

# A Short History of Northamptonshire

Based on the 'War and rebellion in  
Northamptonshire' course

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The following is a potted history of Northamptonshire based on the slides from Mike Ingram's 10 week 'Wars and Rebellion in Northamptonshire' course.

For far too long Northamptonshire's importance in the events that shaped England have been forgotten or ignored. It is hoped that in its way, this will serve to redress the balance.

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<https://northamptonbattlefieldssociety.wordpress.com>

# Northampton Battlefields Society

A non-political group originally formed to promote and protect the site of the Battle of Northampton that took place on 10 July 1460. It was the first major battle of the wars, the first time artillery was used in England in any quantity and resulted in the King Henry VI being taken prisoner. It sparked Richard of York's claim on the throne and much of the bloodshed that cumulated in the Battle of Towton began here. The significance and loss of life was down played by Yorkist propaganda as they promoted their desire for peace and only to wishing remove the Kings evil councillors.

It is also our intention to carry out further research into the battles of 1065, 1088, 1174, the three battles of 1215 and the 1264 battle. As well as the medieval sieges of Rockingham and Fotheringhay, Edgecote etc.

Our patrons are Charles Chetwynd-Talbot, 22nd Earl of Shrewsbury, whose ancestor fought and died at the 1460 battle and world famous author of historical novels, Bernard Cornwell.

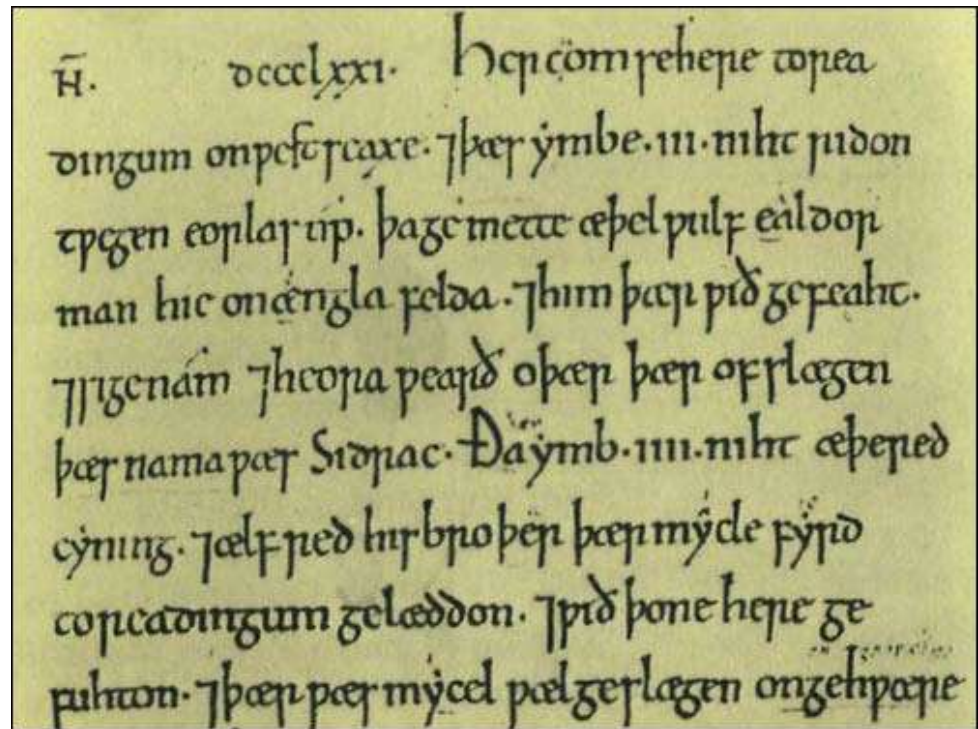
# The Dark Ages

6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> C



# Sources

- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles
- 5 versions A-E
- D written in York
- E written in Peterborough but based on D



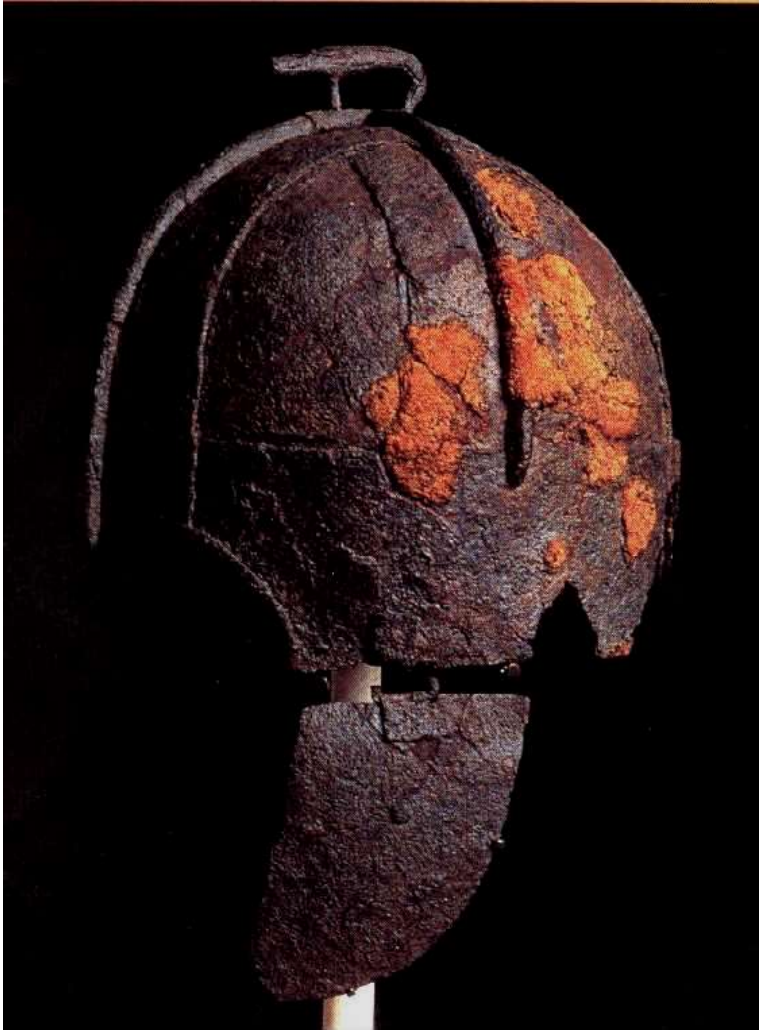
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# The Anglo Danish Wars



# The Pioneer Helmet





- The fragments of this 7<sup>th</sup> century helmet were found during excavations at Wollaston.
- The helmet accompanied the burial of a 25 year old male, possibly laid on a bed with a pattern welded sword, small knife, hanging bowl, three iron buckles and a copper alloy clothes hook.



# Timeline

- The year 793 marked a major change for England with the first major raid by Vikings on the Northumbrian monastery at Lindisfarne (although there is evidence of a small raid four years earlier in Devon). The next decade saw major raids along most of the southern and eastern coasts of England. Most of the raiders were Danes, but the common tongue of the Scandinavians enabled them all to work together.

- The first part of the ninth century saw the Vikings concentrating on Ireland and the north and west of England and Scotland, until 835 when the Danes began a series of major raids on the whole of England. These culminated in the 'Great Army' of 865 which wintered on the Isle of Thanet before commencing on a twelve year campaign ranging from Exeter to Dumbarton. This finally ended in an agreement with the West Saxon king which left them in control of half of the country.

- 865 AD The Great Army under Ivar the Boneless arrives
- 866 AD, the Danes capture York
- 869 AD The Great Army marches south. Ubba sacks Peterborough. Only a young boy survives who they keep as a pet.
- They defeat King Edmund of East Anglia at Hoxne
- 871 AD Alfred becomes King of Wessex  
Ivar is succeeded by Guthrum

- 874 AD The Vikings are in control of Mercia
- 884 AD Alfred defeats Gunthrum at Edington and The Treaty of Wedmore is signed giving Vikings self rule north of Watling Street.
- 899 AD Edward the Elder King
- 900 AD The great Saxon palace in Northampton is destroyed
- 910 AD campaign to recapture the Midlands and East Anglia begins. Northampton is a major Danish trading settlement, inland port and home to a Danish army



The Danes fortify the town by building a Burh. The size of the Anglo-Danish burh at Northampton has been estimated have ramparts 3,000 ft (910 m) in length

A Burh had an earthen rampart which was faced with wood or stone, the rampart was fronted by a deep ditch. In some cases the area inside these walls were divided up into plots in gridwork for residential purposes

913 AD. First recorded invading newly ceded Mercian territories with their allies, the Northampton Danes were initially very successful. However, on their return they were defeated by local Mercian forces near Luton, losing many horses and weapons. Evidence found at Woughton, Milton Keynes

December 914 AD, their strength was further depleted when a number of Northampton Danes submitted to Edward at Bedford.

917<sup>AD</sup>. This year rode the army, after Easter, out of Northampton and Leicester; and having broken the truce they slew many men at Hookerton (*Hook Norton*) and thereabout.

The Anglo Saxon Chronicles

With the loss of Derby and East Anglia and the advance of King Edward, their ruler, Earl Thurferth, and the men of Northampton and Cambridge submitted to the West Saxons.

921<sup>AD</sup>. This year, before Easter, King Edward ordered his men to go to the town of Towcester, and to rebuild it.

The Anglo Saxon Chronicles

# The Siege of Towcester – 921<sub>AD</sub>



“The same summer, betwixt Lammas and midsummer, the army broke their parole from Northampton and from Leicester; and went thence to Towcester, and fought against the town all day, and thought that they should break into it; but the people that were therein defended it, till more aid came to them; and the enemy then abandoned the town, and went away.”

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles



# 921 continued

“Soon after this, the same harvest, went King Edward with the West-Saxon army to Passenham; and sat there the while that men fortified the town of Towcester with a stone wall. And there returned to him Earl Thurferth, and the captains, and all the army that belonged to Northampton northward to the Welland, and sought him for their lord and protector.”

c. 934 Northampton was incorporated into the enlarged Earldom of East Anglia under Æthelstan Half-King

941, Northampton ruled by Mercians faced an unsuccessful siege by King Olaf of York.

The 'army' of Northampton was still in existence in 984 when they were recorded witnessing the sale of land.

- Eric Bloodaxe was driven out of York and killed at Stainmoor in 954. With external threats temporarily removed king Edgar, who came to the throne in 959, spent the next 18 years trying to weld the formerly disparate states of Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia and Wessex into a single body.

# Kettering

- In 975 it is said that Leofsi son of Bixi, 'an enemy of God,' dispossessed Peterborough Abbey of Kettering for two years, but by the influence of Aethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, possession was regained.

During the reign of Æthelred (978 -1016) the Viking attacks on England started again. In the 980's Viking raids along the Welsh coast were extended to include south-west England. At the same time attacks on London and the south-east began from the North Sea and Scandinavia. The 990's saw the operation of great armies under the leadership of Olaf, later king of Norway, and Swein, king of Denmark.

From 1003 to 1006, and again in 1013, Swein led devastating attacks on England, while Thorkell the Tall campaigned in the south and east between 1009 and 1013. In 1007 Æthelred ordered the burning of ships and recreated the large eoldermanry of Mercia for Eadric in an attempt to co-ordinate English defences. Unfortunately the fleet assembled at Sandwich in 1009 fell prey to bad weather and English efforts had little effect against Thorkell's determined campaign. This culminated in the capture and murder of the Archbishop of Canterbury.



# 1010 – Thorkell the Tall

“Before the feast-day of St. Andrew came the enemy to Northampton, and soon burned the town, and took as much spoil thereabout as they would; and then returned over the Thames into Wessex, and so by Cannings-marsh, burning all the way. When they had gone as far as they would, then came they by midwinter to their ships.”

The Anglo Saxon Chronicles

- 1013 AD King Cnut (Canute) son of Sweyn Forkbeard and Gunhilda of Poland marries Aelgifu of Northampton. She becomes queen of England and Norway
- 1035 AD Harold Harefoot becomes king
- 1042 AD Edward the Confessor becomes king

# 1065 – Morcar (Northumbria)

“But the Northern men did much harm about Northampton, whilst he went on their errand: either that they slew men, and burned houses and corn; or took all the cattle that they could come at; which amounted to many thousands. Many hundred men also they took, and led northward with them; so that not only that shire, but others near it were the worse for many winters.”

The Anglo Saxon Chronicles

# The Mass Grave at Cuttle Mill



*“There was a mass of human bones clearly where a massacre had taken place, very close to the surface, it was horrendous”*

**Charmian Woodfield**

- The earliest and best proof of the new importance of the town is given in Domesday Book. From being a village of 60 houses under King Edward, it had risen to be a town of 330 ; of these no less than 100 belonged to the King, and 85 to his half brother, the Earl of Mortain, his niece, the Countess Judith, or his natural son, William Peverel, while houses belonging to the great barons are either few or conspicuous by their absence. The King's personal hold on the town and its growth could scarcely be more strikingly shown.

