

This section of the book describes the area around the property known even today as Pipe or PipeHill in Staffordshire.

This place in the 12th century (1135) was the property held in tenancy by Henricus De Pipa, the first man surnamed with the word Pipe (at that time the Latin word for Pipe, 'Pipa') The Pipe family held the place for many years and then it gradually moved thru many owners over the centuries and even today is still called PipeHill farm. The property is closely associated with areas named Burntwood and Wall South West of Lichfield.

There was a manor of PIPE by 1135, the tenant having been enfeoffed (*to transfer a Fief*) with 4 knight's fee by the bishop of Coventry. It was also known as Great Pipe, as distinct from Little Pipe, a detached part of the parish of St. Chad, Lichfield. Held as fee by the 1240s and assessed at 1 hide ca. 1255, Pipe remained a member of the bishop's manor of Longdon, which in 1546 passed to the Paget family (successively Barons Paget, earls of Uxbridge, and marquesses of Anglesey). Pipe was still a member of Longdon manor in the 1850s. It covered Edial and Woodhouses but did not include Burntwood, which grew up on part of the waste of Longdon manor. The bishop's tenant in 1167, and apparently in 1135, was Henricus de Pipa, who witnessed a deed ca 1150. William De Pipe may have held the manor in 1199. Richard De Pipe held it in 1242 and he or another Richard in 1284. Sir Robert, son of Richard De Pipe, held it in 1293 and died evidently in 1306; he was a royal commissioner and tax collector in Staffordshire and bailiff and steward of the bishop. He was succeeded by his son Thomas Pipe (Sir Thomas), who was summoned to a council at Westminster in 1324 and was a royal commissioner in Staffordshire and Shropshire in 1327. He was dead by 1329. In 1332 Pipe was held by his widow Margaret. Her son James Pipe granted the manor to her in 1334, and in 1337 she assigned it to Sir Richard Stafford, a son by her first husband, Edmund Stafford, Baron Stafford (d. 1308). In the earlier 1340s James Pipe unsuccessfully sued Sir Richard for the manor, claiming that he had made the grant to his mother while under age. Sir Richard was M.P. for the county in 1341, a soldier, and a diplomat. He was succeeded in 1380 by his son Edmund, bishop of Exeter 1395-1419, keeper of the privy seal 1389-96, and lord chancellor 1396-9 and 1401-3. On Edmund's death in 1419 life interest in Pipe passed to his nephew Thomas Stafford (d. 1425). The manor then passed to Edmund's great niece Maud, wife of Thomas Stanley of Elford. On Thomas's death in 1463 their son Sir John succeeded. Several times sheriff and M.P. for Staffordshire, he was living at Pipe in 1458. In 1461 he settled the manor in trust for his third wife Elizabeth and their son Humphrey, then aged about six. After Sir John's death in 1476 Humphrey's right was challenged by his half-brother John, and the dispute was settled in Humphrey's favour in 1490-1. Knighted by Henry VII at the battle of Bosworth in 1485 and created a banneret at the battle of Stoke in 1487, Sir Humphrey, who lived at Pipe, was three times sheriff and several times M.P. for Staffordshire. He died in 1504 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. His son and heir John, who also lived at Pipe, died in 1514, leaving two infant daughters and coheirs, Elizabeth and Isabel. By 1522 Elizabeth was the wife of Sir John Hercy of Grove (Notts.) and Isabel of Walter Moyle of Buckwell in Boughton Aluph (Kent). Each couple had a moiety of Pipe. Isabel died there, and her husband held the moiety until his death in 1558. Their daughter Mary married Erasmus Heveningham of Heveningham (Suff.).

Erasmus died in 1559, evidently at Pipe Hall, and on Mary's death her son Christopher Heveningham succeeded to the moiety. In 1565 Sir John Hercy and Elizabeth conveyed the other moiety to Christopher and his wife Dorothy. Christopher Heveningham died at his manor of Aston, in Stone, in 1574 and was succeeded by his son Walter, a minor.¹⁰ Walter, who was sheriff in 1609-10 and was knighted in 1619, died at Pipe Hall in 1636.¹¹ His heir was his grandson Walter Heveningham.¹² Pipe had been sequestrated by 1648 because of the younger Walter's Roman Catholicism, and Robert Pargiter of Greatworth (Northants.) then stated that he had bought the manor from Walter.¹³ In 1658 Walter was described as of Pipe Hall. He lived at both Pipe and Aston and died in 1691. Under a settlement of 1691 Pipe passed to his daughter Bridget and her husband Sir James Simeon, Bt., of Brightwell Baldwin (Oxon.). The settlement replaced one of 1688 in favour of Walter's nephew Christopher Heveningham, who received instead an annuity of £50 and unsuccessfully challenged Sir James's right. Bridget died in 1692 and Sir James in 1709. He was succeeded by his son Edward, who died unmarried in 1768. Pipe passed to his great nephew Edward Weld of Lulworth Castle (Dors.), who was

