. 42/A/PZ/19-27.

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Peter Lafargue (d. 1711), a refugee Huguenot doctor who became tutor to Harry Grey, left £10, the interest to be spent on copies of *The Whole Duty of Man* which the rector of Enville was to distribute among poor communicants. The first distribution, of six books, was made in 1713; four books were distributed in 1714 and annually thereafter until at least 1766. In 1732

the endowment was laid out, together with Henry Grey's charity, in land in King's Norton. No books were distributed between c. 1801 and 1817, but the charity was evidently revived in 1818.<sup>86</sup>

Under a scheme of 1978 Grey's and Lafargue's charities were united to form part of the Enville Education Charity.<sup>87</sup>

## KINVER

KINVER<sup>88</sup> occupies the south-west corner of Staffordshire adjoining Shropshire and Worcestershire.<sup>89</sup> It is mainly rural with extensive hilly scenery, notably the escarpment known as Kinver Edge, and c. 1900 it was known as 'the Switzerland of the Midlands'.<sup>1</sup> In the Middle Ages it lay in the centre of Kinver forest, so named by 1168. A borough was created in the 13th century. Between the 17th and 19th centuries Kinver had a flourishing iron industry, and cloth working was important in the 17th and 18th centuries. Kinver's scenery has attracted visitors since the later 19th century, and in the 20th century there has been extensive residential building for people working in the nearby towns. The centre of the parish can be described as a large village, but even in the late 19th century one writer found description difficult: 'if we call it a town we flatter it, if we speak of it as a village we insult it.'<sup>2</sup> The ancient parish was 9,011 a. (3,647 ha.) in area. In 1934 the Prestwood and Ashwood parts of Kingswinford parish were transferred to Kinver, and in 1966 a small part of Brierley Hill was added.<sup>3</sup> This article deals only with the ancient parish.

The general use of the spelling Kinver is recent. The form Kinfare evolved from medieval usage and remained the normal spelling until the 19th century.<sup>4</sup> The spelling Kinver was used by Christopher Saxton (1577) and later mapmakers until Robert Plot adopted Kinfare on his map of 1682; thereafter usage on maps varied.<sup>5</sup> Kinver appeared as an alternative to Kinfare in documents and books from the later 18th century and

had become established by the 1840s.<sup>6</sup> The use of Kinfare, however, lingered for many years.<sup>7</sup>

The river Stour and its tributary Smestow brook formed the boundary of the ancient parish in the north-east. The Stour then flows south through the centre of the parish with Kinver village on its west bank. Short stretches of the northern boundary are formed by Spittle brook and the line of a dried-up tributary stream and by Mill brook. The level of the ground drops to below 200 ft. (61 m.) along the Stour and the Smestow and to 160 ft. (49 m.) where the Kidderminster-Wolverhampton road crosses the southern boundary. It rises steeply west of Kinver village to 543 ft. (166 m.) near the north end of Kinver Edge, and it reaches 670 ft. (204 m.) at No Man's Green on the boundary in the north-west. On the high ground which forms the northern extension of the parish the level reaches 443 ft. (135 m.). An escarpment runs down the east side of the parish, reaching 478 ft. (146 m.) at Iwerley at its southern end. The rock is mainly sandstone, with Bunter Pebble Beds forming the Kinver Edge escarpment and that on the eastern boundary. Rock dwellings have been numerous. The Compton area in the west lies on the Coal Measures, and there is an outcrop of coal in Roughpark Wood north of Park Farm.<sup>8</sup> The soil is mainly light sand; there is also some sandy loam and, around Compton, clay.<sup>9</sup> Sand pits have been worked in the east since the 17th century or earlier.<sup>10</sup>

Mesolithic and Neolithic flints have been found in various parts of the parish.<sup>11</sup> A barrow

<sup>88</sup> 5th Rep. Com. Char. 619; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 275; S.R.O., D. 3578/1/6.

<sup>89</sup> This article was written mainly in 1982. Mr. A. T. Foley, of Stoke Edith, Herefs., Mr. A. M. Wherry, county archivist of Hereford and Worcester, and Miss S. Hubbard, assistant county archivist at Hereford, are thanked for their kindness in placing the relevant part of the Foley family's extensive archives on temporary deposit at the Staffs. Record Office for the writers' use. Mr. J. W. and Mrs. L. E. King of Rockmount, Kinver, and their son Mr. P. W. King are thanked for their generosity in making available the results of their extensive research into Kinver's history and for reading and commenting on the article in draft. Mr. D. M. Bills of Kinver, Mrs. E. Griffiths of Kinver Library, Mr. J. G. Smith of Kinver, Prebendary D. W. Watson, vicar of Kinver until 1982, and Mrs. J. Watson, and others named in footnotes are also thanked for their help.

<sup>90</sup> Until its transfer to Worcs. in 1895 the parish of Upper Arley formed the south-western extremity of Staffs.

<sup>1</sup> Birmingham and Midland Tramways, *Illustrated Guide to Kinver* (1904), 1 (copy in W.S.L. Pamphs.).

<sup>2</sup> S. Baring-Gould, *Bladys of the Stewponey* (1897), 1.

<sup>3</sup> Census, 1891, 1931, 1971; Staffs. Review Order, 1934, p. 64 (copy in S.R.O.).

<sup>4</sup> Ekwall, *Eng. Place-names*; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls.

<sup>5</sup> The 1st edn. of O.S. 1" used Kinver on sheet LXI SE. (1833) and Kinfare on sheet LXII SW. (1834).

<sup>6</sup> W.S.L., S.MS. 468, p. 114; L.J.R.O., B/A/3/Kinver from 1779; S.R.O., Q/RDc 42; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 262; Pitt, *Staffs.* i. 196; White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 259; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1845).

<sup>7</sup> Both spellings were used in the 1861 Census (P.R.O., RG 9/1985); *Kelly's Dir Staffs.* used Kinver as the preferred spelling only from 1884.

<sup>8</sup> T. H. Whitehead and R. W. Pocock, *Memoirs of Geol. Surv., Dudley and Bridgnorth*, 5, 57, 80, 106-7, 111-12.

<sup>9</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1940); Bennett, *Kinver*, 7-8; Scott, *Stourbridge*, 172.

<sup>10</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>11</sup> *Worcs. Arch. Newsletter*, iv. 2; *W. Midlands Arch. News Sheet*, xvii. 20-1; xx. 31-2; xxii. 39-41.

has been recorded near the northern end of Kinver Edge,<sup>12</sup> and there may have been another on the ridge between Dunsley and Whittington east of Kinver village.<sup>13</sup> A standing stone east of Bannut Tree Road in Compton may have had prehistoric significance or may simply have been a glacial erratic. In the later 17th century it was variously known as the Boltstone and the Battlestone. It was destroyed c. 1840.<sup>14</sup> There is an Iron Age promontory fort at the northern end of Kinver Edge, 11 a. (4.5 ha.) in over-all area with an internal area of 8½ a. (3.5 ha.). On the south-west and south-east it is defended by a substantial bank and ditch; the other two sides follow the edge of the escarpment, with traces of a bank on the north-west side.<sup>15</sup> There are indications of Romano-British settlement in the parish.<sup>16</sup> The line of a Roman road from Ashwood, in Kingswinford, to Droitwich (Worcs.) is followed by County Lane, which forms part of the eastern boundary of the parish.<sup>17</sup>

References to the wood of Cynibre in 736 and to Cynefares Stane in 964<sup>18</sup> preserve early forms of the name Kinver, which is Celtic. Although the meaning of the first element is obscure, the second means a hill.<sup>19</sup> It may refer to the hillfort or to a settlement near the church east of the fort; a church existed by 1086. Anglo-Saxon settlement on the rivers is indicated by place names. It has been suggested that the southern boundary of the parish west of the Stour is partly that recorded as the northern boundary of land in Wolverley (Worcs.) in 964; it ran from Cynefares Stane, perhaps Vale's Rock on the Wolverley side of the parish boundary, and reached the Stour evidently along the line of what is now Gipsy Lane.<sup>20</sup>

In 1086 Kinver had a recorded population of 28. In 1293 there were 26 freeholders, 63 customary tenants, and 22 burgesses; two of the burgesses appear also among the freeholders.<sup>21</sup> In 1327 there were 52 people assessed for tax.<sup>22</sup> In the mid 1520s 81 were assessed,<sup>23</sup> and there were 79 names on the muster roll of 1539.<sup>24</sup> In 1563 the parish had 75 households.<sup>25</sup> A poll-tax assessment of 1641 listed 421 people.<sup>26</sup> In 1666 there were 125 people assessed for hearth tax with a further 105 too poor to pay.<sup>27</sup> The Compton Census of 1676 recorded 957 people.<sup>28</sup> In 1755 there were 249 people in the parish owing

suit at Kinver manor court, and in 1789 there were 299 suitors.<sup>29</sup> In the earlier 1770s there were stated to be between 200 and 300 houses in the parish.<sup>30</sup> The population in 1801 was 1,665. By 1831 it was 1,831, and by 1841 the prosperity of the iron trade had increased it to 2,207. It continued to rise, reaching 3,551 by 1861.<sup>31</sup> The drop to 3,194 by 1871 was blamed on the closure of the screw works at Kinver mill and the slackness of the iron trade in the district. The population was down to 2,842 in 1881, and the further decline of the iron trade, notably the closure of the works at the Hyde about the end of 1882, caused a fall to 2,160 by 1891 as well as much distress.<sup>32</sup> The population had risen to 2,176 by 1901 and thereafter increased steadily. It was 2,348 in 1911, 2,886 in 1921, and 3,220 in 1931. Although the area added in 1934 was not populous, numbers were 4,490 in 1951, 5,352 in 1961, and 6,376 in 1971.<sup>33</sup>

By 1086 there was evidently a church on the high ground south of the present village centre, and it is likely that the main settlement was near the church. In 1221 the lord of the manor was granted a market, and it was probably about then that a borough was laid out on the low ground between the Stour and the steep slope up to the church. A further grant added a fair in 1257. About 1270 the lord of Kinver issued a charter of liberties to his burgesses, of whom there were 22 in 1293.<sup>34</sup> The borough occupied a constricted site on either side of High Street stretching from the area later known as the Burgesses northward almost as far as Stone Lane; the long narrow burgage plots are still distinguishable.<sup>35</sup> In the late 1750s Richard Wilkes, the Staffordshire antiquary, stated that 'the town . . . consists chiefly of one long spacious street well paved with pebbles, and the houses are many of them handsome and well built'.<sup>36</sup> Surviving timber-framed buildings, some with timbers still exposed but others with them hidden behind later façades, suggest that by the early 17th century the street was continuously built up or nearly so. From that time rebuilding or refronting in brick was a regular occurrence. There were 52 people in the borough owing suit of court in 1662; the number was 69 in 1755 and 86 in 1789.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 263; Bennett, *Kinver*, 11.

<sup>13</sup> Inf. from Mrs. King, citing the occurrence there of the name Low Hill. She doubts the barrows mentioned by Plot, *Staffs.* 413-14.

<sup>14</sup> Plot, *Staffs.* 397-8; Bennett, *Kinver*, 9-10; *Trans. Worcs. Arch. Soc.* N.S. vi. 143-4; *V.C.H. Staffs.* i. 191, writing as though the stone still (1908) existed; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of 18 Apr., 30 May 1665; W.S.L., *Staffs. Views*, v. 87; below, econ. hist. (agric.: open fields). For the story, mentioned by Plot, that it was hurled from Kinver Edge by a giant see J. Raven, *Folklore of Staffs.* 42.

<sup>15</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* i. 338, 340; inf. from Mr. R. A. Meeson of the Conservation and Archaeology Section of the Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept.

<sup>16</sup> Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept., Sites and Monuments Rec. 1714-17, 1724.

<sup>17</sup> I. D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Brit.* (1973), 295-6; Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept., Sites and Monuments Rec. 1725.

<sup>18</sup> Below for Cynefares Stane; below, econ. hist., for wood of Cynibre.

<sup>19</sup> A. L. F. Rivet and C. Smith, *Place-names of Roman Brit.* 328-9; Ekwall, *Eng. Place-names*.

<sup>20</sup> *T.B.A.S.* liii. 108-9. It is there suggested that Cynefares

Stane was at Start's Green on the south-west boundary of Kinver; Mr. P. W. King argues that that is too far west and suggests that the stone was Vale's Rock or a vanished hoarstone.

<sup>21</sup> Below, econ. hist. (agric., borough).

<sup>22</sup> *S.H.C.* vii (1), 246-7.

<sup>23</sup> P.R.O., E 179/177/96.

<sup>24</sup> *S.H.C.* N.S. vi (1), 73-4.

<sup>25</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, p. lxx.

<sup>26</sup> H.L., Main Papers, box 178.

<sup>27</sup> *S.H.C.* 1923, 106-10. Two of those assessed in the borough were assessed jointly on one house.

<sup>28</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 33, p. 371.

<sup>29</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>30</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/5/Kinver, 1772.

<sup>31</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* i. 326; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24, Kinver sch., G. Wharton to Lord Stamford 10 May 1834.

<sup>32</sup> *Census*, 1871-91; *Lich. Dioc. Mag.* (1885), 143; (1886), 168-70; Bennett, *Kinver*, 125.

<sup>33</sup> *Census*, 1901-71.

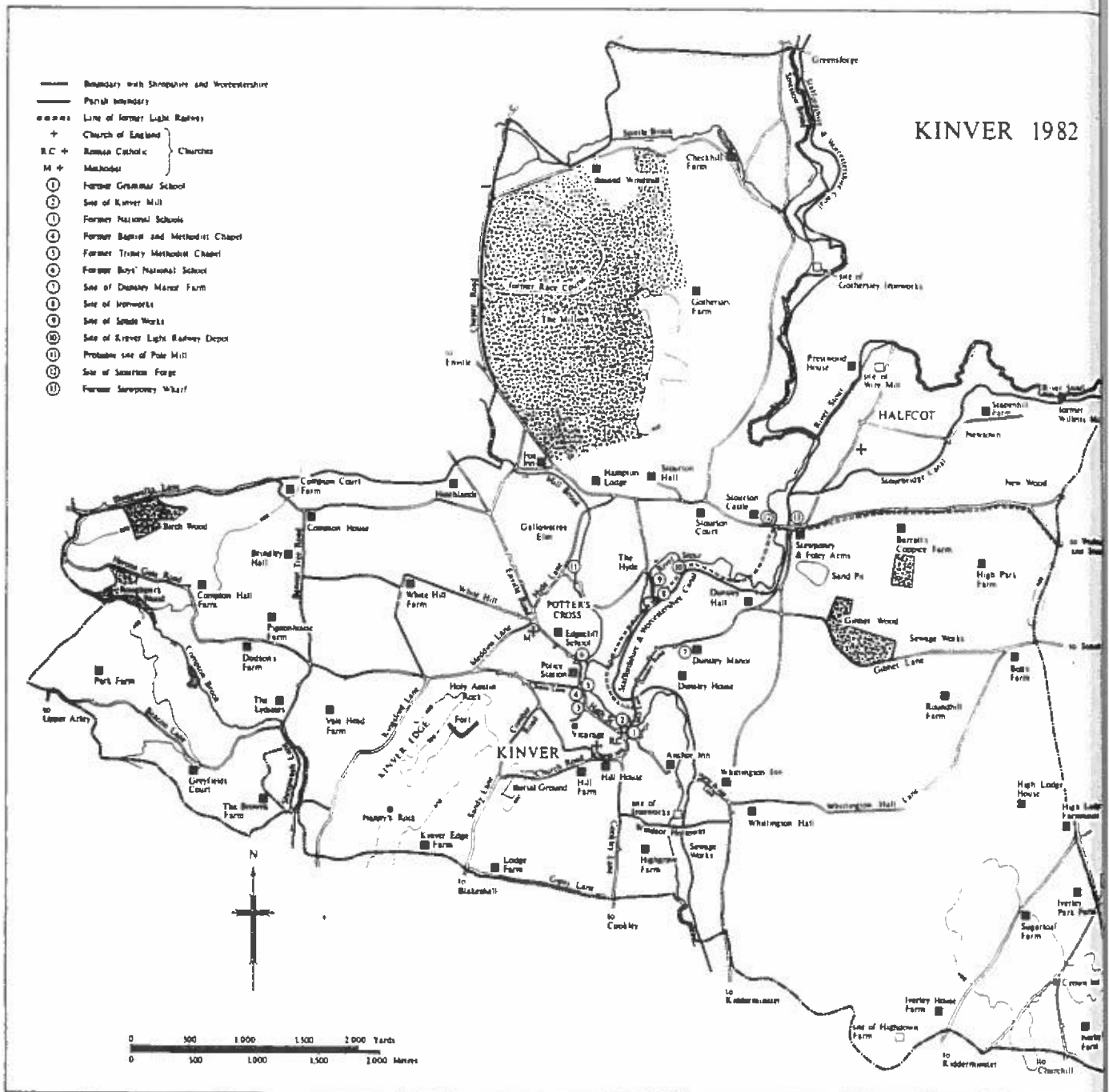
<sup>34</sup> Below, econ. hist. <sup>35</sup> *W. Midlands Arch.* xxiii. 96-7.

<sup>36</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 468, p. 115.

<sup>37</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of 4 May 1663; Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

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KINVER 1982



The village, which stood on the old route between the south-west of England and Chester, was noted in the mid 18th century as providing good accommodation for travellers on that road.<sup>38</sup> The Cock inn within the borough was mentioned in 1555.<sup>39</sup> The White Hart inn existed by 1605,<sup>40</sup> and at the beginning of the 18th century it occupied two burgages.<sup>41</sup> It was used for meetings by the earlier 18th century and had become the regular meeting place of the borough and manor courts by the earlier 19th century.<sup>42</sup> In the later 18th century it was known as the White Hart and Angel.<sup>43</sup> The Red Lion was mentioned in 1672,<sup>44</sup> the Green Dragon in 1718,<sup>45</sup> and the Swan in the later 1740s.<sup>46</sup> In 1830, besides the White Hart, the Green Dragon, and the Swan, there were two public houses in High Street, the Unicorn and the George and Dragon.<sup>47</sup>

There was early suburban development at both ends of the borough. The southern area, known as the Overend in the 15th century and Kinver Hill by the 17th,<sup>48</sup> may have contained survivals of an early settlement by the church. On the low ground by the Stour there was a medieval mill,<sup>49</sup> and a bridge by the mill carried Mill Lane over the river by 1461.<sup>50</sup> A wayside cross in Mill Lane was mentioned in 1440.<sup>51</sup> A grammar school was established at the junction of Church Hill and Dark Lane in the 16th century.<sup>52</sup> An inn called the Plough existed in the area in 1648 and was probably the inn of that name mentioned in 1555.<sup>53</sup> A house was built in Dark Lane east of the grammar school in or shortly before 1624; it was known as the Stone House by 1672 and as Rockmount by the 1860s, having been remodelled probably in the 1840s.<sup>54</sup> A group of timber-framed cottages survives south of the church; a house there was mentioned in 1635.<sup>55</sup> In 1662 there were 24 people at Kinver Hill who owed suit to the manor court, 30 in 1755, and 31 in 1789.<sup>56</sup> Church Hill House on the west side of Church Hill and Hill House south-east of the church date from the 18th century. In 1830 there were cottages around the junction of High Street, Mill Lane, and Church Hill and also along the south side of Mill Lane where they

included a rock house. Kinver mill was then used as a rolling mill. East of the canal bridge further north stood Kinfare Lock public house. At the junction of Church Hill and the Holloway running up from Mill Lane was the Cross public house; on the opposite side of Church Hill was the parish workhouse.<sup>57</sup> A school was opened in the Holloway in 1835.<sup>58</sup> By 1841 there were several houses in Brockley's Walk north of Dark Lane and at Penhole to the south.<sup>59</sup> Council houses were built in the same area before and after the Second World War, and there are a large number of privately built houses of the later 20th century.

The area immediately north of the borough around the junction of High Street and Stone Lane became known as Kinver town's end or the lower end of the town. Stone Lane was so named by 1610.<sup>60</sup> In 1662 there were 16 people in the area owing suit to the manor court. The number was 22 in 1755 and 28 in 1789.<sup>61</sup> The inclosure of the nearby Kinver common in 1774 brought no immediate expansion. Building north along Enville Road began only in the mid 19th century, when a working-class district developed. Foster Street on the west side existed by 1851 and the parallel James Street by 1856; the Kinver Benefit Building Society was involved in both.<sup>62</sup> Castle and Foley Streets on the east side of Enville Road had been laid out by 1861.<sup>63</sup> Potter's Cross to the north, where a cottage was mentioned in the early 1620s,<sup>64</sup> had many artisan dwellings by 1841, as did Gallowstree Elm still further north in 1851; both areas continued to grow. Potter's Cross Farm and White Hill Farm to the west date from the mid 19th century; Stonelane Farm existed by the 1880s but has been built over. In the Comber area south-east of Stone Lane both villas and artisans' houses were built in the mid 19th century.<sup>65</sup> Near the parish boundary to the north Heathlands, a villa on the Enville road, existed by 1850 and the Fox inn on the Stourbridge-Bridgnorth road at Clambrook (later Clambrook) by 1851.<sup>66</sup> The growth of the area was halted by the industrial decline of the later 19th century, but in the early 20th century many

<sup>38</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 468, p. 115; below (communications).

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1554-5, 167-8.

<sup>40</sup> *S.H.C.* 1940, 229; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver IX, deed of 26 Nov. 1613.

<sup>41</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, deed of 31 Jan. 1703/4.

<sup>42</sup> *Lond. Gaz.* 4-7 Nov. 1727; S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1, 1747-8; S.R.O., D. 3162/2/1, 23 Dec. 1751, 24 Jan. 1758; below, local govt.

<sup>43</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/2/1; S.R.O., Q/RDc 36.

<sup>44</sup> W.S.L., notes on Kinver par., envelope labelled 'Stourton Castle'.

<sup>45</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Eliz. White (1718).

<sup>46</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1, 1747-8.

<sup>47</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 922, 925, 933, 1021; *ibid.* 4, pp. 38, 40, 49, 51.

<sup>48</sup> Below, local govt.; H.W.R.O. (H.), Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 9, ct. of 17 Apr. 1434.

<sup>49</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>50</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 26, ct. of 10 Jan. 1460/1.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.* bdle. 14, ct. of 11 Apr. 1440.

<sup>52</sup> Below, educ.

<sup>53</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1554-5, 167-8; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver I, deed of 18 May 1648.

<sup>54</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 26 Jan. 1623/4 and ct. of survey 24 Oct. 1625; Kinver ct.

papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 14 Apr. 1673; S.R.O., D. 3579, 13 Dec. 1866, 17 Dec. 1868, 20 Dec. 1869; P.R.O., RG 10/2928; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1876). Mr. J. W. King suggests that the change of name may have followed the remodelling which was probably carried out by T. M. Woodyatt after his purchase of the house in 1840.

<sup>55</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver.

<sup>56</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 4 May 1663; Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>57</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/4, pp. 52-4; below, econ. hist. (iron); local govt.

<sup>58</sup> Below, educ.

<sup>59</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002.

<sup>60</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 22 Oct. 1610.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 4 May 1663; Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>62</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017; S.R.O., D. 1493/1; *inf.* from Mr. J. W. King, citing deeds mentioning the building soc.

<sup>63</sup> S.R.O., D. 1493/1; P.R.O., RG 9/1985.

<sup>64</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, 1623 survey, Whittington; 12, bk. of 17th-cent. surveys of Whittington, 1621.

<sup>65</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002 and 2017; P.R.O., RG 9/1985; date stone of 1848 on cottage at Gallowstree Elm; O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. SE. (1888 edn.).

<sup>66</sup> *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1850); White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1851), 180.



## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

houses were built in Stone Lane, Enville Road, and Meddins Lane.<sup>67</sup> By 1939 a council estate had been begun south of White Hill, and there were some privately built houses in Hyde Lane. The council estate was completed in the early 1950s, and another was then built north of White Hill. Private building continued over the following decades, filling in undeveloped spaces and also expanding the village west and north.<sup>68</sup> As a result the village extends as far as Kinver Edge.

Kinver Edge, so named by the later 17th century,<sup>69</sup> was formerly a separate area of settlement. John atte Bury, mentioned in 1293, was presumably living at or near the hillfort.<sup>70</sup> A cave called Mag-a-Fox Hole c. 1680 may have derived its name from Margaret of the Fox Earth who died in 1617.<sup>71</sup> In the late 1750s it was stated that a few years before a poor man had converted the cave into a dwelling house for himself and his family; it is said that the date 1726 was once legible in one of the rooms.<sup>72</sup> Known as Nanny's Rock by the 1880s, it was occupied by Sarah Evans c. 1820 and Nancy Evans in 1830; a woman recluse was living there c. 1890.<sup>73</sup> Holy Austin Rock at the north end of Kinver Edge, so named by 1801, possibly derived its name from a former hermitage.<sup>74</sup> There were several cottages in Holy Austin Rock by 1801 and evidently by 1774; there were seven by 1830.<sup>75</sup> In 1851 there were 10 households there.<sup>76</sup> Families occupying rock houses were rehoused c. 1950, but a café in the rock continued in use until 1967.<sup>77</sup> There were two houses in Astle's Rock at Comber in 1830 and three in 1841. Early in the 20th century a rock dwelling there was turned into a museum which remained open for over 20 years.<sup>78</sup> Kinver Edge Farm and Lodge Farm on the southern boundary, respectively west and east of Sandy Lane, existed by the early 19th century;<sup>79</sup> the former was rebuilt later in the century.

Compton, covering the rural western part of the parish and the present residential area north-west of Kinver village, was mentioned in 1167 as belonging to the lord of Kinver.<sup>80</sup> Robert son of

William of Compton was mentioned in 1227-8.<sup>81</sup> Twenty-five tenants of the lord of Kinver were listed in 1293,<sup>82</sup> but only nine people were assessed for tax in 1332-3.<sup>83</sup> By 1293 the main settlement probably centred on a green in the hend of the present Herons Gate Road (formerly Compton Lane).<sup>84</sup> There was by then a sub-manor centring on Horewood near the western boundary where a moated site survives; the manor came to cover the whole of the Compton area. In the 15th century the lord moved from Horewood to Compton, and Compton Hall north-west of the green was mentioned in 1538.<sup>85</sup> The house east of the green known as Pigeonhouse Farm by the 19th century can be traced from the mid 17th; it was rebuilt in 1979.<sup>86</sup> Compton Court Farm in Sheepwalks Lane is probably 17th century, being once timber-framed and having a large central stack of sandstone with brick chimneys; the external walls were rebuilt in brick perhaps in the later 18th century, and in the 19th century a new front block was added on the east. In 1772 it was sold to Lord Stamford of Enville Hall by the Shadwell family of Albrighton (Salop.) and formerly of Enville, who owned it by the later 17th century.<sup>87</sup> In 1662 there were 15 inhabitants in Compton owing suit at Kinver manor court. The number was 18 in 1755 and 20 in 1789.<sup>88</sup> By the 1730s there was an isolated house in the area east of Compton known as Britch by the early 19th century;<sup>89</sup> the present farmhouse there dates from the 20th century. By 1775 the area round the green was known as Lower Compton. Upper Compton was the area to the south round the Lydiates, an 18th-century farmhouse off the present Beacon Lane (formerly Bacons Lane and possibly in existence by 1310); to the south-west there was a farmhouse called Greyfields on the site of the later Greyfields Court.<sup>90</sup> Brown's Farm, so named by 1841 and now called the Brown's Farm, dates from the late 17th century, and the rear wing retains elements of the original timber-framing; the house was refaced in brick in the early 19th century and extended c. 1900.<sup>91</sup> In

<sup>67</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. SE. (1888, 1903, 1925 edns.).

<sup>68</sup> D. M. Bills and E. and W. R. Griffiths, *Kinver: a closer look* (Kinver, 1981), 9.

<sup>69</sup> Plot, *Staffs.* 398.

<sup>70</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64; *Eng. Place-name Elements* (E.P.N.S.), i. 60.

<sup>71</sup> Plot, *Staffs.* 172; D. M. Bills and E. and W. R. Griffiths, *Kinver Rock Houses* (Kinver, n.d.), 6. Ric. Wilkes in the 1750s calls it both Meg a Fox Hole and Meg o' Fox Hole: W.S.L., S.M.S. 468, f. 8 and p. 117. Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 263 reprints the second spelling, which was repeated by Pitt, *Staffs.* i. 197, and White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 260, and (1851), 178.

<sup>72</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 468, f. 8; J. Heeley, *Letters on Beauties of Hagley, Envil, and the Leasowes* (1777), ii. 19-20; *Trans. Worcs. Arch. Soc.* n.s. vi. 144; Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>73</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. SE. (1888 edn.); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, undated plan of estate called Kinfare Edge; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 844; *ibid.* 4, p. 61; Bills and Griffiths, *Kinver Rock Houses*, 14-15.

<sup>74</sup> V.C.H. *Staffs.* iii. 136; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver I, deed of 29 June 1801. For a view see above, pl. facing p. 112. For a holding called 'le Ostin redyng' in 1444 H.W.R.O., E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 17, ct. of 12 Oct. 1444.

<sup>75</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver I, deed of 29 June 1801; S.R.O., Q/RDc 36; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 834; *ibid.* 4, p. 59.

<sup>76</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017.

<sup>77</sup> Bills and Griffiths, *Kinver Rock Houses*, 6.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.* 16; S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 823-4; *ibid.* 4, p. 59.

<sup>79</sup> R. Baugh, *Map of Salop.* (1808); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/

S, undated plan of estate called Kinfare Edge; S.R.O., D. 891/3.

<sup>80</sup> S.H.C. i. 48.

<sup>81</sup> S.H.C. iv (1), 69.

<sup>82</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>83</sup> S.H.C. x (1), 86.

<sup>84</sup> Below, econ. hist. (agric. open fields; waste); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; *ibid.* Early Deeds, deed of 1 Dec. 1353; *ibid.* Compton II, deeds of 20 Sept. 1538, 24 June 1562.

<sup>85</sup> Below, manors and other estates. The bounds are given in H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 7 July 1650.

<sup>86</sup> Deeds of Pigeonhouse Farm, in the possession of the owner, Mr. T. R. Brown; inf. from Mr. Brown, who is thanked for his help.

<sup>87</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/38, Shadwell estates; above, Enville, manors and other estates (Lyndon). Mr. and Mrs. S. Morley of Compton Court Farm are thanked for their help.

<sup>88</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 4 May 1663; Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.* vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>90</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775). For Greyfields farm see H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, parties, and valuation of Compton estates 23 Aug. 1790. For Bacons Lane see *ibid.* Compton I, survey of Compton Park 29 July 1654; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 18 Apr. 1665; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; for Ric. atte Bacun in 1310 and 1327 see H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/P3, deed of 6 Apr. 1310; S.H.C. vii (1), 246.

<sup>91</sup> For the name see P.R.O., HO 107/1002. Mrs. M. Timmington of the Brown's Farm is thanked for her help.



the north the farmhouse at the junction of Bannut Tree Road and Sheepwalks Lane existed by 1775.<sup>92</sup> Union Hall to the south in Bannut Tree Road was built c. 1790 by William Hodgetts, brother of John Hodgetts of Prestwood, in Kingswinford. In 1798 he fell to his death while riding along Kinver Edge, and the same year his son John sold the house.<sup>93</sup> It was the home of the Brindley family for much of the 19th century and was known as Brindley Hall by the end of the century.<sup>94</sup> By 1815 there was a house south of the road from Compton to Kinver on the site of Vale Head Farm, so named by 1861; the present house dates from the early 1970s.<sup>95</sup> By the 1820s there was a house at the north end of Bannut Tree Road at its junction with Compton Road (formerly Wigley Lane); known as Compton House by 1836, it was enlarged in stages during the 19th century.<sup>96</sup>

A royal hunting lodge was built at Stourton in the late 12th century on the site above the Stour still occupied by Stourton Castle; the first reference to it, however, as at Stourton rather than Kinver was in 1207.<sup>97</sup> Adam, John, and Walter of Stourton were mentioned in 1227-8,<sup>98</sup> and 15 tenants there were listed in 1293.<sup>99</sup> The area north of Stourton was occupied by Checkhill common and included Gothersley, mentioned in the mid 1290s in connexion with a ford on Smestow brook.<sup>1</sup> Gothersley may have been the site of the hermitage of Guthersburn in Kinver forest granted by Henry III in 1248 to Brother Walerund of Kidderminster.<sup>2</sup> There was a warrener's lodge on the northern part of the common by 1601, and the part immediately north of Stourton was brought into cultivation in the 17th century. There were blade mills at Gothersley and Checkhill by the 17th century, and a corn mill near the castle was turned into a forge in 1670-1 and a slitting mill in 1698.<sup>3</sup> There were 35 people at Stourton and Checkhill and at the Hyde south-west of Stourton owing suit at the manor court in 1662.<sup>4</sup> In 1755 there were 36 suitors at Stourton and 8 at Checkhill; in 1789 the numbers were 35 and 9.<sup>5</sup> By the earlier 18th-century settlement was mainly along Stourton Street, the southern end of the road to Gothersley and Checkhill. There was also settlement along the lane to the west leading from the

Bridgnorth road to the southern part of the common, probably the old road to Enville; buildings included the Rock tavern, which still existed in 1830.<sup>6</sup> Checkhill common was inclosed in 1804, but little expansion of settlement followed. Stourton Fields farm (later Gothersley farm) had been created by 1830.<sup>7</sup> Hampton House (later Hampton Lodge) was built on 4 a. at the south-west corner of the former waste in 1846 by Jane Mary Davenport; what seems originally to have been a service wing was added by William Bennitt of Stourton Hall a few years later.<sup>8</sup> Stourton Hall stands to the east on or near a site where there had been a house by the 1730s. It was built c. 1850 by William Bennitt, who was living there in 1851 and also laid out the grounds; the house was later extended.<sup>9</sup> Stourton Court on the Bridgnorth road in Stourton itself was built in 1850, burnt in 1877, and rebuilt in 1883.<sup>10</sup> The mill at Stourton had been demolished by 1830. That at Checkhill, having become a fulling mill and later a corn mill, had ceased operation by the 1880s, but a farm survived. Gothersley mill, to which an industrial hamlet was attached, closed in the early 1890s.<sup>11</sup>

The Hyde on the Stour south-west of Stourton was evidently an inhabited area by 1293.<sup>12</sup> A fulling mill erected there c. 1590 was rebuilt as a slitting mill in the late 1620s. The Hyde remained an industrial centre until the closure of its two ironworks in the early 1880s and c. 1910.<sup>13</sup> There were seven people there owing suit at the manor court in 1755 and five in 1789.<sup>14</sup> The 18th-century Hyde House was demolished in the 1920s,<sup>15</sup> but an 18th-century octagonal pigeon house and 18th-century garden walls survive. The nearby farm buildings date from the 19th century. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal was opened through the area in 1770, and a late 18th-century lock-keeper's cottage is still occupied. In 1830 there was a rock house in the hillside east of the cottage.<sup>16</sup> To the north a row of five houses stood beside the canal by 1830,<sup>17</sup> one of which survives. Several small houses were built in the area in the 20th century.

Halfcot, covering the north-east corner of the ancient parish, had nine tenants in 1293.<sup>18</sup> Stapenhill, mentioned then as an area of pasture, was the name of a farm by the 1630s; the present

<sup>92</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775); S.R.O., Tp. 1273/58, sale partic. 1855.

<sup>93</sup> K. C. Hodgson, *Out of the Mahogany Desk*, 47, 50-1.

<sup>94</sup> *Wolverhampton Chron.* 11 Jan. 1815; S.R.O., D. 891/4, p. 5; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/36, deed of 17 July 1899; 40, extracts from ct. rolls 1826-69 and deeds of 3 Oct. 1888, 5 June 1896.

<sup>95</sup> B.L. Maps, O.S.D. 214; P.R.O., RG 10/2928; local inf.

<sup>96</sup> It is not shown on C. and J. Greenwood, *Map of Staffs.* (1820) but had been built by 1830; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 180. See also S.R.O., Tp. 1273/35, deed of 29 July 1896; 41, deed of 16 June 1836; 58, sale partic. 1855. For the name Wigley Lane see H.W.R.O. (H.), vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Compton.

<sup>97</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>98</sup> S.H.C. iv (1), 51, 69.

<sup>99</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>1</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VI, rents from waste in Kinver forest temp. Edw. I.

<sup>2</sup> V.C.H. Staffs. iii. 137.

<sup>3</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>4</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 4 May 1663.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 508; ibid. 4, p. 32; Bills and Griffiths, *Kinver Rock Houses*, 23.

<sup>7</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 635.

<sup>8</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/1/10; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/35, bdle. of 6 June 1864. Mrs. K. Durrant of Hampton Lodge is thanked for her help.

<sup>9</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Stourton, no. 75; ibid. Kinver and Compton ct. bk. 1800-53, ct. of 24 Oct. 1848; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 539; D. 1493/1; P.R.O., HO 107/2017; inf. from Mr. J. H. Folkes, formerly of Stourton Hall, who is thanked for his help.

<sup>10</sup> Inscription on house.

<sup>11</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>12</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64, listing Felicity atte Hyde among the tenants of Compton. In 1387 Wal. and Rog. atte Hyde each held a burgage in Kinver: H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>14</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>15</sup> Below, econ. hist. (iron); educ.

<sup>16</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 1578-9; ibid. 4, p. 96.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. 3, nos. 414-18; ibid. 4, pp. 28-9.