# Waltheof

1050 - 1076

- Son of Earl of Northumbria but too young to inherit on father's death in 1055. Earldom given to Tostig Godwinson
- Becomes first Earl of Northamptonshire in 1065





# **MEDIEVAL NORTHAMPTON**

- 1377 – 28<sup>th</sup> largest town 1,447 tax payers  
population 2,500, London population  
40,000, Coventry 4<sup>th</sup> population 8,000
- Northamptonshire 40,225 tax payers

- Royal borough – paying fixed fee to the King
- Royal Castle

# Commerce

Major Trading Centre for

- Wool
- Cloth
- Corn
- Horses

In 1202 Northampton was one of eleven towns which purchased the right to buy and sell dyed cloth. National reputation for fulling and dying with 300 cloth workers in 14 C

# Fairs

Site of one of the four great royal fairs.  
Included foreign traders

In 1231 the King purchased:-

- 150 robes for knights
- 100 for clerks
- 300 tunics for alms

# Tournaments

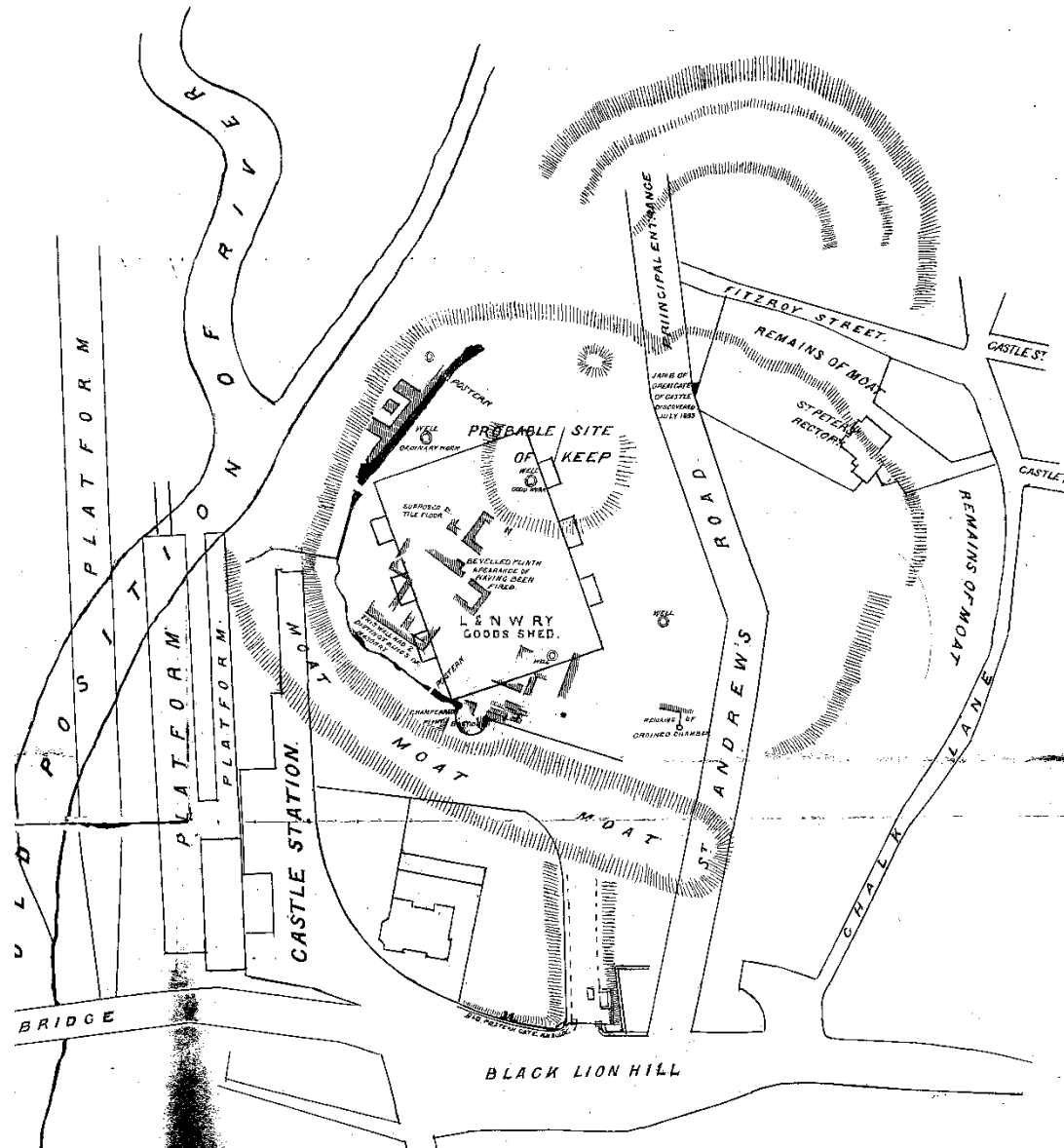
- Northampton is a major site for tournaments of national importance.

# Hunting

- Royal Forests to north and south
- Whittlewood and Rockingham
- Hunting Lodges at Higham Ferrers, Geddington, Kings Cliffe, Rockingham and Silverstone.
- Kings frequently stay at the hunting lodges

# PLAN OF NORTHAMPTON CASTLE

Shewing its position in relation to the Station and present Streets.





# Known buildings in the castle

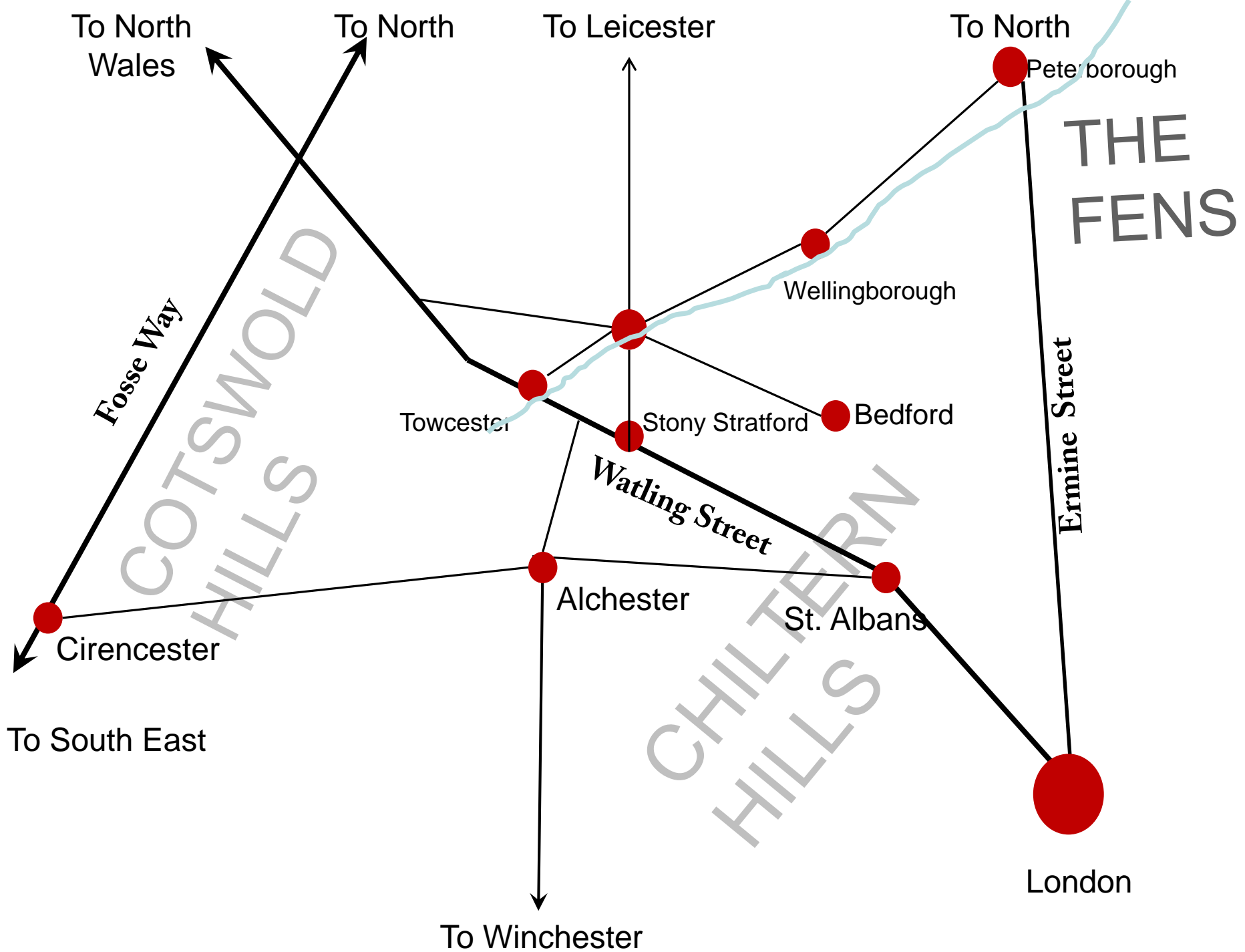
- Great Hall
- Kings Great chamber (1235)
- Long chamber (east of hall) (1323)
- Great chamber (west of hall) (1323)
- Lower chapel (1323)
- Queens chapel (1247)
- Stable (near kitchen)
- Stable (near old tower)
- 6 towers (1323)
- a new gate, two old gates, an old barbican (1323)

- A survey of 1323, refers to 'an old tower called Fawkestour' which seems to have been outside the curtain wall
- When Leland saw the castle it still had a large gate," but in 1593 Norden described it as ruinous.
- It was probably repaired for the use of the Parliamentary garrison, and the drawing of 1650 shows a wall round both the inner and the outer bailey, and four turrets in the wall of the inner bailey.

# **Destruction of the castle**

- The castle and town walls were slighted in 1671
- In 1859 a small railway station was built on part of the barbican, and in 1876, the present Castle Station and goods yard. All of the surviving masonry, including a circular bastion on the south, and a solid fragment of the wall on the river side.
- The course of the Nene was diverted, the greater part of the earthworks levelled, and a new road cut across the levelled castle site joining Black Lion Hill to St. Andrew's Road. A postern from the wall above the river was re-erected in the southern boundary wall of the station, and this is all that now remains of the castle building

- Geoffrey le Scrope in the Eyre of Northampton 1329 “It’s the ideal place to control the country from”
- Northampton is astride the main route north and as a consequence frequently visited by kings.



# The Town Walls

In 1278 the walls were crenellated and wide enough for six people to walk side by side. They were much used for walking purposes, by sick burgesses when they wished to take the air, by all who wanted to take short cuts to avoid the muddy lane below in winter, and by the night watchmen who spied through the battlements upon malefactors as they came in and out of the town. The sheriff notes that the opposition to blocking up the battlements and the wall-walk was so strong in the town that he chose the jury from outside the borough.

repairs of the wall were authorised in 1378, 1400, and 1549.

Ditch around the walls

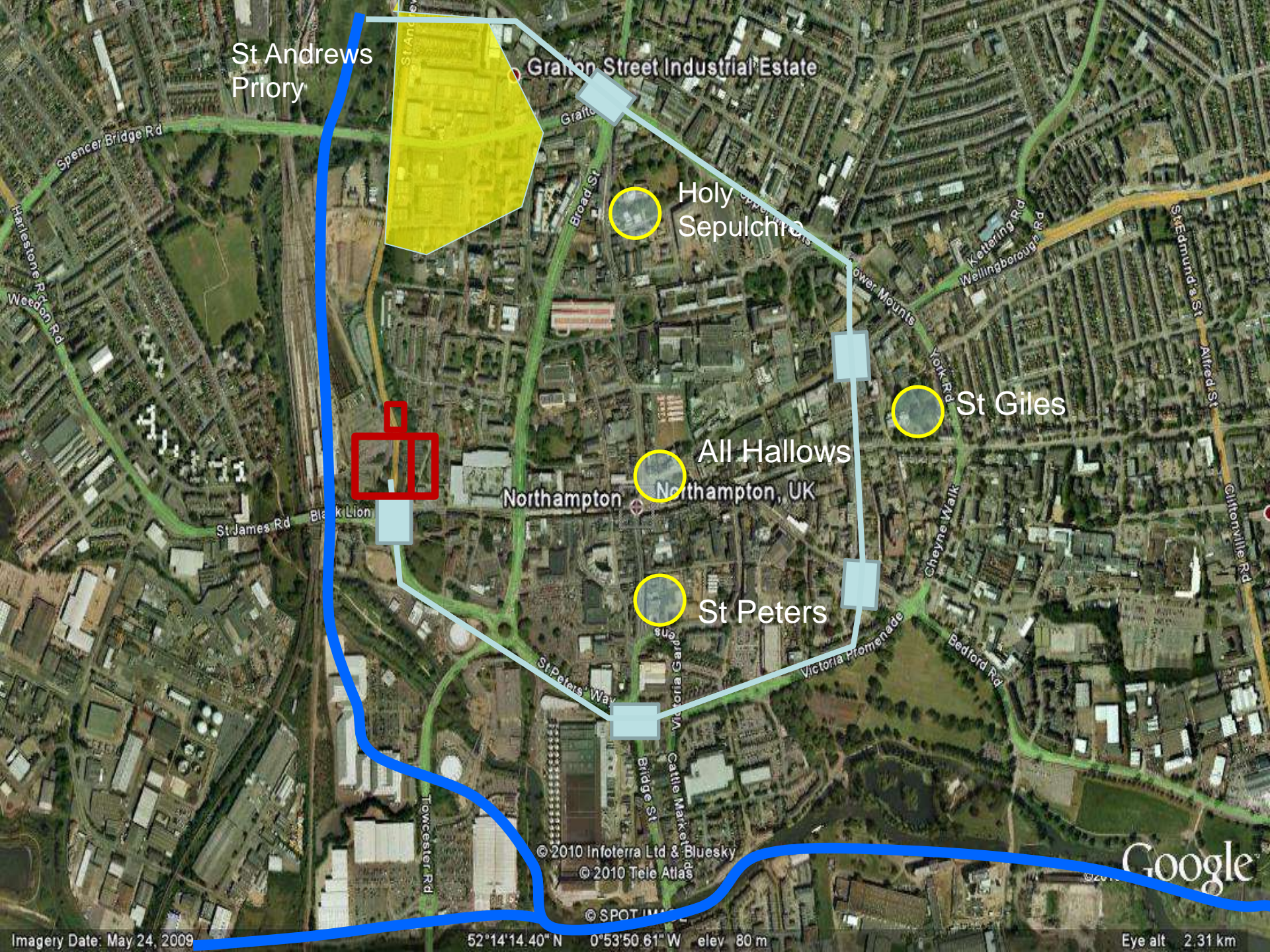
# Major religious centre

- Between 1338-1498, 39 of 40 of the general chapters of the Benedictine's held in Northampton.
- Augustinian Abbey, Cluniac Priory and Nunnery, Dominican, Franciscan, Carmelite, Austin Friars houses.
- Four Hospitals including St. Leonards
- Eight Churches

# **St. Andrew's Priory**

- The Cluniac priory was founded between 1093 and 1100 by Simon de Senlis for monks from the powerful priory of La Charité-sur-Loire, France. Early Priors all French, appointed in France.





