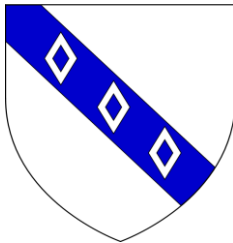


Weddington

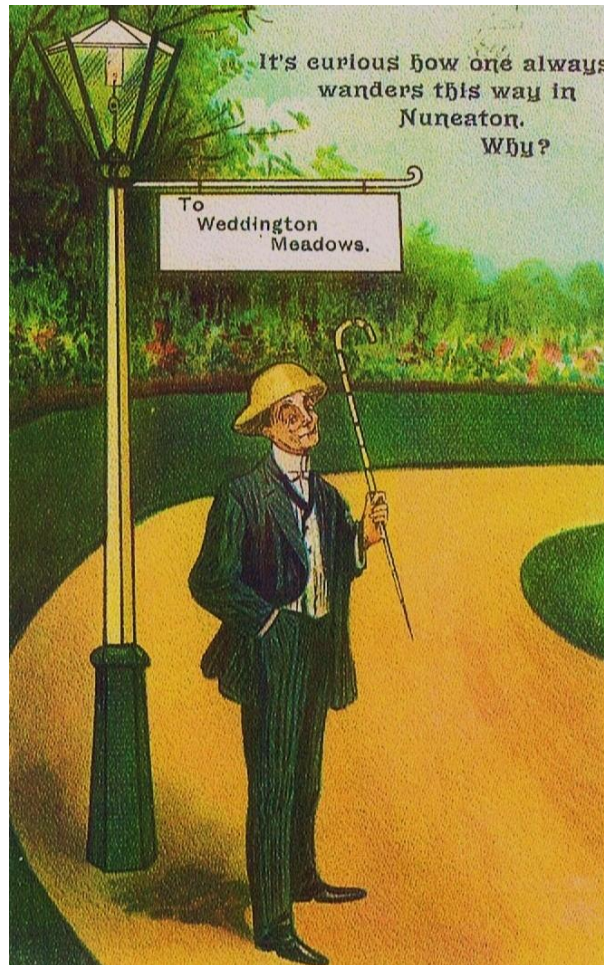
A SHORT WALK WITH THE NUNEATON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP (PETER LEE)



Astley



Adderley of
Weddington



Research carried out with the great assistance of :

Alan Cook

G.J.Page, (A Thesis)

A Study of the Sources Available for the History of the Parish of Weddington. Manchester Polytechnic Dept. of Library and Information Studies Post Graduate Diploma 1980

www.weddingtoncastle.co.uk

Mrs.M.M.M.Fowler /
Weddington Castle Red Cross
VAD Hospital Collection (Courtesy of Peter Chayter – NLHG Archives)

British History online.

www.nuneatonhistory.com

Facebook Page: Nuneaton & Bedworth Local & Family History Notes & Queries


Contact:
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A Weddington Timeline

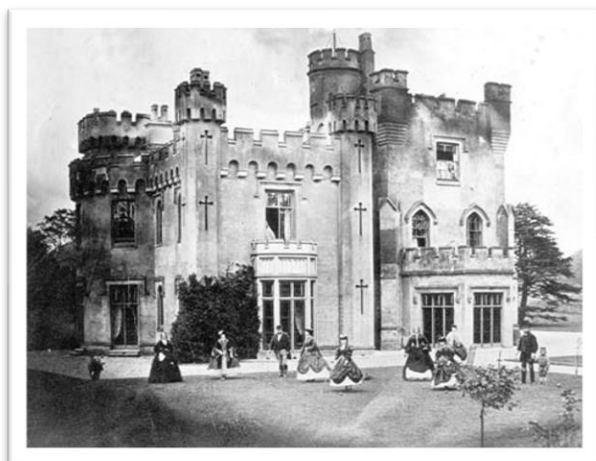
Date	Details	Further notes
1086	Weddington was known as Watitune	A "tun" or settlement near the Watling Street a Roman Road
1086	Watitune was held by Hereward, originally but by 1086 passed to the Count of Meulan	Meulan was the major landholder in Weddington at that time. His brother Henry was Earl of Warwick. Hereward continued as a tenant. The estate included 7 ploughs 4 serfs, 12 villeins, 5 borders, 20 acres of meadow. It was worth 30 shillings.
	The land was let to the Astley family	It passed from the Astley family to their relatives the Greys and the Marquis of Dorset
12 th century	The parish church of St. James's font dates from the 12 th . Century.	
1312	There is a list of rectors of Weddington back to this year.	
1332	Residents of Wadynton (sic): Sir Thomas de Astleye Emma le Cocus Henry son of Lyne Maynard Godbody Richard the Smith Robert de Stoke Simon Russell	The Lay Subsidy Rolls