<sup>18</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

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house appears to date from c. 1840.<sup>19</sup> In 1662 there were 11 people at Halfcot owing suit at the manor court; the number was 22 in 1755 and 27 in 1789.<sup>20</sup> By the earlier 18th century settlement was concentrated along the Wolverhampton road south of the parish boundary, with two wire mills west of the road; the mills ceased working in the 1820s, and there was some decline in the number of houses about then.<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile the Stourbridge Canal was opened through the area in 1779, joining the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal west of the main road; Stewponey wharf south of the junction became the hub of the system.<sup>22</sup> By c. 1830 sandworking was in progress in the Stapenhill area, using the Stourbridge Canal for transport, and the small hamlet of Newtown had grown up near a wharf there.<sup>23</sup> New Wood farm to the east existed by the 1880s.<sup>24</sup> The farmhouse survived in 1982 on the edge of a privately built housing estate dating from the years before the Second World War and the later 20th century; Hyperion Road on the earlier part of the estate was named after the 1933 Derby winner.<sup>25</sup> There is similar residential development on the Wolverhampton road and along the Stourbridge road. Stourbridge Rugby Football Club has its ground south of the road.

Stewponey, the area around the junction of the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster and Stourbridge-Bridgnorth roads, takes its name from an inn called the Stewponey which stood there by the earlier 18th century. It then had a bowling green attached and was described in 1744 as 'the house of Benjamin Hallen, being the sign of the Green Man and called the Stewponey'.<sup>26</sup> Thereafter it was known simply as the Stewponey until c. 1840 when it became the Stewponey and Foley Arms. It was then a posting house.<sup>27</sup> The 18th-century house was extended in the 19th century and rebuilt in the later 1930s when the road junction was improved.<sup>28</sup> Various explanations of the name have been put forward, deriving it from the nearby bridge over the Stour ('Stouripons'),<sup>29</sup> from an inn called the Pony and a nearby stew or fishpond,<sup>30</sup> from Estepona in Spain where a tenant of the inn was said to have been quartered as a soldier during the reign of

Anne,<sup>31</sup> and from stepony, either a kind of ale or a kind of raisin wine.<sup>32</sup>

Dunsley was an inhabited area c. 1200,<sup>33</sup> and in 1293 the lord of Kinver had nine tenants there.<sup>34</sup> Dunsley later became a sub-manor with Dunsley Hall as its manor house.<sup>35</sup> In 1662 six people at Dunsley owed suit at Kinver manor court; the number was nine in 1755 and 17 in 1789.<sup>36</sup> Four of those listed in 1662 were assessed for hearth tax in 1666, in addition to the tenant of the hall.<sup>37</sup> Edward Jorden, who was assessed on six hearths, was a member of a family which was living at Dunsley by the 1530s.<sup>38</sup> He may have lived at the house now known as Dunsley Manor where one range survives from a late 16th-century timber-framed house; by the early 19th century it had been encased in brick and the interior remodelled. In the mid and later 19th century the exterior was remodelled in Tudor style and the house partly rebuilt. Richard Bird, who died in the early 1690s, was assessed on five hearths; in 1625 John Bird had a house and land in Dunsley described as 'his ancestors' land', and the family was living at Dunsley by 1595.<sup>39</sup> Thomas and John Hillman lived at the Hill, which was assessed at three hearths; the family was living at Dunsley by the earlier 15th century. The house remained in the Hillman family and passed in 1775 by marriage to Benjamin Brooke, who still lived there in 1780. A villa called Dunsley Hill was advertised for letting in 1820.<sup>40</sup> Dunsley Manor Farm to the east of Dunsley Manor existed by 1775. In 1817 it was sold by Edmund Wells Grove, a Dunsley farmer, to George Burgess of Checkhill; the Burgess family farmed there until the mid 1860s.<sup>41</sup> Farm buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries survive, although the house has been demolished. Dunsley House to the south-west dates from the early 19th century and as Dunsley Villa was the home of the Hancox family until the mid 1860s.<sup>42</sup> By 1912 it was occupied as a home of rest by the Girls' Friendly Society, which used it until the later 1930s.<sup>43</sup> The area at the southern end of the Dunsley Road became residential in the later 20th century.

By 1780 the area along the canal south of Dunsley was known as Gibraltar and had several

<sup>19</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64; below, econ. hist. (agric.: sheep farming). Mrs. G. Jones of Stapenhill Farm is thanked for her help.

<sup>20</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 4 May 1663; Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775); C. and J. Greenwood, *Map of Staffs.* (1820); S.R.O., D. 891/3.

<sup>22</sup> Below, econ. hist.; Scott, *Stourbridge*, 182.

<sup>23</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXXI. SW. (1888 edn.).

<sup>24</sup> Inf. from Mr. J. W. King.

<sup>25</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Halfcot, no. 45; *Lond. Gaz.* 1-5 May 1744; S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1.

<sup>26</sup> *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1845), giving it the new name.

<sup>27</sup> Below, pl. facing p. 129; W.S.L., Sale Cats. Q/3, p. 75; J. I. Langford, *Towpath Guide to Staffs. and Worcs. Canal*, 145-6.

<sup>28</sup> *N. & Q.* 3rd ser. vi. 298; P. M. Grazebrook, *Short Hist. of Stourton Castle and Royal Forest of Kinver*, 42-3.

<sup>29</sup> Scott, *Stourbridge*, 173.

<sup>30</sup> S. Baring-Gould, *Bladys of the Stewponey*, 14-15.

<sup>31</sup> *N. & Q.* 6th ser. ii. 308-9, 334; iii. 97-8, 130; iv. 155, 457; vii. 131.

<sup>32</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 13.

<sup>33</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>34</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>35</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 18th and 19th cents., ct. of 4 May 1663; Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>36</sup> *S.H.C.* 1923, 107.

<sup>37</sup> *S.H.C.* 4th ser. viii. 14. For the family see below, p. 208.

<sup>38</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Ric. Bird (1692); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 15 Apr. 1595 and ct. of survey 24 Oct. 1625.

<sup>39</sup> *Cal. Cttee. for Money*, iii, p. 1184; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 9, ct. of 17 Apr. 1434; ibid. Dunsley I, deed of 9 Apr. 1694; Dunsley II, deeds of 9 Oct. 1711, 12 Apr. 1769; Kinver and Kingsley ct. bk. 1767-1801, cts. of 20 Oct. 1773, 21 Mar. 1774, 9 Jan. 1775; S.R.O., Q/RDc 42; *Wolverhampton Chron.* 19 Apr. 1820.

<sup>40</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley III, abstract of title to Dunsley farm 1866, conditions of sale 1866, and sale parties. 1866; ibid. Halfcot III, deed of 7 Aug. 1817; White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1851), 180; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1864); below, econ. hist. (mills).

<sup>41</sup> Parson and Bradshaw, *Dir. Staffs.* (1818); S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 1508; ibid. 4, p. 98; P.R.O., HO 107/1002; P.R.O., RG 9/1985; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1864).

<sup>42</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1912 and edns. to 1936).

rock houses in the hillside.<sup>44</sup> There were 12 such dwellings by 1830 and 17 households there in 1851.<sup>45</sup> During the 19th century occupants included labourers employed at the nearby wharf. The dwellings had ceased to be let by the 1880s because they were unhealthy, but they apparently continued to be occupied for a time by boatmen.<sup>46</sup>

The common east of Dunsley and south of the Stourbridge road was inclosed in 1780.<sup>47</sup> By 1815 Park Farm and the house known as Bott's Farm by 1871 had been built respectively north and south of the junction of Gibbet Lane and Whittington Hall Lane; the farms were probably laid out in the late 18th century.<sup>48</sup> Round Hill Farm south-west of Bott's Farm existed by 1851.<sup>49</sup> By 1856 High Park Farm had been built north of Park Farm, and there was a farm to the north-west at Barratt's Coppice.<sup>50</sup> Park Farm had disappeared by the 1880s.<sup>51</sup>

Gibbet Wood and Gibbet Lane running from Dunsley to Stourbridge derive their names from the gibbeting of William Howe, otherwise John Wood, in 1813. In December 1812 Howe murdered Benjamin Robins of Dunsley Hall who was returning home from Stourbridge. Howe was arrested in London and executed at Stafford. His corpse was hung in chains at the scene of his crime for twelve months, but the gibbet remained for several years.<sup>52</sup>

Whittington was an inhabited area by the 1180s and became a sub-manor of Kinver c. 1200; by the 17th century the manor house stood south of Whittington Hall Lane. High Grove Farm on the high ground west of the Stour is probably the successor of Haygreve, in existence c. 1200.<sup>53</sup> The Whittington Inn, a large timber-framed building on the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road, was a private house until Lord Stamford turned it into an inn in 1788. It dates probably from the later 16th century; the range on the north was added in the 18th century. As an inn it is said to have replaced the timber-framed house to the west in Horse Bridge Lane now known as Whittington Old House (formerly Bathpool Cottages).<sup>54</sup> The road or lane from Whittington to Kinver mentioned from 1598 evidently ran from Horse Bridge Lane across the Stour to Dark Lane.<sup>55</sup> The footpath from Whit-

tington to Kinver church also mentioned from 1598<sup>56</sup> may have followed the course of the present footpath from the river to Cookley Lane. The footbridge at Whittington for the repair of which William Moseley of London left £5 in 1617<sup>57</sup> must have carried one or both of those ways over the river. East of the Stour Horse Bridge Lane formerly continued south as a road which crossed the river at Windsor bridge, mentioned in 1621, and then followed Windsor Holloway to Cookley Lane. It was evidently with the building of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal through that part of Whittington in the later 1760s that the stretch of road east of the river disappeared; by 1775 Windsor Holloway had been extended east to the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road, turnpiked in 1760.<sup>58</sup> A mill stood on the Stour c. 1200, and in 1515 there was a fulling mill as well as a corn mill. In 1619 Whittington mill was converted into an ironworks, and an industrial hamlet was created. The works continued until 1893, and part of it survives as a private house.<sup>59</sup> There are two short rows of early 19th-century brick cottages on the canal to the north at the end of Horse Bridge Lane. In 1662 there were 18 people at Whittington owing suit at Kinver manor court.<sup>60</sup> They included Thomas Moseley, whose family was living in Whittington by 1446; he was assessed for tax on three hearths in 1666.<sup>61</sup> Another of the suitors was Thomas Jukes, who was assessed on six hearths; in 1691 he occupied a freehold house and was leasing another to a tenant.<sup>62</sup> The number of suitors was 19 in 1755 and 28 in 1789.<sup>63</sup> In the later 18th century settlement was concentrated along the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road and Horse Bridge Lane.<sup>64</sup> The house known in 1754 as the Talbot and formerly as Bird's tenement<sup>65</sup> was presumably an inn. The house called Windsor Castle by the 1780s may have been an inn in Windsor Holloway; in 1861 it was occupied by a labourer and his family.<sup>66</sup> Whittington Lower Farm at the junction of the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road and Windsor Holloway is an 18th-century building. A row of four 18th-century brick cottages at the southern end of Dark Lane on the west side of the river had been extended and turned into the Anchor inn by 1851.<sup>67</sup> The open country east of Whittington

<sup>44</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 42.

<sup>45</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/4, pp. 96, 98-100; P.R.O., HO 107/2017.

<sup>46</sup> Bills and Griffiths, *Kinver Rock Houses*, 19-20.

<sup>47</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>48</sup> B.L. Maps, O.S.D. 214; S.R.O., Q/RDc 42; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Halfcot III, deeds of 24 Dec. 1791, 19 Mar. 1795; P.R.O., RG 9/2928.

<sup>49</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017.

<sup>50</sup> S.R.O., D. 1493/1.

<sup>51</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXXI. SW. (1888 edn.).

<sup>52</sup> L. Radzinowicz, *Hist. of Eng. Criminal Law from 1750*, i. 218 n., 219; Staffs. *Advertiser*, 26 Dec. 1812; 2 Jan., 20 Mar. 1813. It is wrongly stated in 'The Manor House of the de Whittingtons' (copy at Staffs. County Libr. H.Q.) that Howe, arrested at the Whittington Inn and hanged in Gallows Wood, was the last man to be gibbeted in England; for the last man, in Leics. in 1832, see Radzinowicz, op. cit. 219-20.

<sup>53</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>54</sup> D. M. Palliser, Staffs. *Landscape*, 96-7 (although the present inn was not, as there stated, the manor house); sale partic. of Bathpool Cottages 1974 (giving date of change as 1798) among the deeds of the property in the possession of the Staffs. Building Soc., Wolverhampton. Mr. T. M. J. Oldnall of the Staffs. Building Soc. and Dr. A. B. Clymo of Whittington Old House are thanked for their help.

<sup>55</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, deed of 22 Dec. 1598; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 26 Jan. 1623/4; *ibid.* Kinver I, deed of 4 Oct. 1634.

<sup>56</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, deed of 22 Dec. 1598; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 20 Oct. 1681.

<sup>57</sup> P.R.O., PROB 11/130, f. 173v.

<sup>58</sup> S.R.O., 1392; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whittington, deed of 4 Aug. 1621; Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775); below (communications).

<sup>59</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>60</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 4 May 1663.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.* E 12/F/P3, deed of 23 Dec. 1446; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, 1623 survey; S.H.C. 1923, 107.

<sup>62</sup> S.H.C. 1923, 107; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/38, survey of Whittington 1691.

<sup>63</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1755, 1789.

<sup>64</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>65</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/10, deed of 25 Dec. 1754.

<sup>66</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/51; P.R.O., RG 9/1985.

<sup>67</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 1085; *ibid.* 4, p. 64; White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1851), 180.

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was used for laying out three sewage farms in the late 19th and early 20th century.<sup>68</sup>

Iverley in the south-east part of the parish gave its name to one of the hays of Kinver forest and has remained sparsely inhabited. The mention in 1293 of Nicholas of Iverley<sup>69</sup> indicates some settlement by then. The keeper of the hay built himself a house there at the beginning of the 17th century.<sup>70</sup> Inclosure of the common began in the 1630s,<sup>71</sup> and farms were created from the late 17th century. Tristram's farm, later Iverley Park farm, originated in a lease to William Tristram of Old Swinford (Worcs.) in 1676 of c. 50 a. north of the Stourbridge-Kidderminster road near the eastern boundary.<sup>72</sup> Nash's farm, later Iverley Hay farm, was formed out of c. 70 a. east of the road to Churchill (Worcs.) leased to Thomas Nash of Clent (Staffs., later Worcs.) in 1698; he built a house there shortly afterwards.<sup>73</sup> Another house and smaller estate on the west side of the Churchill road was leased with it in 1719, having originated apparently in a lease of 1710.<sup>74</sup> Iverley House farm on the southern boundary between the Stourbridge-Kidderminster road and Sugarloaf Lane may have existed by 1676 and was certainly created by the early 18th century. The house there was probably that mentioned as in the area in 1712. It was rebuilt in the mid 18th century on the opposite side of Sugarloaf Lane,<sup>75</sup> but the present house dates from the 19th century. Known as Bum Hall in the 1850s, it had regained its former name by the early 1880s.<sup>76</sup> High Down farm to the west existed by 1712. A lease of it in 1722 obliged the tenant to take down a five-bayed barn recently built on Iverley House farm and use the materials for building a farmhouse for High Down within 20 months. There was still a farmhouse there in 1901, but by 1924 High Down had become part of Iverley House farm.<sup>77</sup> There was a house on the site of Sugarloaf Farm by the 1730s,<sup>78</sup> but the present house appears to date from later in the century. The Crown inn at the junction of the Stourbridge-Kidderminster road and the road to Churchill existed by 1753.<sup>79</sup> High House near the eastern boundary north of Sugarloaf Lane was built about the mid 18th century. It was described in 1832 as 'of grotesque architecture'. High Lodge was built on the site

later in the 19th century and was opened as a private nursing home in 1983. High House Farm (later High Lodge Farmhouse) to the east dates from the 19th century; the farm buildings incorporate 18th-century bricks.<sup>80</sup> There were four people at Iverley owing suit at Kinver manor court in 1735, nine in 1755, and 14 in 1789.<sup>81</sup> In the 20th century several sandpits were opened in the Iverley area.<sup>82</sup> The large houses along the Stourbridge-Kidderminster road near the Stourbridge boundary date mainly from the period between the two World Wars. There are also several detached houses dating from before and after the Second World War towards the southern end of Sugarloaf Lane. Stourbridge Lawn Tennis Club in Sugarloaf Lane occupies the site of a former sandpit.

Between the late 11th and early 13th century kings visited Kinver on several occasions, probably when hunting in the forest.<sup>83</sup> Edward I stayed at Stourton in 1277, perhaps also when hunting; in 1294 he was at Horewood on his way to Wales.<sup>84</sup> Royal justices were at Kinver in 1276 and 1277.<sup>85</sup> Charles II road over Kinver common to Stourbridge during his escape after the battle of Worcester in 1651.<sup>86</sup>

Cardinal Pole (d. 1558) is said to have been born at Stourton Castle, and Bishop Talbot (d. 1730) was evidently born at Whittington Hall.<sup>87</sup> The physician Richard Moreton (1637-98) was curate of Kinver.<sup>88</sup> The Revd. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924), folklorist, author, and hymn writer, visited Kinver in the late 19th century. He wrote the hymn 'Now the day is over' there, and much of his novel *Bladys of the Stewponey* (1897) was set in the parish. In 1919 the novel was made into a film shot mainly in Kinver.<sup>89</sup> Nancy Price (1880-1970), stage and film actress and novelist, was born at Rockmount in Dark Lane.<sup>90</sup> Her autobiography *Into an Hour-glass* (1953) records her early life in Kinver.

**COMMUNICATIONS.** The parish was crossed by the medieval route between the south-west of England and Chester, which continued in use until c. 1800. It ran along Cookley Lane, Kinver High Street, Enville Road, and Chester Road.<sup>91</sup>

The road to the east between Kidderminster

<sup>68</sup> Below, p. 152.

<sup>69</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>70</sup> V.C.H. Staffs. ii. 348.

<sup>71</sup> Below, econ. hist. (agric.).

<sup>72</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley I, deed of 4 Mar. 1675/6; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans. For Nash see S. Grazebrook, *Heraldry of Worcs.* 580-1.

<sup>73</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley I, deed of 20 Oct. 1698; Iverley V, deed of 2 May 1707; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid. Iverley I, deed of 21 Mar. 1709/10; Iverley V, deed giving date 17 Feb. 1718; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid. Iverley I, deed of 10 Oct. 1676; Iverley Heath, deeds of 23 Jan. 1679/80, 15 Oct. 1712, 29 Jan. 1721/2; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>76</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley II, deed of 17 Mar. 1855 and plan of Iverley est. c. 1860; O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXXV. NW. (1888 edn.).

<sup>77</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley Heath, deeds of 15 Oct. 1712, 29 Jan. 1721/2; Iverley IV, sale cat. of Iverley House farm 1924; O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXXV. NW. (1904 edn.).

<sup>78</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>79</sup> Below, communications.

<sup>80</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775); Scott, *Stourbridge*, 183;

O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXXI. SW. (1888 edn.), showing High House Farm as Iverley Farm; sale cats. at High Lodge Farmhouse; inf. from Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Mangat of High Lodge Farmhouse, who are thanked for their help.

<sup>81</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver manor misc. papers, suitors rolls 1735, 1755, 1789.

<sup>82</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>83</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>84</sup> *Cal. Fine. R.* 1272-1307, 80, 86; *Book of Prests*, ed. E. B. Fryde, 222.

<sup>85</sup> S.H.C. vi (1), 77, 91.

<sup>86</sup> *Boscobel* (1660), 14.

<sup>87</sup> Below, manors and other estates.

<sup>88</sup> Below, church.

<sup>89</sup> D.N.B. 1922-30; F. E. Campbell, *Royal Kinver*, 27 (copy in W.S.L. Pamphs.); Bills and Griffiths, *Kinver Rock Houses*, 11.

<sup>90</sup> *Who was Who*, 1961-70.

<sup>91</sup> Scott, *Stourbridge*, 170-1; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 8, cts. of 20 Apr. 1433, 4 Apr. 1435; bdle. 16, ct. of 2 or 9 Apr. 1442; *ibid.* Whorwood inheritance, deed of 18 Jan. 1669/70; L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver, 1635; S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2, burial of 10 July 1689 of 'Serjeant Lambeth in his march to Ireland'; below, Patshull, introduction.

and Wolverhampton carried much traffic in the mid 17th century. Halfcot bridge, by which the road crosses the Stour on the parish boundary, was described in 1647 as 'a great thoroughfare for carts and packhorses 'twixt Worcester and Wolverhampton and to Stafford and the usual passage for the judges at their circuits'.<sup>92</sup> It had been the joint responsibility of the parishes of Kinver and Kingswinford in 1631, but by 1647 it had become a county bridge.<sup>93</sup> The present bridge dates from the 19th century and is a brick structure with a tall arch. The Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road was turnpiked in 1760 and disturnpiked in 1873.<sup>94</sup> There was a tollhouse at Halfcot by 1815 near the junction with the road from Stapenhill; it remained in use until the main road was disturnpiked.<sup>95</sup>

The Stourbridge-Bridgnorth road crosses the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road by the Stewponey inn. Stourton bridge carrying it over the Stour west of the inn existed by 1387 and was a county bridge by 1647.<sup>96</sup> The present structure is of engineering brick. The road was turnpiked in 1816 and disturnpiked in 1877.<sup>97</sup> There was a tollhouse at New Wood near the eastern boundary by 1820, and it continued in use until the road was disturnpiked.<sup>98</sup> By 1830 there was another tollhouse between the Stewponey and Stourton bridge; it was still in use in 1871.<sup>99</sup> The old route between Kinver and Stourbridge ran along Mill Lane, Dunsley Road, and Gibbet Lane.<sup>1</sup>

The road from Stourbridge to Kidderminster runs through Iwerley. The stretch from Stourbridge as far as the Crown inn at Iwerley was turnpiked in 1753 and disturnpiked in 1877; the rest was turnpiked in 1760 and disturnpiked in 1873.<sup>2</sup> Sugarloaf Lane to the west, which continues into Churchill parish (Worcs.) to join the Stourbridge-Kidderminster road at Five Ways, was turnpiked in 1789 as part of the road from Coalbournbrook in Amblecote; it was disturnpiked in 1877.<sup>3</sup>

As part of the abortive scheme for making the Stour navigable from Stourbridge to the Severn under an Act of 1662 a trench was cut in the north-east corner of the parish from Willett's mill to Prestwood.<sup>4</sup> It was known in the 18th century as the Navigation Cut and survived into the 20th century as Trench brook. In 1983 the cut, though dry, was visible for most of its course.<sup>5</sup>

The work under the 1662 Act also included the widening of the river below the Hyde.<sup>6</sup>

The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, which follows the Stour valley through Kinver, was built by James Brindley under an Act of 1766; the Kinver stretch was opened in 1770 and the whole canal in 1772.<sup>7</sup> North-east of Dunsley Hall it passes through a tunnel which, because it is short and cut through soft rock, was provided with a towpath at the time of its construction.<sup>8</sup> North of Stewponey it is joined by the Stourbridge Canal built under an Act of 1776 and opened in 1779.<sup>9</sup> The wharf at Stewponey was the hub of the system, and the toll office there remained the busiest on the canal.<sup>10</sup> The tollhouse and other buildings still stood in 1982. A boat hire business, Dawncraft, was started by George and Ralph Wilson in 1958 with a yard on the canal off Mill Lane in Kinver. They later turned to boat building, and in 1971 the hire fleet was sold. In 1972 the boat building was moved to Kidderminster. The Kinver yard was then used for repairs and display, and a marina was later built nearby. The firm also had a showroom at Stewponey wharf.<sup>11</sup> In the early 1980s the firm moved to Stourport, but the marina was still in use in 1982.

By the earlier 1830s a carrier was running a service from Kinver to Stourbridge and back each day.<sup>12</sup> A tramway known as the Kinver Light Railway was opened in 1901 running from Coalbournbrook in Amblecote via Wollaston to a terminus in Mill Lane in Kinver. West of Stewponey the track left the road to follow a course close to the Stour and the canal; much of it was embanked because of the risk of flooding. A depot was built at the Hyde and used between Good Friday and October to serve the excursion traffic to Kinver. The tramway was closed in 1930 and replaced by a bus service.<sup>13</sup>

**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.** In 1719 Kinver wake was held on Monday and Tuesday, 14 and 15 September. The entertainment included bull baiting.<sup>14</sup> In 1814 bulls were baited near the junction of High Street and Stone Lane.<sup>15</sup> In 1851 land near the National school in High Street was known as the Bull Ring.<sup>16</sup> Land near Halfcot wire mills called the Cockpit in 1733 may indicate that cock fighting took place there.<sup>17</sup> There was a racecourse on Checkhill

<sup>92</sup> S.R.O., Q/SR, E. 1647, no. 8.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kingswinford, memo. of 26 May 1631.

<sup>94</sup> 33 Geo. II, c. 50; 36 & 37 Vic. c. 90.

<sup>95</sup> B.L., O.S.D. 214; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood sales, list of title deeds.

<sup>96</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1; S.R.O., Q/SR, E 1647, no. 8.

<sup>97</sup> 56 Geo. III, c. 16 (Local and Personal); 39 & 40 Vic. c. 39.

<sup>98</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood Estate surveys I; Kinver II, deed of 7 Mar. 1877.

<sup>99</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 1616; *ibid.* 4, p. 89; P.R.O., RG 10/2928.

<sup>1</sup> 26 Geo. II, c. 47; 33 Geo. II, c. 50; 36 & 37 Vic. c. 90; 40 & 41 Vic. c. 64.

<sup>2</sup> J. H. Parker Oxspring, 'Andrew Yarranton' (TS. in Worcester City Branch Libr.; microfilm in S.R.O.), ii, pp. 11-12, 28-9, 159-64, 282; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Halfcot I, deed of 1 Jan. 1664/5; Halfcot II, deed of 14 Sept. 1663.

<sup>3</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 17 Jan.

1759; Halfcot I, deed of 22 Mar. 1781; *inf.* from Mr. P. W. King.

<sup>6</sup> Oxspring, 'Yarranton', ii, p. 282.

<sup>7</sup> Above, pp. 13-14.

<sup>8</sup> J. I. Langford, *Towpath Guide to Staffs. and Worcs. Canal*, 147.

<sup>9</sup> Above, p. 52.

<sup>10</sup> Langford, *Staffs. and Worcs. Canal*, 142-3, 146.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 146, 151.

<sup>12</sup> Below, p. 153.

<sup>13</sup> J. S. Webb, *Black Country Tramways*, i (Bloxwich, 1974), 220-32, 261, 265; ii (Bloxwich, 1976), 17-19, 21, 94, and frontispiece; D. M. Bills and E. and W. R. Griffiths, *By Tram to Kinver* (Kinver, 1980).

<sup>14</sup> V.C.H. Worcs. iii, 216.

<sup>15</sup> J. H. Mees, *Story of a Hundred Years: Handbk. of Wesleyan Methodist Church Stourbridge Circuit* (Stourbridge, 1928), 93-4 (copy in Stourbridge Libr.).

<sup>16</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017.

<sup>17</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 23 Feb. 1732/3.

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common near the Enville boundary by 1800; it belonged to the owners of Enville Hall.<sup>18</sup> A two-day meeting at Kinver advertised for October 1816 may have taken place on the Checkhill course.<sup>19</sup> Another possible site is a field east of Kinver Edge Farm called Lower Racecourse in 1830.<sup>20</sup> Kinver cricket club, which had been formed by 1847 with Lord Stamford of Enville Hall and J. H. Hodgetts-Foley of Prestwood House in Kingswinford as patrons, probably played on the ground at Enville Hall. It still existed in 1852.<sup>21</sup> In the 1960s a new club was established. In 1982 it used a ground near Kinver community centre at the north end of the village.<sup>22</sup>

A company of rifle volunteers for Kinver was formed in 1860. It had ceased to exist by 1871.<sup>23</sup>

Strolling players may have given performances at Kinver in 1774.<sup>24</sup> An amateur theatrical company existed in 1870.<sup>25</sup> A choral society advertised a concert in the grammar school on New Year's Day 1883.<sup>26</sup> An operatic and dramatic society had been formed by 1928 and as Kinver Light Operatic Society still existed in 1982. There was a cinema at the junction of High Street and Vicarage Drive by 1924. During the Second World War the building was used as a fire station; it reopened as a cinema in the mid 1950s but later closed.<sup>27</sup>

There was a library and reading room in High Street by 1861. In 1865 it was in a house next to the Wesleyan chapel at the corner of Stone Lane and High Street; it was evidently still there in 1871.<sup>28</sup> It fell heavily into debt and was closed c. 1900.<sup>29</sup> A branch of the county library was opened in the former girls' National school in Vicarage Drive in 1967.<sup>30</sup>

Kinver and District Horticultural Society existed by 1928.<sup>31</sup> Kinver Historical Society was established in 1955.<sup>32</sup> In the mid 1960s the Kinver Community Association opened a hall, the Edward Marsh Centre, east of High Street at the north end of the village.<sup>33</sup> A village hall for the Stourton area was opened east of Stewponey in 1969.<sup>34</sup>

Kinver Edge has attracted summer visitors from the neighbouring towns since the later 19th century. Until the opening of a tramway to Kinver in 1901 visitors either walked or travelled by wagonette from Stourbridge. The tramway

greatly increased the number of visitors, many of them in school or society outings; some 14,000 passengers travelled to Kinver by tram on Whit Monday in 1903 and 16,700 on the same day in 1905.<sup>35</sup> Refreshment rooms were opened to cater for the visitors. There was a coffee house in the 1880s and in 1892. A temperance hotel in Comber Road called Edge View had been opened by 1900; it was still open in 1904 but closed soon after.<sup>36</sup> There were 6 tea rooms and coffee houses in 1904; the number dropped to 3 in 1908 and 1912 but had risen to 9 by 1924, 12 by 1928, and 15 by 1936. Most visitors seem to have been day trippers, but some evidently stayed in apartments or boarding houses, of which there were 2 or 3 in the years before and after the First World War.<sup>37</sup> In 1917 the National Trust was given 198 a. on Kinver Edge by the children of Thomas Grosvenor Lee, a Birmingham solicitor who was born at Kinver and died in 1916; the gift was in memory of Lee and his wife. The area owned by the Trust was increased to 283 a. by three purchases between 1964 and 1980.<sup>38</sup> Kinver Edge remained a popular resort in 1982.

An attempt was made in 1821 to establish a benevolent society in Kinver, to provide money and other help for women at their confinement. The organizer seems to have been Thomas Housman, the assistant curate.<sup>39</sup> In 1842 George Wharton, the minister of Kinver, together with J. H. Hodgetts-Foley, helped to establish the Stewponey Becher Club, to provide pensions, money and medical help during illness, and also death grants. The club, which was at first a branch of the Stewponey Agricultural Society, covered the area within 12 miles of the Stewponey inn. It held Whitsuntide meetings at the inn.<sup>40</sup> Members paid monthly subscriptions which were graduated according to their age, a system of insurance devised by Canon John Becher.<sup>41</sup> The club was dissolved in 1912.<sup>42</sup>

The White Hart Club mentioned in 1830<sup>43</sup> may have been a friendly society meeting at the White Hart in High Street. The Vanguard Lodge of Nelsonic Crimson Oaks was established in 1833; it still existed in 1876 with an office in Foster Street. There were three other friendly societies in 1876. The Earl of Stamford Society, established in 1840, met at the Swan in High Street. The Robert Burns Society, established in

<sup>18</sup> Above, p. 95.

<sup>19</sup> *Wolverhampton Chron.* 25 Sept. 1816.

<sup>20</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 851; *ibid.* 4, p. 60.

<sup>21</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver III, printed list of club members 1847; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, Enville estate cash bk., 10 Mar. 1852; above, p. 95.

<sup>22</sup> Inf. from the club secretary.

<sup>23</sup> *Hist. of Volunteer Force of Staffs. 1859-1908* (Stafford, 1909), 6, 14-15.

<sup>24</sup> Birmingham Univ. Libr., accts. of Kinver schoolmaster (photocopy in S.R.O. 1401).

<sup>25</sup> S.R.O., CEH/76/1, 4 Feb. 1870.

<sup>26</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver III, concert handbill.

<sup>27</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1924; 1928); inf. from Mrs. E. Griffiths, Kinver Libr.; below, p. 153.

<sup>28</sup> P.R.O., RG 9/1985; RG 10/2928; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/32, sale notice.

<sup>29</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1900); Bennett, *Kinver*, 124.

<sup>30</sup> Inf. from Mr. G. L. King, deputy divisional librarian (1980).

<sup>31</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1928).

<sup>32</sup> Inf. from the chairman.

<sup>33</sup> Local inf.

<sup>34</sup> Plaque at the entrance.

<sup>35</sup> Bennett, *Kinver*, 123; Birmingham and Midland Tramways, *Illustrated Guide to Kinver* (1904), 1 (copy in W.S.L. Pamphs.); Webb, *Black Country Tramways*, i. 220, 230, 241, 252; above, communications.

<sup>36</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (edns. from 1884 to 1908); Bennett, *Kinver*, 123.

<sup>37</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (edns. from 1904 to 1940).

<sup>38</sup> W. and A. W. Sutton, 'Kinver and Neighbourhood', 36 (copy in Kinver Libr.); Bennett, *Kinver*, 46; inf. from the National Trust.

<sup>39</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/50, Thos. Housman to Ld. Stamford 3 Mar. 1821, and draft plan for society.

<sup>40</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stewponey Becher Club II, bk. of rules; III, min. bk. 1842-59, 7 Mar. 1842; below, econ. hist. (agric.).

<sup>41</sup> R. Seymour, *Old and New Friendly Socs.* (1839; copy in H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stewponey Becher Club II). For Becher see *D.N.B.*

<sup>42</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stewponey Becher Club I, instrument of dissolution 20 Aug. 1912.

<sup>43</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/4, p. 36.



1845, met at the Stag in Mill Lane. A court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, established in 1858, met at the Lock, also in Mill Lane.<sup>44</sup> There was a clothing club in the later 1840s.<sup>45</sup>

**MANORS AND OTHER ESTATES.** Before the Conquest *KINVER* was held by Alfgar, earl of Mercia; it evidently passed to his son Earl Edwin and was confiscated after the rebellion of 1069.<sup>46</sup> In 1086 the 5½ hides there were held by the king but were farmed for 100s. by the sheriff of Worcestershire, Urse d'Abetot.<sup>47</sup> On his death in 1108 Urse was succeeded in the shrievalty by his son Roger, who held it until his banishment a few years later; they may also have continued to farm Kinver.<sup>48</sup> Henry II granted the manor with the keepership of Kinver forest to Philip son of Helgot, also known as Philip of Kinver.<sup>49</sup> The grant had evidently been made by 1168 when Philip accounted for the pannage of Kinver. He had been deprived of the manor and keepership, apparently for a forest offence, by 1176 when he owed 100 marks for the king's favour and the restoration of his forfeited office and land. It took him several years to pay the sum. Meanwhile the chief justice of the forests, Thomas FitzBernard, accounted for the pannage of Kinver in 1177 and for the proceeds from land at Kinver. In 1183 he was farming Kinver, probably both forest and manor, for £9. From the beginning of 1184 the farm was held by Geoffrey FitzPeter. In the middle of the year it passed to Philip of Kinver, who held it for the rest of his life. He received a new grant of the manor and the keepership of the forest in fee farm on Richard I's accession in 1189, still at a rent of £9. King John renewed the grant when he came to the throne in 1199, and Philip had to pay £100 for the renewal. He was succeeded by his son John in 1213 and the grant was again renewed, John paying 38 marks.<sup>50</sup> He was dead by December 1238, and his heir was his son John, a minor, who came of age between 1248 and 1250.<sup>51</sup> In 1293 the king resumed possession of the manor and the keepership of the forest and in November granted them back to John for life only, still at a rent of £9.<sup>52</sup>

Although John was still alive in 1306,<sup>53</sup> the keepership was granted to Richard son of Richard of Cleobury for life in 1304 at the request of Prince Edward.<sup>54</sup> In 1307 Edward as king granted Richard of Cleobury, described as his cook, 'the king's manor of Kinver which is called Stourton', to be held at the royal pleasure.<sup>55</sup>

There followed a number of grants of the keepership and the manor, all apparently at a rent of £9.<sup>56</sup> The estate was regularly called the manors of Kinver and *STOURTON* until the 17th century, perhaps a reflection of its division into a borough and a foreign.<sup>57</sup> In 1339 the king granted the reversion of the keepership to Hugh Tyrel in fee, adding the reversion of the manors of Kinver and Stourton in 1340 for the support of his knighthood; the life tenant of the keepership and the manors was Henry Mortimer, who in 1340 surrendered them to Tyrel and received them back for life.<sup>58</sup> Sir Hugh died in 1343 with a son John, a minor, as his heir. The king thereupon granted the keepership to Edward Atwood during the minority. In 1344 Mortimer granted his life interest in the keepership and the manors to Atwood. On Atwood's death in 1346 his interest passed to his infant daughter. His executor John Atwood subsequently secured the keepership and the manors and still held them in the earlier 1360s.<sup>59</sup> Meanwhile John Tyrel, having come of age in 1360, died the same year before taking possession. His heir was his brother Hugh, who came of age in 1362 and was given possession of Kinver and Stourton and the keepership of the forest in 1364. Hugh was later knighted. He died in 1381, and by 1382 his widow Catherine had conveyed her life interest in the property to Richard Hampton; Hugh's heirs too had renounced their interest.<sup>60</sup> It was done without royal licence, but in 1385 the king granted that the manors and keepership should be held by Richard for life at a fee-farm rent of £9 and should then become hereditary in his family.<sup>61</sup> Richard died in 1388 and his son John succeeded. John died in 1433 and was succeeded by his son, another John. The younger John had already been granted the £9 rent during the king's pleasure in 1427, and in 1437 he received it for life; from 1466 to 1540, however, it was granted to various members of the royal family. John held many offices under the Crown both in Staffordshire and elsewhere and was M.P. for Staffordshire seven times between 1437 and 1459. He died in 1472, with his brother Bevis as his heir.<sup>62</sup>

By 1475 the manors had been conveyed, evidently by trustees, to George, duke of Clarence, who that year gave them to Tewkesbury abbey (Glos.).<sup>63</sup> In 1495 the monks conveyed them to the Crown, which in return granted that they should in future have to act as collectors of clerical subsidies in Worcester diocese only.<sup>64</sup> A 40-year lease was granted to Charles Somerset,

<sup>44</sup> *Reps. of Chief Registrar of Friendly Socys. 1876*, H.C. 429, p. 404 (1877), lxxvii.