St Andrews  
Priory

Gratton Street Industrial Estate

Holy  
Sepulchre

St Giles

All Hallows

Northampton  
Northampton, UK

St Peters

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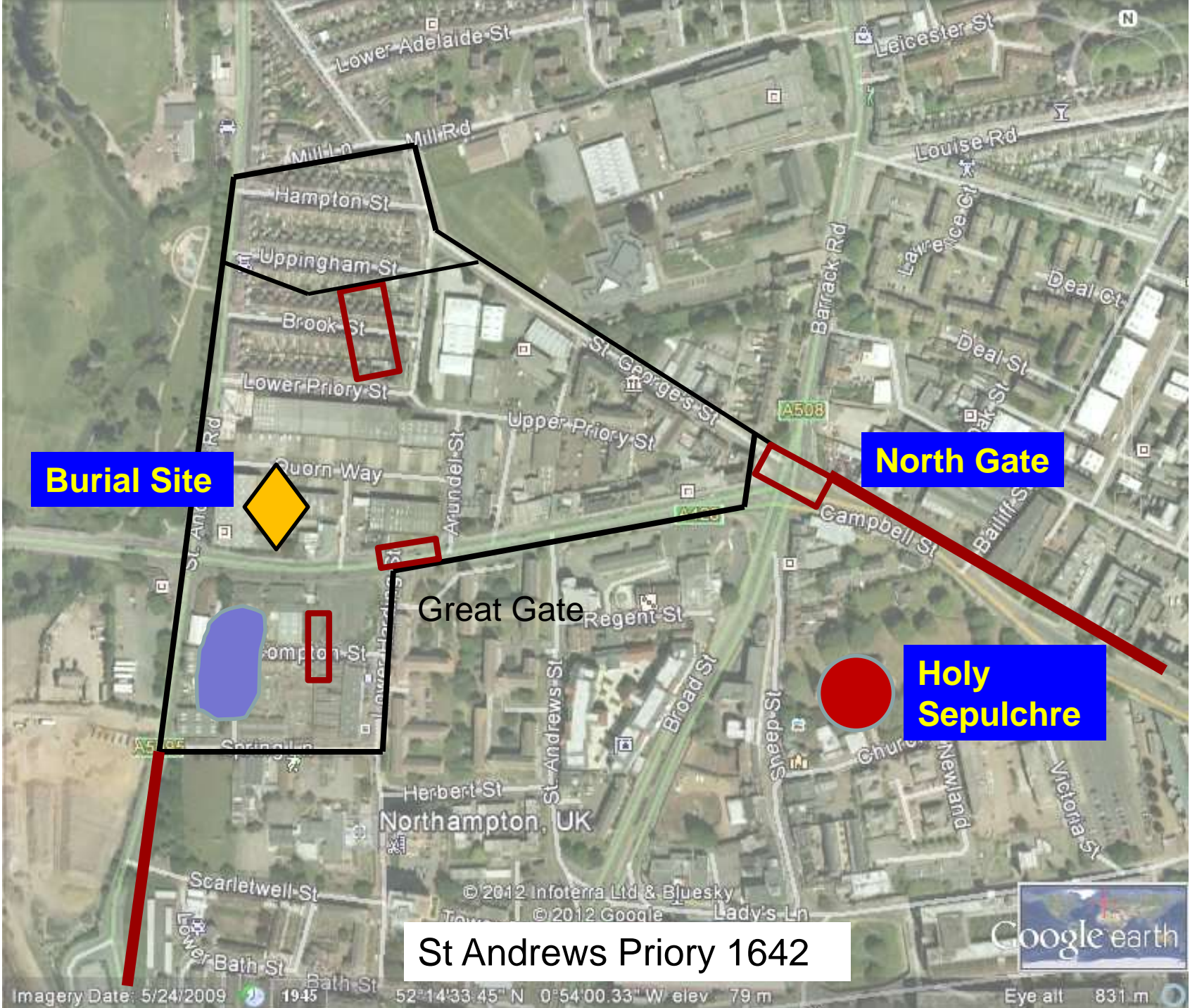
Google

Imagery Date: May 24, 2009

52°14'14.40" N 0°53'50.61" W elev 80 m

Eye alt 2.31 km





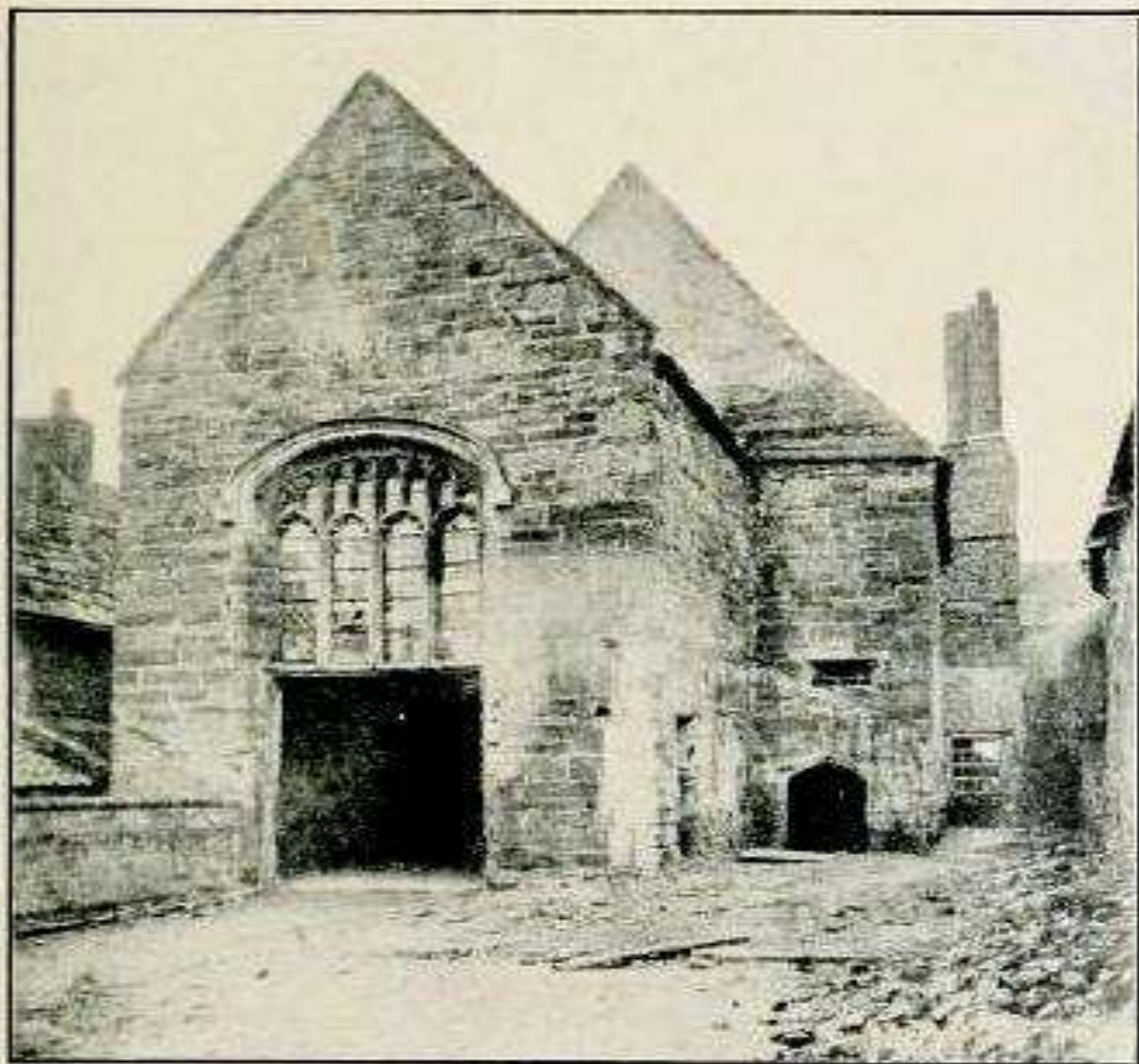
**Burial Site**

**North Gate**

Great Gate

**Holy Sepulchre**

St Andrews Priory 1642

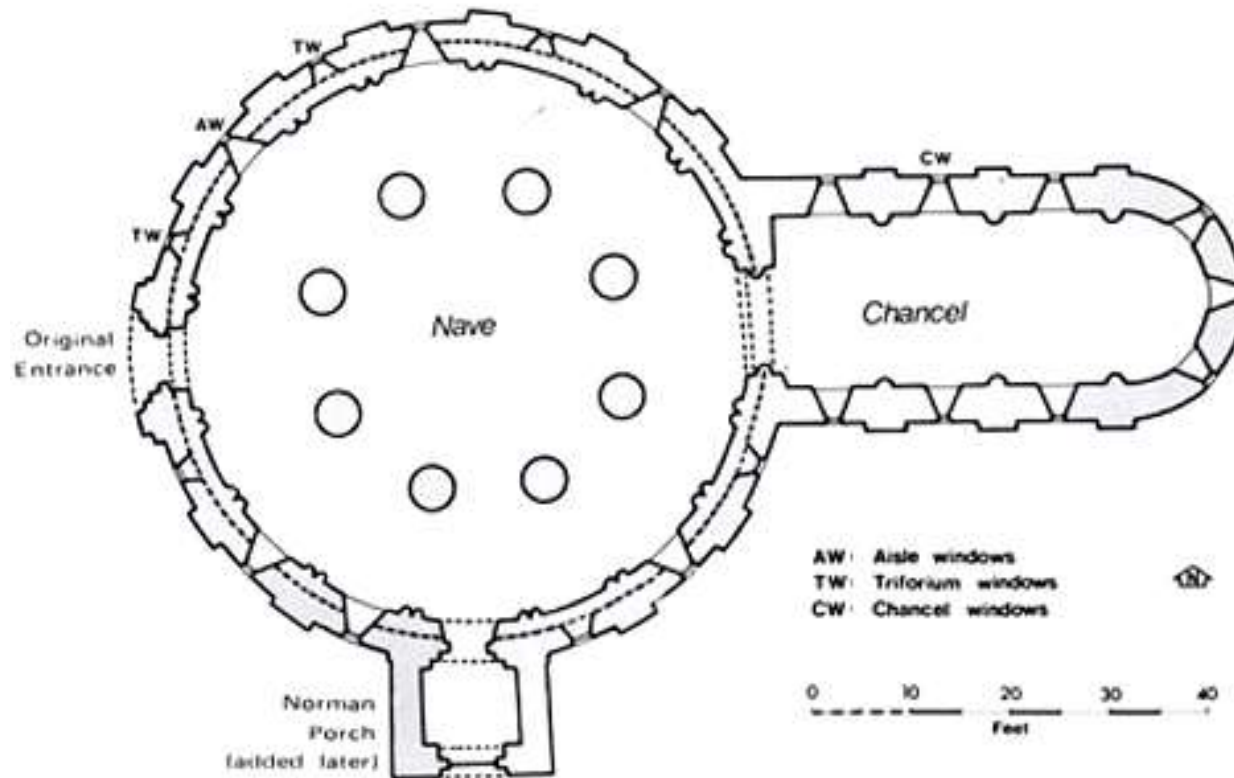


NORTHAMPTON : ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL (NOW DESTROYED)



# St Sepulchres Church

## The Original Round Church



# The Town

- The earliest centre of the town was the Mayorhold, it was probably the building of the castle which caused the centre of gravity to shift eastwards. From the 13th century the market square is the commercial and civic heart of the town. Deeds dealing with the transfer of house property, shops and stalls suggest the growth of a thriving eastern quarter.
- Early in the 14th century, however, complaints are heard of the 'decay' of the town. The petition of 1334 speaks of houses fallen to the ground, and an ordinance of about 1390-1400 provides for the letting out by the mayor and chamberlains of certain waste places.

- Conditions were presumably made worse by a fire of 1516, which consumed the greatest part of the town.
- In 1533, Leland noted that all the old houses in Northampton were built of stone, but the new houses of wood.
- In 1535 an Act of Parliament empowered the mayor and burgesses, in view of the great ruin and decay of the town, to take into their hands any houses which the tenants and landlords both failed to repair, and rebuild them themselves.
- The terrier of 1586 describes a large number of closes and orchards within the walls, and Northampton was long after that date noted for its cherries.
- On 20 September, 1675, a fire broke out in St. Mary's Street near the castle, in 24 hours. 600 houses were destroyed.

- From King John's reign there are references to houses outside the walls. To the north and east, where the town fields extended to the parishes of Kingsthorpe, Abington and Weston, there were houses outside the North Gate along the Market Harborough road round the churches of St. Bartholomew and St. Lawrence ; whilst outside the east gate St. Edmund's End grew up round St. Edmund's church.
- South of the town, between the walls and the river, grew up the south quarter, still containing many waste places in 1430 which the mayor and chamberlain leased to sixteen different tenants in that year.





- 1377 – 28<sup>th</sup> largest town 1,447 tax payers  
population 2,500, London population  
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- Royal borough – paying fixed fee to the King
- Royal Castle

**HISTORY**

# The Norman Conquest

## 1066



# Sources

## Primary Sources

- Flores Historiarum – Matthew of Westminster?
- Matthew Paris
- Walter of Coventry
- Burton Chronicles
- Pipe Rolls and Close Rolls
- Anglo-Saxon Chronicles
- Annals of Henry II and Richard I - Roger Hoveden

## Secondary Sources

- Northamptonshire Past and Present
- Journal of Northamptonshire Natural History Society and Field Club
- Works of Rev R.M. Serjeantson

# Waltheof

- Only Saxon Earl to yield to William and retains estates
- 1069. Joins Sweyn II invasion of Northern England.
- Tales of how he held the gate of York single handed with axe cleaving men through helmet and head
- Pardoned by William

- 1070 Marries Judith of Lens, Williams niece
- 1075 implicated a revolt based around Norwich
- 1076 Executed near Winchester
- Story of his head finishing the Lord's Prayer after beheading

# **Simon de Senlis I (or Senliz)**

1040-1115

- Takes part in Norman invasion of 1066
- 1088 marries Maud, daughter of Waltheof and Judith, inherits all of her estates.
- 1089. Builds the castle and walls
- 1096. Takes part in the First Crusade
- 1100. Builds Church of the Holy Sepulchre and All Saints
- c.1110 returns to the Holy Land
- 1115 dies on way back aged 75. Buried at La Charite-Sur-Loir, Nievre
- Maud marries King David I of Scotland



# The rebellion of 1088

- On his deathbed in 1087 William decided how his sons would inherit the lands of his native Normandy and England. His eldest son Robert was made Duke of Normandy and his second eldest William Rufus, King of England.
- At the end of March 1088, more than half of the largest landowners in England were determined to unite the Anglo-Norman aristocracy under one leader. Their choice was Robert of Normandy, In the first six months of his reign, Robert's younger brother William Rufus had made himself one of the most hated monarchs in English history. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* states, he was "hateful to almost all his people and odious to God."

- Men of the king's own family led the rebellion; his uncles Odo de Bayeux and Robert de Mortain, the younger brothers of William the Conqueror.
- Hugh de Grentemaisnil of Leicester joins rebels.
- Waged private warfare in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire (Anglo-Saxon Chronicles).
- Rufus bribes or offers pardons to many of the Barons and the rebellion is over in 6 months.

