

**BREWOD: A RÉSUMÉ
HISTORICAL AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649457427

Brewood: A Résumé Historical and Topographical by James Hicks Smith

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

JAMES HICKS SMITH

**BREWOD: A RÉSUMÉ
HISTORICAL AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL**

BREWOD:
A RÉSUMÉ
Historical and Topographical.

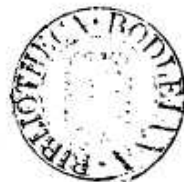
BY
JAMES HICKS SMITH,
BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

Contents.

BREWOD.
THE MANOR.
THE DEANERY.
THE PARISH.
THE CHANCEL.
THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

THE HALL.
THE TOWN.
BREWOD SUBURBAN.
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNION.
AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES.
THE STREAMS.

APPENDIX.
WITH
A MEMOIR OF THE COMPILER.



SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED.

Wolverhampton:
WILLIAM PARKE.

1874.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]
Price One Shilling; if sent by Post, 1s. 3d.

*Young Adda Staffordshire
8 29.*

PRINTED BY WILLIAM ODHAMS,
5, BURLINGHAM STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

Preface.

Though STAFFORDSHIRE be a midland county traversed from east to west by the ancient main road from London to Chester, and from south to north by the great cross road from Bristol to Manchester, and though the Railways have followed the course of these great main routes, yet Staffordshire is little known to the travelling public: people know that there is the Black Country and the Potteries, but they do not know that the one occupies only the extreme south-west, the other only the extreme north-west corner of Staffordshire; they do *not* know that the great extent of the county are tracts of grand moorland and beautiful forest; still less do they know that but little removed from the great roads I have mentioned are centres of population which have little changed in the last two hundred years, where communion with Rome has been hereditary where through immemorial copyhold tenure the relations of Lord and Vassal have been little impaired, where the artizan and the shopkeeper lives on his own "Court-land," and unites with his craft or his trade the labours of a small farmer; such a district *par excellence* is BREWOOD.

But at Brewood these ancient features are seriously imperilled. An Act of Parliament for a railway to connect Brewood with Wolverhampton has been obtained, and the villa of the oppidan will, in all probability, supersede the hereditary message of the copyholder. An equally serious danger threatens its sylvan beauties; collieries have already broken up the south-west side of CANKE CHASE,

and not only the smoke, but the chimnies of the furnaces on the peak of the Chase are already distinctly visible from Brewood. My kind publisher is most anxious that the present features of **BREWOD** should be fully recorded before they may have passed away for ever; and he has consented to a republication of my *Résumé Historical and Topographical*, enlarged and revised, for not a copy of the edition of eight years ago can now be had for love or money.

I regret that in my *Résumé* so much should still be conjectural; no doubt an analysis of the **MANOR COURT ROLLS** would furnish with certainty the history of every message in Brewood. Access to the *Court Rolls* has been most freely afforded me by the Lord, Mr. Giffard of Chillington, and every assistance has been afforded me by his Bailiff; but to analyse the *Court Rolls* would be the work of a life even had one nothing else to do.

My *Résumé* does not aspire to be an archaeological work: it is simply an attempt to place on record such events as have affected the present position of Brewood, and to present them to my friends in a readable form: those who wish the information which antiquaries afford can refer to the well-known *Notes and Collections relating to Brewood*, and the several booklets supplementary to those *Notes*, which have been printed, a list of which will be found in *The Herald and Genealogist*, Part XXXVII., fo. 66, in a note to an essay on the *Giffards of Chillington*, June, 1871.

The table subjoined shows that the **POPULATION** of Brewood Parish has in the decade between the Census of 1861 and 1871 decreased by 162 souls: the application of machinery to agriculture lessens the demand for labour; the better class of Labourers enlist as Policemen and Railway Porters, the inferior class migrate to the collieries which have been opened at Rugeley and Braerton, their place being partly occupied by Irish.

Lammas Day, 1874.

PREFACE
TO
THE FIRST EDITION.

Since 1858 so much information regarding Brewood has been collected by myself and others, that it has been frequently urged upon me that the same should be embodied in a consecutive narrative, instead of being separately printed as *Stray Notes* or otherwise. I have attempted to carry out the idea in the following pages. I have purposely avoided details which have been fully and accurately printed elsewhere, which may excuse apparent brevity on some points. Where I have availed myself of the well-known *Notes and Collections* for matter or idea, I trust I have not been remiss in acknowledging my obligation.

Few as these pages are, their contents have not been collected without large expenditure of time and trouble; and I wish to express my obligations to the many kind friends who have assisted my labours. The initials J. S. G. are those of my friend the Rev. JOHN S. GRENSIDE; but to his information and direction to sources of information I am indebted for much more than is contained only in the paragraphs to which his initials are appended.

JAMES H. SMITH,

The Dawsoncroft, Brewood,

14th December, 1866.

near Stafford.

PREFACE
TO
ADDITIONS AND EMENDATIONS.

Notes and Collections relating to Brewood were six years ago printed for private circulation only by the Wolverhampton Bookseller, who has allowed his name to appear on my title-page. The following have been since collected by one who (though not born there) has had a long ancestral and personal connection with Brewood—but whose assistance while the *Notes and Collections* were preparing was declined. As EMENDATIONS they do not claim to be infallible; on many points they are simply conjectural, and in many they are but the natural result of a second head and hand revising for and assisting a former, which may also be said of the ADDITIONS. It should be added that the labours of the Curators of the Record Office are yearly making accessible records of past generations which afford much local information, particularly where the localities had any connection with the Ecclesiastics or Ecclesiastical History of our country. The compiler regrets that the purely archaological arrangement of these pages will prevent their being of much interest to such of his friends as are simply general readers.

JAS. H. SMITH,

The Dawscroft,

Brewood,

near Stafford.

S. Barnabas' Day, 1864.

BREWOOD.

Acreage	11,832 acres.
Population in 1861	3,399 souls.
„ in 1871	3,237 do.
Assessment to Poor's Rate	27,736 Pounds sterling.
„ to County Rate	27,573 do.
Entitled to vote in Election of Knights of the Shire, 20th July, 1867, under the Reform Act of 1832—	
Freeholders	71
Owners of Tithe rent-charge	2
	— 73
Copyholders	15
Occupiers	54
Lessee of Tithe rent-charge	1 55
	— — 143

The registration of 1868, under the Reform Act of the previous year, added 60 Occupiers,
 2 Leaseholders,
 1 Freeholder, and
 12 described simply as Owners.

75 75 + 143 = 218

But the *Poll Book*, 1868, edited by Edward Fernie, gives as voting
 CONSERVATIVES—Smith Child ... 131 Meynell Ingram... 130
 LIBERALS—W. S. Forster 24 H. W. H. Foley... 21
 Duplicates..... 17
 Unpolled 30

Total number on Register ... 202 Being 16 less than above.
 There was no contest at the General Election last February.