

FOWKE / FOOKS GENEALOGY

INFORMATION CONTINUED

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The manor of BREWOOD (Breude) and Associated Families - continued

By 1321 the capital message of the manor of Brewood which was then referred to as a 'manor house' including a garden and a close, had been leased out by the Church for a rent of 18 pence. There was also a fish-pond but no rent was received for it at that time. To whom this message was leased is still under investigation.

Although the manor house was occupied by **William Fowke** (1403-1438) at some time between 1403 and 1413 it is unclear at this point whether he rented, leased or owned it during his occupation.

It is assumed that **Roger Fowke** (born about 1425) son of William Fowke above, was also involved with the manor of Brewood house but further research is required to establish this. It is recorded, however, that Roger Fowke commenced renting, 'for life', the **manor of Engleton**, a listed 'member' of the original manor of Brewood (see notes below), in 1446.

The Brewood 'manor house' is recorded as being the seat of **William Fowke** (born abt.1450) son of Roger Fowke. Also, in 1473 there is a record of Brewood manor house being leased to the Vicar of Brewood. No other details.

By 1538 it seems that the **Brewood manor house** was no longer in existence. No record of its actual demise has yet been located, however there is a record dated 1538 of the Bishop of Lichfield leasing to **Roger Fowke** (abt.1480-1546), son of William Fowke, pasture (only) where the **manor of Brewood house** previously stood and the right to take timber from the common wood of Brewood (called **Bishop's Wood** or **Kerrimore**) for forty years.

Brewood Hall, seemingly the name finally given the **original manor house**, is recorded as being the seat of **William Fowke** (1520-1558), son of Roger Fowke. Further data to establish when this came into effect is being sought and whether **Roger Fowke** (1558-1594), son and heir of William Fowke, was ever involved with this property (land only) after the manor house ceased to be.

At some time (maybe years) prior to 1643 the manor of Brewood had been leased to the Giffard Family of Chillington and Peter Giffard, the leasee c.1647, at the time of his sequestration (becoming a bankrupt) was paying a rent of 58 pounds 3 shillings. Although there appears to be several ownership contestants of the manor at that time, and some lease and rent disputes, it appears that the Giffard family retained a leasehold, on such manorial rights that continued to exist at that time, of the manor of Brewood until 1852, when Mr T. A. Giffard of Chillington purchased the rights from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The **present Brewood Hall** is located on the eastern outskirts of Brewood Township in Staffordshire and was built in the 17th Century. c.1640. In 1680 Brewood Township was the nucleus of the manor of Brewood, containing some 60 houses.

The ground plan of the **present Brewood Hall** appears to follow the layout of an earlier, probably medieval, plan so its location could be that of the original Brewood manor house but that cannot be proven at this time. More research is required to establish the actual location of the original manor house.

In 1666 **Brewood Hall** was occupied by Mary Fowke (nee Ferrers), widow of **Thomas Fowke** (1582-1652). In 1743 a Thomas Plimley was living at **Brewood Hall**, as a tenant.



The present Brewood Hall, Brewood, Staffordshire, England

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