# Henry I

## Henry Beauclerc

5 August 1100–1135



- 1106. War breaks out between Henry and his brother Robert. They meet at Northampton castle.
- 1115. David, Prince of Scotland becomes Earl. The Castle becomes one of only four castles under Royal control.
- 1131. Henry summons the magnates to Northampton to swear fealty to his daughter Matilda
- Henry dies 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1135

# Stephen Stephen of Blois

22 December 1135–1154





# Matilda

## Empress Matilda

7 April 1141–1 November  
1141



# The Anarchy

## 1138 – 1153



Stephen frequently stays at Northampton Castle.

Simon de Senlis II becomes Earl on Davids accession in 1141. He remains a staunch supporter of Stephen, taking part in the Battle of Lincoln. David supports Matilda but is defeated at Northallerton

1146. Ranulph, Earl of Chester comes to the castle to ask for help against the Welsh. He insists on Stephen coming in person. But Stephen believes it a trap and throws the Earl in the dungeons.

De La Pre Abbey is built for Cluniac Nuns. St Johns and St Leonard's Hospitals are built

War ends in 1153. Simon II dies and Simon III becomes Earl



# Henry II

## Henry Curtmantle

19 December 1154–1189



# 1164

The trial and  
condemnation of Thomas  
Becket, Archbishop of  
Canterbury at  
Northampton Castle.

Thomas escapes from St  
Andrews in a  
thunderstorm through the  
north gate. Well probably  
fantasy.



# The 1173 rebellion

Henry's sons Henry and Richard rise against their father. Many Barons in England and Counts in France support them. King William of Scotland starts his own.

July 1173. King comes to Northampton from France, gives orders for the campaign and returns to France.

May 1174. An army led by Ansketill Malory, Constable of Leicester attacks Northampton. A battle takes place under the walls of the town. The Burghers of the town are beaten with 200 killed and 200 taken prisoner. The victors assault Nottingham

July 1174. King William captured and brought to Northampton under a horse. 31 July, rebels surrender to Henry

# **The Assize of Northampton**

**25 January 1176**

- Demands an oath of fealty
- Introduces travelling Judges
- Introduces crimes of arson and forgery
- Destruction of adulterine castles
- Scots King and Bishops to submit to the English Church. A dispute between York and Canterbury breaks out. The Scots leave.
- Henry spends Xmas at Northampton

# The Mint

- Northampton had two mints in the tenth century
- Great Roll of the Pipe, shows that in 1181 the privilege of minting was first granted to the town of Northampton,
- The right continued uninterruptedly until the 1st of Richard I.

# 1185

With the earl recently dead, Northampton's burgesses successfully negotiate with Henry II to take away from royal officials control of collecting their farm. Almost every year after two men, almost certainly reeves, are found accounting at the Exchequer for the farm, on behalf of the burgesses, although whether elected or appointed by the king we cannot say.



# Richard I

(*Richard Cœur de Lion*)

3 September 1189–1199



On the 14 Sept 1189 great council held at  
Pipewell Abbey near Great Oakey, all of the  
English and Irish bishops and the abbots  
and priors of England. The main object was  
to make arrangements for a crusade.



# 1189 Royal Charter granting Northampton "all free custom and liberties" that the citizens of London enjoyed.



William Lion and Richard meet at Northampton to hear Williams request that Northumberland Cumberland and Westmoreland be given to the Scots. William's request is refused.

# John Lackland

27 May 1199–1216



Northampton is John's favourite castle Features in the opening scene of Shakespeare's play, and includes the death of Prince Arthur..

Great Council held at Northampton by Hubert Walter for all the Barons to swear allegiance to John

Moves the treasury here in 1207

Frequent disregard for ecclesiastical law benefits the town.

1,000 fed fish or meat, bread and beer

- In 1202 Northampton was one of eleven towns which purchased the right to buy and sell dyed cloth. National reputation for fulling and dying with 300 cloth workers in 14 C

# 1205

- John raises an army to reclaim lost lands in Poitou.
- It musters at Northampton
- Said by chronicler Coggleshall to be the largest army ever assembled with 30,000 men.

# 1208

- Trouble erupts with Church. Bishops and monks of Canterbury ejected. Pope retaliates. He ex-communicates John.
- Meeting with Pandulf, the Papal Legate in the Great Hall to accept Stephen Langton as Archbishop. (See NBS website for more details)

- John starts to bring out prisoners and orders punishments
- Orders a priest to be hung, Pandulf says only a priest can judge a priest.
- Another two years before Langton is accepted



- 1213. Barons refuse to support John in recovery of Poitou. Enraged he raises Mercenary army and heads for Nottingham to meet the Barons.
- 28 Aug. Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury catches up with John at Northampton – threatens to excommunicate him.

On 17 February 1215 John, then at Silverstone, addressed a writ to his good men (*probi homines*) of Northampton: 'Know that we have received William Thilly to be your mayor.

We therefore command you to be intendent to him as your mayor, and to cause to be elected twelve of the better and more discreet of your town to expedite with him your affairs in your town.

This was not then a general custom in English boroughs, and therefore he was one of the earliest mayors in England.

19 April 1215. Disaffected Barons assemble at Stamford.

Five earls and forty barons are mentioned by name as present at the muster, with many others they all came with horses and arms, and brought with them " a countless host," estimated to comprise about two thousand knights, besides other horsemen, sergeants-at-arms, and foot soldiers

- 26 April. Barons reach Northampton
- 27 April The Barons are at Brackley where they are due to meet John.
- John sends William Marshall and the Archbishop.
- The Barons send John a list of demands
- John refuses to listen

# The First Barons War 1215



- 5 May. The Barons renounce their oaths of allegiance.
- Proclaim Robert Fitzwalter their leader
- Marshal of the Army of God and of the Holy Church
- May 1215. Castle to be given up by de Marteney. He refuses. Falkes de Breauté takes control.
- The Barons march on Northampton

# The Sieges of Northampton Castle 1215





- The Barons march on Northampton
- Lay siege to the castle for two weeks





- Fitzwalter's standard bearer killed and numerous others
- Lacking siege equipment they move on to Bedford which is given up by William de Beauchamp.
- They march on London
- Men of Northampton attack the Castle.

# **Falkes de Breauté (Fulk de Brent)**

- Name thought to be a nickname from the weapon used in his first murder - Scythe
- Norman Mercenary soldier of common stock.
- The first accurate records of his royal service are from 1206, when he was sent to Poitou by King John on royal service.
- Knighted in 1207.
- Kings steward 1215. Becomes High Sheriff of Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire

- 15 June. Magna Carta signed at Runnymede. Northampton as one of the four great Royal Castles is given to the Barons
- 24 August Pope Innocent III declares the Magna Carta illegal. Stephen Langton is suspended
- John brings mercenary armies in from Europe
- Sept, 1215. Barons march on Northampton. A Fleming Army breaks the siege
- On 28 November 1215, de Breauté captured Hanslope castle, Buckinghamshire, and soon after captured Bedford Castle belonging to William de Beauchamp, and in reward was allowed to keep it.



**VAUXHALL**

**Falkes de Breauté built a hall in London called Falkes Hall in time it became Vauxhall. When a car company began making cars here they also took his heraldic symbol as their emblem**

- The Barons invite Louis son of King Philippe of France to be King, who lays claim to the throne.
- He lands with an army 19 Oct 1216
- John dies 19 Oct 1216, his 9 year old son proclaimed King Henry III
- William Marshal declared regent and reissues a watered down version of Magna Carta.
- Many barons turn back to support the King

# Henry III



# Falkes de Breauté again

- Prince Louis ravaging south.
- De Breauté attacks St Albans and its Abbey in Jan 1217. Drawing troops from Northampton and “other nests of devils”.
- Plays a major part in Battle of Lincoln the same year
- Louis signs peace treaty 11 Sept 1217 and takes his army home
- During the Christmas festival 1217-18 he entertained the king and all his court at Northampton.

- In 1220 William de Forz, Earl of Albemarle 'a feudal adventurer of the worst type,' refuses to surrender the royal castle of Rockingham. It is taken by force by De Breauté.
- During January, 1221, Albemarle, enraged at having to surrender his castle, rose in revolt secretly aided by de Breauté. Attacks Fotheringhay, held by Ranulph Earl of Chester.
- Fotheringhay is poorly garrisoned, helped by a frozen moat he attacks it on all sides, set fire to the door, killing two soldiers.
- Then ravaged the country in all directions. For this he was excommunicated by the legate and 10 bishops.



- An expedition led by the king in person proceeded against him, and he was taken at Fountains Abbey in February.
- 1223 Falkes joined the Earl of Chester and other lords in a plan to seize the Tower
- At Christmas 1223-4 a great council was held at Northampton, and the rebels are excommunicated by the archbishop.

- June 1224. de Breauté is found Guilty of 30 offences by the King's justices and heavily fined.
- Orders the justices to be captured, throws Henry Braybrook into Bedford Castle dungeon.
- The King is at Northampton planning the defence of Poitou
- 20 June – 14 Aug Royalists lay siege to Bedford castle. William Breauté and 80 more are hanged.
- Breauté is tried at Northampton by Stephen Langton and banished and dies in France in 1226.

- 1238. Affray between scholars and followers of the Papal Legate. Scholars from Oxford and Cambridge move to Northampton.
- Growing discontent with Henry's rule.
- 1258 Bloodless Coup. The Provisions of Oxford place Henry under baronial control. Reforms for local Government and justice
- 1263. The dispute goes to arbitration under Louis IX. Rules against Barons on 23 January 1264. Barons under Simon de Montfort. Support from citizens of London

- 3 April 1264 Henry moves his court to Oxford and unfurled his Royal Standard.
- It was taken as a declaration of War against the rebels

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Barons War

## 1264 - 1265



6 March. Henry summonses his men to assemble on 30 March under pretext of launching a campaign against the Welsh

3 April. March out of Oxford the red dragon banner with sapphire eyes at the head, through Bicester

4. April. Advance party arrives outside Northampton

# The Royal Army

## **Commander: King Henry III**

Prince Edward

Richard of Cornwall

William de Valence

Roger Mortimer

Roger Clifford

William de la Zouche

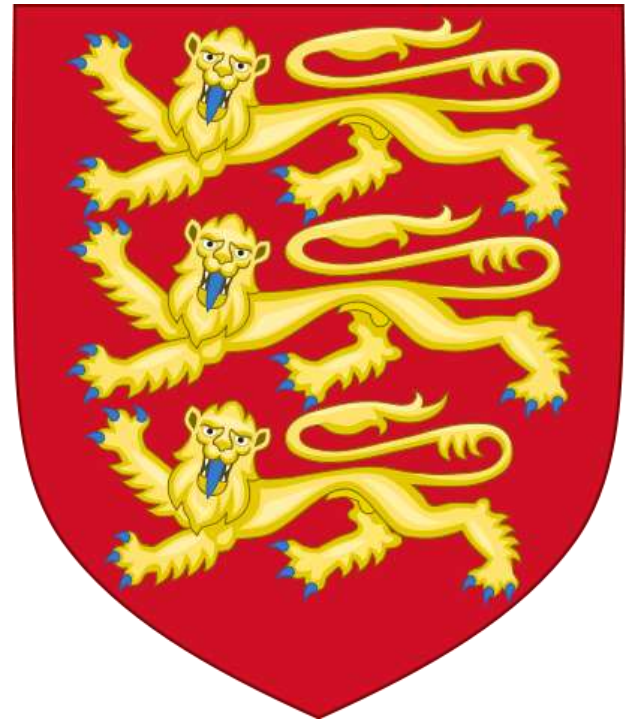
John de Vaux

Hugh Bigod

Phillip Basset

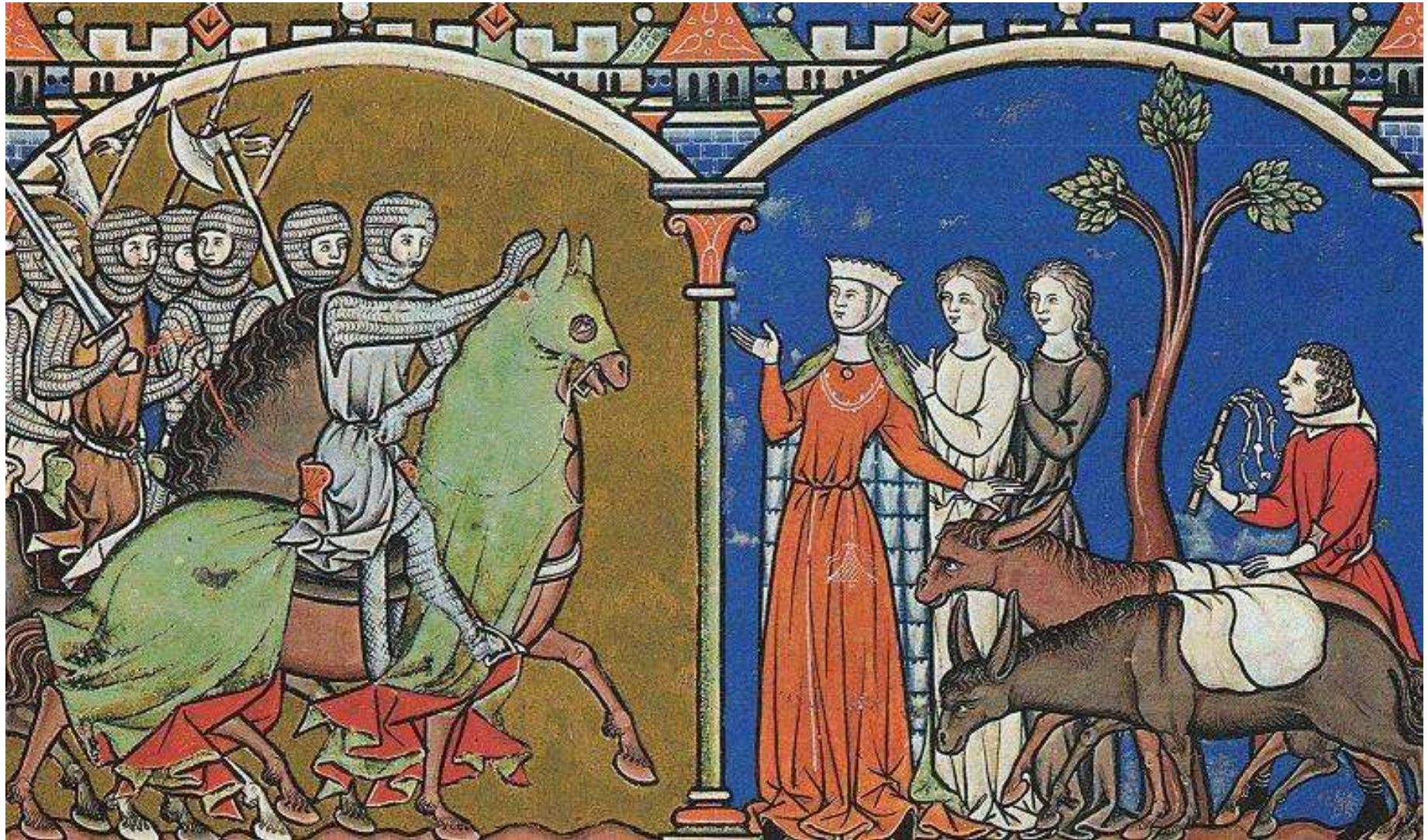
John de Balliol

Many other great men





# The Rebels assemble at Northampton





# The Rebel Army

## **Commander: Simon de Montfort (younger)**

Peter de Montfort

Roger de Walton (constable)

