LICHFIELD AND SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TRANSACTIONS 1962-63 VOLUME IV

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VOLUME IV

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TITLES OF FIGURES

THE PATTERN OF ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDING IN STAFFORDSHIRE DURING THE NORMAN PERIOD

S. A. JEAVONS, F.S.A.

A COMPLETE LIST of all the ecclesiastical Norman work to be found in Staffordshire has long been overdue. Since Charles Lynam attempted this over eighty years ago, much more work from this period has come to light.[1] It will be seen from the inventory at the end of this paper that over seventy churches in the county still retain some Norman work. Add to these another thirty-six churches which claim a dedication in Norman times, and it will be seen that the Normans were concerned in the rebuilding of at least 108 ecclesiastical buildings (fig.1). This figure is all the more remarkable when it is realised that at the Reformation there were less than 160 parish churches in Staffordshire.

It is reasonable to assume that the ecclesiastical Normans erected these buildings only for public worship, and this in turn means that there were sufficient people living in Staffordshire to use them. An examination of the Domesday Survey reveals the fact that the county was poor. Only seventy-four mills are recorded; less than thirty priests are mentioned and there is only one reference to a church. Seventy-four manors are described as *vastæ*, and of the 179 burgage houses in Stafford some fifty-one lay waste. All this Eyton has analysed and drawn the conclusion that the county was depopulated as a result of William's expedition into Staffordshire to put down the rebellion of 1069.[2] An acceptance of all Eyton's conclusions means that Staffordshire made an amazing recovery, both in material wealth and in the growth of population under Norman rule.

Without doubt the county prospered under the Normans, but is it certain that Eyton has given us the true picture of Staffordshire in 1086? Another writer has pointed out that two records were originally made at the time of the survey.[3] One contained a full detailed survey and the other was in a more abbreviated form. Unfortunately only the latter has survived for Staffordshire and it is on this that the assessment has been made. At this stage a little fresh thought might be given to the problem.

The outstanding feature of the Survey in Staffordshire was the wholesale transference of property that took place after the Conquest. During the reign of Edward the Confessor the county had about 240 landowners, but twenty years later a great change can be seen. The Domesday Survey reveals that the land was held by the King, the Church, four great barons, five lesser landlords and sixteen men described as thegns, mostly holding one manor. This was robbery on the grand scale and William and his surveyors had to try and legalize the

[1] C. Lynam, *The Ecclesiastical Norman Architecture of Staffordshire*, N.S.F.C., 1881, pp. 86-91.
[2] R. W. Eyton, *Domesday Studies, The Staffordshire Survey*, 1881.
[3] A. T. Daniel, *Staffordshire Domesday Book*, N.S.F.C., vol. xxxvii (1902-3,) pp. 37-60.

