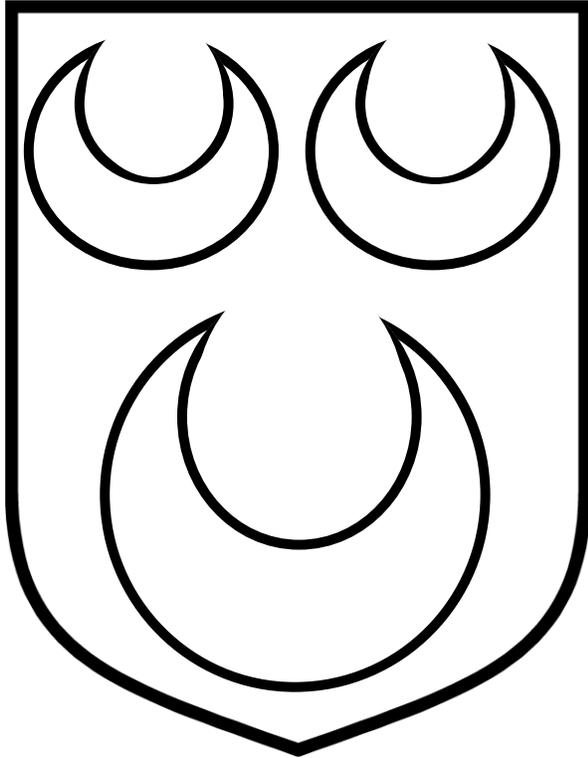


# HUXLOE HUNDRED

## LILFORD-WITH-WIGSTHORPE



OLIPHANT. *Gules three crescents argent.*

### THE VICTORIA HISTORY OF THE COUNTIES OF ENGLAND A HISTORY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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Lylleforde (xiv cent.); Wykenethorp (xiii cent.);  
Wykyngesthorpe (xiv cent.).

This 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 within a short distance of Lilford Hall in 1796.

The hamlet of Wigsthorpe forms the eastern portion of the parish, the road from Thrapston to Oundle running between it and Lilford. The few houses which constitute the village are clustered round the railway crossing in Wigsthorpe. In Bridges' time Lilford possessed a village of 12 houses and a church dedicated to St. Peter, and the hamlet of Wigsthorpe also held twelve houses. A fine soft spring of water to the south of Lilford Park marks what was once the center of Lilford village.

The greater part of the Lilford portion of the parish is occupied by Lilford Park. Lilford Hall lies near its western limit, and possesses an extremely charming view, across the Nene, of Pilton with its old church and manor house. The Hall is a fine example of late Jacobean work built in 1635, this date appearing on two great chimney stacks in the court at the back of the house. The estate then belonged to the family of Elmes, and it must have been William Elmes, who succeeded in 1632 and died in 1641, who was the builder. The three principal fronts are treated in the traditional Jacobean manner, with mullioned windows and gables, some of which are straight in outline and some curved, the whole being disposed symmetrically; but the entrance front has no projecting wings, its line being only broken by a large semicircular bay window of two stories at each end, and a porch of one story in the middle. Wings project at the back and form a kind of court. This general disposition is indicative of the end of the Jacobean period. The architectural treatment is quite simple, but none the less satisfactory on that account. An unusual feature is the grouping of many chimney flues in a long straight row with separate shafts all joined together at the top. The house stands well above the adjacent river Nene and has charming prospects. Sir Thomas Powys, who purchased the property in 1711, decorated the interior in the fashion of the time. The upstairs drawing room retains its original character, and the main staircase dates from this period; but the entrance hall and corridor appear to have undergone alterations. There is one room, the library, where the oak panelling and a handsome oak chimneypiece of the early house still remain; otherwise the interior work is of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and later. Relatively small but judicious additions have been made by the present Lord Lilford. The stables at the rear form part of the architectural grouping. They are of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, simply but carefully planned and they add to the interest of the general arrangement. The gardens have been admirably laid out in modern times, and in conjunction with much fine old timber, form an

attractive setting to the house. In aviaries attached to the house is a collection of rare birds.

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.<sup>1</sup>

The vicarage is annexed to the rectory of Achurch, where the rector, the incumbent of the combined churches, resides.

