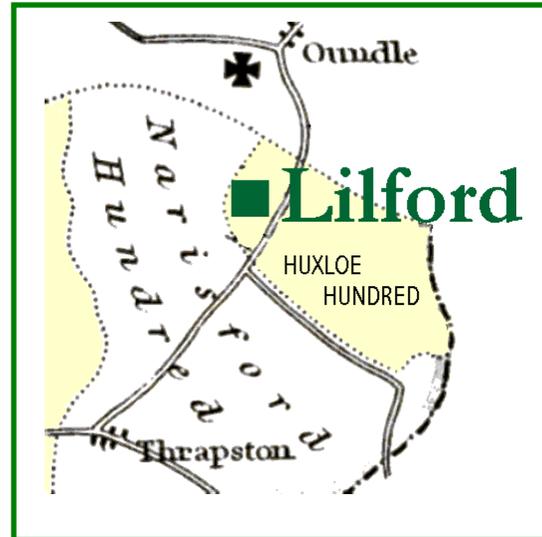


LILFORD

HUXLOE HUNDRED
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
ENGLAND

English home of the
OLIPHANT Family
in the 12th Century A.D.



OLIPHANT — Of Norman origin. The family continued to hold land in Northamptonshire long after the principal branch had removed to Scotland.

THE SURNAMEN OF SCOTLAND
George F. Black
New York Public Library, New York; 1946

OLIPHANT — The Oliphants derive from a Norman family living in Northamptonshire at the time when they were particular friends of Englan's premier baron, before he became David I, King of Scots.

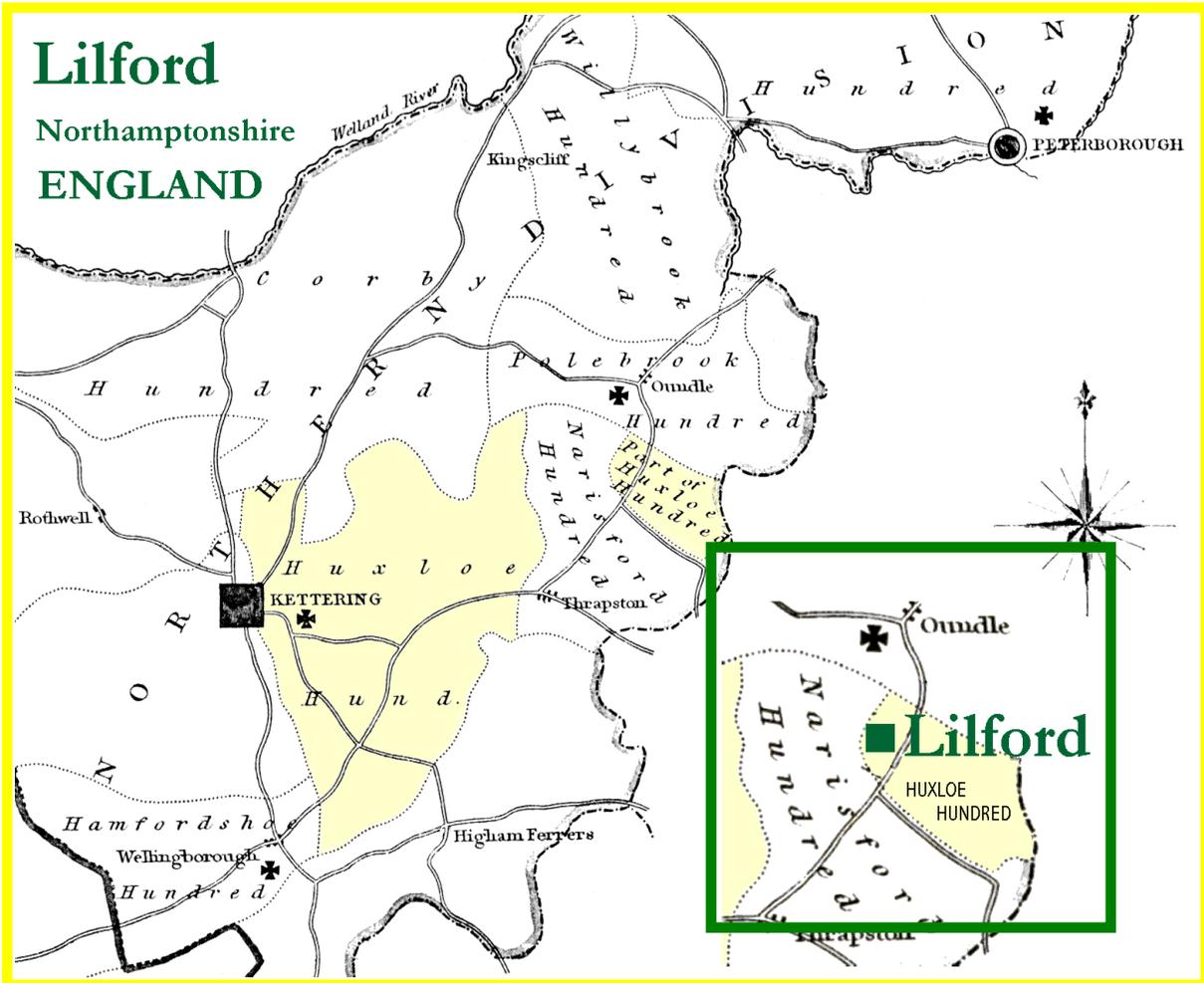
SCOTTISH CLANS & TARTANS
Ian Grimble
Harmony Books, New York; 1973

