

NOTES ABOUT OXBOROUGH, NORFOLK

Where the earliest known Bassetts of the Bassetts of Norfolk line lived in the 18th Century .

OXBOROUGH, also known as OXBURGH, is a parish and village, 3 miles N.E. of [Stoke Ferry](#) and 6½ miles S.W. of [Swaffham](#) Norfolk, England. In 1854 it comprised 293 inhabitants, 58 houses, and 2,317 acres of land, all the property of [Sir H. R. P. Bedingfield](#), Bart., of Oxborough Hall. The hall is surrounded by a moat, and is one of the most perfect specimens of ancient castellated mansions in England. It dates from the latter part of the 15th century. The entrance is over a bridge (formerly a draw bridge) through an arched gateway, between two towers 80 feet high. The archway between the towers is supported by groins, and over it is a large room with windows to the north and south. The interior walls were covered with tapestry. Henry VII. is supposed to have satyed there when he visited Oxborough.

Oxborough was a place of note in Roman times, and it is considered to be the *Iceani* of Antoninus, supposed to be at [Ickburgh](#).

In 1252 the manor was held by Ralph de Wygarnia, who had a patent for a weekly market on Tuesday, and a yearly fair. The fair was still held for horses and cattle on Easter Tuesday in 1854.

[Sir Henry Bedingfield](#) of Oxborough Hall was made governor of the Tower of London during the reign of the Catholic Queen, Mary, and had the charge of her sister Elizabeth, who, on ascending the throne, dismissed him from court, saying "whenever she had a state prisoner who required to be hardly handled and strictly kept she would send for him." He was confined to the tower for nearly two years and died in 1655 when his estates were sequestered for his adherence to the cause of Charles I.. Ultimately they were restored to his successor, who was created a *baronet* in 1660.

The CHURCH, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, was a large Gothic edifice with a tower surmounted by a lofty octagonal spire 156 feet high. It was thought to have been founded about the reign of Edward I.