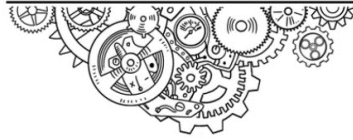


The Lost Legacy of St. Andrew's Church and Medieval Lulworth
The Development of East/West Lulworth from Domesday
by the Newburgh Family - Lords of East Lulworth

Self-published
by D. Suzanne Simonich
IN-THE-WORKS PRODUCTIONS



First edition © 2023
187 pages: color illustrations, photos, maps and appendices.

❖ **INTRODUCTION** ❖

“In former daies the Churches and great houses hereabout did so abound with monuments and things remarqueable that it would have deterred an Antiquarie from undertaking it. But as Pythagoras did guesse at the vastnesse of Hercules’ stature by the length of his foote, so among these Ruines are Remaynes enough left for a man to give a guesse what noble buildings, &c. were made by Piety, Charity, and Magnanimity of our Forefathers . . . These stately ruines breed in generous minds a kind of pittie; and sette the thoughts a-worke to make out their magnificence as they were when in perfection.”

The Topographical Collections of John Aubrey F. R. S., AD 1659-70

Novelist Thomas Hardy once remarked of Lulworth’s beloved St. Andrew’s Church, “It is evident that here was once a building of considerable architectural pretensions.”

Continuing, he described the church’s enduring Gothic tower: *“This tower is one of exceptional grace and artistic proportions, in curious contrast to the customary local architecture of so late a date. The upper part shows several unusual features; and when in its prime, with pinnacles and statuary complete, it must have been of extraordinary beauty.”*

Though buried beneath the detritus of time, I believe this Gothic tower beloved and protected by Thomas Hardy has literally rescued St. Andrew’s and Lulworth’s authentic medieval history from near extinction. Herein, I have recovered at least some of the missing puzzle pieces for both St. Andrew’s church and medieval East Lulworth.

In participating in this journey, the reader must be aware this is non-standard to the history currently endorsed for St. Andrew’s church and East Lulworth. However, this work is backed by ancient documents and histories previously hidden deep in various archives and overlooked over the centuries.

Additionally, the Lords of Lulworth have always been an enigma. Possibly due to their unique, familial political divides, their history has been inaccurately told by prior historians. My study over the past twenty-five years has discovered surprising inaccuracies, and misrepresentations, some of which will be revealed herein.

John Aubrey was spot on when describing the “*Piety, Charity and Magnanimity of our Forefathers.*” For without those qualities, and their wisdom, Dorset would not have evolved the rich history that has lain in shadowed repose for centuries.

Embarking upon a study of this magnitude, it is important to note the physical landscape of the study area has been seriously altered. Another important point to consider is that in the medieval period the term *East Lulworth* did not refer to a specific village. Instead, it was part of a vast demesne granted to the Newburgh family by successive kings and passed down by their baronial ancestors via chamberlainship as tenants-in-chief. The fifteenth century Newburgh manor, often referred to as East Lulworth, was actually

The CROWN MANOR OF LULWORTH ST. ANDREW

which was located on the East/West Lulworth tract located atop Bindon Hill. Now extinct, the manor was held *in capite* by the Newburgh family for over five centuries.¹ They in turn alienated or sub-infeudated acreage within the tract to ecclesiastical associates, trusted friends, and collateral family.

The current village of East Lulworth was built in the 17th century by descendants of Thomas Howard 3rd Duke of Norfolk. His son, also named Thomas, married Roger Newburgh’s granddaughter, a sixteenth century coheiress to Lulworth.

Originally located in Lulworth Park, the village of East Lulworth (built in the 17th century) was moved off the estate in the 18th century by its current owners, the Welds, who purchased the property in 1641. The following is an encapsulated exposé.

