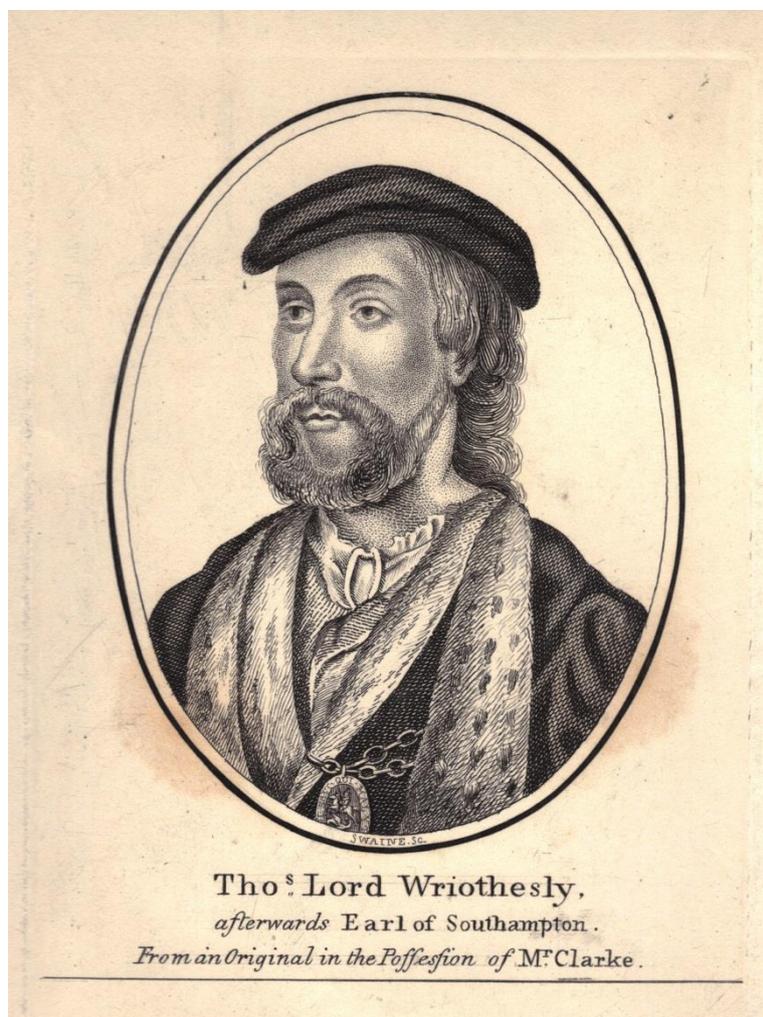


East Stratton and Stratton Park a Brief History

In Saxon times the manor of East Stratton belonged to the Hundred of Micheldever, part of the Royal Estates and King Alfred the Great's personal property. In 904AD the Hundred of Micheldever was granted to the New Minster Winchester (later Hyde Abbey) by Alfred's son, King Edward the Elder, as described in the will of his father. So began over 600 years of monastic control of the land and its people.

