

CLIFF HOUSE Curbar

Article Julie Bunting

<http://places.wishful-thinking.org.uk/DBY/Curbar/CliffCollege2010.html>

The actual Cliff House was built in 1790 by Thomas Gardom, who had purchased his first strip of land here for just under £28. The property, with its farm buildings and grassland, passed to his son-in-law, James Hilton Hulme, a committee member of Calver and Stoney Middleton Mutual Improvement Society. Hulme extended the house and built a Congregational chapel for public worship, with regular baptisms and weddings and some form of schooling for local children.

In 1876 Cliff House was acquired by Henry Grattan Guinness, founder of Harley College in London. Guinness spent an astonishing £15,000 on 'beautifying' the grounds of his new property which, renamed Hulme Cliff College, became a centre for training missionaries until 1901-02. Many of those missionaries went on to work in South America and China; over 50 of them laid down their lives in the Congo.

DDS Notes

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The above image (old postcard) of the college is provided by Moyra Burnett. Moyra's grandfather Eugene WALTERS spent part of his training here. He was born in Plaistow Marsh near London, and attended Harley College in London, an Evangelical Training School founded by Henry Grattan GUINNESS, a member of the well known (and wealthy) Guinness Family. Harley College became so successful that it needed a larger home, and it is believed the site for Cliff College was offered to Guinness by Elizabeth HULME, the widow of Mr. HULME, a Recorder of Salford. Elizabeth was the daughter (and heiress) of Thomas GARDOM, the last in the male line of the family of GARDOM, who had lived at Cliff House (or 'The Cliff') at Curbar for several generations previously. Elizabeth had been impressed by Harley College when she visited, saying "This is what my husband had desired to see at Cliff"...

David Dalrymple-Smith