

Legge Family Bibles come into the possession of the Friends

Over 50 years ago Mr Harold Partridge was given two large bibles published by Cassell, Petter and Galpin, illustrated by world famous 19th century artist Gustave Dore, that had been found in Eric Starts' bookshop in Wolverhampton.

The bibles measure 15" x 12" and are 3" thick. Inside Volume I, Harold found hand written pages relating to the Legge family, who had lived at Sandwell Hall, West Bromwich, and in 1853 moved to Patshull, near Wolverhampton. It is a record of the marriage in 1879 of William Heneage Legge, later to become the 6th Earl of Dartmouth, and Lady Mary Coke, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Leicester, the births of their children, the dates and places of their Christenings and the names of their god-parents.

They were displayed in Harold's home until his death and his widow, Mrs Lilia Partridge, said she would like to donate them to a good home in memory of her husband. They were given to Mr Gerry Clarke for safe keeping and his son did some research into the Legge Family. Gerry offered them to

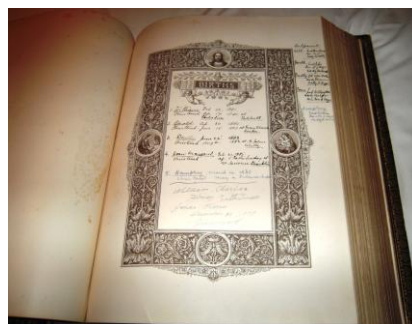
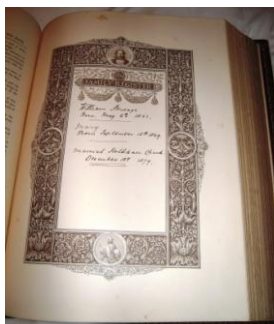


Stafford Archive, because that is where the Dartmouth papers are stored, but they didn't want them and advised him to take them to Lichfield. Then Gerry was reading his Express and Star and came across Carl Chinn's article on the Earls of Dartmouth and their association with Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich. He decided to contact the Friends of Dartmouth Park and made arrangements to deliver the Bibles to them for safe keeping.

In the first instance Mrs Partridge asked if the Friends would offer them to the 10th Earl of Dartmouth. William Dartmouth was contacted and he said he would be delighted to accept the Family Bibles in memory of Harold Partridge, and suggested that he had Volume I and the Friends could have Volume II. When it was pointed out that we would both want the volume with the hand written family records, he very kindly suggested he would still wish to accept them as a gift from Mrs Partridge, but would loan them to the Friends of Dartmouth Park for their Social History Display in the new pavilion to be built as part of the restoration. The Friends are very grateful to the Earl for his generosity.



6th Earl, William Heneage Legge



The handwritten entries in the Earl's Bible