

WILLOUGHBY Y. EXTRACT FIDM THE DIRECTORY 'B' HAM & WARWICKSHIRE' THIRD EDITION 1876. VOL.I. PUBLISHED BY F. WHITE & CO.

Willoughby is a parish and pleasant rural village 6½ miles S.E. from Rugby, in the Northern division of the county, Union, and County Court District of Rugby, Rural Deanery of Dunchurch, Archdeaconry of Coventry, and Diocese of Worcester.

This place, in the neighbourhood of which many Roman antiquities have been discovered, is in the Domesday Book called WILBERE and WILEBEI, from which its' present name is derived.

It is a royal demesne in the reign of Henry I., who gave it to WIGAN, one of his servants, by one of whose descendants it was granted, in the reign of HENRY III to the Hospital of St. John, founded by that monarch, without the east gate of Oxford, in the 17th year of his reign.

On the dissolution of which, in the reign of HENRY IV William de Wainfleet, Bishop of Winchester, having obtained a grant of the site for a foundation of Magdalene College, procured from the master and bretheren the manor of Willoughby, which at present forms part of the endowment of that institution.

The Parliamentarian army, in their retreat from the-battle of Edge Hill, passed through the village and fastened a rope round the ancient cross, with the intention of pulling it down~ from which they were dissuaded by the vicar. Willoughby was formerly a place of-much more importance than it is at present, having enjoyed a market and fairs, to which, from the name of a small hamlet in the parish called "Pie Court", probably a court of pie-powder was attached.

Part of the foundation of a public gaol was discovered by some labourers in digging gravel near the church. It adjoined the land held by Rev. Spraggett Esq. and now called "Goal Close".

A mansion, the property of the family of Mears originally stood near the church in a field now held by the above Mr. Spraggett. In this parish is a field known as "Brooks Close", but it has not yet been properly ascertained whether it ever belonged to a family of that name, although a person of the name of John Brook, in or about 1535, assigned for the poor a messuage and land in THURLSTON, as were limited by John Hayward and Margaret, his wife.

Opposite Brooks Close is an ancient cottage, enclosed by a fine court and gate. A handsome porch with twisted bannisters, forms the entrance to the interior, the floors of which are of oak. A mansion supposed to be the property of the Clarkes, or Hammonds, who resided here in the 12th century, stood in a close, now the property of Richard Spraggett Esq. of 7 Waterloo Place, Leamington.

The Bowling apple tree, a rate apple, has its origin in the fact that it originally stood on the Bowling Green during the existence of the above mansion. The village is situated near the high road from London to Holyhead, and extends in a westerly direction for nearly ¾ of a mile. The houses which are chiefly ancient, with thatched roofs, occasionally interspersed with a few more of more modern construction,

have a very rural appearance and the whole village has an air of pleasing

tranquility and retirement.

The lands in the neighbourhood are fertile and in a high state of cultivation, the pastures rich, and the environs abound with pleasing scenery, and with various objects of interest.

Within the last 50 years Willoughby has been growing into notice from the discovery of a powerful sulphurous and saline spring, which was first discovered about 70 years ago whilst boring for soft water to supply a farmhouse. The well is 104 ft. deep and affords an abundant supply of water, its most distinguishing feature being the quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen gas dissolved in it and saline matter containing a small quantity of carbonate of iron. The salts are muriate of soda and sulphate of soda, also sulphate of lime.

The spring still remains and is visited occasionally on account of its medicinal virtues, but the baths are now extinct. Major Francis Mason, J.P. bought this estate about 12 years ago and built a handsome mansion on the site of the "OLD BATH FARM". The parish contains 1693 acres of land and in 1871 had 317 inhabitants. Gross estimated rental £4,427.9.6., R.V. £3,880.19.6. The President and Fellows of Magdalen College Oxford are the principal landowners and lords of the manor.

Thomas Newbold, Rev. Spraggett, Maj. Francis J. M. Mason, J.P. and several others have estates here.

The church, dedicated to St. NICHOLAS, is a small neat structure consisting of nave, chancel, side aisles and a low square embattled tower with a clock and six good bells and a set of chimes. On the west buttress is the date 1636 and on the great bell the following lines

"MY MOURNFUL SOUND DOTHS WARNING GIVE, THAT HERE MAN CANNOT ALWAYS LIVE".

The bells were cast from 4 to 6 in 1713. The chimes were brought from Southam and put up in 1724. The old chancel was built in 1622, rebuilt in 1779 and the tower repaired in 1636. The Church was restored about 25 years ago. The register dates from 1625, the living is a discharged vicarage, value K.B. £9.4.4. now £265 in the patronage of the Pres. & Fellows of Mag. Col. Oxford, and in cumbency of the Rev. T. H. Whorwood D.D. of Mag. Col. Oxford, for whom the Rev. Edmund Thomas Bennett, B.A. of the same colI., officiates. The Vicarage was built in 1836 by the Rev. Richard Tawney. The Wesleyans have a small chapel here.