	William Sweyn Robert at the Mill Geoffrey le Parker Geoffrey de Corley John Matheu	
14 th century	St. James	
1491	The manor of Weddington was enclosed and 300 acres enclosed.	10 houses were allowed to fall into ruin. 60 people were displaced from their homes and lost their occupation.
1554	The Manor of Weddington was forfeited to the crown.	Following the execution of Lady Jane Grey.
1561	The manor was leased out by the crown.	The manor was granted by Queen Elizabeth I to Humphrey Adderley (1512-1598), Groom of the Queens Robes. The Adderleys held the manor until the 18 th century; he was still in possession in 1598 when he died.
	One of the sub-lessees of the manor was a Mr. Trye	Mr. Trye built new cottages to re-establish the former lost settlement.
c.1566	Weddington Hall was reconstructed.	It was rebuilt in brick and stone. There is no record of its earliest form.
1598	Humphrey Adderley died. He left it his son also Humfrey.	Humfrey Adderley was a minor in 1598. (1583-1637)
1627	Richard Vines, a Puritan, was presented to the living. (In 1630 the living was extended to Caldecote)	In 1644 he was appointed Master of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge
1637	Humphrey Adderley (junior) died	He was still in possession of the manor.
1639	John Adderley inherited the manor.	
1662	Hearth Tax Returns lists residents of Weddington: John Adderley Mr. Evance Thomas Throwne Dudley Ryder Thomas Greene Widow Cattle John Rawley	In 1662 Dudley Ryder was ejected from Bedworth for non-conformity.
1663	John Adderley died	His widow Jane Adderley conveyed the manor in 1667 to her son Wolstan.
1663	Parish records date back to 1663	The parish records until the year 1812 were published by the Parish Register Society in 1904
1667	Wolston Adderley inherited Weddington	
1680	Sir Richard Newdigate paid for work on Weddington Lane	He wanted to be able to transport his coal out of town along the deeply rutted road which needed repair..
1689	Gilbert Adderley inherited the manor	Wolstan Adderley died and was buried at Skipwith, York.
1730	There were four farms and the Manor House in the parish	
1753	Gilbert Adderley's son Thomas had inherited the estate, but died this year	
1753	A Weddington parish book was started	
1767	Francis Vincent of Weddington Hall died.	
1801	Population: 60	
1805	Robert Lugar the eminent architect was commissioned to castellate Weddington Hall.	His client was Lionel Place (1788-1841) see below for biographical details. Mr. Place had purchased the estate.
1811	Population: 67	
1811	Robert Lugar wrote about his work on Weddington Hall.	Robert Lugar described his work in 1811 as involving "...the old front altered by making an entrance porch and square tower, carried up to shorten the length of the roofs, and to give character with more accommodation. The south end, also, is

