

# Romans at Glasshouse Wood

## 100 A.D.



A 1971 excavation at Glasshouse Wood  
found remains of a substantial 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman building  
together with evidence of the 17<sup>th</sup> century glass works there.

W.J. Ford 1971 Glasshouse Wood, Kenilworth, West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet No 14

### Glasshouse Wood, Warws (SP 3145 7240)

Excavation in advance of the Kenilworth By-pass has revealed the stone foundations, floors and roof collapse of a substantial Roman building extending over an area approximately 40 sq m. The building was constructed upon an earlier timber structure and ditch from which material of the I AD was obtained. A series of stone-walled enclosures adjoined the building on its north side and a banked rectangular field system of three to four acre fields extended over a considerable area of the wood. Aerial photography showed that this field system extended to both the N and S of the wood and 50 m to the N of the building a smaller rectangular enclosure appeared to be part of the whole system. Excavation here produced evidence of an enclosing ditch 1.20 m in depth nearby the remains of a hearth. In the E triangle of the wood, trial trenching revealed stone walls and debris including much fused glass waste which probably mark the area of the XVII glass furnaces.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum in  
association with Coventry and  
District Archaeological Society

# Romans at Crewe Farm

200 – 400 A.D.



A 1971 excavation at Crewe Farm  
found evidence of a Roman Rural Settlement  
within a rectilinear enclosure;  
this was a progression from earlier circular enclosures.

W.J. Ford 1971 Crewe Farm, Kenilworth, West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet No 14

Crewe Farm, Kenilworth, Warws (SP 3145 7240)

The excavation in advance of Kenilworth By-pass has revealed a rectilinear enclosure, probably three acres in extent. Evidence of two palisade trenches indicate at least two phases of occupation. This was borne out by the discovery of the post-holes of a substantial rectangular timber building which produced many sherds of RB pottery. This building had replaced an earlier circular structure which had been deliberately dismantled. The later structure had in turn also been dismantled and the site was seen to be traversed by cart tracks which had been packed by gravel at various stages, sealing in them fragments of Roman pottery. This may indicate the presence of a third building within the enclosure, the site of which remains to be discovered. Occupations would appear to date from III AD and continue at least until IV. The site is peripheral to the Roman farm and field system centred at Glasshouse Wood.

W.J. FORD for Warwick County Museum



# Ancient Oak Tree

Planted c.1017



Some of the ancient woodland of the time of Domesday still exists in what now remains of Echills Wood. One particular oak was recently dated as having been planted c.1017.

Echill is an old name for Acorn.

Stoneleigh had one of the largest areas of woodland and certainly the largest number of pigs of any village in Warwickshire.

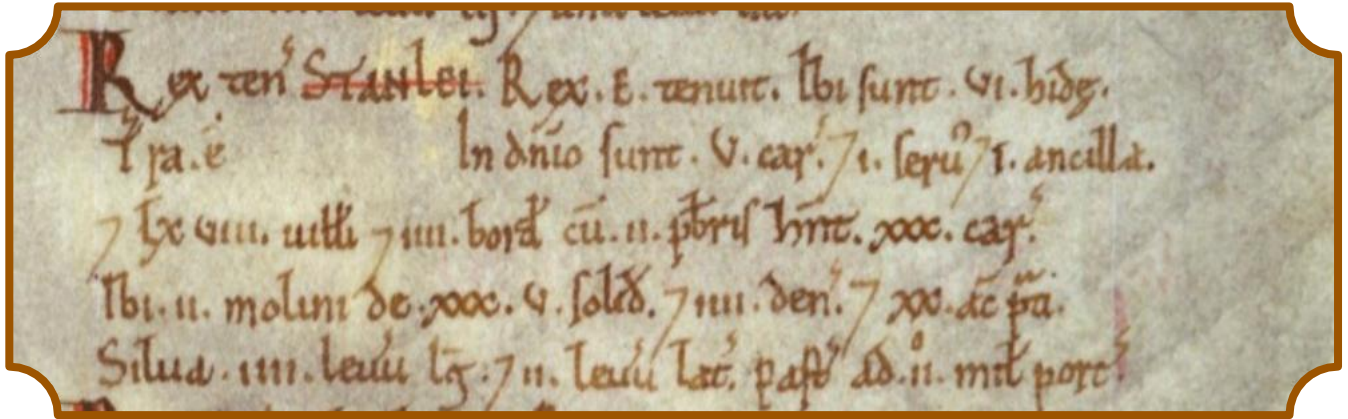
Pasture for 2,000 pigs in the Domesday Book.

Pigs love acorns!

# The Domesday Book

## Entry for Stoneleigh

1086



The King holds Stanlei.

King Edward held it.

There are 6 hides.

In lordship are 5 ploughs, and 1 male slave and 1 female slave;

and 68 villagers and 4 smallholders with 2 priests

have 30 ploughs.

There are 2 mills rendering 35s 4d.,

and 20 acres of meadow,

woodland 4 leagues long and 2 leagues wide,

pasture for 2,000 pigs.

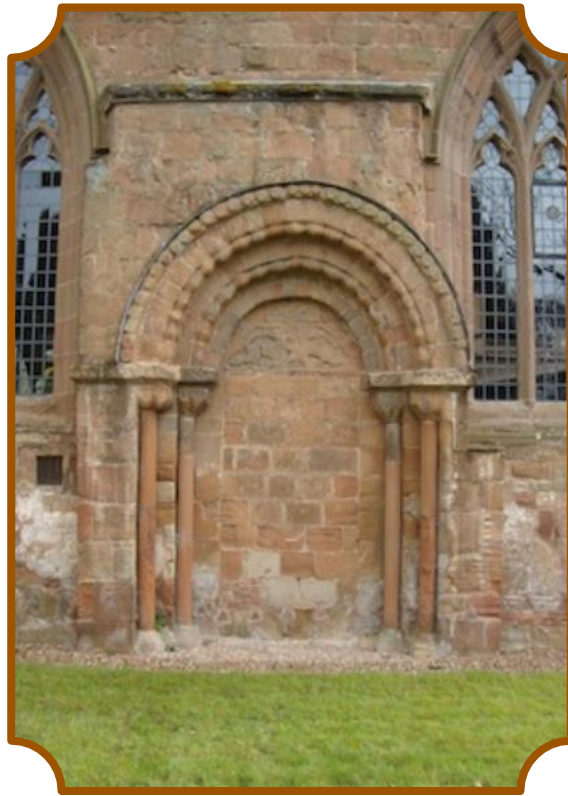
In all, 27 villages or manors in the Domesday Book were in  
The Hundred of Stanlei in Warwickshire.

1 league was about 1½ miles so the Woodland was 18 square miles or 11,520 Acres



# Stoneleigh Church

Built 1150 - 1199



The original door in the North wall

The relief at the top shows two entwined dragons biting their tails, below a coiled serpent. The bases of the Chancel walls and the now blocked door are of late 12<sup>th</sup> Century date. The door was blocked in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century when the north wall was almost entirely rebuilt.

The North door of a Christian Church of Norman origin has usually been blocked and has been known as the “Devil’s Door”. The reason for this is uncertain; perhaps it was the door to be used by pagans when the church was used for communal gatherings, as pagans and their beliefs were often referred to as ‘devils’; perhaps it was to let the devil out after a baptism; perhaps it was blocked simply to keep out the draft from the cold, sunless North side of the church?

# Cistercian Monks

Arrive in Stoneleigh 1155



A group of hermits established at Radmore in Staffordshire, converted into an abbey of the Cistercian Order. The monks, however, were so much interfered with by the foresters that immediately upon the accession of Henry II in 1154 they petitioned him to transfer them to his manor of Stoneleigh. This he did, settling them first at Cryfield, where they found the proximity of the road from Coventry to Warwick too distracting. He accordingly gave them a new site, surrounded on two sides by the River Avon and on the north by the Echills Wood. The first stone of the abbey church was laid on 13 April 1155. Nothing of this now remains.

# At the Abbey

## 13<sup>th</sup> Century



A Bishop Preaching at a Market Fair

In 1241 the Abbey buildings were severely burnt in a fire and the king ordered the sheriff of Warwickshire to deliver to the monks forty oaks out of his woods at Kenilworth, towards the repairs.

