

A Note about House Names

House numbers were not introduced in Knowle until 1940. Some houses have been known by the same name for decades, whilst others have changed several times, and there is often more than one house with the same name. As house numbers were included in the 1940 directories, numbers and house names can often be correlated if there was no change of occupant between 1936 and 1940.

Sale Brochures

These are a priceless source. Many of them have maps. They contain numerous references to property and individuals. There is an excellent collection of brochures and posters at Knowle Library - mostly the sale particulars produced by Samuel Davy & Sons since the late 19th century. We also collect modern sale particulars for interesting properties, which the local estate agents kindly give us.

Four Knowle Estates

Four Knowle estates were sold between 1849 and 1904: Knowle Hall (1849); Grimshaw Hall (1885); Knowle Lodge (1887); Springfield House (1904)

We have copies of all four, but there is no map of the Knowle Hall estate. Properties are not named in the brochure, but many can be identified by correlation with the 1841 tithe schedule. Note that the deeds of these properties date only from 1850.

Court Rolls

The Court Rolls are a record of the proceedings of the Manor Court at Knowle. They are manorial records and held at Warwick. They are complete and indexed by name from 1788 onwards, but some earlier ones are missing. They include copyhold property transactions - similar to freehold but subject to certain conditions, and known as admittances and surrenders rather than buying and selling. They also include whole or partial wills. This is a gold mine for tracing the ownership and occupation of property. From the late 19th century onwards copyhold land was converted to freehold and was abolished completely in 1922. For freehold property researchers need access to other documents, such as the deeds.

Property Deeds

Not publicly available and therefore more difficult. They tend to be lodged at banks or building societies. We actively seek information about Knowle property and are hot on the trail of any interesting ones which come on to the market. We are indebted to owners who have let us copy their deeds, or make notes and to solicitors who have let us sit in their offices to do so.

Wills

Knowle was a manorial peculiar, with testamentary matters falling within the jurisdiction of the manor court not the diocese. There are therefore no Knowle wills at Lichfield Diocesan Record Office. A small collection survives at Warwick and some may be downloaded from the records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). There are extracts from some wills in the manor court rolls and references to others. Transcripts of some later wills can be found at Birmingham Reference Library and many can be downloaded from the internet at reasonable cost (about £3.50). Earlier ones are in Secretary Hand, which is not difficult to read with practice.

Ordnance Survey Maps

There are good collections of large scale (25" to the mile) OS at Solihull Central Library and Warwick. Knowle Library has a small selection. The 1888 and 1904 maps show the names of larger houses.

Oral History Records

Can reveal information which can never be found in any written source, including anecdotes which bring publications and exhibitions alive. The Society holds these and is constantly adding to them. Good collection at Knowle Library.



Knowle Local History Society

Your House & Family in Knowle



Grove Cottage, Copt Heath.

Knowle Local History Society is an independent organisation formed to promote the study of the history of the village and to provide a service to the residents of Knowle and the wider public.

Making History Live

Introduction

For those researching their house or family in Knowle this short guide outlines where the main relevant primary and secondary sources for Knowle can be found locally. It enlarges on the information found in *The Knowle Records and Where to Find Them*.

The scope of this leaflet does not extend to the national records, except where the Society has a copy. Most of them likely to be relevant to the family historian are very well known. They include the national register of births marriages and deaths; census returns; wills since 1858 and the International Genealogical Index (IGI or Mormon Index) Most of them are available on the internet, with limited amounts of material free of charge. Census returns are available at Warwick, Solihull and Birmingham. So is the national register of wills.

We are a small group of volunteers, mostly long-standing Knowle residents with extensive local knowledge. Increasingly we have been able to answer requests for help: we respond to queries from all over the country and from as far afield as Australia and Canada, now often coming by e-mail.

For enquirers at a distance we can do a *small* amount of research from local records which cannot be accessed on-line, but we regret that we cannot undertake lengthy searches or visit record offices outside Knowle or Solihull. Apart from the provision of material the Society does not charge for its services, but donations are always welcome as we operate on a tiny budget (cheques payable to *Knowle Local History Society*).

Many researchers have given us a copy of the fruits of their labours for our records. If you would be kind enough to do this we would be grateful. Copies of photographs from family albums would also be welcome, particularly from 1945 onwards.

Readers should also consult *The Knowle Records and Where to Find Them* and also look on our website at knowlehistory.org.uk, where more detailed information can be found.

Useful Items

'The Records of Knowle' (Canon Downing, 1914) Includes: transcripts of early Parish Registers to 1812, reprinted in full with index up to 1914; selected extracts from churchwardens' and overseers' accounts, Westminster Abbey Muniments and charity records; chronology of the church, etc. Copies with the Society, at Knowle Library, Solihull, Warwick, etc. Available from www.midlandshistoricaldata.org, with index to parish registers searchable free of charge.

'The History of Knowle' (Eva Wootton) Very readable, but limited use as reference material. Excellent personal memories of the 20th century. Numerous names in the index.

'Knowle Collegiate Church' (Revd Dr A A Upton) Standard reference work for the church. Dr. Upton checked all his sources. Numerous names in index.

Knowle Monumental Survey

A survey of the gravestones, with index, compiled by Birmingham & District Genealogical Society. Copies with The Society, at the Parish Office and at Knowle Library.

Parish Magazines (1890 on).

A social history of the village in themselves. Advertisements are invaluable. Complete set in the Parish Office and a partial set at Knowle Library.

Register of The Gild of Knowle

Specific to the history of the Gild of Knowle (1413 - 1547), a religious and social gild. Transcribed & translated by W. B. Bickley, 1894. Covers the years 1451 - 1535 and contains a list of all Gild members during this period. A world renowned source for the early history of the Shakespeare family. Available at Warwick and Solihull and Birmingham libraries.

Solihull and Its Church (R. Pemberton)

Contains a lot of relevant information. Available from www.midlandshistoricaldata.org, at Warwick and at libraries.

The Parish Records

These are at Warwick and include far more than baptisms, marriages and burials. The Society has a copy of the CRO listing.

The Manorial Records

These are also at Warwick. Another rich source. The Society has a copy of the CRO listing.

Photographs & Postcards

Many contain a great deal of detail, showing houses and people, including school and sports groups. Apart from the obvious uses for places they are useful for such things as costume, transport and social history. Knowle Local History Society holds images from various sources. There are numerous postcards from about 1900 onwards

The Enclosure Map (1817)

Earliest map of the whole of Knowle. Shows each plot of land, numbered, and its owner. A manorial document, which includes those parts of Knowle on the Solihull side of Purnell's Brook. The survey which accompanies it (also at Warwick) lists the owners and occupiers of each plot, usage and whether land is freehold or copyhold. Knowle Library has a 19th century working copy of the map. Knowle Local History Society has images and a few entries from the schedule.

The Tithe Apportionment (1841)

Parochial record, showing only those parts of Knowle within the ecclesiastical parish. The area beyond Purnell's Brook is on the Solihull tithe apportionment (also at Warwick, with a copy at Solihull). Original map and accompanying schedule are at Warwick. We have a copy of the northern part of the map and a partial transcription of the schedule. The complete schedule is available on line via the Warwickshire County Record Office web site. Map shows individual numbered plots and buildings. Schedule lists owners, occupiers, usage and other information.

Directories

Show lists of residents from 1828 - 1940 with occupations. Later directories are more detailed and show addresses. Also general information about the church, school, larger houses, transport and agriculture. Knowle and Solihull were combined, until 1860. The Society has entries for Knowle, but as they are based on the parochial boundaries not for the area beyond Purnell's Brook. Available from www.midlandshistoricaldata.org.