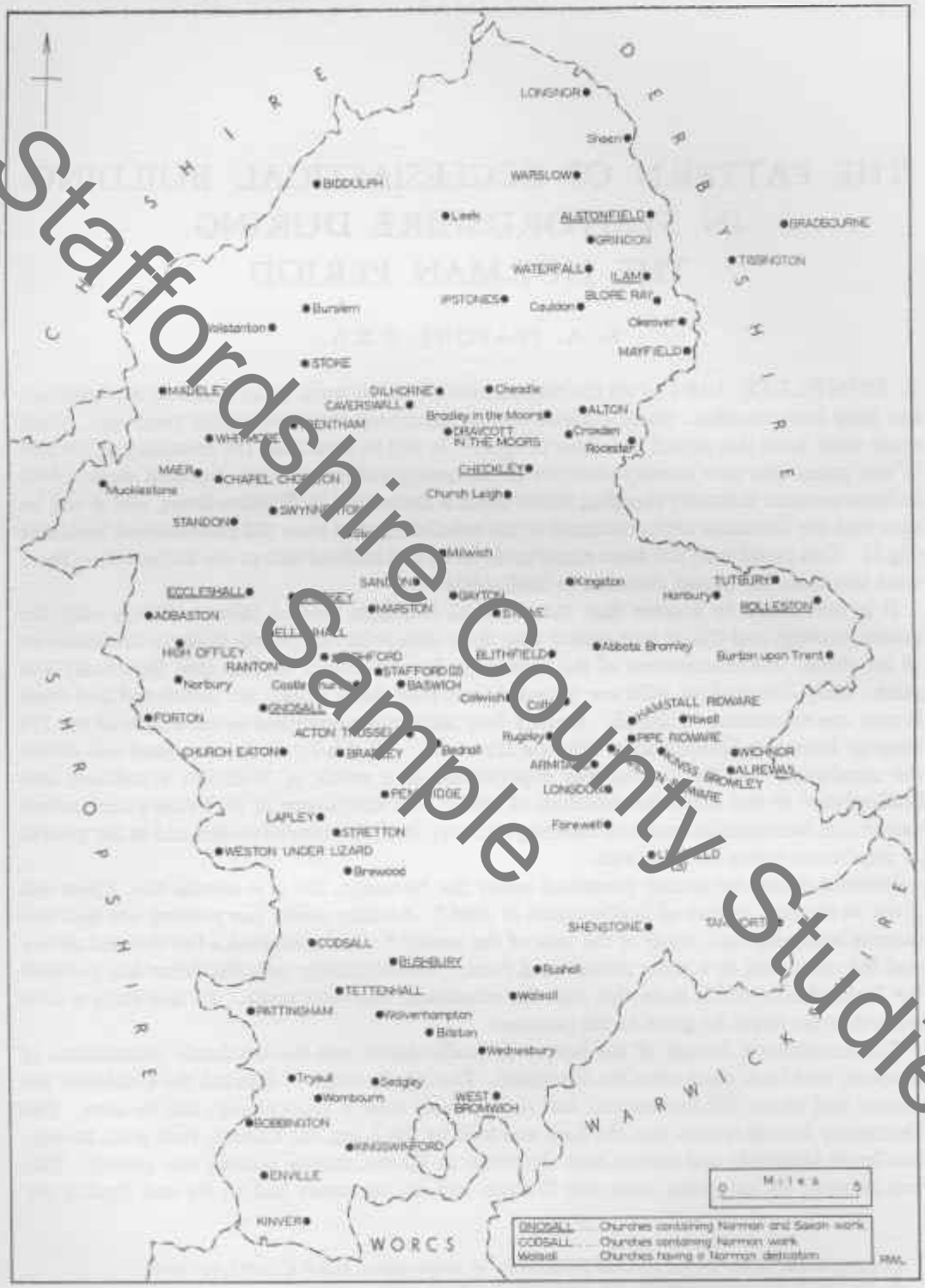


Fig. 1 Map of Norman churches in Staffordshire

CODSALL. This church has retained its south Norman doorway.

DILHORNE. This church has a plain shallow tub-shaped font with a moulded rim and base that dates to the late Norman period.

DRAYCOTT-LE-MOORS. The base of the tower appears to date to Norman times.

ECCLESHALL. All that remains from the Norman church is a stone in the stairway of the tower.

ELLENHALL. In the north wall of the chancel is a deeply splayed Norman window indicating that some part of the fabric dates back to this period. The cylindrical font was originally decorated by horizontal bands of ornament, but centuries of use in farm-yards have removed all trace of these. The style of font suggests that it was made by a local mason copying one of the fonts made by the Gnosall school (Plate 4(d)).

ENVILLE. Although this church was thoroughly restored by Street during the last century it still retains its north and south Norman arcades, each of four bays. On the north side the late semi-circular arches rest upon large square cushion capitals, reeded and decorated with pellet-work above wide cylindrical piers. The capitals differ on the south arcade, being of the rounded type. Set in the spandrels of the north arcade are two figures, carved by the Leominster school of craftsmen.

FORTON. This church has retained the lower portion of a font with a base of roll-moulding. Above are carved the remains of two volutes that were part of the ornament that formerly decorated the bowl. Also a window in the north wall of the chancel.

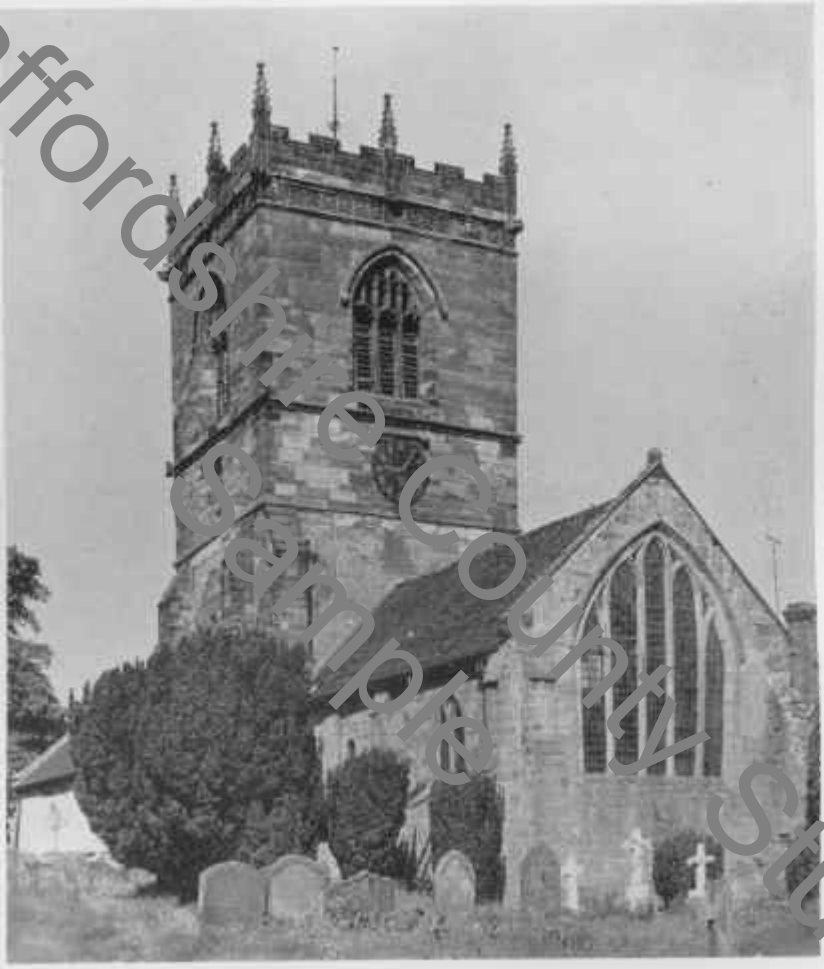
GAYTON. Although extensively restored, this church has retained its chancel arch decorated with chevron and billet ornament. Also from the Norman period is a large, shallow tub-shaped font, completely without ornament.

GNOSALL. In spite of extensive rebuilding during the medieval period, this church has retained much work from Norman times. This consists of the lower stages of the central tower, with the crossings, north and south transepts and some twenty feet of the north wall of the chancel. Distinctive features are the west face of the tower arch, with its three carved orders (Plate 2). Also the carved capitals, abaci and string-courses with a variety of ornaments, including billet, chevron, fret, Greek key and sunken star, among others (Plate 4(a) and (b)). Built into the thickness of the west wall of the south transept at triforium level is a gallery leading to the tower; this is approached by a newel stairway in the south-west corner of the transept. Below the string-course, decorated with unique billet ornament with a curious chevron-like chip taken out of the base, there was originally a blind arcade. It consisted of four bays, but three were removed *circa* 1300, when the present archway was inserted, opening the aisle to the south chapel. In the wall of the north arcade immediately west of the tower arch is a blocked-up doorway, this indicates that the early Norman church was aisleless. Various other fragments of Norman masonry are found, some built inside the south door of the nave, others in the outer walls of the north aisle.

