

Documentary History for
2 Church Lane, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

Site Code: STO-H

from

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England

by

Nat Alcock and Dan Miles



Fig. 1. View of the house from the west.

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Oxbow Books

STO-H: 2 CHURCH LANE, STONELEIGH, WARWICKSHIRE

Grid reference: SP 3310 7265 Survey Date: 1966

By: Nat Alcock and others

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References: Alcock, N. W., Braithwaite, J. G. and Jeffs, M. W. (1971-1973) 'Timber-framed buildings in Warwickshire: Stoneleigh village', *Trans Birmingham Archaeol. Soc.* **85**, 178-202; Alcock, N.

W. (1993) *People at home: Living in a Warwickshire village, 1500-1800*, Chichester: Phillimore.

For documentary source references, see the bibliography of primary sources.

Abbreviations:

SCLA Shakespeare Centre Library and Archives, Stratford-upon-Avon

WCRO Warwickshire County Record Office

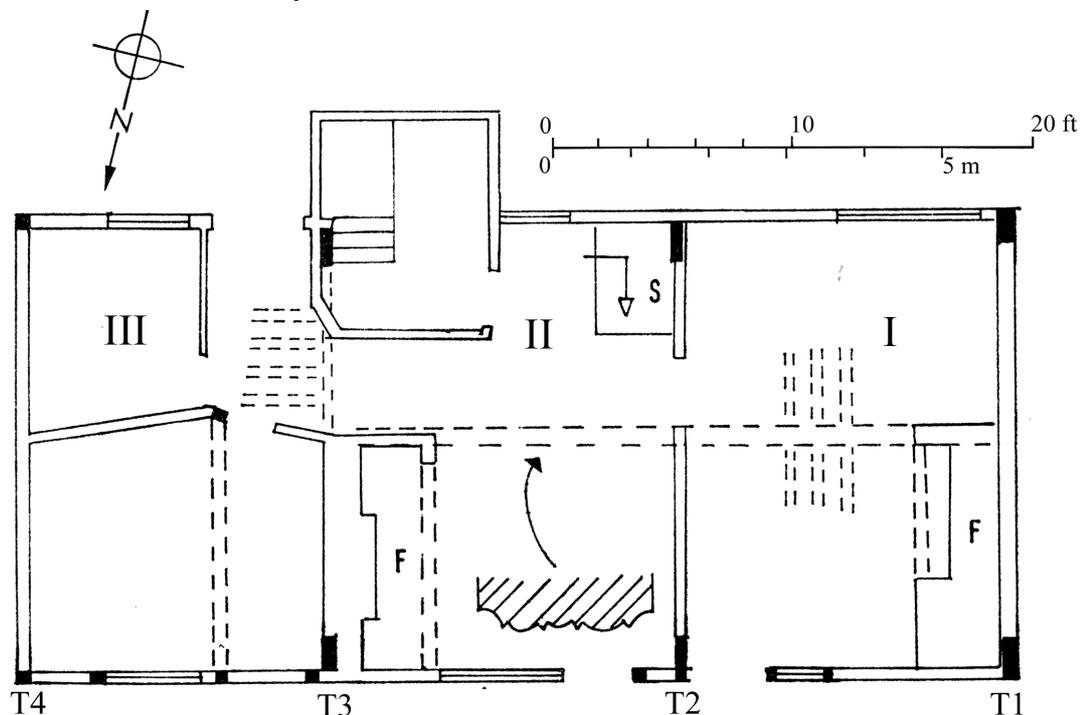


Fig. 2. Plan, showing truss and bay numbering.

SUMMARY ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

2 Church Lane, Stoneleigh is a cruck-built house of three bays, originally comprising a floored inner room, an open hall and an open service room or kitchen. It has the best-formed crucks of any of the Stoneleigh houses, though its two complete bays are notably shorter than in the other houses. The house was later reversed, with a parlour at the west end; its inserted ceiling has chamfers and step stops for the joists, the central beam and the one surviving side beam; the joists run behind the chimney, showing that to be a later addition (present in 1675 as a screen is listed in an inventory). The inserted ceiling beam in the hall is scarfed to the projecting end of that of the parlour; it is moulded (though reused). The hall joists are also chamfered and stopped and have a trimmer for a stair (in the position of the present stair). The cruck truss at the east end has been replaced with a tie-beam truss. This bay was probably shortened at the same time, requiring the adjoining section of the original floor joists to be replaced; a beam was also inserted for a passage partition. The house is undated, but is similar in structure to 1 Birmingham Road, Stoneleigh (STO-F) of 1480-2. Further details are given in Alcock (1993), 40-2.

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

The house was associated with a half-yardland holding (14 ac) in 1597, with a relatively large croft (1ac 3r). It had belonged to Kenilworth Abbey and can be firmly traced back only to 1551 from the identification with the holding of George Gosse in 1597 (Fig. 3). However, the coincidence of name and rent indicates that it is presumably the holding described in 1522 as:

Robert a Deane miller, Henry Pryce and Edmond Burdelyne his servantes, dwellyng in the Abbottes of Kelyngworths [estate] rent by yer 7s and to the Abbott of Stonely for a walkemyllle [*illegible*] and is worth in goodes 20s.¹

Robert, the son, also rented a shop from 1536, so was perhaps born around 1505, his eldest son around 1530. This son, Thomas, took over this shop in 1552, and he was frequently cited in the manor court as a common butcher, perhaps also his father's trade (possibly using the broad and little boards noted in the inventory). For the text of the inventory and a reconstruction of the house, see pages 157-8.



Fig. 3. Section of the 1597 map of Stoneleigh (SCLA, DR671/3, reproduced with permission).

The identified tenants during the sixteenth century are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Tenants of the holding

Date	Rent	Name	Notes
1522	7s	Robert a Deane, miller	(see above)
1551	7s	Robert Dene	Former Kenilworth Abbey property. Robert Dene died 1552.
c. 1559	7s	Robart Deyne	Altered to Edward Aston
1564-80	7s	Edward Aston	Edward Aston died in 1584 (will)
1585	7s	Widow Grangar	
1595	7s	George Gosse	
1599	£1	George Gosse	Altered to Olde [= Owles]
1607	£1	Thomas Owles	Thomas Owles died 1607

¹ From what is identified as a draft return for the certificate of musters of 1522 (SCLA, DR18/30/24); this lists tenants in the identical order to the surviving certificate (WCRO, HR65/1).

Probate inventories of 1552, 1607 and 1675 relate to its tenants. For the first, see p. 157. The second lists the following rooms:

1607: Hall, Bedchamber, Buttery, (in the Chimney), Chamber below Entry, Boulting House; Barne.

As well as his inventory, Robert Deane's will (1552) provides information about his family and his lifestyle. He left to his wife Dorethe £10 and the coffer which 'her gere lyeth in'; a halmere, 2 spits, a pair of goubirons, 2 silver spoons & a feather bed.

Daughter Elizabeth received £10, a spit, a pair of goubirons & a silver spoon.

Son, Henry received £6 13s 4d, a chest & a silver spoon.

Son Thomas £6 13s 4d, a feather bed, a folding table, a halmere, a coffer with three locks, a goubart and 3 fats, a great spit and 2 silver spoons.

Katherine Dene (perhaps his sister) received a cow & a calf, a ewe and a lamb.

He owned a house in Coventry, which was to be sold and the proceeds given to Edward, Roger and William Barfeld (nephews?).

Dorethe & Thomas were to have all his leased and tillage ground, to use together. The residue of his property was to be divided equally between Dorethe, Thomas, Henry and Elizabeth.