



The Manor of Shrawley 1558-1700.

By R.D.Sproat©Jan2021

With the death of Aline le Poher in the early 1300s the ownership of the manor of Shrawley was then passed on through various Mortimer and Beauchamp family lines. Shrawley manor in the Middle Ages became one of the many number of lands and estates owned by the Beauchamps overlords. Richard Neville, son of the 5th Earl of Salisbury, married Anne Beauchamp, 16th Countess of Warwick, and so he became the 16th Earl of Warwick. During the last stages of the Wars of the Roses Richard Neville was defeated and killed at the Battle Barnet on the 14th April 1471 by King Edward IV. All his lands and estates, (including Shrawley), then became forfeited to the king.

Little happened at Shrawley for the next 80 years. The village appears to have been concentrated around the church and called '*Great Shrawley*' [superior or upper], which suggests that the rest of the parish called '*inferior*' [on lower ground] was scattered cottages. Shrawley wood appears to have been unutilised and considered as waste in the time of King Henry VII, (c.1500), a forester was appointed to stop the '*depredations going on in Shrawley Wood*'.

An ancestor of William Sheldon of Beoley (1558) had purchased the manor of Shrawley from King Henry VIII's Crown Commissioners after it had been seized from the discredited Earl of Warwick.¹ In 1558 William sold the manor of Shrawley to William Gower Kt. of Redmarley,² (sited near to the present day village of Great Witley). Shrawley Wood seems to have been held back and not included in the sale, for it was later granted to a William Childe of Northwick in 1579-80.³

William Gower held Shrawley (and Redmarley Oliver), and settled the rights of the manor of Shrawley on his two eldest daughters Ann and Ursula. William Gower died in 1595. It appears that the manor was divided into three parts. Shrawley manor, or Upper Shrawley, was based around the church and held by the Adams'. The Rotherhams held Lower Shrawley, and the Childe

¹ Walker, R.O. *The Parish of Shrawley*, p. 4.

² *Victoria County History, Worces.* Vol. IV. pp. 338-9, and p. 374.

³ *Ibid.*

family held Shrawley Woods, 'Courte Hills, Court Poole.... The Park',⁴ and other lands. The Adams' were lords of the manor from 1602 till 1663.⁵ The Rotherhams held lower or 'inferior' Shrawley, from 1619 till 1647 when George Rotherham sold his rights to Shrawley lands to Anna Maria Jenkinson. The Jenkinsons held their land till it was transferred through marriage to the Childes.⁶

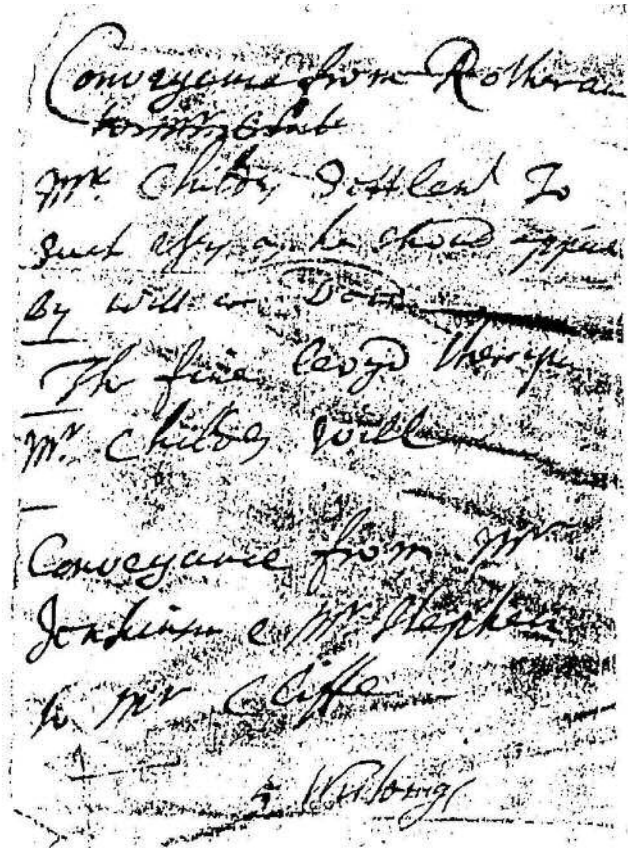


Fig. 1. Conveyance – Rotherham to Childe, Jenkinson & Stephens to Cliffe, (see footnote 6).

After the Battle of Worcester, which had taken place on 3rd September 1651, the Royalist and a large Scottish army was routed and the Parliamentary Army controlled Worcester and the River Severn. The Royalist Childe maintained a detachment of troops within Shrawley Wood. Such was the paranoia that they dug deep defensive ditches on Olivers Mound against attack

⁴ WRO BA 7335:20 (ii). Rental of the Demense of Shrawley, 1607.

⁵ WRO BA 7335:107 (i). Frances Adams, Lord of the manor of Shrawley, held Court Baron here in 1659.