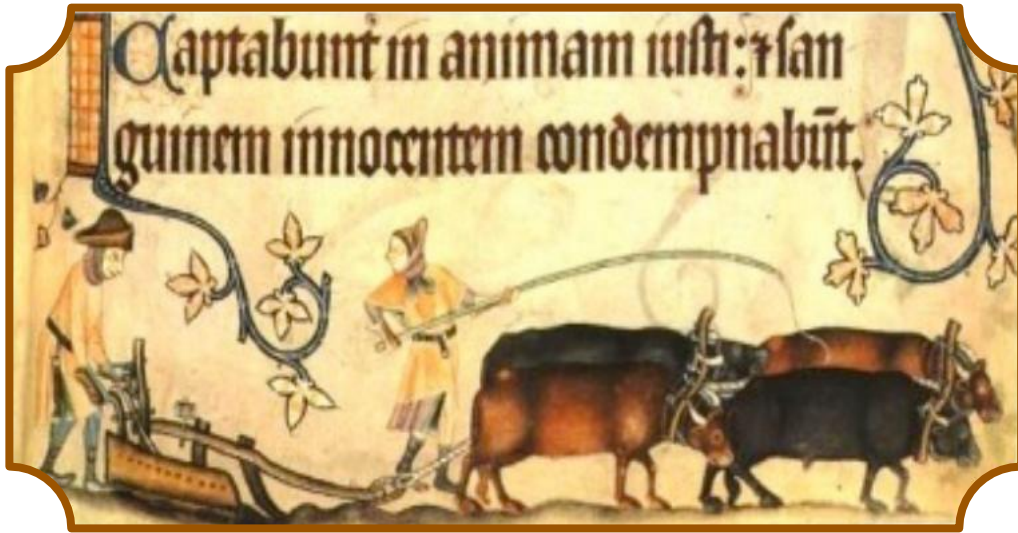
In 1284 the monks of Stoneleigh were granted a Thursday Market and an Annual Fair lasting for eight days on the feast of St. John the Baptist (24<sup>th</sup> June)

In 1288 the Abbey was subject to an outrage by a number of persons unknown. They came armed, set fire to the abbot's houses, burnt the gatehouse, consumed goods and hunted and took away deer.



# The Hundred Rolls

1279 - 1280



The Hundred Rolls of 1279 – 80 reveal that those who worked on the Abbey estates in the 13<sup>th</sup>C were obliged to grind their corn at the Abbey Mill, could not sell property without the Lord's permission and could not fish in the small brooks of the manor.

Peasants could not cut down trees from the common land but could enter the Abbey's woodlands and take underwood to repair houses and fences, and also for firewood.

Stoneleigh Abbey had eight granges and probably practised cereal and legume cultivation as well as keeping beef and dairy cattle herds. Wool production was becoming increasingly important.

This was, however, the time of The Great Famine nationally.

# Abbey Gatehouse

1349



The Abbot of Stoneleigh Abbey, Robert de Hockele had completed the rebuilding of the Abbey's Gatehouse and Guest House by 1349.

The gatehouse still stands today.



# The Black Death

1349



Plague Victims blessed by priest

The Black Death reached Warwickshire in 1349 and it is believed that 40% of the peasantry in the County died of the epidemic.

Whole families on the Abbey estate were wiped out.



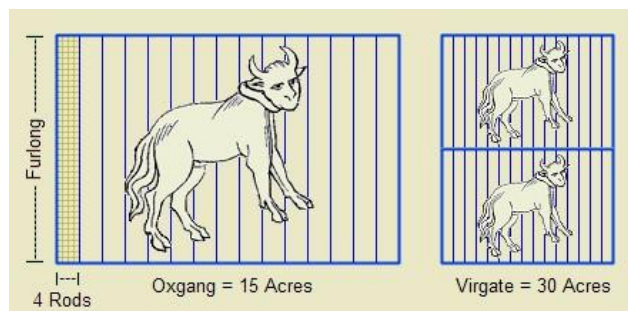
# Strip Fields

1350s



By this time much of Stoneleigh's lands were covered by ploughed open fields divided into strips and distributed to tenants living in the village.

A **Rod** was about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  yards, the length of a mediaeval ox-goad



A **Perch** varied between 6 yards and 8 yards

A **Chain** was 22 yards

A **Square Perch** was  $30\frac{1}{4}$  sq yards

A **Rood** was 1 Furlong by 1 Rod. 40 square Perch = 1 Rood

A **Furlong**, was the distance 2 oxen could plough without resting

An **Acre** was the land tillable by 2 oxen in 1 day. 4 Roods = 1 Acre

A **Virgate** or **Yardland** was the land ploughable by 2 oxen in a season

The Acre was originally a long **Strip** of 1 Furlong by 1 Chain.

A long narrow strip of land is more efficient to plough than a square plot,  
since the plough does not have to be turned so often

The Acre was defined in the time of Edward I 1272-1307

# Stare Bridge

1400s



One of the loveliest medieval bridges in England, Stare Bridge, remains today, having been constructed towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The picture shows the ancient breed of White Park Cattle in lands next to the bridge.

# Old Houses 15<sup>th</sup> Century

## Still Standing Today

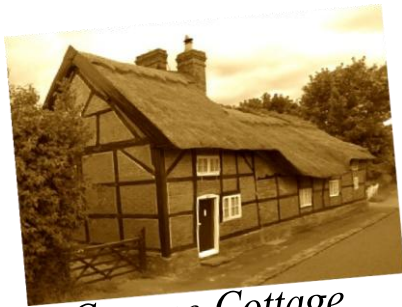
Birmingham Road



*Phoenix Cottage*



*3 Birmingham Rd*

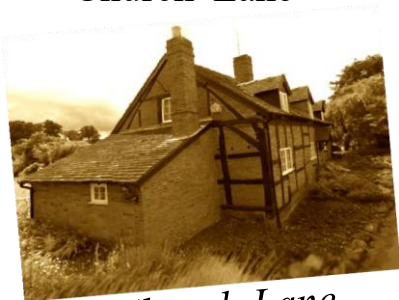


*Croome Cottage*



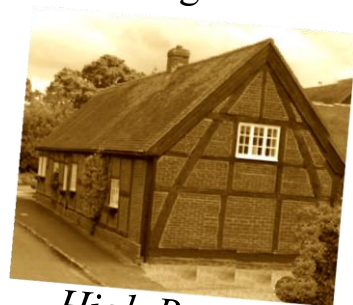
*21-25 Birmingham Rd*

Church Lane



*3 Church Lane*

Vicarage Road



*High Beams*

Motslow Hill



*Motslow Cottages 2-4*

Information from "People at Home" by Nat Alcock  
English Heritage Listed Buildings



# Dissolution

1536



At the time of the Dissolution the net annual income of Stoneleigh Abbey was valued at £151 and the house was suppressed with the smaller monasteries in 1536.

Stoneleigh Abbey was not particularly well managed, nor particularly large and Henry's commissioners found only about £215 of portable wealth and not inconsiderable debts, when the Abbey was broken up. The abbot was Thomas de Tutbury.

Nevertheless, the Abbey commanded excellent tracts of land and an important place in the country's geography.

# Stareton People

1555

Address	Inhabitant	Occupation
1 – 2 Stareton	Thomas Tutor	Husbandman
4 – 5 Stareton	George Kockes	
Park Farm	Thomas Cowper	Husbandman
Yew Tree Cottage	William James	Labourer
6 Stareton	Ralph Gandie	
Stareton	Alexander Howe	Clothier
Stareton	Richard Grainger	Husbandman
Stareton	John Porter	
Stareton	Edward Sotherne	Yeoman
Stareton	George Baker	Carpenter
Stareton	John Clarke	Labourer
Stareton	Robert Shotteswell	
Stareton	Isabell Mainard	
Stareton	The Blacksmith	

Information from Peter James

# Sir Thomas Leigh

1561



In 1561 the Abbey estate was bought by Sir Thomas Leigh who built a house which incorporated the east cloister range, south transept and south nave aisle.

He had been Master of the Mercers' Company and Lord Mayor of London when Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne in 1558. He led her Coronation Procession through the City of London. He also purchased considerable other tracts of land in Warwickshire.



# The Almshouses

1594



The Almshouses were clad in stone by 1594

They were built in 1579, the original roof was probably thatch but this is the time they achieved their present day appearance, with the tall chimneys being added in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Originally they were for 5 single men and 5 single women who were paid a shilling a day, with the churchwardens receiving six shillings and eightpence a year for their oversight and the Mayor of Coventry getting ten shillings to ensure they attended church. The rents from Millbourne Grange were set aside to cover this.



# Old Houses 16<sup>th</sup> Century

## Still Standing Today



*1-2-3 The Bank*



*Old Almshouses*



*6-9 The Bank*



*18-19 Birmingham Rd*

*Birmingham Road*



*9-10 Birmingham Rd*



*Bridge End*

*Coventry Road*



*10-11-12 Coventry Rd*

*Vicarage Road*



*Manor Farm (west bays)*

Information from "People at Home" by Nat Alcock  
English Heritage Listed Buildings

# The Bells, The Bells

## 1632



The Church Belfry has 6 Bells

2 were cast in 1632 by H. Watts,  
the Tenor weighing  $10\frac{1}{4}$  cwt or over  $\frac{1}{2}$  a ton  
and the 4<sup>th</sup> weighing 6 cwt.

The oldest is the 3<sup>rd</sup> a rare 1530 bell cast by J Wolley weighing  $5\frac{3}{4}$  cwt.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> was cast in 1752 by Eayres at  $4\frac{3}{4}$  cwt.

