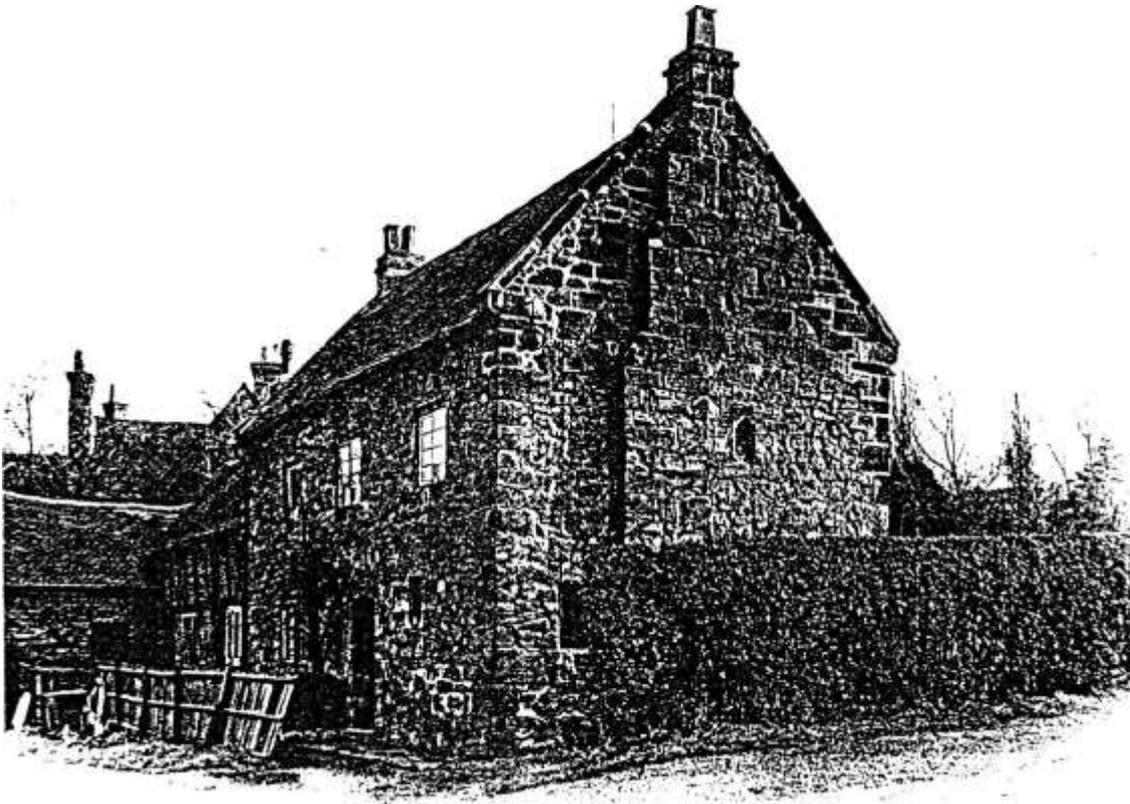


VESEY COTTAGE AT ST. PETER'S, MANEY

by A. F. FENYIMAN

Introduction

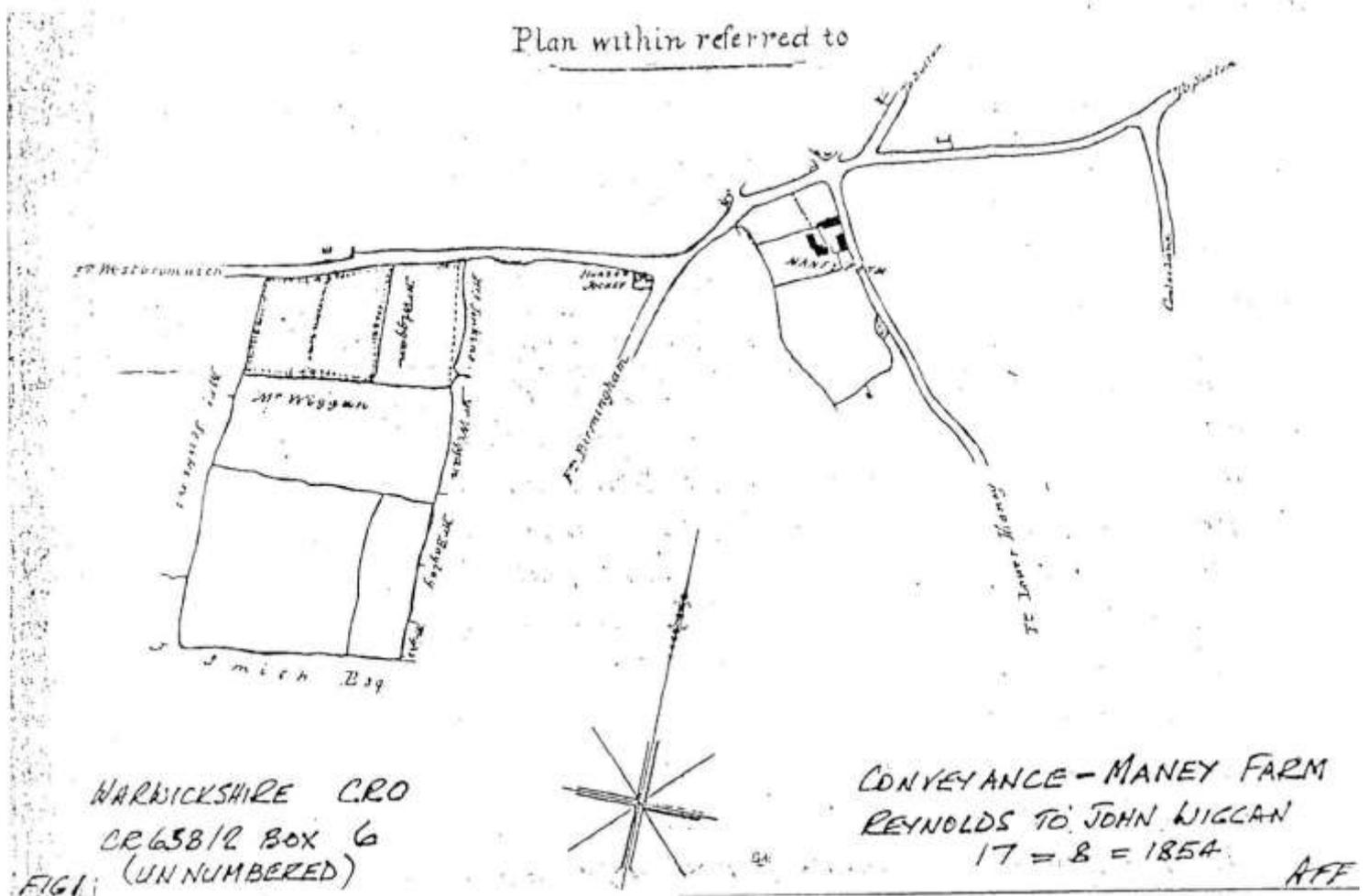
This cottage is one of the small number remaining of the fifty-one stone houses reputedly built by Bishop Vesey. Without knowing the precise date of construction one can hazard a guess at between 1528, the date of the first town Charter, and 1554, the year the Bishop died. Most of the remaining cottages are constructed of roughly squared stone blocks in irregular courses, some more regular than others, Moor Hall Farm and one of the two original cottages at Ashfurlong being particularly good. Other stone houses in the area, for example, older houses in the High Street and Coleshill Street hiding behind brick facings, are of a rougher construction. similar to the "Kentish Rag" houses south of the Thames.



