

HISTORY,
GAZETTEER, AND DIRECTORY
OF
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE;

COMPRISING
A GENERAL SURVEY OF THE COUNTY,
AND A
History of the Diocese of Peterborough:

WITH SEPARATE
HISTORICAL, STATISTICAL, AND TOPOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTIONS
OF ALL THE
TOWNS, PARISHES, TOWNSHIPS, HUNDREDS,
AND MANORS.

TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED,
A LIST OF THE SEATS OF THE NOBILITY, CLERGY, & GENTRY.

BY WILLIAM WHELLAN AND CO.

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MDCCCLXIX.

WAPPENHAM PARISH

This parish includes the hamlets of Astwell and Falcote, and is bounded on the east by Abthorpe, on the north by Blakesley, on the west by Weedon Pinkeney and Helmdon, and on the south by Syresham. It contains with its hamlets 2,980 acres ; its population, in 1801, was 477 ; in 1831, 458 ; and, in 1841, 641 souls. The rateable value of the parish is £2,308. 12s., and the amount of assessed property £2,199. The soil is principally a strong loam, and the principal proprietors are — Severne, Esq. (the lord of the manor), Lord Southampton ; the rector in right of the church, Mr. Thomas Sheppard, Mrs. Woodman, and All Souls College, Oxford. The parish is nearly equally divided between arable and pasture land.

Manor. — At the time of the Conqueror's survey, *Gilo de Pinkeney* held 2 hides of land here, which, with a mill of the yearly rent of 4s., 5 acres of

meadow, and a wood 11 furlongs in length and 6 in breadth, had been valued at 100s. in the preceding reign, when it was freehold of *Leuric* and *Seward*, but was now reduced to £4. At this time, and in the hydarium of Henry II., Wappenham is entered under the hundred of Towcester, and in all documents since in the hundred of Sutton, though no reason is assigned for it. The manor continued in the possession of the Pinkeneys, till the 29th year of Edward I. (1300), except for the space of 10 years, that it was in the hands of Hugh de Pateshull, Henry de Pinkeney made a conveyance of it to him for that time, when Henry de Pinkeney sold it to John de Tyngewick. In the 9th of Edward II (1315), John de Boudon was lord of Wappenham. Robert de Arden died seized of this manor, in the 5th of Edward III (1331), and it descended to his posterity, and passed from them in the 18th of Henry VI. (1439), to *Sir Walter Lucy*. In the 5th of Henry VIII. (1513), *Sir Robert Corbet* died seized of the manor of Wappenham, and from his family it passed in marriage to *Sir Henry Wallop*. Robert Wallop, Esq. sold the capital messuage, or manor-house, and certain lands here to *Philip Holmen, Esq.*, of Warkworth, for £1,700, in 1650, and in the following year the *Rev. Theophilus Hart* purchased it. Having passed through several intermediate possessors, it was purchased of *Dering Pargiter, Gent.*, in 1728-9, by the trustees under the will of the late *Lucy Knightley, Esq.*, of Fawsley. In 1742, *John Wodbull, Esq.*, purchased it, and from him it passed to *Samuel Amy Severne, Esq.*

A Chantry, for six priests, was founded here in the 1st of Edward III (1330), by Gilbert de Middleton, archdeacon of Northampton, in honour of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin, and All Saints, and endowed by him, that divine service may be daily performed for his soul. The Abbey of Bittlesden, and Priory of Canons Ashby, had possessions in this parish.

The Village of Wappenham is pleasantly situated about 5 miles W.S.W. from Towcester.

The Church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, stands at the upper end of the village, and consists of a nave, north and south aisles and porches, and a pinnacled tower in which are five bells. The chancel was repaired by the rector in 1833. The living is a rectory, in the deanery of Brackley, rated in the King's books at £29. 9s. 7½d., but now worth about £400 per annum. The Bishop of Lincoln is patron, and the Reverend Thomas Scott, M.A., incumbent. The rectory consists of 317 acres of land, allotted in lieu of tithes, &c.

The Rectory House stands in the village.

The school, established in 1840, is supported by voluntary subscription; and here is also a well attended Sunday School.

There is a small *Methodist Chapel* in the village.