ANCIENT LULWORTH HISTORY

From one era to the next, presiding civilizations roamed the fortress-like cliffs of Dorset, building new cultures while evolving the story of Wessex. The sapphire depths of Lulworth Cove provided an ideal harbor for small vessels. Over the centuries, pirates were known to have skimmed the waters of this littoral paradise while trading with inhabitants living in the hills and valleys of East/West Lulworth. The grassy windswept promontories above Lulworth Cove provide a comprehensive snapshot of past civilizations and prehistoric geologic epochs.

Iron-age Celts held sway over Bindon Hill from 800 BC until invading Romans advanced on Britain in 43 AD. They built *in situ* villas along the crest of Bindon Hill, where they enjoyed a spectacular defensive view of the English Channel. When the Romans retreated, Germanic hordes of Anglo-Saxons invaded

¹ Possessing the land *in capite* means that the land was granted to the holder via the generosity of the king who owned all the land. Tenants-in-chief is a permutation of the same meaning.

Great Britain in the 4th century. Descended from the Viking tribes' (Norsemen of Scandinavia) they were identified as Angles, Saxons, and Jutes and ruled England until the 11th century.² Though these tribes were at one time related, over centuries of separation, they developed their own cultures and eventually had to defend themselves against later Viking incursions.

The Normans were established by Rollo, a Viking invader whose marauders were defeated in 911 after a siege at Chartres. West Francia king, Charles III 'the simple' offered Rollo land in exchange for his loyalty. Accepting the king's generous offer, Rollo was belted as the first Duke of Normandy.

A century and a half later, William the Conqueror, a descendant of Rollo, swept into Great Britain in 1066 vanquishing the Saxons, and becoming the first Norman king of England. His supporters were granted huge swaths of conquered land in exchange for their loyalty. Feudalism then commenced in Great Britain.

For over five hundred years the Newburgh/Beaumont family, who were cousins of William I, held sway over vast reaches of Dorset and other counties. Their descendants were instrumental in development of the Drown manor of Lulworth St. Andrew, an appurtenance to the Crown manor of Winfrot, (Winfrith) which was granted to the Newburghs in the 11th century. Other legacy Newburgh territories were located within the boundaries of the Winfrith, Haslor and Rowbarrow Hundreds. Many historians believe the Newburgh holdings rolled right up to the gates of Corfe Castle on the Isle of Purbeck. Originally, Lulworth St. Andrew was an ancient Saxon Crown manor known as Lulla.

The following study follows four known principal medieval monuments located on the East/West Lulworth tract. For the most part, all four are now extinct, but their storied existences live on in archival records. They were the **Crown Manor of Lulworth St. Andrew**. The first **Lulworth Castle**, and **St. Andrew's Church**. All three were known to have existed in the 12th century or before. In 1149 **Bindon Abbey** was built concurrently to the continued development of the crown manor high on Bindon Hill. This *first* Bindon Abbey compound, built for the Cistercians, was situated on a geologic shelf at the eastern curvature of Lulworth Cove. Nestled beneath the skirts of Bindon Hill it was also known as *Little Bindon*. Its second iteration was relocated twenty-three years later in 1172 four miles inland at Welle/Wool by descendants of Henry Newburgh, the first Earl of Warwick.

Heavily invested in Dorset for five centuries, the Newburghs were the engine behind much of the ecclesiastical building that took place in Normandy, Dorset, and surrounding counties in England and Wales.³ Their hereditary chamberlainship to successive kings, entitled them to hold these lands and advowsons in near perpetuity.⁴ Through the centuries they continued development of Lulworth by alienating land tracts to kinsmen and the Cistercian monks of Bindon Abbey.⁵

In the first quarter of the 15th century John Newburgh Esquire (b. 1402, d. 1483/4) regained personal

² The Angles formed Mercia, East Anglia, and Northumbria; the Saxons formed Essex, Sussex, and Wessex; while the Jutes settled in the Isle of Wight, Hampshire, and Kent. This was the beginning of a completely new destiny for the British Isles, and also for the Jutes.