<sup>45</sup> *S.R.O.*, Tp. 1273/39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.) 1846, 1848.

<sup>46</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 6, 40; R. W. Eyton, *Domesday Studies*, 26-30, 39.

<sup>47</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 40; *V.C.H. Worcs.* i. 262-5, 287; Eyton, *Domesday Studies*, 66-7.

<sup>48</sup> *Beauchamp Cartulary* (P.R.S. N.S. xliii), pp. xviii-xxi.

<sup>49</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, i. 142; *S.H.C.* i. 53-102 *passim*.

<sup>50</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 344. For the renewal of 1189 see *Cartae Antiquae* (Pipe R. Soc. N.S. xxxiii), no. 510.

<sup>51</sup> R. W. Eyton, *Antiquities of Shropshire*, iii. 164-6.

<sup>52</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1292-1301, 23, 42.

<sup>53</sup> Above, Bobington, manor and other estates.

<sup>54</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1301-7, 247, describing John as deceased.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.* 1307-13, 1; *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i. 155.

<sup>56</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 344-5. This wrongly states that the rent was not specifically mentioned again until 1347; for mentions see *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, 349; *Cal. Close*, 1339-41, 380; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xi, p. 466.

<sup>57</sup> Below, local govt.

<sup>58</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1338-40, 399; 1340-3, 11, 15-16, 512.

<sup>59</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* 1337-47, 321, 395; *Cal. Close*, 1346-9, 106-7, 216; 1364-8, 37-8; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, p. 17; *Cal. Pat.* 1358-61, 10; 1361-4, 469.

<sup>60</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 345; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* xv, p. 171. The *V.C.H.* wrongly gives 1359 as the year when John Tyrel came of age; in n. 48 'p. 466' should read 'p. 483'.

<sup>61</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1381-5, 153; 1385-9, 72.

<sup>62</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 345; *S.H.C.* 1917-18, 221-3.

<sup>63</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1461-7, 379; 1467-77, 346-7, 513, 530; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 27, ct. of 25 Sept. 1466.

<sup>64</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, 54.



## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Baron Herbert, later earl of Worcester, at £20 a year in 1504.<sup>65</sup> In 1522, after his surrender of the lease, one of 21 years was granted at the same rent to Edward Sutton, Baron Dudley.<sup>66</sup> A new 21-year lease, to take effect in 1543, was made in 1528 to Humphrey Bowland, an Exchequer clerk retained by the duchy of Lancaster.<sup>67</sup>

In 1537 the reversion of the manors was granted to William Whorwood and his second wife Margaret in fee; William, then solicitor general and later attorney general, was a younger son of the Whorwoods of Compton. The grant evidently took effect in 1543.<sup>68</sup> William Whorwood died in 1545, and his widow, who later married William Sheldon, continued to hold a life interest in the manors.<sup>69</sup> Whorwood's heirs were his daughters Anne, by 1546 wife of Ambrose Dudley, later earl of Warwick, and Margaret, a minor who later married Thomas Throckmorton of Coughton (Warws.). Anne died childless in 1552, and her heir was Thomas Whorwood of Compton, her first cousin once removed and a minor.<sup>70</sup> In 1578 Thomas and Margaret Throckmorton agreed to convey their interest to him.<sup>71</sup> In 1580 he joined with the Throckmortons and Margaret Sheldon in making a settlement of Kinver and Stourton, evidently in trust.<sup>72</sup> The manor court was held in Margaret Sheldon's name in 1584. She died in 1589, and the court was held in Thomas Whorwood's name in 1590.<sup>73</sup> He was M.P. for Staffordshire from 1572 to 1583, was twice sheriff, and was knighted in 1604. He died in 1616, having settled Kinver and Stourton in 1613 on his son Gerard in return for the payment of his debts and for the marriage portion of Gerard's wife.<sup>74</sup> The manor court was then held in Gerard's name.<sup>75</sup> Gerard was succeeded in 1627 by his son John.<sup>76</sup> In 1650 John made over his property to his son Sir William in return for William's agreement to the sale of Compton manor to pay John's debts.<sup>77</sup> John moved between Stourton Castle and Dunsley Hall in the

1650s and evidently lived until 1669.<sup>78</sup> Sir William was still alive in 1653 but was dead by 1657 with a son Wortley, a minor, as his heir.<sup>79</sup> Sir William's widow Catherine retained a life interest in Kinver and Stourton; by 1661 she had married William Hamerton, and they held the manors in Catherine's right by reason of her jointure.<sup>80</sup> Wortley, still a minor in 1668, was of age in 1669.<sup>81</sup> In 1672 he sold the manors to Philip Foley of Prestwood, in Kingswinford, a younger son of Thomas Foley, the ironmaster.<sup>82</sup>

Philip died in 1716 and was succeeded by a younger son Paul, who died in 1718 with a son William, a minor, as his heir. William died in 1735, also leaving a son William, a minor, as his heir. The younger William was succeeded in 1755 by his sister Elizabeth, who married John Hodgetts of Shut End, in Kingswinford. She died in 1759, leaving an infant daughter Eliza Maria.<sup>83</sup> Hodgetts, who lived at Prestwood, held Kinver manor until his death in 1789 when it passed to Eliza Maria.<sup>84</sup> In 1790 she married Edward Foley of Stoke Edith (Herefs.), a distant cousin; he died in 1803 and she in 1805. Kinver passed with Prestwood to their younger son John Hodgetts Foley (b. 1797), who changed his surname to Hodgetts-Foley in 1820 or 1821. He was succeeded in 1861 by his son H. J. W. Hodgetts-Foley, who was followed in 1894 by his son Paul Henry.<sup>85</sup> Paul changed his surname back to Foley.<sup>86</sup> He sold his Staffordshire property in the early 20th century, mainly in 1913 and the years following.<sup>87</sup>

The fee-farm rent of £9 was still paid to the sheriff in 1625.<sup>88</sup> A rent from Kinver was among the fee-farm rents sold by the Crown in 1672 and owned by Lord Boston in the late 18th century. In 1872 H. J. W. Hodgetts-Foley bought from the 5th Baron Boston what were described as the Kinver reeve rents with a view to selling them to the tenants, who paid them through the Kinver reeve.<sup>89</sup>

Stourton Castle, which became the home of

<sup>65</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1494-1509, 389.

<sup>66</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stourton VI, brief in case *Rex v. Whorwood* 1615; S.R.O., D. 593/O/3/5; *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, iii (2), p. 1315.

<sup>67</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, iv (2), p. 1898; R. Somerville, *Hist. of Duchy of Lancaster*, i, 458-9.

<sup>68</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xii (2), 350; *S.H.C.* 1917-18, 304-5. He received a grant of a market and 2 fairs at Kinver in 1544; below, econ. hist.

<sup>69</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Staffs. legal papers, inq. p.m. of Anne Dudley 1555; E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, valor of lands of John Grey 1581 (which, however, mentions Wm. Sheldon as still alive although Marg. Sheldon was described as a widow in 1577; E 12/S, Kingsley, ct. of 19 Sept. 1577).

<sup>70</sup> P. M. Grazebrook, *Short Hist. of Stourton Castle and Royal Forest of Kinver*, 33; *Complete Peerage*, xii (2), 402; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Staffs. legal papers, inq. p.m. of Anne Dudley 1555.

<sup>71</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 6 Apr. 1578.

<sup>72</sup> P.R.O., C 66/1194, m. 26; P.R.O., CP 25 (2)/260/22 Eliz. I East. no. 7.

<sup>73</sup> *S.H.C.* 1930, 72-3; 1945-6, 98; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 31 Mar. 1590.

<sup>74</sup> *S.H.C.* 1917-18, 371-2; P.R.O., C 3/389/13; P.R.O., C 142/354, no. 104.

<sup>75</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629.

<sup>76</sup> P.R.O., C 142/432, no. 109.

<sup>77</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, articles between John and Sir Wm. Whorwood 6 Aug. 1650.

<sup>78</sup> Below (Stourton Castle; Dunsley); S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2,

burial of 'Mr. John Whorwood Esq.' 22 Sept. 1669.

<sup>79</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 17 Oct. 1653; E 12/S, Stourton I, deeds of 1 Feb. 1656/7, 17 June 1657; E 12/S, Staffs. legal papers, bill in Chancery (Grey and others v. Whorwood and others).

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.* E 12/S, Kingsley manor, ct. of 11 Apr. 1661; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 16 Oct. 1662.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of 20 Jan. 1667/8, 26 Oct. 1669.

<sup>82</sup> *Ibid.* Whorwood inheritance, deed of 24 Feb. 1671/2; P.R.O., CP 25 (2)/725/24 Chas. II Trin. no. 12.

<sup>83</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 232, 235, 264; S.R.O., D. 1197/1/3, burials 30 Nov. 1716, 4 Apr. 1718.

<sup>84</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver, Compton Hallows, and Kingsley ct. bk. 1734-61, Kinver ct. of 23 Apr. 1760; Kinver and Kingsley ct. bk. 1767-1801; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 264.

<sup>85</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 235; Grazebrook, *Stourton Castle*, 39, wrongly giving Edw.'s date of death as 1808; *Staffs. Advertiser*, 2 July 1803, 20 July 1805; Bennett, *Kinver*, 100. For the change of name see H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver and Compton Hallows ct. bk. 1800-36, ct. of 19 Oct. 1820; *ibid.* Kinver VIII, deed of 15 Sept. 1821.

<sup>86</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood sales, H. T. F. King to P. H. Foley 23 and 25 Oct. 1917.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.* Prestwood sales.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. rolls. 1590-1629, ct. of survey 24 Oct. 1625.

<sup>89</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/21, notebook 1797-1814; *ibid.* 41, Staffs. fee-farm rents, showing also a separate reeve rent due to Lord Boston from Lord Stamford for Whittington manor and other land in Kinver.

the lords of Kinver, originated as a royal hunting lodge. There was probably a lodge in the area in the late 11th century when William II was at Kinver. Henry II may have been at Kinver in 1176 and 1186. In 1184-5 the sheriff accounted for making a ditch round the king's houses at Kinver, in 1185-6 for enclosing the court round them, and in 1187-8 for work on the king's chamber at Kinver. There was further work on the buildings in 1190-1. In 1195-6 a new set of buildings, evidently of timber, was erected at Stourton. They included a hall and offices, a kitchen, a chamber, a gaol, and a gate with a brattice. The surrounding palisade was 16 perches in circumference and 16 ft. high. There was also a fishpond. King John was at Kinver in 1200, 1206, and 1207 and at Stourton in 1207 and 1215.<sup>90</sup> By 1222 the lodge was known as the castle of Kinver and was the home of John son of Philip, the keeper of Kinver forest and lord of Kinver manor. He fortified it in 1222-3, the king providing money and also timber from the forest.<sup>91</sup> In 1244 John's widow, who had custody of his heir and lands, was given timber to repair the buildings at Stourton.<sup>92</sup> In the mid 1250s the heir held what was called the castle of Stourton with a wood assigned for the maintenance of its kitchen.<sup>93</sup>

The castle was included in the grant for life of Stourton manor and the keepership of Kinver forest which the king made to Sir John de Vaux in 1310.<sup>94</sup> He was accused of taking part in the murder at the castle in 1316 of Sir Thomas Murdak, whose widow, Gillian, Vaux married a few days after the murder; she too was implicated and was sentenced to be burnt, but Vaux was acquitted.<sup>95</sup> The gaol at the castle was used in 1360 when the prior of Dudley was held there for a forest offence before being granted bail.<sup>96</sup> The Hamptons were evidently living at Stourton by 1391 when John Hampton was licensed to have an oratory in his manor of Stourton.<sup>97</sup> His son John was living there in 1441 and was buried in Kinver church in 1472.<sup>98</sup> About 1500 the castle may have been the home of Sir Richard Pole and his wife Margaret, daughter of George, duke of Clarence: according to an early tradition their son

Reginald (d. 1558), cardinal and archbishop of Canterbury, was born there in 1500 or 1501.<sup>99</sup>

Sir Thomas Whorwood had moved from Compton to Stourton Castle by 1602 and died at the castle in 1616;<sup>1</sup> his son-in-law was living there in 1604.<sup>2</sup> Sir Thomas's son Gerard was there in 1625 but had moved to Compton by 1626.<sup>3</sup> Gerard's son John lived at Stourton Castle at least until 1642.<sup>4</sup> Although John seems to have been neutral in the Civil War, the castle was taken by the parliamentarian Col. Thomas Fox in 1644. Sir Gilbert Gerard, the royalist governor of Worcester, promptly marched against it, and after he had routed Fox on Stourbridge heath, the castle surrendered to him.<sup>5</sup> In 1647 John and his son Sir William were living at Compton. Sir William moved to Stourton Castle later that year, evidently on his marriage.<sup>6</sup> With the sale of Compton in 1650 it was agreed that John should have for life the use of part of the castle 'commonly called the new building, the tower and cellars with the closet, and other necessary use of the parlour'.<sup>7</sup> He was living at the castle in 1651,<sup>8</sup> but by 1655 he was at Dunsley Hall, his granddaughter's home. He was again at the castle in 1656 but had moved back to Dunsley by 1657.<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile in 1657 the castle was granted to Sir Francis Lawley of Spoonhill, in Much Wenlock (Salop.), for the duration of Wortley Whorwood's minority. Sir Francis agreed to carry out the repairs needed to make the castle fit to live in, although the Whorwoods' bailiff was to reimburse him.<sup>10</sup> Sir William Whorwood's widow, however, was living at the castle in 1658,<sup>11</sup> and it was presumably the house in Stourton where Thomas Brettell was assessed for tax on 13 hearths in 1666.<sup>12</sup> The castle was known as one of Sir Francis Lawley's residences in the late 1660s.<sup>13</sup> It was leased with the mill to John Finch of Dudley in 1670 but was not included in a new lease of the forge granted to Finch in 1672.<sup>14</sup> The Foleys continued to let the castle, their home being at Prestwood. William Talbot had moved there from Whittington by 1676, and he died there in 1686.<sup>15</sup> In 1692 it was occupied by Richard Oliver.<sup>16</sup> After the conversion of the mill into a forge in 1670 or 1671 it was suggested that

<sup>90</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 346-7.

<sup>91</sup> *Rot. Litt. Claus.* (Rec. Com.), i. 520, 523, 548, 556, 590.

<sup>92</sup> *Close R.* 1242-7, 209.

<sup>93</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 116.

<sup>94</sup> *Cal. Chanc. Wts.* i. 328; *Cal. Fine R.* 1307-19, 75, 84.

<sup>95</sup> *S.H.C.* x (1), 27-8, 34-9; xiv (1), 4, 18.

<sup>96</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 347, where in n. 22 '*Cal. Close*, 1360-5' should read '*Cal. Close*, 1360-4'.

<sup>97</sup> *L.J.R.O.*, B/A/1/6, f. 127.

<sup>98</sup> *S.H.C.* n.s. vi (2), 209; below, church.

<sup>99</sup> Leland, *Itin.* ed. Toulmin Smith, v. 20; Camden, *Britannia* (1610 edn.), 581; *D.N.B.* s.v. Pole, Marg., and Pole, Reg.; Wood, *Athenae Oxonienses*, i (1813 edn.), 278-9, wrongly states that London is given as Pole's birthplace by L. Beccatelli, *Vita Reginaldi Poli* (Venice, 1563), 7v.; Beccatelli, Pole's secretary and first biographer, does not identify the birthplace.

<sup>1</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Kinver XIII, Bill in Chancery 29 Jan. 1601/2; *ibid.* Compton I, deed of 20 Nov. 1605; *P.R.O.*, C 142/432, no. 109; *S.H.C.* v (2), 339.

<sup>2</sup> Oxspring, 'Yarranton', 55; *S.H.C.* ix (2), 108.

<sup>3</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 1 Dec. 1625; below (Compton Hallows).

<sup>4</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley I, deed of 23 Mar. 1634/5; Compton I, deeds of 3 Apr. 1635, 29 May 1639;

Whorwood inheritance, deed of 15 Feb. 1639/40; Stourton III, deed of 26 Mar. 1642.

<sup>5</sup> Grazebrook, *Stourton Castle*, 34-5; *Hist. MSS. Com.* 3, 4th Rep. p. 265; *S.H.C.* n.s. vi (2), 332.

<sup>6</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, articles of agreement June 1647 and articles between John and Sir Wm. Whorwood 6 Aug. 1650; E 12/S, Tettenhall, deed of 10 Nov. 1647.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* Whorwood inheritance, articles between John and Sir Wm. Whorwood 6 Aug. 1650.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* tithe and inclosure papers, deed of 20 Feb. 1650/1; Stourton II, deed of 10 Oct. 1651.

<sup>9</sup> Below (Dunsley).

<sup>10</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Stourton I, deeds of 1 Feb. 1656/7, 17 June 1657; Whorwood inheritance, Lawley v. Jolley and others 1657.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* Whorwood inheritance, deed of 16 Nov. 1658.

<sup>12</sup> *S.H.C.* 1923, 106.

<sup>13</sup> Erdeswick, *Staffs.* p. lvii.

<sup>14</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 7 Dec. 1672.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* Stourton II, deed of 21 July 1676; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 264-5.

<sup>16</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Stourton II, deed of 30 Sept. 1692.

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the castle had become unfit to be the residence of a person of quality as well as having its foundations threatened by vibration from the forge.<sup>17</sup> For much of the 18th century it was the home of the Hollins family, which occupied it as a farmhouse.<sup>18</sup> In 1805 T. W. Grazebrook, who owned much of the land in the vicinity, moved from Audnam, in Kingswinford, to Stourton Castle and died there in 1816. His widow Elizabeth continued to live there until 1832.<sup>19</sup> In 1833 James Foster, an ironmaster with interests in Amblecote and elsewhere, moved to the castle from Stourbridge. He died at the castle in 1853, and his nephew and heir W. O. Foster lived there until 1868.<sup>20</sup> In 1869 he assigned the residue of the lease to G. R. Collis, an electro-plate manufacturer of Birmingham, who lived at the castle until 1877 or 1878. George Arkle, a Liverpool banker, took a lease in 1878 and lived there until his death in 1885 or 1886. His family moved out, and the castle remained empty until its sale to Francis Grazebrook on the break-up of the Foley estate in 1913.<sup>21</sup> A great-great-great-nephew of T. W. Grazebrook, he lived there from 1915 until his death in 1945. His son O. F. Grazebrook, who revived the prosperity of the family ironworks at Netherton, in Dudley, moved to the castle and remained there until his death in 1974.<sup>22</sup> It was bought in that year with 107 a. by Mr. M. Fellows, the owner in 1982.<sup>23</sup>

Stourton Castle stands on a rocky outcrop with the Stour to the east and steep natural slopes to the north and south.<sup>24</sup> The present buildings evidently occupy the site of a keep, and the discovery in 1832-3 of the foundations of two round towers some distance to the north-west may indicate that there was a bailey or outer court on that side. The earliest surviving part of the house is the late-medieval stone gate-tower on the west side of a formerly open court which is surrounded by brick ranges of the mid to later 16th century. The hall was on the east side of the court, the parlour and main staircase on the north, and the service rooms on the south, where there was also a porch tower. In the mid 17th century the exterior was remodelled, perhaps after damage during the Civil War. Shaped gables were added to the roofline, and a walled square court was made in front of the gate-tower.

By the early 19th century there were a service court and an assortment of out-buildings south of the gate-tower. In 1832 and 1833 extensive alterations and additions were made by James Foster from designs by Sir Robert Smirke. The ground floor was lowered by c. 4 ft. throughout. The porch tower and a staircase in the courtyard were demolished, and a top-lit hall was created there, a new staircase being made between the hall and the south range. The interior was redecorated. Wings were added on either side of the gate-tower to make a new front in a Jacobean style, the tower being rendered and the new work being in red brick. On the south side an existing terrace was extended along both the old and the new work, and on the north it was continued as a bridge above outhouses which were connected with the lower floor of kitchens in the new north wing. In 1838 a gothic lodge of red brick was built at the entrance to the drive from the Bridgnorth road.

The manor of *COMPTON HALLOWS* was known in the late 13th century as the manor of *HOREWOOD*. It was referred to as *Haulowe* in 1387,<sup>25</sup> presumably after the Haudlo family who held it earlier in the century, but *Horewood* was still the usual name in the 15th century.<sup>26</sup> The normal usage was *Halowes* in Compton by the end of that century,<sup>27</sup> but 'le Horewood otherwise le Halowes' is found in 1527.<sup>28</sup> By the later 16th century the name used was *Compton Hallows*.<sup>29</sup> *Whorwood* and *Compton Whorwood* were also used in the 17th and 18th centuries.<sup>30</sup>

The manor probably originated in the 8½-a. wood in Kinver manor called *Horewood* which Leo of Romsley, rector of Kinver, was licensed to inclose and assart in 1269; in 1286 Leo son of Leo received permission to assart 20 a. of his waste in Kinver manor.<sup>31</sup> A manor of *Horewood* existed by 1292. The overlordship was held by the lord of Kinver, who in the late 13th and the 14th century received a rent for it, variously given as 1d., 22s., and 21s. 9d.<sup>32</sup> The tenant was stated in 1315 to perform suit twice a year at Kinver court.<sup>33</sup> The manor was still described as within Kinver manor in 1800. In the early 19th century it became united with Kinver.<sup>34</sup>

The manor was held by Robert Burnell, bishop

<sup>17</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, annot. copy of partic. of Stourton Castle estate; below, econ. hist.

<sup>18</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stourton I, draft deed of 1712; E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; S.R.O., D. 1021/2/4; D. 1197/1/3, baptism of 11 Oct. 1711, burials of 6 Nov. 1730, 2 Jan. 1764; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 267.

<sup>19</sup> Grazebrook, *Stourton Castle*, 40.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. 40-1; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stourton II, notice of auction of contents of Stourton Castle, Aug. 1868; above, Amblecote, econ. hist.

<sup>21</sup> Grazebrook, *Stourton Castle*, 41; B. Robinson, *Genealogical Memoirs of Fam. of Brooke Robinson, of Dudley* (priv. print. 1896), 38-9; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, list of Stourton Castle fixtures 22 Jan. 1877, deed of 26 Aug. 1878.

<sup>22</sup> *Blackcountryman* (Summer 1974), 30-1; Grazebrook, *Stourton Castle*, 41.

<sup>23</sup> Inf. from Mr. Fellows (1982); *Stourton Castle Est. Sale Cat.* (copy in possession of Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept., Conservation Section).

<sup>24</sup> For this para. see Grazebrook, *Stourton Castle*, 42-7; Colvin, *Brit. Architects*, 746; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/P7; above, pl. facing p. 129.

<sup>25</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bde. 1.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. E 12/S, Early Deeds, notification of receipt of rent 4 Oct. 1425, deed of 1 Apr. 1439; Compton I, deeds of 17 May 1437; P.R.O., C 140/488, no. 27.

<sup>27</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1485-94, 336; *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, i(2), p. 1114; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton Hallows ct. rolls, ct. of 21 Oct. 1504.

<sup>28</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, inq. p.m. of John Whorwood 1527.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. Compton Hallows ct. rolls.

<sup>30</sup> P.R.O., C 142/354, no. 104; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deeds of 7 July 1650, 17 June 1657, 9 Feb. 1758; S.R.O., index to gamekeepers' deputations.

<sup>31</sup> *S.H.C.* 1911, 140-1; *Cal. Pat.* 1266-72, 335, 381; 1281-92, 220.

<sup>32</sup> *S.H.C.* 1911, 214, 222, 263, 331; 1913, 113; *Cal. Inq.* p.m. xv, p. 289; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bde. 1.

<sup>33</sup> *Cal. Inq.* p.m. v, p. 390.

<sup>34</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver and Kingsley ct. bk. 1767-1801, Compton Hallows cts. of 12 Nov. 1778, 1 Sept. 1791, 25 Mar. 1800; below, p. 151.

of Bath and Wells, at his death in 1292.<sup>35</sup> It then descended with Acton Burnell (Salop.), passing to Robert's nephew Philip Burnell (d. 1294), Philip's son Edward (d. 1315), Edward's sister Maud (d. 1341) and her second husband John de Haudlo (d. 1346), and their son Nicholas, later Sir Nicholas (d. 1383), who took the name Burnell.<sup>36</sup> Although Nicholas's son Sir Hugh Burnell was given as heir, he does not appear to have held Horewood.<sup>37</sup> Apparently the same lordship was held in 1425 by William, Lord Lovel, great-great-grandson of Maud Haudlo by her first husband John, Lord Lovel. In that year William received from the tenant a rent of £4 (and by 1437 two running dogs also). On William's death in 1455 the mesne lordship passed to his son John, who was succeeded by his son Francis in 1465.<sup>38</sup> On Francis's attainder in 1485 the rent passed to the Crown, which was still receiving it in 1662.<sup>39</sup>

In 1387 the manor was held by John Horewood, who was paying the lord of Kinver a rent of 21s. 9d. for the demesne lands.<sup>40</sup> His family was living at Horewood by 1295<sup>41</sup> and may have been terre tenants of the manor before the statute of *Quia Emptores*. In 1425 a John Horewood held the manor of Lord Lovel, who in 1437 made a grant of it to the same or another John Horewood.<sup>42</sup> A John Horewood the elder was living in the earlier 1460s and was succeeded by a son John.<sup>43</sup> It is not clear whether that younger John or a son of the same name was the John who held the manor at his death in 1527, with a son John, a minor, as his heir. By then the family name was spelled Whorwood.<sup>44</sup> The manor eventually passed, probably by 1538, to a younger son Edward, who died in 1547 with a son Thomas, a minor, as his heir.<sup>45</sup> In 1559 the manor court was held by Edward's widow Dorothy and her husband Hugh Shadwell; they were living in Compton in 1562 and were evidently still in possession of the manor, but Thomas held it by 1569.<sup>46</sup> The manor then descended in the Whorwood family with Kinver until 1650. In 1625, however, Gerard Whorwood settled it on his wife Anne as

her jointure, and her trustee Nicholas Moseley was still described as lord in 1641.<sup>47</sup> In 1650 John Whorwood, being in financial difficulties, sold the manor to Thomas Foley.<sup>48</sup> By 1671 it was held by Thomas's son Philip,<sup>49</sup> and it descended with Kinver. By 1806 the two were treated as a single manor.<sup>50</sup> In 1830, however, J. H. Hodgetts-Foley owned no land in Compton; the land there had been sold evidently in the late 18th and early 19th century.<sup>51</sup>

There was a manor house with a garden at Horewood by 1294,<sup>52</sup> presumably on the moated site now occupied by Park Farm, near which a field named Whorwood still exists.<sup>53</sup> In 1346 the house was said to be worth nothing beyond reprises.<sup>54</sup> John Horewood was described as of Horewood in 1425, but by 1429 he was of Compton.<sup>55</sup> The family then continued to be so described.<sup>56</sup> Park Farm, which stands within the remains of a rectangular moat, dates from the earlier 17th century and was originally timber-framed. It has an L-shaped plan with a large internal stack and a lobby entrance. Almost all the original external walling was cased in or replaced by brick in the 18th and 19th centuries. There was extensive reconstruction during the restoration of the house after its sale in 1980 by Mr. C. Parkes to Mr. R. J. Fletcher.<sup>57</sup> A large barn to the east, now mainly of brick, may be of 17th-century origin.

The Whorwoods' capital messuage at Compton was mentioned in 1527 and was called Compton Hall by 1538.<sup>58</sup> Thomas Whorwood was still living at Compton in 1584,<sup>59</sup> but by 1605 he had moved to Stourton Castle. In that year he conveyed the manor house at Compton to his son and heir Gerard, who was living there in 1626.<sup>60</sup> In 1640 the hall was held by Gerard's widow Anne.<sup>61</sup> Gerard's son John was living there by 1647, and it was still his home at the time of the sale of the manor to Thomas Foley in 1650. John's son Sir William too was described as of Compton in 1647, but he moved to Stourton Castle later that year.<sup>62</sup> In 1650 the hall stood in grounds of c. 9 a. including gardens and an orchard.<sup>63</sup> Foley

<sup>35</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 214.

<sup>36</sup> V.C.H. Salop. viii. 7 and refs. given there.

<sup>37</sup> Cal. Inq. p.m. xv. p. 289. In 1387 the tenant paid rent direct to the lord of Kinver: below.

<sup>38</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, notification of receipt of rent 4 Oct. 1425; Compton I, deed of 17 May 1437; P.R.O., C 140/488, no. 27; *Complete Peerage*, viii. 221-5.

<sup>39</sup> Cal. Pat. 1485-94, 336; L. & P. Hen. VIII, i (2), p. 1114; iii (2), p. 889; xiii (1), p. 567; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, inq. p.m. of John Whorwood 1527, and receipt for rent 18 Oct. 1648; Compton II, deed of 16 Dec. 1651; Halfcot I, deed of 16 Mar. 1661/2.

<sup>40</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bde. 1.

<sup>41</sup> *Charters and Muniments of Lyttelton Fam.* ed. I. H. Jeayes, p. 14. For later refs. see e.g. S.H.C. vii (1), 247; x (1), 86; H.W.R.O. (H.), Early Deeds, deeds of 27 May 1309, 30 June 1312, 2 Mar. 1374/5.

<sup>42</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, notification of receipt of rent 4 Oct. 1425; Compton I, deed of 17 May 1437.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid. Early Deeds, 13 Jan. 1459/60; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/3, nos. 4, 5; Grazebrook, *Stourton Castle*, 33.

<sup>44</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 30 Sept. 1527; Grazebrook, *Stourton Castle*, 33.

<sup>45</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton II, deed of 20 Sept. 1538; E 12/S, Staffs. misc., deed of 20 Sept. 1542; P.R.O., C 142/104, no. 87.

<sup>46</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton Hallows ct. rolls; Compton II, deed of 24 June 1562.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid. Whorwood inheritance, deed of 1 Dec. 1625; Compton Hallows ct. rolls.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid. Compton I, deed of 7 July 1650; *ibid.* Compton inheritance, articles between John and Sir Wm. Whorwood 6 Aug. 1650.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. Compton Hallows ct. rolls; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 235.

<sup>50</sup> Below, local govt.

<sup>51</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/4; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, sale partic. of freehold estates in Compton 1790; below (Compton Hall).

<sup>52</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; *inf.* from Mr. C. Parkes.

<sup>53</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, receipt of 4 Oct. 1425; Cal. Fine R. 1422-30, 292.

<sup>54</sup> Cal. Fine R. 1422-30, 332; S.H.C. N.S. iii. 191; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, 6 Oct. 1491.

<sup>55</sup> *Inf.* from Mr. Fletcher, who is thanked for his help.

<sup>56</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, inq. p.m. of John Whorwood 1527; Compton II, deed of 20 Sept. 1538.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. Stourton VI, *inf.* of Thos. Whorwood 1584.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid. Compton I, deed of 20 Nov. 1605; Stourton I, deed of 3 May 1626.

<sup>59</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 15 Feb. 1639/40.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid. deed of 1648 and articles between John and Sir Wm. Whorwood 6 Aug. 1650; Compton I, deed of 7 July 1650; above (Stourton Castle).

<sup>61</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, survey of 6 July 1650 and deed of 7 July 1650.

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let it from 1651,<sup>64</sup> but it was presumably the house in Compton where he was assessed for tax on 15 hearths in 1666.<sup>65</sup> In 1803 the trustees of Eliza Maria Foley sold the hall as a farmhouse to John Holt, a glassmaker of Wordsley, in Kingswinford. On his death c. 1820 it passed to his daughter Mary, and in 1849, some six years after her death, her husband G. W. Wainwright sold the 214-a. Compton Hall farm to Lord Stamford.<sup>66</sup> In 1982 the farm was part of the Enville Hall estate and was held by Mr. T. R. Brown, owner of the adjoining Pigeon House farm. Compton Hall Farm is a brick house of the earlier 18th century with an early 19th-century addition on the north. There are farm buildings of the 18th and early 19th century.

An estate at *DUNSLEY* in Kinver manor consisting of a house, 1 virgate, 4 a. of meadow, and a water mill was held in the early 14th century by Robert Throckmorton of Throckmorton, in Fladbury (Worcs.). Gilbert of Dunsley, who was active in the area by 1304, held the estate of Robert in the mid 1320s. Gilbert died in, or shortly before, 1326; he was a bastard and had no legal heir.<sup>67</sup> In 1327 Throckmorton was licensed to enfeof Richard Atwell of 'Overdon', evidently Orton in Wombourne.<sup>68</sup> The estate was probably the origin of the manor of Dunsley, held in 1440 by William Everdon, lord of Orton. The manor was granted by his trustees to his son Thomas in 1458.<sup>69</sup> A Humphrey Everdon, who had probably succeeded by 1479, made a settlement of the manor in 1504.<sup>70</sup> He was still living in 1515.<sup>71</sup> The manor was disputed between his son John and William Whorwood and in 1532 was assigned by arbitrators to Whorwood.<sup>72</sup> By his death in 1545 Whorwood was also lord of Kinver, with two daughters, Anne and Margaret, as his heirs. Anne (d. 1552) married Ambrose Dudley, and in 1555, after his attainder, Dudley's life interest in half of Dunsley manor was granted to William Rice. The reversion lay with Anne's heir, Thomas Whorwood.<sup>73</sup> In 1578 Margaret and her husband Thomas Throckmorton agreed to convey their share to Thomas Whorwood, and the three of them made a settlement of the manor in 1580.<sup>74</sup> Whorwood evidently held the whole manor in 1584.<sup>75</sup> Dunsley

descended with Kinver until 1651. In that year John Whorwood and his son Sir William conveyed the manor to John's son-in-law William Carter under the terms of a mortgage made in 1635.<sup>76</sup> Carter died in 1651, leaving a daughter Catherine, a minor.<sup>77</sup> She was presumably the Catherine who with her husband John Hamerton held the manor in 1665. John died in 1669 with a son John as his heir. In 1709 Catherine Hamerton and the younger John sold Dunsley to Philip Foley.<sup>78</sup> It then descended with Kinver. In 1918 P. H. Foley sold c. 270 a. at Dunsley to Alfred Marsh, the tenant of part of the estate from 1894. Marsh died soon afterwards, and his executors sold the estate later in 1918 to Marsh & Baxter Ltd., a Brierley Hill firm of bacon and ham curers and pork butchers founded by Marsh. His son A. E. Marsh bought the estate in 1929 and died in 1938. His son Mr E. E. Marsh owned 635 a. at Dunsley in 1982.<sup>79</sup>

Gilbert of Dunsley's estate in 1326 included a house.<sup>80</sup> Humphrey Everdon was evidently living at Dunsley in 1504<sup>81</sup> and William Whorwood in 1536.<sup>82</sup> John Whorwood was described as of Dunsley in 1629 and 1631.<sup>83</sup> In the early 1640s Dunsley Hall was leased to a scythesmith.<sup>84</sup> It was the home of John Whorwood's son-in-law William Carter in 1651, and Carter's daughter Catherine lived there after his death in that year.<sup>85</sup> As her guardian John Whorwood was living there in 1655 and 1657, although in 1656 he was described as of Stourton Castle.<sup>86</sup> In 1657 he leased the house to one of his creditors, reserving for himself the hall, three upper chambers, and the main offices.<sup>87</sup> In 1658 he surrendered the guardianship to his daughter-in-law Dame Catherine Whorwood, who paid some of his debts and reduced his rooms at Dunsley to the kitchen, the chamber over it, and his study adjoining the chamber, with use of half the garden.<sup>88</sup> In 1666 John Hamerton and his wife, described as of Dunsley Hall, leased the house to William Hamerton in consideration of the amount which he had spent on it.<sup>89</sup> He was assessed on nine hearths there that year.<sup>90</sup> John and Catherine moved back there from Worcester c. 1693,<sup>91</sup> and it was still Catherine's home in 1707.<sup>92</sup> Later the house was regularly let; for

<sup>64</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deeds of 25 Apr. 1651, 24 Dec. 1652, 22 Oct. 1655; Compton II, 4 Oct. 1652.

<sup>65</sup> S.H.C. 1923, 107.

<sup>66</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/33, deeds of 12 Mar. 1803, 12 July 1849, 6 July 1854, and copy will of John Holt; G. R. Guttery, *From Broad Glass to Cut Crystal*, 100.

<sup>67</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 329, 362, 370-1; *V.C.H. Worcs.* iii, 356 (misdating Gilbert's death); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VI, rents from waste in Kinver forest temp. Edw. I; *ibid.* E 12/F/P3, deed of 6 Apr. 1310.

<sup>68</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 371; *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, 10.

<sup>69</sup> S.R.O., D. 593/B/1/26/78/1 and 3.

<sup>70</sup> S.H.C. n.s. vi (1), 118; S.H.C. 1928, 89-90.

<sup>71</sup> Below, econ. hist. (mills).

<sup>72</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley I, deed of 12 Nov. 1532.

<sup>73</sup> Above (Kinver manor); *Cal. Pat.* 1553, 11; 1554-5, 167-8.

<sup>74</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 6 Apr. 1578; P.R.O., CP 25 (2)/260/22 Eliz. I East. no. 7.

