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## **Sapperton Church**

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The reluctance of local magistrates to deal with the case is further explained by the recent compilation of a list of the early Lords Lieutenant of the County.<sup>1</sup> On creation of this office, Edmund, eldest son of the first Lord Chandos and brother of Charles and Henry of our case, and himself second lord, was appointed. After his death and an interval of thirteen years, his eldest son Giles the third Lord was appointed; and in the interval of nineteen months after his death the robbery of our story took place. Giles was succeeded by his brother William the fourth Lord, jointly with Lord Berkeley, who was responsible for John Smyth's military census 'Men and Armour,' followed by the latter's son Gray the fifth Lord. After two others in succeeding twenty years, George the sixth Lord was appointed.

A final *bon bouche* concerns Lord Chief Justice Popham of the King's Bench. Aubrey the historian, whose statement should perhaps be taken with reserve, says that in his youth he was skilful with sword and buckler, wild and consorting with profligate companions, and even at times went to take a purse with them.<sup>2</sup> But as a judge he was said to have been severe towards thieves, and to have advised King James to be more sparing of his pardons to highwaymen and cutpurses.

E. S. LINDLEY.

### SAPPERTON CHURCH

The first record of the parish dates from 969, when Bishop Oswald of Worcester leased 'quatuor Mansas aet Saperetun' to Eadric. (The parish remained in the diocese of Worcester until the Reformation). Sapperton is next mentioned in Domesday Book, where it is described as 'Sapelthorne and Frantone'; Frantone is the village now called Frampton Mansell.

A Norman church was evidently built at Sapperton in the 12th century; the two side jambs of the doorway leading to

<sup>1</sup> *B. & G. Trans.*, LXX, pp. 153-4.

<sup>2</sup> *D.N.B.*, *Popham*.

the belfry staircase, a stone corbel (now displaced) and two windows in the belfry staircase survive from it.

The church was rebuilt in the 14th century; the tower and spire, and a tomb-recess under the tower, date from this period.

The building assumed its present guise early in the 18th century. The nave was largely rebuilt about 1710, and then, or a little later, a considerable amount of secular woodwork was brought from the Manor House, which stood on the north side of the church, looking down the valley. The panelling and the elements of the Hall Screen were adapted to form gallery pews. The Manor House was finally demolished in 1730, but a re-allocation of seats in 1712 suggests that the woodwork may have been brought in earlier. The oak cornice of the nave (presumably from the hall of Sapperton Manor) includes the Whittington coat of arms at the west end of the north wall. Dick Whittington's mother (or as one reckoning has it, grandmother) was Joanna Mansell, whose family owned land at Frampton. The Whittingtons married into the Poole family of Sapperton Manor.

The fine monument to Sir Henry Poole and his wife is in the North Transept, which also contains some earlier Poole tombs. The children represented on Sir Henry's monument include the son who entertained Charles I when he visited Sapperton in 1644.

The South Transept contains the grandiose monument of Sir Robert Atkyns the younger, the Gloucestershire historian, who lived at Pinbury Park nearby. Mrs Esdaile has ascribed the sculptured figure of Sir Robert to Edward Stanton of London, or Thomas Green of Camberwell.

Henry Wentworth, Major-General to Charles I, is buried beneath the altar, under a slab inscribed "Here lyeth the body of Henry Wentworth, Major Generall—Sonne to the Earle of Cleaveland, 1644.

ARTHUR RUCK.