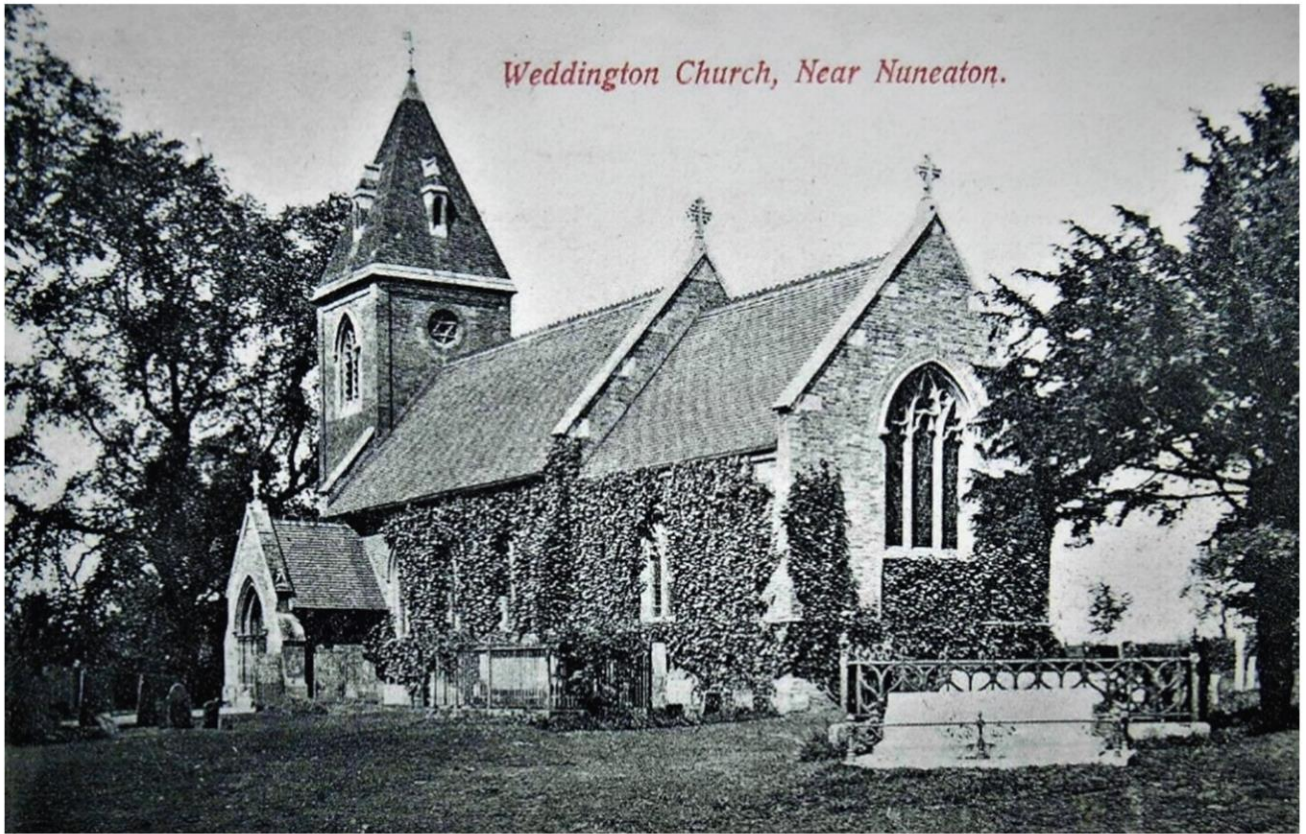
		carried up to obtain two family bed-rooms, as well as to give more feature. The subordinate buildings are chiefly conveniences to the kitchen: these, together with the gateway, which is the entrance to the stable court, are entirely new". At the same time as work proceeded on the house, the grounds were improved under the direction of the owner, who enlarged the grounds by moving roads and undertook the planting and removal of hedges.
1812	The Weddington bridge was swept away.	
1813	A plank nailed across posts to form a bridge over the River Anker.	
1813	The new incumbent at St. James Parish Church.	
1815	Weddington Grove was owned by the Swinnerton family,	
1817	The plank bridge was swept away again.	
1818	Lord of the Manor Lionel Place paid for a new bridge.	Lionel Place (1788-1841) paid for the castellation the Elizabethan Weddington Hall to create a castle encapsulating the old hall. He paid £14,000 for the Estate and Hall and £12,000 for the farms. He spent £15-20,000 on the estate after he purchased it. Mostly on building work on the Hall.
1818	Lionel Place offered the estate for sale for £30,000	
1820	The Grove was built.	The home of the Swinnerton family.
1821	Population: 91	
1831	Robert Evans (Mary Ann Evan-s father – George Eliot) valued timber for Mr. Place. He did the same in 1831 and 1832.	Robert Evans was land agent for the Newdegate family but often carried out work for other estate holders in the North Warwickshire area.
1831	Population: 69	
1841	Population: 77	
1841	Lionel Place died	He was a descendent of the Place family of Dinsdale and York. He left Weddington to his son also Lionel Place (1809-1845) Captain of 4 th Regt. Royal Irish Dragoon Guards who lived in Norwich and had a house in Pall Mall.
1842	Weddington Castle was rented by the Earl of Hillsborough. He was accompanied by The Marquis of Downshire and Lord & Lady Charlotte Hill.	March-May 1842 The Earl of Hillsborough was Arthur Wills Blundell Sandys Turnbull Windsor Hill (1812-1868). He rented Weddington as a short term sporting estate.
1843	Sale of contents of Weddington Hall	The comprehensive inventory covers details of a library of 3000 books 15 lots of paintings and prints to be sold.
1845	Landowners included: John Alkin Rev. Samuel Bracebridge Heming Sophia Place (Widow of Lionel Place)	Occupiers included: William Crofts Robert Swinnerton Joseph Robottom
1849	There were 90 acres of Woodland in Weddington.	The park of Weddington Hall covered 64 acres.
1850	Extensive repairs made to Weddington Hall	By Henry Dewes the new owner.
1851	Population: 81	
1861	Population: 74	40% of the population were engaged in farming.
1861	Rev. William Cooper resided at Weddington Hall	He was the tenant of Henry Dewes. Subsequently sold to Henry Kay, a Lancashire Cotton Manufacturer,
1865	Henry Kay of Weddington Hall died	His son Frederick Henry Jewell Kay (1848-1919) inherited Weddington Hall.
1871	Population: 84	
1871	Frederick Henry Jewell Kay (Census)	Was the owner of Weddington Hall. He was unmarried and listed as a Landowner.
1872	Rev. Richard Samuel Bracebridge Heming became Rector.	The living was worth £248 per annum including 64 acres of glebe.