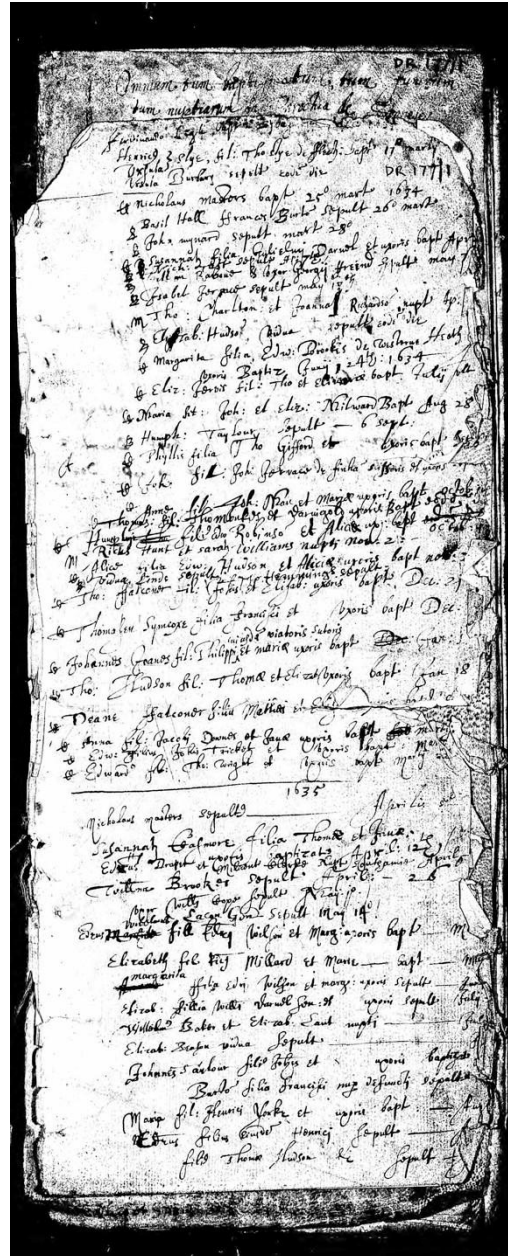
The 5<sup>th</sup> was cast in 1792 by J Briant at 8 cwt.

The Treble was cast in 1962 by John Taylor of Loughborough at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cwt.



# Church Registers

## 1634



The First of the Stoneleigh Parish Church Registers.

The page shows Baptisms & Burials  
for 1634 and 1635.

The entries are in Latin.

# The Deer Park

1640



Significant changes were made to the local land-use, with the emparking of land by the Leighs in 1640 for the use of deer.

Closing the land to the peasantry resulted in severe hardship.

# Charles I at the Abbey

## 1642



In 1642 King Charles I with 600 soldiers had been turned away from Coventry. He was given hospitality at the Abbey, for which favour the owner, Thomas Leigh, was created the first Baron Leigh.

It is probable that many of his retinue had to find accommodation in the village!

Charles proclaimed that if Coventry's citizens persisted in rebellion he would *“use all extremity for reducing the said City to obedience. Given at our **Court at Stoneley Abbey** the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August in the Eighteenth Year of Our Reign, 1642”*



# Roundheads at the Church

## 1643



On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1643 the vicar at Stoneleigh church, the Reverend Edward Maunsell, was threatened by Parliamentary soldiers, who first caused a disturbance in church and then left, only to discharge their pistols against the window “hoping thereby to have murdered the preacher to the great affrightment of the people.”

The Reverend Maunsell was also a chaplain to King Charles I and so he may have been a particular target for Parliamentarians. He eventually died in Parliamentary custody, in Abingdon.

# Wildlife Control

1663



In 1663 the Stoneleigh Churchwardens paid for  
6 foxes and 8 ‘urchtions’ or ‘urchens’.

Urchin was the old word for a hedgehog.

These payments were also made by churchwardens across the country in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries at various prices for crows, magpies, jays, sparrows, badgers, moles, otters, polecats etc.

**The 1663 Disbursements of the Stoneleigh Churchwardens** has recently been examined, 350 years later, looking at where the money was spent and who the people were.

# Alice Duchess Dudley

## 1669



The fine marble monument to Alice Duchess Dudley.

Alice Leigh, the daughter of the first Baronet Thomas Leigh, married Robert Dudley the illegitimate son of the earl of Leicester. Robert attempted to become both Earl of Leicester and Earl of Warwick. When this failed he deserted his wife Alice and ran off to Italy with a Maid of Honour to Queen Elizabeth I.

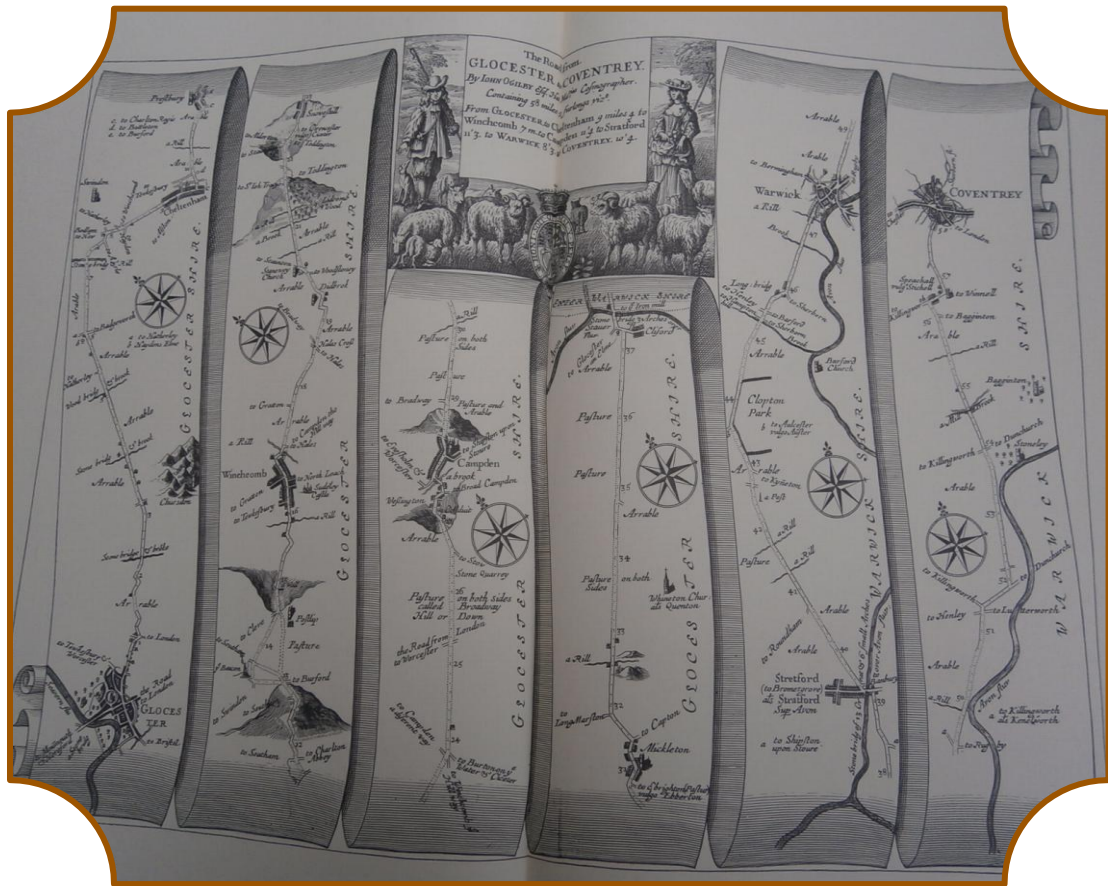
Alice devoted her life to charitable works and left generous bequests including £50 to the parish of Stoneleigh. She was created Duchess Dudley in her own right, by King Charles I.

The statue of her daughter Alice is on the lower level of the monument.



# Sheep Drovers

## 1675



In 1675 John Ogilby published the Britannia Atlas. The beautifully illustrated Title shows sheep drovers. The Atlas contained one hundred road map prints, with one showing the route from Gloucester to Coventry, passing near Stoneley.

