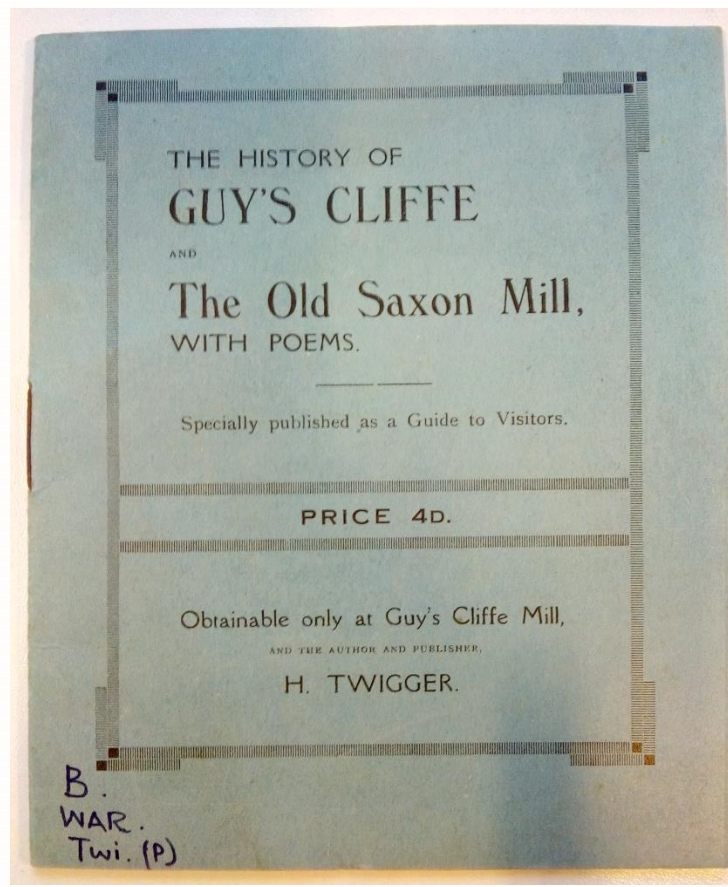


The History of Guy's Cliffe and the Old Saxon Mill with Poems, B.WAR.TWI (p)

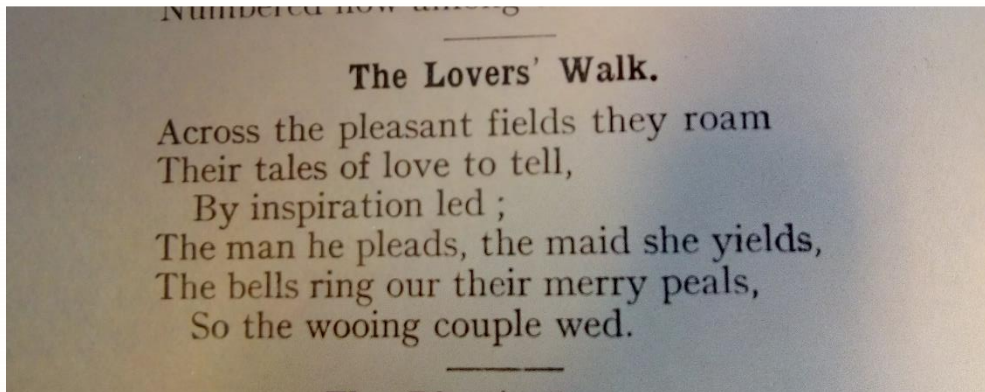
As Valentine's Day is this month, Document of the Month for February is this visitor guide of Guys Cliffe and the Old Saxon Mill, near Warwick. It features in our large collection of pamphlets here at the County Record Office and was compiled by H. Twigger as a guide for visitors to the area. As well as providing a history of Guys Cliffe, the chapel and the Old Saxon Mill, the document features poems, one of which relates to the very aptly named Lovers' Walk:



The History of Guys Cliffe and The Old Saxon Mill With Poems, H. Twigger,
Warwickshire County Record Office, B.WAR.TWI (P).

*"Across the pleasant fields they roam
Their tales of love to tell,*

*By inspiration led;
The man he pleads, the maid she yields,
The bells ring out their merry peals,
So the wooing couple wed"¹.*



The Lovers' Walk Poem, *The History of Guys Cliffe and The Old Saxon Mill With Poems*, H. Twigger, Warwickshire County Record Office, B.WAR.TWI (P).

We have also included a postcard of The Lovers' Walk, which shows the approach to the Old Mill at Guys Cliffe (reference number PH350/2442). This postcard dates from around the 1920's and is one of the many we have in the collections here at the record office.

¹ H. Twigger, *The History of Guys Cliffe and the Old Saxon Mill with Poems*, Warwickshire County Record Office, B.WAR.TWI (P).



The Lover's Walk and the Approach to Guy's Cliffe, Warwickshire County Record Office, PH350/2442.

Guys Cliffe and Guys Cliffe House

Guys Cliffe (Spelt Cliff in some sources) is situated north of Warwick. It is not a village, but a small hamlet which is most noted for the ruinous Guys Cliffe House. It is claimed that the house was occupied by St Dubritius, and that Guy, Earl of Warwick, spent his final years there as a hermit in the caves near the River Avon².

In the fifteenth century, Henry V announced his intention to found a chantry. This was adopted by Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and the Chantry Chapel of St Mary Magdalen was founded in 1422³. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 - 1541 the property passed through many hands, until its eventual sale to Samuel Greatheed (in some sources, spelt Greathead) in 1750. The records of the Greatheed family can be found here at the County Record Office (collection reference CR1707).

The current house on the site (built in the Palladian style by Greatheed in 1751) underwent several changes throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth

² <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001602> (accessed 20/01/2020).

³ Geoff Allen, *Warwickshire Towns and Villages*, Sigma Press, page 58.

centuries and is a Grade II listed building⁴. The house was only lived in sporadically and for some a time during the Second World War was used as a school and hospital⁵. The house was sold for use as a hotel in 1946⁶, although this never came to fruition. Guys Cliffe House was partially demolished in 1952 with a sale of the fixtures and fittings taking place later that year⁷. The house and some of the grounds were later sold to Aldwyn Porter. In 1974, Porter let the chapel to the Freemasons for use as a Masonic Temple. The house was further damaged by fire in 1996-7.

⁴ <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001602> (accessed 20/01/2020).

⁵ <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1001602> (accessed 20/01/2020).

⁶ https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/catalogue_her/guys-cliffe-house (accessed 17/01/2020)

⁷ <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/now-guys-cliffe-house> (accessed 17/01/2020)