The Public Elementary School (mixed) was built about 1845 by Lady Lilford, and enlarged in 1866 by Lord Lilford to hold 90 children. The children attend from the adjoining parishes of Pilton and Thorpe Achurch. Barnwell Station, on the London Midland and Scottish Railway, is just within the parish boundary.

## 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<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

The overlordship followed the descent of the earldom and honour of Huntingdon (*see* Fotheringhay).

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.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> In the survey of the reign of Henry I. (1100-35) **William Oliphant** was holder of 5 hides

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 354a.

<sup>3</sup> Farrer, *Honours and Knights' Fees*, ii, 296.

<sup>4</sup> *V.C.H. Northants*, i, 291.

<sup>5</sup> Round, *Feud. Engl.* 223-4.

in Lilford of the king of Scotland and was living about 1147.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> It was he probably who was attesting charters to 1167.<sup>8</sup> His successor was possibly **William** whose name appears in these counties about this time.<sup>9</sup> **Walter Oliphant** was given as a hostage by William of Scotland in 1174<sup>10</sup> and a **William** and his sister **Agatha** were connected with Northamptonshire in 1201.<sup>11</sup> It was another **Walter**, probably, whose land in Lilford was in 1216 committed to Ralf de Trumbleville.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> He presented to the church of Lilford in 1228<sup>14</sup> and he<sup>15</sup> and **William<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> **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.<sup>20</sup> **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.<sup>21</sup> In 1287 William Montfichet, Lord of Kirgill (Kirkhill) in Scotland, and heir of the Lady **Divorgilla**

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

<sup>7</sup> Farrer, *op. Cit.* 354.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* 355.

<sup>11</sup> *Curia Reg. R.* ii, 73.

<sup>12</sup> Farrer, *loc. cit.*

<sup>13</sup> Bain, *Cal. Doc. Scotl.* 144, 239.

<sup>14</sup> Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 242.

<sup>15</sup> Feet of F. Northants. case 172, file 25, no. 285.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* no. 284.

<sup>17</sup> *Bk. of Fees*, 938.

<sup>18</sup> Farrer, *loc. cit.*

<sup>19</sup> Bridges, *loc. cit.*

<sup>20</sup> Farrer, *loc. cit.*

<sup>21</sup> Buccleuch Deeds, F. 1,2,4,5.

**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.<sup>22</sup> 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.<sup>23</sup> However, in 1299, the presentation was quashed as having been made in error, the patronage belonging to William de Moray.<sup>24</sup> In 1300 the manor and advowson of Lilford were conveyed by William de Moray to Anthony Bek, the famous Bishop of Durham,<sup>25</sup> and he bequeathed them at his death in 1310 to his great nephew Sir Robert de Willoughby, first Lord Willoughby of Eresby, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Edmund Lord Deyncourt,<sup>26</sup> Sir Robert being son of Alice wife of Sir William de Willoughby and daughter of John Bek of Eresby, brother of the bishop.<sup>27</sup> Sir Robert de Willoughby obtained confirmation of his title<sup>28</sup> and in 1316 was returned as holding Lilford and its members.<sup>29</sup> He died in the same year seised, jointly with his wife Margaret, of the manor and advowson held of John de Brittany as of the Honour of Huntingdon by the service of one knight's fee, his heir being his son John aged 15 years.<sup>30</sup> John de Willoughby confirmed a grant of the manor for life to William de Willoughby and in 1330 was called upon to justify his claim to soc and sac, tol and theam, infangenthef and outfangenthef, fee warren, view of frank-pledge, freedom from pontage, tolls, sheriff's aids, etc., in Lilford.<sup>31</sup> John de Willoughby was returned as holding half a knight's fee in Lilford in 1346.<sup>32</sup> He was present at the battle of Crecy in that year and died in 1349.<sup>33</sup> He was succeeded by his son Sir John de Willoughby, third Lord Willoughby, who settled the manor of Lilford and its member Hockington

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<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Bain, *Cal. Doc. Scotl.* ii, 725;  
*Cal. Pat.* 1292-1301, p. 184.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. 444; Bain, *op. cit.* 1104.

<sup>25</sup> Feet of F. Northants. 28 Edw. I,  
case 175, file 58, no. 386.

<sup>26</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 375.

<sup>27</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*, viii, 141.