Adam de Neufmarche

Baldwin Wake

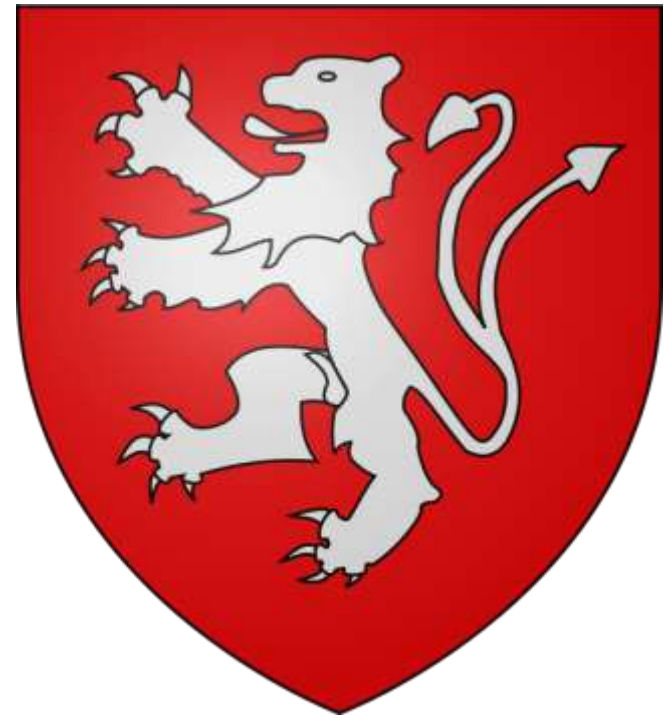
William Ferrers

Simon de Pateshull

William Marshal (custos pacis)

Over 15 Bannerets and 60 knights

University scholars



- William Marshal and Walter Hyldeburn summon the men of the Shire “to hear the King’s command” and force them to defend the town’s walls.

# Stephen de la Haye

- Come from the north to collect a rent
- Arrested by the rebels
- Escapes during the fighting – swims the river
- Arrested by the royal forces as a rebel
- Entered a town in rebel hands under his own free will when he should have gone to the King

Walls in a poor state of repair

1258, 1259, 1260 west wall at point of collapse, some turrets roofless.

Temporary patching with timber

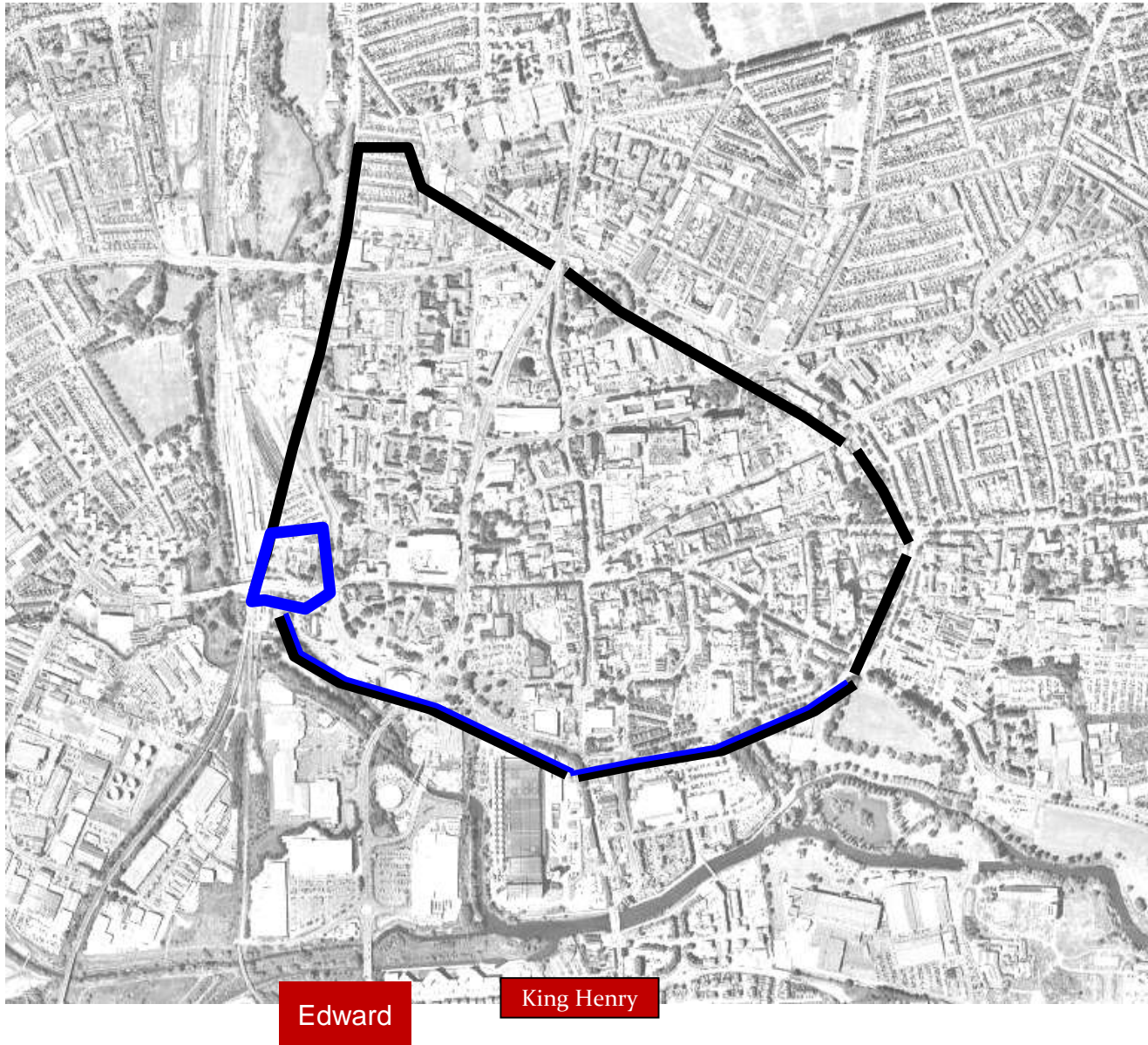
# The Battle of Northampton

## 5<sup>th</sup> April 1264





# The Attack on the Town - Dawn

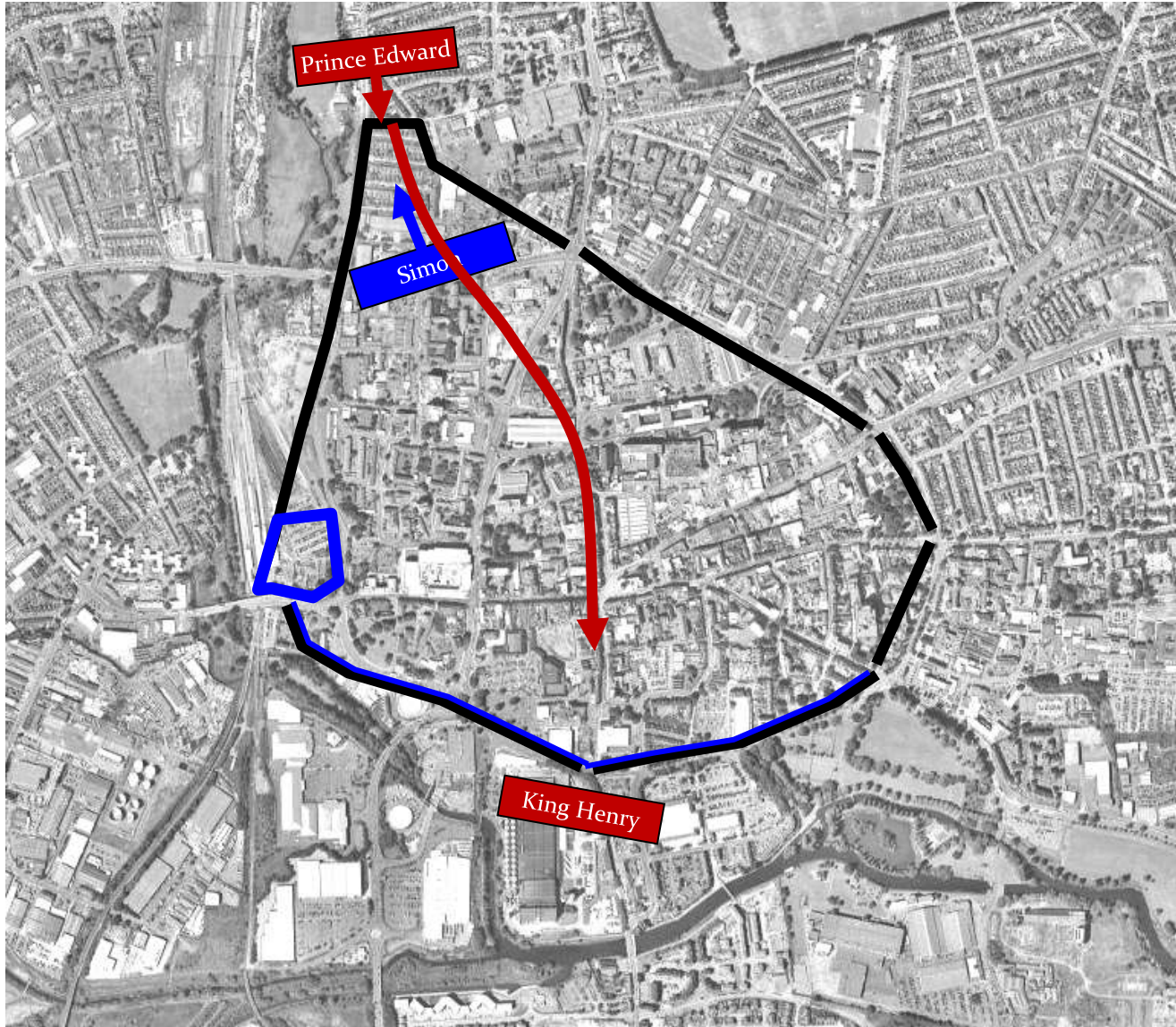








# The Assault





# The Students

Fight with “utmost zeal”

“Had their own banner and did more damage with their bows, slings and crossbows than all the rest”

# The defence collapses

- The Priory is badly damaged
- Some flee into the churches
- Peter de Montfort withdraws to the castle
- Early 6 April the castle surrenders
- The town is pillaged by the Royal Army
- Many inhabitants killed
- Simon senior reaches St. Albans

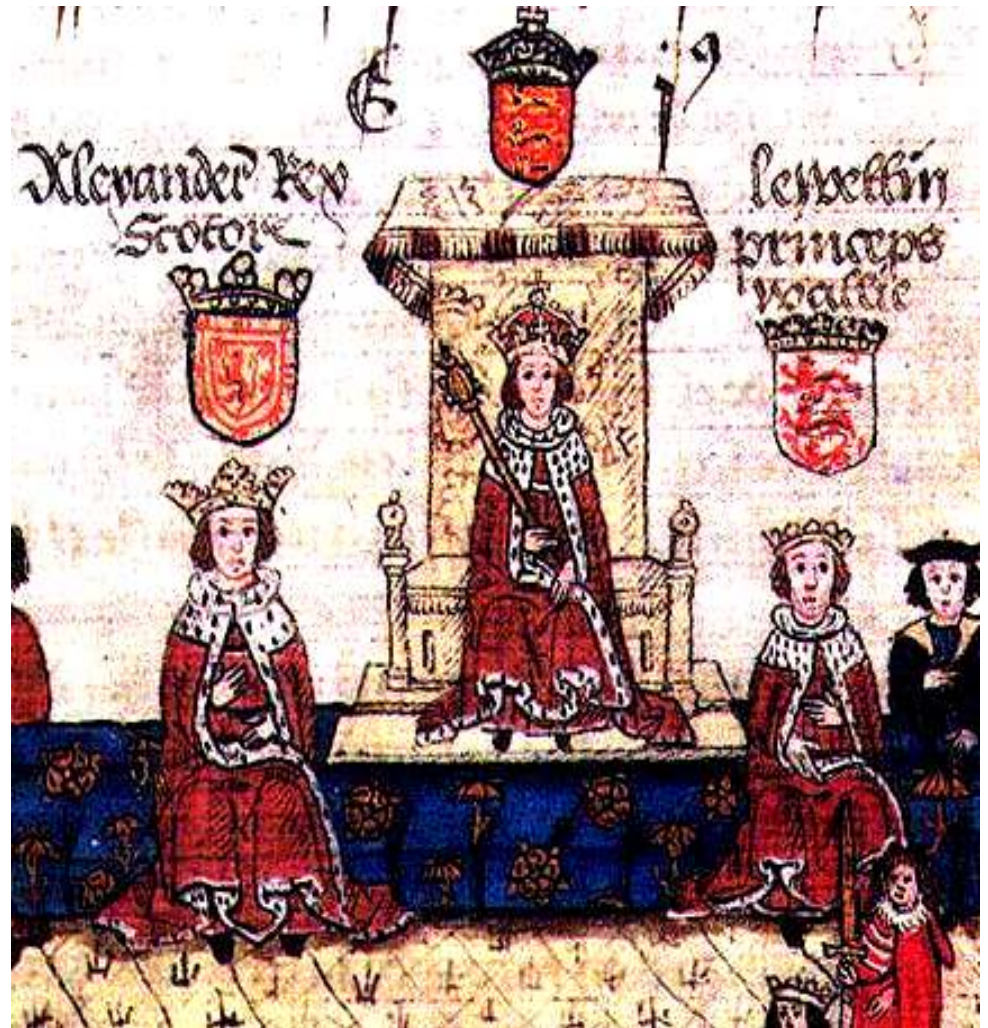
# Consequences

- All scholars are expelled from Northampton.
- “...no University should ever after be attempted to be removed to, or founded, in Northampton”.
- 1265. Northampton used as a base for Edward to attack Kenilworth
- Simon the younger stands trial at Northampton. Sent into exile for a year.