GRINDON. This rebuilt church has its Norman font, although it is not used. It is chalice shaped, completely plain except for a band of wavy ornament below the lip of the bowl.

HAMSTALL RIDWARE. The west wall of the nave and a small portion of the north arcade are Norman work. This is indicated by the window above the later opening to the west tower and the springing of an arch at the western end of the arcade.

HIGH OFFLEY. The lower stages of the western tower, a large portion of the north wall of the church and the south arcade are Norman work. The late arcade of five bays rests upon cylindrical piers, with round, chamfered capitals decorated with roll-moulding.



Lapley Church

MICHAEL BIDDULPH OF LICHFIELD AND ELMHURST

COUNCILLOR H. EBDON

THIS PAPER deals with the will and inventory of the estate of Michael Biddulph; it was among the documents in the Old Probate Court, Lichfield, which were examined and transcribed by members of this Society in 1961. The valuation of Michael Biddulph's estate was made on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of February, 1657, and as it details each item in his two houses and its value for probate purposes it gives an interesting picture of the furnishings and the way of life of those days.

But first of all let us identify the subject of the Paper. We find from the late Percy Laithwaite's research[1] into the Lichfield Conduit Lands Trust that Michael was one of the Trustees mentioned in the Fourth Deed, dated 1634, in which another familiar name also appears – that of Michael Lowe. In the two previous Deeds, those of 1564 and 1586, two of Michael Biddulph's ancestors are shown as Trustees, Simon Byddull and Thomas Mark Byddull in 1544 and Simon "Biddle" again in 1586. Biddle is the way some North Staffordshire people still pronounce the name of the mining village between Stoke-on-Trent and the Cheshire border, which was the ancestral home of the Biddulphs. A Simon Biddle, mercer, probably the same man, was Bailiff of Lichfield in 1553. This was the year in which Queen Mary gave to Lichfield the Charter entitling it to the dignity of "City and County" and enabling its citizens to elect their own sheriff.

Michael Biddulph became Member of Parliament for Lichfield in 1640. He died, as did his wife, seventeen years later, having produced between them a family of ten sons and four daughters. Michael, at the time of his death, was aged eighty and his wife was eleven years younger. Both were buried in St. Chad's churchyard and memorials to them are to be found in the church.[2]

Michael Biddulph the younger succeeded his father, on the latter's death in 1657, as a Trustee of Conduit Lands and he was re-appointed to that office in 1680 so that he must have been closely associated with Michael Johnson, the father of Dr. Samuel Johnson, who was Warden of the Trust in 1684. This Michael Biddulph was also a Member of Parliament, indeed the family held seats in Parliament for nearly seventy years.

Another son, Theophilus Biddulph, was created a Baronet by Charles II[3] and the title passed to his son, Sir Michael Biddulph. It is believed that the family fortunes dwindled considerably and that the second Baronet had to live very carefully. There are pedigrees of the family in Shaw and the records of the Heralds' Visitations.[4]

[1] Percy Laithwaite, *The History of the Conduit Lands Trust 1546-1946* (1947).
[2] S. Shaw, *The History and Antiquities of Staffordshire*, vol. i (1798), p. 345 gives the inscriptions of both memorials and that of their son, Theophilus.
[3] Ibid., p. 366.
[4] Ibid., p. 352, and
Staffordshire Historical Collections, vol. iii, part 2 (1883), vol. v, part 2 (1885).

The building which was Michael's town house has been known for more than 100 years as The Castle Hotel in Market Street. It is of historic interest because it was the headquarters of Lord Brook, the ill-fated commander of the Parliamentary forces who was shot dead by "Dumb" Dyott during the first siege of the Close (2nd March, 1643). It is recorded[5] that Lord Brook crossed Market Street from Michael Biddulph's house to the residence of Richard Newbole, from whence he made his way to the near-by house of "Walter Franceyes in Dam Street in which was a long passage and opposite to which his piece was stationed". The remainder of the story is well known. Lord Brook opened his vizor, the better to size up the situation and was shot in the head by "Dumb" Dyott from the battlement of the great steeple of the Cathedral. Dugdale says[6] it was a ricochet bullet which lodged in the commander's brain. By all modern standards it was a remarkable piece of musketry but even more remarkable from the fact that Lord Brook had drawn up his forces somewhere in the Tamworth road – London road area (which we have commemorated by naming one of our new streets "Cromwell's Meadow") and there prayed "that God would, by some special Token, manifest unto them his approbation of that their design".[7] The Deity's manifestation was exactly the opposite of what was hoped for.

The total value of the contents of Michael's town house was £241 10s. 0d.; including sixty pounds found "in a trunk in the Chamber over the Hall". Other interesting items in the same chamber were,

> one silver custard bowl, two silver drinking bowls, one silver and gilt jug, one silver can, two great silver salts, one silver sugar dish and seventeen spoons, together valued at £45 10s. 0d.

The appraisers appear to have been most thorough in their statutory duty as records were made of what was in the hall, the dining parlour, a little closet by the parlour, the little parlour, the chamber over the kitchen, the chamber over the hall, the dining chamber, the chamber over the great parlour, the cock-loft, the cellar, the brew-house, the kitchen, the back-house and the stable. Small items like these did not escape their attention:

> "one little tynn dripping pan and a plate of tynn to boil fish on – 1/–
> two pailes, a tray, a pr^e^ of bellows, a frying pan and other trumpery in the kitchen – 6/–."

But there were more substantial items such as,

> "Two flitches of bacon £1 10s. 0d."