<sup>28</sup> Chart. R. 4 Edw. II, m. 1, no. 10;  
*Cal. Chart.* 1300-26, p. 181;  
*Cal. Pat.* 1307-13, p. 375;  
cf. *Plac. Abbrev.* (Rec. Com.), 311.

<sup>29</sup> *Feud. Aids*, iv, 28.

<sup>30</sup> Chan. Inq. P.m. 10 Edw. II, no. 78;  
*Cal. Inq. Ed. II*, vi, no. 60.

<sup>31</sup> *Plac. De Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 575-6.

<sup>32</sup> *Feud. Aids*, iv, 449.

<sup>33</sup> Bridges, *op. cit.* ii, 241.

in 1361.<sup>34</sup> He took part in the battle of Poitiers and died in 1372, having settled the manor on his son Robert, fourth Lord Willoughby, and Robert's second wife Margaret, daughter of William Lord Zouche of Haringworth.<sup>35</sup> He re-settled the manor and advowson in 1376<sup>36</sup> and in 1384 he and his wife Margaret granted the advowson to Sir John Holt and others.<sup>37</sup> He died seised of the manor in 1396 and was succeeded by his son William, fifth Lord Willoughby.<sup>38</sup> William died in 1409 leaving a son Robert, sixth Lord Willoughby.<sup>39</sup> The manor of Lilford had, however, been settled for life on Joan widow of William, who after his death married Henry, Lord Scrope of Masham, and later Sir Henry Brounlete. She died in 1434,<sup>40</sup> when Robert sixth Lord Willoughby succeeded. He was engaged in the wars in France, being present at Agincourt, and died in 1452. His heir was his daughter Joan, the wife of Richard de Welles,<sup>41</sup> seventh Lord Welles, who was summoned to Parliament in her right as Lord Willoughby, retaining this title apparently after her death in 1460. The paternal estates of her husband, forfeited by the attainder of his father Lyon or Leo, Lord Welles, slain at the battle of Towton, where he fought on the Lancastrian side, were restored to him in 1464-5, and in 1468 he obtained full restitution in blood and honours. But in 1469 he, his son-in-law Sir Thomas Dymock, and his son and heir, Sir Robert de Welles, were all beheaded near Stamford, in consequence of the latter's participation in the Lincolnshire rebellion.<sup>42</sup> The heir of Sir Robert de Welles (whose execution followed that of his father) was his sister Joan, who, being then the childless widow of Richard Piggott of London, married as her second husband Richard Hastings, brother to William, Lord Hastings, Chamberlain of the Household to Edward IV.<sup>43</sup> A faithful Yorkist, he obtained a grant in 1470 of the lands his wife would have inherited but for the attainder of her father and brother. Lilford and its member, as conveyed to himself and his wife Joan by grant of Thomas Fitzwilliam, senior, and Thomas Fitzwilliam, junior,<sup>44</sup> were expressly excepted from the act of attainder and forfeiture against Richard Lord

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<sup>34</sup> Harl. Chart. 58, A. 48.

<sup>35</sup> Chan. Inq. P.m. 46 Edw. III (1st nos.), 78.

<sup>36</sup> Harl. Chart. 58, B. 9, 20.

<sup>37</sup> Feet of F. Northants. 7 Ric. II,  
case 178, file 87, no. 60.

<sup>38</sup> Chan. Inq. P.m. 20 Ric. II, no. 54.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid. 11 Hen. IV, no. 29.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. 12 Hen. VI, no. 43.

<sup>41</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.; *Rolls of Parl.* vi, 145a, 287a.

<sup>43</sup> G.E.C. *op. cit.* viii, 78.

<sup>44</sup> *Rolls of Parl.* vi, 145a.