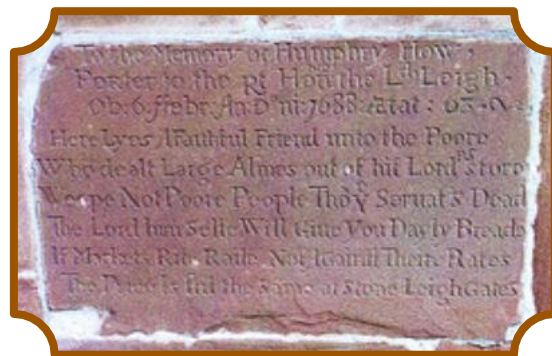


# Humphry How

1688



Memorial to Humphry How  
set in the now blocked door on the South side of the church



To the Memory of Humphry How  
Porter to the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> the L<sup>d</sup> Leigh  
Ob: 6 Febr: An:D<sup>o</sup>ni 1688 Aetat : 63

Here Lyes A Faithful Friend unto the Poore  
Who dealt Large Almes out of his Lord<sup>RS</sup> store  
Weepe Not Poore People Tho'y<sup>R</sup> Servant's Dead  
The Lord him selfe Will Give You Dayly Breade  
If Markets Rise Raile Not Against Their Rates  
The Price is still the same at Stone Leigh Gates

# Old Houses 17<sup>th</sup> Century

## Still Standing Today

The Green



*Chestnut Cottage*

Church Lane



*4 Church Lane*



*Church Meadow Cottage*

Vicarage Road



*Manor Farm  
(east bays added)*



*Pear Tree Cottage*



*The Cottage*

Coventry Road



*5-6-7 Coventry Rd*

Over the River



*Bridge Cottage  
'Van Dieman's Cottage'*

Information from "People at Home" by Nat Alcock  
English Heritage Listed Buildings



# Stoneleigh School

## 1743



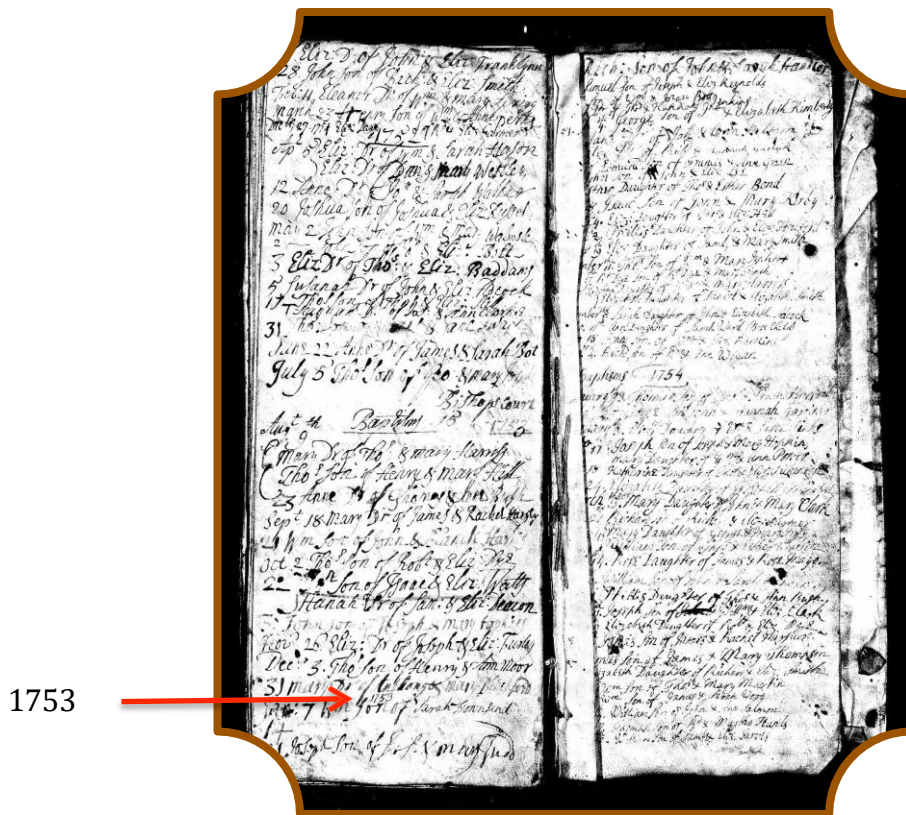
In 1710 Thomas the 2nd Lord Leigh had given £800 in Trust for the foundation of a school for the children of Stoneleigh, Stareton, Wootton and Ashow. He intended that his son Edward should “suffer a certain building called the Court House to be fitted up and made into a convenient school, to teach school there forever.” A further £1,000 was added to this sum by the Honourable Ann Leigh in her Will of 1731.

Edward the 3rd Lord Leigh neglected to fulfil his father’s wishes, however, and it was only in 1740 that Thomas 4th Lord Leigh gave ground “near to the churchyard for the school and Master’s House,” thus carrying out his grandfather’s and aunt’s wishes. It seems to have been built by 1743 and was to provide an education for both boys and girls.

An inventory taken some years later records items in the Front Entrance, Front Parlour, Kitchen, Brewhouses (2), Boys’ Schoolroom, Girls’ Schoolroom, Sitting Room, Cellar, 2 Bedrooms and a Lumber Room, a Scullery and a Pantry. The Boys’ schoolroom contained amongst other things three writing desks, four benches, three slates and eight rails of hat pegs; the Girls’ schoolroom four writing desks, twelve benches, six stools and seven rails of bonnet pegs. One assumes that a great deal of sharing was the norm!

# Calendar Change

## 1752



The most unusual and far-reaching event of the 1750s was the introduction of the British Calendar Act of 1750, which was implemented across 1751, 1752, and 1753.

After December 1751 it was decided that each year should begin on 1<sup>st</sup> January – not 25<sup>th</sup> March, as previously used for the legal and church register year. In order to align with planetary movement 11 days were omitted altogether from the year 1752: the 2<sup>nd</sup> September was followed by the 14<sup>th</sup> !

Stoneleigh Baptism Registers show 1752 starting in April, followed by a continuous run of dates through to 1754. The vicar has added a tiny 1753 as an afterthought after the last of the December 1752 baptisms.

# George Jones

## 1767



George Jones was an engineer and a friend of the great bridge-builder Rennie. The Royal Military Canal across Romney Marsh referred to on the monument was designed to prevent the invasion of Napoleon.

Surviving today as a peaceful haven for ramblers, fisherman and wildlife alike, the present tranquillity of the Royal Military Canal perhaps provides a fitting epitaph to one of the most eccentric, and possibly ill-conceived, chapters in British military history.

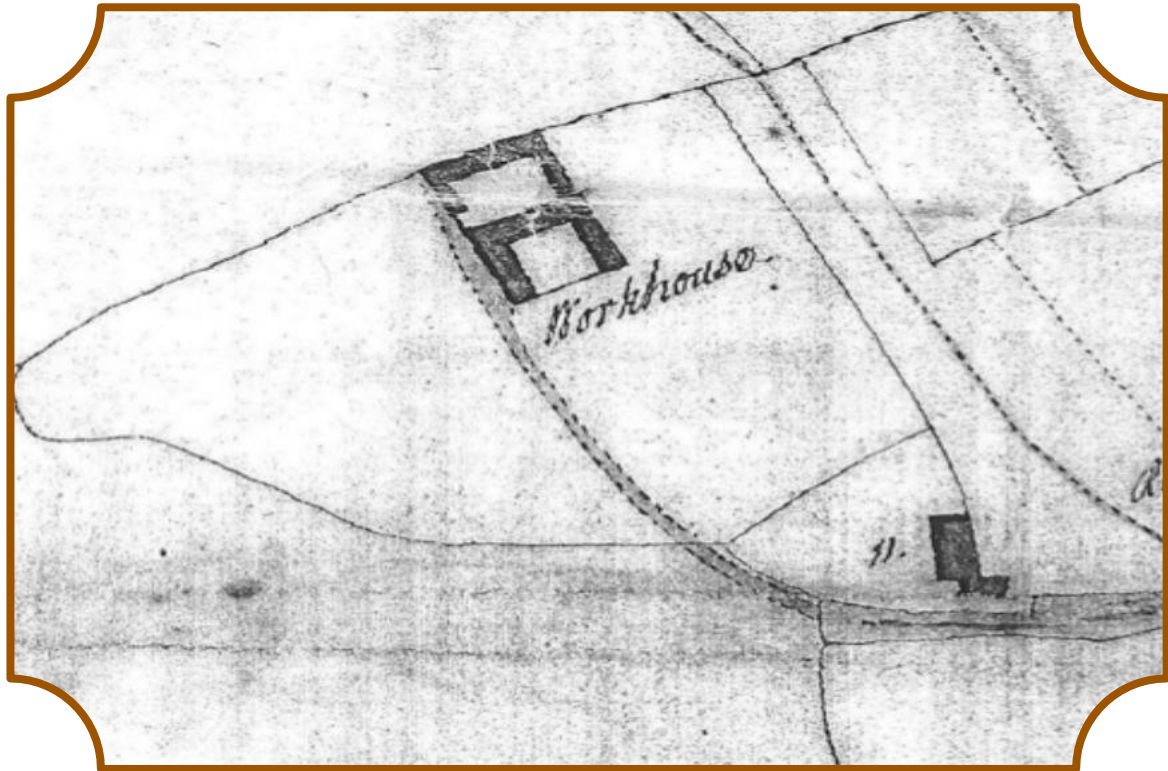
The journalist William Cobbett wrote ‘Here is a canal made for the length of thirty miles to keep out the French; for those armies who had so often crossed the Rhine and the Danube were to be kept back by a canal thirty feet wide at most!’

George was the engineer, *not* the designer behind the idea.



# Meeting at The Swan Inn

## 1783



The Workhouse shown on an old map c.1810-13 DR18/25/78a

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 1783 a general Meeting of the Principal Inhabitants of the Parish of Stoneley was held at the Swan Inn on The Green in Stoneleigh. It was unanimously agreed to petition Lord Leigh for permission to build a **Workhouse** to accommodate and provide for the Poor of the Parish. Also it was agreed to advance the sum of Two Hundred Pounds, to be collected by a general Rate or Levy throughout the said Parish. Under the auspices of the Hon. Mary Leigh, The Workhouse was later built at the end of Vicarage Road, where it remained until about 1820, later being converted to a vicarage.