succeeded by his brother Thomas in 1775. In 1800 Thomas sold the manor to Samuel Pipe Wolferstan of Statfold, a distant relative who claimed descent from Sir Richard Stafford. Samuel was succeeded in 1820 by his son Stanley, who sold Pipe Hall farm, in 1844, to S. P. Shawe of Maple Hayes in 1859 Stanley Pipe Wolferstan's son Francis, who succeeded in 1867, sold Pipe manor to Shawe's son and heir Henry in 1868. In 1884 Henry sold much of the Maple Hayes estate, including Pipe manor and Pipe Hall farm, to A. O. Worthington, and on Worthington's death in 1918 the manor and farm passed to his son William, who died in 1949. The farm was still part of the Maple Hayes estate in 1986. The lord of the manor surnamed of Pipe in the mid 12th century presumably had a house there, and in 1299 Sir Robert Pipe dated a deed from Pipe. In 1371 the bishop licensed the performance of a marriage in the chapel within the manor of Pipe, presumably a chapel in the manor house. The hall of Pipe was mentioned in 1436. Walter Heveningham was assessed for tax on 15 hearths there in 1666. By the earlier 1690s Pipe Hall was occupied as a farmhouse by the Bates family, still the tenants in 1778 and probably in 1781. It was rebuilt ca. 1770, and in the early century there were minor extensions and some internal remodeling. Two rooms on the first floor appear to have been once connected by an open arcade of three arches, and they probably formed the Roman Catholic chapel in use until 1800. North-west of the house are timber-framed farm buildings whose walls have been much undercut in brick; they include a 17th-century barn. An estate at Pipe in 1167 was described as the land of three canons. It may have been the land given to the canons and lay brothers of Farewell by Bishop Clinton ca 1140. Soon afterwards the bishop made a grant, probably of the same estate, to the nuns of Farewell at the request of three hermits and brothers. The grant included land at Pipe. Henry II, probably in 1155, confirmed the nuns in their possession of a carucate of land at Pipe assarted from Cannock forest. That may be the origin of the ABNALLS estate which was within the nuns' manor of Farewell by the early 14th century. When the priory was suppressed in 1527, its estates included land at Ashmore Brook, Pipe, Abnalls, and Burntwood. Later in 1527 the Crown granted the priory's possessions to the dean and chapter of Lichfield, who in 1550 granted Farewell manor to William, Lord Paget. A house and virgate at Abnalls were held of Farewell priory by Roger of Abnall (Abenhale) in 1318 or 1319, probably in succession to Thomas of Abnall who was a tenant of the priory in the earlier 1290s.*° Roger was still alive in 1327 but had probably been succeeded by Amy (or Amice) of Abnall by 1333.2 In 1357 the estate, consisting of a messuage, a mill, a carucate, and other land in Abnalls, Pipe, BURNTWOOD hurst, and Lichfield, was held by Nicholas Taverner, described as parson of Stretton. Probably by 1378 a house and virgate in Abnalls had passed from him to Aymer Taverner, a prominent citizen of Lichfield also known as Aymer Lichfield. Aymer probably died in 1399. The Abnalls estate was held in the early 15th century by William Newport, who made it his home. He was knighted in 1400 and was three times sheriff and three times M.P. for the county. He evidently died in 1415 or 1416, and Abnalls passed to Sir William Lichfield, Aymer's heir and kinsman, who was living there in 1417. In 1421 he made a settlement of what was called the manor of Abnalls. The manor then descended with his share of Freeford, passing in 1537 to the Wingfield family. The Wingfields conveyed the manor in 1566 to Sir Edward Littleton of Pillaton, in Penkridge, who at his death in 1574 was holding it of Thomas, Lord Paget, as of the manor of Farewell. The Wingfields retained some property in Abnalls which passed with their Freeford estate to Jane Kniveton ca 1600. In 1609 Sir Edward Littleton's son Sir Edward conveyed a house and land in Great and Little Abnalls and elsewhere in the area to Thomas Sprott of Ashmore Brook, whose family had held another house and land at Abnalls at least since the earlier 16th century. Abnalls then descended with the Ashmore Brook estate until the earlier 19th century. It appears then to have been divided, part becoming the home farm of Maple Hayes and part being sold to Thomas Smith of Lichfield, probably in the 1830s. In 1844 his devisees owned a 56 acre. farm centering on Abnalls Cottage on the north side of Abnalls Lane. That house was rebuilt in 1848. It was the home of William Gresley, prebendary of Wolvey in Lichfield Cathedral, in the earlier 1850s, and in the mid 1850s R. C. Chawner moved there from Wall, remaining until his death in 1870. His widow and daughter lived there until about the mid 1880s, when they moved to Edial House. By the later 1880s it was the home of H. C. Hodson, diocesan registrar from 1878, who became noted for his kennels of pure-bred bloodhounds there.