While joint Guardians, Bruce and Comyn had appointed to the bishopric of Moray (one of the more important sees) Master David Murray, parson of two livings formerly in Olifard patronage to which the Murrays had succeeded, Bothwell in Clydesdale and Liford in Northamptonshire.

Dowden, *Bishops*, 151;
Theiner, *Mounumenta*, no. 364.

Instituted rector of Lilford, Northamptonshire, 1282, on presentation of Sir William Murray; resigned the next year, succeeded by John Murray (*Rolls and Register of Bishop Oliver Sutton*, ed. R. Hill (Lincoln Record Soc.), ii, 16, 26). Rector of Bothwell (the principal seat of Sir William Murray of Bothwell) in 1296, *Cal. Docs. Scot.*, ii, 212

ROBERT BRUCE & THE COMMUNITY OF
THE REALM OF SCOTLAND
Geoffrey W.S. Barrow
Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh; 1988



LILFORD (in **Lilford cum Wigsthorpe**)
 Normally taxed with Wigsthorpe. Manor had 26 tenants in 1317. Both places together had only 10 able-bodied men in 1529, but had 31 houses by 1674. Mansion built 1635. Houses of Lilford demolished in 1755 and rebuilt in Wigsthorpe by Sir Thos. Powys, who had acquired the manor in 1711. Church demolished c. 1780; arches re-erected near river as picturesque ruin. Hall remain in park.

LILFORD — was located in Huxloe Hundred, Northamptonshire, England. The de OLIFARD (OLIPHANT) family resided there in the early 12th century. After 1141, some members of this family removed to Scotland and changed the name from de OLIFARD to OLIPHANT. Lilford was deserted after 1700. No visible remains of the village exist today. The population of the village moved to nearby Wigsthorpe. The site of Lilford is thought to be covered by modern buildings or ornamental gardens.

DEPARTMENT OF
 ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY; No. 18
 THE DESERTED VILLAGES OF
 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
 by K.J. Allison, M.W. Beresford, J.G. Hurst
 and other members of the
 Deserted Medieval Village Research Group
 Leicester University Press

History of the Parish and Manor of Lilford

The full name of Lilford Parish is Lilford-cum-Wigsthorpe Parish. Lilford was also known as Lylleforde (XIV Cent.), and Wigsthorpe was also known as Wykenethorp (XIII Cent.) and Wykyngesthorpe (XIV Cent.).

Parish

The parish, though included in the Hundred of Huxloe, is locally situated in the Hundred of Polebrook. It lies on the east bank of the Nene, which is spanned by a handsome stone bridge with fluted pilasters, erected in 1796 within a short distance of Lilford Hall.

The area of the parish is 1827 acres of land and 13 acres of water. The ground near the Nene is liable to floods, and nowhere rises to much more than 200 ft. The soil is clay; the sub-soil clay and rock. To the west of the Thrapston road it is good: to the east of it, cold and inferior. The chief crops grown are wheat, barley and beans. The population in 1921 was 164. (fn. 1)

The Manor

In the time of King Edward the Confessor, 5 hides in Lilford were the property of Thurchil, who held them freely. They had probably been afterwards granted to Waltheof, Earl of Huntingdon, who married Judith, the Conqueror's niece. Judith continued to hold in 1086 (fn. 2) after the execution of her husband in 1075. Their eldest daughter and coheir Maud was given in marriage by William to his Norman follower Simon de St. Lis or Senliz, who was made Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, and after his death she was married to David, later king of Scotland, who became Earl of Huntingdon. (fn. 3)