Welles, his son Lord Robert and his sons-in-law Thomas de la Laund and Sir Thomas Dymock and others, and from the petition for its repeal presented in 1485<sup>45</sup> by the heirs of Lord Welles. In 1473 Lilford was conveyed by Sir Richard Hastings, kt., and Joan his wife, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Welles, kt., sometime Lord de Welles and Willoughby, to William Brown of Stamford, John Brown of Stamford, Sir William Stoke, kt., Thomas Stoke, clerk, John Elmes of Henley-on-Thames, and William Est.<sup>46</sup> In 1475 an exemplification was obtained at the request of William Brown of Stamford, merchant, of the article in the act of attainder exempting Lilford from its operation, as being at the date of the passing of the act in the hands of the Fitzwilliams, by whom it had been conveyed as above to Sir Richard Hastings and his wife, who afterwards sold it to said William.<sup>47</sup>

William Brown settled the manors of Lilford and Papley on himself and his wife Margaret, with remainder to John Elmes and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of William and Margaret, for the life of Elizabeth, to William Elmes, the son and heir of John Elmes and Elizabeth, to John brother of the said William, and to the heirs of Elizabeth, and the heirs of each successively. Both William and Margaret died in 1489.<sup>48</sup> From this date the manor of Lilford follows the descent of Warmington and Papley (q.v.) to the death of Arthur Elmes in 1663. Jane, widow of Arthur Elmes, seems to have married Sir Francis Compton, kt. And had a life interest in the manor which she and her husband conveyed to Sir John Langham, kt. And bart. In 1666.<sup>49</sup> Arthur Elmes evidently died without issue and was succeeded by his cousin Thomas Elmes, the youngest son of Anthony Elmes of Greens Norton. He was knighted as Thomas Elmes of Lilford in 1688<sup>50</sup> and died in 1690. He was succeeded by his brother William Elmes, who made various settlements of the manor of Lilford cum Wigsthorpe and the advowson.<sup>51</sup> He died in 1699, 'the last male branch of that ancient and

honourable family of the Elmes.<sup>52</sup> John Adams and other trustees under the abovementioned settlements conveyed the manors of Lilford and Wigsthorpe, the rectory and advowson, to Sir Thomas Powys in 1711, who took a fine of them in 1713.<sup>53</sup> Sir Thomas Powys, the second son of Thomas Powys of Henley (co. Salop) and of Anne daughter of Sir Adam Littleton, was the judge who conducted the trial of Stephen Bishops in 1688. He died in 1719, and was buried at Lilford.<sup>54</sup> Thomas, his eldest son by his first wife Sarah, daughter of Ambrose Holbech (co. Warwick), who succeeded him, married Catherine, daughter and heir of Thomas Ravenscroft of Broadlane (co. Flint), and died in 1720. His son and heir, also named Thomas, married Henrietta daughter of Thomas Spence, Serjeant of the House of Commons.<sup>55</sup> He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who was M.P. for the county from 1774-97. A man of great parliamentary talents and distinguished integrity, he was one of the batch of peers created during the ministry of William Pitt in 1797, being created Baron Lilford on 26 October. He married Mary, the daughter of Galfridus Mann, and died in 1800. His son Thomas succeeded him at Lilford, as second baron. Thomas Atherton Powys, third baron, inherited Lilford at his father's death in 1825.<sup>56</sup> The Lilford estates increased by a succession of inheritances, to which the eventual inheritance from Sir Littleton Powys, elder brother of its purchaser Sir Thomas, must be added, were, after the death of Thomas Powys, third baron Lilford, at Lilford Park in 1861, dealt with by the Lilford Estate Act, passed on 29 July 1864,<sup>57</sup> as the result of a Chancery suit instituted by his son Thomas Littleton Powys, the fourth baron, for the purpose of amending the will of his father, dated 24 February, 1841. From the operation of this Act, Lilford, with its chief messuage, park and pleasure grounds, was expressly excluded. It was as an ornithologist that the fourth baron, one of the founders of the Ornithologists' Union, left his mark on Lilford,<sup>58</sup> the valuable collections he made being housed there. He travelled much, and wrote on his subject. After being twice married he died in 1896, and was succeeded by his son John, the present and fifth baron.

The Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem near Clerkenwell had a preceptory at Dingley as early as the reign of King Stephen, with lands valued in 1535 at

<sup>45</sup> Ibid. 287a.

<sup>46</sup> Feet of F. Div. Cos. Hil. 12 Ed. IV, file 76, no. 90. Wm. Brown had married the daughter and heir of John Stoke of Warmington, by which marriage Warmington became his.

<sup>47</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1467-77, p. 508. Joan died s.p. 1504-5.

<sup>48</sup> *Cal. Inq.* Hen. VII, i, nos. 476, 478, 525, 533.