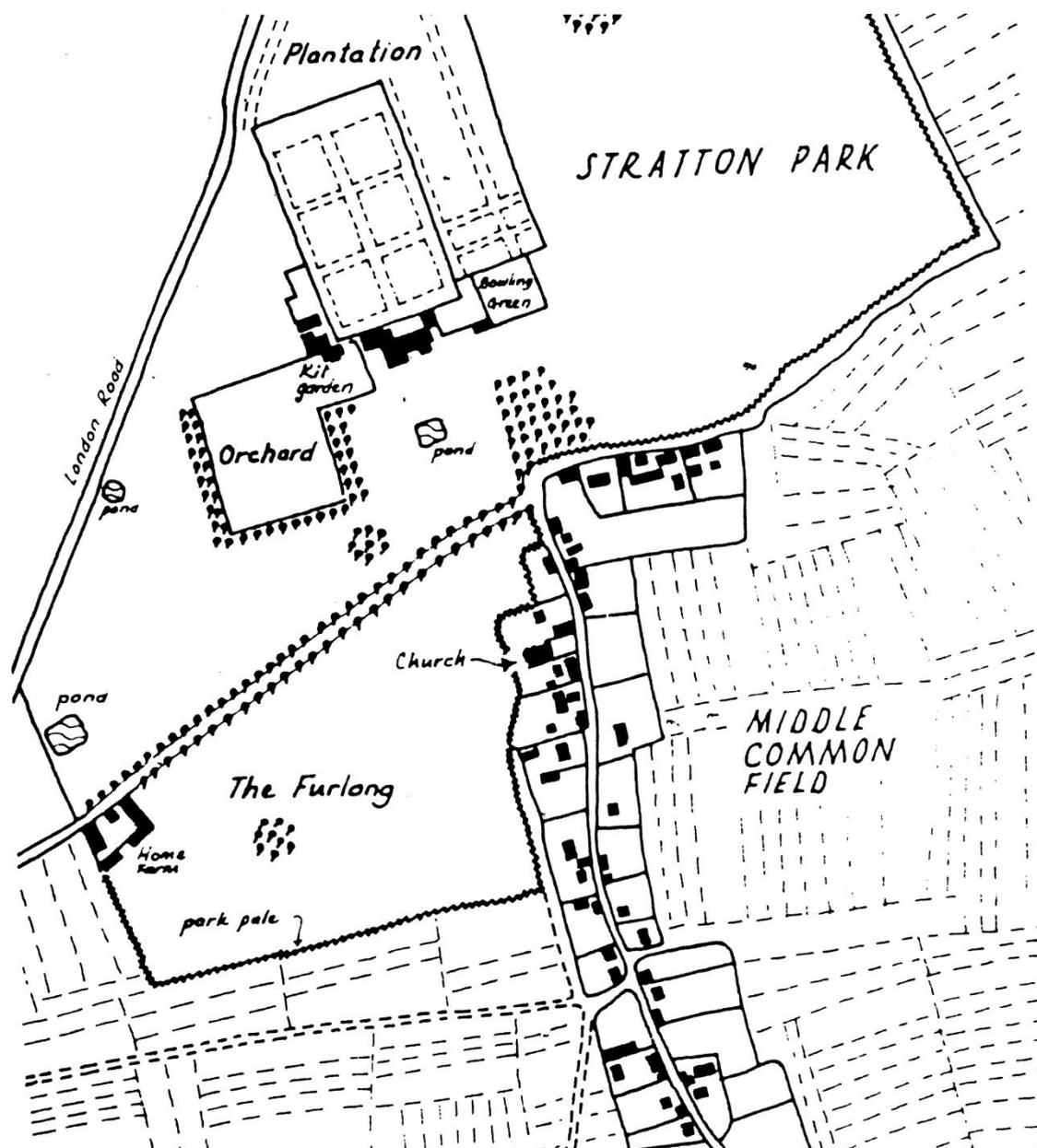
In 1538 Hyde Abbey at Winchester was dissolved and destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries by King Henry VIII, and the manor of Stratton once again became crown property. In 1544 the manor was sold to Edmund Clerke, one of the clerks of the Privy Seal, and his wife Margaret, from whom it was purchased in 1546 by Sir Thomas Wriothesley, later the 1st Earl of Southampton.



Sir Thomas Wrisothesley (pronounced Risley) Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor, was granted the Hundred of Micheldever and became one of the wealthiest land owners in the county. The 4th Earl of Southampton made Stratton his chief seat and built an Elizabethan manor house in Stratton Park. When the 4th Earl died in 1667, without male issue, the Hundred of