⁶ WRO BA 7335:19 (i). This is a conveyance from Rotherham to Mr. T. Childe and from Mr. Jenkinson and Mr. Stephens to Mr. Cliffe, dated 1655.

from the river. Major-General Waller's Parliamentary troops roamed north Worcestershire and Hereford hunting down pockets of Royalist soldiers. The detachment were so impoverished that they turned to being highway robbers much to the annoyance of the locals.

At this time Thomas Stephens, acting as an official for his father-in-law, Thomas Childe, acquired the whole manor for the Childe family. In 1662 William Cliffe, gent, was taxed at 6 hearths, and Thomas Chylde taxed at 5 hearths in the Shrawley Hearth Tax.⁷ There then appears to have been a tripartite agreement and collecting of lands and a grand sale to Mr. Allan Cliffe in 1681, (see figure 1), who lived at Dod Oak, Shrawley, in 1693.⁸ His nephew, (another Allan Cliffe), then sold the manor to the lawyer Thomas Vernon of Hanbury The Vernon family then controlled the manor of Shrawley from then on into the 20th century.

The flow chart, (figure 2), gives a chronology of the landowners during the 150 years when the Childe family organised for themselves the acquisition of the whole manor, and sold it to Allan Cliffe. Allan Cliffe then sold the manor to Thomas Vernon in the year 1700 which consolidated the manor after the bitter enmity between the Parliamentary Rotherhams and Royalist Childe's during the English Civil War.

Notes.

WRO – Worcester Record Office.

moiety – A half or part share in a piece of land or property.

seized – The giving up of the possession or the right to a piece of land, or to a tenancy.

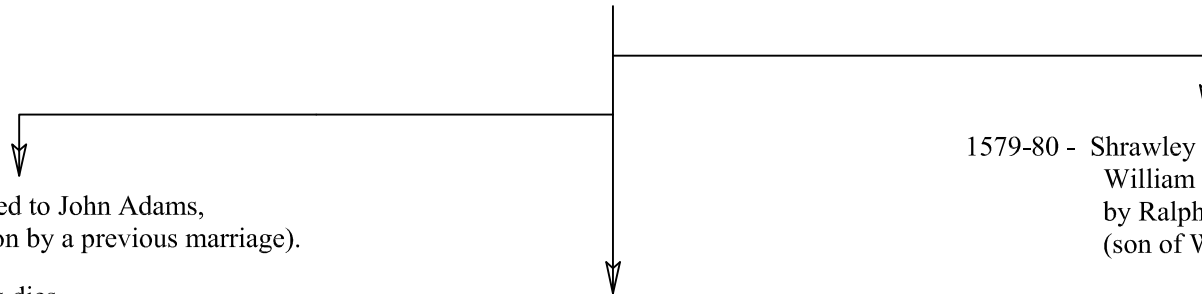
⁷ Shrawley Hearth Tax – Quarter Sessions – 10th July 1662.

⁸ WRO BA 7335:20, Ref. 705:7. Shrawley Rental dated Feb. 28th 1693.

The Manor of Shrawley
1558-1700

1558 - William Sheldon then of Beoley sold the manor of Shrawley, (not including Shrawley Wood), to William Gower kt. of Redmarley.

1573 - Manor settled jointly on William's two eldest daughters, Ann Hungerford & Ursula Nash.
William died in 1595.



1602 - Manor passed to John Adams, (Ursula's son by a previous marriage).

1616 - John Adams dies.
His daughter Anne, wife of Frances Adams succeeded to the manor.

1628 - Manor conveyed to Charles Adams & John Corbett, trustees for Frances Adams.

1637-8 - Trustees still holding Shrawley manor.

1659 - Lord of the manor was another Frances Adams.

c.1663 - Thomas Stephens, acting for his father-in-law, Thomas Childe who bought the other half of the manor at this time.

1681 - Thomas Childe and his son William sold the manor to Allan Cliffe.

1699 - Allan Cliffe, son of Humphrey Cliffe, brother of Allan Cliffe sen. succeeded to the manor.

1700 - Allan Cliffe, sold the manor to Thomas Vernon of Middle Temple & Lord of manor of Hanbury.

1619 - Moiety passed to Thomas Rotherham, (son of Anne Hungerford by a previous marriage).

1620 - Thomas Rotherham died at Worcester, seized of Lower Shrawley, succeeded by his brother Edmund.

1647 - Edmund was succeeded by his son George Rotherham who sold his moiety to Anne Maria Jenkinson and her son Robert Jenkinson. She also inherited 1/3 of the manor from Mary, widow of Edmund Rotherham.

1681 - Anna Maria Jenkinson, (daughter of Robert), had married Thomas Childe of Northwick, joined with his son and successor William, to sell the manor to Allan Cliffe.

1579-80 - Shrawley Wood was granted to William Childe of Northwick by Ralph Sheldon of Beoley, (son of William Sheldon).

1627 - Thomas Child borrows sum of £3500 from Sir William Jones kt. for Shrawley Woods and Ship Grove etc.

William Childe, ardent Royalist held Shrawley Wood for the King during the Civil War.

Thomas Childe of Northwick

Chronology of landowners.