<sup>49</sup> Feet of F. Northants. Mich. 18 Chas. II; Recov. R. Mich. 18 Chas. II, ro. 29.

<sup>50</sup> Bridges, op. Cit. ii, 243, *cit.* M.I.; Harl. MS. 1553, fol. 41; Shaw, *Knights of Engl.* ii, 264.

<sup>51</sup> Recov. R. Mich. 3 Wm. & M. ro. 7, 286; Trin. 5 Wm. & Mary, ro. 7.

<sup>52</sup> M.I.

<sup>53</sup> Feet of F. Northants. Hil. 11 Anne.

<sup>54</sup> *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>55</sup> G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*, v, 80.

<sup>56</sup> G.E.C. loc. cit.

<sup>57</sup> Priv. Stat. 27-8 Vict. C. 10.

<sup>58</sup> Lord Lilford, F.Z.S.

Memoir by his sister, Mrs. Drewitt

£108 13<sup>s</sup>. 5½<sup>d</sup>.<sup>59</sup> In 1330 the prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem claimed view of frankpledge in Glaphthorn from his tenants in Fotheringhay, Lilford, etc.;<sup>60</sup> and on 18 August 1542 a messuage in the tenure of William Whyte of Lilford, which had belonged to the preceptory at Dingley, was granted to Robert Tyrwhitt, the king's serjeant, with meadow lands, rent, etc.<sup>61</sup>

## CHURCH

The church of St. PETER was taken down in 1778, and no part of it remains on the site.<sup>62</sup> Three arches from the nave arcade were, however, set up in The Lynch, below Achurch, close to the river, and the monument to Sir Thomas Powys was removed to Achurch church. According to Bridges,<sup>63</sup> the church of Lilford consisted of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, and west tower and spire, but part of the south aisle appears to have been taken down before his time.<sup>64</sup> There were four bells in the tower. The registers began in 1560, the first volume containing all entries to 1778, together with a long list of briefs (1712-54), and accounts of perambulations of the parish in 1718, 1722 and 1726. A vicarage house was built in 1714. The communion plate is now at Achurch.

## ADVOWSON

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<sup>59</sup> Dugdale, *Mon. Angl.* vi, 802.

<sup>60</sup> *Plac. De Quo Warr.* (Rec. Com.), 532.

<sup>61</sup> Pat. R. 34 Hen. VIII,

pt. 6, m. 30; *L. and P. Hen VIII*, xvii, g. 714 (15).

<sup>62</sup> An engraving of 'Lilford, near Oundle, taken from Ay Church' dated 1757, shows the church standing a short distance to the south-east of Lilford Hall. The tower was of three stages, surmounted by a spire. In 1310 an indulgence was granted to those visiting the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the parish church of Lilford and giving to the fabric of the church or maintenance of the chaplain serving that altar (*Linc. Epis. Reg. Memo Dalderby*, 161)

<sup>63</sup> *Hist. Northants.* ii, 242.

<sup>64</sup> Among the monuments were a freestone figure of a priest on a tomb in the chancel, a brass tablet — to Arthur Devenshyre (1573) and Oseth his wife (1574) — a stone with a brass inscription torn off, and others to members of the Elmes and Powys families; Bridges, *op. cit.* 243-35.

The dimensions of the building are given as follows: church and chancel 102 ft. 2 in. long, body and aisles 48 ft. broad, tower 12 ft. by 9 ft. 10 in.

The presentation to the church was made in 1228 by Walter Oliphant, and the early history of the advowson is to be found with that of the manor (qv), with which it was held until, in 1383-4, Robert de Willoughby of Eresby and his wife Margaret made a conveyance of land in Lilford and of the advowson to Sir John Holt, kt., and others, from whom they were acquired in 1387 by John de Buckingham, Bishop of Lincoln.<sup>65</sup> The bishop bestowed them as 'bought and acquired with the goods bestowed on him by God,' on the dean and chapter of Lincoln, for the endowment of a chantry called Buckingham's or Burghersh (Burgherwahes) Chantry in the cathedral, of two chaplains and two clerks, to pray for the good estate of Pope Urban VI, the King (Richard II), Queen, bishop, etc., and the souls of Edward II, Queen Philippa, the bishop's parents, etc.<sup>66</sup> In 1398 a vicarage was ordained by the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield<sup>67</sup> and in 1535 Thomas Palfreman was receiving 20*d.* for the church of Lilford as chantrist of Bishop John Buckingham.<sup>68</sup> On 26 September 1552, among much monastic property then granted to Thomas Cecill and Philip Bold, the rector, church, and advowson of the vicarage of Lilford, late belonging to this chantry, were included.<sup>69</sup> Before 1558 they had been acquired by Edmund Elmes, who was then holding them with the manor (q.v.) with which since then they have again been held.

