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Antiquities and Memoirs of the Parish of Myddle, County of Salop

The author of this work, written in 1700–1 but not published until the nineteenth century, is sometimes confused with his later namesake, the antiquarian Richard Gough (1735–1809), though they are not in fact related. Richard Gough of Myddle in Shropshire (baptised 1635, died 1723) was a farmer and also acted as a land steward. This book on the history of his parish and the families living in it was not apparently intended for publication. However, more than one copy was made, as a version was privately printed in 1834 which does not match the text presented here, which was published in Shrewsbury in 1875. Gough describes his parish, the great local landowners, and the castle, and then gives histories of the local families. This is one of the earliest surviving examples of a local history, and is famous for its detailed account of the minutiae of village life.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07919-8 - Antiquities and Memoirs of the Parish of Myddle, County of Salop

Richard Gough

Frontmatter

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ANTIQUITIES & MEMOIRS

OF THE

PARISH OF MYDDLE,

COUNTY OF SALOP,

WRITTEN BY

RICHARD GOUGH,

A.D. 1700.

Shrewsbury :

ADNITT & NAUNTON, BOOKSELLERS, THE SQUARE.

LONDON :—HENRY SOTHERAN & Co., 36, PICCADILLY.

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PREFACE.

Mr. Richard Gough, the Author of this remarkable work, lived on his own freehold Estate at Newton-on-the-Hill, in the parish of Middle. He was evidently a man of some genius and must have received a good classical education. He was born in the year 1634 and died in 1723.

This History was written in 1700-1, and is described by the Editor of the Edition printed in 1834, as “one of the most extraordinary topographical and genealogical works ever written.” It purposes to be the History of his own Parish. After he has very fully described the Parish itself and the various objects of interest in it—such as the Church, the Castle, &c., he proceeds to give an account of the different families that had resided in the Parish. For this purpose he introduces a plan of the Parish Church, and taking each Pew in turn, gives a genealogical account of its occupants.

A few copies of this work were privately printed in 1834, by Sir Thomas Phillipps, at the Middle Hill Press, Worcestershire, under the title of “Human Nature displayed in the History of Middle, by Richard Gough.” It was however an imperfect copy and could not have been printed from the original MS.S. as several pages are wanting in it, which are found in the MS.S itself.

The present Edition is printed from one of these copies, lent to the Publishers by the late Rev. H. Burton; but to ensure accuracy the proof sheets have been carefully compared with the original manuscript and revised by the Rev. Prebendary Egerton, Rector of Middle.

The old manuscript itself is in the possession of Mrs. Bickerton, of Newton-on-the-Hill, whose family inherited, and are in possession of, a part of Mr. Gough's Estate. The thanks of the Publishers are due for her kindness in permitting the reviser of the press to have ready and constant access to the manuscript, and also to the Rev. Prebendary Egerton for the great care and attention he has bestowed in revising and correcting the proof sheets.

It only remains further to state that the title pages, plans of church, &c., are fac-similes, and that the spelling of the original manuscript has been carefully adhered to.

*The Square, Shrewsbury,
January, 1875.*