

**THE HISTORY OF
BLOCKLEY IN THE
COUNTY OF WORCESTER**

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The History of Blockley in the County of Worcester by Alfred J. Soden

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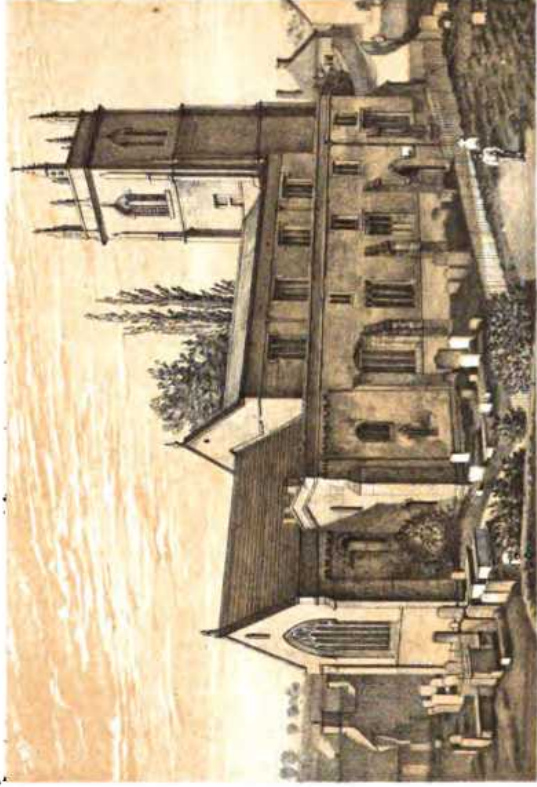
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ALFRED J. SODEN

**THE HISTORY OF
BLOCKLEY IN THE
COUNTY OF WORCESTER**



BLOCKLEY CHURCH, 1871.

THE
HISTORY OF BLOCKLEY

IN THE
COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

COMPILED

BY

THE REV. ALFRED J. SODEN,

CURATE OF BLOCKLEY,

FORMERLY CURATE OF KINGS NORTON.

COVENTRY:

PRINTED, FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY, BY J. W. PARBURY, WEST ORCHARD.
1875.

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Codley fund

TO THE

**RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD,
HENRY,**

BY DIVINE PERMISSION.

LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER,

THIS WORK IS, (WITH HIS LORDSHIP'S SANCTION)

GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HIS OBEDIENT AND OBLIGED SERVANT

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

NEARLY 50 years ago, the Rev. W. T. EYRE, who was then Curate of this parish, published a book called the "Blockley Guide," in which were many interesting particulars concerning the history &c. of this ancient and once important parish. As only a few copies were printed, it was not generally known even within the parochial limits. Some time ago I was requested to prepare a work of a similar kind, with a view to a more extended circulation, and the present volume is the result of compliance with that request,—a result which I hope will not be regarded with disfavour. It becomes me now to acknowledge my obligations (and they are many) to those who have so materially assisted me in the undertaking. For the facility with which I have been enabled to refer to "Nash's History of Worcestershire," and "Camden's Britannia," (both valuable and expensive works) I am indebted to the great kindness of Lord Northwick, who, for a lengthened period, allowed me the loan of them from his Lordship's library at Northwick. To the Rev. Henry Bromfield, Vicar of Blockley, with whom it has been my privilege to work harmoniously for nearly nine years, I owe much for information given me during the progress of this work, and for the interest he has shewn in desiring its success. I am also under obligations to A. C. Hooper, Esq. Secretary to the Bishop of Worcester, for permitting me to consult certain deeds and documents in the Registry of the Diocese. With regard to the architectural descriptions in the work, I am indebted to Mr. W. G. Fretton, of Coventry, a member of several antiquarian Societies, in whose ability I have the greatest confidence. He has also taken for me several of the sketches, and furnished me with extracts from authors, to whose works I might otherwise have had difficulty in obtaining access. To enumerate all those who have in one way or another contributed towards the completion of the book would lengthen out this preface beyond its proper limits. I can only

beg them to believe that I am not unmindful of their valuable assistance, and to accept my sincere thanks. Although the preparation of this work has been to me a source of pleasure, at the same time it has involved a considerable amount of labour and research, which however will be amply rewarded, if the result should be the means of affording a few hours' interesting perusal to those who have encouraged me by becoming subscribers, and of handing down to those who come after us, a faithful record concerning the past and present of Blockley.

A.J.S.

June, 1875.

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