

**HISTORY AND  
ANTIQUITIES  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF LEICESTER  
BY JOHN NICHOLS  
F.S.A.  
Lond., Edinb.,  
& Perth.  
VOLUME IV  
PART II  
CONTAINING  
SPARKENHOE  
HUNDRED  
  
LONDON 1811**

**DADDLINGTON**

Dadlington is a small, sequestered village, formerly part of the Parish of Hinckley, from which it is distant about three miles; and about the same distance from Market Bosworth. It is bounded by Sutton Cheynell on the North, by Stapleton on the

East, Stoke on the South, and Shenton on the West.  
Leofric earl of Mercia gave this lordship, in the time of  
Edward  
the Confessor, to the priory of Coventry, founded by him  
and  
his lady Godiva; who possessed it till the reign of Henry I;  
at  
which time the prior and convent, at the king's instance,  
and  
with consent of Robert de Limesi their bishop, granted it to  
Hugh de Hastings, the king's steward, and Erneburgh his  
wife,  
neice to Robert de Flamvile, and their heirs, reserving the  
tenure of knight's service; for which respite of homage is  
yet  
paid to the king every fifth term.

NOTE:-

Reg Priorat»s Coventri], in Scaccario.  
The manor, as appears from Mr. Burton,  
who himself was lord of it, "was antiently the inheritance  
of William de Hastings,  
lord steward of the household of king Henry II.; from  
whom  
lineally descended Henry Hastings, created baron  
Abergavenny  
in right of Joan his wife, daughter and heir of William de  
Cantelupe lord Abergavenny  
Of this family the following deeds are about the reign of  
king  
Henry II.;

NOTES:-

Of whom & of his family an ample account may be seen  
under  
Lindley. p. 646 et seq.  
Burton MS.  
This seal is the same awith that of Alan la  
Zouch under Ashby, vol. III. p. 562  
See her seal Pl.CXIX. fig 2.

Gilberto de Hastings, Willielmo de Grigham, et Johannes de Houz."

June 1, 1215, king John, by his precept, commanded the sheriff of Leicester to give Walter Spigurnel seisin of William Maulling's land in Dodelinton, co. Leic. provided the same was not worth more than 100s. which the king hath given him. Mandatum est vicecomiti Leic', quod habere faciat Waltero Spigurnel terram Wilielmi de Mauling in Dodelinton, nisi valeat plus 100s. quos dominus rex ei dedit. Teste Rege, apud Dover, primo die Junii

In 1270 it was found that Roger earl of Winton died seised of a quarter of one knight's fee in Dadlington and Higham (value 10 per annum) which Henry de Hastings then held; also of a sixteenth part of one knight's fee in Dadlington (value four marks per annum), which John Spigurnell then held.

In 1273, it was found that Peter de Mellings, at the time of his death, held certain lands at Dadlington of the fee of Hastings; that it was worth £15. 1s. 4d. per annum; and that Remme, brother of the said Peter de Mellings was his next heir, and then aged 21 and more.

In the itinerary of 1280, Dadlington, Barwell, Stapleton, and (Potters) Marston, answered collectively as one vill. In 1296 it was found that the town of Dadlington was held in fee of the honour of Winton; that Roger de Mentthings held

lands there of John de Hastings, who held the same of the heirs of the earl of Winton, and the heirs of the king; and that John Espignell (recti's Spigurnel) held lands there of the aforesaid heirs of the earl of Winton, and the heirs of the king, by the service of a seventeenth part of one knight's fee.

In 1312 it was found that Remigius de Medlinges had held half a knight' fee in Dadlington of John de Hastings senior, deceased; and that John de Hastings junior was the son and heir of the aforesaid John and then aged 26.

In 1313, it was found that John Spigurnell had held one sixteenth part of one knight's fee in Dadlington of Alan de Zouch, deceased.

In 1324, it was found that John de Hastings lord of Abergavenny, at the time of his death, held the demesne of Dadlington of William Marmyon, by the service of half a knight's fee, and that Laurence de Hastings was his son and heir and then aged about five.

In the same year it was found that Stephen Baret, some time knight, and Joan his wife, held the manor of Dadlington; and that he held the said manor of the earl of Leicester by fealty, paying yearly to the said earl one rose on the eve of St John the Baptist for all services.