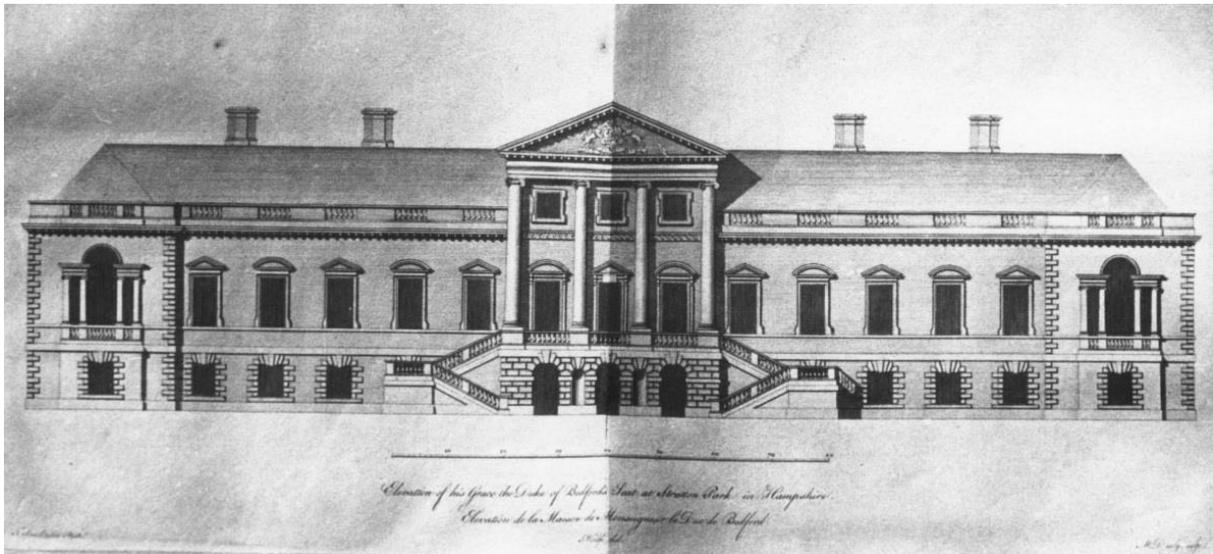
Micheldever including the manor of Stratton was inherited by his daughter Lady Rachel Vaughan.

In 1669 Lady Rachel married William, Lord Russell, son of the 5th Earl of Bedford and they embarked on substantial alterations and improvements to the manor house and Stratton Park, pulling down part of the hamlet of Stratton in order to create a Deer Park. They also built a Gothic chapel in the grounds replacing an old medieval chapel. William Russell obtained the courtesy title of Lord Russell in 1678 but met an untimely end as one of the conspirators in the failed Rye House Plot to depose Charles II. He was beheaded in 1683. Following Lord Russell's execution, the estate passed first to his son Wriothesley, later 2nd Duke of Bedford and then, in 1711, to his grandson, also Wriothesley, the 3rd Duke; Lady Rachel lived on at Stratton until her death in 1723.



East Stratton and Stratton Park from Browns 1730 estate map.

Wriothsley's brother John (1710-71) succeeded him as 4th Duke of Bedford in 1732 and is credited with pulling down 'a great part of the ancient mansion lest it should cause the magnificent residence of Woburn to be neglected'. He commissioned one of the great architects of the time, John Sanderson, to design a grand Palladian mansion in its place.



Sanderson's Palladian house built in Stratton Park for the 4th Duke of Bedford

In 1771 the estate at Stratton passed to the 5th Duke who appeared to take little interest in Stratton and had the estate surveyed in 1799 with a view selling it.



Stratton Estate map 1799. (HRO 18M68/1)

Micheldever and Stratton 1800 - 1900

In 1801 Sir Francis Baring (1740 -1810), the great merchant, financier and politician of his time, bought the Stratton estate, which included the manor of Micheldever, from Francis Russell, 5th Duke of Bedford. He commissioned the renowned architect, George Dance the Younger, to re-model Stratton House in the Greek style which he adorned with a massive portico of Doric columns. Two classical lodges were also built at the entrances to Stratton Park and Humphrey Repton was commissioned to re-landscape the park removing the remainder of the old hamlet of East Stratton from the park in the process. Repton considered the turnpike was too close to Stratton House and at great expense the road, (now the A33), was moved further west in a gentle curve extending from Winchester Lodge to London Lodge. Although Repton had provided his recommendations for Stratton Park, in the form of one of his illustrated Red Books, the landscaping was completed by Charles McIntosh.



