



Cranmer Local History Group

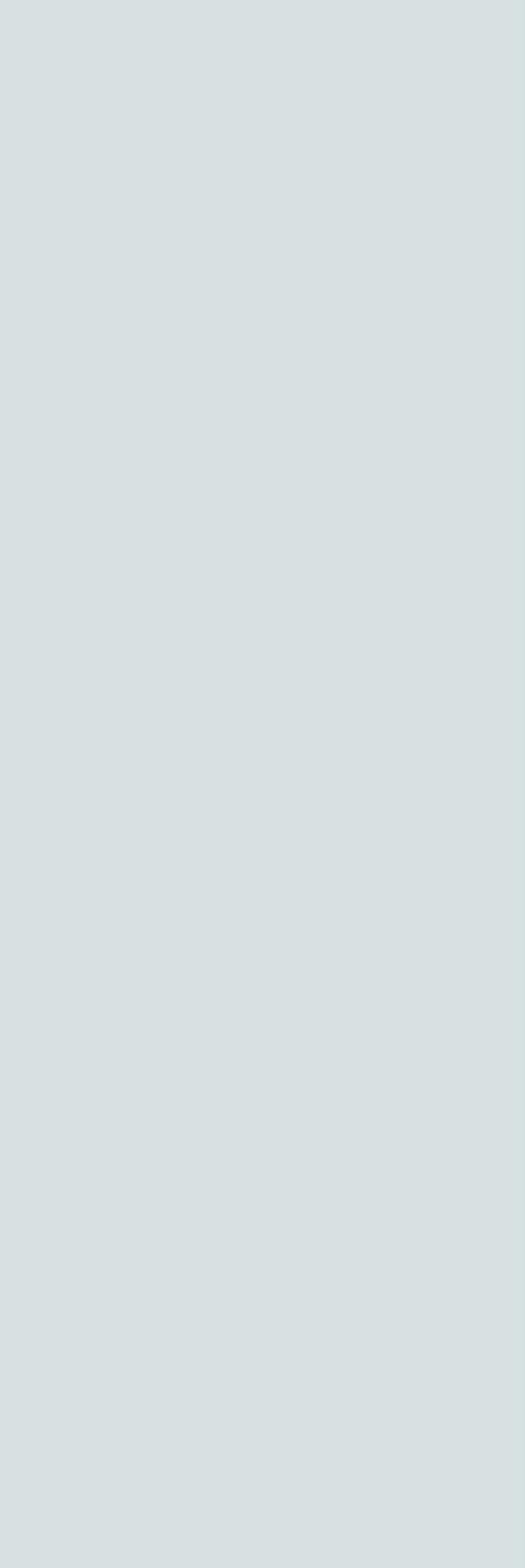


**Transcript and Observation of
MAGNA BRITANNIA
for
WHATTON, Nottingham
1738**

Edited by GR Redford

Archive Series

Volume 4



Cranmer Local History Group

The Cranmer Local History Group as part of its' constitution is committed to promoting the history of Aslockton, Scarrington and Whatton-in-the-Vale in particular and local history in general and archiving material pertinent to the history of the three villages.

The group organises a series of talks throughout the year and this and other publications together with the quarterly Local History Digest contribute to that commitment.

The Cranmer Local History Group Publishes material in four categories:

Archive Series

The Archive Series are transcripts of published material relating to the three villages. The basic principle underlying this series is to collate and archive previous published articles etc.

Research Series

The Research Series are prepared for Research Purposes.

Public Series

Original material written by members of the Group, targeted at residents of the three villages.

Local History Digest

Published quarterly, the Local History Digest contains a series of short articles written by members of the Group.

Archive Series

- Volume 1 Thomas Cranmer 1489—1556
- Volume 2 Cranmers Mound
- Volume 3 Whatton Fishponds
- Volume 4 Transcript and Observation of Magna Britannia
Whatton, Nottinghamshire 1738

Research Series

- Volume 1 Census Analysis—Aslockton—1881
- Volume 2 Parliamentary Enclosure of Aslockton and
Scarrington

Public Series

- Volume 1 Cranmer Walks

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Preface

The transcript of the Magna Britannia Antiqua & Nova was compiled in 1738 and the entry for Whatton provides an interesting early history of the village.

The Transcript has been transcribed exactly as presented in the original, with spelling, punctuation etc. unchanged.

GR Redford
September 2003

Observations & Interpretations

Introduction

The transcript gives a valuable insight into the view of the history of Whatton in the early 18th Century.

There is no separate entry for Aslockton. As Aslockton was linked to the parish of Whatton, it is possible that references in the transcript to Dr. Thomas Cranmer relate to property in Aslockton rather than Whatton.

This section makes some observation and draws some conclusions from the text.

Origin of the Whatton Name

The usual explanation of the origin of the Whatton name is said to be a corruption of Wheat (hwaete) with the Saxon suffix of Tun, in essence the interpretation would be the 'Farm where Wheat is grown'. The Magna Britannia provides another explanation, it proposes that Whatton (or Watone) takes its name from 'the watery situation upon the river Snite (sic), that runs close by it, and continues often longer full of water than other larger and swifter rivers do'. Recent experience of the River Smite in flood tends to lend weight to this explanation. The Domesday Book uses the name Watone.

The Families

Ulfe

The Saxon holder of the Manor (or Soke) at the time of the Norman Conquest. It was taken from him and given to Gilbert de Gaunt in 1066.

De Gaunt

The Manor was given to Gilbert de Gaunt by his Uncle, William 1st (the Conqueror). Gilbert was an 'absentee' Landlord and placed his man Robert in the Manor to manage and supervise the estate.