1872	Frederick Henry Jewell Kay	He married Emily Charlotte Salmon of Jamaica she was 21.
1873	Robert Swinnerton of Weddington Grove died	Robert Swinnerton was proprietor of Swinnerton & Sons, timber merchants. This became Nuneaton Timber Co.
1874	Emily Charlotte Kay (nee Salmon)	She died aged 23.
1874	Executors of Mr. F.H.Kay sold the Weddington Estate for £21639.7s. 0d. The sale included Lordship of the Manor	Henry Kay (-1865) Henry Cunliffe Shaw purchased the Hall. He had previously lived at Edwinstowe Hall, Nottinghamshire.
1876	The Grove was sold by Robert Swinnerton Jnr.	
1881	Population: 81	
1881	St. James Parish Church re-built.	Cost of £1572. The architect was Sir Arthur W. Blomfield MA ARA FSA Architect
1882	A new organ was provided at St. James Parish Church.	
1883	A new stained glass window was installed at the church.	
1891	Population: 100	
1891	Alfred French lived at the Grove	
1891	A flower Show held in the grounds of Weddington Hall.	
1900	The parish covered 911 acres.	Rateable value: £2619.00
1900	The wall letterbox was cleared at 8.35am and 6.30pm.	
1901	Population: 106	
1905	A stained glass window installed at St. James	To the memory of: Isaac, Elizabeth, Sarah and Robert Swinnerton
1906	The new incumbent at the church was Rev. Richard Samuel Bracebridge Hall	
1907	A reredos carved and installed to the memory of Alfred French.	
1909	Henry Cunliffe Shawe died	His son Henry Nigel Pole Shawe inherited the estate.
1911	Weddington Acreage: 952	
1911	Population: 102	
1912	Henry Nigel Pole Shaw leased the Hall to Capt. Geoffrey J. Shakerley c.1912-15;	Geoffrey Joseph Shakerley (1833-1915)
1912	Cyril le Porte landed his Duperdussin plane at Weddington Cricket Ground.	Mr. Le Porte was using the Trent Valley line to navigate and Weddington Fields was the midpoint between London and Manchester. Shortly after this a permanent airfield was established at Attleborough Fields Farm.
1916	Weddington Hall was taken over as a Red Cross Hospital	The commandant of the hospital was Mrs. Margaret Mary Maitland Fowler
1921	Population: 87	
1923	Weddington Hall and estate was purchased by Percy Howe – a local builder. He paid: £6250.00 for the Hall and grounds although not the entire former estate.	Percy Howe first converted it into flats. The fabric of the hall was offered for sale in July 1928 and was said by one old time I interviewed that it was sold to an American customer who re-erected over in the USA. It was built of Attleborough sand stone.
1928	Weddington Hall was demolished	"Back in the 70s I clearly remember an old timer... told me he used to work for Percy Howe, the builder who purchased Weddington Castle, turned it into flats then demolished it for a housing estate in 1928. (I have always had it in for Percy since, knowing that!). The old timer was unequivocal when he said the stonework was labelled, dismantled block by block and shipped to America. Of course, I had then and still have no idea that this was true...