# Meeting at the Swan Inn

## 1783

DR 18/3/60/2

“At a general Meeting of the Principal Inhabitants of the Parish of Stoneley, Assembled the Thirteenth day of February One Thousand, seven Hundred and Eighty-three, at the Sign of the Swan, in the said Parish, in order to take into consideration the most salutary Plan in making and Providing Provision for the Poor and Indigent part of the said Parish; It is unanimously agreed that a Petition and request be presented to the Honourable directors and Agents to the Right Honourable Lord Leigh that they will be pleased to give leave and liberty to the said Parishioners to Erect and Build on some convenient part of Waste or other Land in the said Parish, such Building or Buildings we may be thought most convenient, to accommodate and provide for the Poor of the said Parish, which Buildings shall be governed and directed under the denomination of a Workhouse; and in order that the said intended Buildings may the more speedily and expeditiously be Erected, the said Inhabitants do agree to advance the Sum of Two Hundred Pounds, to be collected by a general Rate or Levy throughout the said Parish”

### Witness

Churchwardens {	Joseph Judd	Willm. Rawlins	Robert Harris
	Ralph Cure	Willm. Parker Jnr	Thos. Harris
	Richd. Sammons	Henry Jackson	Thos Smith
	Wm. Gamble	Rich. Garlick	Hugh Hayes
	Jos. Palfrey	Thos Jeacock	Wm Watts
	Richd Shepheard	Thos Hadley	Jno Perkins
	Abraham Cox	Thos Wotton	J. Jeacock
	Richard Farmer	John Soden	} Overseer of the poor
	Jane Harborne	Wm Adkins	
	Ann Wigan		

# Old Houses 18<sup>th</sup> Century

## Still Standing Today

Church Lane



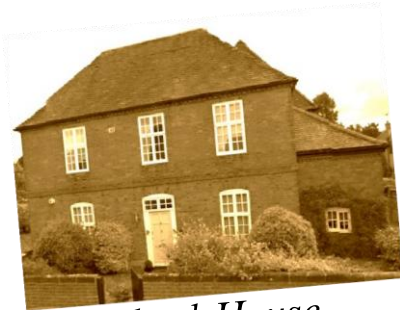
*The Parsonage*

The Bank



*4-5 The Bank*

Vicarage Road



*School House*



*6-7 Vicarage Rd*

Birmingham Road



*Jasmine Cottage*

Motslow Hill



*Motslow Hill Cottage 1*

Over The River



*Stoneleigh Grange*



# Job Lee the Tailor of Motslow

## 1813



The Village Tailor by Albert Anker  
(not a portrait of Job Lee)

Job Lee was baptised in Stoneleigh on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1813

“the son of James & Ann Lee The Other side the River Stoneley”

James Lee was a ‘Taylor’ and Job followed his father’s profession;

Job was a tailor on Motslow Hill until his death in 1887.

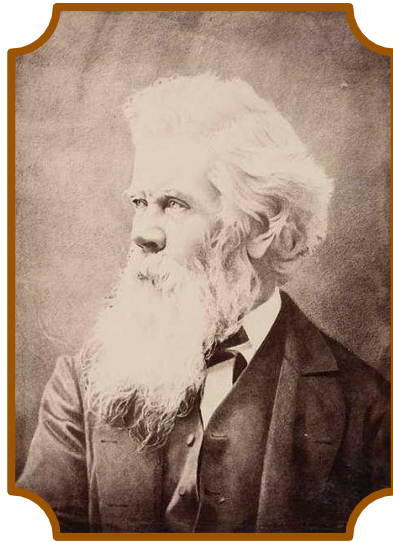
In the 1861 census he was a ‘Master Tailor Employing 1 man’

For many years and within living memory

Motslow Hill was known locally as Job Lee’s Hill

# Sir Henry Parkes

1815



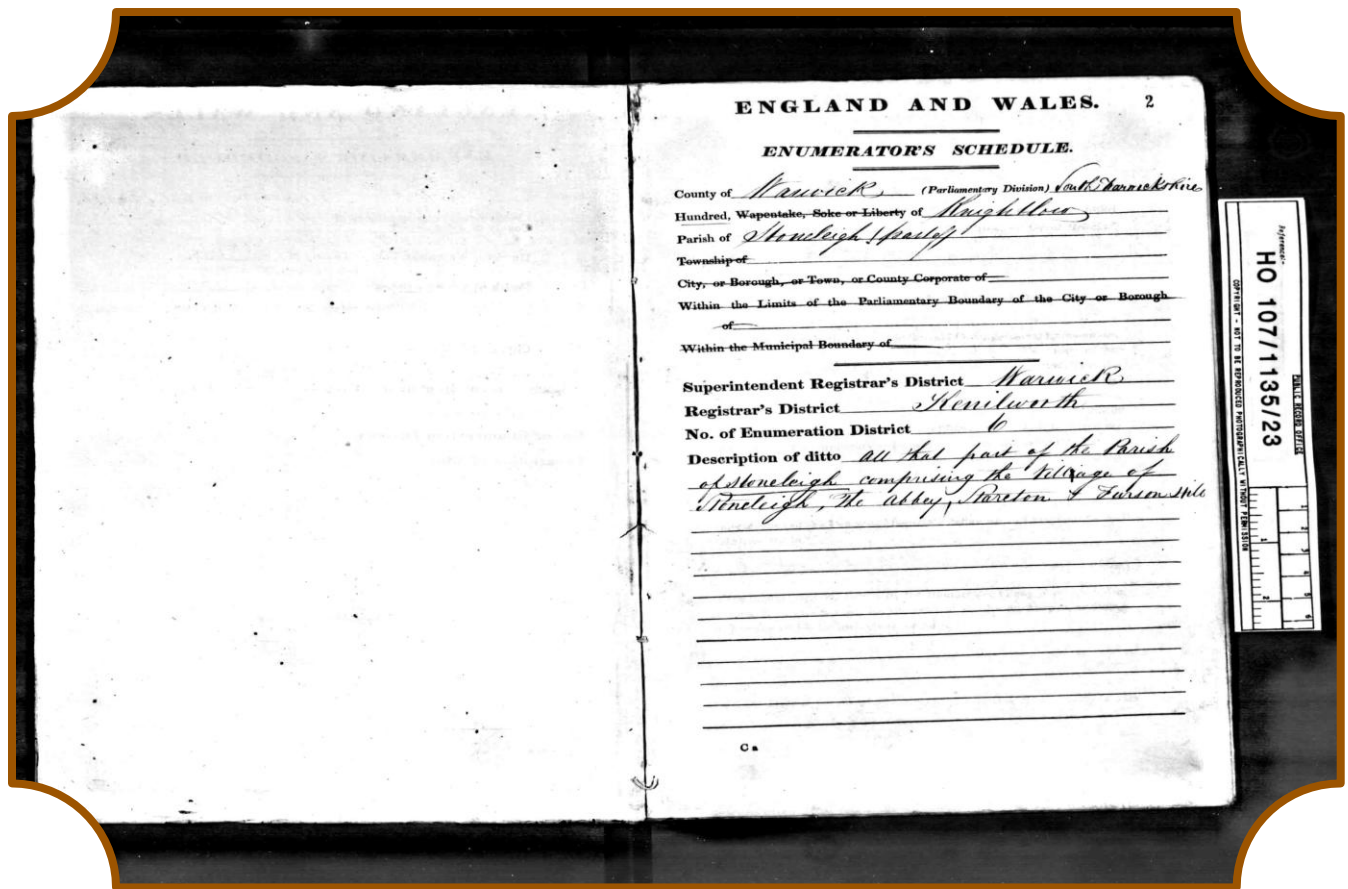
Born in 1815, in Moat House Cottage Canley (in those days within the parish of Stoneleigh), the son of a small-scale tenant farmer, he was christened in Stoneleigh Church and briefly attended Stoneleigh School.

Parkes sailed to Australia in 1839, arriving practically penniless. However, by 1872 he had risen to become Premier of New South Wales, a position he held five times between that date and 1891. He is known as the ‘Father of Federation’ in Australia and gives his name to the town of Parkes, NSW which is twinned with Coventry.

In 1882 he visited Stoneleigh, staying at the Abbey, and lectured to the young people of the village, in the Reading Room: *“You will not all rise to a position of power, honour, influence and responsibility such that I now fill. But by resolving to discharge the duties of life, and in being of use and service in your day and generation, you will do far better than I have done.”*

# The First Census

## 1841



Stoneleigh Village was Kenilworth District 6

*All that part of the Parish of Stoneleigh comprising  
the Village of Stoneleigh, The Abbey, Stareton & Furson Hill*

The enumerators had to fill in the details for

**Place** – The Name of the House if it had one or 'Village'  
(there were no official village street names then)

**Houses** – Uninhabited or Building and Inhabited

**Names** – of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night

**Age and Sex** of each person

**Profession, Trade, Employment or of Independent Means**

**Where Born** – In the same County or in Scotland Ireland or Foreign Parts



# The Forge

1851



The present Forge was built in 1851

We believe that there has been a Smithy on or near the present site since at least the sixteenth century. John Capp was recorded as the village blacksmith between 1599 and 1639.