In 1328, it was found that sir Robert Holand, at the time of his

death, held, as of the right of inheritance of Maud his wife, the sixteenth part of one knight's fee, with the appurtenances, in dadlington (value 50s.); which John Spigurnel then held. In 1343, it was found that Henry de Ferrars, at the time of his death, held one knight's fee, with the appurtenances, in Dadlington and Higham; which Laurence de Hastings earl of Pembroke then held.

In 1345, John Neel, lord of Norton, released to John de Pulteney, knt, all his claim in the lands and tenements which Hugh de Lechamstill, Robert Ede, and Joan late wife of John de Campioun, held, for term of their lives, in Pulteney, dadlington and Welleford, co. Leic. and Notts. by lease of the aforesaid sir John.

In 1346, William Machet and James Spigurnel (on the aid then granted for knighting Edward of Woodstock, the king's eldest son) were assessed 10s for a quarter of a knight's fee in Dadlington, parcel of the fee of Hastings.

By inquisition taken in 1349, on the death of sir John de Pulteney, knt. qui obiit on the Monday after Trinity Sunday 23 Edw. III. it appeared that he died, seised, inter alia, of the Manor of Dadlington; and that he held one mesuage and two virgates of land, with the appurtenances, in Dadlington, of Roger de la Ward, by the service of 3s. per annum.

In 1354, it was found that William de Clynton, earl of Huntingdon, at the time of his death, held the view of frank pledge in Dadlington in right of Julian his wife, and of the inheritance of Laurence de Hastings late earl of Pembroke.

In 1371 it was found that William de Ferrars of Groby, at the time of his death, held a quarter of one knight's fee in Dadlington; which John de Hastings earl of Pembroke then held.

In 1375, it was found that John de Hastings earl of Pembroke, at the time of his death, held the moiety of one knight's fee with the appurtenances, in Dadlington; which Remegius de Meulings then held

In 1387, it was found that Henry de Ferrars of Groby, knt, at the time of his death, held a quarter of one knight's fee in Dadlington & Higham; which the earl of Pembroke then held.

In 1391, it was found that Robert de Swillington, knt, at the time of his death held certain lands and tenements in Dadlington of the heir of the earl of Pembroke; and that Roger de Swillington was his son and heir.

In 1400, it was found that Philippa (wife of John, , son of John de Hastings earl of Pembroke) died seised of 4 messuages, 24 acres of land and 40s. rent, with the appurtenances, in Dadlington, which were held of the Prior of Coventry.

In 1418, it was found that Henry de Charwelton, Henry

Breeding

capellan, and Henry Nodding, had been lately seised of the Manor of Dadlington; that afterwards Thomas Wilesbury, who was deceased, was seised thereof as long as he lived ( and that it was held of the lord Grey of Ruthyn); and that John Ailesbury, knt. was his next heir.

In 1422 it was found that Maud (who was the wife of John Lovel knt.) died, seised of a sixteenth part of one knight's fee in Dadlington; which John Sigurnell then lately held.

In 1427, it was found that Joan (who was the wife of Roger Swillington, knt.) died seised of three messuages and three virgates of land, with the appurtenances, in Dadlington, held of sir Reginald de Grey, lord Grey of Ruthyn, and that Conan, son of Roger Aske and Elizabeth his wife (daughter of) Evice (one of) the daughters of the said Joan; Isabel, wife of Robert Conyers, another of the daughters of the said Joan; and Margaret, wife of William Helington, third daughter of the said Joan, were her next heirs.

In 1429, it was found that Margaret (daughter and heir of Roger Swillington, knt. and wife of John Gra, knt.) died seised of three messuages and three virgates of land in Dadlington, held of Reginald de Grey of Ruthyn, knt.

In 1444, it was found that William de Ferrars of Groby, knt. died seised of a quarter of a one knight's fee in Dadlington and Higham; which William de Pole earl of Pembroke then

held.

In 1454, it was found that Wiliam Lovel, knt. died seised of a sixteenth part of one knight's fee in Dadlington; which John Spigurnell then held.

In 1457, it was found that Edward de Grey, knt. lord Ferrars of Groby, died seised of a quarter of one knight's fee in Dadlington and Higham; which Jasper earl of Pembroke then held.