Whilst the names of the original occupants of this cottage are unknown, there is documentary evidence giving a fair but not absolute degree of certainty as to ownership from 1599 to 1857. This latter is the date of the Parochial Valuation, the last comprehensive survey of the town in the public domain where scheduled ownership of property is related to a map of its whereabouts. Subsequently there are maps showing field and house boundaries. and Electoral Registers which give later householders names, but there is no easy way for the amateur researcher to determine who owns what, so 1857 is as good a date to finish as any.

Notes on Documentary Sources (see also this author's *A Sutton Coldfield Source*, Book, vol II)

- 1559 Jury verdict (latin) Manorial Court Book 1548 - 1617. Christopher Vesey who had lands in Maney has died. Jury says heir is Christopher son of Hugh (presumably deceased), Christopher remains in custody of his mother. (Translation in Sir. B. Stone's Note Book BRL 323912)
- 1703 - Lands at Maney - Warwick County Record Office D15/13
- 1761 Descent of lands in estate of John Vesey son of Thomas Vesey. Fields named.
- 1703 Descends from John Vesey to Mary Snell.
- 1713 Then on marriage of Mary Snell to Richard Clay with $\frac{1}{3}$ granted to Richard Weston
- 1722 Then on maniage of Rebecca Snell to John Orton with $\frac{1}{3}$ granted to Edward Weston
- 1749 John Orton to Thomas Boughton and Samuel Garbett.
- 1751 Lease for a year. Samuel Garbett and Ann (daughter and heir of Mary Clay who was daughter of Thomas Snell) lease to John Orton Malster and Thomas Hall $\frac{1}{3}$ part of Vesey lands in Maney
- 1758 Garbett and Ann sell to Olton $\frac{1}{3}$ estate of John Vesey in Maney for £260.



1761 John Orton and Thomas Hall now own Vesey lands between them

This entry terminates that series of deeds. Refer now to Warwick CRO No. CR 638 which is a set of six boxes of assorted documents not calendared at the time of inspection. There is a series of documents in box six which brings the story nearer to date, but these want re-examination for better understanding.

1854 Deed of Covenant Warwick CR638/2

This discusses the disposal of Vesey lands as the result of a sale in 1853. The vendor is not named. Three schedules are attached of which the third serves as an introduction.

Schedule 3. A list of documents.

1761 John Orton and Thomas Hall to Thomas Wheeler, which leads a list of twelve deeds ending in:-

1843 Robert Bradburn and Sarah to Thomas Reynolds and Richard Bird, with plan.

N.B. Robert Bradburn is as owner of Maney Farm in the Inclosure Award of about that time.

1854 Schedule 1. Sale of lands.

Lands at rear of Horse and Jockey sold to Mr. M. E. Jenkins for 1575 by Thomas Reynolds and Richard Bird, trustees.

1854 Schedule 2. Sale of Maney Farm

To John Wiggans by Thomas Reynolds and Richard Bird. Farm with barns, gardens, etc., wherein John Vesey did live then Richard Kesterton then Joseph Rhodes; then gives field names which are different from the Award names and diminished from the fields given in the deed of 1703.

1857 Valuation of 1857.

John Wiggans is given as the owner, the lands in his own hands. The Valuation separates the the lands in Maney from those in the Coldfield where Wiggans had acquired further land including the indelicately named "Ovens Arse", traditionally a very bare field. The Valuation gives the size of the main house as 20' 6" x 35' 9", and a good range of outhouses with their overall measurements.

Note:- the 1851/2 Register of Electors gives:-

Robert Bradbourne is living in Tamworth

John Wiggans residing in Whittal Street, Birmingham.