Perhaps, prior to rebuilding, Stoneleigh Forge looked like this one at Claverdon.



# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Census

## 1851

Parish or Township of <i>Stonleigh</i>		Ecclesiastical District of <i>Stonleigh</i>		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of <i>Stonleigh</i>	
House No.	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb, or Insane
					Males	Females			
1	<i>George</i>	<i>Francis Pickles</i> <i>Biggs 2<sup>d</sup></i> <i>William 2<sup>d</sup></i> <i>George Carter</i> <i>John Bright</i> <i>Martha Gales</i> <i>Ann Bond</i> <i>Harriet Taylor</i> <i>Thomas Horner</i> <i>Mary Dixon</i> <i>John Harris</i>	<del><i>Head</i></del> <del><i>Wife</i></del> <del><i>Son</i></del> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i>	<del><i>Married</i></del> <del><i>Married</i></del> <del><i>Married</i></del> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i>	<del><i>68</i></del> <del><i>68</i></del> <del><i>17</i></del> <i>15</i> <i>14</i> <i>12</i> <i>11</i> <i>10</i> <i>8</i> <i>7</i> <i>6</i>	<del><i>Farmer &amp; Millwright</i></del> <del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i>	<i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i>		
2		<i>Thomas Bull Farmer</i> <i>Mary Farmer</i> <i>Mary Farmer</i> <i>Elizabeth Farmer</i> <i>John Farmer</i> <i>John Farmer</i> <i>John Farmer</i> <i>John Farmer</i> <i>John Farmer</i> <i>John Farmer</i> <i>John Farmer</i>	<del><i>Head</i></del> <del><i>Wife</i></del> <del><i>Wife</i></del> <del><i>Daughter</i></del> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i>	<del><i>Married</i></del> <del><i>Married</i></del> <del><i>Married</i></del> <del><i>Married</i></del> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i>	<del><i>60</i></del> <del><i>54</i></del> <del><i>18</i></del> <del><i>17</i></del> <i>11</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i>	<del><i>Farmer &amp; Millwright</i></del> <del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i>	<i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i>		
3		<i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i> <i>John Harris</i>	<del><i>Head</i></del> <del><i>Wife</i></del> <del><i>Wife</i></del> <del><i>Daughter</i></del> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i> <i>Son</i>	<del><i>Married</i></del> <del><i>Married</i></del> <del><i>Married</i></del> <del><i>Married</i></del> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i> <i>2</i>	<del><i>28</i></del> <del><i>27</i></del> <del><i>18</i></del> <del><i>17</i></del> <i>11</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i> <i>10</i>	<del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <del><i>Farmer's Son</i></del> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i> <i>Farmer's Son</i>	<i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i> <i>Hawthorn</i>		
Total of Persons						11		v	

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Reference —  
H.O. 107  
2073  
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A few more questions to be answered than in 1841

**Place** – Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No, of House

**Name and Surname** – of each Person who abode in the house  
on the Night of 30<sup>th</sup> March 1851

**Relation to Head of Family**

**Condition** – Unmarried, Married, Widowed

**Age and Sex** of each person

**Rank, Profession or Occupation**

**Where Born** – Town and County or Country

**Infirmary** – Whether Blind or Deaf-and-Dumb

The Census recorded 105 separate abodes in the Village

With a village population of 391:- 209 males and 182 females  
of which 142 were under 18

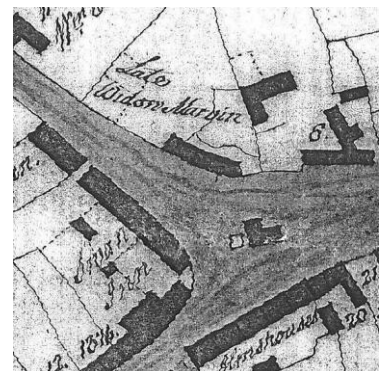
# Widows' Almshouses

## 1855



In memory of Chandos Lord Leigh, who had died in 1850,  
a second set of almshouses was built  
by his widow Margarete, in 1855,  
specifically to accommodate four widows.

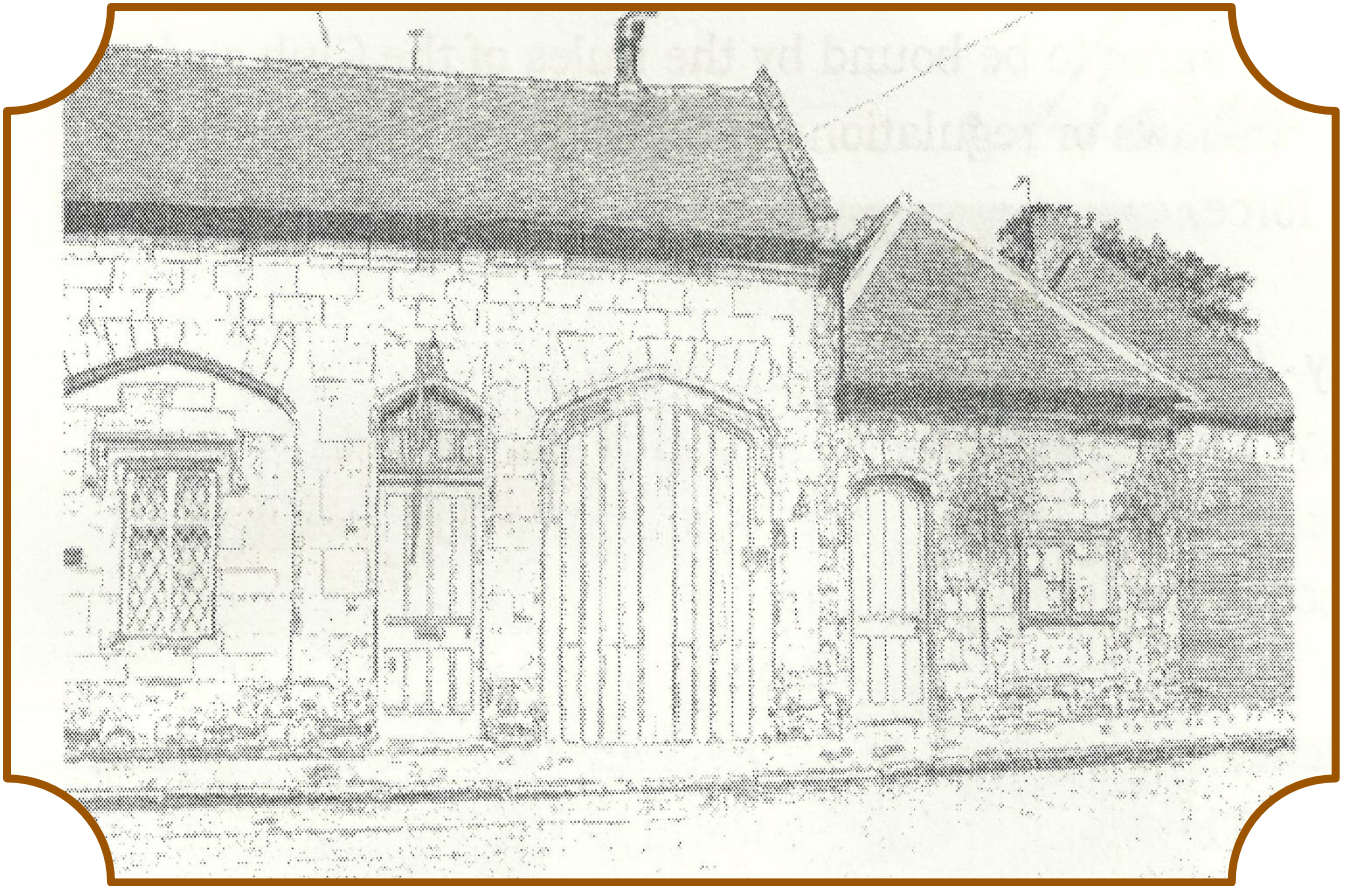
The old map of Stoneleigh c.1810-13 DR18/25/78a  
Shows that a previous house, on the bend of The Bank  
and Birmingham Road, was 'occupied' by the Late  
Widow Margin.





# The Reading Room

## 1856



The Reading Room – now the Village Club – opened in 1856  
with 750 volumes and newspapers available  
for the improvement of the inhabitants.

Inscribed on the Centre Beam is  
‘Friendship Love Truth’ and ‘Faith Hope Charity’

There began a “golden age” in the relationship between villagers and the Leighs of Stoneleigh Abbey, when William Henry Lord Leigh inherited the title in 1850, and when his youngest brother James Wentworth Leigh became vicar of Stoneleigh in 1863. Both men kept extensive documentary records of the buildings and their occupants, from which it is possible to discover an enormous amount about the life of the village.