In 1532, it was found that Leonard Grey died seised of certain lands and tenancies in Dadlington, held of the Prior of Coventry. "From Henry de Hastings descended lineally Lawrence created earl of Pembroke in 1339; whose grandchild John earl of Pembroke died without issue, all his lands, manors tenements, descended and came to Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin, as cousin and next heir to the said John earl of Pembroke by Elizabeth grandmother of the said Reginald, who was daughter of John Hastings lord Abergavenny, and great aunt to the last John earl of Pembroke. Philip, the widow of this last John earl of Pembroke was married to Richard earl of Arundel, and was endowed with part of this manor. - These lord Hastings (long before the statute of Quia emptores terrarum, made 13 Edw. I.) gave certain lands within the said manor to divers persons, to



be held of the said manor by several tenures; amongst which, William de Hastings, son of William de Hastings, in the beginning of the reign of king John, gave lands in this manor to William de Mentinges, to be held by him by the fourth part of a knight's fee; who bore for his arms, Or, a maunch putpure; which I have seen in a seal affixed to a deed of John de Mentinges, now in my custody. - The above named Reginald lord Grey of Ruthin gave this manor, with the manor of Barwell and other lands in the county of Leicester to John Grey his younger son. John Grey of Barwell, esq. descended lineally from the said John Grey, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth (in 1585) sold this manor, with the court leet thereto belonging to my father Ralph Burton of Lindley, esq. (who in 1609 held the manor of Dadlington and Higham); and it is now the inheritance of me William Burton, son and heir of him the said Ralph Burton."

Mr Hurst, (the present owner) possesses the court rolls from 1272;

John of Bolingbroke occurs in this MS. (temp. 18 Edw. II.) as "Eschaetor domini regis"; and it appears from this MS. that the manors of Dadlington and Higham were united under one lord. In all the court-rolls from the reign of Edward the Second to the present time, the inquisitions, &c have been taken for the

manors of Dadlington and Higham; and by one of these rolls, it appears that the inhabitants of Higham were fined, at Dadlington court, for not providing bows and arrows.

In 1648, -- Salusbrie, es. was tenent of the impropriation of Dadlington under the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. From Cassibelan Burton, who inherited Dadlington from our eminent Historian, the lordship passed to Mr William Cox who was the owner in 1659.

John Cox held a court in 1694, and Joseph Cox in 1716. Jan. 17, 1729, Samuel Cotton, esq. sold an estate at this place, for upwards of  $\times 4200$ . to Elizabeth Wrighte, daughter of George Wrighte, esq. of Grayhurst; which became the property of Nathan Wrighte, esq. (son of Robert, third son of lord keeper Wrighte) by intermarriage with the said Elizabeth in 1743; and the said Nathan Wrighte, esq. sold the same in 1789. He died Dec.7, 1793, aged 86.

Dadlington is thus noticed by Mr Carte in 1731; "Glebe of Dadlington Hill close, next Stapleton lordship, now divided into three parts for conveniency of ploughing, occupied by Thomas Ballard. A close called Wood's close, containing by estimation five acres, occupied by Edward Cooke. A house and back-side, about an acre, occupied by Edward Cooke. A parcel of ground lying in Mrs Cox's meadow next Hill close, and abutted by

the  
brook running along Hoopwell meadow in Stoke Golding  
the  
said Wood's close and the said Hill close."

Mr. Carte also says, "Inclosure 60 years ago, at Martinmas  
next  
1731."

At a court held by Joshua Grundy in 1742, as a lord of  
Dadlington cum membris, the common fine for Dadlington  
was  
2s. ; for Higham, 6s.; and for Stoke, 6d. St this court 18  
suitors  
appeared from Dadlington, and 5 were essoined, 10  
appeared  
from Stoke Golding and 2 were essoined; 3 appeared from  
Higham, and 6 were essoined, 1 appeared from Shenton  
and 3  
made default; and 1 from Witherly was essoined.  
In 1772 this manor was purchased by William Hurst, esq.  
of  
Hinckley; and his son, Nicholas Hurst, is the present owner.  
In 1775, six freeholders polled from Dadlington.  
In 1790 there were 22 families in this village.  
By the return made to Parliament in 1801, it appeared that  
Dadlington contained 27 houses, inhabited by 29 families,  
consisting of 65 males, 66 females, in al 131; of whom 30  
were  
chiefly employed in agriculture, and 18 in trade,  
manufactures  
The principal landowners (1810) and Joshua Grundy, esq.  
John  
Geary, William Varnam, Henry Freeman, John  
Charlesworth,  
and Sanuel Grimes.