<sup>75</sup> S.H.C. xv, 159.

<sup>76</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley I, deeds of 23 Mar. 1634/5, 27 Mar. 1651; P.R.O., C 3/437/54.

<sup>77</sup> P.R.O., C 3/437/54; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, legal opinion 21 Nov. 1653.

<sup>78</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley II, sched. of deeds

relating to estate at Dunsley purchased by Philip Foley; S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2, burial of 15 or 16 Aug. 1699.

<sup>79</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, deed of 12 Apr. 1894; *ibid.* Prestwood sale, Bernard, King & Sons' accts. 1917-18; copy of *Prestwood Est. Sale Cat.* in poss. of Bannister, King & Rigbeys, Stourbridge, sched. of purchasers made 1922; *inf.* from Mr. E. E. Marsh, who is thanked for his help with this section. For the firm see *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1872; 1876); *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1880 and later edns.).

<sup>80</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 370; *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, 10.

<sup>81</sup> S.H.C. 1928, 90.

<sup>82</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xi, p. 158.

<sup>83</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stourton II, deed of 25 Aug. 1629; *ibid.* Kingswinford I, memo. of 26 May 1631.

<sup>84</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Wm. Penn (1646).

<sup>85</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley I, deed of 27 Mar. 1651; P.R.O., C 3/437/54.

<sup>86</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deeds of 3 Oct. 1655, 26 Feb. 1655/6; Dunsley V, deed of 10 Apr. 1657.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.* Dunsley V, deed of 10 Apr. 1657.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.* Whorwood inheritance, deed of 16 Nov. 1658.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.* Dunsley I, deed of 15 Sept. 1666.

<sup>90</sup> S.H.C. 1923, 107.

<sup>91</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley I, deeds of 25 Mar., 20 and 21 Apr., 13 July 1692, 29 Jan. 1693/4, 2 Aug. 1697.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.* deed of 9 Apr. 1707; below, Roman Catholicism.



much of the 19th century it was the home of the Robins family.<sup>93</sup> It was included in the sale to Alfred Marsh, whose son A. E. Marsh was living there by 1916.<sup>94</sup> His widow lived there until her death in 1951. Mr. E. E. Marsh then moved to the Hall, which was his home in 1982.<sup>95</sup>

The hall range and parlour cross wing survive from a substantial timber-framed house of the later 16th century. The hall, which has a heavily timbered and moulded ceiling, was entered from a screens passage at its east end and was separated from the parlour by a large chimney stack. The parlour wing is of a substantial size and build. Along its east side there was a passage with an enclosed first-floor gallery above, and there may have been a garderobe turret projecting from the west side. The replacement or casing of some of the outer walls in brick probably began in the 17th century, and in the 18th century a two-storyed brick range was built on the north side of the court formed by the cross wings. The service wing was demolished in the late 18th or early 19th century, and the kitchens were moved to the north end of the parlour cross wing. It was presumably then that the screens wall was removed and the entrance moved to the centre of the hall range. In the later 19th century a wing containing drawing rooms was built on the site of the old service wing, a staircase was added behind the hall, much of the exterior walling was renewed in dark red brick, and the front was given symmetrical gables and a central porch. In the earlier 20th century the drawing rooms were combined and panelled and a room was added on their north side.

The farm buildings, on the south side of the road, are of brick and mostly 19th-century.

About 1200 Philip of Kinver granted WHITTINGTON to Peter de Hurech and his heirs in fee at a rent of 20s.<sup>96</sup> The manor was still held of Kinver at that rent in the late 16th century, and inhabitants of Whittington owed suit at Kinver court in 1662.<sup>97</sup> The rent was paid to the Crown as a fee-farm rent by 1672 when it was sold. It was owned by Lord Boston by the late 18th century and was sold by the 5th baron to Lord Stamford in 1872.<sup>98</sup>

Peter de Hurech may have been the Peter of Whittington who was alive in 1187-8.<sup>99</sup> At least one person named William of Whittington was

active in the area in the later 13th century,<sup>1</sup> and a William was lord of the manor in 1304 and 1310.<sup>2</sup> He was probably the Sir William Whittington whose son, also Sir William, sold the manor to Thomas Lowe in 1351-2.<sup>3</sup> Thomas's father William had been acquiring property in Whittington, Kinver, and Dunsley in the 1320s.<sup>4</sup> Thomas was evidently still alive in 1364<sup>5</sup> but was probably dead by 1377 when Adam Lowe made a grant of lands in Whittington.<sup>6</sup> In 1387 the manor was held by Edmund Lowe,<sup>7</sup> who with his wife Eleanor made a settlement of it in 1397.<sup>8</sup> He died in 1428 and was succeeded by his son Humphrey, who was sheriff in 1440-1.<sup>9</sup> Humphrey was succeeded in 1447 by his daughter Eleanor, wife of Robert Grey, a younger son of Reynold, Lord Grey of Ruthin; it was, however, Humphrey's widow who paid the heriot due for the manor.<sup>10</sup> In 1475 Eleanor, by then a widow, granted the manor to her son Humphrey Grey and his wife Anne.<sup>11</sup> Humphrey died in 1499 or 1500 and was succeeded by his son Edward.<sup>12</sup> Knighted in 1513, Sir Edward Grey held Enville too at his death in 1529.<sup>13</sup> Whittington then descended in the Grey family with Enville. There were several sales of land in the late 19th and early 20th century, including that of the 650-a. Whittington Hall farm to the Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board in 1895. In 1982 Mrs. Eileen Bissill of Enville Hall owned no land in Whittington.<sup>14</sup>

The Whittington family presumably had a house at Whittington. Edmund Lowe was living at Whittington at the time of his death in 1428,<sup>15</sup> and it was the home of his son and successor Humphrey in 1444.<sup>16</sup> Humphrey Grey and his son Edward also lived there.<sup>17</sup> Thomas Grey was described as of Whittington in 1538, but he later moved to Enville.<sup>18</sup> In 1621 Whittington manor house was let for life to Mary Overton, widow of William Overton, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, with reversion to her son Richard Kettleby and his wife. In 1639 Mary and her son granted a lease to Richard Foley, along with a lease of Whittington forge which he was already working. In 1640, after Mary's death, Richard made over his interest to his son Thomas. In 1649 Henry Grey leased the house to Thomas for life.<sup>19</sup> Thomas let it to Mary Talbot of Wolverhampton in 1652, and her husband William was living at

<sup>93</sup> S.R.O., D. 740/17/3; Robins fam. tombs at E. end of Kinver churchyard; *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1880); above, introduction.

<sup>94</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1916).

<sup>95</sup> Inf. from Mr. E. E. Marsh.

<sup>96</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 13.

<sup>97</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 362; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/P3, deed of 2 Apr. 1377; *ibid.* E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdles. 1, 19; E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, valor of lands of John Grey 1581; P.R.O., C 142/517, no. 4; above, introduction.

<sup>98</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/21, notebook 1797-1814; *ibid.* 41, Staffs. fee farm rents.

<sup>99</sup> S.H.C. i, 138.

<sup>1</sup> S.H.C. v (1), 110, 157, 159, vi (1), 255; *Charters and Muniments of Lyttelton Fam.* ed. I. H. Jeayes, p. 14.

<sup>2</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 2; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/P3, deed of 6 Apr. 1310.

<sup>3</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 201 (i), p. 308.

<sup>4</sup> S.H.C. ix (1), 133; S.H.C. 1911, 361-2; *Cal. Pat.* 1344-7, 38; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> S.H.C. 1928, 79; above, Enville, manors and other estates (Enville).

<sup>6</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/P3, deed of 2 Apr. 1377.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1.

<sup>8</sup> S.H.C. xi, 203.

<sup>9</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 185, 267; *Feud. Aids.* v, 22; S.H.C. 1912, 281; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/2, no. 5.

<sup>10</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 19, view of frankpledge spring 1447 and ct. of 6 Dec. 1447; Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 268.

<sup>11</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 8.

<sup>12</sup> S.H.C. 1911-18, 29c n.

<sup>13</sup> Above, Enville, manors and other estates.

<sup>14</sup> Inf. from Mr. M. J. Scott-Bolton, Enville Estates Office; below, p. 152.

<sup>15</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 185.

<sup>16</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1441-6, 227.

<sup>17</sup> S.H.C. 1917-18, 290 n.; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/1, no. 6.

<sup>18</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, 10 Dec. 1538; above, Enville, manors and other estates.

<sup>19</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whittington, deeds of 20 Dec. 1606, 4 Aug. 1621, 11 May 1635, 13 Mar. 1638/9, 28 Sept. 1640, 29 Oct. 1649.

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Whittington Hall later that year. He was assessed for tax on 13 hearths there in 1666. By 1676 he had moved to Stourton Castle.<sup>20</sup> It was presumably at Whittington that his son Thomas (d. 1730), bishop successively of Oxford, Salisbury, and Durham, was born in 1658 or 1659.<sup>21</sup> In 1683 Henry Grey settled Whittington Hall on his cousin and heir John Grey on the occasion of John's marriage, and John was living there in 1684. Having succeeded Henry in 1687, he was still living at Whittington in 1692.<sup>22</sup> The hall was later occupied as a farmhouse<sup>23</sup> and was still such in 1982.

In 1688 the hall, on the south side of Whittington Hall Lane, was evidently a timber-framed building.<sup>24</sup> The present Whittington Manor Farm on the same site is a brick house dating from the earlier 18th century. It has an impressive west front of three storeys and seven bays approached from the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road along an avenue of trees.<sup>25</sup> To the south there is a circular stone pigeon house. The farm buildings to the north included a large barn, dating perhaps from the 16th century, which was demolished in 1969. It had heavy timber framing of high quality, and although brick-nogged, it may formerly have had plank infilling between the studs.<sup>26</sup>

**HIGH GROVE FARM** on the high ground west of the Stour is probably the medieval Haygreve. A priest named Alfred lived at 'Heygrewe' c. 1200.<sup>27</sup> A Robert of Heygreve was a reguard of Kinver forest in 1262<sup>28</sup> and may be the man of that name listed among the tenants of Kinver manor in 1293.<sup>29</sup> Robert's daughters Emma and Felice had succeeded by 1309<sup>30</sup> and had granted a house and land, presumably Haygreve, to William Lowe by 1324.<sup>31</sup> In 1387 the lord of Whittington held a house and land called Haygreve land, and tenements called Haygreve were held with Whittington manor in 1447.<sup>32</sup> A farm called High Greaves formed part of the Grey family's estate at Whittington in 1683.<sup>33</sup> High Grove farm, so named by 1796, remained in the family until its sale in 1911 to Edward Webb of Studley Court, Stourbridge; the Brown family occupied it at least between 1739 and the earlier 1830s.<sup>34</sup> The interest of Edward's son Charles

was sold apparently in 1921 to his cousin W. H. Webb, who was succeeded by 1968 by his son Major M. J. Webb, the owner in 1982.<sup>35</sup> The farmhouse was extensively remodelled c. 1970;<sup>36</sup> it is probably 19th century, but it incorporates older materials, especially ceiling beams.

After the appropriation of Kinver church to Bordesley abbey in 1380 the *RECTOR* remained with the monks until the abbey's surrender to the Crown in 1538.<sup>37</sup> They were leasing the estate by the early 1420s and were still doing so at the Dissolution. Heriots were payable to Bordesley in the 1530s.<sup>38</sup> In 1535 the net value of the great and small tithes and Easter offerings was £25 6s. 8d. (£27 4s. 1d. gross).<sup>39</sup>

In 1543 the Crown granted the rectory to William Whorwood,<sup>40</sup> lord of Kinver manor at his death in 1545. It then descended with Dunsley, passing eventually to William's great-nephew Thomas Whorwood.<sup>41</sup> In the 1620s the inhabitants of Kinver, wanting a good preacher and a schoolmaster, approached the puritan group known as the Feoffees for the Purchase of Improvements. Using £560 given for Kinver church and school by several London merchants and by Edward Jorden of Dunsley, the feoffees in 1630 took a 1,000-year lease from John Whorwood of the great tithes of Kinver and Whittington townships, most of those of Halfcot, and nearly all the small tithes of the parish. They then leased the tithes back to Whorwood for 999 years at a rent of £50 to be paid to the lecturer (£33 6s. 8d.), the curate (£10), and the schoolmaster (£6 13s. 4d.). The lease passed with the manor and the rest of the rectory from the Whorwoods to the Foleys in 1672.<sup>42</sup> In 1650 John Whorwood sold the tithes of Compton with the manor of Compton Hallows to Thomas Foley, who in 1659 sold much of them to John Nurthall of Compton.<sup>43</sup> By 1742 the rectory was divided among three owners, but the Foleys' share amounted to over three fifths.<sup>44</sup> Sales of tithe by J. H. Hodgetts-Foley in 1824 and 1825 included one to Lord Stamford of the tithe arising from 1,320 a. of his land; Lord Stamford then became responsible for paying the £50 to the minister and the master of the grammar school.<sup>45</sup> The Foleys continued to be partly responsible for the repair

<sup>20</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton II, deed of 4 Oct. 1652; *Severall Procs. in Parl.* 4-11 Nov. 1652; S.H.C. 1923, 107; above (Stourton Castle).

<sup>21</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 266-7, stating that he was born at Stourton Castle.

<sup>22</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/4, deeds of 21 Apr. 1688, 25 Mar. 1692; 6, deed of 9 Nov. 1683; 12, deeds of 1 May, 7 June 1684; above, Enville, manors and other estates.

<sup>23</sup> e.g. S.R.O., Tp. 1273/33, deed of 30 June 1802; D. 891/4, pp. 73-4.

<sup>24</sup> S.R.O. 1392.

<sup>25</sup> Above, pl. facing p. 65.

<sup>26</sup> Photographs and survey in possession of Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept., Conservation Section; inf. from Mr. J. W. King.

<sup>27</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 13.

<sup>28</sup> S.H.C. v (1), 139.

<sup>29</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>30</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 2.

<sup>31</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 362; *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, 38.

<sup>32</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1; bdle. 19, view of frankpledge spring 1447 and ct. of 6 Dec. 1447.

<sup>33</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, deed of 9 Nov. 1683.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. 33, deed of 20 Apr. 1796; 35, deed of 12 Dec. 1911;

S.R.O., D. 695/4/17/2; S.R.O., D. 891/4, p. 69; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iwerley I, deed of 25 Sept. 1739; White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 262.

<sup>35</sup> Inf. from Major M. J. Webb, who is thanked for his help.

<sup>36</sup> Inf. from Major Webb.

<sup>37</sup> Below, church; *V.C.H. Worcs.* ii. 153.

<sup>38</sup> P.R.O., C 1/612, no. 41; *ibid.* E 321/2, no. 59.

<sup>39</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 102, 273.

<sup>40</sup> *L. & P. Hen. VIII*, xviii (1), pp. 531-2.

<sup>41</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Staffs. legal papers, inq. p.m. of Anne Dudley 1555; E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 6 Apr. 1578; P.R.O., C 66/1194, m. 26; *Cal. Pat.* 1553, 1; 1554-5, 167-8.

<sup>42</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iii. 58; S.R.O., D. 1197/13/17, printed copy of appellant's and respondents' cases 1721; *L.J.* xxi. 617; *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 630-1.

<sup>43</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 7 July 1650; Halfcot I, deed of 3 Aug. 1659.

<sup>44</sup> Board in vestry giving proportion due from each owner towards repair of chancel 19 Mar. 1741.

<sup>45</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. relating to valuation of tithes in Kinver belonging to J. H. Hodgetts-Foley 1824; *ibid.* reg. of Kinver tithes sold 1824-5; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/43, deeds of 7 Feb., 31 Dec. 1824.



of the chancel and raised objections in 1902 and 1937 when its repair was under consideration.<sup>46</sup>

By the mid 19th century much of the parish was tithe-free by prescription and by the merging of tithes in the freehold of the lands from which they arose. Certain lands were subject to the payment of only small tithes under the inclosure Acts of 1773, 1779, and 1801. The ownership of the surviving tithes remained in many different hands. In 1850 various rent charges were assigned in lieu of tithes to the many tithe owners. There were several more mergers in 1851 and 1852, and in 1853 rent charges totalling £102 6s. 9½d. were assigned to the remaining 13 owners.<sup>47</sup>

In 1189 the Hospitallers were granted 6 a. in Kinver free of forest customs by Richard I.<sup>48</sup> The land may have lain in the Checkhill area which is crossed by Spittle brook, so named by 1300.<sup>49</sup>

About 1200 Combermere abbey (Ches.) owned 1 virgate of land apparently in the Whittington area.<sup>50</sup> Monks green in Whittington, recorded in 1574,<sup>51</sup> may have derived its name from a connexion with the abbey.

In 1485 the property of Dodford priory (Worcs.) included Lady meadow in Kinver.<sup>52</sup> There was a Lady meadow beside the Stour in Dunsley in 1638,<sup>53</sup> and a 2½-a. meadow of the same name was described as in Kinver parish in 1694.<sup>54</sup>

Rents of £3 2s. 6d. from Iverley wood and of £2 4s. 2d. from Kinver rectory were among the rents settled on trustees by Charles II in 1675 to provide pensions for members of the Penderel family and their descendants as a reward for helping him to escape after the battle of Worcester in 1651.<sup>55</sup> Both rents were redeemed in 1970.<sup>56</sup>

**ECONOMIC HISTORY. AGRICULTURE.** There was only one manor in the parish in 1086, and it had land for 16 ploughteams. One team was in demesne with 3 slaves; there were 17 villeins, 7 bordars, and a priest, and they had 10 teams.

With woodland, meadow, and two mills Kinver manor was then worth 100s., the same value as before the Conquest.<sup>57</sup> The parish lay in the centre of Kinver forest, in existence by 1086 and so named by 1168; Iverley gave its name to one of the hays.<sup>58</sup>

Kinver field was mentioned in 1310.<sup>59</sup> By the earlier 15th century there were open fields for people living to the north and south of the borough and one field for the burgesses. Stone field, mentioned in 1431, lay in the area of Stone Lane; it was still open in 1739.<sup>60</sup> Oathill field and Nether field, both mentioned in 1435,<sup>61</sup> lay south-east of the church. Nether field was last recorded in 1515.<sup>62</sup> Oathill field was still open in the early 1620s but was inclosed by the early 18th century.<sup>63</sup> Dekon field, mentioned in 1456, lay to the east of Kinver Hill near the river; it was last recorded as an open field in 1498.<sup>64</sup> Burgage field, mentioned in 1431, lay west of the borough; it was at least partly inclosed by 1601.<sup>65</sup>

At Compton there were three open fields in 1423, Clareland and Boston (later Botstone or Boltstone) field, both on the east side of Bannut Tree Road, and Middle field north of Boston field.<sup>66</sup> Clareland was inclosed in 1607.<sup>67</sup> It was evidently replaced as an open field by Wigley field, which was first mentioned in 1610; it lay north of Middle field and extended to the Enville boundary.<sup>68</sup> Inclosures in Boston field were recorded from the earlier 1620s; the rest of the field was still open in 1665.<sup>69</sup> Closes in Middle and Wigley fields were mentioned in 1761.<sup>70</sup>

There were three open fields at Stourton in the 15th century. Castle field, mentioned in 1437, lay west of Stourton Castle.<sup>71</sup> Moreyate field, mentioned in 1448, lay further west beyond the Stourton-Gothersley road.<sup>72</sup> Hyde field between Stourton and the Hyde was mentioned in 1498.<sup>73</sup> In 1629 the lord and freeholders of Stourton agreed to inclose Castle field. In its place c. 180 a. of Checkhill common north of Stourton were converted into two open fields.<sup>74</sup> By 1674 they were known as Hithermost and Further New

<sup>46</sup> S.H.C. 4th ser. x. 15; L.J.R.O., B/C/5/Kinver, 1902; *ibid.* B/V/6/Kinver, 1841; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. relating to valuation of tithes in Kinver 1824, with letter of 1937 from G. M. King to H. T. H. Foley.

<sup>47</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Kinver.

<sup>48</sup> *Cartae Antiquae* (Pipe R. Soc. N.S. xxxiii), no. 611.

<sup>49</sup> S.H.C. v. (1), 180.

<sup>50</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 13.

<sup>51</sup> Below, econ. hist.

<sup>52</sup> T. R. Nash, *Collins for Hist. of Worcs.* ii, App. p. xxxvii.

<sup>53</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 10 Nov. 1638.

<sup>54</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, deed of 12 Nov. 1694.

<sup>55</sup> S.R.O., D. 590/699A; *Salop Arch. Soc.* 4th ser. vii. 31-2, listing smaller sums granted in 1664.

<sup>56</sup> Inf. from Mr. K. S. P. Swayne, of Fowler, Langley & Wright, Wolverhampton.

<sup>57</sup> V.C.H. Staffs. iv. 40.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.* ii. 343-8.

<sup>59</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/P3, deed of 6 Apr. 1310.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.* E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 6, ct. of 16 Apr. 1431; 1590-1629, cts. of 11 Apr. 1614, 14 Oct. 1616; Kinver, Compton Hallows, and Kingsley ct. bk. 1734-61, Kinver ct. of Dec. 1739; Kinver and Kingsley ct. bk. 1767-1801, ct. of 22 Oct. 1792.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 9, ct. of 9 May 1435.

<sup>62</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 11; 12, deed of 22 Dec. 1598; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 1087; *ibid.* 4, p. 62.

<sup>63</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 12 Apr. 1620, 9 Apr. 1621; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of 15 Sept. 1701, 27 Apr. 1703.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 23, ct. of 19 Apr. 1456; Kinver I, deed of 30 Aug. 1498.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 6, ct. of 16 Apr. 1431; 1590-1629, ct. of 2 Apr. 1601; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 883; *ibid.* 4, p. 12.

<sup>66</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 2, ct. of 18 Jan. 1422/3; S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 224, 232-4; *ibid.* 4, p. 10.

<sup>67</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, agreement of 10 Sept. 1607.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 1 Oct. 1610; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 191-2; *ibid.* 4, p. 7.

<sup>69</sup> S.R.O., D. 660/19/1; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 6 Feb. 1623/4; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 18 Apr. 1665; Compton Hallows ct. rolls, ct. of 8 Oct. 1659.

<sup>70</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver, Compton Hallows, and Kingsley ct. bk. 1734-61, Compton ct. of 27 May 1761.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 11, ct. of Thurs. in (? before) St. Alphege 1437; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 577; *ibid.* 4, p. 33.

<sup>72</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 19, ct. of 22 Apr. 1448; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 531; *ibid.* 4, p. 31.

<sup>73</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, ct. of 19 Feb. 1497/8; S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 389, 395; *ibid.* 4, p. 27.

<sup>74</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), Stourton III, deed of 26 Aug. 1629; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, deed of 14 Jan. 1635/6.

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fields.<sup>75</sup> In 1681 the recent inclosure of Moreyate and Hyde fields was confirmed.<sup>76</sup> The two new fields had been inclosed by the 1730s.<sup>77</sup>

A selion near Stapenhill north-east of Halfcot was mentioned in 1423.<sup>78</sup> Dale field or Dalelond was mentioned in the 1440s and 1450; it lay on the south side of the lane from Halfcot to Stapenhill.<sup>79</sup> There were evidently three open fields for Halfcot in 1608.<sup>80</sup> Besides Dale field, they were presumably Wheatstone field, mentioned in 1633 and lying west of Dale field, and Moresell field, mentioned between 1648 and 1672. Dale field was at least partly inclosed by 1680.<sup>81</sup> Temporary cultivation of the waste at Halfcot took place in the early 18th century. In 1705 it was agreed that part of it which had already been inclosed should remain so for seven years; it would then be returned to the waste and another part inclosed, the process continuing on a seven-year basis.<sup>82</sup>

'The field of Dunsley' was mentioned in 1303-4.<sup>83</sup> Arable called Drake furlong in 1498 probably lay in Dregnull field, which in 1635 occupied the north-east angle of the Kidderminster-Wolverhampton road and Gibbet Lane. There were two other open fields, Pitt field south of Dunsley Hall, both mentioned in 1609.<sup>84</sup> Dregnull and Mercers field, still open in 1665, had been inclosed by 1680; that year it was agreed to inclose Pitt field also.<sup>85</sup>

'The field of Whittington' was mentioned in 1303-4.<sup>86</sup> In the 17th century there were three open fields. Mercers field was mentioned in 1613 as belonging to Whittington.<sup>87</sup> Roundhill field north-east of Whittington Hall and Windsor field west of the Hall were mentioned in 1634.<sup>88</sup> Windsor field was partly inclosed in 1657.<sup>89</sup> All three fields were inclosed by agreement in 1680.<sup>90</sup>

There were 6 a. of meadow in Kinver in 1086.<sup>91</sup> Heath meadow, mentioned in 1360, may have lain on Spittle brook in the north of the parish: a dole in a meadow of the same name there was mentioned in 1549.<sup>92</sup> Dole meadow existed at Whittington in the earlier 17th century.<sup>93</sup> Two

open meadows called Stockbridge meadows on the Stour near the Hyde were mentioned in 1620.<sup>94</sup>

Kinver heath was mentioned in 1352.<sup>95</sup> It was probably the area of waste later known as Kinver common which lay north and west of the village and extended into Compton. Mill brook formed its northern limit, and on the south it included Kinver Edge. It was common to both Kinver and Compton.<sup>96</sup> In 1774 the 1,157-a. common was inclosed under an Act of 1773.<sup>97</sup>

Checkhill waste was mentioned in 1190-1.<sup>98</sup> It was used by the inhabitants of Stourton. By the early 16th century it was shared with the inhabitants of Enville manor, and by the 17th century with those of Morfe also.<sup>99</sup> Encroachments were recorded in the 1590s, and c. 1630 some 180 a. at the southern end of the waste were converted into two open fields.<sup>1</sup> In 1682 c. 245 a. at the northern end of the waste were inclosed.<sup>2</sup> There remained 1,294 a. of waste which as Stourton common, Great Checkhill, and Little Checkhill were inclosed in 1804 under an Act of 1801.<sup>3</sup>

Halfcot common extended south from Stapenhill across the Stourbridge road and beyond Gibbet Lane. The common north of the road was being inclosed in the late 17th and early 18th century, and in 1705 it was agreed that parts of it should be cultivated on a seven-year basis.<sup>4</sup> In 1780 the rest of the common was inclosed along with Dunsley common, in all an area of 676 a.<sup>5</sup>

The waste in Whittington was mentioned in 1606.<sup>6</sup> Part of it had been inclosed by 1681, possibly in the previous year, when the open fields were inclosed.<sup>7</sup> In 1797 Lord Stamford was proposing to inclose 180 a. on the north-east side of the remaining waste, then called Whittington common.<sup>8</sup> It appears that most, if not all, of the waste was in fact inclosed about that time: an inclosure made by Lord Stamford in 1800-1 amounted to 329 a. He acquired a further 67 a., possibly by an exchange, in 1808.<sup>9</sup>

Rights of common in the forest at Iverley were enjoyed by the inhabitants of settlements on either side of the Staffordshire-Worcestershire

<sup>75</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, deed of 24 Oct. 1674.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid. Stourton III, deed of 17 Mar. 1680/1.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid. vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 3, ct. of 26 Oct. 1423.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid. bdle. 16, ct. of 7 May 1442; bdle. 19, ct. of 5 Feb. 1447/8; bdle. 20, ct. of 27 Apr. 1450; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 11 Oct. 1608.

<sup>81</sup> Ibid. Halfcot I, deeds of 18 Mar. 1632/3, 9 Oct. 1648; Halfcot II, valuation of Halfcot est. 1680; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 16 Sept. 1672; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid. Halfcot I, deed of 29 Aug. 1705.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid. Kinver VI, rents from waste in Kinver forest temp. Edw. I.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid. Kinver I, deed of 30 Aug. 1498; Dunsley I, deed of 23 Mar. 1634/5; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/1, 20 Apr. 1609; S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 1475-7, 1496, 1637-9; *ibid.* 4, pp. 87-8, 95.

<sup>85</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley I, deeds of 28 Sept. 1665, 6 Sept. 1680.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid. Kinver VI, rents from waste in Kinver forest temp. Edw. I.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 12 Oct. 1613; S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 1496; *ibid.* 4, p. 95.

<sup>88</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/36, deed of 1 Jan. 1633/4; S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 1211, 1263-5; *ibid.* 4, pp. 72, 74.

<sup>90</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, copy ct. roll of 8 Aug. 1657.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid. 2, deeds of 21 and 24 Mar. 1704/5.

<sup>92</sup> V.C.H. Staffs. iv. 40.

<sup>93</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, deed of 30 Nov. 1360; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/13, acquittance of 22 Dec. 1549.

<sup>94</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/2, deed of 14 May 1635, 7 May 1638; 11, 1623 survey.

<sup>95</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 2 Feb. 1628/9.

<sup>96</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1350-4, 336.

<sup>97</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 36.

<sup>98</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 36; S.H.C. 1941, 16.

<sup>99</sup> S.H.C. ii (1), 11; S.H.C. 1925, 244-5.

<sup>1</sup> S.R.O., D. 593/O/3/5; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, deed of 14 Jan. 1635/6; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Checkhill II, deed of 13 June 1683.

<sup>2</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 28 Sept. 1590, 20 Mar. 1591/2, 15 Apr. 1595; above.

<sup>3</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Checkhill I, deed of 14 Mar. 1660/70; Checkhill II, deed of 13 June 1683.

<sup>4</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 59.

<sup>5</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Halfcot I, deeds of 6 Nov. 1686, 29 Aug. 1705; above.

<sup>6</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 42; S.H.C. 1941, 16.

<sup>7</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whittington, deed of 20 Dec. 1606.

<sup>8</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/58, Whittington, deed of 1 June 1681.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. Whittington correspondence, Dan. Clarke to Booth Grey 7 Jan. 1797.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. 54, plan of inclosure at Whittington 1801.

boundary.<sup>10</sup> In 1630 John Whorwood of Stourton acquired a lease of 300 a. of waste and woodland at Iverley made by the Crown in 1629, and he inclosed part of the land. There was also some piecemeal inclosure by commoners by the 1640s.<sup>11</sup> Iverley was included in the sale of Kinver manor to Philip Foley in 1672.<sup>12</sup> In the later 17th century Foley made leases of waste, amounting in all to c. 120 a., south-east from Sugarloaf Lane to the county boundary; the land was inclosed and farms were laid out.<sup>13</sup> A further 450 a. west of Sugarloaf Lane was leased for inclosure to Richard Bradley of Whittington in 1712.<sup>14</sup> Inhabitants of Whittington who had common rights in that part of the waste objected to the lease, but Bradley's right to inclose the land, later occupied by Iverley House and Sugarloaf farms, was upheld in 1718.<sup>15</sup>

There were several greens in the parish. Simon of the green was recorded among the Compton tenants in 1293, and Compton green was mentioned in 1353.<sup>16</sup> It probably extended west from Pigeonhouse Farm as far as Herons Gate Road. By the 1730s, however, there was only a small green immediately west of the farmhouse.<sup>17</sup> It still existed in 1830 but had been inclosed by 1856, probably soon after roads giving access to it had been stopped up in 1830.<sup>18</sup> Medenale or Medall green in Compton was mentioned in 1453 and 1562.<sup>19</sup> Stocking green in Kinver manor existed in 1434.<sup>20</sup> There was evidently a green at Stourton: Green close on the east side of the Stourton-Gothersley road existed in the 1730s.<sup>21</sup> Dunsley green, on Dunsley Road ½ mile south-west of Dunsley Hall, was mentioned in 1780 and had been inclosed by 1830.<sup>22</sup> There was evidently a green at Whittington in the 14th century: a tenement there was stated in 1377 to have been formerly held by Maud of the green.<sup>23</sup> Monks green at Whittington was mentioned in 1574.<sup>24</sup>

Barley and rye were the main crops grown in the parish in the 17th century; oats, barley, and peas were also grown.<sup>25</sup> Wheat was grown on a farm at Kinver in 1682 and on a farm at Compton c. 1712; it was also the chief crop stored at Compton Hall farm in 1780.<sup>26</sup> A lease of Sugar-

loaf farm at Iverley in 1776 stipulated that turnips were to be grown.<sup>27</sup>

Before the inclosure of the extensive waste in the parish sheep farming appears to have been more important than arable farming. Sheeps Way near Gothersley was mentioned in the mid 1290s;<sup>28</sup> it was possibly a route for driving sheep across the waste at Checkhill. A sheep pen held by Thomas Comber in 1387 probably stood on Kinver common.<sup>29</sup> There was a sheepfold on the southern part of Checkhill waste in 1448, and a sheepecot at Compton in 1527 and 1538.<sup>30</sup> Flocks of 50 sheep and more were common in the 16th and 17th centuries. Thomas Hawys had a flock of 200 sheep in 1539, Richard Atkys of the Hyde one of 120, including 40 lambs, in 1559, Thomas Longmore of Stourton one of 150 in 1583, and John Clarke of Halfcot one of 125 in 1588. At Dunsley in 1622 Thomas Hillman had a flock of 80 sheep.<sup>31</sup> The holder of a nook of land at Kinver Hill had commoning rights for 50 sheep in 1626.<sup>32</sup> The lease of Stapenhill farm in 1633 included the right to pasture some 260 sheep on the neighbouring waste.<sup>33</sup> About 1671 the farm buildings included a sheepecot, and there was right of pasture for 300 sheep.<sup>34</sup> Sheepecots were mentioned at Compton in 1603, 1610, and 1648,<sup>35</sup> at Kinver in 1617 and 1626,<sup>36</sup> and at Checkhill in 1640 when there was also a sheepwalk there.<sup>37</sup> A sheepecot was built on the newly inclosed part of Iverley in or soon after 1630, and permission to build one was included in a lease of a house at Kinver in 1659.<sup>38</sup> William Penn of Dunsley Hall, although described as a scythesmith at his death in 1642, ran a large mixed farm which included a flock of 284 sheep; not all were grazed at Dunsley, 70 of them being described as away 'at wintering' in November 1642. Edward Jorden, also of Dunsley, had some 150 sheep in 1667, and Richard Ketly of Stourton had 262 in 1670. John Lowe of Whittington had 52 sheep in 1684, and a flock of 127 owned by Richard Bird of Dunsley in 1692 was grazed at Whittington. There was a flock of 90 at Compton in 1674 and one of 134 at Kinver in 1681.<sup>39</sup>

It is likely that in the early 1560s wool from

<sup>10</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 344, 348; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whittington, deed of 20 Dec. 1606; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of 6 Oct. 1662, 18 Apr. 1665.

<sup>11</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 348; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley I, deed of 12 July 1630.

<sup>12</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 24 Feb. 1671/2.

<sup>13</sup> Above, introduction.

<sup>14</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley I, deed of 12 Jan. 1711/12.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid. Iverley II, plan of Iverley estate c. 1860; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/8, deed of 22 Nov. 1718.

<sup>16</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, deed of 1 Dec. 1353.

<sup>17</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 2 Sept. 1693; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>18</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3; D. 1490/1; S.R.O., Q/RDc 36; Q/RHd 5; Q/SO 30, ff. 244v.-245v.

<sup>19</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, ct. given as on Monday in the feast of St. Philip and St. James (1 May) 1453; Compton II, deed of 24 June 1562.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 9, ct. of 5 Apr. 1434.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>22</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 42; S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 1585-7; ibid. 4, pp. 96, 98, 101.

<sup>23</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/P3, deed of 2 Apr. 1377.

<sup>24</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/1, deed of 20 June 1574.

<sup>25</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Thos. Hillman (1622), Edw. Comber

(1637), Wm. Penn (1646), Alice Lye (1676).

<sup>26</sup> Ibid. Ric. Bradley (1682); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, memo. relating to Compton tithe dispute, and Mr. Grove's inventory 1780.

<sup>27</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley II, deed of 4 July 1776.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. Kinver VI, rents from waste in Kinver forest temp. Edw. I.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 19, ct. of 5 Aug. 1448; Compton I, deed of 30 Sept. 1527; Compton II, 20 Sept. 1538.

<sup>31</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Thos. Hawys (1539), Ric. Atkys (1559), Thos. Longmore (1584), John Clarke (1588), Thos. Hillman (1622).

<sup>32</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver I, deed of 31 July 1626.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid. Halfcot I, deed of 18 Mar. 1632/3, mentioning pasture rights for 13 or 14 score sheep.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. Whorwood inheritance, Stapenhill rental c. 1671.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 7 Nov. 1603, 20 Aug. 1610; Compton I, deed of 18 May 1648.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 14 Apr. 1617, 26 Apr. and 26 Sept. 1626.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid. Stourton I, deed of 1 Feb. 1656/7.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid. Kinver IX, deed of 28 Apr. 1659; *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 348.

<sup>39</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Wm. Penn (1646), Edw. Jorden (1668), Ric. Ketly (1670), John Ley (1675), Roger Bradley (1681), John Lowe (1684), Ric. Bird (1692).

