

1867: Edwin Lees wrote in *The Botany of Worcestershire* that 'there is a hollow Yew-tree in the churchyard at Broughton Hackett, about five miles east of Worcester, whose dimensions and history were sent by the rector, the Rev.H.M.Sherwood, to Dr. Lindley, who thought it possible the tree might be one thousand years old'.

1874: *Hardwicke's science-gossip* by Mordecai Cubitt Cooke is a publication described as 'an illustrated medium of interchange and gossip for students and lovers of nature'. In Vol. 9 there is the following description: 'A hollow yew-tree in the churchyard of Broughton Hackett, Worcestershire, not more than 21 feet in girth', while in a later version the hollow yew is now 'not more than 24 feet in girth'.

May 2011: In spite of this inconsistency, it is records such as these that provide evidence that the 12 ft girthed fragment was once part of a large ancient yew. Its position on a mound is further confirmation. Chains still hang from the tree, presumably from a time when attempts were made to prevent its fragmented pieces from splitting further apart. The yew grows S/SE of the church.