³ Devon, Somerset, and Wiltshire.

⁴ Advowsons created control and advocacy of the church benefice by specific tenants-in-chief.

⁵ Other families mentioned on the manor were the de Roches, de Lulworth, Stokes, FitzRogers and Paynes.

possession of the Crown manor at Lulworth St. Andrew, and lived there with his families. It was passed down through their descendants until the male line became extinct in 1515 with the death of Roger Newburgh. His daughter Christian married Sir John Marney. At their deaths Henry VIII granted East Lulworth with all appurtenances to the 3rd Duke of Norfolk, Thomas Howard - including wardship of Lulworth heiresses, Katherine and Elizabeth Marney.⁶

In the later part of the 16th century, the manor was reduced to a farm, then known as St. Andrew's Farm. In 1641 the property was purchased by the Weld family. Finally in 1917 the property was sold to the United Kingdom's Ministry of Defence for a gunnery range. Remnants of the medieval manor were irreparably damaged by this 20th century development.

Former medieval soil horizons were buried or excavated. Fortunately, the medieval monuments were remembered in early 19th century Ordnance Surveys. Today, further archaeological exploration of the area is impossible. Consequently, this study uses only original, extant documents and histories written in various centuries. Early documents written in Medieval Latin were translated by my colleague, Sally Thomson.

KNOWN HISTORY of the CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

Contemporary histories have erroneously dated St. Andrew's church as 15th century - when in fact its antiquity appears to have extended as far back as the Saxon occupation to the manor then known as Lulla, a Crown manor.

The earliest known records for St. Andrew's church come from the Augustinian Priory of Merton based in London, which confirmed the existence of St. Andrew's Church on the Crown manor in the early 13th century. St. Andrew's church was consecrated and dedicated in 1225 by William de Merton, Augustinian Canon of Sarum.⁷ Some historians believe the church's original and principal architecture was Saxon in design, but by the thirteenth century nascent improvements rendered it Early English Gothic. The tower was probably added around this time. Located atop Bindon Hill, it was rooted there for over five centuries.

In 1609 a Howard descendant began removal of the waning medieval structures comprising the manor. Repurposing the stone, he created a hunting lodge in his newly founded Lulworth Park. By circa 1634, the ancient church of St. Andrew's was *translated* (moved) approximately 2 kilometers (1.25 miles) from the original crown manor to Lulworth Park.

The ancient tower is all that remains of its original 13th century fabric. Its former magnificence was lost during various reconstructions and renovations. Changes in its architectural character were due to styling demanded during the Protestant reformation. While the tower structure remained mostly unchanged, nineteenth century restorations altered its fabric creating the Perpendicular style typical of Anglican parish churches.

⁶ John and Christian (Newburgh) Marney's daughters, Elizabeth and Katherine.

⁷ Salisbury Cathedral

Historian John Hutchins was instrumental in keeping the church's history alive; when in 1774 he reported on the St. Andrew's chapel in his *History and Antiquities of Dorset County*.⁸ When gathering material for his *History of Dorset*, John Hutchins relied on information culled from local clergy.

Jacob Bancks, Lorde of Milton Abbas encouraged him to write the history of Dorset. When Bancks died, Browne Willis continued to assist Hutchins in his work. To streamline his efforts, Willis drew up questionnaires to send to parish clergy asking them to provide known histories of their parishes. With the Dissolution wiping away many layers of ecclesiastical history, it's understandable that the clergy of Hutchins's era were unaware of previous relics endemic to their respective areas. This is how much of the information for Hutchins's *History of Dorset* volumes was obtained. Before completing his work Hutchins suffered a stroke in 1771 and died in 1773 before publication of his volumes occurred. The first edition was published in 1774, when his wife, with the help of other historians completed his vision.⁹

Later, renowned novelist, Thomas Hardy stood in support of St. Andrew's history also recounting its thirteenth century antiquity. His archived discussions with the Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) have been particularly enlightening.