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

sheep in Kinver was being sold at Wolverhampton: in 1564 Humphrey Hope of Stourton, who had a flock of 60 sheep at Checkhill, was owed money for wool from John Harwale of Wolverhampton. Kinver's own cloth industry was presumably another market for the wool; some clothiers and weavers had their own flocks, such as Thomas Hazelwood with 26 sheep in 1568 and Richard Luce of Stourton with 60 in 1662.<sup>40</sup>

Cattle farming was on a much smaller scale than sheep farming in the 16th and 17th centuries. Richard Atkys of the Hyde had a herd of 20 cows and 3 young beasts in 1558, Thomas Bird of Compton had one of 5 cows, a heifer, 4 two-year olds, and 2 calves in 1565, and John Clarke of Halfcot had 6 cows and 2 calves in 1588.<sup>41</sup> On other farms smaller herds were common.<sup>42</sup> At Dunsley in 1642 William Penn had 5 milch cows, 3 heifers, and a bull; at Compton in 1674 John Ley had 7 cows and 4 young beasts; and at Stourton in 1682 John Worrall had 3 cows, 3 young beasts, and 3 calves. For all three farmers cattle were less important than sheep or crops.<sup>43</sup>

Pig farming too was conducted on a small scale in the 16th and 17th centuries. Among the largest herds recorded in the period were herds of 18 in 1539, 9 in 1559, 10 in 1584, 14 in 1642, 7 in 1670, and 10 in 1674.<sup>44</sup>

The chief crops on farms at Checkhill, Stourton, and Halfcot in the late 1830s and early 1840s were wheat, barley, and turnips; they were also the main crops at Iwerley in the 1850s and early 1860s.<sup>45</sup> Fertilizers were probably being used in the parish in the mid 1840s: John Nock of Kinver was then advertising the sale of Peruvian and African guano. He was also advertising agricultural implements, such as winnowing machines, threshing machines, and turnip cutters.<sup>46</sup> By 1850 there were 5,603 a. of arable and 1,882 a. of pasture in the parish.<sup>47</sup> The proportion of arable later declined, and by 1979 there were 1,676.7 ha. (4,141½ a.) of arable and 1,180.9 ha. (2,918 a.) of pasture recorded in the parish.<sup>48</sup>

In 1812 a flock of 233 sheep at Stourton, mainly New Leicesters and Southdowns, was advertised for sale; in 1816 a flock of 50 best quality New Leicesters at Compton was advertised.<sup>49</sup> There were seven shepherds living at the parish in 1861, two of them at Compton; there were six shepherds in 1871.<sup>50</sup> A flock of 181 sheep on a farm at Halfcot in 1916 included an Oxford ram, 60 Shropshire ewes, and 80 lambs.<sup>51</sup>

A specialist seed farm covering 1,200 a. was established at Hill farm in the later 1870s by Edward Webb & Sons of Wordsley, in King'swinford. It was enlarged to 1,500 a. between 1904 and 1908. There were some 50 a. of breeding and trial ground for plants in the 1960s. The seed farm was closed c. 1970.<sup>52</sup>

The main crop in the parish recorded in 1979 was barley; sugar beet, potatoes, and wheat were also grown. Vegetables were grown on 48.2 ha. (119 a.). There were three dairy farms and over 1,300 cattle in the parish. Over 5,000 sheep were recorded in 1979 and were evidently kept on the small, mixed farms that were characteristic of Kinver. Over 2,700 pigs and over 18,000 poultry were also recorded.<sup>53</sup>

In 1841 the Stewponey Agricultural Society was established, meeting at the Stewponey inn and taking its membership from an area covering a 12-mile radius around the inn. By 1844 the society had 225 members and a library of books on agricultural subjects. It also employed a consulting chemist to analyse soil and manure for members.<sup>54</sup> A farmers' club was formed as a branch of the society in 1843; discussions were held at its monthly meetings. The first chairman was John Robins of Dunsley, and the first secretary and treasurer was John Nock who had the farm-implement and fertilizer business in Kinver.<sup>55</sup> The society was dissolved in 1849 or 1850.<sup>56</sup> Annual shows organized by the Enville and Kinver Farmers' Club began in 1911; the club still existed in 1933 when the show was held at Dunsley.<sup>57</sup>

Fifteen allotment gardens were being let to the poor of Kinver between 1832 and 1847;<sup>58</sup> the owner is unknown. In 1844 the Stewponey Association for the Improvement of the Labouring Classes was established as a branch of the Stewponey Agricultural Society mainly to provide allotment gardens. In its first year the society had 100 a., of which 12 a. were in Kinver. In 1854 the Kinver allotments, then in the angle between Meddins Lane and Compton Road, were let to 50 tenants. In 1887 there were 47 tenants, and thereafter the number steadily declined; by 1906 there were 21 tenants, with 22 allotments vacant.<sup>59</sup> Nothing further is known of the society.

There were 26 freeholders and 63 customary tenants on Kinver manor in 1293.<sup>60</sup> By 1447 copyhold land on the manor held by a tenant who

<sup>40</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Humph. Hope (1564), Thos. Hazelwood (1568), Ric. Luce (1662); below (cloth).

<sup>41</sup> Ibid. Ric. Atkys (1559), Thos. Byrde (1565), John Clarke (1588).

<sup>42</sup> e.g. ibid. Geo. Watkys (1586), Isabella Fisher (1610), Ric. Hill (1620), Edw. Comber (1637).

<sup>43</sup> Ibid. Wm. Penn (1646), John Key (1675), John Worrall (1682).

<sup>44</sup> Ibid. Thos. Hawys (1539), John Browne (1559), Geo. Watkys (1586), Wm. Penn (1646), Ric. Ketly (1670), John Ley (1675).

<sup>45</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood Estate I, cultivation book 1837-65.

<sup>46</sup> *Essays on various subjects by members of the Stewponey Farmers' Club, 1844* (Stourbridge, 1845), advert. (copy in H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stewponey Becher Club II).

<sup>47</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Kinver.

<sup>48</sup> M.A.F.F., agric. returns 1979.

<sup>49</sup> *Wolverhampton Chron.* 18 Mar. 1812; 13 Mar. 1816.

<sup>50</sup> P.R.O., RG 9/1985; RG 10/2928.

<sup>51</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Halfcot II, cat. of stock on Stewponey and Halfcot farms 1916.

<sup>52</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* vi, 127; *Staffs. Advertiser*, 23 Nov. 1878; inf. from Major M. J. Webb (1982).

<sup>53</sup> M.A.F.F., agric. returns 1979.

<sup>54</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stewponey Becher Club II, ann. reps. 1844, 1845; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1845), 543.

<sup>55</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stewponey Becher Club II, farmers' club rules; above.

<sup>56</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stewponey Becher Club III, min. bk. 1842-59, 1 Apr. 1850.

<sup>57</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/27, Enville home farm acct. bk. 1932-3, brochure advertising show.

<sup>58</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver III, Poor Gardens acct. bk.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid. Stewponey Becher Club II, ann. reps. 1845, 1854; Allotments bks. 1887-1906; O.S. Map 1/2,500, Staffs. LXX. 15 (1883 edn.).

<sup>60</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

died leaving daughters but no son was inherited by the eldest daughter and not divided.<sup>61</sup> In 1625 and 1674 it was stated that copyholders by inheritance could lease their holdings for up to 99 years without licence. In 1625 most of the land on the manor was copyhold.<sup>62</sup> At Whittington in 1623 there were 6 freeholds and 5 copyholds; a further 10 holdings were on leases for three lives.<sup>63</sup> In 1831 there were 602 a. of copyhold land on the Foley estate in the parish. Small amounts of copyhold were still being enfranchised in the early 20th century.<sup>64</sup>

The labour services owed by tenants on most of Kinver manor in 1387 were ploughing for two days, reaping, mowing, haymaking, and carrying. Services from what was called Mondayland or 'beleland' at Kinver Hill were limited to haymaking and threshing; the other services had been commuted.<sup>65</sup> After John Hampton's succession to the manor in 1388 all services were withdrawn by the tenants, who numbered 41 in 1400. The tenants were later released from their obligations by agreement with John.<sup>66</sup> The next lord, John's son John, entered into a new agreement at his first great court in April 1434, declaring it to be the same as that made with his father; all labour services, heriots, chevage, and payments for permission to marry were commuted for an annual 37s.<sup>67</sup> A contemporary sealed copy of the agreement added a further clause by which the tenants agreed not to ask anything from the lord for acting as reeve.<sup>68</sup> Labour services on Whittington manor may have been retained longer: ploughing, reaping, and weeding services were still recorded in the 17th century, although by then probably only as a matter of form.<sup>69</sup>

The rights of the inhabitants of Kinver as dwellers on ancient demesne of the Crown were confirmed by Henry VIII in 1526.<sup>70</sup> Further confirmations were granted by Mary I,<sup>71</sup> by Elizabeth I in 1559,<sup>72</sup> and by Charles I in 1628.<sup>73</sup> The privileges and exemptions granted, such as freedom from toll and stallage throughout England, were those customarily given to inhabitants of ancient demesne.

Parts of the large manor of Kinver were established as separate estates in the 13th and

14th centuries: Whittington c. 1200, Compton in the late 13th century, and Dunsley by the 1320s. From the later 16th century, with brief interruptions in the 17th and 18th centuries, Kinver, Compton and Dunsley manors were in the same ownership, first of the Whorwoods and then of the Foleys.<sup>74</sup> By the mid 1730s the Foleys' estate in the parish comprised 4,361 a.<sup>75</sup> The only other substantial estate was at Whittington, where Lord Stamford had 584 a. c. 1790.<sup>76</sup> In 1830 J. H. Hodgetts-Foley owned no land in Compton. What remained of the Foley estate was sold in the early 20th century.<sup>77</sup>

**WOODLAND AND PARK.** The wood called Cynibre mentioned in 736 lay in the Kinver area.<sup>78</sup> In 1086 there was woodland 3 leagues in length and 1 league in breadth in Kinver manor.<sup>79</sup> Kinver wood, mentioned c. 1270, probably lay in the area of Kinver Edge: the burning of oaks at 'le Bury', presumably the hillfort, was mentioned in 1456.<sup>80</sup> By at least 1434 the wood was administered, together with Checkhill wood, by a keeper, called a woodward in the 1440s and in 1460.<sup>81</sup> Kinver wood was being felled in the late 16th century.<sup>82</sup>

There was an 8½-a. wood in Compton called Horewood in 1268.<sup>83</sup> In 1269 Leo of Romsley was licensed to inclose it, although only with a small ditch and low hedge so that the deer could pass in and out; a new ditch was mentioned in 1312.<sup>84</sup> There was a park along the south-western boundary of Compton by the earlier 16th century.<sup>85</sup> Greyfield gate in the south-east corner of the park was mentioned in 1616.<sup>86</sup> The park contained some 80 deer c. 1650.<sup>87</sup> In 1651 Thomas Foley leased the 232-a. park with the rest of his Compton estate to John Bridges of Hurcott Hall in Kidderminster (Worcs.). By the terms of the lease Foley was to cut down much of the timber; Bridges was then allowed to remove the pale and divide the park into several inclosures. By 1654 it had been divided into six parcels, one of them of 133 a. and the other five of between 12 a. and 30 a.<sup>88</sup> By 1672 Compton Park farm had been laid out over the largest parcel. It was leased that year by Philip Foley, who reserved the right to cut trees and turves and to coal the timber.<sup>89</sup> In

<sup>61</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 19, ct. of 1447.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of survey of 24 Oct. 1625; E 12/F/P3, articles relating to rights of Kinver manor copyholders 1674.

<sup>63</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, 1623 survey.

<sup>64</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver copyhold estates 1831; P.R.O., MAF 9/270/12608, 21473; S.R.O., D. 695/4/17/1.

<sup>65</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1; bdle. 9, ct. of 5 Apr. 1434.

<sup>66</sup> Cal. Pat. 1396-9, 365; Cal. Close, 1396-9, 502; 1399-1402, 109-10.

<sup>67</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 9, ct. of 5 Apr. 1434.

<sup>68</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/8/1; R. H. Hilton, *Eng. Peasantry in Later Middle Ages*, 65-6, 74-5 (where the document is printed).

<sup>69</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, survey of 18 May 1665; 38, survey of 1691; 44A, 'Mr. Willett's rents and services', n.d. but c. 1600.

<sup>70</sup> An 18th-century translation (S.R.O., D. 1197/8/2) is printed with some inaccuracies in H. Grainger, *Hist. of Church of St. Peter, Kinver* (1951). Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 262-3, prints a similar translation.

<sup>71</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/8/3.

<sup>72</sup> Translation in Grainger, *Church of St. Peter*.

<sup>73</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/8/3. Misdated translations are printed in Grainger, *Church of St. Peter*; Bennett, *Kinver*, 134.

<sup>74</sup> Above, manors and other estates.

<sup>75</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 17th- and 18th-cent. plans.

<sup>76</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/25, survey of Whittington c. 1790.

<sup>77</sup> Above, manors and other estates.

<sup>78</sup> T.B.A.S. liii. 110. <sup>79</sup> V.C.H. Staffs. iv. 40.

<sup>80</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 23, ct. of 19 Apr. 1456; below (borough).

<sup>81</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 9, cts. of 5 Apr. 1434, 16 Oct. 1441, 5 Apr. 1445, 21 Jan. 1459/60. <sup>82</sup> P.R.O., E 134/37 and 38 Eliz. I Mich./56.

<sup>83</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 140-1.

<sup>84</sup> Cal. Pat. 1266-72, 335-81; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Early Deeds, deed of 30 June 1312.

<sup>85</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 30 Sept. 1527; Compton II, deed of 20 Sept. 1538.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 14 Oct. 1616.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid. Compton I, partic. of Compton manor n.d.; Compton II, deed of 23 June 1649.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid. Compton I, memo. of 25 Apr. 1651, agreement of 24 Dec. 1652, partic. of 29 Apr. 1654.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid. Compton I, agreement of 26 Dec. 1653, deed of 25 Mar. 1672.

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

the 1730s there were two woods in Compton, the 17-a. Roughpark Wood in the area of the former park and the 20-a. Birch Wood to the north on the Enville boundary.<sup>90</sup> Both survived in 1982.

Checkhill wood was mentioned in the late 1270s.<sup>91</sup> In the 15th century it was administered with Kinver wood. Although there was extensive felling in the late 16th century,<sup>92</sup> there was 140 a. of woodland near the Enville boundary in the early 19th century, including a coppice called the Million.<sup>93</sup> In 1948 the Enville Hall estate leased 567 a. at Checkhill, the whole of it then known as the Million, to the Forestry Commission.<sup>94</sup>

In 1232 the Crown made a grant of 60 oaks from Iverley hay to the bishop of Worcester.<sup>95</sup> In the earlier 16th century timber in Iverley wood was felled on a large scale, and in 1609 the Crown sold 1,560 trees growing there.<sup>96</sup> There was a keeper of Iverley wood in the 1560s and 1570s appointed by the Crown for life. There was still a keeper in 1604.<sup>97</sup> All the timber had been felled by the early 1670s.<sup>98</sup>

New Wood on the north-eastern boundary originated as a 35-a. plantation made in the early 18th century on land taken out of Halfcot common. It comprised 74 a. in the 1730s, when there was also a 24-a. wood called Barratt's Coppice to the south-west.<sup>99</sup> By 1982 much of New Wood had been replaced by a housing estate,<sup>1</sup> but Barratt's Coppice survived.

In 1446 John Hampton was licensed to impark 300 a. at Stourton and Halfcot including arable and wood.<sup>2</sup> There is, however, no record that a park was created.

**WARRENS AND FISHERIES.** There was a warren in Kinver manor in 1395 and 1457.<sup>3</sup> It was presumably on Kinver common where a rabbit warren was mentioned in 1605. By 1627 the warren lived in Compey lodge, presumably at Comber where there was a lodge in the 1730s.<sup>4</sup> The warren was destroyed in the late 17th century during a dispute between the lord and the commoners of Kinver.<sup>5</sup> It was later restocked and survived until the waste was inclosed in 1774.<sup>6</sup>

In 1461 John Hampton sued a group of men

for stealing 1,000 rabbits at Stourton; the warren evidently lay south of Stourton Castle.<sup>7</sup> There was a warren and lodge on Checkhill common by 1601.<sup>8</sup> When the southern part of the common was brought into cultivation c. 1630 the warren was reduced to the area between Spittle brook and the parish boundary to the north. It was destroyed in 1682 when that part of the waste was inclosed.<sup>9</sup> In 1689, however, the area of the former warren was leased with liberty to restock it.<sup>10</sup> In the 1730s there was a 250-a. warren with the tenant living in a house north-east of Checkhill Farm.<sup>11</sup>

A warren at Whittington existed c. 1600.<sup>12</sup> It was destroyed in 1681, after the inclosure of the open fields there.<sup>13</sup>

The hunting lodge built at Stourton in 1195-6 included a fishpond.<sup>14</sup> In 1231 John son of Philip was instructed to stock the pond with 200 bream from the royal pond at Feckenham (Worcs.).<sup>15</sup> The royal fishpond at 'Flederith' in Kinver forest which John was ordered to repair and stock in 1232<sup>16</sup> was probably at Flatheridge on Smestow brook north of Stourton. John Hampton's fishery at Kinver, mentioned in 1402, may have been at Stourton; in 1422 perch, trout, and other fish were stolen from it.<sup>17</sup> There is no later reference to a fishpond at Stourton, but the lords of Kinver maintained fishing rights in the Stour and other streams in the manor.<sup>18</sup> In 1672 it was stated that the lords had punished fishing offences privately without recourse to the manor court; in 1686 and the 1690s, however, ordinances regulating fishing were made by the court.<sup>19</sup>

A fishery at Horewood in Compton was mentioned in 1294.<sup>20</sup> Two pools in Compton Park farm were leased as fishponds in 1688.<sup>21</sup> There was a fishery in the pool at Pole mill north of Kinver village in 1471; it was still described as a fishpool in 1615.<sup>22</sup> There was a fishery in the pool at Checkhill mill in the 1680s. When Philip Foley leased the mill in 1683 he excluded fishing rights; he also required the tenant to set eel traps at times of flood and deliver the eels to Prestwood.<sup>23</sup>

Fishing rights in the Stour at Whittington mills were sold to Sir Edward Grey, lord of Whittington, in 1515.<sup>24</sup> By the mid 1840s Lord

<sup>90</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>91</sup> *Cal. Fine R.* 1272-1307, 106, 109.

<sup>92</sup> P.R.O., E 134/37 and 38 Eliz. I Mich./56.

<sup>93</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 59; S.R.O., D. 1140/2.

<sup>94</sup> Inf. from Mr. M. J. Scott-Bolton.

<sup>95</sup> *Close R.* 1231-4, 64.

<sup>96</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii, 347-8.

<sup>97</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1563-6, pp. 118, 323; 1572-5, p. 563; P.R.O., E 134/2 Jas. I Trin./4.

<sup>98</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, annotated copy of partic. of Stourton Castle estate 1671.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.* Halfcot I, deed of 29 Aug. 1705; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>1</sup> Above, introduction.

<sup>2</sup> *Cal. Chart. R.* 1427-1516, 59-60.

<sup>3</sup> *S.H.C.* xv, 72; *S.H.C.* n.s. iv, 102.

<sup>4</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 20 Nov. 1605; Kinver I, deed of 20 Aug. 1627; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Kinver.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver IV, acct. of dispute between Mr. Foley and the commoners of Kinver 1608-1700.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* Compton III, deed of 30 Aug. 1739; S.R.O., Q/RDc 36.

<sup>7</sup> *S.H.C.* n.s. iv, 121; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Stourton, nos. 54-5.

<sup>8</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Checkhill I, deed of 2 Apr. 1620.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* Stourton III, deed of 26 Aug. 1629; Checkhill I, copy deed of 14 Mar. 1669/70, wrongly given as 25 Chas. II; Checkhill II, deed of 13 June 1683.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* Checkhill I, agreement of 24 Apr. 1689.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Stourton, nos. 115-16.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* Whittington, deed of 20 Dec. 1606; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/44A, 'Mr. Willett's rents and services' n.d. but c. 1600.

<sup>13</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/10, deed of 7 June 1681.

<sup>14</sup> Above, manors and other estates (Stourton Castle).

<sup>15</sup> *Close R.* 1227-31, 515.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 1231-4, 82, 176.

<sup>17</sup> *S.H.C.* xv, 106; xvii, 119.

<sup>18</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 6, ct. of 16 Apr. 1431; bdle. 14, ct. of 11 Apr. 1440; bdle. 19, ct. of 1 Apr. 1448; Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 10 Oct. 1615.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of 22 Apr. 1672, 13 Apr. 1691, 9 May 1698; Kinver ct. rolls 1681-1702, ct. of 3 May 1686.

<sup>20</sup> *S.H.C.* 1911, 222.

<sup>21</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 2 Nov. 1688.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 28, ct. of 28 Jan. 1470/1; 1590-1629, ct. of 9 Apr. 1615.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* Checkhill I, deed of 8 Mar. 1682/3.

<sup>24</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/2, deed of 12 Nov. 1515.



Stamford had an eel trap there; in 1911 it was sold to Edward Webb of Studley Court, in Stourbridge.<sup>25</sup>

**MARKETS AND FAIRS.** In 1221 John son of Philip was granted a Tuesday market in his manor of Kinver during the minority of Henry III.<sup>26</sup> There is no record of renewal after Henry declared himself of age in 1227, but in 1257 John's son John was granted a Wednesday market.<sup>27</sup> His right was upheld in 1293.<sup>28</sup> The market was still held in the mid 15th century,<sup>29</sup> but nothing further is known of it. In 1544 William Whorwood was granted a Tuesday market.<sup>30</sup> The market place was presumably south of the junction of High Street and Vicarage Drive where the street widens and where a town hall was built in 1619.<sup>31</sup> The market was mentioned in 1717,<sup>32</sup> but it had been discontinued by the mid 18th century.<sup>33</sup>

A fair in Kinver manor on the vigil, feast, and morrow of St. Peter and St. Paul (28–30 June) was granted to the lord in 1257.<sup>34</sup> That right too was upheld in 1293,<sup>35</sup> but nothing further is known of the fair. In 1544 William Whorwood was granted two fairs at Kinver, on 1 May and 8 December, with a court of piepowder.<sup>36</sup> The second was held on 14 December by the late 1750s.<sup>37</sup> By 1850 fairs dealing mainly in pigs were held on the last Tuesday in February, the second Tuesday in May, and the first Tuesday in December.<sup>38</sup> All were held until the later 1880s.<sup>39</sup>

**BOROUGH.** A borough was probably established about the time of the grant of a market in 1221. Richard Beneit 'de novo burgo' appeared among a group of local men in 1227–8.<sup>40</sup> About 1270 the lord of the manor issued a charter granting his burgesses of Kinver the same liberties in holding their burgages as those enjoyed by the burgesses of Kidderminster (Worcs.). The burgesses were also granted rights of pasture in Kinver wood, except at times of the lord's pannage, and of cutting brushwood and fern outside the wood all the year round. The rent for each burgage was 10d. a year.<sup>41</sup> In 1293 there were 23 or 24

burgages in the borough. Of the 22 burgesses then recorded, 13 held a single burgage and 6 held double burgages; another burgess paid 16d., and two others 6d. and 4d.<sup>42</sup> In 1387 there were 28 burgages; 14 were each held by a single burgess, and 7 were each shared by two burgesses. The remaining burgages were held by individual burgesses as holdings of 3, 2, 1½, or ¼. It appears that burgages had not been laid out over the whole borough: in 1387 the borough contained an assart held at a rent of 3d. and a cottage at a rent of 2d.<sup>43</sup> A heriot of 4d. was due from the holders of a single burgage in 1387; in 1422 a heriot of 4d. was paid from each of two half burgages.<sup>44</sup> A standard 4d. heriot was last taken in 1791.<sup>45</sup> A standard 10d. rent was still paid in the early 1830s.<sup>46</sup>

**MILLS.** A newly built mill on the Stour where it formed the north-eastern boundary of the parish was held with adjoining land on both sides of the river by John Willetts of Halfcot in 1573. In that year he settled the reversion after his death on his son Richard.<sup>47</sup> It was known as Willetts mill by 1617 when there was a house adjoining.<sup>48</sup> By 1629 the estate, including two corn mills under one roof, was sold by John Brettell of Kingswinford, the successor of a John Willett (so spelled), to Richard Nashe of Halfcot.<sup>49</sup> Nashe sold it to George Brindley of the Hyde in 1631.<sup>50</sup> George settled it on his son Richard and Richard's wife Hester in 1641, and they sold it in 1654 to Richard's cousin, Thomas Foley the ironmaster.<sup>51</sup> By the 1670s Willetts mills were owned by Thomas's son Philip.<sup>52</sup> In 1701 Philip leased the mills as three corn mills called Stapenhill mills to Margaret Willett of Kinver.<sup>53</sup> By 1716 Willetts mills were worked by Thomas White, who that year received permission to use one of the wheels and materials from the mills for a new mill at Halfcot.<sup>54</sup> In 1733 William Foley granted a lease of 'a mill house in which lately were corn mills called Willetts mills'.<sup>55</sup> The building was known as Bells mill by 1775.<sup>56</sup> The remains of a 19th-century mill building survive on the site.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid. 23, Crowther Bros. & Co. to Lord Stamford 19 Nov. 1883; 35, deed of 12 Dec. 1911; 39, guardian's accts. (Staffs.), Dec. 1846 and 1847.

<sup>26</sup> Rot. Litt. Claus. (Rec. Com.), i. 464.

<sup>27</sup> Cal. Chart. R. 1226–57, 474.

<sup>28</sup> Plac. de Quo Warr. (Rec. Com.), 705–6.

<sup>29</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387–1498, bdle. 19, ct. of 1 Apr. 1448; bdle. 20, cts. of 19 Sept. 1449, 27 Apr. 1450.

<sup>30</sup> L. & P. Hen. VIII, xix (1), p. 377.

<sup>31</sup> Below, local govt. (borough).

<sup>32</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., boro. ct. of 18 May 1717.

<sup>33</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 466/16, P. White to R. Wilkes.

<sup>34</sup> Cal. Chart. R. 1226–57, 474.

<sup>35</sup> Plac. de Quo Warr. 705–6.

<sup>36</sup> L. & P. Hen. VIII, xix (1), p. 377; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, addenda to portfolios, writ of 19 May 1544.

<sup>37</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 466/16, White to Wilkes; S.R.O. 1401, 14 Dec. 1774. Pitt, Staffs. i. 196, stated (1817) that the second was held on 15 Dec.; Scott, Stourbridge, 170, stated (1832) that the fairs were held on 14 May and 14 Dec. White, Dir. Staffs. (1834), 259, stated that they were long obsolete.

<sup>38</sup> White, Dir. Staffs. (1851), 177.

<sup>39</sup> Rep. Com. Mkt. Rights and Tolls [C. 5550], p. 202, H.C. (1888), liii; Kelly's Dir. Staffs. (1888).

<sup>40</sup> S.H.C. iv (1), 69–70.

<sup>41</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver XIII, transcript of borough charter; Shaw, Staffs. ii. 262, printing a less accurate version; Brit. Boro. Charters 1216–1307, ed. A. Ballard and J. Tait, p. xlii. No evidence survives of the 13th-century liberties of Kidderminster; in the 14th century it enjoyed privileges such as freedom from relief and heriot never acquired by the burgesses of Kinver; V.C.H. Worcs. iii. 163–4.

<sup>42</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>43</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387–1498, bdle. 1.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.; bdle. 2, ct. of 19 Oct. 1422.

<sup>45</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver boro. ct. bk. 1763–1841, ct. of 25 Oct. 1791.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. list of boro. rents between cts. of 22 Oct. 1831 and 27 Oct. 1832.

<sup>47</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 31 Oct. 1573; S.H.C. xiv (1), 171.

<sup>48</sup> P.R.O., E 178/4984.

<sup>49</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 14 July 1629.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid. Kinver II, deed of 16 May 1631; Kinver VII, deed of 15 June 1631.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid. Kinver VII, deeds of 1 July 1641, 7 Nov. 1654, and Ric. Brinley's receipt to Thos. Foley 7 Nov. 1654.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid. acct. of rent of Phil. Foley.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid. deed of 26 Feb. 1700/1.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid. deed of 29 Feb. 1715/16.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid. deed of 23 Feb. 1732/3.

<sup>56</sup> Yates, Map of Staffs. (1775).

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

In 1716 a new corn mill at Halfcot on the Navigation Cut west of the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road was leased to Thomas White of Willetts mills. By 1733 it had been turned into a wire mill.<sup>57</sup>

There was a mill at Stourton by 1293.<sup>58</sup> By 1330 it had fallen down, and that year the king ordered the sheriff to have it rebuilt; the keeper of Kinver forest was ordered to provide the timber needed.<sup>59</sup> By 1640 what were known as the Castle mills consisted of three corn mills under one roof on the Stour adjoining the castle.<sup>60</sup> They were converted into a forge in 1670 or 1671.<sup>61</sup>

From the 1790s there was a corn mill at the Hyde. It was still in existence in 1839.<sup>62</sup>

A water mill formed part of Gilbert of Dunsley's estate at Dunsley at his death in 1326.<sup>63</sup> In 1327 it was found to be ruinous.<sup>64</sup>

One of the two mills in Kinver in 1086<sup>65</sup> may have been on the Stour on the north side of the present Mill Lane. There was a mill there by 1439,<sup>66</sup> and it remained part of Kinver manor until 1648.<sup>67</sup> In that year John Whorwood and his son Sir William sold three water corn mills called Kinver mills to William Kimberley, the curate of Kinver, and Samuel Jukes of Wolverley (Worcs.) in two equal shares. In 1675 Kimberley and his wife Elizabeth and Jukes's son Samuel and widow Margaret sold it to Philip Foley.<sup>68</sup> In the earlier 18th century Kinver mills, owned by the Foleys, consisted of three corn mills and a malt mill.<sup>69</sup> There was still a corn mill there in 1783, but the rest had been converted into a slitting mill by the late 1760s.<sup>70</sup>

There was a mill on the Stour at Whittington c. 1200,<sup>71</sup> possibly the second mill mentioned in 1086. It evidently descended with the manor until the 15th century. In 1423 Edmund Lowe, lord of Whittington, exchanged land in Kinver, including some next to the mill, with William Everdon,<sup>72</sup> and in 1458 the mill passed with Dunsley manor to William's son Thomas.<sup>73</sup> In 1515 Humphrey Everdon, the lord of Dunsley, and his son and heir John sold a corn mill and a fulling mill on the Stour at Whittington to Sir Edward Grey, lord of Whittington.<sup>74</sup> Sir

Edward's grandson John Grey held three water mills at Whittington in 1581.<sup>75</sup> In 1619 Whittington mill, south of what is now the end of Horse Bridge Lane, was converted into an ironworks.<sup>76</sup>

A fulling mill on Spittle brook at Checkhill<sup>77</sup> became a corn mill probably when it was rebuilt in the late 18th century. George Burgess had a farm and mill at Checkhill at his death in 1824. He was succeeded by his son George, who was working a corn mill there in 1830 as tenant of J. H. Hodgetts-Foley and still had the farm and mill in the early 1860s.<sup>78</sup> The mill had evidently ceased to work as a corn mill by the early 1880s.<sup>79</sup> By 1913 it was used to work farm machinery,<sup>80</sup> and it was supplying electricity for the farm in the mid 1930s, when it ceased to operate.<sup>81</sup> The small late 18th-century building and the machinery survived in 1982.<sup>82</sup>

Pole or Pool mill was mentioned in 1460 and was still in existence in 1617 when it was described as on the heath.<sup>83</sup> It may have stood on Mill (or Clam) brook east of Hyde Lane.<sup>84</sup>

By 1294 the manor of Horewood included a water mill, mentioned again in 1315.<sup>85</sup> It was presumably the predecessor of Compton mill in Compton park mentioned in 1585<sup>86</sup> and apparently held by John Whorwood in 1639.<sup>87</sup> The mill site was evidently on Compton brook east of Compton Park Farm.<sup>88</sup>

The endowments of Our Lady's chantry in Enville church included a water mill in Kinver by 1535. It was bought with the rest of the chantry's property by Thomas Grey in 1553 and was owned by John Grey in 1581.<sup>89</sup> Its site is not known.

There was a windmill west of Dunsley Hall c. 1770.<sup>90</sup> In 1780 John Hodgetts leased to Benjamin Warren of Enville a plot of waste at Checkhill on which Warren was to build a windmill within a year.<sup>91</sup> The mill was in operation by 1784.<sup>92</sup> J. H. Hodgetts-Foley sold it in 1830 to Gilbert Brown of Shifnal (Salop.).<sup>93</sup> Brown was declared bankrupt in 1846 and died in 1847; in 1849 the mill was sold to Lord Stamford, whose tenant was working it in 1854.<sup>94</sup> The tower still stood in 1982. Land west of White Hill Farm near Comp-

<sup>57</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VIII, deed of 29 Feb. 1715/16; below (iron).

<sup>58</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>59</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1330-3, 37.

<sup>60</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 15 Feb. 1639/40; P. M. Grazebrook, *Short Hist. of Stourton Castle and Royal Forest of Kinver*, plan facing p. 47.

<sup>61</sup> Below (iron).

<sup>62</sup> Below (iron); M. V. Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver' (copy in W.S.L.), 66-7; S.R.O., D. 695/4/17/5.

<sup>63</sup> Above, manors and other estates.

<sup>64</sup> P.R.O., C 143/191, no. 15.

<sup>65</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 40.

<sup>66</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 13, ct. of 20 Apr. 1439; bdle. 14, ct. of 11 Apr. 1440.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.* addenda to portfolios, Lord Dudley to steward of Kinver manor 24 June 1522; Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, boro. ct. of 31 Mar. 1590; Kinver XIII, bill in Chancery 29 Jan. 1601/2.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver VII, deeds of 18 May 1648, 26 Mar. 1675.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.* Prestwood leases, deed of 1 May 1719; Halfcot II, deed of 2 July 1735; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver II, deed of 7 June 1783; below (iron).

<sup>71</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 13.

<sup>72</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12/6, no. 21.

<sup>73</sup> S.R.O., D. 593/B/1/26/78/3.

<sup>74</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/2, deeds of 12, 15, 24 Nov. 1515.

<sup>75</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Bobbington and Enville, valor of lands of John Grey 1581.

<sup>76</sup> Below (iron).

<sup>77</sup> Below (cloth).

<sup>78</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Dunsley III, abstract of title to Dunsley farm 1866; S.R.O., D. 891/4, p. 23; Harrison, Harrod & Co. *Dir. Staffs.* (1861), 83.

<sup>79</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. NE. (1889 edn.), showing 'old mill pond'.

<sup>80</sup> W.S.L., Sale Cats. G/3, p. 47.

<sup>81</sup> Local inf. (1982).

<sup>82</sup> Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept., Ind. Arch. Survey.

<sup>83</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 25, 8 Jan. 1459/60; bdle. 28, 29 Jan. 1470/1; Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, 7 Apr. 1613, 6 Oct. 1617.

<sup>84</sup> There are traces of a dam there: inf. from Mr. J. W. King.

<sup>85</sup> *S.H.C.* 1911, 222, 330-1.

<sup>86</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 18 Oct. 1588.

<sup>87</sup> P.R.O., CP 25(2)/486/15 Chas. I Trin. no. 8.

<sup>88</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Compton, nos. 56, 130.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.* Bobbington and Enville, valor of lands of John Grey 1581; *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 101; above, pp. 114-15.

<sup>90</sup> Yates, *Map of Staffs.* (1775).

<sup>91</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Checkhill I, deed of 28 Oct. 1780.

<sup>92</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/5/1.

<sup>93</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/32, abstract of title to Spittal Brook mill etc. 1846.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.* 27, Enville estate cash bks.; 36, deed of 11 May 1849.

ton was known as Windmill Hill in the earlier 19th century<sup>96</sup> and may be the site of a windmill.

**IRON.** There was a forge (*fabrica*) in the borough in 1387,<sup>96</sup> but otherwise the first evidence of ironmaking dates from the early 17th century. In 1619 George Taylor was granted a lease of Whittington mill and converted it into a forge. He was presented at the Kinver manor court for establishing a number of men and a woman in the mill house without indemnifying the parish; in 1620 he gave the necessary undertaking in respect of the workers 'at the hammer'.<sup>97</sup> Richard Foley had taken over the forge by 1628,<sup>98</sup> and in 1629 he too was presented for not indemnifying the parish in respect of his workers there.<sup>99</sup> In 1640 Foley conveyed his interest to his son Thomas, who was granted a lease for life by Henry Grey, lord of Whittington, in 1649.<sup>1</sup> The forge was taken over by Thomas's son Philip in 1669 with Thomas Jukes as manager.<sup>2</sup> By 1683 it was held by Richard Avenant, John Wheeler, and Andrew Bentley.<sup>3</sup> From 1692 until 1705 it was run by the Ironworks in Partnership, a company which included Philip Foley, Avenant, and Wheeler. From 1725 the forge was run by the Stour Valley Partnership, in which the Knight family was prominent. Production rose from 200 tons in 1717 to 300 tons in 1750.<sup>4</sup> New workers' houses were built in 1766. In 1770 Edward Knight secured permission from Lord Stamford to convert the forge into a slitting mill, and the conversion was duly carried out.<sup>5</sup> Edward's son John succeeded in 1784 and was followed in 1797 by his own son John, who continued to work the mill until 1810.<sup>6</sup> In that year it was leased to Jacob Turner of Park Hall, in Kidderminster (Worcs.).<sup>7</sup> A wire mill was added in 1818.<sup>8</sup> Jacob's son Henry had succeeded by 1826.<sup>9</sup> Henry was a lunatic by 1838 and the lease was assigned that year to Thomas Webb, who in 1839 sublet the ironworks to George Hartshorn of Old Swinford and Benedict Neale of Wall Heath, in Kingswinford. They were soon in financial difficulties, and in 1840 the works was taken over by Benjamin and James Williams, who con-

siderably extended it.<sup>10</sup> In 1851 the workforce numbered 120 men and 24 boys, and in 1871 it consisted of 150 men and boys.<sup>11</sup> James Williams & Co. retained the works until 1882, although operations appear to have ceased c. 1879.<sup>12</sup> The Whittington Patent Horse Nail Co. Ltd. was in occupation from 1883 until 1893, and the works then closed.<sup>13</sup>

In 1670 Stourton mills were leased by Wortley Whorwood to John Finch of Dudley with liberty to convert them into a furnace or forge.<sup>14</sup> Finch had a forge there by 1671.<sup>15</sup> Philip Foley granted a new lease in 1672, but Finch surrendered it in 1673; the forge was stated to be a cause of flooding and also, 'by reason of the extreme knocking and continual beating forth of iron', a threat to the foundations of Stourton Castle.<sup>16</sup> In 1672, however, Foley had agreed to lease it to Sir Clement Clerke and John Forth, and in 1676, after that partnership had broken up, it was leased to Henry Cornish, John Langworth, and Thomas Sergeant for five years.<sup>17</sup> John Wheeler and Richard Avenant held it probably from 1681 and ran it until 1692 when it became part of the Ironworks in Partnership. It was turned into a slitting mill in 1698.<sup>18</sup> In that year Philip Foley leased it to Richard Wheeler, a member of the partnership. In 1703, after Wheeler's bankruptcy and death, Foley granted a 40-year lease to John Cook of Stourton.<sup>19</sup> A Thomas Cook, who died in 1699, was then described as head workman at the mill, and John lived at the mill house.<sup>20</sup> In 1752 William Foley granted John a lease of the house and mill for life.<sup>21</sup> John died in 1762 and was succeeded by Richard Marston, although in 1756 the reversion of the lease had been granted to Thomas Hodgetts of Ashwood Lodge, in Kingswinford.<sup>22</sup> In 1781 Francis Homfray was living at Stourton, having moved there shortly before from the nearby Wollaston Hall, in Old Swinford (Worcs.),<sup>23</sup> and in 1783 he was granted a 20-year lease of the house and mill.<sup>24</sup> He turned the mill into a rolling mill c. 1792. He was succeeded by his son Jeston of Broadwaters in Kidderminster, who took a 21-year lease in 1804.<sup>25</sup> Jeston died in 1816, but his executors

<sup>96</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 201; *ibid.* 4, p. 8.