CHARITIES. JOHN HAYWARD & WIFE, MARGARET by deed in the 15th year of KING HENRY VI did give all their lands and tenements in Willoughby and Woolscott, Little Hardwick, Bradwell and Thurlaston, to Wm. Bartlett and others their heirs and assns., in trust to employ yearly the issues thereof towards the repairs of Will. church the payment of the 15ths and the relief of the poor there, setting forth soldiers, mending highways and causeways and part of SAWBRIDGE BRIDGE in Willoughby.

WILLIAM FLAVELL by deed 11th of HENRY VII gave to Thomas Watson and others their heirs and assns. one yearly rent of 4 shillings issuing out of the lands in Woolscott and Wallcott payable by Michaelmas and Lady-day to the intent that when any 15th should be granted to the King the said rent should

go to the discharge of the tenants of Willoughby and to the repairing of causeways etc. Also the trustees of Haywards Charity purchased in the 27th year of HENRY VIII of John Brookes certain lands in Thurlaston as feoffees in trust to employ the yearly issues thereof to the said charitable uses.

By the award of the Commissioners, March 8th 1760, under the Enclosure Act there was an allotment to the trustees of the poor of Willoughby in lieu of certain lands containing 83 acres. The property consists of other estates at KITES HARD. at FOXLEY in Thurlaston and a rent charge of 4 shill. per ann. out of a farm at Woolscott. The entire annual income being about £450. The average ann. expenditure for 6 yrs. previous to 1832 was £478.4.8.

A school was founded in 1816 with a house and master and mistress at the cost of £430 paid by the trustees. Children of both sexes are gratuitously instructed in reading, writing and arithmetic, and the girls in needlework by the master and mist., at a salary of £80 per ann. JOHN & ELIZA STEANE were master and mistress. The remainder of the income to go to the poor.

The affairs of this charity have been the subject of much litigation at law and in equity: and in 1831, owing to a dispute with the schoolmaster, several of the trustees were ruined, and the charity involved in debt, in reducing the debt caused by litigation.

CAPT. GEORGE WATSON, by will, 1674, gave to the poor of this parish the sum of £50 to be disposed of according to the will of the minister for the time being.

After the death of the testator in 1677, the minister appointed the said legacy to be paid into the hands of the trustees of Haywards Charity, or trust, to lay out the same in purchase of land, and out of the rents to pay, on the 23rd April and the 15th July, IOs each time to the poor people of the parish at the discretion of the minister and overseers: and that they should also, on the 1st Sunday of every month., after evening service in the parish church, deliver to the value of 3s.4d. in bread or such other quantity as the income will bear. After some delay the money was paid to the trustees above named: and as nothing further appears respecting it, it is supposed to have been blended with the general accounts of that trust: and it is recommended to the trustees to appropriate the interest specifically agreeable to the decision of the above named.

BRIDGET FREEMANTLE by will, 1722, gave £20 to the poor. This, in 1773 was vested with the Haywards Charity and 20s. was agreed to be paid on St. Thomas' Day. No specific payments appear to have been made for this charity, and some years ago it was recommended to the trustees the making of a distribution on St. Thomas Day in respect of it.

#### DIRECTORY

Post Office at GEORGE MALINS. Letters, via Rugby, arrive at 7.30 a.m. and despatched at 5.15 p.m. on weekdays and 12.45 p.m. on Sundays. Braunston in the nearest money order office.

WILLIAM ATKINS gardener

REV. EDMUND THOSMAS BENNETT B.A. Curate (Braunston)

WILLIAM BUCKLEY blacksmith

THOMAS HENRY COWILEY carpenter and wheelwright

WILLIAM ELLARD Parish clerk

JOHN DRINKWATER carrier

GEORGE HANCOCK gardener

JOHN LOUKS farm bailiff (to Thos. Newbold)

GEORGE MALINS shoemaker and post office

MAJOR RANCIS MASON, J.M. J. P. Willoughby House

MRS EMMA MILLS & SON (WILLIAM) victuallers and coal merchants  
(NAVIGATION INN)

MARGARETTA MILLS shopkeeper

RICHARD ROWLEDGE victualler (THE ROSE)

JOHN & ELIZA STEANE HEADMASTER & mistress of the endowed school

JANE THOMPSON baker and shopkeeper

ROBERT WATT victualler and grocer (FOUR CROSSES)

THOMAS WHITE butcher

THOMAS HENRY WHORWOOD D.D. Vicarage

MRS. HANNAH WRATISLAW "The Lodge"

#### FARMERS

JOSEPH BATCHELOR, THOMAS COWLEY, JAMES DESTER, JOHN ELLARD,  
JOSEPH WIILLIAM ELLARD, WILLIAM HALL, HENRY IVENS, THOMAS JOHN  
JOHNSON (MANOR HOUSE), EMMA MILLS & SON (NAVIGATION INN), THOMAS  
NEWBOLD, WILIJIAM SERGEANT.

JOHN DRINKWATER - (carrier) to Daventry, Wed. and Rugby, Sat.