Lilford was one of the parishes which received an augmentation of its living under the Commonwealth.<sup>70</sup> About 1755 Thomas Powys, father of the first Lord Lilford (see above), pulled down such of his tenants' houses as were in Lilford, and built others in their place in Wigsthorpe; he then petitioned the Bishop of Peterborough (alleging as his reason that it was now necessary for the vicar to reside at Wigsthorpe in consequence of the removal thither of the inhabitants) for leave to obtain a conveyance to himself of the old vicarage house in Lilford, and to erect instead, before 1 January 1757, a substantial house of stone for a new vicarage upon a certain piece of land in Wigsthorpe. The bishop gave his consent in an instrument dated 27 March 1756,<sup>71</sup> but when Thomas Powys died on 2 April 1767, the old vicarage house and lands had not been conveyed to him. By indenture of 21 August 1767 the ground on which the old vicarage formerly stood was conveyed by the vicar and churchwardens of Lilford to his son, the fourth Thomas Powys of

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<sup>65</sup> *Chan. Inq.* p.m. 8 Ric. II, no. 42.

<sup>66</sup> *Cal. Pat.* 1385-9, pp. 312, 375.

<sup>67</sup> *Linc. Epis. Reg. Memo.* Buckingham, iii, 482.

<sup>68</sup> *Valor Eccl.* (Rec. Com.), iv, 9.

<sup>69</sup> Pat. R. 6 Ed. VI, pt. 9.

<sup>70</sup> *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1658-59, p.274.

<sup>71</sup> *Close R.* 7 Geo. II, pt. 23, no. 17.

Lilford.<sup>72</sup> He completed the work his father had begun, by obtaining in 1778 an Act of Parliament<sup>73</sup> authorizing the consolidation of the rectory of Achurch and the vicarage of Lilford (he was lord of both manors and owner of the advowson in each parish), and the removal out of Lilford parish of both church and vicarage into Achurch. Lilford church was to be pulled down and the materials used for the repair of that of Achurch, the vicarage newly erected in Wigsthorpe to be exchanged for a house and 2 acres of land near the rectory lands in Achurch, and an acre added by him for a graveyard there; this was accordingly done. In this Act it was stated that the parish church of Lilford was falling into decay, and would be an expense to repair,<sup>74</sup> and it was enacted that as much of the building as Thomas Powys might require should be left as a private chapel to his mansion house, in which the rector of Lilford cum Achurch was to perform divine service, and the rest sold or otherwise applied to repairing Achurch church: the inhabitants of Wigsthorpe and Lilford to be in future rated for repairs with those of Achurch.

Before the passing of the Act the profits of the vicarage of Lilford, exclusive of the vicarage house and a small homestead thereto belonging, consisted in some small tithes and a right of common belonging to the vicarage house, for which the lord of the manor paid in 'nature of a composition' £65 yearly. Under the Act of 1778 it was agreed that 65 acres called Wigsthorpe Little Wold, and 46 acres, the east part of a piece of ground called Wigsthorpe Great Wold contiguous, should be vested in the rector of Achurch in lieu of all tithes. An exchange was also effected of the vicarage and land in Wigsthorpe already referred to for a house and lands in Achurch.<sup>75</sup>

A chapel was at one time in existence at Wigsthorpe, the presentation in 1347 being made to

'the church of Lilford with the chapel of Wygesthorp.' In Bridges' time no trace of this chapel remained.<sup>76</sup>

### CHARITIES

Richard Ragsdale by his will dated 30 Jan. 1711 charged his land and hereditaments in Bythorne and Thorpe Achurch with 20s. yearly for the poor of Lilford. 20s. is received yearly in respect of this charge and distributed by the churchwardens to the poor on St. Thomas's Day.

