

THE DE LISLE, MARCH AND PHILLIPPS FAMILIES AND THEIR CONNECTIONS WITH HATHERN PARISH CHURCH

From the 11th. Century the de Lisle ancestors owned land on the Isle of Wight. Sir John Lisle was created Warden of the Isle of Wight and Captain of Carisbrooke Castle in 1302. The Lisles continued to have property there until the last century.

Dame Alice Lisle was arrested and subsequently tried for sheltering soldiers from Monmouth's army. The infamous Judge Jeffreys pronounced a sentence of death by burning, but, as she was 70 years old, this was commuted. She was beheaded at Winchester in 1685.

Her nephew Edward Lisle married Mary Phillipps of Garendon Park and they had 20 children. There were several more marriages over the next few centuries between the Phillipps and March and Lisle families.

Sir Ambrose Phillipps purchased the Garendon Estate in 1684. He also acquired Gracedieu in 1690. He was educated at Winchester School and was for some time Fellow of New College, Oxford, and later practised law. He died in 1706 in his 69th. year. His wife Mary presented Hathern Parish Church with a lovely silver chalice which we use til this day.

Imagine how many worshippers have taken a sip of consecrated wine from it over the last three hundred years!

Dame Phillipps, the mother of 5 children, died in 1736 at the age of 88. The couple are buried at Shephed.

Andrew Glen was inducted as Rector at Hathern on 25th. June 1694. He was a learned man, having obtained a degree from St. John's College, Cambridge, and an MA in 1687.

He was quite an authority on plants and was a friend of Mr. Willoughby of Wollaton Hall near Nottingham which is today that county's Natural History Museum.

Rev. Glen was famed for his extensive collection of indigenous and exotic plants, having travelled abroad to collect them. He lived in Turin for some time.

He married Elizabeth Palmer at Hathern Church and had 3 daughters.

After coming to Hathern he stopped collecting botanical specimens and died in 1732.

His grand-daughter Mary Allsopp's first husband was Samuel Phillipps of Garendon.

Sir Ambrose's grandson built the Arch of Triumph, Obelisk and Temple of Venus which still stand on the estate.

His great great grandson in turn was Edward Thomas March Phillipps who married Elizabeth Hayes in 1812; his mother was Susan Lisle.

He became Rector of Hathern in 1808. It appears that he was a much loved and respected man, and that he was responsible for many good works as well as inventing the name "Wicked Hathern".

When he arrived in the Parish, he described it as " a barbarous place."

In the 1850's it was no better because he wrote to a friend, saying "Verily, Hathern is a cage of every unclean beast. What is to become of it?"

These condemnations may have arisen because of the 19th. superstition of avoiding burials in the north side of the graveyard. This left a wide open space which was the largest green space in the village at the time. Various activities took place there such as games of skittles, cock-fighting and fighting between young men.

His influence must have prevailed eventually, and even he had to admit that towards the end of his ministry the village was much more tame.

Rev. Phillipps was the last minister of All Saints' Dishley and founder of Thorpe Acre Church.

He died on July 12th. 1859 and was succeeded by his curate son-in-law, Edward Smythies.

Even today people refer to "Wicked Hathern" and recently a devout Baptist lady from Long Whatton was heard to say "Hathern folk are past praying for".

THE DE LISLE, MARCH AND PHILLIPPS FAMILIES AND THEIR CONNECTIONS WITH HATHERN PARISH CHURCH

Ambrose Lisle March Phillipps de Lisle was the nephew of the Rev. Edward Phillipps; he assumed the contracted family name of de Lisle in 1863.

Ambrose converted to Roman Catholicism at the age of 15 and founded Mount St. Bernard's Abbey in Charnwood.

His great grandson is the present Squire Gerard de Lisle who bought Quenby Hall in 1972 and made it the new family seat.

Garendon Hall had declined after the end of the last century and fell into disrepair. It became vandalised and was demolished in 1964.

The Coats of Arms of the March, Phillipps and de Lisle families can be seen in Hathern Church on plaques on the walls and also kneelers worked in 1994 by village ladies. Squire de Lisle kindly sponsored these, and also commissioned three more for the Church of St. John the Baptist of Hungarton. Labels on the undersurfaces attest to the fact that they were designed and worked in Hathern!

On 13th. September 1998 Hathern Church held a service to commemorate the 300th. Anniversary of the silver communion chalice. 26 children and 2 adults, dressed in late 17th. Century costume re-enacted the presentation of the chalice by Dame Mary Phillipps. The Mayor and Mayoress and Squire de Lisle were honoured guests as well as members of the Baptist and Roman Catholic communities.

Andree M. Bagley.