In addition to their town house the Biddulph family had a country establishment in the hamlet of Elmhurst situate some two miles north of Lichfield. The residence was rebuilt on rather pretentious lines by the first Sir Theophilus Biddulph but demolished in 1804 soon after the estate was sold by auction. At the sale it was described as "perhaps one of the strongest-built houses in the kingdom; and containing the following rooms: hall 42 feet by 24, library 21 by 18, breakfast room 22 by 21, drawing room 28 by 18, dining parlour 34 by 24, and two other rooms on the ground floor; all 14 feet high. Five large bedrooms, with dressing-rooms on the first floor, 12 feet high; eleven very good atticks &c; kitchen 42 by 24 and 18 high &c".[8]

A view of Elmhurst House appears in Plot's *History of Staffordshire* (1686). The inventory

[5] Thos. Harwood, *The History and Antiquities of the Church and City of Lichfield*, (1806), p. 22.
[6] Thos. Dugdale, *A Short View of the Late Troubles in England* (1681), p. 118.
[7] Ibid., p. 117.
[8] Shaw, op. cit., p. 351.

C. E. STRINGER'S COLLECTIONS FOR THE HISTORY OF LICHFIELD

PAUL MORGAN, F.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

IN MARCH, 1978 the Bodleian Library in Oxford bought from a Mrs. H. Smith, of Swindon, near Wombourn, Staffordshire, (of whom nothing is known), an album of miscellaneous documents, engravings, original drawings and printed matter concerned with Lichfield and neighbourhood ranging in date from 1545 to 1853,[1] together with a medical notebook compiled about 1590.[2] When the album was catalogued, it was said "to have been collected by Thomas Harwood", but a closer examination shows this is not the case. After some interesting manuscripts concerned with land, finance, the Civil War and Commonwealth[3] and an important letter from J. Wren about naval actions in 1702,[4] there comes a letter written in 1745 from Josiah Durant to [Wild] Buckeridge or Lichfield about suitable studies at Oxford for Theophilus Buckeridge.[5] This is followed by a water-colour of the west gate in Lichfield Cathedral Close signed by C. E. Stringer.[6] It is these three names of Durant, Buckeridge and Stringer that give the clues to the former ownership, not Harwood. Who exactly arranged the Album cannot now be determined. The volume has a mid-nineteenth century appearance and may well represent the work of some descendant arranging a miscellaneous collection in a very haphazard way.

There is also in the Bodleian a copy of Thomas Harwood's *History and Antiquities of Lichfield*, 1806[7] grangerized into three volumes, with specially printed title-pages, containing several hundred prints, engravings, sepia wash, ink and water-colour drawings, together with some manuscripts, which were probably acquired at the same time as the Album. There is very obviously a close relationship between the two; some items are duplicated, as the water-colour of a wall-painting of the Crucifixion found in the south aisle of Lichfield Cathedral in 1791[8] while eighty-eight of the various types of drawings in the Harwood are either initialled *C.E.S.* or signed *C. E. Stringer*. Stringer figures prominently in the Album both in the illustrations and manuscripts. Fortunately early owners have written their names in this Harwood. The first is *Chas. Edward Stringer, Lichfield*, on the inside covers of each volume over which has been pasted a slip with *George Buckeridge, Lichfield*, 1857, presumably the next; finally on each of the specially printed title-pages appears *E. Durant* in a late nineteenth century, possibly feminine, hand. Now these three families of Stringers, Buckeridges and

[1] *Summary Catalogue of Western Manuscripts*, No. 29153.
[2] *Ibid.*, No. 29134.
[3] Album ff.3-30; hereafter referred to as A.
[4] A., f.37.
[5] A., f.39.
[6] A., f.41.
[7] Now G. A. Staffs. 40. 6-8; hereafter referred to as H.
[8] A., f.86v; H., p. 112.

Durants were related, as Wild Buckeridge of Lichfield and Josiah Durant, the Rector of Hagley who died in 1764, married sisters. Wild had a son, Theophilus (1724 – 1803), Chancellor of Lichfield, who married his cousin Margaret, daughter of Josiah Durant. They had thirteen children, most of whom died young or childless, but one, Richard, married Mary, daughter of Dr. William Wright and grand-daughter of Richard Greene of Museum fame, both Lichfield antiquaries, and Richard was the father of George, the later owner of these volumes. It should also be noted that Theophilus Buckeridge had antiquarian interests and made a collection later used by Harwood for an edition of Erdeswicke's *Survey*. The exact identity of E. Durant remains a mystery but Josiah had several descendants, while the shadowy Mrs. H. Smith may also have had a Durant connection.[9]

Although the Buckeridges, Durants and Greenes figure in these volumes,[10] it is the Stringers who dominate them. Indeed, there can be little doubt but that this grangerized Harwood must be the one mentioned by Rupert Simms[11] under his entry for E. Stringer: "Mr. Stringer had a copy of Harwood's *Lichfield* which he illustrated with Sketches, Engravings, Plans and Drawings, by himself. After his death it was sold to one of the Colleges at Cambridge". Presumably Simms was relying on his memory and confused the two older English universities. He also muddled Edward with Charles Edward Stringer; he wrote that E. Stringer was a Lichfield surveyor, listing five engravings by him that had appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* and elsewhere as illustrations to antiquarian papers by Richard Greene and others about Lichfield.[12] Besides these, there are also two wash-drawings[13] and a water-colour of Shenstone Church in 1770.[14] Stringer was a very common surname in South Staffordshire at this period, and nothing further has been discovered except that presumably he was the Edward Stringer who married Theophila, sister of Theophilus Buckeridge, and probably the father of C. E. Stringer in view of the contents of these volumes.