William Lassells by Will dated 9 Sept. 1770 gave £100, owing to him on a mortgage of the tolls of the turnpike road between Market Harborough and Brampton to be applied in 'putting apprentice' poor children of Wigsthorpe. The principal sum has increased to £164 9s. 9d.

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<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> *Publ. Stat.* 18 Geo. III, c. 9.

<sup>74</sup> Before the increase of their estates recorded in the history of the manor, the Powys lords of Lilford had not only felt equal to meeting this expense but had in the case of 'Mr. Powys' (by his executors) paved the chancel with Ketton square stones, cornered with black marble; and Sir Thomas Powys, kt., before his death in 1719, had in 1714 with his Lady Elizabeth bestowed on it 'a new altar piece, written and painted by Mrs. Creed, daughter of Sir Gilbert Pickering, in the seventieth year of her age, with the communion table, railing, a piece of plate, a pulpit cloth and table cloth of green tabby':

Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 246.

<sup>75</sup> Then in the occupation of Joseph Weed.

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<sup>76</sup> Bridges, *Hist. Northants.* ii, 241.

**COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON**  
**VOLUME ONE**  
**NORTH-EAST ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE**  
**ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MONUMENTS**

**LILFORD-CUM-WIGSTHORPE**  
(OS 1:10000 <sup>a</sup> TL 08 NW, <sup>b</sup> TL 08 SW, <sup>c</sup> TL 08 SE)

The parish, covering 620 hectares, occupies a roughly L-shaped area of land, extending S.E. from the R. Nene between 75 ft. and 230 ft. above OD. The greater part of the parish lies on Boulder or Oxford Clays, and only near the river are there areas of lighter limestone soils. The clay soils might be interpreted as the reason for the absence of prehistoric and Roman sites, but the lack of intensive fieldwork by local archeologists is a more likely explanation.

The former village of Lilford (3), removed during emparking in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, has left few traces, but at Wigsthorpe, perhaps originally a Danish daughter-settlement, evidence for shrinkage still exists (4).

**PREHISTORIC OR ROMAN**

<sup>b</sup>(1) ENCLOSURE (TL 033830), a little to the N. of the A605-B662 road junction, on Cornbrash, at 145 ft. above OD. Air photographs show the S.E. part of a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners and covering about 2 hectares. The N.W. part is obscured by a wood (CUAP, ZB11-13)

<sup>b</sup>(2) ROMAN SETTLEMENT AND BURIAL (?) (unlocated but around TL 029837) 'not far from the Lynches, on the other side of the park, has been lately found Roman internments, pottery and coins digging for stone' (Arch. J., XXXV (1878), 352).

For Roman Road 570, see p. 116.

**MEDIEVAL AND LATER**

<sup>b</sup>(3) Deserted village of Lilford (TL 030840?), probably lay S.E. of the present Lilford Hall, on limestone at 100 ft. above OD, although its traditional site is some distance away, to the S. of the Hall near a spring at TL 029836 (VCH Northants., III (1930), 227).

Records of its population always included the inhabitants of Wigsthorpe, a daughter-hamlet in the S.E. of the parish, and therefore no accurate estimate of the size of Lilford is possible. Both places were very small throughout the medieval period. By 1674 a total of 31 houses is listed in Lilford and Wigsthorpe, and by

the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Lilford was a 'village of 12 houses' (J. Bridges, *Hist. Of Northants.*, II (1791), 241). In 1755 the entire village was demolished by Sir Thomas Powys, owner of Lilford Hall, as part of an emparking scheme, and the displaced inhabitants were housed in new dwellings at Wigsthorpe and elsewhere on the estate. The village church remained until 1788 when it was demolished. Three arches from an arcade were re-erected as a 'ruin' near the river S. of the park (K.J. Allison et al. *The Deserted Villages of Northants.*, (1966), 15 and 42). No indications of the village exist at the traditional site, but the church certainly stood immediately S.E. of the Hall. Quantities of building-stone and some medieval pottery which have been found near the site of the church, probably indicate the location of the village.

<sup>b</sup>(4) SETTLEMENT REMAINS (TL 046825), formerly part of the hamlet of Wigsthorpe, lie in the center of the hamlet, on the S. side of the road. Some rectangular platforms and other more indeterminate earthworks indicate former houses. The site had already been abandoned by 1794 (map in NRO).