<sup>97</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.* E 12/F, box 1119, deed of 15 Dec. 1628; E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 19 Oct. 1619, 10 Oct. 1620; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/11, 1623 survey.

<sup>99</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F, box 1119, deed of 15 Dec. 1628.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.* E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 28 Apr., 20 Oct. 1629.

<sup>2</sup> Above, manors and other estates (Whittington) and refs. given there.

<sup>3</sup> M. V. Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 75 (copy in W.S.L.); *Records of Phil. Foley's Stour Valley Iron Works 1668-74* (Worcs. Hist. Soc. N.S. ix).

<sup>4</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, deed of 9 Nov. 1683.

<sup>5</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 29-32, 76-7; *V.C.H. Staffs.* ii. 120.

<sup>6</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 80-2.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 82; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/41, deeds of 9 July 1784, 5 Aug. 1797.

<sup>8</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/41, deed of 23 Aug. 1810.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 50, Dan. Clarke to Lord Grey 25 Jan., 25 Apr. 1818.

<sup>10</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 83.

<sup>11</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/23, sale parties; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 83-4.

<sup>12</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017; P.R.O., RG 10/2928.

<sup>13</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/23; R. Hunt, *Memoirs of Geol. Surv., Mineral Statistics of U.K. 1879*, 92; 1880, 96; 1881, 88.

<sup>14</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/23; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 85-6.

<sup>15</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 90.

<sup>16</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, partic. of Stourton Castle estate 1671; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 10 Apr. 1671.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* E 12/F/VI/KE/32, 37; E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 7 Dec. 1672; E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 14 Apr. 1673.

<sup>18</sup> *Business Hist.* xiii. 29.

<sup>19</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 91; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 20 Sept. 1686.

<sup>20</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, deed of 11 Nov. 1703.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* Kinver VII, deed of 21 May 1756; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 92-3.

<sup>22</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 29 Sept. 1752.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* deed of 21 May 1756; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 93-4.

<sup>24</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1226, bdle. xl, deed of 12 May 1781; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 94.

<sup>25</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, 12 June 1782.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.* Stourton I, deed of 16 Feb. 1804; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 96.

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continued to pay the rent until 1828. By 1830 the mill had been demolished.<sup>26</sup>

In 1627 a fulling mill on the Stour at the Hyde was leased by Gerard and John Whorwood for 21 years to trustees, with a view to their subletting it to Richard Foley of Dudley.<sup>27</sup> He had taken possession by 1628 and had rebuilt the mill as a slitting mill to serve his ironworks elsewhere.<sup>28</sup> About the same time he moved to Stourbridge.<sup>29</sup> By the later 1630s the mill was worked by Foley's brother-in-law George Brindley of the nearby Hyde House.<sup>30</sup> George's son Richard bought the mill in 1647,<sup>31</sup> but it continued to work in association with the Foleys. Thus in 1651 Richard Brindley agreed to slit 8 tons of iron a week supplied by Richard Foley's son Thomas up to a total of 300 tons a year; Thomas was to pay Brindley 30s. a ton.<sup>32</sup> In 1653-4 the mill also slit iron from Sir Thomas Middleton's Shropshire forges.<sup>33</sup> The Brindleys were soon mortgaging the Hyde estate, and £72 was due to Thomas Foley in 1669-70 as interest on the mortgage of the mill.<sup>34</sup> The Brindleys continued to work it until 1731, when Richard's grandson John was declared bankrupt; he died later the same year. Meanwhile, at the time of his marriage in 1726, he had built a new house at the Hyde. In 1733 the mill was bought by George Draper, whose son George sold it in 1741 to Jeremiah Caswell, the tenant since 1736. Caswell died in 1769, and his daughter Eleanor then ran the mill at least until her marriage in 1776 to Paul White, the curate of Kinver. She was running it in 1780, the year after her husband's death, and in 1781 she went into partnership with her nephew Francis Homfray of Gothersley, son of Francis Homfray of Stourton. She withdrew in 1793, making over the property to Francis, who moved to the Hyde. By 1791 he had already converted the mill into a rolling mill, and by 1797 he had installed a steam hammer; by then he had also turned the original house into a corn mill. On his death in 1809 he was succeeded by his son Jeremiah.<sup>35</sup> In 1810 Jeremiah offered the works for sale; it consisted of a steam engine, a forge, rolling and slitting mills, and 12 workmen's cottages, as well as the 18th-century Hyde House. The eventual buyer was his uncle Thomas Homfray, who moved to the Hyde and was still living there in 1818.<sup>36</sup> He was declared bankrupt in 1819, and in 1821 the works was bought by the Stourbridge banking firm of Thomas Hill, Thomas Bate, and William Robins.

They sold it in 1831 to Benjamin Littlewood, an Amblecote glassmaker. His family retained the ownership until 1912 when the Revd. H. C. Littlewood sold it to T. L. Downing of Stourton Hall.<sup>37</sup>

In the meantime two separate works were developed by tenants. In the late 1820s Joseph and Thomas Parkes started a spade and shovel manufactory, which the Parkes family was still running in the 1860s. It passed to other tenants, including Isaac Nash & Sons from c. 1886 until its closure c. 1910.<sup>38</sup> In 1830 the ironworks was vacant, but in 1831 a lease was taken by John Hunt and William Brown who proceeded to enlarge it. In 1838 they sublet it to Thomas Bolton of Whittington. He and his partner J. F. Lee further expanded the works. By the early 1870s they were evidently producing steel. In 1851 the workforce consisted of 135 men, 1 woman, and 15 boys; by 1861, when Bolton was living at Hyde House, the workers numbered 292 men and 21 boys. The firm, however, was in financial difficulties by the mid 1860s and operations ceased in 1877. The works was taken over the same year by H. O. Firmstone, who continued to run it until about the end of 1882. It was then finally closed.<sup>39</sup>

By the mid 1730s a blade mill on Smestow brook at Gothersley had been rebuilt as a slitting mill worked by Francis Homfray of Old Swinford (Worcs.). After his death in 1737 his widow Mary ran the mill. In 1788 John Hodgetts leased it with Swindon forge in Wombourne to Francis's son Francis, who lived at Stourton, and his two sons, Francis of Gothersley and Jeston of Broadwaters, in Kidderminster.<sup>40</sup> In 1793 the last Francis moved from Gothersley to the Hyde, where he was already involved in the ironworks.<sup>41</sup> The house and mill at Gothersley were leased in 1798 to John Hodgetts's nephew, also John Hodgetts.<sup>42</sup> In 1799 he went into partnership with John Thompson and John Scale to run Gothersley and other ironworks, but he died in 1800. His widow Elizabeth continued to run Gothersley mill, buying out the other partners in 1802. In 1812, when the works consisted of a rolling and slitting mill and workmen's houses, she sublet it to John Bradley & Co. of Amblecote. She continued to live at Gothersley, and in 1821 J. H. Hodgetts-Foley granted her a new lease; she was apparently acting for her future son-in-law, Henry Hodgson.<sup>43</sup> By 1830 Gothersley rolling mill was

<sup>26</sup> P. M. Grazebrook, *Short Hist. of Stourton Castle and Royal Forest of Kinver*, 43; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 96; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood Estate surveys I.

<sup>27</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 1 Feb. 1626/7.

<sup>28</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 43-6; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F, box 1119, deed of 4 Dec. 1628.

<sup>29</sup> *Trans. Worcs. Arch. Soc.* N.S. xxi, 2.

<sup>30</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 29 May 1639.

<sup>31</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 47, 50.

<sup>32</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VI, agreements of 22 Mar. 1650/1, Apr. 1651. For an agreement between Thos. Foley and Geo. Brindley see *ibid.* 20 June 1646.

<sup>33</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 51.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.* 50-1; *Records of Phil. Foley's Stour Valley Iron Works*, 96.

<sup>35</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 53-63, 95.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.* 64-5; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/50, bdle. marked 'Enville Letters and Papers', newspaper extract announcing sale in letter of 7 Apr. 1810.

<sup>37</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 65-7, 74; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, reg. of Kinver tithes sold 1824-5.

<sup>38</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 66, 73-4; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood rent bk. 1882-6.

<sup>39</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 66-73; S.R.O., D. 695/4/17/4; P.R.O., HO 107/2017; P.R.O., RG 9/1985; Hunt, *Mineral Statistics 1878*, 90; 1881, 88; Kinver Libr., Kinver Hist. Soc. archives, dismissal notice of 9 Dec. 1882; above, pl. facing p. 144.

<sup>40</sup> H. S. Grazebrook, *Collns. for Genealogy of Noble Fams. of Henzey, Tyttery, and Tyzack* (Stourbridge, 1877), 53 n.; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Stourton; *ibid.* Kinver VIII, deed of 27 Sept. 1788.

<sup>41</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 98-9; H.W.R.O. (H.), Kinver and Kingsley ct. bk. 1767-1801, ct. of 28 Sept. 1793.

<sup>42</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 31 Aug. 1798; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 99.

<sup>43</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 99-108; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VIII, deed of 15 Sept. 1821; K. C. Hodgson, *Out of the Mahogany Desk*, 104.

occupied by George and Edward Thorneycroft.<sup>44</sup> Arrangements were made in 1833 for a lease to John Hunt and William Brown, with the proviso that the mill should be used solely as a rolling mill.<sup>45</sup> In 1836 it was leased to Joseph Maybury of Bilston, who took a new lease in 1840 and was at the works until 1849. From then it was held on a 21-year lease by E. B. Dimmock and John Thompson of Bilston, who were joined in 1856 by William Hatton of Bilston. By 1861 it was worked by S. W. Bunn, who lived at Gothersley House. In 1870 a 21-year lease was made to Bunn and to William Hatton of Kidderminster.<sup>46</sup> In 1871 the workforce consisted of 15 men and 9 boys.<sup>47</sup> From 1876 the works was run by William Finnemore of Small Heath, Birmingham, and Richard Titley of Sutton Coldfield (Warws.), with Finnemore alone from 1877. The works was closed c. 1890, and the contents were offered for sale in 1891.<sup>48</sup>

By the late 1760s part of Kinver mills in Mill Lane was worked as a slitting mill by George Stokes.<sup>49</sup> In 1783, as tenant of John Hodgetts, he was working a rolling and slitting mill as well as a corn mill.<sup>50</sup> The Stokes family was still there in 1814,<sup>51</sup> but by 1830 what was called Kinver rolling mill was owned and occupied by Henry Turner, the lessee of Whittington ironworks.<sup>52</sup> In 1837 there were complaints about the noise from the newly installed hammer and fears about the effects of the vibration on the grammar school building.<sup>53</sup> Turner was a lunatic by 1838, and the mill was then unoccupied.<sup>54</sup> By 1845 T. M. Woodyatt had converted it into a screw manufactory. In the 1860s his executors sold it to Nettlefold & Chamberlain, a Smethwick screw-making firm, which closed it; some 20 men were then employed there. In 1868 the mill was run by S. F. Bolton, a maker of iron and steel ware. In the late 19th century it was a spade and shovel works. Thomas Timmings made agricultural implements there by 1896. He was followed in the early 20th century by C. H. Timmings, who was still working there in 1912. A water works was opened on part of the site in 1908. The rest of the mill was converted into a saw mill; electric power was substituted for water in 1929. The mill was closed in 1978, and much of it was demolished in 1980.<sup>55</sup>

By 1733 the mill on the west side of the main road at Halfcot had been turned into a wire mill, and a second wire mill had been built nearby. They were leased that year to John Turton of Rowley Regis and John Webster of Birmingham, both ironmongers, for 21 years.<sup>56</sup> In 1759 John Webster, then described as a Shrewsbury ironmaster, took a new 21-year lease and assigned it to John Ryland, a wiredrawer, Joseph Smith, a merchant, and John Kettle, a steel merchant and manufacturer, all of Birmingham.<sup>57</sup> About that time Richard Wilkes, the antiquary, stated that iron wire was 'made to perfection' there.<sup>58</sup> In 1781 Ryland took a 21-year lease from John Hodgetts of the two wire mills; the lease was renewed for another 21 years in 1801.<sup>59</sup> In the early 1820s, when the more southerly was described as a block mill, the mills were held by J. W. Phipson.<sup>60</sup> They had been dismantled by 1830.<sup>61</sup>

In 1601 a blade mill formerly held by Francis Penn and Edward Meeke or one of them was surrendered by Richard Bate to the use of Humphrey Jorden.<sup>62</sup> In 1625 Jorden held two blade mills.<sup>63</sup> They evidently stood on Spittle brook at Checkhill. A scythe-grinder named Richard Burneford was living at Checkhill in 1628,<sup>64</sup> and blade mills at Checkhill were mentioned in 1636.<sup>65</sup> Francis Bennett was working as a scythe-grinder at Checkhill at his death in 1666, presumably at the blade mills which were held by the widow Bennett in 1670. William Bennett was evidently working there c. 1680.<sup>66</sup> In 1683 Philip Foley granted a 21-year lease of a house and two blade mills at Checkhill to Thomas Wannerton, a scythe-grinder, who was evidently still working there in 1689.<sup>67</sup> By 1698 the mill had been turned into a fulling mill.<sup>68</sup>

There was evidently a blade mill on Smestow brook at Gothersley by 1685. A scythesmith named James Raybold then held land in the area, and in 1691 a blade mill there was described as newly built and as lately held by him.<sup>69</sup> It may have been built by Philip Foley in the early 1670s.<sup>70</sup> In 1691 Foley leased it for 99 years to William Webb, a scythe-grinder of Kingswinford. Webb built himself a house near the mill. For the convenience of his customers he had laid out a road from Ashwood Lane, in Kingswinford, by

<sup>44</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver' 108.

<sup>45</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. Kinver VIII, agreements of 1836 and 1840, deeds of 24 Mar. 1843, 26 May 1849, 11 Apr. 1856, 3 Aug. 1870; P.R.O., RG 9/1985.

<sup>47</sup> P.R.O., RG 10/2928.

<sup>48</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VIII, deed of 9 June 1877; Prestwood leases, cat. of sale of Gothersley mills Sept. 1891; Hunt, *Mineral Statistics 1876*, 8; 1877, 86; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 108-9.

<sup>49</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 110.

<sup>50</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver II, deed of 7 June 1783.

<sup>51</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 110-11.

<sup>52</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/4, p. 54.

<sup>53</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24/Kinver Sch., Lord Stamford to Geo. Wharton 4 Feb. 1837 and Wharton to Stamford 6 Feb. 1837.

<sup>54</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/23, sale partics.; Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 111.

<sup>55</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 111-12A; Sherlock, *Ind. Arch. Staffs.* 174-5; R. Benbow, 'Story of Kinver Volunteer Fire Brigade' (TS. in Kinver Libr.), 6, 8; D. M. Bills and E. and W. R. Griffiths, *Kinver: a closer look* (Kinver, 1981), 8.

*Kinver Village Trail* (Kinver Civic Soc. 1981 edn.); O.S. Map 1/2,500, Staffs. LXX. 16 (1924 edn.).

<sup>56</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 23 Feb. 1732/3; vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Halfcot, no. 129.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid. Kinver VII, deed of 17 Jan. 1759; S.R.O., D. (W.) 1921/4.

<sup>58</sup> W.S.L.S.MS. 468, p. 118.

<sup>59</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Halfcot I, deeds of 22 Mar. 1781, 1 Aug. 1801.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid. Prestwood Estate surveys I.

<sup>61</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 116.

<sup>62</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 24 April 1601.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid. ct. of survey 24 Oct. 1625.

<sup>64</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Ric. Burneford (1628).

<sup>65</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, deed of 14 Jan. 1635/6.

<sup>66</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Fra. Bennett (1669), Wm. Bennett (1681); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Checkhill I, copy deed of 14 Mar. 1669/70.

<sup>67</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Checkhill I, deed of 24 Apr. 1689; Checkhill III, deed of 8 Mar. 1682/3.

<sup>68</sup> Below (cloth).

<sup>69</sup> S.R.O., D. 648/22/1/1; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, deed of 23 Mar. 1690/1.

<sup>70</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/F/VI/KBC/10.

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1706 and built a bridge over Smestow brook. By 1716 his widow Jane was running the mill.<sup>71</sup> By the mid 1730s it had been rebuilt as a slitting mill.

A nailshop in the borough was described as a fire hazard in 1672,<sup>72</sup> and there was evidently a nailer working in the borough in 1696.<sup>73</sup> Three nailers were recorded in the Stourton area in 1683. One of them was working there in 1681, and another was there at his death in 1696.<sup>74</sup> There was a nailer at Iverley in 1706 and 1710,<sup>75</sup> and in 1714 Esdras Poole of Kinver was described as a nailer and brickmaker.<sup>76</sup> There was a nailshop in Stone Lane in 1760.<sup>77</sup> In 1829-30 there were 5 nailshops in High Street, 1 at Stourton, 2 near Dunsley, 2 at Whittington, and 2 at Iverley.<sup>78</sup> In 1841 there were 4 nailers living in Kinver village, 3 of them in Nailers Row off High Street; there was also a nailer at Stourton and another at Dunsley.<sup>79</sup> There was still a nailer in High Street in 1851 and a nailshop at Iverley in 1883.<sup>80</sup> The ironworks at Whittington was occupied by the Whittington Patent Horse Nail Co. Ltd. from 1883 to 1893.<sup>81</sup>

**CLOTH.** There is some evidence that a local cloth industry existed by the 14th century. Thomas the comber ('combere') of Kinver and William the walker of Whittington were mentioned in 1327,<sup>82</sup> and heriots due from tenants of Kinver manor in 1387 included an uncut length of cloth.<sup>83</sup> There was a fulling mill at Whittington in 1515.<sup>84</sup> The tenement in the borough called the 'tuke' house in 1544 was presumably connected with tucking, or cloth working.<sup>85</sup> Thomas Hazelwood, who lived in the borough, was working as a clothier at his death in 1568.<sup>86</sup> A fulling mill was built on the Stour at the Hyde c. 1590; it was converted into a slitting mill in the later 1620s.<sup>87</sup> There was land called Tenter furlong at Kinver Hill in the early 17th century.<sup>88</sup> Thomas Hackett of Kinver was a wool carrier when he died in 1622,<sup>89</sup> and several clothiers were again recorded from 1640.<sup>90</sup> By 1698 the blade

mill at Checkhill had been converted into a fulling mill and was worked by John Heath.<sup>91</sup> It was held by John Insall in the 1730s and by Thomas Arnott in 1789.<sup>92</sup> It became a corn mill soon afterwards.<sup>93</sup> In the mid 18th century Kinver was producing both coarse and fine narrow cloth; according to Richard Wilkes, the latter was comparable in quality to western broad cloth.<sup>94</sup> By the 1830s the industry was only a memory.<sup>95</sup>

**LEATHER.** Two glovers were recorded at Kinver in 1414.<sup>96</sup> There was a tanner there in 1571.<sup>97</sup> The appointment of leather searchers for the borough was recorded four times between 1619 and 1624 and again in 1662 and 1669.<sup>98</sup> Glovers and tanners were recorded during the 17th century, including a glover at Compton. In 1632 the warehouse of the deceased John Catteroll, or Catheralle, a glover of the borough, contained some 300 sheep pelts, another 95 skins with the wool on, 100 sheep's 'leather', 19 calf skins, other leather, and wool.<sup>99</sup> There was a skinner living at Stourton in the earlier 1680s.<sup>1</sup>

**STONE, SAND, AND GRAVEL.** A quarry in the Comber area was mentioned in 1498.<sup>2</sup> In the early 1520s there was a quarry at 'Hygley' within the manor of Stourton and Kinver.<sup>3</sup> A waste called Quarry hill was mentioned in 1601, and stone was dug at Copton hill in the early 1620s.<sup>4</sup> In 1631 stone from Stapenhill was assigned for the rebuilding of Halfcot bridge.<sup>5</sup> A quarry of red sandstone on Checkhill common was worked by the Foleys in the earlier 18th century.<sup>6</sup> There were two disused quarries in Compton in 1882, one north-west of Greyfields Court and the other north-west of Compton Court Farm. There was also a working quarry north of the Hyde, itself disused by 1901.<sup>7</sup>

A sand pit in Castle field west of Stourton Castle was mentioned in 1619, although it is not clear that it was then being worked.<sup>8</sup> The existence

<sup>71</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, deeds of 23 Mar. 1690/1, 4 July 1706, 15 Sept. 1716.

<sup>72</sup> Below, p. 153.

<sup>73</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver I, deed of 15 Sept. 1696.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid. Stourton III, deed of 17 Mar. 1680/1; Checkhill II, deed of 13 June 1683; L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Wm. Lyne (1696).

<sup>75</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley I, deed of 21 Mar. 1709/10; Iverley V, deed of 29 Mar. 1706.

<sup>76</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/5/25.

<sup>77</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver copyhold estates 1831, W. Bright's sched., opening 15.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. Stourton I, deed of 1830; S.R.O., D. 891/4, pp. 40, 47, 51, 76, 82-3, 100-1.

<sup>79</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/1002.

<sup>80</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley II, deed of 10 Feb. 1883.

<sup>81</sup> S.H.C. vii (1), 246; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, p. 3.

<sup>82</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1.

<sup>83</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver IX, deed of 16 Jan. 1543/4.

<sup>84</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Thos. Haselwod (1568).

<sup>85</sup> Cooksley, 'Iron Ind. of Kinver', 45-6; S.H.C. 1930, 358; above (iron).

<sup>86</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 12 Oct. 1613.

<sup>87</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Thos. Hackett (1622).

<sup>88</sup> e.g. ibid. John Cooke (1640); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., boro. cts. of 6 Oct.

1662, 20 Oct. 1681, 3 May 1729; Kinver VII, deed of 7 Mar. 1731/2; S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2, burials of 1684/5, 1698 sqq.; B.R.L. 338247 (1723); below, chars. for the poor.

<sup>91</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2, burial of 15 July 1698.

<sup>92</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans; ibid. Kingsley Manor, deeds of 2 and 3 Dec. 1789.

<sup>93</sup> Above (mills).

<sup>94</sup> White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 259.

<sup>95</sup> S.H.C. xvii, 52.

<sup>96</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629 and ct. papers 17th and 18th cents.

<sup>97</sup> e.g. L.J.R.O., B/C/11, John Willett (1625), Ric. White (1630), John Catteroll (1632), Rob. Dickens (1633), Geof. Cooke (1636); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton Hallows ct. rolls, ct. of 3 Nov. 1647; S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2, burials of 14 Aug. 1691, 7 Aug. 1696, 21 June 1698.

<sup>98</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stourton III, deed of 17 Mar. 1680/1; Checkhill II, deed of 13 June 1683.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid. Kinver I, deed of 30 Aug. 1498.

<sup>1</sup> S.R.O., D. 593/O/3/5.

<sup>2</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 2 Apr. 1601, 21 Oct. 1622, 21 Apr., 10 Oct. 1623.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. Kingswinford I, memo. of 26 May 1631.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. Staffs. legal papers, Foley v. Powell, prosecution brief.

<sup>5</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. SE. (1888 edn.), SW. (1887 and 1904 edns.). A quarry shown at the north end of Kinver Edge in 1888 was apparently a gravel pit: below.

<sup>6</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 18 Jan. 1618/19.



of land called Sand Pit Piece in Dunsley in 1797 indicates sand working there at some date.<sup>9</sup> Sand was being dug near Stapenhill c. 1830 and was worked in the 20th century at various places on both sides of the Stourbridge Canal, which was used to transport it.<sup>10</sup> A pit opened at Stewponey in 1934<sup>11</sup> was still worked in 1982. Pits were worked in the Whittington area in the late 19th and the 20th century, the last being abandoned in the late 1970s.<sup>12</sup> Several were worked at Iverley in the 20th century.<sup>13</sup>

There was a gravel pit on the site of the present Comber Ridge burial ground in Church Road in the later 18th century; disused by 1901, it was worked again by 1921. A pit south-west of the hillfort on Kinver Edge in the later 18th century was still worked in the early 20th century.<sup>14</sup> There was gravel working south of Checkhill Farm in the later 19th century, and it was still in progress in 1921.<sup>15</sup>

**BRICKS.** In 1671 Wortley Whorwood leased a brick kiln at Checkhill, with the right to get clay, sand, and turf there, to Richard Smallman, a brickmaker of Kinver, and his family. The lease also included land on the common on which Richard agreed to build a house.<sup>16</sup> The Smallmans continued to live and work at Checkhill until 1722, receiving payment for 13,000 bricks in 1674 and giving 40,000 bricks as a consideration for a new lease in 1691.<sup>17</sup> On the death of William Smallman in 1722 the residue of a further lease passed to his cousin William Powell of Checkhill, one of another family of brickmakers. The lease passed through various hands before being sold back to John Hodgetts of Prestwood in 1782.<sup>18</sup>

**GLASS.** The Kinver Crystal Glass Co.'s works in Fairfield Drive south of Stone Lane was opened in 1978.<sup>19</sup>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT.** From the 13th century Kinver manor was divided between the borough and the foreign. Three sub-manors also developed. By 1622 the parish formed a single constablewick divided into seven areas: Kinver town, Kinver Hill, Stourton, Halfcot, Dunsley, Whittington, and Compton. The manor court

ordered that two men from the town and one from each of the other townships were to receive officials' accounts that year.<sup>20</sup> The same seven divisions were shown in the hearth tax assessment of 1666.<sup>21</sup> By the 1780s Kinver Hill had disappeared and Iverley had appeared; from 1806 the Hyde formed an eighth division. From 1830 the Hyde was joined with Stourton, and Dunsley with Halfcot.<sup>22</sup> By the mid 19th century the six divisions had become four, Kinver, Stourton with the Hyde, Whittington, and Compton.<sup>23</sup>

**BOROUGH.** About 1270 the lord of Kinver manor granted his burgesses at Kinver the same liberties as the burgesses of Kidderminster, but the only rights detailed in his charter were economic privileges.<sup>24</sup> By 1293 the lord of the manor held a separate borough court, called the hundred of Kinver until 1432; a great hundred was held in the spring and autumn by the 1420s. The rolls surviving from 1422 show that the borough courts, great and small, were normally held with the foreign courts. After the 15th century there are few instances of the holding of the small court. As with the foreign the spring court ceased in the 1750s. The autumn court continued to be held with the foreign court until 1906; it was discontinued in 1907.<sup>25</sup>

There was a bailiff of the borough by 1293. By 1422 a bailiff and two tasters were elected at the autumn court, a practice which continued until 1906. The bailiff was styled the high bailiff from 1808. A town crier was appointed at the court from 1877.<sup>26</sup> In 1592 the court ordered that borough officials should present their accounts to the bailiff 'and others appointed for receiving thereof' within two months of going out of office.<sup>27</sup> The bailiff's office evidently rotated among certain property holders. In September 1626 John Eaton of London was chosen in respect of a house occupied by Richard Wolverley; the following March the court ordered Wolverley to serve for the rest of the term, Eaton being unable to do so since he was 'the king's servant and a trained soldier'.<sup>28</sup>

A town hall was built in 1619 in High Street south of its junction with the lane later called Vicarage Drive.<sup>29</sup> It was taken down c. 1825 and its timber frame re-erected near Barratt's

<sup>9</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/10, deed of 6 Feb. 1797.

<sup>10</sup> Scott, *Stourbridge*, 182; O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. SE. (1888, 1903, 1925 edns.); LXXI. NW. (1887, 1903, 1925 edns.); SW. (1888, 1903, 1921 edns.); H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood leases, draft deed of 1858; Prestwood sales, rep. on part of estate 1905 and letters from H. T. F. King and C. W. Roberts to P. H. Foley 22 and 24 Oct. 1917.

<sup>11</sup> Inf. from Staffs. C.C. Planning Dept.; T. H. Whitehead and R. W. Pocock, *Memoirs of Geol. Surv., Dudley and Bridgnorth*, 153.

<sup>12</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. SE. (1888, 1903, 1925 edns.); LXXIV. NE. (1903 and 1925 edns.); Whitehead and Pocock, *Dudley and Bridgnorth*, 150; inf. from Mr. J. W. King.

<sup>13</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXXV. NW. (1925 edn.), with the 1903 edn. showing 2 pits on the Wores. side of the boundary; O.S. Map 1/2,500, SO 88 (1961 edn.); Whitehead and Pocock, *Dudley and Bridgnorth*, 150, 181.

<sup>14</sup> S.R.O., Q/RDc 36; O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. NW. (1888, 1903, 1925 edns.).

<sup>15</sup> O.S. Map 6", Staffs. LXX. NE. (1889, 1903, 1925 edns.).

<sup>16</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Whorwood inheritance, deed of 23 Feb. 1670/1.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. Checkhill I, deed of 14 Apr. 1691; Checkhill III, acct. 25 July 1674; Stourton III, deed of 26 Mar. 1705.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid. Checkhill I, will of Wm. Smallman 25 July 1722; Checkhill III, deeds of 26 Sept. 1730, 22 Feb. 1744/5, 1 May 1747, 24 Apr. 1782.

<sup>19</sup> Inf. from Mr. D. M. Bills.

<sup>20</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, foreign ct. of 21 Oct. 1622. For Kingsley, a detached part of the manor in Tettenhall, see above, Tettenhall.

<sup>21</sup> S.H.C. 1923, 106-10.

<sup>22</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1 and 2; D. 1197/5/1.

<sup>23</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Kinver, 3rd sched.

<sup>24</sup> Above, econ. hist.

<sup>25</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls; ibid. Kinver boro. ct. bks. 1763-1840, 1841-1906.

<sup>26</sup> See refs. in preceding note.

<sup>27</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 18 Sept. 1592.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid. cts. of 26 Sept. 1626, 27 Mar. 1627.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid. cts. of 19 Oct. 1619, 21 Oct. 1622.

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

Coppice south of the Stourbridge road.<sup>30</sup> Nothing further is known of it. In 1460 the borough court fined a group of men for breaking the gumblestool and the pillory.<sup>31</sup>

**MANORIAL GOVERNMENT.** By the mid 1250s the lord of Kinver had a free court and view of frankpledge.<sup>32</sup> In 1293 he claimed two free courts a year.<sup>33</sup> A three-weekly court was held in June and July that year while the manor was in the king's hands.<sup>34</sup> There was mention of the twice-yearly court in 1315,<sup>35</sup> and record survives of a meeting of the great court in October 1388 and meetings of the small court in November and December 1407.<sup>36</sup> Court rolls survive, with gaps, from 1422 and show great courts regularly held in the spring and autumn with intermediate small courts of varying frequency.<sup>37</sup> The duty of suit every three weeks was mentioned several times in the mid 15th century.<sup>38</sup> The spring court ceased in the 1750s,<sup>39</sup> but an October court continued until 1918, although by then there had long ceased to be any business. Separate small courts (or courts baron) continued until December 1860, and special courts baron were held in February 1888 and February 1889. Surrenders and admissions took place before the steward of the manor in the offices of Bernard, King & Sons, a firm of Stourbridge solicitors, until 1920.<sup>40</sup>

In the later 17th century the town hall in the borough seems to have been the usual meeting place of the manor court. A court of November 1681, however, met at Stourton, one of April 1700 at Halfcot, and another of July 1734 at Stourton. From 1740 the meeting place was frequently stated to be a dwelling house or an inn, notably the Stewponney.<sup>41</sup> From 1818 to 1918 the White Hart in High Street was the normal meeting place, although the Stewponney was used in 1822 and 1836.<sup>42</sup>

A reeve was elected at a small court in 1293 while the manor was in the king's hands.<sup>43</sup> By the 15th century he was normally appointed at the October great court, and elections were recorded until 1749.<sup>44</sup> The person chosen was sometimes stated to be serving in respect of certain property; in 1745 William Foley, the lord of Kinver, was

appointed in respect of land bought from Edward Oliver.<sup>45</sup> A woman was elected in 1681 and 1708.<sup>46</sup>

A beadle was elected at a small court in 1293,<sup>47</sup> but by the 15th century he was normally chosen at the October great court.<sup>48</sup> His election had ceased to be recorded by the late 16th century, although a beadle continued to be appointed; he was styled a bailiff from the later 19th century.<sup>49</sup>

The lord of Kinver claimed assize of bread and ale in 1293, and two tasters were elected for the manor in June that year.<sup>50</sup> Two were regularly appointed at the October great court by the 15th century and were last recorded for the foreign in 1713.<sup>51</sup>

The election of a constable was recorded at the October great court for the foreign in 1422, 1434, and 1441, and the appointment was recorded annually in surviving court rolls from 1446. From 1457 the constable was sometimes appointed at the borough court.<sup>52</sup> By the late 16th century it had become the custom for the foreign to appoint two years out of three and the borough one, a practice which continued evidently until the late 1830s. The borough then began to appoint more frequently and from 1843 made the appointment every year until the discontinuance of its court in 1907. Between 1614 and 1621 the court not appointing the constable appointed a tithingman. Between 1826 and 1841 one or two deputy constables were normally appointed by the borough. In October 1619 Thomas Bate was granted exemption from ever serving as constable in consideration of his having contributed 20s. towards the building of the town hall.<sup>53</sup>

The lord of Kinver claimed gallows, pillory, and infangthief in 1293.<sup>54</sup> Gallowstree hill west of Potter's Cross was mentioned in 1650.<sup>55</sup> The name Gallowstree Elm was used for land north of Potter's Cross and had given its name to that area by the mid 19th century.<sup>56</sup>

In 1634 sheep found grazing in Checkhill coppice were put in the common pound of Kinver.<sup>57</sup> It stood in Mill Lane, still its site in the 19th century.<sup>58</sup> In 1730 it was stated in the manor court to be out of repair and to be the lord's responsibility.<sup>59</sup> In 1837, however, the vestry

<sup>30</sup> Pitt, *Staffs.* i. 196; W. Pincock, *Hist. and Topog. of Staffs.* (1823), 46; Scott, *Stourbridge*, 170.

<sup>31</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 25, ct. of 7 Jan. 1459/60.

<sup>32</sup> S.H.C. v (1), 116.

<sup>33</sup> S.H.C. vi (1), 241.

<sup>34</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>35</sup> Above, manors and other estates (Compton Hallows).

<sup>36</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, copies of ct. rolls; Salop. R.O. 1781/2/337 (ref. supplied by Mr. J. W. King).

<sup>37</sup> In H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S. The main gap is from 1498 to 1590.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 13, ct. of 6 Oct. 1438; bdle. 14, cts. of 28 Dec. 1439, 29 Feb. 1439/40; bdle. 26, ct. of 18 May 1461.

<sup>39</sup> The last recorded was on 18 Apr. 1750: *ibid.* Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. Kinver and Compton Hallows ct. bk. 1888-1920.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 17th and 18th cents. (from Oct. 1662); Kinver ct. rolls 1681-1702; Kinver, Compton Hallows, and Kingsley ct. bk. 1734-61; Kinver and Kingsley ct. bk. 1767-1801; S.R.O., D. 695/1/40/1.

<sup>42</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver and Compton Hallows ct. bks. 1800-1920.

<sup>43</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>44</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 24, ct. of 5 Oct. 1457; 1681-1702, ct. of 21 Oct. 1686; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of 26 Oct. 1726, 28 Oct. 1730, 16 Oct. 1745.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of 20 Oct. 1681, 26 Oct. 1708.

<sup>47</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>48</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 12 Oct. 1613, 5 May, 21 Oct. 1628, 20 Oct. 1629; Kinver etc. ct. bks. 1734-1920.

<sup>50</sup> P.R.O., SC 6/202/64.

<sup>51</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498; Kinver ct. rolls 17th and 18th cents.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629; Kinver ct. rolls 17th and 18th cents.; Kinver boro. ct. bks. 1763-1840, 1841-1906.

<sup>54</sup> S.H.C. vi (1), 257.

<sup>55</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton I, deed of 7 July 1650.

<sup>56</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/15/Kinver, nos. 771, 788; P.R.O., HO 107/2017.

<sup>57</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/6, exemplification of verdict 1634.

<sup>58</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VII, deed of 18 May 1648; S.R.O., D. 891/4, p. 54.