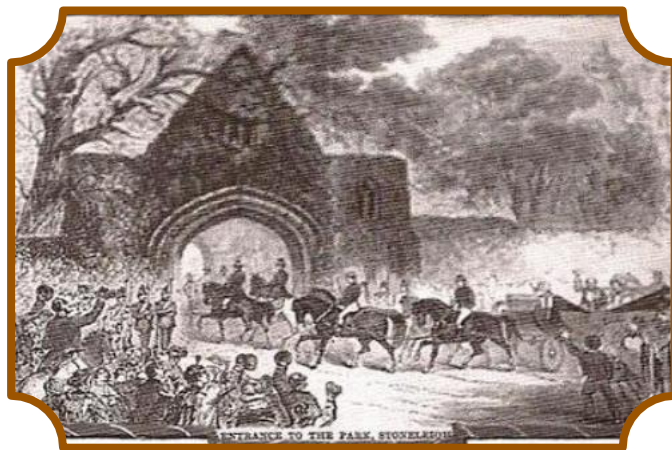
# Queen Victoria's Visit

## 1858



The Illustrated London News June 1858

In June 1858 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert stayed for three days at Stoneleigh Abbey, on their way to the opening of Aston Hall and People's Park in Birmingham.



Arriving through Tantara Lodge Gate

Their stay was the occasion for great festivity, with huge crowds assembling to greet the monarch who had travelled by train.

Also much amazing catering at the Abbey, all details of the visit fully recorded in The Diary of Georgina Leigh at The Abbey.



# The 3<sup>rd</sup> Census

## 1861

Superintendent Registrar's District Warwick Union Enumeration District, No. 10 151  
Registrar's Sub-District Hemsworth Name of Enumerator, Mr. John Holmes

DESCRIPTION OF ENUMERATION DISTRICT.

[This description is to be written in by the Enumerator from the Copy supplied to him by the Registrar. Any explanatory notes or observations calculated to make the description clearer or more complete, may be added by the Enumerator].

All that Part of the Parish of Houndley comprising the Villages the Alding,  
Horton, the Lodes, Wavay, House, Farnes Hill, Pen House, Leicesters Lane Cottages,  
the Dystonville, Nipes Field, Finkham, Westons Grange, Green Lane, the Leasowes Farm,  
Cottages at Mainley Wood, Millhouse Grange, & Oak House,

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

1 2 3 4 5 6

Reference—

R.G. 9 / 2224

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## Stoneleigh Village came under Enumeration District 10

The census recorded 101 separate abodes in Stoneleigh Village  
with a Village population of 360:-

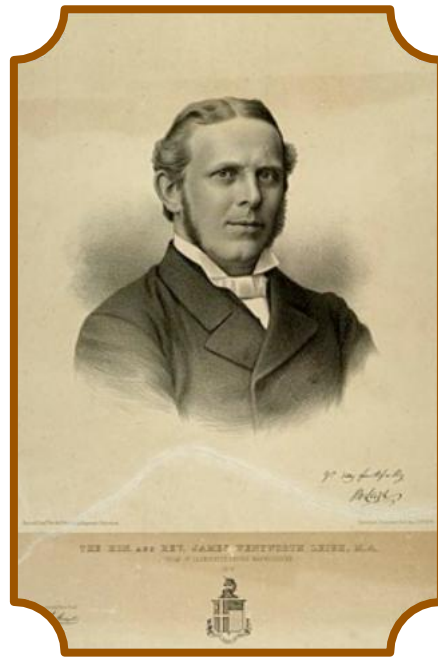
197 Males, 163 Females, of which 138 were under 18 years old.

The questions to be answered were the same as in 1851.



# James Wentworth Leigh

## 1863



James Wentworth Leigh became vicar of Stoneleigh in 1863.

He married Frances Butler in 1871, daughter of the English actress Fanny Kemble and the American plantation-owner Pierce Butler, and they lived at Wentworth House, Vicarage Road.

A world traveller and a great networker, he was also a caring pastor and a meticulous recorder of details about his parishioners and their children.

In 1873 JWL and Frances went to Georgia U.S.A. to run her family's rice plantation before returning to England where, after holding positions in Alveston, Leamington and London he was ultimately appointed Dean of Hereford.

In later life he wrote his autobiography "Other Days".

# School Logbooks

## 1863 -1976



School Logbooks have so far been transcribed from 1863 to 1902

Stoneleigh School was endowed by two legacies from the Leigh family in the first part of the eighteenth century and it is believed to have been built between 1741 and 1743.

At one time more than 150 pupils from a wide area were educated at the school, many of whom today live locally with their own vivid verbal recollections!

Probably its most famous pupil was Sir Henry Parkes who was born in 1815 and later became Premier of New South Wales five times in the twenty years from 1871.

All of the Leigh family took an interest in the school, frequently visiting and carrying out inspections.

After the Second World War the number of pupils steadily declined and the school closed in 1976, the building later being converted into apartments.

1864

[illegible]

The Reverend James Wentworth Leigh compiled a notebook during his tenure as vicar in Stoneleigh, giving intricate details of church disbursements, parish relief, confirmation candidates, school prize-winners and – perhaps of most interest to family historians – a page-by-page record of occupants in each house. He recorded, often, who married whom, who their children were, what their occupations were, and in many cases commented on their personalities and state of health! The record was updated in the years following by Canon John Thorn, his successor.



# The Co-Op Store

## 1867



In 1867 the Reverend James Wentworth Leigh started a store, one of the first such village stores to be started in England. It soon flourished, doing a business of nearly £3,000 per annum on a capital of £600, almost all the shares being owned by village labourers. In 1881 the storekeeper was William Hewitt; by the 1901 census it was Amos Assinder and in 1911 it was Joseph Morris, assisted by his wife, son and daughter. Adjoining the store was a bakehouse where villagers could take the Sunday dinner to be cooked. Deliveries from the store were made to Stareton, Baginton and Ashow as well as Stoneleigh. By the late 1920s the store had been taken over by the Coventry Co-Operative Society, and closed soon afterwards.

# Mary Dormer Harris

1867



The Warwickshire Historian

Mary was the daughter of Mary Dormer and Thomas Harris and was born in 1867 at Dale House Farm, Stoneleigh. In her memoir 'Unknown Warwickshire' she recalls attending, as a child, the service at Stoneleigh Church.

Long, long too, was the service in the familiar church to the mite in the family pew. There were so very few people to look at, and their backs and a few side faces were so well known. Long, long, long was the Litany; endless the alternate reading of the Psalms, to a child of infelicitous vacuity of mind and none of Charles Lamb's infantile devoutness. After the momentary thrill occasioned by the sight of the tall fine old gentleman – Sir Roger de Coverley to the life – who said his private devotions into his hat, the service, save for the clerk's all too forcible "Amens" relapsed into monotony.

We were a genteel congregation, though I do not know which family was the more genteel, the household with the rather pale, stern-looking mother, who won her future husband's esteem and obtained the offer of his hand by boning seventy sparrows for a pie, or the two tall sisters with exuberant figures and social aspirations, whose father ..... but a truce to these foolish stories. After the service (why, I know not) the most genteel of the congregation sat on, and it was sometimes a struggle to ascertain who could show the greatest gentility by sitting longest. I remember the palm was usually carried off by the lady with the sparrow-pie training in patience.

# The 4<sup>th</sup> Census

## 1871

*Decided by  
Ballsbridge 12/10/71*

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1871. 63

Superintendent Registrar's District *Warwick* Enumeration District, No. *11*

Registrar's Sub-District *Stoneleigh* Name of Enumerator, Mr. *Robert Kearthland*

DESCRIPTION OF ENUMERATION DISTRICT.

[This description is to be written in by the Enumerator from the Copy supplied to him by the Registrar. Any explanatory notes or observations calculated to make the description clearer or more complete, may be added by the Enumerator.]

Col. 1.	Col. 2.
<i>all that part of the Parish of Stoneleigh</i>	
<i>comprising Dale house farm house, Milborne Grange,</i>	
<i>Wainbody Cottages, The Hill, The Leasowes, Green</i>	
<i>Lane, Spirehall Grange, Fisham, Pines Mill,</i>	
<i>Stoneleigh Grange and the Field House Cottages</i>	
<i>near Thrope, The Deer Park and Grange, Maresley</i>	
<i>house, Swagon Hill, New house, Leicester Lane, The</i>	
<i>Kennels, Stanton, The Abbey &amp; Gardens Farm</i>	
<i>house near Thrope, and the Villages.</i>	

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/15/98 BY 8610/5198

The Enumerator in 1871 was Robert Kearthland who ran the Public House on the Birmingham Road in Stoneleigh.

In his census returns, he does all the outlying areas first and then starts on Stoneleigh Village, with the first entries being the Public House and himself age 53 'Grocer and Brewer' together with his wife Martha, the daughter of Sarah Hall who had previously run the 'Beer Shop'.