(5) CULTIVATION REMAINS. The date of the enclosure of the common fields of Lilford and Wigsthorpe is unknown but it had certainly taken place by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (NRO, maps of 1791 and 1794). Ridge-and-furrow of these fields exists on the ground, or can be traced on air photographs, over much of the parish. Some still survives in Lilford Park (TL 036844 and 036840) but it is more extensive around and S.E. of Wigsthorpe where large areas of interlocked furlongs, usually of reversed-S form, are traceable. (RAF VAP 541/602, 3056-8, 3067-72, 4055-8, 4067-9)

<sup>a</sup>(6) MISCELLANEOUS FINDS (TL 03688528), probably from a former gravel pit, are ill-recorded. Worked flints, animal bones, sherds of medieval pottery and a 'paved floor' are said to have been found (OS Record Cards).

**OTHER REFERENCE**

**DOMESDAY BOOK:**  
**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

... In Lilleford **William Olyfart** holds 5 hides of fee of King of Scotland; held by Walter of Countess Judith in 1068; ...

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# DICTIONARY

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## *The Oxford Dictionary*

**advowson:** advowson n. Brit. Eccl. (in ecclesiastical law) the right of recommending a member of the clergy for a vacant benefice, or of making the appointment.

[ME f. AF a(d)voweson f. OF avoeson  
f. L advocatio -onis (as ADVOCATE)]

**demesne:** demesne n. 1 a a sovereign's or State's territory; a domain. b land attached to a mansion etc. c landed property; an estate. 2 (usu. foll. by of) a region or sphere. 3 **Law hist. possession (of real property) as one's own. /held in demesne (of an estate) occupied by the owner, not by tenants.** [ME f. AF, OF demeine (later AF demesne) belonging to a lord f. L dominicus (as DOMINICAL)]

**fee:** fee n. & v. --n. **Law an inherited estate, unlimited (fee simple) or limited (fee tail) as to the category of heir. 5 hist. a fief; a feudal benefice. --v.tr. (fee'd or feed)** [ME f. AF, = OF feu, fieu, etc. f. med.L feudum, feudum, perh. f. Frank.: cf. FEUD(2), FIEF]

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## *The Webster Dictionary*

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**advowson:** Ad\*vow"son (277), n. [OE. avoweisoun, OF. avoëson, fr. L. advocatio. Cf. Advocation.] (Eng. Law) [The right of presenting to a vacant benefice or living the church. Originally, the relation of a patron ( advocatus ) or protector of a benefice, and thus privileged to nominate or present to it.] The benefices of the Church of England are in every case subjects of presentation. They are nearly 12,000 in number; the advowson of more than half of them belongs to private persons, and of the remainder to the crown, bishops, deans and chapters, universities, and colleges. Amer. Cyc.

**demesne:** De\*mesne", n. [OE. demeine, demain, rule, demesne, OF. demeine, demaine, demaigne, domaine, power, F. domaine domain, fr. L. dominium property, right of ownership, fr. dominus master, proprietor, owner. See Dame, and cf. DEmain, Domain, Danger, Dungeon.] (Law) **A lord's chief manor place, with that part of the lands belonging thereto which has not been granted out in tenancy; a house, and the land adjoining, kept for the proprietor's own use.** [Written also demain.] Wharton's Law Dict. Burrill. Ancient demesne. (Eng. Law) See under Ancient.

### **hide:**

Hide (?), v. t. [ imp. Hid (?); p. p. Hidden (?), Hid; p. pr. & vb. n. Hiding (?).] [OE. hiden, huden, AS. h<?/dan; akin to Gr. <?/, and prob. to E. house, hut, and perh. to E. hide of an animal, and to hoard. Cf. Hoard.] Hide, n. [AS. hed, earlier heged; prob. orig., land enough to support a family; cf. AS. hewan, hegan, members of a household, and E. hind a peasant.] (O. Eng. Law.) (a) An abode or dwelling. (b) A measure of land, common in Domesday Book and old English charters, the quantity of which is not well ascertained, but has been differently estimated at 80, 100, and 120 acres. [Written also hyde.]