<sup>59</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., ct. of 25 Apr. 1730.

ordered its repair with the cost allowed in the accounts of the highway surveyors. In 1853 the vestry ordered the surveyors to appoint a pinner.<sup>60</sup>

A court was held for Horewood (later Compton Hallows) manor by 1294 when pleas and perquisites were valued at 5s. a year.<sup>61</sup> Although in 1346 it was stated that there were no pleas and perquisites,<sup>62</sup> a court baron was held at Horewood in 1363.<sup>63</sup> Records survive of courts in 1492, 1504, and 1510 and (with gaps) from 1559 to 1575.<sup>64</sup> Early in the 17th century Compton Hallows was described as 'an obscure manor within which there has been no court baron holden for many years past'.<sup>65</sup> Although the lord of Compton was usually the lord of Kinver from the late 16th century, separate courts baron were again held for Compton at varying intervals from 1610 until at least 1800.<sup>66</sup> About that time the Foleys sold all their land in Compton.<sup>67</sup> From 1806 the name Kinver and Compton Hallows was used for the nominally joint manors.<sup>68</sup> The Compton court was held somewhere within the manor in 1633 and 1635 and at Compton Hall in 1647. Earlier in 1647 and in 1657 it was held at Kinver, which was again given as the meeting place in 1755, 1764, and 1765. The last recorded courts, in 1791 and 1800, were held at the Stewponey inn.<sup>69</sup> A pound keeper for Compton manor was mentioned in 1569.<sup>70</sup>

Records survive of a court baron held by the Greys for the manor of Whittington at intervals between 1618 and 1705.<sup>71</sup> No court records are known for Dunsley manor.

**PARISH GOVERNMENT.** The Kinver churchwardens were mentioned in 1498,<sup>72</sup> and there were two in 1553.<sup>73</sup> In 1830 it was stated that they were appointed alternately by the minister and the parishioners.<sup>74</sup> In the earlier 18th century the parish clerk received, in addition to fees, £2 9s. a year from the churchwardens, 2d. from every householder, and 4d. from everyone keeping a plough.<sup>75</sup> In 1830 his salary was £8 8s. and he was appointed by the minister.<sup>76</sup> There was a nobbler by 1743, receiving 2s. 6d. a quarter; by 1799 he received 3s. 6d.<sup>77</sup> In the 1880s his office of rousing sleepers during the sermon was performed by the beadle, who also acted as sexton.<sup>78</sup>

There were two overseers of the poor in the 18th century and three in 1831.<sup>79</sup> Three houses in

Swan Lane, later Vicarage Drive, were leased to the parish in 1739 for 21 years and converted into a workhouse.<sup>80</sup> By 1830 the workhouse was at the foot of Church Hill adjoining the house known in 1982 as Clifford Cottage.<sup>81</sup> By 1758 there was a parish house at Whittington.<sup>82</sup> It had presumably been formed out of three cottages on the south side of Horse Bridge Lane which had been sold to trustees by Mary Newey in 1717 and which formed the endowment of a charity for the poor. By 1812 the cottages had been converted into five dwellings known as the almshouses and let to poor persons rent free.<sup>83</sup> In 1830 they were occupied by three men and two women; two of the holdings included nailshops.<sup>84</sup> There were still five so-called almshouses in 1861; in 1871 they were described as parish houses and only four were occupied.<sup>85</sup> In 1906 there were only four houses, evidently no longer used as poor-houses.<sup>86</sup> In 1835 the vestry gave permission for a pauper to move into a house owned by the parish at the Rock, probably Holy Austin Rock, and in 1836 it ordered the repair of houses at the Rock.<sup>87</sup> In the 1750s and in 1786 the vestry appointed a surgeon to provide medical care for the poor.<sup>88</sup>

The manor court continued to exercise control over parish affairs into the 18th century. In 1592 it ordered the constable, churchwardens, highway surveyors, 'and all other officers within this manor' to present their accounts within 40 days of leaving office and at the same time to hand over any money in their keeping. Similar orders continued until the early 1620s and fines were imposed on defaulters. In 1623 the court left the constable or churchwardens to fix the time and place for accounting and to issue the summons.<sup>89</sup> The two highway surveyors were frequently presented in the borough and foreign courts in the 17th and earlier 18th century for failing to maintain roads.<sup>90</sup> By the 1740s, however, the vestry was passing the churchwardens' accounts and administering poor relief.<sup>91</sup>

Kinver became part of Seisdon poor-law union in 1836.<sup>92</sup> It was in Seisdon rural district until 1974 when it became part of South Staffordshire district.<sup>93</sup>

**PUBLIC SERVICES.** The Giant's Well near the junction of Compton Road and Stone Lane provided a water supply for many centuries; so

<sup>60</sup> W.S.L., notes on Kinver par., notes from vestry min. bk.

<sup>61</sup> S.H.C. 1911, 222.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid. 1913, 114.

<sup>63</sup> Salop. R.O. 1781/2/336 (ref. supplied by Mr. J. W. King).

<sup>64</sup> Ibid. 338; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton Hallows ct. rolls.

<sup>65</sup> P.R.O., REQ 2/404/10. <sup>66</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton Hallows ct. rolls; Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 1610; Kinver, Compton Hallows, and Kingsley ct. bk. 1734-61; Kinver and Kingsley ct. bk. 1767-1801.

<sup>67</sup> Above, manors and other estates.

<sup>68</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver and Compton Hallows ct. bk. 1800-36.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid. Compton Hallows ct. rolls; S.R.O., D. 801/2/1.

<sup>70</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Compton Hallows ct. rolls.

<sup>71</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12.

<sup>72</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver I, deed of 30 Aug. 1498.

<sup>73</sup> S.H.C. 1915, 141.

<sup>74</sup> S.H.C. 4th ser. x, 15.

<sup>75</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver.

<sup>76</sup> S.H.C. 4th ser. x, 15.

<sup>77</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1.

<sup>78</sup> N. Price, *Into an Hour-glass*, 44.

<sup>79</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1 and 7.

<sup>80</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1; D. 1197/5/31.

<sup>81</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 907; *ibid.* 4, p. 36; inf. from Mr. J. W. King.

<sup>82</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1.

<sup>83</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/5/2; below, charities for the poor.

<sup>84</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, no. 1183; *ibid.* 4, p. 76.

<sup>85</sup> P.R.O., RG 9/1985; RG 10/2928.

<sup>86</sup> *Staffs. Endowed Chars.* 76-7.

<sup>87</sup> W.S.L., notes on Kinver par., extracts from vestry min. bk. 21 Nov. 1835, 30 July 1836.

<sup>88</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1.

<sup>89</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 18 Sept. 1592, 16 Apr., 1 Oct. 1610, 5 Oct. 1618, 13 Apr. 1619, 21 Oct. 1622, 21 Apr., 13 Oct. 1623.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.* cts. of e.g. 5 Oct. 1618, 11 Oct. 1625; Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents.

<sup>91</sup> *3rd Ann. Rep. Poor Law Com.* H.C. 546, p. 164 (1837), xxxi.

<sup>92</sup> O.S. Map 1/100,000, Staffs. Admin. Areas (1967 and 1974 edns.).

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

named by 1774, it survived until the Heath Drive estate was built in 1956.<sup>94</sup> In the early 17th century there was a public washing place called Lady Well pool near Pigeonhouse Farm in Compton.<sup>95</sup> In the early 19th century there was a public watering place at the Hole on the Wolverhampton-Kidderminster road north of Whittington.<sup>96</sup> A cistern, probably of the 19th century, still stands at the junction of Bannut Tree Road and Sheepwalks Lane in Compton. In 1900 the medical officer of health for Seisdon rural district reported that many people in Kinver dared not use their wells. Between 1898 and 1901 water from 14 wells in the parish was analysed; six, all in Kinver High Street, were found to be polluted. In 1902 the medical officer stressed that the matter was serious because of the thousands of visitors who came to Kinver each year.<sup>97</sup> In 1901 the Stourbridge Water Works Co. (from 1909 the Stourbridge and District Water Board) agreed to lay pipes to supply Iverley.<sup>98</sup> In 1908 Seisdon rural district council opened a water works in Mill Lane, and by 1912 nearly all the houses in Kinver village had mains water. Mains were laid to Dunsley in 1914 and to Whittington in 1918.<sup>99</sup> A new works was opened north of the 1908 works in 1939.<sup>1</sup> Prestwood water works in Gothersley Lane is dated 1926.

Stourbridge Main Drainage Board opened a 129-a. sewage works in Whittington Hall Lane in 1884; by 1899 its Whittington sewage farm covered c. 250 a., and it bought another 44 a. in 1908.<sup>2</sup> The Upper Stour Valley Main Sewerage Board opened the 650-a. Whittington Hall sewage farm to the west and south-west in 1898.<sup>3</sup> In the early 20th century Kingswinford rural district council opened a works on Round Hill farm north of the Stourbridge Board's farm despite local opposition. P. H. Foley objected that the works would cut his estate in two. Kinver parish council objected that one tenth of the parish was already taken up for outsiders' sewage.<sup>4</sup> None of the works served Kinver itself, which by the late 1890s badly needed drainage. In 1914 the rural district council built the present sewage works between the canal and the Stour south of Windsor Holloway. The connexion of house drains with the sewerage system was delayed by the First

World War but was completed in 1921.<sup>5</sup> At Round Hill a new works was built north of Gibbet Lane in the 1960s.<sup>6</sup>

In 1849 the vestry ordered two of three cottages on the corner of High Street and Vicarage Drive to be converted into a temporary hospital in case of a cholera outbreak.<sup>7</sup> There was a cottage hospital for infectious diseases at Potter's Cross by 1880, serving Seisdon union; it was closed in 1895 shortly after the opening of an isolation hospital at the Bratch, in Wombourne.<sup>8</sup> Edge View in Comber Road had been taken over as a sanatorium for men by the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton, and Dudley Joint Committee for Tuberculosis by 1920; from the early 1970s it was used as a home for spastic children.<sup>9</sup>

The cemetery at the west end of Church Road was opened in 1980.<sup>10</sup>

The Kinver Gas Light Co. opened a works in the early 1860s on the south side of the canal east of Mill Lane. Gas was made there until 1917 when the company was merged with the Brierley Hill Gas Co.; gas was then supplied from Brierley Hill and later from Dudley. The holder was rebuilt in 1923, and a second was added later to meet increasing demand in the area. Both were demolished c. 1970.<sup>11</sup>

In 1592 the borough court ordered every burgess to keep 16 staves in his house, and in 1619 it ordered every householder in the borough to keep a club at least 6 ft. long for the assistance of the king's officers.<sup>12</sup> The churchwardens paid 2s. 6d. for a pair of handcuffs in 1756-7.<sup>13</sup> A curfew was rung from October to March by the later 1820s, and it continued until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.<sup>14</sup> There was a police officer living in High Street in 1851 and in Mill Lane in 1861. By 1871 a house in High Street was occupied by a sergeant and a constable.<sup>15</sup> In the late 19th century a rented house 'in an exceedingly out of the way part of the village' was used as a police station; it had accommodation for a sergeant and a constable with a lock-up which was 'nothing more than a cupboard'.<sup>16</sup> In the earlier 1890s property in Mill Lane was bought and converted into a station.<sup>17</sup> A new station was opened at the north end of High Street in 1908 and rebuilt in 1968.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>94</sup> Plaque on drinking fountain at junction of Compton Rd. and Heather Drive; S.R.O., Q/RDc 36.

<sup>95</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 11 Apr. 1614, 10 Apr. 1615. Lady Well Lane bounded a close called Wallcroft on Pigeonhouse farm: deeds of 22 Oct. 1647 and 15 Oct. 1659 in the possession of Mr. T. R. Brown of Pigeonhouse Farm.

<sup>96</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/4, p. 102.

<sup>97</sup> Seisdon R.D.C. *Rep. of M.O.H. for 1900*, 7 (copy in S.R.O., C/H/1/2/1/11); 1901, 6 (copy in C/H/1/2/1/13); 1902, 6 (copy in C/H/1/2/1/15).

<sup>98</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Iverley III.

<sup>99</sup> Seisdon R.D.C. *Rep. of M.O.H. for 1908*, 7 (copy in S.R.O., C/H/1/2/1/27); 1912, 6 (copy in C/H/1/2/1/35); 1914, 5; 1918, 7 (copies in C/H/1/2/2/36).

<sup>1</sup> F. E. Campbell, *Royal Kinver*, 31 (copy in W.S.L. Pamphs.). The building is dated 1938.

<sup>2</sup> *County Express*, 18 Feb. 1899; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/35, deeds of 25 Mar. 1885, 23 Dec. 1908; O.S. Map 6'', Staffs. LXX. SE. (1903 edn.).

<sup>3</sup> *County Express*, 18 Feb. 1899; O.S. Map 6'', Staffs. LXX. SE. (1903 edn.); LXXIV. NE. (1903 edn.).

<sup>4</sup> *County Express*, 18 Feb., 17 June 1899; 9 Aug. 1913; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Prestwood sales, notes on Prestwood 1905.

<sup>5</sup> Seisdon R.D.C. *Rep. of M.O.H. for 1898*, 7 (copy in S.R.O., C/H/1/2/1/9); 1914, 5; 1918, 5; 1921, 7; 1925, 9 (copies in C/H/1/2/2/36); O.S. Map 6'', Staffs. LXXIV. NE. (1925 edn.).

<sup>6</sup> *Express & Star*, 24 Jan. 1960.

<sup>7</sup> W.S.L., notes on Kinver par., extracts from vestry min. bk.

<sup>8</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1880); Seisdon R.D.C. *Rep. of M.O.H. for 1895*, 7 (copy in S.R.O., C/H/1/2/1/6); below, Wombourne.

<sup>9</sup> Seisdon R.D.C. *Rep. of M.O.H. for 1920*, 5; 1923, 6-7 (copies in S.R.O., C/H/1/2/2/36); inf. from Mr. D. M. Bills.

<sup>10</sup> Below, church.

<sup>11</sup> Campbell, *Royal Kinver*, 31-2; S.R.O., D. 3579/1/1, 12 Nov., 13 Dec. 1860; inf. from Mr. Bills.

<sup>12</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, cts. of 20 Mar. 1591/2, 19 Oct. 1619.

<sup>13</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 4/2; T. S. Jennings, *Hist. of Staffs. Bells*, 8; N. Price, *Into an Hour-glass*, 45.

<sup>15</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017; P.R.O., RG 9/1985 and 2928.

<sup>16</sup> S.R.O., C/PC/VIII/2/3, p. 207.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* pp. 214, 217, 249, 306; inf. from Mr. Bills.

<sup>18</sup> Inf. from Mr. Bills, *Express & Star*, 11 Oct. 1968.

In the 17th century the courts of the borough and the foreign concerned themselves with precautions against fire. The borough court was particularly active. In 1620 it appointed two inspectors to check every house in the borough for fire risks,<sup>19</sup> and in the later 17th century it made orders against dangerous chimneys and the storage of combustible materials.<sup>20</sup> In 1672 it found William Tyer's nailshop 'very dangerous for fire' and ordered him to remove it or put it in order.<sup>21</sup> In 1673 the foreign court forbade John Powell and 'any of his company' to carry fire or candles into his outhouses.<sup>22</sup>

Kinver was served by the Stourbridge volunteer fire brigade from 1899 until 1915 when it formed its own volunteer brigade with a station in Mill Lane adjoining the pumping station. The brigade was presented with its first motor fire engine by the Stourbridge brigade in 1936. The engine was replaced in 1938 with a Lanchester limousine given by H. J. Folkes of Stourton Hall; the cost of conversion was met from the surplus of money collected for the coronation celebrations in 1937. Early in the Second World War the cinema in High Street was turned into the central fire station. In 1948 a temporary station was built in the Acre on the south side of High Street and the part-time brigade, replaced during the war, was restored. A new station was opened in Fairfield Drive in 1957 with a full-time resident fireman. In 1980, with reductions in public spending, the service became part-time again.<sup>23</sup>

In 1818 Edward Green, a wheelwright of Kinver, was organizing a daily 'bye post' to Stourbridge.<sup>24</sup> In the earlier 1830s Benjamin Fieldhouse, keeper of the White Hart and a carrier, took letters to and from Stourbridge each day.<sup>25</sup> By the mid 1840s James Bennett was running a post office in Kinver to which letters were brought from Stourbridge by foot post in the morning and from which they were dispatched in the late afternoon.<sup>26</sup> There was a post office at Stourton also by 1861.<sup>27</sup> In 1908 the Kinver village post and telegraph office moved from no. 33 High Street to no. 28, and later a telephone exchange was installed there. In 1960 an automatic exchange was built at Dunsley, and the post office moved to the opposite side of High Street, where it remained in 1982.<sup>28</sup>

**CHURCH.** The presence of a priest at Kinver in 1086<sup>29</sup> indicates the existence of a church. By the

time of Richard I the patronage was held by the Crown. In 1228 Henry III recognized that it had been granted by King John to Philip son of Helgot as an appurtenance of the manor and that Philip's son John was the patron.<sup>30</sup> The patronage descended with the manor to John's son John.<sup>31</sup> His right was challenged by the Crown in 1293, and when he was granted the manor for life that year the advowson was withheld.<sup>32</sup> The Crown presented in 1324 and continued to do so until the 1360s.<sup>33</sup> In 1363 the king granted the advowson to the Cistercian abbey of Bordesley (Worcs.) with licence to appropriate the church.<sup>34</sup> The licence was renewed in 1380, and the same year Bishop Stretton appropriated the church to Bordesley, stipulating that on the cession or death of the existing rector the church was to be served by a chaplain removable at the will of the abbot.<sup>35</sup> The abbey granted pensions of 6s. 8d. each to the bishop and to the chapters of Lichfield and of Coventry; the pensions were still paid to the bishop and the dean and chapter of Lichfield by the Foley family as the impropiators in 1806.<sup>36</sup> The appropriation had become effective by 1390.<sup>37</sup> Despite the new arrangements the Crown presented twice in 1403,<sup>38</sup> and in 1423 it sued the abbot for the next presentation.<sup>39</sup> The appropriation was confirmed by Bishop Smith in 1492.<sup>40</sup>

Bordesley abbey was surrendered to the Crown in 1538, and in 1543 the king granted Kinver church to William Whorwood, and the right of nominating a curate then descended with the rectory until 1630. The lease of part of the tithes secured that year from John Whorwood by the Feoffees for the Purchase of Improvements included the right to nominate the curate. It was considered to be held in trust for the parishioners, who exercised it several times in the mid 17th century. In July 1662, however, William and Catherine Hamerton, lords of Kinver manor, described themselves as true patrons and conveyed what they called 'the next advowson' to William Talbot of Whittington Hall; similarly Wortley Whorwood conveyed the advowson with the manor and part of the rectory to Philip Foley in 1672. Meanwhile, in the autumn of 1662, the curacy being vacant after the ejection of William Moreton, some 20 leading parishioners met at William Talbot's home and nominated Jonathan Newey. When Newey died in 1716, a dispute arose between the Foleys and the parishioners, both sides claiming the right to appoint a successor. Rival candidates were nominated. In 1721, after two Chancery decrees

<sup>19</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 12 Apr. 1620.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid. Kinver ct. papers 17th and 18th cents., cts. of e.g. 16 Oct. 1662, 18 Apr. 1665, 10 and 22 Apr. 1671, 10 Apr. 1676, 3 May 1686.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid. ct. of 22 Apr. 1672.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid. ct. of 14 Apr. 1673.

<sup>23</sup> R. Benbow, 'Story of Kinver Volunteer Fire Brigade' (TS. in Kinver Lib.); D. M. Bills and W. R. Griffiths, *Kinver*, 9.

<sup>24</sup> Parson and Bradshaw, *Dir. Staffs.* (1818).

<sup>25</sup> White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 263; Pigot, *Nat. Com. Dir.* (1835), 654.

<sup>26</sup> P.O. *Dir. Staffs.* (1845).

<sup>27</sup> P.R.O., RG 9/1985.

<sup>28</sup> D. M. Bills, *A House in Kinver High St.* (copy in W.S.L. Pamphs.).

<sup>29</sup> *V.C.H. Staffs.* iv. 40.

<sup>30</sup> *Pat. R.* 1225-32, 176.

<sup>31</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 116.

<sup>32</sup> *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.* (Rec. Com.), i. 78.

<sup>33</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1324-7, 36, 124, 190; 1327-30, 169, 174; 1334-8, 98; 1348-50, 354; 1361-4, 54, 125.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid. 1361-4, 438; 1377-81, 435.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid. 1377-81, 435; *S.H.C.* N.S. viii. 141; N.S. x (2), 148; P.R.O., E 326/B 9008.

<sup>36</sup> P.R.O., E 42/411; E 326/B 665; *Cat. Anct. D. i*, B 1713; *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 273; P.R.O., SC 6/Hen. VIII/3737, m. 53; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Stourton VI, receipts of 1627 and 1640; *ibid.* Foley Fam. I, receipts 1806-7.

<sup>37</sup> P.R.O., E 326/B 9001.

<sup>38</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1401-5, 207, 217.

<sup>39</sup> P.R.O., E 328/36; *S.H.C.* N.S. iii. 123.

<sup>40</sup> P.R.O., E 326/B 9078.

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in favour of the parishioners, the House of Lords ordered the right to be vested in 13 trustees appointed by Chancery, the same number as in 1630. The Lords also recommended that the parishioners' candidate Richard Bate, the master of the grammar school, should be nominated, directing that he should officiate in the meantime. The trustees were appointed in 1723 and duly nominated Bate in 1724.<sup>41</sup> The curacy was called a perpetual curacy from the later 18th century and a vicarage from the early 1860s.<sup>42</sup> The patronage remained with trustees until 1935 when it was transferred to the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Patronage, still the patron in 1981.<sup>43</sup>

In the mid 1250s the church was worth 20 marks a year, and it was valued at £8 in 1291.<sup>44</sup> The curate's stipend in 1604 was £10.<sup>45</sup> In 1630 he was assigned £10 a year from the rent due for the tithes to the Feoffees for the Purchase of Improvements. An annual £33 6s. 8d. was assigned to a lecturer who was to be allowed to act as curate also if he wished.<sup>46</sup> After the next vacancy, in the later 1630s, it evidently became normal for the two offices to be combined.<sup>47</sup> The curate thereby enjoyed in addition the proceeds of a bequest made by William Moseley, a citizen and leatherseller of London, who by his will proved in 1617 settled £200 on the Leathersellers' Company to be invested in land; two thirds of the rents were to be paid to a preacher who was to give a sermon in Kinver church every Sunday, and the rest was to go to the schoolmaster. Land was bought in 1627.<sup>48</sup> In 1646, however, the minister's income was only £40 a year, and the committee for plundered ministers granted him an augmentation of £70 from the property of the dean and chapter of Lichfield. In 1652 the committee granted £25 a year from the impropriated tithes of Penkridge. In 1655 the augmentation was reduced to £10 a year.<sup>49</sup> By 1699 the curate received the £43 6s. 8d. from the tithes and £6 13s. 4d. from the Leathersellers' Company. A house in Wapping (Mdx.) had been given for his maintenance some years before by the widow of a Dr. Whitchcote, but the income was small and uncertain; in 1732 it was £7 10s. By the early 19th century the gift was represented by a house in Shadwell (Mdx.). By will proved 1715 Edward Barton of London gave £30 a year to the curate.<sup>50</sup> Several curates also acted as school-

master between 1563 and the 1720s.<sup>51</sup> In 1812 a grant of £600 was made from Queen Anne's Bounty to meet a benefaction.<sup>52</sup> The curate's average income c. 1830 was £140 net.<sup>53</sup> In 1872 and 1873 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners made two grants of £100 to meet benefactions.<sup>54</sup> The payment from the Leathersellers' Company, which had risen to £30 by 1841,<sup>55</sup> was augmented by a bequest of £1,000 from John Hodgson, vicar from 1867 until his death in 1901; nine tenths of the income was to be paid to the preacher.<sup>56</sup>

There was a rectory house in 1370 when the rector was granted licence for an oratory there.<sup>57</sup> About the mid 17th century, since the minister then had no house, the parishioners and others of the neighbourhood bought an old house at the junction of High Street and the later Vicarage Drive and repaired it for him.<sup>58</sup> It had been leased out by the earlier 1770s; by the early 19th century it had been divided into three cottages, and it was conveyed as the site for a National school in 1851.<sup>59</sup> A vicarage house was built c. 1870 at the western end of Vicarage Drive.<sup>60</sup> It still stood in 1981 but had been replaced in 1957 by a new house on a nearby site.<sup>61</sup>

Mention in 1387 of the chamber of St. Mary<sup>62</sup> may indicate the existence of a chantry of St. Mary by then. There was a warden of St. Mary in 1454, and a house belonging to St. Mary was mentioned in 1457.<sup>63</sup> John Hampton, lord of Kinver, by his will of 1472 left money to a chaplain celebrating at the altar of St. Mary in Kinver church,<sup>64</sup> probably in the south chancel aisle. In 1514 John Perot assigned to the chantry the income from land in Kinver for 90 years; after that the money was to be used 'in the maintenance of God's service' and other charitable works. More land was later given by other people. In 1535 the chantry's income was £8 10s. and in 1546 £5 16s. 5d. net. The priest's stipend in 1546 was £4 19s. 5d., and he was also provided with a house.<sup>65</sup> In 1548 William Pole, the last chantry priest, was given a pension of £2 13s. 4d., and he may have become vicar of Chebsey in 1558.<sup>66</sup>

By 1328 there was a lamp before an image of St. Peter in the church endowed with a rent of 6d.<sup>67</sup> In 1472 John Hampton left 20d. to 'the high light before the cross' in the church and 6s. 8d. to the light of St. Mary.<sup>68</sup> By the Reformation there was

<sup>41</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/13/17, printed copy of appellant's and respondents' cases 1721; L.J. xxi. 597, 617; L.J.R.O., B/A/3/Kinver, 1718, 1724; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver III, deed of 1 July 1662 and account of the dispute 1719; Kinver VI, bill in Chancery 26 Nov. 1716; P.R.O., CP 25(2)/725, 24 Chas. II Trin. no. 12; above, manors and other estates (rectory).

<sup>42</sup> L.J.R.O., B/A/3/Kinver, 1759, 1779; *Lich. Dioc. Ch. Cal.* (1861).

<sup>43</sup> *Lich. Dioc. Regy., Reg. of Transfer of Patronage*, f. 86; *Lich. Dioc. Dir.* (1982).

<sup>44</sup> *S.H.C.* v (1), 116; *Tax. Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), 243.

<sup>45</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 143.

<sup>46</sup> Above, manors and other estates (rectory); S.R.O., D. 1197/13/17, printed copy of appellant's and respondents' cases 1721.

<sup>47</sup> Below (John Cross as reader); L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver; *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 631.

<sup>48</sup> P.R.O., PROB 11/130, ff. 172, 174; S.R.O., D. 1197/6/4; D. 3162/4/1.

<sup>49</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 143; W. A. Shaw, *Hist. of Eng. Church* 1640-60, ii. 505; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1657-8, 242.

<sup>50</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/6/2/4A; L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver, n.d.

<sup>51</sup> Below, educ.

<sup>52</sup> Hodgson, *Queen Anne's Bounty*, p. ccxcvii.

<sup>53</sup> *Rep. Com. Eccl. Revenues*, 485.

<sup>54</sup> *Lond. Gaz.* 26 Apr. 1872, p. 2073; 2 May 1873, p. 2180.

<sup>55</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver, 1841.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.* B/C/5/Kinver, 1902.

<sup>57</sup> *S.H.C.* n.s. viii. 16.

<sup>58</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver, 1701, 1705.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*, B/V/5/Kinver, 1772; B/V/6/Kinver, 1805; *5th Rep. Com. Char.* 631; *S.H.C.* 4th ser. x. 15; W.S.L., notes on Kinver par., copy of conveyance.

<sup>60</sup> *Lond. Gaz.* 2 July 1860, p. 3754; 24 June 1870, p. 3116.

<sup>61</sup> *Par. Church of St. Peter, Kinver* (n.d., later 1970s), 13.

<sup>62</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1387-1498, bdle. 1.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, bdle. 22, ct. of 2 Oct. 1454; bdle. 24, ct. of 6 Oct. 1457.

<sup>64</sup> P.R.O., C 1/948, no. 38; *ibid.* E 301/40, no. 23; E 301/54, no. 15; *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iii. 102.

<sup>65</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 142, 144.

<sup>66</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/12, bk. of deeds and evidences, pp. 3-4. <sup>67</sup> P.R.O., PROB 11/6, f. 42v.



a lamp endowed with a cottage and land let for 8s. a year.<sup>69</sup> In 1498 Thomas Taylor settled land to produce 12d. for an obit for his parents and himself.<sup>70</sup> In 1552 there was an obit endowed with a cow.<sup>71</sup>

Puritan influence was marked in the 17th century. There was a reader, John Cross, by 1620,<sup>72</sup> presumably supported from William Moseley's bequest of 1617. It was as a result of an approach by the people of Kinver that the puritan Feoffees for the Purchase of Improvements intervened in 1630.<sup>73</sup> Cross, who was lecturing on Sunday afternoons in 1635,<sup>74</sup> had become curate by 1639.<sup>75</sup> The Samuel Smith who was curate in the earlier 1650s may have been the Presbyterian divine who was curate of Cressage, in Couind (Salop.), from 1638 to 1655.<sup>76</sup> Richard Moreton (1637-98) was curate from 1659 until his ejection in 1662; he then turned to medicine, eventually becoming a physician in ordinary to William III.<sup>77</sup>

Edward Barton, in addition to his gift to the curate in 1715, gave £20 a year to the schoolmaster provided that he helped the curate by acting as reader in the church every Sunday morning and afternoon.<sup>78</sup> In the earlier 1770s the curate was preaching two sermons every Sunday and reading prayers every Wednesday and Friday and on all holy days. The sacrament was administered on the first Sunday of the month and at the festivals; between 40 and 50 people received it on Sundays, and numbers were higher at the festivals. The schoolmaster was reading prayers twice on Sundays. Children were catechized from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in August.<sup>79</sup> By 1830 the curate was a non-resident pluralist and employed an assistant to serve Kinver. There were two services on Sundays and none at any other time; the sacrament was still administered every month and at the festivals.<sup>80</sup>

In 1837 a school-chapel was built at Halfcot by J. H. Hodgetts-Foley to provide a service every Sunday afternoon. Since the minister could not serve it without help, Foley agreed to make a regular payment to support an assistant. In 1851 the amount was £35.<sup>81</sup> The school closed in the 1880s, but the building was still used as a mission chapel in 1982. Known as St. Peter's chapel, it is built of pink sandstone; there is a bell dated 1837 in a frame by the south door.<sup>82</sup>

A parish magazine was started in the later

1880s.<sup>83</sup> The parish hall at the southern end of Vicarage Drive was opened in 1961.<sup>84</sup>

The church of *ST. PETER*, an invocation in use by 1472 and probably by the 14th century,<sup>85</sup> is built of pink sandstone with some dressings in grey stone. It consists of a chancel with side aisles, an aisled nave of four bays with a south porch, and a west tower.

Fragments of carved stone and a clasping buttress at the south-west corner of the nave survive from a late 12th-century church which appears to have been rebuilt in the earlier 14th century. Of that date are the tower, the south arcade of the nave, the wall of the south aisle with piscina and sedilia, some window glass,<sup>86</sup> and perhaps the roof of the nave and aisle. In the later 15th century the church was extended eastwards. A north chapel joined to the chancel by an arcade of two bays was built by John Hampton, who was buried there in 1472; his effigy survives in a damaged state. The chapel was known in 1472 as the chapel of St. Anne and St. Catherine. By 1678 it was known as the Foleys' chancel, and by the 18th century its maintenance was the responsibility of the Foleys. Fragments of original glass survive in one of its windows.<sup>87</sup> The extension of the chancel is probably contemporary with the chapel; beneath the east end there is a vestry of the same period approached by a stair against the south side. The south aisle was also extended eastwards by one bay and an arcade was built matching that on the north side of the chancel. The south chancel aisle contains the altar tomb of Sir Edward Grey, lord of Whittington and Enville (d. 1529), with brasses of himself, his wife, and their children.<sup>88</sup> Although c. 1800 the tomb was in the nave in front of the altar rails,<sup>89</sup> it seems originally to have been in the south chancel aisle, which was known as the Greys' chancel by the 1670s.<sup>90</sup> The font is of the 14th or 15th century.<sup>91</sup>

The pulpit dates from 1625; it stood on the north side of the nave by 1771 and was then a three-decker.<sup>92</sup> A gallery had been erected by Richard Willett at the west end of the church by 1696.<sup>93</sup> By 1708 a gallery had been erected by John Norris and John Cumber, but it had not been authorized and six parishioners petitioned for its removal.<sup>94</sup> There was a gallery for the grammar school by 1750.<sup>95</sup> A gallery was erected over the whole south nave aisle for the Hodgetts family and their tenants evidently in 1761; by 1834 another private gallery adjoined it on the

<sup>69</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 142.

<sup>70</sup> *H.W.R.O.* (H.), E 12/S, Kinver I, deed of 30 Aug. 1498.

<sup>71</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 142.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* 141, 143. For a mention of the minister and deacon in 1600 see *L.J.R.O.*, B/C/11, Eliz. Clark (1600).

<sup>73</sup> Above, manors and other estates (rectory).

<sup>74</sup> *L.J.R.O.*, B/V/1/55, p. 7.

<sup>75</sup> *S.R.O.*, D. 1197/1/1, burial of 9 Sept. 1639.

<sup>76</sup> *S.H.C.* 1915, 141, 143; below, Wombourne, church. For Smith the Presbyterian divine see *D.N.B.*; *V.C.H. Salop.* viii, 77.

<sup>77</sup> *Calamy Revised*, ed. A. G. Matthews, 357; *D.N.B.*

<sup>78</sup> *S.R.O.*, D. 1197/6/2/44; *L.J.R.O.*, B/V/6/Kinver, 1732.

<sup>79</sup> *L.J.R.O.*, B/V/5/1772.

<sup>80</sup> *Rep. Com. Eccl. Revenues*, 484-5; *S.H.C.* 4th ser. x, 15.

<sup>81</sup> *W.S.L.*, Newspaper Cuttings, Kinver, unident. cutting of 4 May 1837; *P.R.O.*, HO 129/379/2/3.

<sup>82</sup> For a view see above, pl. facing p. 145.

<sup>83</sup> The set in *B.L.* begins with vol. iv (Jan. 1891).

<sup>84</sup> *Express & Star*, 18 Sept. 1961.

<sup>85</sup> *P.R.O.*, PROB 11/6, f. 42v.; above (lights).

<sup>86</sup> For the glass see *T.B.A.S.* lxviii, 56.

<sup>87</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 263; *T.B.A.S.* lxviii, 56; lxx, 6; *P.R.O.*, PROB 11/6, f. 42v.; *S.R.O.*, D. 1197/1/2, burial of 13 Sept. 1678; *L.J.R.O.*, B/V/6/Kinver, undated terrier of c. 1740.

<sup>88</sup> *T.B.A.S.* lxix, 8; Pevsner, *Staffs.* 165-6.

<sup>89</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii, 264.

<sup>90</sup> *S.R.O.*, D. 1197/1/2, burials of 14 Apr. 1676, 13 Oct. 1679. In the 18th cent., however, it was maintained by the parish; *L.J.R.O.*, B/V/6/Kinver, undated terrier of c. 1740.

<sup>91</sup> Pevsner, *Staffs.* 164, giving it as 14th-cent.; *T.B.A.S.* lxviii, 19, giving it as 15th-cent.

<sup>92</sup> *T.B.A.S.* lxvii, 53; *L.J.R.O.*, B/C/5/1771/Kinver.

<sup>93</sup> *S.R.O.*, D. 801/2/2, deed of 5 May 1712; D. 1197/1/2, bur. of Ric. Willetts 31 Aug. 1696.

<sup>94</sup> *L.J.R.O.*, B/C/5/1708/Kinver.

<sup>95</sup> *S.R.O.*, D. 1197/4/1.

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east.<sup>96</sup> By the end of the 18th century there were two galleries at the east end of the nave.<sup>97</sup> They were taken down in 1834, and the singers' gallery at the west end was rebuilt. At the same time the south porch, which evidently existed by 1771, was made into a vestry, and a north door, in existence by 1771, was blocked; a new entrance was made through the base of the tower. The architect was Josiah Griffiths of Quatford (Salop.).<sup>98</sup> An organ was installed, apparently in the west gallery, c. 1836.<sup>99</sup> A north aisle, designed by Thomas Smith of Stourbridge, was added in 1856-7. At the same time the pulpit was moved to the south side of the chancel arch; still a three-decker in 1834, it was probably at the time of the move that it was reduced to a two-decker. A vestry was formed in the south chancel aisle, with a door made in the south wall; the south porch became an entrance once more, although the entrance in the tower was retained.<sup>1</sup>

Sir Gilbert Scott (d. 1878) prepared a plan for restoring the church, and the work was carried out in stages by his son J. O. Scott. In 1882 the south gallery was removed. The organ, which by 1882 had been moved from the west gallery to the south chancel aisle, was moved into the east arch on the south side of the chancel; it thus became possible to enlarge the vestry. The south aisle and the porch were restored in 1884-5, and it was probably then that the font was moved from the north-west corner of the nave to a position by the south porch. The restoration was completed to mark Queen Victoria's jubilee of 1887; the work included the removal of the west gallery.<sup>2</sup> The box pews in the nave were removed c. 1900.<sup>3</sup> In 1954 H. T. H. Foley renounced all rights in the Foley chapel, which in 1956 was converted into a choir vestry.<sup>4</sup> In 1975-6 the north aisle, which had become unsafe, was rebuilt to the design of J. G. Smith of Kinver. At the same time the medieval nave roof, which had been covered with a wooden ceiling by 1852, was uncovered.<sup>5</sup>

In 1552 and 1553 the church possessed a silver chalice and paten, a copper-gilt cross, and a brass pyx.<sup>6</sup> In 1981 the plate included a silver chalice given by Jonathan Newey, curate 1662-1716, and his wife Mary, a silver flagon and lid given by John Cook of Stourton slitting mill in 1750, and two silver trays given by John Hodgetts in 1771.<sup>7</sup> There were three bells in 1552 and 1553.<sup>8</sup>

About 1713 the bells were recast.<sup>9</sup> A peal of six was cast by Abel Rudhall of Gloucester in 1746; one of them was recast by Thomas Rudhall in 1770-1 and again by John Rudhall in 1790. The peal was enlarged by two cast by Mears & Stainbank of Whitechapel, London, in 1920.<sup>10</sup> The church had a clock by 1745.<sup>11</sup>

Until 1846 the churchyard was owned by the Foleys; by 1743 the churchwardens paid 10s. a year rent for it.<sup>12</sup> It was enlarged in 1843, 1857, 1881, 1907, 1916, 1948, and 1957.<sup>13</sup> In 1980 it was replaced by Comber Ridge burial ground and garden of remembrance at the west end of Church Road.<sup>14</sup> Part of the churchyard north-west of the church was dedicated in 1950 as a garden of memory for those who died in the Second World War.<sup>15</sup> The lichgate was erected in 1922.<sup>16</sup> There is a scratch dial on the south wall of the church east of the porch.