There are about twenty examples of the Stringers' work in the collection of Staffordshire views in the William Salt Library, but identification presented difficulties to the late Gerald P. Mander who wrote:[15] "R. [*sic*] Stringer (there seems to be more than one of that name) was also a Lichfield man who produced views 1780–90, and also contributed to the *Gentleman's Magazine*." The wring initial was caused by a mis-reading of the engraving made in February, 1785 of Johnson's Birthplace and St. Mary's.[16]

The chief sources of information about C. E. Stringer are to be found in this Album and the Harwood. Unfortunately, only forty-seven of his pictures are dated, ranging from three in 1787[17] to one in 1823.[18] The great majority illustrate places in Staffordshire although in 1807 he apparently visited Stratford-upon-Avon[19] and in 1815 Knowle, also in Warwickshire.[20]

[9]For pedigrees see A. S. Dyer, 'Buckeridge of Lichfield' in *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, series IV vol. 5 (1914), pp. 355-60, and A. L. Reade, *Johnsonian Gleanings*, vol. 4 (1923), pp. 198-99.
[10]E.g., Buckeridge, A., ff.39, 113(a); H., pp. 85; Durant, A., f.39; Greene, A., ff.63(c), 92(c); H., pp. 90, 508.
[11]*Bibliotheca Staffordiensis*, 1894, p. 439.
[12]H., pp. 90, 376, 508, 510.
[13]A., f.81(a); H., p. 84.
[14]H., p. 164.
[15]*Descriptive Catalogue of the Topographical Sketches and Prints forming the* Staffordshire Views *Collection in the William Salt Library, Stafford.* (Collections for a History of Staffordshire, 1942-3), 1946, p. xxxiv.
[16]Mander, Op. cit., No. 1641. H., p. 376 (as used in Shaw's *Staffs.* and Jackson's *Lichfield*); p. 456 (as used in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 55, p. 100).
[17]H., pp. 74, 111(d), 234.
[18]H., p. 254.
[19]H., p. 181.
[20]H., p. 205.

SUMMARY

I. ALBUM

The Album is 13½ in. high by 10½ in. wide in a nineteenth century binding, lettered *Lichfield Collections*, foliated in pencil by the Bodleian; references are to this foliation; when more than one item is on a sheet, each is differentiated by (a), (b), etc. The versos are usually blank, but indicated by *v* after the folio number when used. Measurements are given in inches, with height first. The Album is described in the *Summary Catalogue of Western Manuscripts*, No. 29153 (now MS. Top. Staffs. C.1.).

Editorial additions are put in square brackets, except for the type and measurements at the end of each item.

Abbreviations: ALS Signed autograph letter.
Mander Gerald P. Mander, *Descriptive Catalogue of the Topographical Sketches and Prints forming the* Staffordshire Views *Collection in the William Salt Library, Stafford.* (Collections for a History of Staffordshire, 1942-3.) 1946.
MS Manuscript.
C Newspaper cutting.
P Printed, with printer's name added if given.
S Signature.

3. Lease from Provost and officers of the New College of the Close for 21 years to – Alsop of lands in Elmhurst, 18 March, 1539. MS.
5. Lease of house in Sadler Street from Henry Wylshalle, chantry priest of St. Catherine's Chapel in St. Chad of Stowe, to Simon Byddull and others, 14 January, 1546. MS.
6. Agreement between Humffrey Cotton and Symon Byddull, 20 August, 1564. MS.
8. Fine for half an acre of pasture in Blacksmoore in Kings Bromley, near Bromley Cross, from John Gwynne of Barton-under-Needwood, husbandman, to John Brettayne, 2 September, 1571. MS.
9. Order from William Thropp, mercer, sheriff of Lichfield, at the suit of Simon Biddull of Lichfield, gent., to Everard Dygbie, clerk, and his wife Kathyrine, to repay £15 6s. 8d. to administrators of John Bagshawe, deceased, 4 June, 1607. MS.
10. Certificate that Sir Henry Archbold, chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, received the sacrament at St. Mary's, Lichfield, 11 January, 1673; with re-certification 15 January, 1673. MS.
11. Deed to perform covenants between Benjamin Hopkins of London, mealman, and Richard Lyon of Pipe Ridware, yeoman, 20 September, 1675. MS.
13. Copy of a declaration against Benjamin Maggs, of Tamworth, tallow-chandler, by Thomas, Viscount Weymouth, and Samuel Leigh for £20, sent to Richard Simpson of the Inner Temple for an opinion by Isaack Hinckley of Lichfield, 24 December, 1705. MS.
14. Quietus for Theophilus Biddulph, 5 July, 1712. MS.
16. Certificate of appointment of John Dawson as a Surveyor for Excise, 28 December, 1714. MS.