# Edward I

Longshanks

20 November 1272–1307



24 June 1268. Ottobuono preaches for a crusade at Holy Sepulchre . Edward, Edmund and a cousin take up the cross.

28 August 1290. The treaty of Northampton, promises Scotland will remain free without subjugation.

Edward taxes clergy. They refuse to pay. It becomes open season on the Clergy.

March 1297. Edward begins calling in debts.

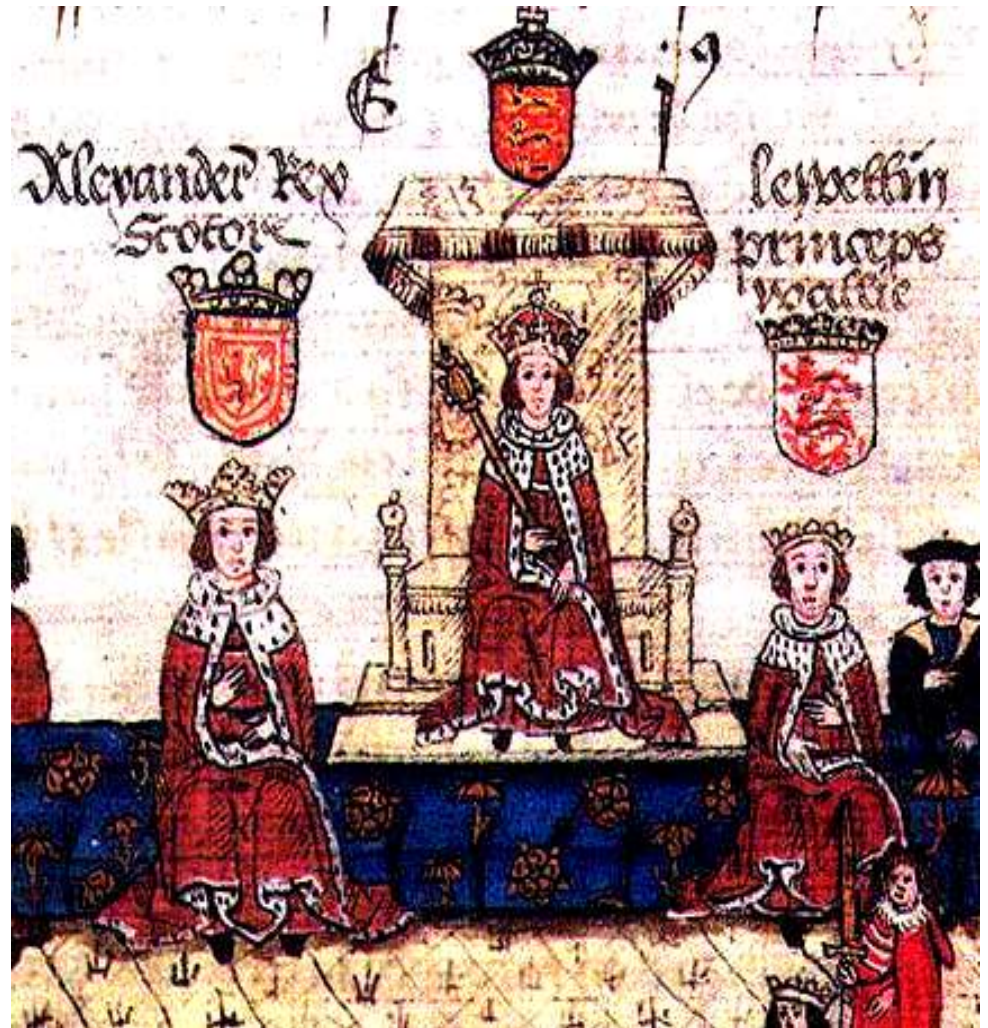
August 1297. Earls call an assembly at Northampton. Civil War looms.

21 Sept 1297. They meet at Northampton with 1500 horse and a large number of foot. But in the immediate aftermath of the Battle of Stirling Bridge support returns to the king.

# Edward I

Longshanks

20 November 1272–1307



# The Jews in Northampton

- Jews of Northampton occur on the Pipe Rolls from 1170
- there was an anti-Semitic riot in 1190
- In 1194 Northampton with 39 Jews comes fifth on the list of English towns with Jewries, after London (112), Lincoln (82), Norwich (42), and Gloucester (40)
- The Plea Rolls of the Jewish Exchequer show the Jews of Northampton acting as bankers for both town and county.
- In 1277 the Northampton Jews were charged with a ritual murder, and in 1278 a general attack on them for clipping and forging coin led to the execution and forfeiture of many Northampton Jews.



# Death of Queen Eleanor 1290

- Dies near Lincoln
- Body brought to London
- 12 Crosses erected
- The only three crosses still standing are those at Geddington, Hardingstone, and Waltham Cross,



# Edward II

7 July 1307 –25 January  
1327



- Edward I. died on the 7 August, 1307, during his last expedition against the Scots.
- 26 August Edward summoned a parliament to meet him 'for a special purpose' at Northampton.
- To make arrangements for the funeral of his father.
- To arrange his coronation
- To arrange his marriage to Isabella

# John Deydras

- Deydras arrived at Beaumont Palace in Oxford in early 1318, and claimed it for his own. He was, he said, really the King of England, and observers noted that he closely resembled Edward. Deydras offered to fight Edward in single combat for the throne. Rumours began to spread across England.
- Deydras was finally arrested and brought to Edward at Northampton in June 1318. Deydras insulted the king, again offered to fight him in single combat and repeated his claims about Edward's parentage, resulting in a trial for sedition. Deydras confessed during the trial to having made up his story, blaming his pet cat which he claimed was the devil in disguise,

# Edward III

25 January 1327–1377



# **The Treaty of Northampton (Shameful Peace)**

- Signed by Robert the Bruce in Edinburgh and ratified by Parliament at Northampton on 1 May 1328 after the First War of Independence that began with Edward I
- Recognise Scotland as a fully independent nation.
- Robert the Bruce and his successors the rightful rulers of Scotland.
- Overturned by Edward III in 1333.



# **WILLIAM DE BOHUN, EARL OF NORTHAMPTON (c. 1312–1360)**

- The fifth son of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, and Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward I.
- assisted in the arrest of Roger Mortimer in 1330, participated in the renewed wars with Scotland
- On 16 March 1337, Bohun was ennobled as earl of Northampton, one of six new earls created to enlarge the number of English aristocrats capable of providing military leadership in the coming war with France.



- His most stunning feat was commanding an English force to victory against a much bigger French force at the Battle of Morlaix in 1342.
- present at the great English victories at Sluys and was a commander at Crécy.
- He negotiated two treaties with France, one in 1343 and one in 1350



# The Hundred Years War

- Northampton supplies men and equipment
- 1341-120 Archers
- 1346 – 35 sent to Portsmouth (second to Bristol). 240 qrs of corn, 180 tuns of salt pork.
- 1350 – 8 sent to Sandwich (London – 100)
- Archery – 1341-200, (300 sheaves) 1356 – 400 (600 sheaves)

# Edward III

M

Phillipa of Hainault

Edward  
The Black Prince

M

Joan of Kent



Richard II

Lionel of Antwerp

M

Elizabeth de Burgh



Phillipa

John of Gaunt  
Duke of Lancaster

M

Blanche of Lancaster



Henry IV



Henry V



Henry VI

Edmund of  
Langley  
Duke of York

M

Isabella of Castile



Edward  
Duke of York

Thomas of  
Woodstock



Dukes of  
Buckingham

Richard  
Earl of  
Cambridge

- As Duke of Lancaster, Gaunt inherits large tracts of land in Northamptonshire, especially in the east of the county including Daventry and Long Buckby. Also Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Raunds. Kingsthorpe remains under royal control and would eventually be given to Margaret of Anjou.

# Sir John Knyvet

- Knyvett was eldest son of Richard Knyvet of Southwick, Northamptonshire, and a keeper of the "Forest of Clyve" (now part of Rockingham Forest).
- He married Eleanor, daughter of Ralph, Lord Basset of Weldon, and they had four sons and a daughter. He owned and improved Southwick Manor, which he inherited from his father.
- A lawyer and administrator. He was Chief Justice of the King's Bench from 1365 to 1372, and Lord Chancellor of England from 1372 to 1377. His rise due to his close association with John of Gaunt.





# Black Death 1348-50





# Richard II

21 June 1377 –  
29 September 1399



# 5 Nov 1381.

Last major parliament held in Northampton. Part of the proceedings was to be the trial of John Kirby who was accused of murdering a Genoese merchant. The Parliament was three days late in starting because many were still in the north and floods blocked roads and Kirby was quickly dragged outside and hanged.

Poll tax introduced. Wat Tyler's revolt follows as a consequence.

# Henry IV

Henry Bolingbroke

3 April 1367– 20 March 1413



- September 1400, Henry is staying at Northampton when he hears of Owain Glyndŵr's rebellion.
- July 1403, at Higham Ferrers when he hears of Northumberland's rebellion. Marches North battle of Shrewsbury follows
- Glyndŵr's and Richard II forces plan to meet at Northampton on Midsummer Day 1404 although the rebellion is put down before it starts.

# Henry V

20 March 1413–1422



- Edward Duke of York given Fotheringhay.
- Builds Church of St Mary and All Saints  
1412
- Southampton Plot – Richard of Cambridge

# Battle of Azincourt

25 Oct 1415

- York killed in the battle.
- Buried in the church
- Marshal Boucicaut (French commander), Counts of Eu and Richemont held in the castle
- Dukedom of York given to Richard



# THE LOLLARDS

# John Wycliffe

- Born c. 1330
- Prominent theologian and diplomat
- Primarily against corruption in the church, and advocates the bible in English.
- Dismissed from Oxford 1381
- Protected by Gaunt
- Retires to Lutterworth
- Dies 1384



# The Lollards

- The six Lollard Knights – Thomas Latimer (Braybrooke Castle Ashby, Rothwell and Chipping Warden) and John Trussel (Gayton, Flore Scaldwell) during reign of Richard II. Walsingham also names John Pecche who has land in Fenny Compton and Wormleighton
- John Ball a Lollard preacher one of the leaders of the Peasant Revolt. Lollards now considered a threat to Society and Church
- Issue the “12 Conclusions” posted on the door of St. Pauls
- Latimer called before the council in May 1388 for possessing heretical books
- 1401 – Henry IV passes *De heretico comburendo*. This bans translating the bible and authorises burning of heretics

# December 1388

- John Wodarde of Knebworth, chaplain, was staying at the village of Chipping Warden and preaching heresy there.
- Bishop of Lincoln sends men to serve a writ on Wodarde. Six successive weeks
- His visits were marked by riots and disorders by the people of Warden in support of the Lollard preacher “drove him into the church in fear of his life”
- March 8th 1389, the King ordered the Sheriff of Northamptonshire to arrest the 45 'believers, maintainers and favourers of heretics in Warden

- Close Rolls preserve all their names which includes four women. Most were probably villagers of Warden.
- The list includes the village smith, John Brackley who was present during some of the riots, his two servants, and a number of family groups.
- Thomas Draper who is described as of Byfield
- Thomas Wakelyn of Trafford, a junior member of the family of Eydon, twice mayor of Northampton

# Northampton

- Active lollard congregation existed in Northampton by the autumn of 1392.
- petition sent to chancery by a Northampton woolman Richard Stormsworth, early 1393. This consists mainly of a series of complaints against the then mayor, John Fox and others accusing them of heresy.

- .....keeps in his house and in his service one Richard Bullok chaplain who was convicted of heresies at Northampton before Thomas Botiller Archdeacon of Northampton and one Janyn Colyn who was an apprentice in mercery at London (and) who gave up mercery to be a lollard. And the said Janyn was the first abbetor and sustainer of lollardy in Northampton. And (the said) Mayor has drawn to his company and counsel one Thomas Compworth of the county of Oxford who was convicted before the Chancellor and University of Oxford of many errors and heresies
- ...And the said Mayor has drawn counsel and covine one Master William Northwold lollard and common preacher of the new doctrine of lollardy and common teacher...the said Master William lived luxuriously in the house of St. Andrew of Northampton and there he has made such a debate between the Prior and the monks that the house is almost destroyed and many of the monks have fled....



- Sept 1393 Bishop of Lincoln personal investigation in the town reporting that “a majority of the townspeople were infected with heresy”
- Anne Palmer who lived next to St. Peters Church accused of receiving Lollards day and night, held secret meetings, and also “publicly preached and maintained a number of heresies of the most extreme kind” imprisoned in the bishop's castle at Banbury before trial in London. Six more imprisoned in Northampton castle.

# Sir John Oldcastle – Lord Cobham

- A close friend of King Henry V
- The basis for Falstaff in *Henry IV*
- brought to trial in 1413 after evidence of his Lollard beliefs was uncovered.
- Escaped from the Tower of London and organizes an insurrection,



# Oldcastle's Revolt

## Jan 1414

- Lollardy assumes a definite political character.
- The plan was to seize the King and his brothers during a Twelfth-night mumming at Eltham, and establish some sort of commonwealth. the abbey dissolved and their riches shared out.
- The Lollards due to assemble in St Giles's Fields - Camden on 10 January
- King Henry, forewarned of their intention by a spy, moved to London, and arranges an ambush
- They were easily dispersed by the king and his forces
- Oldcastle escapes and goes on the run. Involved in the Southampton plot of 1415

- under the leadership of John Freest of Northampton, were Thomas Mandesford of Northampton, John Turnour of Kingsthorpe, Thomas Gyle of Brixworth, Thomas Spencer, Vicar of Pitsford, William Tebaud from Holcot, William Ashe, Harlstone.
- Daventry - hostiler', Philip Turnour, and a parchmentmaker, John Asser, Edward Clerk, Eleanora Warde, Roger Swan, who was also indicted of violating an image of the Holy Trinity. Robert Aleyn of Blakesley and John Wykyn 'honeymonger' of Towcester

- June of 1416, Oldcastle in hiding at the house of Philip Turnour in Daventry
- Simon Horn, a yeoman of Daventry accused of conspiring with Turnour on the 8th June, 1416, knowing him to be a traitor and to have received Oldcastle in his home.
- Turnour was arrested and died of pestilence in the King's Bench prison soon after.
- John Heywode, husbondman, who occupied a house formerly belonging to Philip Tumour, was accused of sheltering Oldcastle on May 8th 1417

- The Lollards rebel during the summer of 1416. Subversive bills attacking the Church were distributed in every sizeable house or inn at St. Albans, Northampton, and Reading.

