

THE BOLLES OF BOLLE HALL, SWINESHEAD

Alaine Bolle =
living in 1201
Lord of Swineshead
and Bolle Hall
in the reign of Henry III

Thomas Bolle =
C1235->1257
Died aft 1257
Title 'of Swsd & Bolle Hall'

William =
1259-1327
died 2nd Jan 1327

John Bolle =
of Bolle Hall
In 1272
He inherited the
Swineshead estates
after the death of
his brother's child

Godfrey = unknown
1296-1333
inherited Bolle Hall
after death of his father
title Lord of Swineshead

William = unknown
living 1307

Reginald
living 1307

Mabell
living 1342

John = Joanne Goddard
1304-> living 1297
Said to be 'of Swsd'
He was an MP in 1355
[29 Edwd III]

Randolph = Katherine Pulvertoft
1326-<1396 living 1326
d before 1396 in Sws
occ Escheator [before
20 Rchd II]
Randolph founded a charity
in Algarkirk

John = Mary Angevyne
Living in 1357
[Continued overleaf]

Thomasine = Ralph Darbt
living in 1357

John Bolle = Mary Angevyne
Living in 1357 living in 1359
Title Esq of Sws

Thomasine = Ralph Darbt

William Bolle = Anne Kyme
Living in 1390 living in 1394
Title 'Esq of Swsd & Haugh'

John = Katherine Haugh
1425-1495 *1429-1496
died before 1495 in Swsd
occ: 1477 Sheriff of Lincs
title 'of Swsd & Haugh'

William	John	Robt	Thos	Richd	Godfrey	Randolph	Jane/Joanne
*1460	*1460	*1460	*1460	*1460	*1460	81460	*1460
	Title: of				Title: of		
	Wigtoft				Gosberkirke		

NB: both John and Godfrey above spelt their name BOLLES

THORPE HALL

Historically, Thorpe Hall was owned by the **Bolle** family, one of the most colourful of whom was **Sir John Bolle** (born 1560 – died 3 November 1606). A swashbuckling Elizabethan adventurer, gentleman and patriot, Bolle took part in Sir Walter Raleigh's 1596 attack and capture of Cadiz. **Sir John Bolle** was captured by the Spaniards and was sentenced to spend time in a dungeon.

His cell looked out onto the street where a wealthy Spanish noblewoman, regularly passed by. Donna Leonora Oviedo, believed to be her name, began to have feelings for him and bought him food before eventually bribing his jailers to release him.

Once free, Bolle was to return to England. Bolle was already married, but not wishing to embarrass the lady, he protested that the sea journey would be too arduous for her. Still she pleaded with him to allow her to go with him and eventually he had to confess that he had a wife in England who was awaiting his return. She let him go with a portrait of herself in her favourite green dress and he promised to hang it in his home.

Some months after he had left she followed him to England where she killed herself in his garden to show him her utter devotion. **John Bolle** hung her picture and had his servants lay a place at the dinner table in her honour each night.

Her ghost is still said to be seen walking the garden wearing her favourite green dress in the hope that she would see **John Bolle** again.

Sir John died at Thorpe Hall in 1606 and was subsequently was buried in Haugh Church where a monument was erected to his memory.

Situated in 20 acres of magnificent gardens and parkland, **Thorpe Hall** was built in 1584 for Sir John Bolle who was knighted for his military exploits in Cadiz, Spain in 1596.

Whilst the house is actually situated within the Parish of **South Elkington**, the historic market town of Louth is within walking distance.

The gardens and grounds, originally laid out by Gertrude Jekyll in 1906 extend in total to approximately 20 acres. Just beyond the grounds lies Hubbards Hill, recognised as being a point of beauty; "Situated in 20 acres of magnificent gardens and parkland laid out by Gertrude Jekyll in the rolling landscape of the Lincolnshire Wolds, Thorpe Hall, is without doubt, one of the most splendid country houses within Lincolnshire and abounds with history and legend," said Jill Elkington of agents Hodgson Elkington County Register.

The hall stayed in the hands of the **Bolle** family until the 18th-century and their Coat of Arms can still be seen in the wall of the Dovecote at Thorpe Hall. The main features of the Bolles family crest are three boars' heads in bowls and are thought to have one of two meanings. The boar's head could indicate the original family seat at **Bolle Hall, Swineshead** near the head of the Swyne River. They could also represent the character of the men as a boar, considered to be the most courageous and ferocious animal in England.

In time Thorpe Hall passed through a succession of esteemed residents. John Fytche son of Stephen Fytche, vicar of Louth, and a first cousin to the Tennyson brothers including Captain Julius Tennyson, nephew of the Poet Laureate, and Captain Langston Brackenbury, MP for Louth.

The present Hall stands on the ancient site of the original Hall, which during the fifteenth and early sixteenth century belonged to the merchant family of Chapman.

The Bolle family were a large Lincolnshire family with records tracing them to Gosberton, Quadring, Saltfleetby All Saints, Scampton, Elsham and Thorpe Hall, Louth. They are sometimes referred to as Bolle, sometimes Bolles.

Thorpe Hall is considered to be one of the finest country houses in Lincolnshire. However, much of the present building has been altered and enlarged at various times during the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and in 2003 was sold for £2.15million.