De Whatton (de Watton)

Robert (Gilberts' 'Man') later purchased the Manor and became Lord of the Manor in his own right. It is thought that Robert was the youngest son of Gaitier de Tirell, Seigneur de Poix in Picardy. Robert later took his surname from the name of the Manor and became Robert de Whatton. The de Whatton family probably lived in the area from circa 1100 until the mid 1300s. The Church has a stone figure of Robert de Whatton who was Vicar from 1304 and a tomb on which Sir Richard de Whatton (1322) lies wearing Chain-Mail.

Newmarch (Novo Mercatti)

It would appear that the Newmarch family came into the manor through the marriage of Adelina de Whatton to Adam Newmarch, the Magna Britannia describes the family as 'Of his posterity the family Novo Mercatti, or New-march, obtained it....'. There is a monument to Sir Hugh de Newmarch dating from about 1400.

Gascoigns

The transcript implies that the Gascoigns were in some way descendants of the Newmarchs. The entry about the Newmarch family quoted above continues '...and from them it descended to the Gascoigns'.

Stanhope

The Gascoign family sold the Manor to Sir Thomas Stanhope, grandfather of the 1st Earl of Chesterfield. The Earls of Chesterfield still owned the Manor at the time the Magna Britannia was published in 1738. The Stanhope family held the Manor from circa 1550 until it was sold to the Hall Family in 1841.

Connection to Welbeck Abbey

The following extract is interesting: *'The Parsonage of this town was given by some ancient Lords to the Abbey of Welbeck, (as we conjecture the Manor was, for we find, that King Edward I granted to the Abbot and Convent of Welbeck Free-Warren in all their demesne lands in Whatton, Flitham, &etc. in this County...'* This would indicate that the 'living' of the Manor was given to Welbeck Abbey sometime before 1066. The history continues *'... and so continued to the dissolution...'* There is no evidence to suggest that Welbeck Abbey had any particular property rights in Whatton (until Adelede de Whatton gave the Church and other land to Welbeck Abbey in the 13^h Century), it may well be that the property referred to above relates to Aslockton.

Transcript

Whatton, or Watone, takes its Name from its watery Situation upon the River Snite, that runs clofe by it, and continues often longer full of Water than other larger and fwifter Rivers do. One Ulfe a Saxon was Lord of this Manor before the Norman Conqueft, by which he was deprived of it, and then it was given to Giflebert de Gaunt the Conqueror's Nephew, whofe Tenant, or Man to order and manage it, was one Robert, who afterward having purchafed the Fee took his Surname from this Place, and was called de Watun, or Whatton. Of his Pofterity the Family de NOVO Mercatti, or New-march, obtained it, and from them it defcended to the Gafoigns (probably by the Nevills, for we find, that John Nevill of Althorp in Lincolnfhire Efq; had this Manor for a Portion with his Wife Elizabeth, the Daughter and Heir of Robert Newmarch, who enjoyed it for her Life) in the Reign of King Henry VI. one of which Family fold it to Sir Thomas Stanhop, Grandfather to Philip the firft Earl of Cbesterfield, whofe fucceffers have ever fince enjoyed it. Jeffrey Archbifhop of York appropriated this Church of Whatton to the Abbey of St. James's, at Walbeck, faving always a Competency for the Vicar that fhould minifter viz- a third Part. At the Diffolution of the Monaftery this Rectory and Vicarage was given by King Edward VI, Archbifhop Cranmer, as below is fhewed.

In the Church here are two Monuments of Note, viz the one for Adam Newmarcht Father or Son, who lived about the Reign of King John. This Monument ftands in the Middle of the Eaft End of the South Ifle, and hath upon it the Pourtraiture of a Man armed with a Coat of Mail, well cut in Alabafter. The Infcription is but imperfect, but by fome Remainers of it we may gather, that it repreffents the Perfon above mentioned, tho' for what Reafon our Author fpeaks of two Alan Newmarch's, Father and Son, as living in the Reign of King John, we cannot imagine; for in the Pedigree

of the Newmarch's in Sir William Dugdale's Baronage we find but one Adam Newmarch about that Time, and he the Father of Henry. The other Monument of Note is for Sir Richard Whatton, who died about the Reign of King Edward I. He lies buried in the Church, under a well cut Stone, on which is his Pourtraiture with a Shield on his Arm. There is alfo near this laft a Monument for Thomas Cranmer Efq; who died May 17. 1501, and on it the Arms of the Cranmers and Aflactons, which is alfo in the Windows with thofe of Newmarch and Whatton. The Parfonage of this Town was given by fome of the ancient Lords to the Abbey of Welbeck, (as we conjecture the Manor was, for we find, that King Edward I. Reg. 15. granted to the Abbot and Convent of Welbeck Free-Warren in all their Demefne Lands in Whatton, Flintham, &c. in this County (and fo continued to the Diffolution, when King Henry VIII. Reg. 511 gave it in Exchange to the Archbifhop of Canterbury, Dr. Thomas Cranmer for other Lands belonging to his See. The Archbifhop left it, with other Eftates, to his Nephew Thomas Cranmer, who 12. Eliz, obtained a Licence of that Queen to alienate this Rectory and Church with his Right of Patronage to the Vicarage to Nicholas Rofel and his Heirs, who have fince fold the Tithes and Advowfon of the Vicarage to Mr. Thomas Sbipman of Scarringtont whofe Grandfon of the fame Name is Patron. It is valued now in the King's Books, at 5 £. 6s. 8 d.

Transcribed from the Magna Britannia Antiqua & Nova – Survey of the Ancient and Prefent State of Great-Britain – Nottinghamshire - 1738