The registers date from 1560.<sup>17</sup> The entries from 1560 to 1598 are a copy made in 1598. The registers are incomplete between 1636 and 1639 and between 1644 and 1653.

**ROMAN CATHOLICISM.** In 1628 the borough court ordered the landlords of Richard Cooke and William Jukes to secure from each of the two tenants 'pledges for his recusancy'.<sup>18</sup> William, John, and Anthony Hamerton of Dunsley Hall were listed as recusants in the later 1660s,<sup>19</sup> and in 1676 five papists were returned for Kinver parish.<sup>20</sup> In 1705 and 1706 Catherine Hamerton and her two daughters, all of Dunsley Hall, were the only papists in the parish.<sup>21</sup> There was stated to be none in 1767 and the earlier 1770s.<sup>22</sup>

In 1933 mass began to be celebrated occasionally in Kinver by a priest from the church of Our Lady and All Saints at Stourbridge, which in the late 1920s and early 1930s had provided mass once a quarter at Prestwood sanatorium just over the Kingswinford boundary. The church of St. Peter and the English Martyrs, a former National school building in the Holloway between Kinver Hill and Mill Lane, was opened in 1935. It was still served from Stourbridge in 1982.<sup>23</sup>

**PROTESTANT NONCONFORMITY.** Puritan influence was strong in Kinver by the 1620s,

<sup>96</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/5/1761/Kinver; S.R.O., D. 1197/3/1/1.

<sup>97</sup> Shaw, *Staffs.* ii. 265.

<sup>98</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/3/1/1, 4, 7; *Staffs. Advertiser*, 13 Sept. 1834; W.S.L., *Staffs. Views*, v. 78; L.J.R.O., B/C/5/1771/Kinver.

<sup>99</sup> Subscription board in vestry; S.R.O., D. 1197/3/1/1.

<sup>1</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/3/6/1-3; *Trans. Lichfield and S. Staffs. Arch. Soc.* ii. 21, 24-5; subscription board in north aisle. For the pulpit in 1834 see D. 1197/3/1/1.

<sup>2</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/5/1882/Kinver; S.R.O., D. 1197/3/10; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver XII, printed appeal notice 1887.

<sup>3</sup> Bennett, *Kinver*, 133.

<sup>4</sup> Lich. Dioc. Regy., B/A/21/X, pp. 257-8; S.R.O., D. 1197/3/14.

<sup>5</sup> *Par. Ch. of St. Peter, Kinver*, 13-14; W.S.L., notes on Kinver par., extracts from vestry min. bk. 5 Aug. 1852.

<sup>6</sup> S.H.C. N.S. vi (1), 189; S.H.C. 1915, 141.

<sup>7</sup> T.B.A.S. lxxiii. 30-1, 34-5; R. Simms, *Bibliotheca Staffordiensis*, 327.

<sup>8</sup> S.H.C. N.S. vi (1), 189; S.H.C. 1915, 141.

<sup>9</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver VI, bill in Chancery 26 Nov. 1716.

<sup>10</sup> Lynam, *Church Bells*, 17; *Trans. Old Stafford Soc.*

1952-3, 13; Jennings, *Staffs. Bells*, 84; S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1, 1770-1, 1790-1.

<sup>11</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1.

<sup>12</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1 and 2; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, vol. of 18th- and 19th-cent. plans, Kinver, no. 35; *ibid.* Prestwood estate surveys I; W.S.L., notes on Kinver par., extracts from vestry min. bk. 13 Apr. 1846.

<sup>13</sup> Lich. Dioc. Regy., B/A/21/M, pp. 598-615; Q, pp. 23-4; S, pp. 423, 485-8; V, pp. 524-35, 577-82; X, pp. 118, 136, 315, 317-18; Orders in Council 1859-1923, pp. 417-19.

<sup>14</sup> Inf. from the vicar.

<sup>15</sup> H. Grainger, *Hist. of Church of St. Peter, Kinver* (1951).

<sup>16</sup> Plaque on gate.

<sup>17</sup> All except those in current use are in S.R.O., D. 1197/1.

<sup>18</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver ct. rolls 1590-1629, ct. of 5 May 1628. A threat of removal was made in the case of Jukes.

<sup>19</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/1/72, p. 42; *Cath. Rec. Soc.* vi. 310.

<sup>20</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 33, p. 371; *Staffs. Cath. Hist.* xviii. 14.

<sup>21</sup> *Staffs. Cath. Hist.* xiii. 28-9, wrongly giving their home as Dursley (instead of Dunsley) Hall.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* xvii. 26; L.J.R.O., B/V/5/1772.

<sup>23</sup> *Archdioc. of Birmingham Dir.* (1929; 1930; 1931; 1934; 1982).

and the curate was ejected in 1662.<sup>24</sup> In 1668 John Law of Kinver was accused of having had a child baptized by a dissenting minister.<sup>25</sup> The minister was probably the Presbyterian Joseph Eccleshall, who was ejected from the vicarage of Sedgley in 1662. He continued to live there until the Five Mile Act of 1665 forced him to move, and he settled in Kinver. He preached privately in both places but attended Kinver church. He had moved back to Sedgley by 1669, but he may have continued to preach in Kinver. He died in 1692.<sup>26</sup> The nonconformist Richard Cook, who was chaplain for a time to Philip Foley at Prestwood, afterwards lived in his native Kinver and was buried there in 1685.<sup>27</sup> Only two dissenters were returned for Kinver in 1676.<sup>28</sup> In 1699 the parish register recorded the burial of an Anabaptist from Bewdley (Worcs.) 'by their preacher'. It also recorded the baptism by a nonconformist of two sons of Joseph and Elizabeth Tunnerton in 1699 and 1702 and of the daughter of John and Mary Spencer in 1703.<sup>29</sup>

About 1720 there was a regular dissenting meeting served by itinerant preachers.<sup>30</sup> In the earlier 1770s there was a family of Presbyterians of middling rank, with two others of humbler standing, one Quaker and one Anabaptist; they all attended the parish church at times.<sup>31</sup> Four houses in Kinver were registered for protestant dissenters between 1802 and 1822 and one in Stourton in 1823.<sup>32</sup> A Baptist chapel was built at the junction of High Street and Stone Lane in 1814. It was taken over as an Anglican Sunday school in 1827, but in 1830 there was still a Baptist meeting and Sunday school in the parish.<sup>33</sup>

In 1834 the Baptist trustees resumed possession of the former chapel, to the dismay of the curate, George Wharton. He saw the action as part of an attempt to secure those workers with a dissenting background who had lately been attracted to Kinver by the prosperous state of the iron industry.<sup>34</sup> The building was let to the Primitive Methodists, who used it until 1839 or 1840. About 1845 they built a chapel at Gallows-tree Elm, which was replaced in 1901 by a corrugated-iron chapel at Potter's Cross. In 1925 Christ Church, a brick building designed by Henry Harper & Son of Nottingham, was opened on an adjoining site; the iron chapel was then used as the Sunday school until 1960.<sup>35</sup>

In 1830 the Wesleyan Methodists were holding services at Kinver and in a cottage on the Gothersley road at Stourton. The services at Stourton soon ceased, but by 1835 there were

services every Sunday at Kinver. They ceased that year but in 1839 were held at the Lock inn in Mill Lane. In 1846 services were held in one of the rock houses at Gibraltar. When the Primitive Methodist chapel became vacant in 1839 or 1840 the Wesleyans took it over, enlarging it in 1852; a Sunday school was started in 1843. On Census Sunday 1851 there were congregations of 66 in the afternoon and 110 in the evening, with 140 Sunday school children in the morning and 130 in the afternoon. In 1887 the chapel was replaced by Trinity chapel, built further north on the opposite side of High Street to the design of Isaac Meacham of Cradley Heath, in Rowley Regis; a schoolroom, also designed by Meacham, was built in 1899, part of the cost being met by the sale of the old chapel that year.<sup>36</sup> In 1982 the old chapel was occupied as a shop.

As a result of a bequest from F. I. Payne of Norton, Stourbridge, in 1960, a new Methodist church was built on the site of the iron building at Potter's Cross to replace both Christ Church and Trinity. Designed by S. A. Griffiths of Stourbridge it was opened in 1962. Christ Church became the Sunday school building.<sup>37</sup> The High Street buildings were being used as a youth centre in 1982.

**EDUCATION.** In 1511 a priest was engaged to teach grammar at Kinver. A group of 22 men, headed by Edward Grey and John Whorwood, agreed to pay him 8 marks a year until he was instituted to the chantry in Kinver church. He was allowed to take fees from his pupils.<sup>38</sup> By the time of the chantry's dissolution in 1548, the priest provided free education for children of the parish.<sup>39</sup> In 1555 the endowments of the former chantry included a school house,<sup>40</sup> presumably the building which survives in Dark Lane.

There was a schoolmaster in 1558,<sup>41</sup> and he was also acting as curate in 1563.<sup>42</sup> By 1571 the school had endowments consisting of land and houses; they were administered by a body of trustees which then included the schoolmaster.<sup>43</sup> There was an usher by 1604. The grammar school remained free for the children of parishioners.<sup>44</sup> In 1635 the school's property comprised a school building, a master's house with an adjoining orchard and garden, and houses and cottages in Kinver and Stourton. The income that year was £15 13s. 4d. The master also received £3 6s. 8d. as his share of the bequest of William Moseley of London made in 1617, and £6 13s. 4d. from the

<sup>24</sup> Above, church.

<sup>25</sup> A. G. Matthews, *Cong. Churches of Staffs.* 56.

<sup>26</sup> *Calamy Revised*, ed. A. G. Matthews, 179; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* Oct. 1683-Apr. 1684, 187; A. Gordon, *Freedom after Ejection*, 257; Matthews, *Cong. Churches of Staffs.* 87, 90.

<sup>27</sup> *Calamy Revised*, ed. Matthews, 132; S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2.

<sup>28</sup> W.S.L., S.M.S. 33, p. 371.

<sup>29</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2.

<sup>30</sup> Matthews, *Cong. Churches of Staffs.* 129.

<sup>31</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/5/1772.

<sup>32</sup> S.H.C. 4th ser. iii. 5, 22, 35, 58, 60.

<sup>33</sup> J. H. Mees, *Story of a Hundred Years: Handbk. of Wesleyan Methodist Church Stourbridge Circuit* (Stourbridge, 1928), 94 (copy in Stourbridge Libr.); S.H.C. 4th ser. x. 15.

<sup>34</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24/Kinver Sch., Geo. Wharton to Lord Stamford 10 May 1834.

<sup>35</sup> H. J. Haden, *The Methodist Church, Kinver* (1961; copy in W.S.L. Pamphs.). This gives c. 1845 for the second chapel, but none appears in the 1851 Religious Census; the chapel was registered in 1863: G.R.O. Worship Reg. no. 4515.

<sup>36</sup> Mees, *Story of a Hundred Years*, 93-101; Haden, *Methodist Church, Kinver*; P.R.O., HO 129/379/2/3. For Meacham see Kelly's *Dir. Staffs.* (1888).

<sup>37</sup> Haden, *Methodist Church, Kinver*.

<sup>38</sup> Copy of deed of 5 Jan. 1510/11 printed in *Kinver Par. Mag.* vii, no. 10 (copy in S.R.O., D. 3162/1/1).

<sup>39</sup> S.H.C. 1915, 142.

<sup>40</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1554-5, 315.

<sup>41</sup> L.J.R.O., B/C/11, Ric. Atkys (1559).

<sup>42</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/1/1, baptism of 19 Apr. 1563.

<sup>43</sup> S.R.O., D. 648/22/2.

<sup>44</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/1/3.

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

rent for the tithes leased by the Feoffees for the Purchase of Improvements in 1630.<sup>45</sup> In 1637 an official inquiry found that the trustees had leased property below its value; it was ordered that the leases were to be cancelled and future ones made by the master alone. The repair of the school building was to be charged on the parish.<sup>46</sup> In 1649 and 1658 the master was also curate.<sup>47</sup> Richard Bate, master from 1705, later became curate as well.<sup>48</sup> By 1726 the master's failure to make sound leases had caused property to fall into decay; the school and master's house were also out of repair. In 1728 the trustees, who were mostly local yeomen and tradesmen, were replaced by a body of gentry and ironmasters, who were empowered to withhold the master's income until the school's property had been repaired. The churchwardens were instructed to repair the school house. At least from the mid 18th century the trustees met irregularly.<sup>49</sup>

There was an usher in 1757, evidently responsible for teaching English; in the late 1770s he received £8 a year.<sup>50</sup> By c. 1790 only a few of the 20 boys then at the school received a classical education from the master, John Fox. Complaints were made about Fox's unwillingness to teach non-classical subjects more appropriate to a parish like Kinver. The number of pupils fell to five or six c. 1804, and the lack of boys suitable for classical instruction resulted in the cessation of teaching c. 1813. Fox also mismanaged the school's endowments. After his death in 1816 the income was again devoted to the repair of the property. As a temporary measure the trustees appointed a master at £20 a year to teach 16 boys the elements free.<sup>51</sup> A new school was built in 1820-1; it stood north-east of the 16th-century building in Dark Lane, which was thereafter used as the master's house.<sup>52</sup> In 1832 George Wharton was appointed master at a salary of £160; the teaching of classics was resumed, and the master was allowed to take his own pupils.<sup>53</sup> The school reopened with 22 free boys, and there were 28 later in the year; in 1833 the master also had 10 boarders. Wharton, who was also perpetual curate of Kinver from 1834, employed a writing master at £60 a year.<sup>54</sup> By 1835 only four free boys were taught Latin, and in 1842 the master was instructed not to teach history and classics unless requested to do so by parents.<sup>55</sup>

In 1844, as the consequence of a petition by parishioners, the school was reorganized to make it more responsive to the needs of the parish. An upper class offered a classical education free to boys of the parish; other subjects were offered for which boys paid 1 guinea a quarter. A lower class

provided a commercial education for which the fee was 5s. a quarter. The lower class was to be taught by an usher or under-master at a salary of £30; he also took the 5s. fees. In 1845 there were 13 boys in the upper class and 41 in the lower.<sup>56</sup> The average income from the school's endowments in the earlier 1860s was £220 5s. 10d., out of which the master received an average of £119 0s. 6½d. His fees averaged £48 3s. 6d., and his share of the income from Moseley's bequest averaged £46 6s. 8d. Out of his income the master paid a salary of £50 to an assistant in the upper school. The usher's income consisted of the salary of £30 and fees estimated at £40 in 1864.<sup>57</sup> Chemistry may have been taught by 1861, when Matthew Packer, a chemistry teacher, was living in Kinver; he was an assistant master at the school by 1871.<sup>58</sup> In 1878 there were only 18 boys in the school and it was decided to unite the upper and lower classes. Fees were set at £2 a year. In the following year the headmaster was allowed to employ a pupil teacher in place of the usher, with a salary of no more than £10; in the mid 1880s he was evidently employing former pupils. The number of boys had risen to 29 by 1891 and there were again two classes.<sup>59</sup> Girls were first admitted in 1901, and by 1907 there were 17 girls and 11 boys.<sup>60</sup> By 1904 there was an assistant mistress.<sup>61</sup>

In 1907 the Board of Education recommended that the school should close because it was too small. There was strong local opposition, but the school was closed in 1916. Its income was thereafter spent on grants to Kinver children attending secondary schools and to Kinver students at places of further education, including universities. Under a Scheme of 1977 the conditions were widened to include grants to primary schoolchildren, to young people starting a trade or profession, and to Edgecliff school for purposes not covered by public funds. The income in 1981-2 was £4,042.<sup>62</sup>

In 1982 the original school building became a private house, known as the Old Grammar School House. The older part is a later 16th-century timber-framed building with an upper floor jettied on all sides. One short length of walling at the rear is of brick with a lozenge pattern of dark headers and evidently survives from an earlier building. The plan is L-shaped; the east wing contained a single room on each floor, and the north end was formerly subdivided and perhaps housed the staircase. In the 1830s a new range was added on the east end, and the front of the building was refenestrated and rendered to match the new work.<sup>63</sup> The house was restored in

<sup>45</sup> L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver; above, manors and other estates (rectory); church.

<sup>46</sup> P.R.O., C 93/16, no. 16.

<sup>47</sup> S.H.C. 1915, 143; below, chars. for the poor.

<sup>48</sup> Above, church.

<sup>49</sup> P.R.O., C 93/54, no. 8; S.R.O., D. 3162/2/1.

<sup>50</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/4/1; Birmingham Univ. Libr., accts. of Kinver schoolmaster (photocopy in S.R.O. 1401).

<sup>51</sup> 5th Rep. Com. Char. 624-5; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24/Kinver sch., John Darwall to Lord Stamford 30 Apr. 1813.

<sup>52</sup> S.R.O., D. 891/3, nos. 1059-60; *ibid.* 4, p. 54; D. 1197/4/1.

<sup>53</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/2/1; S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24/Kinver sch., regulations of 1832.

<sup>54</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24/Kinver sch., Geo. Wharton to

Lord Stamford 31 Oct. 1832 and A.G.M. of trust 20 Jan. 1834; L.J.R.O., B/A/3/Kinver.

<sup>55</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24/Kinver sch., A.G.M. of trust 9 Feb. 1835; S.R.O., D. 3162/2/1.

<sup>56</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/2/1.

<sup>57</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/4/2.

<sup>58</sup> P.R.O., RG 9/1985; RG 10/2928.

<sup>59</sup> S.R.O., D. 3579/1/2; D. 3579/1/3, pp. 33-4, 64.

<sup>60</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/5/5.

<sup>61</sup> S.R.O., D. 3579/1/3, p. 175. In 1907 a Bd. of Educ. rep. mentioned two junior mistresses, but payments to only one were recorded then: S.R.O., D. 3162/5/5; D. 3579/1/3.

<sup>62</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/5/5 and 7; Char. Com. files; inf. from Mr. J. W. King.

<sup>63</sup> S.R.O., D. 3162/2/1, 20 Feb. 1837.

the 1970s.<sup>64</sup> The building to the north-east was demolished c. 1965.<sup>65</sup>

Kinver was entitled to send two boys to Old Swinford Hospital School (Worcs.) from its foundation in 1670.<sup>66</sup> In 1717 Mary Newey provided an income for a charity school in accordance with the wishes of her late husband, Jonathan Newey, minister of Kinver. There is no evidence that the school was established.<sup>67</sup>

By 1819 there were a number of schools in the parish providing education for c. 100 children, of whom c. 40 were supported financially by wealthy parishioners.<sup>68</sup> One of the schools may have been the Church of England Sunday school, which in 1826 had an average attendance of between 120 and 150 children. From 1827 the former Baptist chapel at the junction of High Street and Stone Lane was used for the school. In 1834 the Baptists resumed possession.<sup>69</sup> A new school was built in 1835 in the Holloway between Church Hill and Mill Lane; the cost was met by donations and a government grant, and the site was given by J. H. Hodgetts-Foley.<sup>70</sup> In 1840, and probably earlier, the building was also being used as a day school.<sup>71</sup> In the later 1840s the school, then a National school, had 81 boys and 93 girls taught by a master and a mistress.<sup>72</sup>

In 1847 the archdeacon remarked on the need for a school 'at the lower part' of the village.<sup>73</sup> In 1851 a National school for boys and girls was built on a site given from the glebe at the corner of High Street and Vicarage Drive. The school in the Holloway became the infants' department.<sup>74</sup> By 1856 there was an average attendance at the newer school of 69 boys and 53 girls, paying between 4d. and 2d. according to age. The rest of the income came from contributions and an annual collection.<sup>75</sup> In 1861 the boys were moved into the Holloway building and the infants into the newer building.<sup>76</sup> The schools received a government grant by 1861.<sup>77</sup> In 1864 there was an average attendance of 100 boys, 67 girls, and 102 infants.<sup>78</sup>

A school board for Kinver was established in 1871 and accepted an invitation to take over the management of the National schools.<sup>79</sup> It built a separate girls' school in Vicarage Drive in 1873; the older building was kept for infants. In 1876

the board opened a new boys' school in Castle Street; the Holloway building was given back to H. J. W. Hodgetts-Foley in 1878 and was used as a Roman Catholic church from 1935.<sup>80</sup> In 1905-6 the schools had an average attendance of 101 boys, 127 girls, and 74 infants.<sup>81</sup>

Edgecliff secondary modern school (from 1970 Edgecliff comprehensive school) in Enville Road was opened in 1951. The infants then moved from Vicarage Drive into the boys' school in Castle Street, renamed Foley infants' school in 1955. A primary school occupied the buildings in Vicarage Drive and High Street until 1966, when as Brindley Heath junior school it moved to Fairfield Drive. The former girls' school was converted into a library in 1967, and the former infants' school was demolished in 1971. The primary school moved to a new site at Potter's Cross in 1974, and its former premises in Fairfield Drive were then occupied by the infants' school.<sup>82</sup> In 1982 the Castle Street school building and master's house were being converted into private dwellings.

A school-chapel was built at Halfcot in 1837 by J. H. Hodgetts-Foley, who also maintained it. In 1838 it had an attendance of 60 children.<sup>83</sup> Known as Prestwood school by the later 1840s it then had 23 boys and 36 girls under a mistress and was a National school.<sup>84</sup> It continued to be maintained by the Foleys until its closure c. 1885.<sup>85</sup> The building continued in use as a mission chapel.<sup>86</sup>

There have been a number of private schools in the parish. A girls' boarding school existed in 1755.<sup>87</sup> There were three academies, one of them a girls' boarding school, in 1834.<sup>88</sup> In 1851 there was a school run by Anne Forty in Forest House at Comber; there were three girl boarders. In 1861 there were 10 boarders, and Miss Forty had a German partner and two assistant teachers, one of them a teacher of French. The school was still running in 1864.<sup>89</sup> It had closed by 1868, but there was another girls' day school at Comber in 1871.<sup>90</sup> Two girls' schools were mentioned in the parish in 1872 and 1876.<sup>91</sup> There was again a girls' school in Forest House in 1896.<sup>92</sup> A preparatory school in Enville Road was run by a Madame Elgar in 1928; it still existed in 1932.<sup>93</sup>

<sup>64</sup> Inf. from Mr. and Mrs. E. Shirmacher of the Old Grammar School House, who are thanked for their help. For a view see above, pl. facing p. 145.

<sup>65</sup> Local inf.

<sup>66</sup> T. R. Nash, *Collins for Hist. of Worcs.* ii. 210-11.

<sup>67</sup> Below, chaps. for the poor.

<sup>68</sup> *Digest of Returns to Sel. Cttee. on Educ. of Poor*, H.C. 224, p. 862 (1819), ix (2).

<sup>69</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/5, Thos. Housman to Ld. Stamford 2 Jan. 1826; 24/Kinver sch., Geo. Wharton to Ld. Stamford 12 Mar., 10 May 1834, 15 Oct. 1835; above, prot. nonconf.

<sup>70</sup> S.R.O., Tp. 1273/24/Kinver sch., Wharton to Ld. Stamford 13 Dec. 1834, 15 Oct. 1835; P.R.O., ED 7/109/194; Bannister, King & Rigbys, Stourbridge, undated draft deed reciting deed of 25 Mar. 1835 (ref. supplied by Mr. J. W. King); *Rep. Educ. Cttee. of Council*, 1864-5 [3533], p. 511, H.C. (1865), xlii.

<sup>71</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/7/2/3.

<sup>72</sup> *Nat. Soc. Inquiry*, 1846-7, Staffs. 6-7.

<sup>73</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/3/4.

<sup>74</sup> S.R.O., D. 812/3/108; D. 1197/7/2/3; S.R.O., CEH/76/1; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver XII, deed of 17 June 1851; above, church.

<sup>75</sup> P.R.O., ED 7/109/94.

<sup>76</sup> S.R.O., CEH/76/1, scheme of management at beginning

of book; S.R.O., D. 812/3/113.

<sup>77</sup> P.R.O., ED 7/109/194; *Rep. Educ. Cttee. of Council*, 1861-2 [3007], p. 589, H.C. (1862), xlii.

<sup>78</sup> S.R.O., CEH/76/1, 30 Mar. 1864.

<sup>79</sup> *Lond. Gaz.* 17 Feb. 1871, p. 587; S.R.O., CEH/76/1, 15 Feb., 28 Apr., 29 Aug. 1871, 25 Jan. 1873.

<sup>80</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1884); P.R.O., ED 7/109/194; ED 7/113/194; S.R.O., CEH/76/1, 13 Jan., 21 May 1878; above, Roman Catholicism.

<sup>81</sup> *Public Elem. Schs.* 1907 [Cd. 3901], p. 568, H.C. (1908), lxxxiv.

<sup>82</sup> Inf. from the head teachers (1982); S.R.O., CEH/76/2, pp. 234, 240; *Express & Star*, 27 July 1971; above, p. 128.

<sup>83</sup> P.R.O., HO 129/379/2/3; *S.H.C.* 4th ser. x. 15.

<sup>84</sup> *Nat. Soc. Inquiry*, 1846-7, Staffs. 6-7.

<sup>85</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1884).

<sup>86</sup> Above, church.

<sup>87</sup> *Aris's Birmingham Gaz.* 24 Feb., 3 Mar. 1755.

<sup>88</sup> White, *Dir. Staffs.* (1834), 262.

<sup>89</sup> P.R.O., HO 107/2017; P.R.O., RG 9/1985; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1864), calling her Emma Forty.

<sup>90</sup> P.R.O., RG 10/2928; *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1868).

<sup>91</sup> *P.O. Dir. Staffs.* (1872; 1876).

<sup>92</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Staffs.* (1896).

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.* (1928; 1932).

## A HISTORY OF STAFFORDSHIRE

In 1906 Hyde House at the Hyde was opened as Bethany, a home supported by voluntary contributions where crippled boys could be taught a trade. The founder and first governor was E. G. Hexall. By 1913 all 40 beds were taken. The home was closed c. 1918, and the house was demolished a few years later.<sup>94</sup>

An evening school was held four times a week in one of the National school buildings in 1856. It was still held in March 1861, when the average attendance was 17.<sup>95</sup>

**CHARITIES FOR THE POOR.** By will of 1595 John Jorden, merchant and skinner of London, left £10 for the poor of Kinver parish. His brother William added £10 and his parents Edward and Eleanor £2 each. In 1628 another brother Humphrey, having added £4 of his own money, invested the total of £28 in property in Kinver, the income to be distributed twice a year to the poor.<sup>96</sup> The benefactors were evidently members of the Jorden family of Dunsley. In the late 1780s there was an income of £3 15s. 4½d.<sup>97</sup> By the 1820s it had increased to £13.<sup>98</sup>

By will proved 1622 Roger Jeston, citizen and haberdasher of London and a native of Kinver, gave property in London, from which £5 a year was to be paid to the poor of Kinver; inhabitants of the borough were to receive £3 and other parishioners the rest.<sup>99</sup>

By deed of 1650 Thomas Keightley of Hertingfordbury Park (Herts.), a native of Kinver, gave an annual £5 from land in Bromsgrove (Worcs.), to be distributed to 20 poor people of Kinver parish.<sup>1</sup>

Roger Kimberley (d. 1658), minister and schoolmaster of Kinver, left £50, the income to buy Bibles and Catechisms for the poor of Kinver and, after that had been done, to be spent in other charitable ways. In 1659 the capital was laid out on a close in Compton then called Wall croft and later Bible meadow. It was let for £2 10s., a rent still paid by the owner of Pigeonhouse farm in 1982.<sup>2</sup>

Some years before 1690 Robert Bird, citizen and stationer of London and a native of Kinver, left £50, the income to be used for apprenticing poor boys of Kinver. In 1737 the terms of the charity were altered; every third year the money was to be paid instead as a marriage portion to a girl born in the parish. By 1812 the income was £2 16s., the capital having increased to £70 as a result of the accumulation of unspent money. With a fall in the number of applications for apprenticing by 1820, the charity was paid mainly to poor young women on their marriage.<sup>3</sup>

By deed of 1717 Mary Newey, widow of Jonathan Newey, minister of Kinver, sold three cottages in Whittington to trustees who raised the necessary £70 from £50 of parish stock, partly given by Longworth Crosse, and from a gift of £20 by Mary Newey herself. Of the income from the property 20s. was to be spent on a parish charity school in accordance with Jonathan Newey's wishes and the rest on the poor of Kinver parish. There is no evidence that the school was established; in the 19th century, and probably by 1758, the cottages were used as poorhouses.<sup>4</sup>

By deed of 1760 John Cook of Stourton slitting mill gave a house and garden at Stourton to produce an income which was to be distributed annually in 20 shilling loaves to 20 poor of the parish, preference being given to those of Stourton. By 1820 there was an income of £2, distributed in shilling loaves.<sup>5</sup>

By will of 1777 Margaret Comber left £50, the income to be given to the poor of Kinver parish. By 1820 it was distributed in religious books and in doles of 3s. or 4s.<sup>6</sup>

Under a Scheme of 1860 the above eight charities were united, later becoming known as Kinver Parochial Charities; the income was to be used in the education of poor children and in the distribution of gifts to the poor in cash or kind. By 1906 the income was £58 3s., of which £10 was spent on religious teaching in the Kinver board schools and the rest distributed to the poor. In the early 1980s the income was distributed with that from three other charities in sums of around £4 to some 70 people at Christmas.<sup>7</sup>

Kinver was one of the parishes which benefited from the charity of William Seabright of Wolverley (Worcs.), established by will of 1620. Under its terms 14 penny loaves of white or wheaten bread were distributed each Sunday to the poor of the parish. In the early 1980s the income was distributed with the Parochial Charities.<sup>8</sup>

By deed of 1659 George Brindley of Compton gave an annual 20s. from 3 a. in Kinver to buy 21 shilling loaves of muncorn bread; 20 loaves were to be distributed at Easter to 20 poor of the parish, and the remaining one was to be kept by the distributor. By 1820 all 21 loaves were given to the poor. They were still distributed in the late 1860s,<sup>9</sup> but the later history of the charity is obscure.

By will of 1699 John Grove, a clothier of Kinver, gave £20, the income to buy 20 shilling loaves for 20 poor of Kinver during Lent. The distribution was still made in 1820 but had ceased by the late 1860s.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>94</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver III; inf. from Mr. D. M. Bills.

<sup>95</sup> P.R.O., ED 7/109/194; S.R.O., CEH/76/1, 3 Apr. 1861.

<sup>96</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/6/1/1; 6/2/1.

<sup>97</sup> *Char. Dons. 1786-88*, 1144-5.

<sup>98</sup> 5th Rep. Com. Char. 625-6.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid. 625.

<sup>1</sup> 5th Rep. Com. Char. 626; D.N.B.; V.C.H. Herts. iii. 465.

<sup>2</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2, burial of 28 Sept. 1658; D. 1197/6/2/3A; 5th Rep. Com. Char. 626-7; inf. from Mr. T. R. Brown of Pigeonhouse Farm.

<sup>3</sup> 5th Rep. Com. Char. 627. In 1690 Bird's last surviving trustee appointed new trustees.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 627-8; S.R.O., D. 1197/6/1/4; above, local govt.

<sup>5</sup> H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, Kinver, Compton Hallows, and Kingsley ct. bk. 1734-61, ct. of 22 Apr. 1760; *ibid.* Kinver copyhold estates 1831, W. Bright's schedule, openings 14 and 15; 5th Rep. Com. Char. 629.

<sup>6</sup> 5th Rep. Com. Char. 630.

<sup>7</sup> *Staffs. Endowed Chars.* 78; inf. from Mr. S. A. Harris, churchwarden (1983).

<sup>8</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/6/3; 5th Rep. Com. Char. 629-30; inf. from Mr. Harris.

<sup>9</sup> 5th Rep. Com. Char. 628-9; *Char. Digest Staffs.* 28-9.

<sup>10</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2, burial of 26 Jan. 1698/9; 5th Rep. Com. Char. 629; *Char. Digest Staffs.* 28-9.



## SEISDON HUNDRED

By will proved 1715 Edward Barton of London left an annual £10 for the poor of Kinver parish; £6 was to be spent on clothing for six or more poor children attending Kinver grammar school, and £4 on Bibles and other religious books for the poor. The income was still received in the late 1780s but was apparently spent only on clothing.<sup>11</sup> Nothing further is known of the charity.

The bread charity of Mary Whorrell which had £1 income in the late 1780s may have been established by the Mary Worrall who died in 1693.<sup>12</sup> Nothing more is known of the charity.

A further four charities had been lost by the late 1780s: £5 given by Richard Willetts, £10 given by Humphrey Bate in 1685, £30 or £50 given by Edward Ford, and the rent every third year from a house given by a Mr. Lythall of Compton.<sup>13</sup>

By will proved 1886 Caroline Brindley left money to provide an annual distribution to the poor, although for a certain period the first

charge on it was to be the maintenance of her grave. In the early 1980s the income was distributed with the Parochial Charities.<sup>14</sup>

By will proved 1900 Ellen Lee left £300 to Kinver parish council, the income to provide food and fuel for the poor of the parish aged 60 and over. In 1971-2 the income was £7.72, and £10 was distributed in £1 vouchers.<sup>15</sup>

By will proved 1923 John Johnson left £100, the income to be used for the maintenance of his tomb and the remainder distributed in bread or coal to Anglicans living in the parish. In the early 1980s the charity was distributed with the Parochial Charities.<sup>16</sup>

By will proved 1944 Walter Holdnall of Sutton Coldfield (Warws.) left his estate, including a bungalow on Church Hill, Kinver, to provide an almshouse for the aged poor of Kinver. The bungalow proved unsuitable and was sold in 1956. In the early 1980s the estate was worth £35,733 but no almshouse had been provided.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>11</sup> S.R.O., D. 1197/6/2/4A; *Char. Dons. 1786-88*, 1144-5; L.J.R.O., B/V/6/Kinver, n.d.

<sup>12</sup> *Char. Dons. 1786-88*, 1146-7; S.R.O., D. 1197/1/2, burial of 29 Nov. 1693.

<sup>13</sup> *Char. Dons. 1786-88*, 1146-7; H.W.R.O. (H.), E 12/S, addenda to portfolios, list of benefactors to poor of Kinver c. 1700.

<sup>14</sup> S.R.O., reg. of chars.; inf. from Mr. Harris.

<sup>15</sup> *Char. Com. files.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*; inf. from Mr. Harris.

<sup>17</sup> *Char. Com. files*; S.R.O., D. 1197/6/7; *The Spectator*, 9 Apr. 1983, 18-19.

## INDEX

The following abbreviations used in the index, sometimes with the addition of the letter *s* to form the plural, may require elucidation: abp., archbishop; agric., agriculture; Alex., Alexander; Alf., Alfred; almsho., almshouse; And., Andrew; Ant., Anthony; assoc., association; Ave., Avenue; Benj., Benjamin; boro., borough; bp., bishop; Cath., Catherine; cent., century; ch., church; chap., chapel; chars., charities; Chas., Charles; Chris., Christopher; Col., Colonel; coll., college; corp., corporation; ct., court; d., died; dau., daughter; dchss., duchess; dist., district; econ. hist., economic history; Edm., Edmund; educ., education, educational; Edw., Edward; Eliz., Elizabeth; est., estate; fam., family; fl., flourished; fm., farm; Fra., Francis; Gen., General; Geo., George; Geof., Geoffrey; Gilb., Gilbert; glassho., glasshouse; govt., government; grds., grandson; Hen., Henry; Herb., Herbert; ho., house; hosp., hospital; Humph., Humphrey; ind., industry, industrial; inst., institute; Jas., James; Jos., Joseph; Kath., Katherine; Laur., Laurence; Lawr., Lawrence; libr., library; Lt.-Col., Lieutenant Colonel; m., married; Maj., Major; man., manor; Marg., Margaret; Matt., Matthew; Mic., Michael; *n*, note; Nat., Nathaniel; Nic., Nicholas; nonconf., nonconformity; Phil., Philip; pk., park; pop., population; prot., protestant; rd., road; Revd., Reverend; Ric., Richard; rly., railway; Rob., Robert; Rog., Roger; Rom. Cath., Roman Catholicism; s., son; Sam., Samuel; sch., school; Sim., Simon; soc., society; St., Street; Steph., Stephen; stn., station; Thos., Thomas; Vct., Viscount; w., wife; Wal., Walter; Wm., William; workho., workhouse.

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