17. Inventory of goods of William Robinson, the younger, late of Streetway in St. Michael's parish, deceased, 1786; total: £205. MS.
19. Order for a reward of 5s. 0d. to Joseph Harding of Lichfield, yeoman, for apprehending James Bayley, 15 March, 1822. MS.
20. ALS from Ro[bert?] Bradshawe, Congleton, to Peter Venables, Baron of Kinderton, with details of the estate of an unnamed widow, 17 September, 1636. MS.
23. Order from the Committee for the County of Stafford to Sir Richard Skeffington, Col. William Colmore and Capt. Thomas Pudsey to view the lands of George Warner in Wolston and Marston, Warwicks., for selling, 17 August, 1646. MS.
25. The Committee for Sequestrations refer the case of Dr. Samuel Hinton back to the Committee of Warwickshire for further information, 8 December, 1647. MS.
28. ALS from [E. Wingfield?] to John Swinfen, M.P., soliciting influence with Sir Gilbert Pickering to procure the living of "Tichmere or Tichmarsh", Northants., 1 March, 1658. MS.
30. Report from Jo: Browne Clerk of the Parliaments, that Dr. Nicholas Cary is fined £1,000 for contempt and committed to the Tower till paid for refusing to assist in finding the author of *The Grand Question concerning the Prorogation of this Parliament for a Yeare and three Months stated and discussed*, 1 March, 1676. MS.
33. An account of some horses entered for a race at the Swan, Lichfield, March [*c.* 1700]. MS.
35. ALS from Samuel Swynfen to his brother at the Inner Temple, describing the bearer, a servant, and details of Samuel's affair with an unnamed lady, 25 December, 1699. MS.
37. ALS from J. Wren, in H.M.S. *Triumph*, in the Downs, giving a detailed account of naval actions from 2 June to 12 October, of a fleet under Admiral Fairborn and Rear-Admiral Graydon, with list of ships destroyed in Vigo, 7 November, 1702. MS.
39. Part of ALS from Josiah Durant to [Will ?] Buckeridge at Lichfield about course of studies at Oxford for Theophilus Buckeridge, 6 May, 174[illegible]. MS.
41. West Gate, Lichfield Close. C. E. Stringer. Watercolour, 7 × 5¾.
42. Bill for keep at Swan Inn, Lichfield, for Duke of Cumberland, 29 November, 1745. Endorsed C. E. S[tringer]. MS.
43. ALS from Thomas Harwood to [C.E.] Stringer asking for particulars of Richard Greene, his relations, and Theophilus Buckeridge, 9 January, 1829. MS.
44. Estimate of a survey from Minster Pool, Lichfield, to below Kings Mills upon the Trent, by James Brindley, 1758; total: £10,195. MS.
46. ALS from Thomas Newton to Dr. and Mrs. Seward replying to praise of his latest book and hopes more will be published of the poem on "memorable events of the English history", 2 January, 1755. MS.
47. Verse; one sheet with forty lines beginning "When but two spyres on Lichfields Chyrch appeare", foretelling disasters, [seventeenth century?]. MS.
47v. Playbill for Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, 22 November [1759] for *The Wonder*, a masquerade, and *The Chaplet*; includes Garrick. P.
48. Playbill for the Theatre, Lichfield, 21 December, 1804, for *The Revenge*, with Epilogue spoken by Col. Eliot, and *The Apprentice*. Jackson, P.
49. ALS from Lord Sandwich to Mr. Seward promising to use influence to get Mr. Long a post as a surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, 26 August, 1783. MS.

Editorial additions are put in square brackets, except for the type and measurements; otherwise the titles are as given.

For abbreviations, see p. 31 above.

VOLUME ONE

1. A plan of the City of Lichfield, 1786. The buildings since erected, 1816, red. Scale: 1 in. = 200 yds. Ink and water-colour. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$.
2. Found in Toads hole piece near Pores Mill, 1804, the site of the Massione [*sc.* Massacre] of the Christians. [One sherd, one quern, two objects.] Ink. $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$.
7. Dr. Plot. [Head and shoulders.] Wash. $6\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$.
8. Malvoisy[n] Ridware, 1807, [Church]. Wash. 3×4.
11. Langtons bridge. [Two views, from both sides.] Wash. $6 \times 2\frac{1}{4}$; $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2$.
16. Belgrave, Leicestershire, [Church]. Wash. $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4$.
22. The house in which Lord Brooke was killed, [Dam Street]. Wash. $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4$.
22. Lord Brookes armour 1642. [Helmet and breast-plate.] Wash. 6×5.
23. Rushall [Church from north west]. Wash. $2\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$.
25. Prince Ruperts house, Beech Lane, Barbican, London, 1810. Ink. $6\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$.
28. Burton Manor house, 1798. Wash. $4\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$.
28. Ashby de la Zouch, 1796. [Castle ruins.] Wash. $4\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$.
41. Hamstal Ridware, 1799. [Church and house.] Wash. $5\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$.
41. Streethay, 1791. [Manor house.] C. E. Stringer del. Wash. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 3$.
50. West front of Lichfield Cathedral, 1819. Drawn on stone by W. Westall. "From a drawing by C. E. Stringer" [in MS.] Engraving. (Mander 1399.)
54. Arms on Bassets tomb. [In Cathedral; nine shields blazoned in water-colour, each $1\frac{3}{4}$ high.]
54. [Ditto; ten shields.]
66. Hackets Banqueting room. C. E. Stringer F. Wash. $4\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$.
74. North door, Lichfield Cathedral, 1797. CES. Wash. $7\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$.
76. From the deans walk, 1817. Johnsons Willow; Mrs. Gastrells; Mrs. Astons. Ink. $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$.
78. [Blazoned coat of arms painted on vellum, as recorded at the Visitation of Lancashire, 1664, for William Walmesley, chancellor of Lichfield, 1699: *Gules on a chief ermine two hurts* (Walmesley); on an escutcheon of pretence, *Gules, an armed leg couped at the thigh in pale between two broken spears argent, a canton of the last* (Gilbert). Crest: *A crowned lion statant ermine*. Latin. Eighteenth century copy.] MS.
81. North aisle [arch, Lichfield Cathedral]. CES. Wash. $7 \times 4\frac{1}{4}$.
82. John Fletcher Esqr. [died 1799]. Ink. 3×3.
82. [Monument to Harriet Ann Lister, died 1802.] Wash. $6\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$.
83. [Sepulchral effigy of a mediaeval bishop, possibly Pattishull.] Ink. $10\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$.
84. From the old screen, Lichfield Cathedral. [Details of carvings.] E. Stringer F. Wash. $4\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$.
85. [Monument to Catherine Cecilia Buckeridge, died 1787.] Westmacott. [E. ?] Stringer. Water-colour. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$.
86. [Monument to Eva Maria Garrick, died 1799.] Wash. $5\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$.
90. Rich. Green. M.D. E. Stringer sculp. [Portrait bust in oval surrounded by objects from his Museum, with motto] *Nemo sibi vivat*. Etching. $6\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{4}$.