Recently recovered records from various sources provide a more accurate understanding of St. Andrew's true origins, founding patrons, and history. By surviving into the present, St. Andrew's thirteenth century tower has preserved much of its own, and Lulworth's medieval past.

THE LAND AND PEOPLE

The Lulworth tract was originally estimated to have encompassed approximately 45,000 acres or more. From 1088 it was held *in capite* by the Newburgh family. A fourteenth century Charter Roll suggests the tract extended many miles across the coastal cliffs from beyond the western curvature of Lulworth Cove near Stair Hole - continuing due east all the way to Purbeck Forest.¹⁰ Other historians state the Newburghs' range stretched as far west as Overmoigne.

During the medieval period, Lulworth supported an agrarian population. The land was more suited to animal husbandry than crops. In 1399 the Newburghs established a Royal Deer Park amid East Lulworth's forests.

CROWN MANOR OF LULWORTH ST. ANDREW

Manorial lands were alienated and handed down through various Newburgh descendants and associates from as early as c. 1100 until 1525.¹¹

By 1641 the Weld family of London acquired the entire estate, which included the seventeenth century hunting lodge masterminded by Thomas Howard, 3rd Viscount Bindon, and was christened *Lulworth*

⁸ Hutchins received his information from local church wardens.

⁹ Dr. William Cuming of Dorchester and antiquarian, Richard Gough, saw the project to the finish line. *Dorset Life, Hutchins Dorset's Reverend Historian*, Dec. 2016.

¹⁰ *Calendar of Charter Rolls* Vol. 2, 217.

¹¹ An early Bindon Abbey Charter shows the Newburghs as tenants-in-chief in 1233. The 16th century Howards married into the Marney family, descendants of the Newburghs.

Castle in honor of the acknowledged twelfth century castle.

In the past, knowledge of Lulworth history has been deficient in relation to the Newburgh family. Modern historians believed the seat of East Lulworth was always located on the current Weld Estate. The site of the early Crown manor was largely ignored by eighteenth century historians in favor of acknowledging Lulworth Park as the hub of medieval East Lulworth. Of course, because of the expansive nature of the tract, Lulworth Park was indeed part of the original Crown manor, but the park was not the site of the original castle, nor St. Andrew's church.

Leading up to the end of the fifteenth century, generations of the Newburgh family demonstrated a continuity of heirs, all named for an earlier honored patriarch JOHN NEWBURGH (d. 1380). Because of the surfeit of fifteenth century men known by that forename, the death date of each is noted in parentheses to aid in following their descent down through history. The appendices provide ahnentafel cited with original documents, principally from the British Archives, Dorset History Centre, and others as noted. The manuscript employs the Harvard style, which will aid the reader in easy identification of sources while reading. Additional footnotes contain other relevant information. The manuscript is written in two parts following a timeline format.

Part I traces the earliest known history of the land and Lords who were responsible for shaping East/West Lulworth. The hidden story of St. Andrew's church and its extinct companion monuments are explored. Included is a greater knowledge of the armigerous Newburgh family, who as patrons held the advowson of St. Andrew's church.

Part II delves into the extinction of the Crown Manor, and the rise of the Marney and Howard families. Most important is the documented history of the evolution of St. Andrew's church after 1600 when it was moved to Lulworth Park.

Today, the precipitous Jurassic cliffs of Lulworth loom above stony beaches sheltered by ever changing azure skies. The area remains a rural paradise with fields and hamlets dotting the rolling landscape. It is not hard to imagine what medieval life was like when touring the verdant countryside. Holiday venues support the local economy. Filled with intrigue and mystery, the tiny cove-side village of West Lulworth is a lovely place to spend an afternoon sipping tea and pondering the truly captivating and unruly medieval epoch. I invite you to join me as we explore the intricacies of an ancient Crown manor known as **LULWORTH ST. ANDREW**.

~ Sue Simonich 2023