

HALLOW HISTORY ARCHIVES

The Greenhill area of Hallow.

With the new housing developments to the East of the main road through the village, so much is changing about the way the village looks. The most recent new houses are by Greenhill Lane. Back in the 1840's there were fields to the south of Greenhill Lane with names including Cherry Orchard, Potter's Meadow, Cox's Close and Broomy Close. They all appear on the 1841* Tithe map, but you won't find them on the Parish Hall copy of the Doharty map of 1747 that shows the Bishop's Estate, because in those days much of the area was freehold, so outside the Bishop's control.

The name Greenhill is thought to derived from the manor of Grimenhull which lay between the villages of Grimley and Hallow in medieval times. There was once a Hall house with barns, stables and a dovecote and Thomas Chettle had become the owner in 1611. He was for some time a seriously wealthy clothier whose "capital messuage" (large house) was in Broad Street, Worcester, backing onto the Blackfriars, approximately opposite where New England Country Store is today. Thomas had been educated at Brasenose College Oxford and later rose through the ranks to hold important public offices in Worcester before and after its new charter in 1621. He had been made Warden of the powerful Worcester Weavers, Walkers and Clothiers' Guild in 1603 and became MP for Worcester 11 years later.

Latterly Thomas Chettle's general health deteriorated and he became blind. By the time of his death, his eldest son Richard had pre-deceased him, so some of the bequests in his 1640 will were to Richard's sons, firstly another Richard, to whom he left – amongst other things - the Broad Street house and his land and tenements in Hallow, but before 1656 it was in the hands of his Richard's brother Thomas. In the latter's will he describes himself as "of Hallow", so it seems he lived some of his time at Hallow, possibly in the Hall House. He had already inherited the house between his grandfather's "capitall messuage" in Broad Street and the Golden Fleece (near the corner with Angel Place), and had also left personal effects at the "sign of the George in Camarthen", where he presumably stayed whilst visiting the furnaces and forges that he had in that area. Thomas left everything to his brother John a merchant in London. Information is sketchy at the moment but it seems that the Chetles connection with Hallow ended, although on May 29 1681 a Richard Chettle married Jane Fitzer at Hallow. The Victoria County History, Volume 3 states that Thomas Chettle sold Greenhill in 1653 to Anthony Ball, from whom it was purchased in 1655 by Edward Hall (of Henwick).

The much-missed Anne Stark wrote about Greenhill Farm in the Hallow History Group book "Hallow Farms and Mills Past Present", and dedicated the chapter to Jim Court of Greenhill Farm who died in 2012. You are warmly invited to the Hallow History Group Open Day at the Old Chapel, Moseley Road on Saturday May 7th from 10-4, where you can come along and browse our research and photos, chat and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake.

Jacquie Hartwright

*1841 owners of the land to the south of Greenhill Lane included John Pindar 3rd Earl Beauchamp, John Barber of Grimley, widow Fanny Potter, Elizabeth Southall, the Trustees of Richard Griffith who had lived at Thorngrove and John Bellamy Reynold.

Special thanks to Dr Pat Hughes in identifying the location of the "capitall messuage" in Broad Street.
Internet sources - The National Archives; The Victoria County History and the History of Parliament on-line.