The overlordship then followed the descent of the earldom and honour of Huntingdon. The tenants in demesne were the Oliphants (Olifard, Holyfard) who from being holders of land in England under the kings of Scotland transferred their allegiance to Scotland, becoming magnates and peers there. (fn. 4) Three branches of the family apparently held lands within the counties of which the King of Scotland was earl. The earliest member of the family as yet found is Roger Oliphant who witnessed a charter of Simon de St. Liz to St. Andrew's Priory, Northampton, not later than 1108. (fn. 5) In the survey of the reign of Henry I (1100–35) William Oliphant was holder of 5 hides in Lilford of the king of Scotland and was living about 1147. (fn. 6)

He was probably succeeded by David Oliphant godson of King David of Scotland, who assisted at King David's escape after the rout at Winchester in 1141. (fn. 7) It was he probably who was attesting charters to 1167. (fn. 8) His

successor was possibly William whose name appears in these counties about this time. (fn. 9) Walter Oliphant was given as a hostage by William of Scotland in 1174 (fn. 10) and a William and his sister Agatha were connected with Northamptonshire in 1201. (fn. 11) It was another Walter, probably, whose land in Lilford was in 1216 committed to Ralf de Trumbleville. (fn. 12) This Walter was a man of considerable importance in Scotland, holding the office of justice of Lothian and being constantly in attendance on the king. (fn. 13) He presented to the church of Lilford in 1228 (fn. 14) and he (fn. 15) and William (fn. 16) Oliphant were dealing with lands in Lilford and Wigsthorpe in 1232. In 1242–3 the heir of Walter Oliphant (as though Walter were dead) is said to hold one fee in Lilford of the Earl of Albemarle of the Honour of Huntingdon. (fn. 17)

This heir was apparently David Oliphant, one of the magnates of Scotland, who in 1244 was returned as holding one fee in Northamptonshire of William de Forz, Earl of Albemarle, and Christine his wife. (fn. 18) It would seem that this David was dead without issue before 1266 when Walter de Moray (Moravia), apparently one of his heirs, presented to the church of Lilford. (fn. 19) Divorgilla his widow, described as Lady of Lilford, held the manor of Lilford for life by gift of Walter de Moray, who reserved the advowson of the church. (fn. 20) Divorgilla Oliphant gave to Divorgilla daughter of Sir Walter Montfichet (Montefixo) all the lands in Armiston which she held by gift of Roger Wallenger, with remainders to Divorgilla Montfichet's brothers Laurence and John. (fn. 21) In 1287 William Montfichet, Lord of Kirgill (Kirkhill) in Scotland, and heir of the Lady

Divorgilla Oliphant, Lady of Lilford, granted the lands he had received from her to Laurence son of Sir Walter de Montfichet, his kinsman, with reversion to John son of the said Laurence. (fn. 22) In 1296 Divorgilla claimed the advowson of the church of Lilford against William son of Walter de Moray, and the King presented because the lands of Scottish magnates had been taken into his hands. (fn. 23)

Footnotes

1 The poll books show there was one freeholder in the parish in 1705, Richard Bailey, and that in 1831 the vicar, the Hon. Fredk. Powys, clerk, the one freeholder, resided at Achurch.

2 V.C.H. Northants. i, 354a.

3 Farrer, *Honours and Knights' Fees*, ii, 296.

4 V.C.H. Northants. i, 291.

5 Round, *Feud. Engl.* 223–4.

6 V.C.H. Northants. i, 365b; see also *ibid.* 291.

7 Farrer, *op. cit.* 354.

8 *Ibid.*

9 *Ibid.*

10 *Ibid.* 355.

11 *Curia Reg. R.* ii, 73.

12 Farrer, *loc. cit.*

13 Bain, *Cal. Doc. Scotl.* 144, 239.

14 Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 242.

15 Feet of F. Northants. case 172, file 25, no. 285.

16 *Ibid.* no. 284.

17 *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

18 Farrer, *loc. cit.*

19 Bridges, *loc. cit.*

20 Farrer, *loc. cit.*

21 *Buccleuch Deeds*, F. 1, 2, 4, 5.

22 *Ibid.*

23 Bain, *Cal. Doc. Scotl.* ii, 725; *Cal. Pat.* 1292–1301, p. 184.