- 29th May 1417 Sir Thomas Talbot was accused of having conspired with Oldcastle and others at Silverstone, to join with the Scots and other national enemies to kill the King at Kenilworth
- July being sheltered by Hugh Fraynof and Joan his wife at Silverstone: another villager, John Henkeman, and his wife Alice, may also have been involved.
- The royal authorities presumably had wind of his presence there, for he decamped in such a hurry that he left behind him a complete suit of plate armour.



The next day he was at Byfield, where he and John Langacre, a mercer of London and High Wycombe who had taken part in the 1414 revolt, was sheltered by William atte Well and his wife Beatrice. Oldcastle escaped again but Langacre and William atte Well were taken prisoner, and executed at Northampton, along with Hugh Frayn. Their heads were displayed on the gates, of Coventry and Northampton.

The Byfield pub the "Cross Tree", said to be named after a place in the surrounding woodland where 'some religious people' met secretly to avoid persecution

Simon the parish clerk of Byfield accused of cutting off and burning the head of an image of the Virgin on 26th December 1416.

Support for lollardy in Northamptonshire was still strong in August 1417.

Repingdon establishes a commission headed by the abbot of St. James', Northampton to proceed against heretics and all those who supported, received or defended Oldcastle.

This commission handed over a number of unnamed persons to the Bishop for correction

November 1417 Oldcastle was captured by Edward Charleton, 5th Baron Cherleton in Wales. Brought to London in a horse-litter. Executed 14 December



# HENRY VI

*'He was a man of pure simplicity of mind, truthful almost to a fault. He never made a promise he did not keep, never knowingly did an injury to anyone. Rectitude and justice ruled his conduct in all public affairs.*

John Blakman





- 6 November 1429. Henry VI succeeds to the throne aged 9 months.
- He is crowned king of England at Westminster aged 8 and the following year King of France.

- After Duke of Bedford's death in 1435, his wife Jacquetta of Luxembourg had been granted dower lands on condition that she did not re-marry without a royal licence. Sir Richard Woodville of Grafton Regis in Northamptonshire, son of the Sir Richard Woodville who had served as Bedford's chamberlain, was commissioned by Henry to bring her back to England. During the journey, the couple fell in love and married in secret in 1436. He was created Baron Rivers by Henry VI on 9 May 1448

- In May 1437, Sir John Cornwall married to Henry IV's sister is created Lord Fanhope in 1432, and began to build a new castle at Ampthill in Bedfordshire.
- less than five miles away from Reginald Lord Grey of Ruthin's principal residence of Wrest Park near Silsoe
- In January 1439, violence flared between the two in Bedford when they met at a commission of the peace at the shire hall.

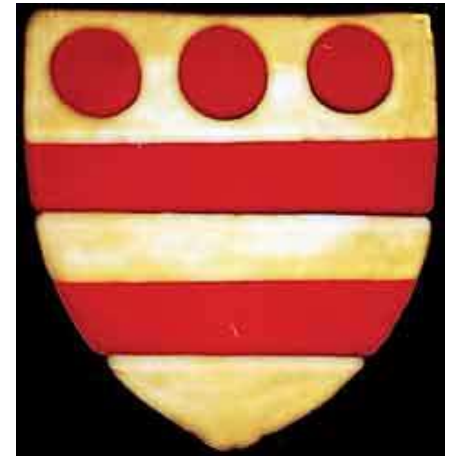


- Fanhope claimed that Grey had brought 800 men armed to the teeth, from his estates in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.
- In 1442, violence flared up again in Bedford and in Northampton where the common bell was rang. The king had to send a letter commanding the burgesses of Northampton to suppress all riotous assemblies on 6 July.
- 12 July 1443 Grey was commanded to keep the peace with the people of Northampton

# **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE'S MEDIEVAL GENTRY**

# The Wake's of Blisworth

- There were 6 generations of Thomas Wakes all of whom owned Blisworth, all father to son nearly all of whom inherited young and died young after playing important parts in Northamptonshire.
- Sir Thomas Wake I, married Elizabeth Cransley from Kettering. He was a Knight of the County, the Kings Chief Falconer, Sheriff in 1329 and again in 1335. He was a distinguished soldier. He took 200 Archers to France in 1345 and fought with the Black Prince son of King Edward III at Crecy. He died in 1346 during the Siege of Calais.
- His son Sir Thomas Wake II married Alice, a daughter of Sir John Pattishall. He was summoned to Parliament in 1341. Amongst his duties in Northamptonshire he was a Justice of the Peace. He died in 1379. His son Thomas Wake III married Maud, sister of Sir John Pigot. He died only 4 years after his father in 1383.



- Thomas Wake V was born in 1402 and was known as The Great Wake owning a huge number of Manors including Blisworth, Collingtree and Milton Malsor.
- Thomas V was Sheriff of Northamptonshire on 3 occasions and was a Justice of the Peace for Northamptonshire and Somerset and served in the Parliament at Winchester 1449. He died in 1459 aged 56 and was succeeded by his son.
- Thomas Wake VI was born in 1435. He too inherited aged 23 and was Sheriff on two occasions in 1461 and 1463. He married Elizabeth Beauchamp, a daughter of the Earl of Warwick. She was 20 years older than him. Commissioner of Array for Northampton and took part in the 1460 Battle of Northampton. In Jul 1461 he was on a commission to take the possessions of Sir Thomas Thorpe and Sir Thomas Tresham into the King's hands. Thomas died in 1476.
- His son Roger Wake born 1452, and inherited Blisworth from his father, aged 24, in the reign of Edward IV. He married Elizabeth Catesby of Ashby St Legers and was Sheriff on two occasions.

- By Act of Parliament Roger's lands were later restored to him. He lived until 1503. His and his wife's tomb in Blisworth Church.
- Roger's son, another Thomas succeeded. He married Isobel Sapcotes from Burley on the Hill in Rutland.
- Shortly after his father's death Thomas was sent to the Tower "by reason of certain trespass he had done". His mother Elizabeth continued to live at Blisworth and by means of bribery managed to get him released and pardoned.

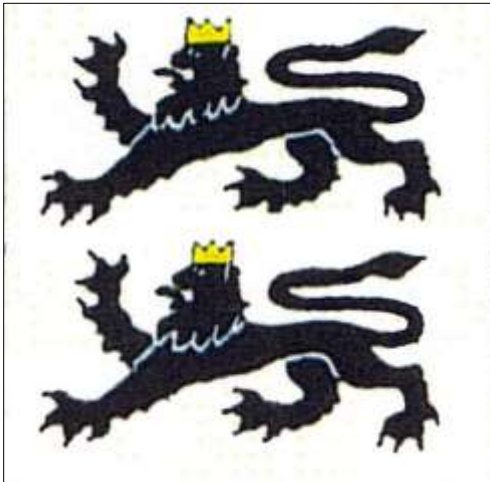


# The Catesby's of Ashby St. Ledger

- The Catesby's were originally from Ladbroke in Warwickshire
- John Catesby was MP for the county seven times between 1354 and 1365.
- He married Emma Cranford from Ashby St. Ledger in the 1360's.
- He died in 1405 leaving three sons: William, John and Robert, among whom his estates were divided. William, the eldest, died within three years, leaving John as heir to the bulk of the property.
- John, who became a retainer of Richard, earl of Warwick, sat for Northamptonshire in 1425 and 1429.



# William Catesby





- The son of Sir William Catesby (died 1478) and Philippa, daughter and heiress of Sir William Bishopston, he was trained for the law in the Inner Temple. As an aspiring lawyer Catesby initially progressed in the service of William, 1st Lord Hastings.
- He married Margaret, daughter of William La Zouche, 6th Baron Zouche of Harringworth; the couple had three sons.
- Upon the death of his father he inherited a large number of estates in the English Midlands and was land-agent for many others.
- His daughter Elizabeth married Roger Wake.

# Lovell's of Titchmarsh

- 1244 - John Lovell II married Maud de Sydenham, who brought the manor of Titchmarsh into the family.
- John Lovell III received a licence to crenellate his manor house at Titchmarsh in 1304 the newer building was probably built in the years following. However, the castle was already in a state of disrepair by 1361. John Lovell V had two sons who were both called John. John Lovell VI died in 1363 still underage.



- His younger brother, John Lovell VII, restored the family's fortunes. John Lovell VII was also heavily involved in with the royal court. He began his 'career' as a courtier in the last years of Edward III's reign, was first summoned to parliament in 1375, and continued to be involved at the centre of government until shortly before his death in 1408. In 1405 he became a Knight of the garter.
- He married Maud Holland, granddaughter and heiress of Robert Holland, whose younger brother was the first husband of Joan of Kent, who later married Edward 'the Black Prince'. To commemorate this union, John Lovell VII not only used as his coat-of-arms the Lovell arms quartered with the Holland arms but also by styling himself 'Lord Lovell and Lord Holland' and built a new castle at Wardour.

# Francis Lovell, 1st Viscount Lovell

- Francis was the son of John Lovell, 8th Baron Lovell of Titmarsh and Joan Beaumont, daughter of John Beaumont, 1st Viscount Beaumont. When his father died he became a ward of of Richard Neville, where his close association Richard started.
- In 1466, he married Anne FitzHugh, daughter of Henry FitzHugh, 5th Baron FitzHugh. Fitz Hugh had married the Earl of Warwick's sister Alice Neville and supported Warwick's rebellion against Edward IV in 1470.



- When Edward IV had re-established his rule in 1471, he granted the wardship of Francis Lovell, who was still underage, to his sister Elizabeth and her husband John de la Pole, 2nd Duke of Suffolk, where he also started his long association with the de la Poles.

# The Tresham's of Sywell

- William, the son of Thomas Tresham of Sywell, a man born of common stock, trained as a lawyer and was elected as a Knight of the Shire in twelve successive parliaments. In 1424 he was also appointed a Justice of the Peace for Northamptonshire. Tresham spent intermittent periods in the service of the king, such as in 1415, when he reviewed the accounts of the King's officials in southern Wales.
- Married Isabel, daughter of Sir William Vaux of Harrowden.
- In 1430 he was appointed as a councillor to Humphrey Stafford, 1st Duke of Buckingham, and continued to receive a salary until at least 1447. In 1432 he was made one of the two Attorneys-general of Henry Beaufort, and spent much of the 1430s on various commissions of the crown, including one to Northamptonshire in 1434 to investigate the hiding of royal funds, and another in 1439 to look at the value of royal lands, again in Northamptonshire.



# William Tresham

- He was elected Speaker of the House of Commons for the 1439 Parliament, when there were attempts to reform the King's household. In 1438 he bought Rushton Hall in Northamptonshire as a family seat.
- He was again elected Speaker in 1442 and 1447 and continued his royal service, mainly for the Duchy of Lancaster. He was made a feoffee of the duchy estates in 1446 and in 1448 was made a chancellor of those feoffees, followed by an appointment as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 3 June 1442 and in 1443 along with his son, Thomas, appointed as stewards to the Duchy of Lancaster's estates in Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire,
- He was much-liked at court, and as a result was appointed to politically sensitive cases, such as a 1447 commission directed at members of the household of Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester.
- In 1450 he was himself indicted for treason in the aftermath of Jack Cade's rebellion in Kent, but before any sort of commission could take place he was murdered reputedly on his way to meet Richard of York by Lord Grey of Ruthin's men in Thorpland Close, Moulton.



# Thomas Tresham

- By 1446 Thomas was serving as an esquire for Henry VI, being made an usher of the king's chamber in 1455. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Huntingdonshire in 1446, a position he held until 1459, and was returned to Parliament for Buckinghamshire in 1447 and Huntingdonshire in 1449.
- After recovering from his injuries he again began to take government appointments; he was High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire between 1451 and 1452, a Justice of the Peace between 1452 and 1460 and an MP for Northamptonshire in 1453.
- Tresham stayed in favour throughout the disturbances of 1456, and was again made High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire between 1457 and 1458, and for Sussex and Surrey between 1458 and 1459.

- He was returned to parliament in 1459 for Northamptonshire again, and the parliament, packed with anti-Yorkists, chose him to act as Speaker of the House of Commons. After the Parliament ended he was appointed to various anti-Yorkist commissions of Oyer and terminer, followed by an appointment as Comptroller of the Household in 1460.
- He fought at the Battle of Northampton in 1460, but denied having been at the Battle of Wakefield.
- He joined up with Margaret of Anjou in January 1461 and fought at the Second Battle of St Albans, where he was knighted. He fought at the Battle of Towton with his son John and was captured; despite being one of the lords on whom Edward IV had placed a £100 bounty, he only suffered forfeiture.

- He secured a pardon in 1464 and again represented Northamptonshire in Parliament in 1467, but failed to regain his lands and possessions. As a result he took part in the plots of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford, and was imprisoned in the Tower of London from 1468 until Henry VI regained the throne in 1470. He was rewarded for his services and loyalty with various grants, including that of Huntingdon Castle, to be held for seven years.
- After the Battle of Barnet he fled to meet Margaret of Anjou but was captured and executed on 6 May 1471

- He married Mary, daughter of William, Lord Zouche of Harringworth, his son, John, was born in 1462. John was restored to his father's estates after the reversal of the attainder by Henry VII in 1485. John's son was Sir Thomas Tresham (d.1559). A daughter, Isabella, was born in 1471 and married Sir Henry de Vere of Addington,



- In 1566, Thomas married Muriel, a daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton and Elizabeth Hussey. The Throckmorton family was a wealthy Catholic family from Coughton Court in Warwickshire.
- Thomas and Muriel had eleven children, including;
- Francis who inherited the estates. In 1605 became involved in the Gunpowder Plot and died in the Tower of London.
- Mary (d. 13 October 1664) who married Thomas Brudenell, 1st Earl of Cardigan

# William Lucy of Dallington

- Born in 1404
- 1430       Went to France in the retinue of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford.
- 1431/2     Knighted.
- 1445       Returned to England
- 1449-50   M.P. for Buckinghamshire
- 1453       Commissioned to deal with the fighting between the Nevilles and Percys in Yorkshire.
- Nov 1459. Sheriff of Herefordshire
- Killed at the Battle of Northampton in 1460
- His widow married John Wake, younger son of Thomas

# Edward IV

- Boasted of three mistresses “one the merriest, another the wiliest, the third the holiest harlot in his realm”
- , Elizabeth Lucy (Wayte), who was probably the widow of William Lucy and who would go on to marry Thomas Wake. Plus Lady Eleanor Butler, daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury and widow of Lord Sudbury, and Elizabeth (Jane) Shore
- At least three illegitimate children – Arthur (Elizabeth Lucy?), Elizabeth, Grace



# Greys of Ruthin



- Reginald Lord Grey of Ruthin's principal residence of Wrest Park near Silsoe. He held manors all across Northants including Castle Ashby, and had properties in the town.
- In May 1437, Sir John Cornwall married to Henry IV's sister is created Lord Fanhope in 1432, and began to build a new castle at Ampthill in Bedfordshire, less than five miles away from Wrest Park.
- In January 1439, violence flared between the two in Bedford when they met at a commission of the peace at the shire hall.