Charities.— The poor's land, consisting of 15a., the rent of which, together with 20s. from Mrs. Jane Leeson's charity, is distributed to the poor.

ASTWELL is a hamlet in this, but extending into Syresham parish, containing in 1841, 6 houses, 46 inhabitants, and about 1,870a., the property of the Duke of Buckingham, but now about to be sold. It is situated about half a mile south of Wappenham. The soil is principally a strong loam, and the greater part is in pasture.

Manor.— The *de Wauuncys* were amongst the earliest possessors of this manor since the conquest. From them it descended to the *Brooke's*, and the *Lovett's*. *George Shirley, Esq.* (created a baronet, on the first institution of that order, by James I., in 1611), grandson of Thomas Lovett, Esq. was the next possessor, and his great-grandson was raised to the dignity of Viscount Tamworth and Earl Ferrers, in 1711. From him this manor with Falcot descended to *Washington*, the 5th Earl Ferrers, by whom they were sold, in 1763, to *Richard*, Earl Temple. He was succeeded by his nephew, *George Nugent Temple*, Earl Temple, who was elevated to Marquisate of Buckingham in 1784, and whose son *Richard Nugent Temple Brydges Chandos*, was in 1822, created Earl Temple, Marquis of Chandos, and Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. Bittlesden Abbey had possessions here.

The Manor House, formerly the occasional residence of the noble family of Ferrers, has been taken down, and some of the inferior offices converted into a farm house. *The Mansion* was partially, if not wholly rebuilt by Sir Geo. Shirley, Bart., in 1607. A broad embattlement tower, still standing, attests the former grandeur of this ancient structure.

Biography. — Selina, Countess of Huntingdon, founder or patron of the sect of Calvinistic Methodists, called "Lady Huntingdon's Connection", was born in Astwell House, on the 13th August, 1707. She was the second daughter of the second Earl Ferrers, and was married to Theophilus, 9th Earl of Huntingdon who died in 1746. Her widowhood (45 years) was devoted to the zealous propagation of the peculiar views of Christian truth, held by herself, and her chaplain, George Whitfield. She established 64 chapels in various parts of the kingdom, for the maintenance of which, she divided the bulk of her fortune to trustees. She is said to have expended upwards of £100,000 in acts of public and private charity. She died in London on the 17th of June 1791, at the advanced age of 84 years, and by her will directed her remains, dressed in the suit of white silk which she wore at the opening of the chapel in Goodman's Fields, to be deposited in her husband's vault at Ashby de la Zouch, in Leicestershire.

Falcott or *Fawcote* is another hamlet in this parish, but the manor has been immemorially associated with Astwell. It contained in 1841, 15 houses and 82 inhabitants. These hamlets support their own poor, and contribute one-third to the church rate of Wappenham.

The Village lies at the extremity of the lordship, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.W. of Wappenham, and a short distance from Helmdon.

Here was formerly a *chapel*, but it has long since been demolished.

Beesley George, auctioneer and farmer	Newitt C., maltster & butch.	*Cockerill John, <i>Spiers</i>
Brown James, stonemason	Newitt John, vict., <i>Bull</i>	Cowper William
Buckingham B., blacksmith	Perry James, tailor	Flesher Charles Gilbert
Cowper Richard, butcher	Scott Rev. Thos., M.A., rector	Frost Joseph, <i>Astwell Park</i>
Fall Thomas, vict., <i>Chequers</i>	Scott Mrs. Euphemia	Horn Joseph
Jones Job, schoolmaster	Sheppard Thomas, gentlemn.	Jones Richard
Kings Thomas, shoemaker	Spicer William, saddler and vict., <i>Horse-shoe</i>	Marriott John, <i>Falcott Hall</i>
King Thomas, carpenter	Simmers John, miller and baker, <i>Astwell</i>	Matthews Henry Whitton
Kingston Benjamin, grocer and bacon dealer		Newitt Charles
Matthews William, blacksmith and beer retailer	Farmers & Graziers	Newitt John
Morrall Rd., machine maker	Thus* are yeomen	*Newitt Richard, <i>England</i>
Newitt Abraham, carpenter	Boyson John	Sheppard Thomas, jun.
		Smith Charles, <i>Astwell Park</i>
		Strengre John, <i>Astwell Park</i>
		Wright John, <i>Falcott</i>

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