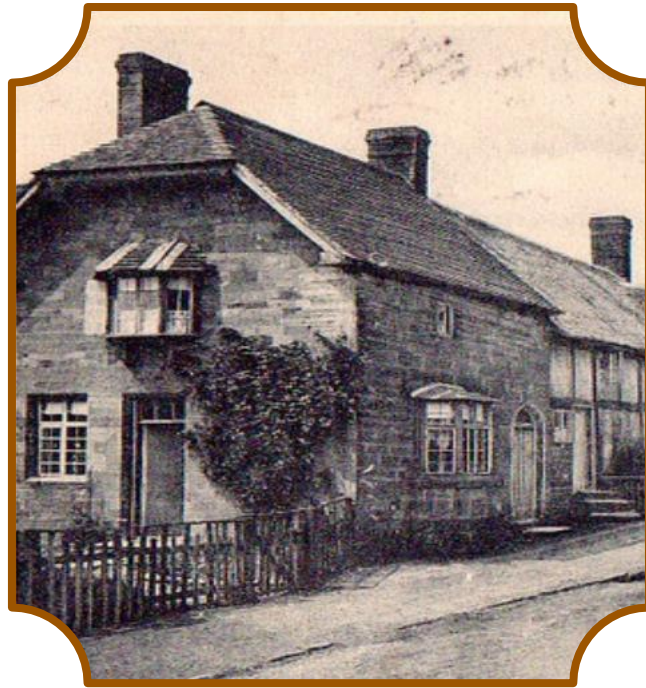
As in the previous censuses no road names are given and no consistent recording of up one side of the road and down the other, making the task of ascertaining who lived where very difficult. This census had additional infirmity categories for: Deaf-and-Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; Lunatic.

In his 1864 notes on his parishioners, James Wentworth Leigh, the vicar refers to the houses around the pub as Kearthlands Court.



# The Infants' School

1871 / 72 to 1880



In 1861 in the New Widows' Almshouses was Rebecca Patstone, 'Almswoman and School Mistress'.

Opposite at 26 Birmingham Road was widow Ann Hortin who was receiving 2/6 per week and 5¾ parish relief.

In 1871, at the time of the census on 2nd April, Rebecca Patstone gave her occupation as 'Infant Schoolmistress', and Ann Hortin was still opposite age 79 with her 12 year old granddaughter Catherine Ann.

In 1872 the Vicar made a note that '*This house has been turned into an Infant School, with exception of two back rooms occupied by Jones, keeper. Widow Hortin has gone to Almshouses.*'

The School Log books record that the infants school closed in 1880.

In 1881 Rebecca Patstone describes herself in the census as 'Retired Dame Schoolmistress', and she has moved to the Old Almshouses.

# Edward Langley Fardon

## 1874



Moved to Stoneleigh in 1874

Famous as an ornamental blacksmith, Edward Langley Fardon moved to Stoneleigh, at the request of Lord Leigh, as "an engineer in the minor branches." Here he remained until his death 50 years later, living at 2, Church Place (now East Glebe, Church Lane).

Edward Langley Fardon created ornamental gates for Stoneleigh Abbey and also for Baron Rothschild's mansions in Switzerland and France.

He is credited with building the first iron bicycle with rubber tyres and a suspension wheel – long before Starley.

# The 5<sup>th</sup> Census

## 1881

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of Donkey Municipal Borough of Donkey Parliamentary Borough of Donkey Urban Sanitary District of Donkey Rural Sanitary District of Donkey Electoral Division of Donkey [Page 9]

HOUSE	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON. DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Dead and Buried (2) Blind (3) Lunatic or Idiot (4) Lemble
51	Birmingham Road	John Wells	Head	Mar	60	Coach Carpenter	Donkey, Donkey	
		George	Wife	Mar	55	Housewife	Donkey	
52		William Mitchell	Head	Mar	50	Coach Carpenter	Donkey	
		John	Wife	Mar	45	Housewife	Donkey	
		Thomas	Wife	Mar	29	Blacksmith	Donkey	
53		William Wells	Head	Mar	27	Coach Carpenter	Donkey	
		John	Wife	Mar	20	Housewife	Donkey	
		Arthur	Wife	Mar	1	Housewife	Donkey	
54		George Harrison	Head	Mar	54	Coach Carpenter	Donkey	
		George	Wife	Mar	22	Housewife	Donkey	
		George Harris	Head	Mar	50	Coach Carpenter	Donkey	
		Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	50	Housewife	Donkey	
		James	Wife	Mar	20	Housewife	Donkey	
		John	Wife	Mar	11	Housewife	Donkey	
55		Robert	Head	Mar	10	Coach Carpenter	Donkey	
		Charles Thomas	Head	Mar	57	Coach Carpenter	Donkey	
		John	Wife	Mar	24	Housewife	Donkey	
56		Charles Keartland	Head	Mar	60	Beer Retailer	Donkey	
		James H. Keartland	Wife	Mar	35	Housewife	Donkey	
		William Keartland	Wife	Mar	11	Housewife	Donkey	
57		William Keartland	Head	Mar	50	Coach Carpenter	Donkey	
		John	Wife	Mar	20	Housewife	Donkey	
7	Total of Houses...				12			
		Total of Males and Females...			12			

Note.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

Eng. Sheet C.

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At last, the enumerator enters the Road Names within the village: Vicarage Lane *and* Vicarage Road; Church Place; Brook Bank (identified as the Motslow Hill cottages); Birmingham Road; Village Bank; Coventry Road.

92 inhabited dwellings. The Reading Room, the Infants School and the Old Butchers shop in Church Place were recorded as uninhabited.

Martha Keartland, widow, is now running the Birmingham Road Public House giving her profession as Beer Retailer.



# Gilbert Leigh Gamehunter

## 1884



The Hon. Gilbert Henry Chandos Leigh was born in 1851 the eldest son of William Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Leigh. He went to Harrow and to Magdalene College Cambridge. He was a J.P., an M.P. for South Warwickshire and Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

However, he pre-deceased his father after an accident in 1884 when his body was found at the bottom of a 100 foot drop into a canyon in Wyoming U.S.A. where he had fallen in pursuit of mountain sheep.

# The 6<sup>th</sup> Census

## 1891

Administrative County of _____		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the															
Civil Parish of _____		Municipal Borough of _____		Municipal Ward of _____		Urban Sanitary District of _____		Town or Village or Hamlet of _____		Rural Sanitary District of _____		Parliamentary Borough or Division of _____		Ecclesiastical Parish or District of _____			
Cols. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Is built up Occupied (U) or Building (B)		Number of rooms occupied if less than five	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of		PROFESSION or OCCUPATION			Employed	Employed	Not Employed	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile, or Idiot
								Males	Females								

The last of the 19<sup>th</sup> century censuses and the number of columns and questions increases reflecting the Victorian and post-Dickensian concern for poverty.

This time, it is not just occupied or unoccupied houses but also ‘Number of Rooms occupied if less than five’.

64 of the village houses had less than 5 rooms.

The most overcrowded were -

Family	Location	Rooms	Occupants
Edward Gilks	Birmingham Road	3	10
Thomas England	Birmingham Road	4	8
Thomas Woodfield	Bridge Foot	4	7
Elizabeth Lee, widow	Vicarage Road	3	6
John Davenport	Village Bank	3	6

# Old Houses 19<sup>th</sup> Century

## Still Standing Today



*The Forge*



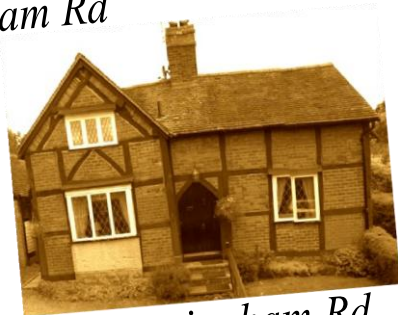
*New Almshouses*



*2 Birmingham Rd*



*7-8 Birmingham Rd*



*11 Birmingham Rd*



*26 Birmingham Rd*



*3-4 Coventry Rd*



*Wentworth House*  
(renovation of 18<sup>th</sup> C Workhouse)



*The Reading Room*  
*and*  
*Reading Room Cottages*

Information from "People at Home" by Nat Alcock  
English Heritage Listed Buildings



# School Teachers

1743 -1976



The first schoolmaster, so far as we know, was John Gardner, who remained in the post for 30 years. Another long-serving early master was Richard Perkes, who served from 1786-1823.

After that date we begin to learn of female teachers too: Thomas Welton 1823-1842 was joined by his wife Mary, though her salary was three-quarters of his! Charles Gray was variously assisted by his daughters Jane and Esther, and Edwin Ison was helped by his sister Emily.

When the logbook begins in 1863 we see for the first time the existence of separate 'schools' for boys and girls: Nathaniel Tompkins is partnered by Emily Hitch.

Many headteachers stayed for just a short time between 1873 and 1893, when William (Billy) Wells took over, remaining until 1932. He was succeeded by Messrs. Cattell, Smith, Grant and finally Mr. Black who had the sad task of closing the school in 1976.