Stratton House and Park c1830.

Sir Francis set about improving the Stratton estate, building a 'model village' south of the park, including five pairs of estate cottages designed by George Dance the Younger, pub, bakery, shop and improved farm buildings. Sir Francis also had the old chapel in Stratton Park remodelled in 1810.

At Micheldever more estate workers cottages were built, on the Winchester Road, again designed by Dance, who also remodelled St Mary's Church with the addition of an octagonal nave.

When Sir Francis Baring died in 1810, he was buried with his wife Harriet, in St Mary's Church, Micheldever, and the Stratton estate passed to his eldest son Thomas.

Sir Thomas Baring (1772 – 1848) was less interested in commerce and finance and more interested in managing his estate, and due to his father's legacy, he was able to indulge his interest. Sir Thomas was a forward-thinking philanthropist and in 1814 he founded and built the first school in the parish, at Stratton Park, to educate the children of the estate's workers. When this school burnt down in 1846 it was rebuilt in the same year. Sir Thomas funded building further schools at Micheldever in 1845 and at Micheldever Station in 1861. In 1826, at Micheldever, he built alms houses for the poor Southbrook House, Rook Lane, which were demolished in 1966.

Sir Thomas was an evangelical in religion, and in the 1810s he was associated with his sister Harriet and brother George in the so-called 'Western Schism' from the Church of England. He had the 'living' of Micheldever and East Stratton, and as such, he had considerable influence over the format and content of services and in appointing the vicar and curate.

William Cobbett, yeoman farmer, political commentator and champion of the agricultural labourer rode through East Stratton in November 1822 and made this observation:

"I went along by Stratton Park pales down East Stratton-street, a little girl, of whom I asked my way down into East Stratton, and who was dressed in a camlet gown, white apron and plaid cloak (it was a Sunday), and who had a book in her hand, told me that Lady Baring gave her the clothes, and had her taught to read and to sing hymns and spiritual songs.

As I came through the Strattons I saw not less than a dozen girls clad in this same way."

Cobbett went on to say that, although he considered the estate was in better hands than at the time of the Duke of Bedford, he thought that education should be the remit of the state and government, not charitable landowners. He also disapproved of changes Sir Thomas had introduced to church services preferring psalms to the singing of hymns.

Eight years after William Cobbett had rode through East Stratton the so-called Swing Riots erupted in Hampshire. Agricultural labourers in Kent had demonstrated against low wages and the introduction of labour-saving machinery, in particular the threshing machine. Unrest quickly spread through Sussex and the home counties with large mobs of agricultural labourers, and ancillary tradesman, demanding wage increases, breaking machinery and setting fire to hayricks and barns.

Over three nights in November 1830 large mobs of up 700 men roamed the Dever Valley demanding money and destroying machinery. At one farm, William Bingham Baring, son of Lord Ashburton at the Grange, encountered the mob and 20-year-old Henry Cook aimed a sledge hammer blow at the head of William Baring, which glanced off, knocking his hat off in the process.

Although William Baring was not seriously injured Cook was found guilty of attempted murder, sentenced to hanging and is buried in St Mary's churchyard, Micheldever. In the aftermath of the Swing Riots many of the perpetrators received prison sentences or were transported to Australia.

Sir Thomas Baring was both saddened and disappointed by the involvement of many of his estate workers, who he considered had better working and living conditions than most, and he felt that they were motivated by the prospect of revolution rather than distress. In parliament, as a Whig MP, he supported the Reform Act of 1832 and the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 which went some way to redress some of the rioter's grievances.

Sir Thomas oversaw the most significant change in Parish since the dissolution of the monasteries in 1538. He facilitated the building of a railway across his land enabling trains to run from London to Southampton along the London and Southampton Railway which he was Chairman of (1832 – 1833).