The Town of Dadlington is situate round Dadlington green,  
(from whence gravel is fetched to repair the highways), in

which are the chapel and chapel-yard.

Dadlington is situated on rising ground, in a good and healthful air, about one mile from Stoke, in the road to Bosworth, near the ground where the memorable and decisive battle was fought between the houses of York and Lancaster.

From this spot is a fine and extensive view along the vale towards Bosworth.

The soil at Dadlington is of a gravelly mixed nature; and is fruitful in corn and grass, and excellent for orchard fruit, especially for the nonpariel, and others of a choice kind. The absinthium, or worm-wood, grows here spontaneously in great plenty.

#### THE CHAPEL

dedicated to St. James, bears evident marks of great antiquity; and, by some late repairs, makes a decent appearance. It has a small wooden turret, with two bells; on one of which is inscribed, E. Arnold fecit, 1793.

The entrance to the chapel is through a porch on the South side.

There was within memory a large old door on the North side, now stopped up. Part of the arch remains, filled up with modern brick-work.

At the west end is a very old circular font; and on the South side of the chancel are two piscina.

In the inside is a very old Town-chest, without date.

In this chapel (1810) remains a large folio Bible, in black

letter,  
imprinted by Robert Barker, 1613, in very good  
preservation;  
from which the lessons are now constantly read.  
In 1622, the following arms remained in this chapel;  
Or, a maunch Gules. Hastings; Pl. CXVI. fig. 11.  
Barry of six, Argent and azure, three torteauxes in chief,  
quartered with Hastings and Valence. Grey: fig. 12.  
Quarterly : Azure, sem<sup>o</sup> D'estoiles, a crescent Argent;  
azure, a  
fess between three talbots' heads erased Or. Burton; fig. 13.  
"Nov. 30, 1646. Upon consideration had of the petition of  
the  
parishioners of Dadlington, in the county of Leicester, a  
copy  
whereof is herto annexed; for that the said rectory, as by the  
said petition is alledged, is impropriate to the Dean of  
Westminster, by whom the cure of the said church is to be  
Maintained: This committee do recommend the same to the  
Committee for the said rectory, who are desired to take the  
same into their serious consideration, and to do thereupon  
as  
they in their wisdom shall think meet."

"April 20, 1648. Upon information that - - - Salisbury, esq.  
farmer, of the impropriation of Dadlington, in the county of  
Leicester, under the Dean and Chapter of Westminster,  
being  
by his lease enjoined to provide for the cure of the church  
of  
Dadlington aforesaid, did usually heretofore allow but five  
marks, and sithence but  $\times 5$ . a-year for the maintenance of a  
minister, whereby the said parish hath been supplied with  
scandalous ministers, and are now wholly destitute of any:  
It is  
ordered that the said Mr Salisbury doe provide some godly  
and  
orthodox Divine to officiate in the said cure, and allow a  
competant maintenance for him, or show cause to the

contrary  
before this Committee on the 18th day of May next.  
This chapel being appropriated to the Dean and Chapter of  
Westminster, they allow £20. a-year to the minister  
(payable by  
the lessee of their glebe) for serving this cure.

The present chaplain is the Rev. Dr. Staunton, vicar of  
Hinckley; his curate the Rev. Mr. Robinson.  
The present lessee of Dadlington under the Dean and  
Chapter  
of Westminster is Mr. Jervis, who formerly kept the Red  
Lion in  
Atherstone.

#### MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.

The only tomb within the chapel is one which was placed  
for  
some person of the family of Cotton  
but the inscription is  
now become illegible.

The arms of that family (Azure on a chevron argent, three  
Katharine wheels Gules, Plate CXVI figure 14) are barely  
discernable on a pane of old painted glass.

In the burying ground are but few tomb stones.

John Everard died Jan. 8 1726 aged 40

Thomas Ballard of Drayton died Oct 16 1765 in the 84th  
year  
of his age

Elizabeth Ballard late wife of Thomas died Sept 28 1761  
aged 77

Martha the 5th daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Ballard  
died

March 20 1780 aged 49

Mary Ballard died Feb 17 1796 aged 76

John Glover died Sept 19 1780 aged 51

Mary the wife of John Geary died May 17 1803 aged 44

Elizabeth Elliott died May 27 1805 aged 32

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LEICESTERSHIRE

JOHN NICHOLS F.S.A.

LONDON

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MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

DADLINGTON CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD

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