BEE BOLES AT WEST BROMWICH MANOR-HOUSE

(O.S. Map Ref. SP005943)

J. W. WHISTON

WHEN THE SOCIETY visited West Bromwich manor-house on 12th March 1961, Mr. Lissimore our guide, pointed out the bee boles in the west wall surrounding the house. These are of special interest as the only other bee boles which have been recorded in the Midlands are those at Packwood House, Hockley Heath, Warwickshire (O.S. Map Ref. SP173721). Bee boles are recesses in stone or brickwalls for the accommodation and protection of one or two skeps, i.e. straw or wicker beehives. There is no English name for these recesses and the Bee Research Association has adopted bee bole, the name which is in common use for them in Scotland.

At West Bromwich there are four boles three of which are bricked up. A drawing of the open bole is given at figure 2 and the dimensions of all the boles are given in figure 3. I have numbered the boles 1 to 4 from south to north. No. 3 is the open one. The original level of the ground is uncertain and the height of the shelves of the boles has been estimated, by relation to the entrances in the wall, to be four feet which would allow the skeps to be handled easily.

The boles face approximately eighteen degrees north of east. Past and present day practice is for hives to face south or south-east and the majority of boles face this way, although a few face east. The boles at West Bromwich are within easy sight but are not too close to the domestic quarters which would be an advantage particularly in the case of swarming.

There is no record of bee boles outside the British Isles and in England the distribution is uneven, the majority are however recorded in the North Country. It is also significant that the majority occur in the wettest parts of the country. As might be expected local stone was used for their construction when this was available close at hand. At other places brick was used and in these the boles generally have rounded or arched tops.

Most of the bee boles recorded appear to have been built in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries although it is difficult to assign firm dates in the absence of documentary evidence as the boles may have been constructed with earlier or later material than the main structure. The two earliest boles are associated with ecclesiastical buildings at Nutwithcote, Masham, Yorkshire (in a grange of Fountains Abbey), and at Tems House, Giggleswick, Yorkshire, belonging to a monastery, both of which may date from before the Dissolution. Many of the earliest bee boles are found in Tudor manor-houses often in the surrounding walls as at West Bromwich; they are usually shallow in depth and small in number. In general the height of bee boles ranges from eighteen to thirty inches, the width from fifteen to twenty-eight inches and the depth fourteen to twenty-one inches. At some places there is only one bole and it is unusual to get more than twelve in one group. The largest group recorded is at Packwood

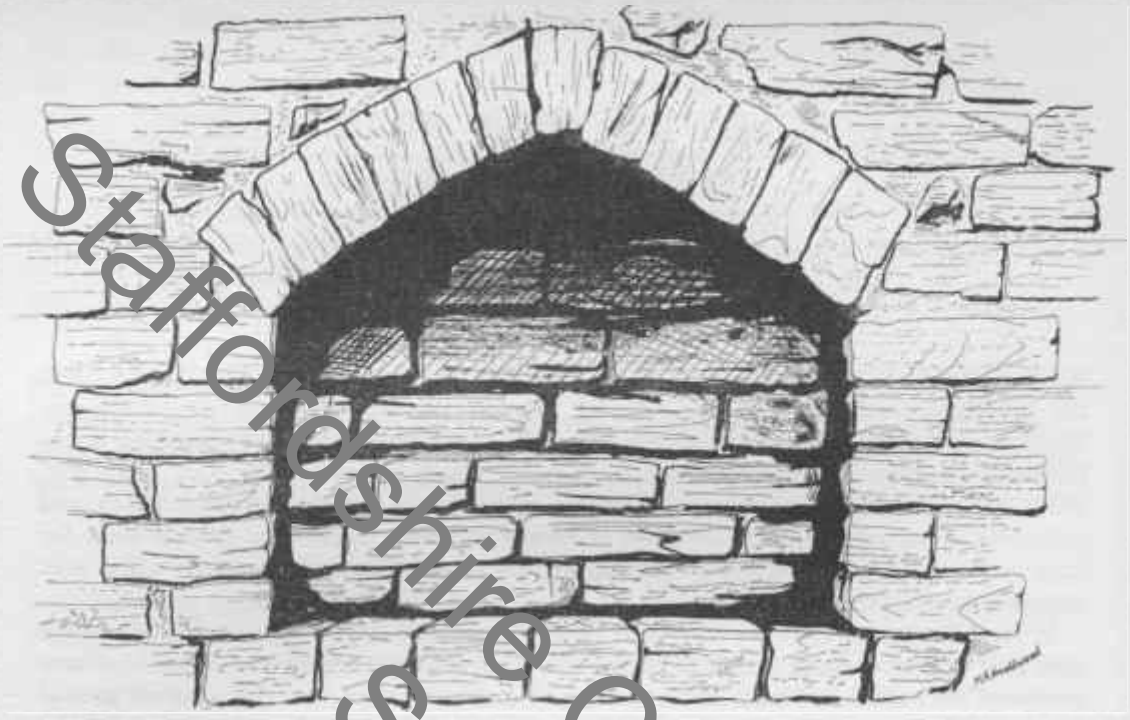


Fig. 2. Bee bole at West Bromwich manor-house

House where there are thirty, and these fill the length of a south-facing wall in a formal Carolean garden. It has been suggested by Duruz and Crane[1] that they may have been ornamental rather than utilitarian; I think this is unlikely although not all of the boles may have been in use at the same time.

There is no evidence of any bee boles being constructed during the last hundred years and none are known to be in use at the present time although some are said to have been in use within living memory.

The bee boles at West Bromwich fall into the general pattern for shape, size and number, they are, however, more widely spaced than is usual. There is no documentary evidence for the date of the boundary wall which is outside the moat. It could well have been built by Sir Richard Shilton, Solicitor-General to Charles I who bought the estate from an impoverished cousin in 1626. This date is supported by the narrowness of the shelves and the size of the bricks, namely, 9 inches $\times$ $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches $\times$ $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches. The depth of the boles was, of course, determined by the size of the bricks and the thickness of the wall. These boles would have held only narrow skeps and it is surprising that at West Bromwich and other Tudor manor-houses with boles of this kind the shelf was not extended. There are a few Tudor bee boles in walls where an extension of the shelf was made. No skeps of this period exist but Charles

[1] R. M. Duruz and E. E. Crane, *English Bee Boles*, Bee Research Association, Reprinted from *Bee World* 34 (11): 209-224 (1953).