Sir Thomas wanted to ensure that the army of Navvies who descended on his land to build the railway behaved in a proper manner and he laid down rules and incentives to encourage frugal, sober and industrious habits amongst the labourers. In 1839 he established a benefit society for the Navvies and also directed the London and South Western Railway to pay £100 to the hospital at Winchester for the purpose of attending the sick and injured railway labourers.

The railway opened on 11th May 1840 and a station built near Warren Farm was initially known as Andover Road Station, later Micheldever Station, due to its strategic placement close to a newly built road from Andover and the important agricultural fair at Weyhill beyond. Drovers herded livestock from Weyhill to the Andover Road Station which were put onto trains bound for London in order to satisfy the capitals insatiable appetite for meat.

Following the opening of the railway a third lodge was added to Stratton Park, known as the House Lodge, Middle Lodge or Parkhill Lodge, it provided a more direct route from Stratton House to the station along a tree lined avenue, Larkwhistle Farm Road.

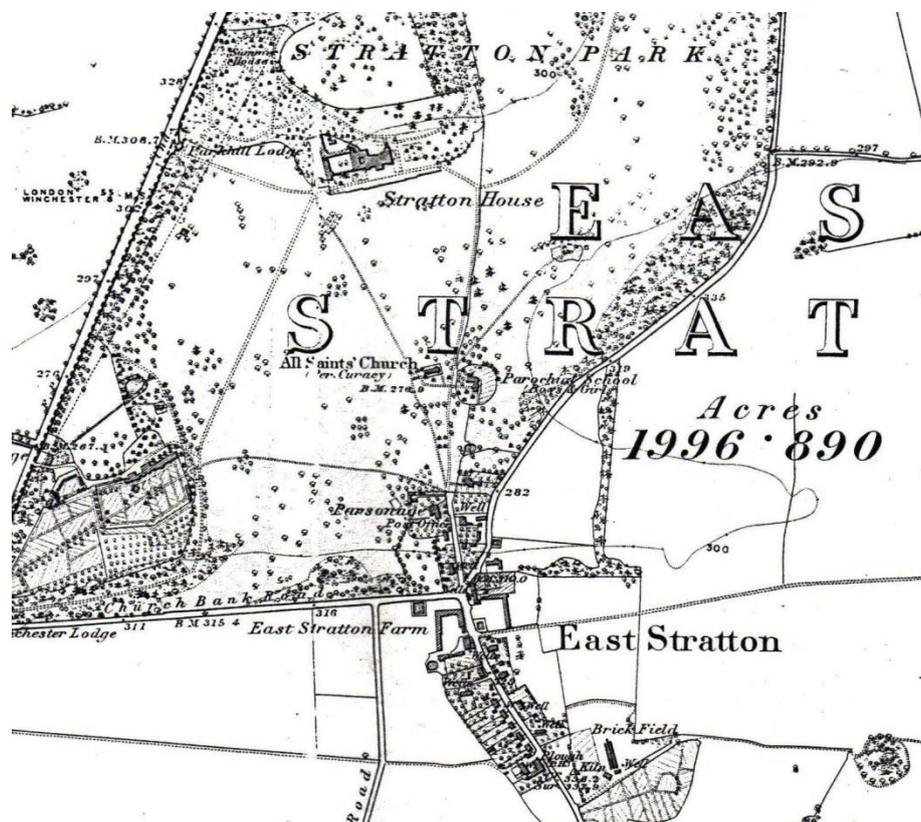
Sir Thomas died 3rd April 1848, and is buried at St Mary's Micheldever. The estate passed to his son Sir Francis Thornhill Baring (1796 – 1866) who was an active Whig Politian, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1839-41, First Lord of the Admiralty, 1849-52 and a committed opponent of slavery and the slave trade. On his estate he was a conscientious landlord, a man of wide culture and evangelical piety,

After retiring from the Commons in 1866 Sir Francis, was created the 1st Baron Northbrook (the title being taken from the settlement of that name on the north bank of the River Dever).

Sir Francis died at Stratton Park 6th September 1866 and he is buried at St Mary's Micheldever.

