

This is the Fifty-Fifth of an occasional series of articles by David Stone about incidents in the history of Swanton Morley and its church

THE LOMBE FAMILY IN NORFOLK

In the January edition I showed how one branch of the Lombe family lived in Weston Longville. I shall now show you how this branch came, by a somewhat tortuous route, to build Bylaugh Hall. We start with Edward Lombe who was married to a lady called Elizabeth and they had six children, all baptised in Weston Longville. (A memorial to all of them can be found in Cawston Church.)

Edward, the eldest son buys Great Melton Hall

Now, their eldest son was Edward, who was baptised in Weston Longville on 5 June 1689, and it was he who bought Great Melton Hall in 1713. So, let us see how this came about.

You may have come across the Anguish family who were prominent in the affairs of the City of Norwich in the 17th century. Thomas Anguish was mayor of Norwich in 1611 and he founded a children's hospital in the city in 1618. It was he who bought the manor of Great Melton in 1609 and built a new E-plan manor house there. His brother Edmund acquired lands at Moulton, which became the core of the family's properties in later generations, although they never built a country house there.

But it was John Anguish (mayor 1635, d.1692) who in 1690 settled the Great Melton estate on his daughter Anne and her husband Edmund Woodhouse. Woodhouse sold it in 1700 to Edmund Keene and it was he who sold it to Edward Lombe in 1713. Note that the photograph shows a fairly substantial two-storey addition on the right hand side.



Great Melton Hall

The Rev. John Lombe, the third son

When Edward Lombe died in March 1738, his estates, including those in Great Melton, passed to his surviving brother, the Rev. John Lombe, who then seems to have moved to Great Melton Hall. At the time of Edward's death Rev. John Lombe was the rector of Scarning, but not long afterwards, he resigned from Scarning and he became rector of Hethel until November 1743. From then on, until his death on 4 December 1746, he held the rectories of Sparham and Foxley 'in personal union'.

The estate passes to the Hase family

Now Rev. John Lombe died unmarried and he left the major part of his estate to his sister Mary, the wife of John Hase, grocer of 'Market Dereham'. He also made Mary his executrix and he left full instructions as to what should happen to the estate after her death. In particular, he mentioned her two sons (his nephews), John and Edward Hase (both of whom were baptised in Dereham).

He bequeathed his estate 'to her eldest son John Hase and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten forever **provided and on condition that he takes upon him and is called by the name of Lombe**, and further on condition that the said John Hase shall pay to his brother Edward Hase the full sum of two thousand pounds of good and lawful money of Great Britain when the said Edward shall attain the age of one and twenty years'.

He went on to make further provision for the situation where the above John Hase died without male issue. 'I do hereby give and bequeath all my said manors etc. unto my nephew Edward Hase (the younger brother of the said John Hase) and his heirs male forever **provided and on condition that he takes upon him and is called by the name of Lombe**. *Remember this for it crops up in future articles!*

Mary and John Hase probably lived in Great Melton Hall and John Hase certainly died there on 6 April 1761. Although Mary was still alive, at that time a married woman could not by law own property, and her possessions were treated as the possessions of her husband (this did not change until the Married Women's Property Act of 1870). Thus with the death of her husband, the provisions of Rev. John Lombe's will then came into effect and the estate then passed to her eldest son, John Hase, **provided that he adopted the name Lombe**. This he duly did by a private act of Parliament in 1762. In due course, his widowed mother, Mary Hase, wrote her will in July 1769 and probate was granted in January 1776.

John Lombe is created a baronet

The next significant event was when the above newly renamed John Lombe was created a baronet on 10 Dec 1783, so that he became Sir John Lombe, Bart. In passing, you might like to note that I came across a list of those in Swanton Morley who paid Land Tax in 1798. I have included the top five items to show some of Sir John's holdings in Swanton Morley.

An Assessment made in Pursuance of an Act of Parliament in the 18th year of His Majesty's Reign for granting an Aid to his Majesty by a Land Tax to be raised in Great Britain, for the Service of the Year 1798

<u>Name of Proprietors</u>	<u>Name of Occupiers</u>	<u>Sums assessed</u>		
		£	s	d
Rev. Mr Larwood	Rev. Wm. Collett	14	12	0
Sir John Lombe Bart.	Samuel Emms Gent.	17	10	0
John Watling Senr. Esq.	Mr Ransome	7	6	0
Sir John Lombe Bart.	For quit rent	6	4	0
Sir John Lombe Bart	John Freeman	26	17	4

Joshua Larwood was appointed rector at Swanton Morley in July 1799, but he spent most of his life as the chaplain aboard HMS Britannia and I have no evidence that he spent any significant time in the parish. He was succeeded by William Collett, who was appointed by Sir John Lombe in 1808.

My next article

If you have the stamina to keep on reading, this will describe how that it was this Sir John Lombe Bart who expressed his intention to build a large new house on farm land at Bylaugh, but who died in 1817 before it was even started. We shall also see how he had no legitimate heir and how his will resulted in a somewhat remote relative having to change his name to 'Lombe' in order to inherit.