		<p>"Weddington Hall was encased by Robert Lugar in a castellated facade of finely chiselled Attleborough grey sandstone over the original Elizabethan Hall. Even in 1928 this was not cheap demolition rubble. It had a premium value as fine quality building stone and I would have thought Percy, knowing his keenness to maximise his return, would have sold it off as a job lot, not just bulldoze it and leave it as a great rubble field under Castle Road. There is no doubt that other parts of the building were sold as job lots. I found an article about the sale of the structure in the Nuneaton newspapers in 1928 with comments made to the effect that the grand wooden staircase was sold as a lot. Someone else bought the doors and windows. Floor boards etc. There is unfortunately no mention of the stone work.</p> <p>"I suppose there are two ways of putting this mystery to bed. Doing a core drill in a garden in Castle Road and see if we hit a bed of grey sandstone down there, or trawl the USA looking for a castle with a resemblance to Weddington. No doubt the answer will come in due course, the USA is a big country, but there can't be many castellated mansions out there built of Attleborough sandstone!"</p>
1931	Population: 643	
1931	Weddington was absorbed into the Borough of Nuneaton.	The Borough of Nuneaton (Extension) Order, 1931.
1931	Sandon Park was given to the Borough	Sandon Park was land owned by Thomas Sands, who on retirement from the council at the age of 80 bequeathed 20 acres of land to form Sandon Park. The council also gave 17 acres to complete the new sports ground.
1934	The Weddington Grove became a hotel	The licence was transferred from the Pheasant Inn in Abbey Street.
1940	The Weddington Hotel was licensed to: Jane Emma Dimilow.	
1940	Shops listed: Allan Herbert Leslie, shopkeeper, 96 Castle Road, Nettie Claridge, Butcher, Weddington Road. Sidney M. Farmer, boot repairer Weddington Road, Nuneaton Co-operative Industrial Society, Weddington Road. Walter Taylor, Shopkeeper and Post Office, Weddington Road. Worthington's Cash Stores, Weddington Road.	
1942	Houses were demolished in an air raid on 27 th August	
1951	Population: 1828	



Weddington Hall c. 1890



The Weddington Hotel, The Grove



British soldiers being rehabilitated at Weddington Red Cross Hospital were treated to many entertainments by Mrs. Fowler in order to help with their recovery. Here they are with the Atherstone Hounds. (NLHG Archives)



Plan

— REFERRED TO —