Sir Thomas George Baring (1826 – 1904), 2nd Baron Northbrook, inherited the Stratton estate when his father died in 1866. He was Liberal MP for Penryn and Falmouth, 1857-66; a Lord of the Admiralty, 1857-58; Under-Secretary of State for India, 1859-61, 1861-64; Under-Secretary of State for War, 1861, Under-Secretary of State at Home Office, 1864-66; and Secretary to the Admiralty, 1866. After inheriting his father's peerage in 1866 he served as Under-Secretary of State for War again, 1868-72 and was made a privy councillor in 1869. He was Governor General of India 1872 – 1876 and was created 1st Earl Northbrook in 1876.

His son, The Hon. Arthur Napier Thomas Baring (1854-70), was a 16-year-old midshipman in the Royal Navy and was lost at sea when HMS Captain was wrecked off Cape Finisterre, 7 September 1870. Lord Northbrook funded the addition of the clock tower at Micheldever school in memory of his son.



East Stratton and Stratton Park 1870

Sir Thomas and his brother The Hon Francis Baring, financed the building of a new Church of All Saints East Stratton, in 1888. The new church replaced the old chapel in Stratton Park and is located on higher ground on the north side of Church Bank Road. The church was designed by Sir Thomas Jackson and included a consecrated burial ground enabling, for the first time, the deceased from the Stratton's to be buried at East Stratton. The old church off All Saints in Stratton Park was demolished and in 1890 a stone cross was erected to mark the site.

Sir Thomas died 15th November 1904 and is buried at St Mary's Church, Micheldever, with his wife Elizabeth Harriet, who died 3rd June 1867.

Stratton Park 1900 – 2020



Queen Mary with The Earl and Countess of Northbrook, Stratton Park, 1928

Thomas George Baring, 1st Earl Northbrook died in 1904 and was succeeded by his son Francis George Baring, 2nd Earl Northbrook. After the First World War the 2nd Earl of Northbrook, a great-great-grandson of Sir Francis Baring, sold off the main part of Micheldever village, including some 4000 acres of the surrounding farmland, and many of his tenants took the opportunity to buy their own houses. 1920 Sale particulars for Micheldever Village, farms and farmland Hampshire Record Office [92M95/F8/6/1](#). Following his death in 1929, without a male heir, part of the estate passed to his cousin, Francis Arthur Baring, who became the 4th Baron Northbrook



Stratton House c1930

In 1930 the remainder of the estate was sold and Stratton House and Park were bought by Miss Mary Lucie James and became a girls' school known as The Vyne Stratton School. 1930 Sale particulars for the Stratton Park estate Hampshire Record Office [117M91/SP122](#)

In 1939 Barings bank bought Stratton House and Park as a home for the bank's operations during the Second World War. When Francis Arthur Baring, 4th Baron Northbrook died in 1947 his estate passed to his son Francis John, 5th Baron Northbrook. In the 1950's Barings Bank sold Stratton house and Park to two members of the Baring family. 1953 Francis John, 5th Baron Northbrook bought the farmland and woods in Stratton Park, adding it to his existing holdings of farmland surrounding East Stratton, while in 1955 John Baring, later 7th Baron Ashburton, bought the house and immediate grounds. Lord Ashburton had most of the house pulled down in 1961 and built a new house on the site between 1963 – 1965. Designed by Stephen Gardiner and Christopher Knight, the imposing portico of Doric columns and pediment from the old house are linked to the south elevation by a rectangular pond.



The new house was sold by Lord Ashburton in 1981 to a Saudi, Sheik Ahmed Ashi Azzam, who sadly allowed the building to deteriorate. In 1985 the M3 was constructed on the western boundary of the estate, along the course of the Roman Road, cutting off the three park lodges from Stratton Park. In 1988, the house, formal garden, and what remained of the pleasure grounds were sold to the current owners. When Francis John Baring died in 1994 his estate passed to his son Francis, 6th Baron Northbrook and is now largely an agricultural and sporting estate. Half the properties in the village of East Stratton are still owned by Lord Northbrook, and he is the Patron of All Saints Church East Stratton.