- Fanhope claimed that Grey had brought 800 men armed to the teeth, from his estates in Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.
- In 1442, violence flared up again in Bedford and Northampton where the common bell was rang. The king had to send a letter commanding the burgesses of Northampton to suppress all riotous assemblies on 6 July.
- 12 July 1443, Grey was commanded to keep the peace with the people of Northampton
- 1452, involved in the murder of William Tresham.
- Changed side at the critical moment in the 1460 Battle of Northampton

# Greens of Boughton

- **Sir Henry Green**, Lord of Boughton, **KG** (died 6 August 1369) was a lawyer. He was the son of Sir Thomas Green, Lord of Boughton and Lucy le Zouche, daughter of Sir Eudes le Zouche and Millicent de Cantilupe. Early in his career he served both Queen consort Isabel and her grandson, Edward the Black Prince.
- He was Chief Justice of the King's Bench from May 1361 to October 1365. He was speaker of the House of Lords in two Parliaments (1363-64). He was made justice of the Court of Common Pleas in 1354, and knighted by King Edward III. In 1357 he was excommunicated for non-appearance at the trial of Thomas de Lisle, bishop of Ely, in Avignon.



- In 1365, while Chief Justice, he was allegedly arrested along with Sir William de Skipwith, the chief baron of the exchequer, and stripped of his office. The charges were probably corruption; both Green and Skipwith were fined for their offenses.
- Green married to Katherine Drayton, daughter of Sir Simon Drayton.
- He died in 1369, and was buried in the church in Boughton. At his death his possessions descended on his two sons Henry and Thomas.
- During his life he is credited to have bought the village of Greens Norton, a village in Northamptonshire for a price of 20 shillings.

- **Sir Thomas Greene IV** was born about 1427 in Green's Norton. He married Matilda Throckmorton about 1448. He was Commissioner of Array and on a Commission to determine the provision of archers in 1457. Fought for the Lancastrians at Wakefield, 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Albans and Towton. He was killed at the Battle of Barnet in 1471.
- **Sir Thomas Greene VI** was born about 1472 in Horton, Gloucestershire, England. He is best known as the grandfather of Katherine Parr, last wife of Henry VIII. He was sent to the Tower of London in 1505 on a charge of treason, for being involved with the de la Poles and died there on 9 November 1506. He married Jane Fogge about 1488 in England leaving two daughters and co-heiresses-Ann, wife of Nicholas Lord Vaux of Harrowden; and Maud, who married Sir Thomas Parr of Kendal. Of their three children, William became Earl of Essex and 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Northampton;



Thomas Green III and his wife Phillipa. Greens Norton Church



A brass erected to the memory of Sir Thomas Greene IV and Matilda (or Maud) Throckmorton, the daughter of John Throckmorton, Under-Treasurer of England. Church of St Bartholomew at Greens Norton.





# Sir Henry Green of Drayton

- Born in Greens Norton, he was the son of Sir Henry Green, by his second marriage to Katherine Drayton, daughter of Sir John Drayton of Drayton.
- Green inherited Drayton House in Northamptonshire at his father's death. He became a JP in 1380 and MP for Huntingdonshire in 1390, for Northamptonshire in 1394 and 1397 and finally in the autumn of 1397 MP for Wiltshire. He also served in France with John of Gaunt.
- He became a close confidante of King Richard II. Along with Sir John Bussy and Sir William Bagot he was appointed one of the king's 'continual councillors' who gained an unsavoury reputation. At one point they advised the king to confiscate the lands of the exiled Henry Bolingbroke, Earl of Hereford.
- When Bolingbroke returned from exile in 1399 to reclaim his inheritance, the three councillors decided flight was the best option. Bussy and Green sought sanctuary in Bristol Castle but were delivered up to Bolingbroke on 23 July 1399, who had them beheaded the following day.
- He married Maud (or Matilda) Mauduit, daughter and heiress of Thomas Mauduit, by whom he had several children, including a daughter, Eleanor, who married Sir John Fitzwilliam (d. 5 July 1417).<sup>1</sup> He was succeeded by his son, Ralph Greene.
- All three continual councillors (referred to as "caterpillars") feature in Shakespeare's historical play *King Richard II*, generally listed as "Bushy, Baghot and Green".

# Ralph GREEN of Drayton

(c.1379-1417)

- Son of Sir Henry jnr Sheriff, Northants, 1404, 1407, 1414 and Wilts 1406. J.p. Wilts. 1410-12, Northants. 1413-17. Escheator for Northants and Rutland 1413-14.
- MP Northants 1404 and 1410.
- Fought against the Welsh and was an esquire of the body to Henry IV
- Died on campaign in Normandy with Henry V in 1417.
- Buried in Lowick Church



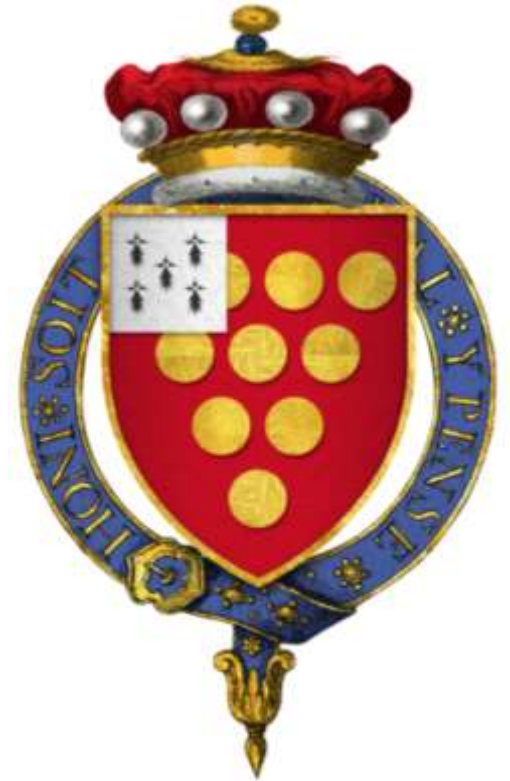
# Sir Thomas Thorpe

- Thorpe was of unknown parentage, but was almost certainly a native of Northamptonshire, where he later acquired the manors of Barnwell All Saints and Lilford.
- He probably owed advancement to the patronage of the Beauforts, with whom Thorpe was associated in the grant of a wardship in 1443.
- His parliamentary career began in Oct 1449 when he was elected junior knight of the shire (MP) of Northamptonshire along with Thomas Tresham.
- By 1452 he was the Third Baron of the Exchequer and Knight of the Shire for Essex. In 1453, he was elected Speaker for the first part of the 19th Parliament of King Henry VI. However, the following year, he was imprisoned in the Fleet Prison for falsely confiscating property of the Duke of York and was replaced as Speaker by Sir Thomas Charlton.

- In 1455, Thorpe became Chancellor of the Exchequer and was with the King at St Albans where he was among those subsequently accused of having fled '*and left ther harneys behynde them cowardly*'. Afterwards the Duke of York accused him of intercepting messages to the King which might have prevented the Battle of St Albans and Thorpe was stripped of all his public offices.
- On his return to favour in 1457 he was made Keeper of the Privy Wardrobe in the Tower of London for life and in 1458 was appointed Second Baron of the Exchequer, serving until 1460. At the Parliament of Devils in 1459, he helped to draw up the bill of attainder declaring York and his leading followers to be traitors.
- In 1460 he was captured at the Battle of Northampton and brought back to London as a prisoner first to Newgate and then Marshalsea. However he managed to escape disguised as a monk complete with tonsure, but was recaptured and sent to the Tower. He managed to escape a second time, but on 17 February 1461, was caught in Haringay by a London mob and summarily beheaded.

# Baron Zouche of Haryngworth

- Alan de la Zouche, (c. 1093-1150), was a Breton who settled in England during the reign of Henry II.
- Alan's son Roger's eldest son Alan II became Baron la Zouche of Ashby and fought on the campaigns of Edward I in Gascony and Scotland. He was governor of Rockingham Castle and steward of Rockingham Forest. However, this barony fell into abeyance on his death in 1314.
- Roger's other son William was summoned to Parliament as Baron Zouche, of Haryngworth, on 16 August 1308.



- William, 2nd Lord born around 1321; served in Gascony and Picardy in the Hundred Years War and present at Siege of Calais in 1347. He was called to Parliament 1348-1351.
- William, 3rd Lord was born. c 1342, and married in 1351 Agnes daughter of Sir Henry Green, Chief Justice of the King's Bench. 2nd marriage after 1393 to Elizabeth daughter of 1st Lord le Despenser
- William, 5th Lord,KG succeeded his father William, 4th Lord, in 1396, aged 22 years, and married the Hon. Alice St. Maur, heiress of that house, by whom he left two sons and two daughters.
- He had summons from 30th November 1396 to 26th September 1414, and died the following year, 1415, being succeeded by his son also named William and then aged 13 years.
- 6<sup>th</sup> William married Katherine Lenthall. Joint Commissioner of Array for Northants in 1457 and 1459. Died in 1468. Daughter Margaret married William Catesby.

- 7<sup>th</sup> Baron was called John. During Richard's reign he became a figure of some power. His family's influence in Northamptonshire was useful to the King, who otherwise relied mainly on the Yorkshire nobility for support. Zouche in turn sought to expand his influence in Cornwall, and especially in Devonshire, where his second wife's family, the Dynhams, had gained considerable power under Edward IV. After Bosworth he was Attainted He was eventually restored to all his titles and dignities in 1495. He owed a good deal to the prominent courtier Sir Reginald Bray, selling him several manors at an undervalue. A more surprising ally was Margaret Beaufort, the King's mother, who throughout her life showed a warm affection for her extended family,



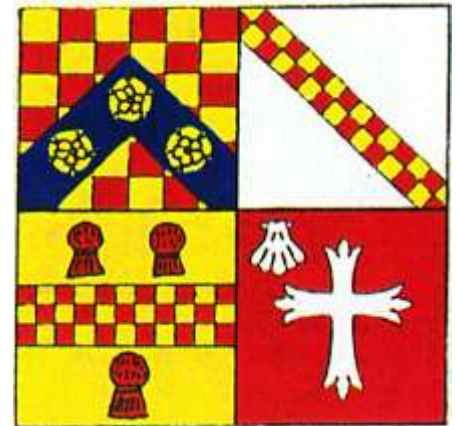
# Nicholas de Segrave

- Nicholas de Segrave (or Seagrave), 1st Baron Segrave (c. 1238 - 1295) was an English baronial leader. He married Matilda (Maud) de Lucy, daughter of Sir Thomas de Lucy of Copeland and their second son Nicholas (after 1256-1321), was made lord of Stowe.
- He was also given the manor of Barton later known as Barton Segrave.
- A leading supporter of Simon de Montfort. In 1298 he fought in the vanguard at the Battle of Falkirk. In 1300 he was present at the siege of Caerlaverock in the retinue of Henry de Bohun, 1st Earl of Hereford.
- He was one of Edward II's strongest supporters at the start of his reign, and in 1308 he was appointed Lord Marshal of England. However, he was an adherent of Thomas, 2nd Earl of Lancaster, who became a leader of the opposition to the king and he was replaced in 1316.
- When Nicholas died in 1322 Barton passed to his daughter and heir Maud, the wife of Edmund de Bohun. It afterwards reverted to the elder branch of the Segraves from whom it passed to the Mowbrays and was in the possession of John, Duke of Norfolk, in 1469.
- Sister Eleanor, married Alan la Zouche, 1st Baron la Zouche of Ashby



# Vaux of Harrowden and Le Kay

- William born c. 1400, was a lawyer, Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1436 and 1453 and represented the county of Northamptonshire in parliament in 1442. Married Maud Lucy of Richards Castle, Herefordshire about 1435. Fought and was possibly killed at the Battle of Northampton. Sister Isabel married to William Tresham, and mother of Thomas.
- Son William was born in 1437. In 1457, he was Joint Commissioner to determine the number of archers in the county and Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon.



- Married Katherine Peniston, daughter of George Peniston of Corticella (Provence). She may have accompanied Margaret of Anjou when she came to England in 1445 as its new queen. Under her maiden name, she is listed as one of the queen's damsels in the 1452-53 household records.
- They had two children, Nicholas (born in around 1460) and Joan (also called Jane). Nicholas is said to have been raised in Margaret Beaufort's household, and Joan might have been there as well. A committed Lancastrian, fought at the Battles of Wakefield (1460), 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Albans (1461), Towton (1461). After which he was attainted and lost his lands. Went into exile with Queen Margaret, before returning to England to meet his death at Tewkesbury.

# William Vaux of Harrowden

- When Margaret of Anjou was taken into custody after the Battle of Tewkesbury, Katherine Vaux, along with the Countess of Devon and Margaret's daughter-in-law Anne Neville (future queen to Richard III), were with her. The death of Edward of Lancaster at the battle meant that Margaret had lost her only son and Anne her first husband.
- Katherine Vaux remained loyal to her mistress: she stayed by the Queen during her imprisonment in the Tower of London, and on Margaret's release in 1476 went with her into exile.

# Nicholas Vaux, 1st Baron Vaux of Harrowden

(c. 1460 – 14 May 1523)

- Nicholas Vaux, as a protégé of Margaret Beaufort, probably fought under her husband Thomas Stanley, at Bosworth.
- The petition for the reversal of the attainder on Vaux's father and the forfeiture of his property was accepted by the King in the Parliament of 1485, and not long after Vaux was named to the commission of the peace for his home county.
- He fought for Henry VII at Stoke and Blackheath, being knighted on the field for his service in both battles. Not only was he active and diligent in local government but he was also frequently at court attending all the great state occasions at home and abroad until his death.
- Vaux married firstly Lady Elizabeth FitzHugh, widow of Sir William Parr of Kendal, secondly, shortly before 29 Jan 1507, Anne Green, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Green of Boughton and Green's Norton, Northamptonshire, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. Anne was the sister of Maud Green, mother of Henry VIII's sixth wife, Catherine Parr. In 1511 he entertained Henry VIII at Harrowden