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Linley Hall

For more information please visit http://www.jjhc.info/caldwelljames1838.htm

The original Linley hall was built by William Rowley in the early 1700s, although a set of concentric terraces that circle the hill, since buried under the coppice estate, imply that the Linleywood history goes back further than we can imagine. Its most famous history was when, between 1789 and 1949, it was occupied by the Caldwell family, who still have local fame with local entrepreneur John Cauldwell, who began phones4u and the Cauldwell Children's Charity. After buying the land James Caldwell demolished the old farm house and hall and replaced it with a new three story Georgian mansion, moving from Newcastle in 1794 where he had been a prominent attorney and partner in Bents Brewing and the Wood and Caldwell pottery firm. The Caldwell's dramatically reshaped the landscape, buying some of coppice hill from the vicar of St. Martins to enlarge their Linley home farm and 'influencing' the decision of moving the turnpike road away from the hall, leaving behind a quiet carriage drive protected by a lodge house. The family would often act as Talke's squire in residence, paying a

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An engraving of Linley wood c 1800- ©William Salt Library

quarter of the building of St. Saviours School and hosting fetes and parties for local children. Its most famous residents include the author Anne Marsh Caldwell and co-founder of the RAF, Major-General Fredrick Heath- Cauldwell. However, times became tight and in 1949 its contents was sold off and the hall was converted into flats, rented by men working at English Electric. Many of the clothes and artefacts are stored in Staffordshire record office. After its long history of lavish parties with guests such as Roger Moore, the second hall was destroyed in a fire in 1960, and the third hall is now a private residence. Our other local squire lived at Clough Hall; one of the many houses of the Heathcote family, who owned two farms in Talke until 1886, Mow House Farm and Peacock Hey Farm. However, most of the land around Talke was actually owned by the Sneyd's of Keele.

Linley Hall from the rear