

**A HISTORY OF TONG,
SHROPSHIRE, ITS CHURCH,
MANOR, PARISH, COLLEGE,
EARLY OWNERS, AND CLERGY,
WITH NOTES ON BOSCOBEL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649754045

A History of Tong, Shropshire, Its Church, Manor, Parish, College, Early Owners, and Clergy,
with Notes on Boscobel by George Griffiths & Edmund H. New & Gertrude M. Bradley

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE GRIFFITHS & EDMUND H. NEW & GERTRUDE M. BRADLEY

**A HISTORY OF TONG,
SHROPSHIRE, ITS CHURCH,
MANOR, PARISH, COLLEGE,
EARLY OWNERS, AND CLERGY,
WITH NOTES ON BOSCOBEL**

A HISTORY
OF
TONG, SHROPSHIRE,
WITH
NOTES ON BOSCOBEL.



Charles I.

*from a portrait formerly belonging to John Mytton Esq^r
of Halston (Salop) and now in the possession of Mr. George Griffiths.*

W. B. R. SCAMPTON

All Rights Reserved.

A HISTORY
OF
TONG, SHROPSHIRE,

ITS

CHURCH, MANOR, PARISH, COLLEGE,
EARLY OWNERS, AND CLERGY,

WITH

NOTES ON BOSCOBEL,

BY

GEORGE GRIFFITHS,

OF WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD.

ILLUSTRATED.

BY

EDMUND H. NEW, GERTRUDE M. BRADLEY, AND
CHARLES W. S. DIXON.

Second Edition, with Additions.

NEWPORT, MARKET DRAYTON, AND STONE:

HORNE & BENKIN, "ADVERTISER" OFFICES.

LONDON:

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMULTON, KENT, & CO., LTD.

MDCCCXCIV.

"Religion never was designed
To make our pleasures less."

Watts.

"No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting."

Lady Mary Wortley Montague.

"The knights are dust,
Their swords are rust,
Their souls are with the saints we trust."

The Church was old and grey, with ivy clinging to the walls, and round the porch. It was a very quiet place, as such a place should be, save for the cawing of the rooks, who had built their nests among the branches of some tall old trees.

"Let us wait here," rejoined Nell, "the gate is open. We will sit in the church porch till you come back."

"A good place, too," said the schoolmaster, placing his portmanteau on the stone seat.

It was a very aged, ghostly place. The church had been built many hundreds of years ago, and had once had a convent or monastery attached; for arches in ruins, remains of oriel windows, and fragments of blackened walls were yet standing. They admired everything—the old, grey porch, the mullioned windows, the venerable gravestones dotting the green churchyard, the ancient tower, the very weathercock, the brown thatched roofs of cottage, barn, and homestead, peeping from among the trees; the stream that rippled by the distant watermill, the blue Welch mountains far away

Dickens' Old Curiosity Shop.

DA690

T64G2

1894

This Work is Gratefully Inscribed and
Dedicated to
The Earl and Countess of Bradford,
on the
Fiftieth Anniversary of their Marriage,
April 30th, 1894,
By the Author.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION,
WITH ADDITIONS.

The thousand copies which comprised the first edition of my work on Tong, its Parish Church, and early history, having been exhausted, and the demand for the book by antiquarians and visitors alike continuing, I am persuaded to launch this second and enlarged edition with much confidence and hope of public approval.

The numerous illustrations and additional subjects will, I imagine, increase its general interest and usefulness.

These latter embrace :—

The Hengist Tradition.

Some account of the Earl of Bradford's family and ancestry.

Notes upon the Restoration of the Church, Slabs found, the Stanley Tomb, &c., and numerous revisions throughout.

An account of Tong College and its quaint rules.

A document recording the Perambulation of the Boundary of the Lordship or Manor and Parish of Tong in 1718, with local notes upon perambulations, millers, maypoles, the tithc pig, marlpits, Tong tournament, factory, and clockmakers, surnames, &c.

Memoranda of the Durant family.

Tong Church Registers, and a Proclamation found in the parish chest as to Gunpowder Plot.

Some account of the famous Ladies of Tong, viz. : Venetia Lady Digby, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Mrs. Fitzherbert, Isabella Forester, Lady Stafford, and Dorothy Vernon.

Some account of Boscobel, which is just outside Tong parish, and particularly of the Royal Oak, the shelter of King Charles II; the faithful Pendercls of Hubbal Grange in Tong. The Nunneries of White Ladies and Black Ladies, immediately on the outskirts.

Early Deeds of the Pemburges, Vernons, and Stanleys, forming a portion of this edition, are of interest to antiquarians, and will help, when time permits a fuller examination, to throw more light upon the ancient history of Tong.

I desire to record my grateful thanks to the Earl and Countess of Bradford for their kind and approving letters written on the publication of the first edition. I must also mention the valuable help rendered me by Mr. Walter de Gray Birch, F.R.S.L., of the British Museum, and by MS. Notes of the Rev. R. G. Lawrence, a former Vicar of Tong.

To others, whose names are mentioned throughout the work, I am desirous to express my obligations for their courtesy.

GEORGE GRIFFITHS.

*Weston-under-Lizard,
30th April, 1894.*

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

This little book has been printed in the hope that it may be useful in refreshing the memories of those visitors to Tong Church who are already in some degree acquainted with its ancient and historic associations; while to the many tourists from neighbouring towns who resort to the village, it may be not only a "guide" to the building, but a reminder of a pleasant holiday.

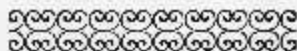
The compiler is not unconscious of the importance and delicacy of such a task as the description of Tong Church, but hastens to defend its publication as supplying the great want of a handy comprehensive guide to a much-visited edifice.

He has endeavoured to introduce, where possible, comments upon its rich contents by abler hands, completing the remainder with an ordinary notice of things as they are to be seen at present. He hopes that neither such simple language—nor indeed the existence of conflicting opinions upon matters of remote date—will be allowed to detract from the lustre pertaining to the objects themselves.

He has to express his thanks to those strangers and friends who have favoured him with interesting notes.

*Weston Bank, Shifnal,
1885.*

GEO. GRIFFITHS.



LETTER FROM THE EARL OF BRADFORD.

Weston, Shifnal, Feby. 6, 1885.

MY DEAR SIR,—Let me thank you very much for the book you have sent me on Tong Church. I think it is very nicely got up, besides the merits of its contents as a guide to Tong Church and Parish.

I have looked through it, and it appears to me to be full of correct information, given in a popular way. I hope it may prove successful, and will certainly recommend my friends to buy it.

Yrs. very faithfully,

(Signed) BRADFORD.

LETTER FROM THE COUNTESS OF BRADFORD.

Weston Park, Shifnal, Sept. 6, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—I am quite delighted with your book, and accept it with much pleasure. I have read a great part of it, and shall study it one day in the Church of Tong. I cannot but think it is a book that will make its mark in the County. I want a copy at once to give away to a friend, and I doubtless shall want several more. With thanks and congratulations on its success.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

(Signed) SELINA L. BRADFORD.