I am indebted to Dr. Eva Crane, Dr. R. J. Hetherington, Messrs. R. A. McKinley and Stitt of the William Salt Library, Stafford, James A. Roberts and E. Lissimore for information and advice in compiling this Paper.

The drawing of the bee bole at figure 2 was made by one of our young members, Hugh Shallwood, to whom I am very grateful.

Note: Since the above was written the brick fillings of boles Nos. 1, 2 and 4 have been removed and the whole of the wall and the boles repointed. The opening of the other boles has enabled the depths of the shelves to be measured. These have been included in figure 3 and give some support to the suggestion that boles Nos. 1 and 2 were constructed at a later date than Nos. 3 and 4. Traces of the mortar lining in No. 3 have been lost with the renovation of the wall.

APPENDIX

SOME REFERENCES TO EARLY BEEKEEPING IN STAFFORDSHIRE

1. *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, new series, vol. x. Alrewas Court Rolls p. 266, Assize of mead, 1259.

2. Lattingham Court Rolls (1311-1711). Originals and transcript, by Rev. J. P. O'Connor in William Salt Library, Stafford, vol. 4/25, pp. 10, 40, 140, 141, 148, 150, 153, 162, 174, 175, 179, 180: vol. 5/25 p. 2.
References to swarms and ownership of hives in fourteenth century.
The whole of the records has not been examined and there may be other references at later dates.
The regnal year in the earliest reference is not clear, it may be 6 Ed. II (1313) or 6 Ed. III (1332).

3. *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, new series, vol. vi, part 1. Plea Rolls, 1474-1485 p. 105, William Mason sued Richard Ruddyng of Stonnall for selling him honey impregnated with sulphur and other impurities, 1457.

4. *Staffordshire Historical Collections*, 1935, Quarter Session Rolls 1598-1602 p. 28, Thomas Smith and his wife sued for stealing two hives of bees (and cabbages) on night of 6th or 7th November, 1600 from garden of Thomas Walton of Whittington, Staffs.

5. Will and inventory of Richard Dolphin (1619) in Birmingham Probate Registry. Cit., J. F. Ede, *History of Wednesbury*, 1962, p. 196.

6. R. Plot, *The Natural History of Staffordshire*, 1686, ix 92, 93.
Types of hive used in the County. At Mr. Rudyard's Dieulacres Abbey, hives made of osier twigs, daubed with cow dung and covered with lime. Use of hackles, as by Rev. M. Rhodes, rector of Blithfield. Large variety of hives at "the worshipful John Whitehall's of Pipe Ridware, Esq. who is a most intelligent bee-master", some square, made of brick into which wooden frames were set and having windows back and front.

7. *Modern Christianity: Exemplified at Wednesbury and other adjacent places in Staffordshire.* Published by John Wesley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1745.
para. 19, Report by John Darby of Brerely of five stalls of bees being destroyed by anti-Wesley mob.

8. William Pitt, *A General View of the Agriculture of the County of Staffordshire*, 1796, p. 154; 1808, p. 215; 1813, p. 215.
Brief description of beekeeping methods in the County (same in each edition).

9. William Pitt, *A Topographical History of Staffordshire* 1817,
pp. 80-81, "Bees are kept occasionally by farmers and cottagers; it is a matter of surprise that . . . every farmer has not an apiary. A number of beehives is attended with little expense and considerable profit".

10. R. Garner, *Natural History of Staffordshire*, 1844,
p. 318, Bees in tomb in Stoke churchyard
Supplement, 1860.
p. 35, Observes that bees pierce the corolla of some flowers to obtain nectar.

11. H. M. Fraser, *History of Beekeeping in Britain*, Bee Research Association, 1958.
Refers to some of the above items.

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PROGRAMME 1962-63

1962

May 19 Day excursion to Elford, Repton, Foremark churches, Radburne Hall and Derby Cathedral.

Sept. 22 Excursion to Coleshill, Maxstoke Castle and Fillongley Hall.

Oct. 4 Annual General Meeting.
Local Collections and the Public Library with special reference to Walsall – MISS H. DICK.
Michael Biddulph of Lichfield and Elmhurst – COUNCILLOR H. EBDON.
Some Roman Coins – J. T. GOULD.
Civil War Tracts of Staffordshire – J. W. WHISTON.

Oct. 11 Travel Evening: Cargo Boat Holiday – B. O. M. NORRIS.

Oct. 19 Earnest and Persevering Labours, the early History of the Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb in South Staffordshire and Shropshire – M. A. K. PASCOE.

Nov. 2 Civic Evening: Northern Journey through Lapland to North Cape – DR. H. THORPE, F.S.A.
Sunny Places for Shady People – CANON A. L. HOPKINS.

Nov. 22 Connoisseur's Evening: Aspects of Chinese Art – ERIK HANCOCK.

Dec. 7 Holidays with Pre-History – PREBENDARY N. W. WATSON.

1963

Feb. 1 The Pattern of Norman Church Building in Staffordshire – S. A. JEAVONS, F.S.A.

Feb. 21 Travel Evening: Seeking the Sun in Southern Europe – A. A. ROUND.

Mar. 1 The Roman Civil Settlement at Wall – J. T. GOULD.

Mar. 22 Connoisseur's Evening: Here and There, Collecting Odds and Ends – H. TRUMAN.

Mar. 29 C. E. Stringer's Collections for the History of Lichfield in the Bodleian Library – PAUL MORGAN, F.S.A.

OBITUARY We regret to have to record the death of Prebendary N. W. Watson, M.A.