

HISTORY of Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE (1476 - 1539)

Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE of Salden Manor, near Mursley, Buckinghamshire, England was the son of Sir JOHN FORTESCUE (1434 - circa 1500) and ELIZABETH BOLEYN. He married ANNE STONOR (1484 - 1518), daughter of Sir WILLIAM STONOR and Lady ANNE NEVILLE.



Catholic Martyr, Beheaded on ORDER of Henry VIII for treason, without trial, in the Tower of London, on July 9, 1539.

- Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE Born about 1476, at **PUNSBOURNE PARK** located 7-miles from Hatfield House near Hertford, in the County of Hertfordshire.

Sir ADRIAN was a KNIGHT of ST. JOHN, JUSTICE of the PEACE for OXFORD, a Catholic Martyr, who belonged to the SALDEN branch of the great Devonshire family of FORTESCUE.

He was a descendant of RICHARD the STRONG, shield bearer of WILLIAM the CONQUEROR, who gave to his family his surname - Le FORT-ESCU, (the Strong Shield) - and his motto - "Forte scutum salus ducum" which is translated from the 1Latin as "a strong shield saves the Kingdom".

- Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE was twice married:

1. ANNE STONOR, daughter of Sir WILLIAM STONOR and ANNE NEVILLE, daughter of JOHN NEVILLE, 1st Marquess of Montagu. ANN STONOR died in 1518. By his first wife, ADRIAN FORTESCUE had 2-Daughters:
 - MARGARET FORTESCUE, married to THOMAS WENTWORTH, 1st Baron Wentworth;
 - FRANCES, FORTESCUE married to THOMAS FITZGERALD, 10th Earl of Kildare.
2. ANNE REDE, daughter of Sir WILLIAM REDE, of Boarstall, Buckinghamshire and Widow of Sir GILES GREVILLE. By his second wife he had 3-Sons and 2-Daughters:
 - Sir JOHN FORTESCUE of Salden, Chancellor of the Exchequer;
 - Sir THOMAS FORTESCUE, MP Wallingford;
 - Sir ANTHONY FORTESCUE;
 - ELIZABETH FORTESCUE, married to Sir THOMAS BROMLEY, Lord Chancellor of England;
 - MARY FORTESCUE, whose son was THOMAS CAVENDISH the circumnavigator.

ANNE REDE survived her husband, and afterwards married Sir THOMAS PARRY, Comptroller of the Household for Queen Elizabeth I. She was granted the Manor of Great Washbourne in 1557.



The MANOR HOUSE,
Great Washbourne,
Tewksbury,
Gloucestershire,
England.



St. MARY'S CHURCH,
Great Washbourne,
Tewksbury,
Gloucestershire,
England.

His father, JOHN FORTESCUE, who had followed the DUKE OF RICHMOND to Paris and had landed and fought with him, became the KING'S STEWARD when Henry VII succeeded to the throne.

When KING HENRY VIII, then still Prince of Wales, was made a Knight in 1503, a few young Gentlemen shared that honour with him; ADRIAN FORTESCUE was one of them. A true Country Gentleman of the period, Adrian Fortescue followed Henry to Calais, in Jun 1513, in the enterprise against Louis XII of France concerning the region of Milan. Not infrequently attending the Court, and at other times acting as JUSTICE OF THE PEACE or COMMISSIONER FOR SUBSIDIES.

In 1520, Sir ADRIAN attended the FIELD of the CLOTH OF GOLD (1520); he was responsible for guarding Queen CATALINA of Aragon.

The Field of the Cloth of Gold was a summit meeting between King Henry VIII of England and King Francis I of France from 7 to 24 June 1520. Held at Balinghem, between Ardres in France and Guînes in the English Pas de Calais, it was a very expensive display of wealth by both kings.

In 1522, he fought under the EARL of SURREY in Picardy. In 1523, he took part in the capture of BRAY and of MONTDIDIÉ, under the command of the DUKE of SUFFOLK. These activities had not kept him from marrying ANNE STONOR (1499) and then becoming a Widower. It does seem that he had finished his Military Career when, though no longer a young man, he married ANNE READE in 1530 at the age of 54-years.

When ANNE BOLEYN became Queen, Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE (whose mother, ELIZABETH BOLEYN, was Anne's Great-Aunt) naturally profited to some extent, but, as we see from Adrian's papers, not very much. The foundations of his worldly fortunes had been laid honourably at an earlier date. He was a serious thrifty man, pains-taking in business, careful in accounts, and a lover of the homely wit of that day. He collected and signed several lists of proverbs and wise saws, which, though not very brilliant, are never offensive or coarse, always sane, and sometimes rise to a high moral or religious level.

Later in life (in 1532 at age 56-years) he became a KNIGHT of ST. JOHN of JERUSALEM, the ORDER which opposed the religious terrors of the King Henry VIII of England.



Medieval Knight at Palace of the Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem, Rhodes, Greece.

Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE thus drew the lightning. All the property that the Order had in England had just been seized. Without considering the military services rendered by the pacification and policing of the Mediterranean Sea, Henry VIII destroyed as much as he could of a maritime power which dared to condemn his fancies. As a consequence, the members of the Order were not welcome at Court. Although he had no office, ADRIAN was asked to take the Oath of Succession.

Had this demand been dictated by some attitude of the Knights who may have approved of JOHN FISHER and THOMAS MORE, who had been imprisoned for having refused to take that Oath? Whatever may be the case, Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE was taken to Woodstock, near Oxford, where he was questioned. Then he was removed by boat as far as SOUTHWARK here he was lodged in the prison of MARSHALSEA on August 29, 1534.

- King HENRY VIII gave the CASTLE of STONOR, (now called STONOR PARK) a part of the inheritance of ANNE STONOR, to her brother, SIR WALTER STONOR.



STONOR PARK

- Sir ADRIAN'S imprisonment grew long. No doubt THOMAS CROMWELL wished to take time to strengthen his power; he was keeping in check a possible leader of the opposition and of the resistance.
- Then, for no apparent reason, Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE was released. All of a sudden, ADRIAN FORTESCUE, this quiet, worthy Gentleman was overwhelmed by some unexplained whim of the Tudor Tyrant, Henry VIII.
- However, on February 3, 1539, when he refused to take the OATH of SUPREMACY supporting Henry VIII's separation from Rome, he was arrested a second time and sent to the Tower of London.
- On February 18, 1539 an inventory was drawn up of all his real and personal possessions, in London and in the Country, and they were declared SEIZED by the Crown.

There was no trial, or at least no traces of it are to be found. To condemn with certainty those whom he wanted to eliminate, THOMAS CROMWELL had revived the Bill of Attainder of 1459 and applied it to the Catholics, "enemies of the throne"; their property was confiscated to "pay for the insult". On the same day and under the accusation of having incited the people against the King, we find imprisoned with FORTESCUE, the COUNTESS OF SALISBURY, first Cousin of the Mother of Henry VIII and the Mother of Reginald Cardinal Pole, the Marchioness of Exeter, Sir THOMAS DINGALY, a Knight of Malta, and 12 other Persons, Priests and Laymen.

In April 1539, Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE was condemned, untried, by an Act of Attainder; in July 1539 he was BEHEADED along with THOMAS DINGLAY, at Tower Hill, London. No specific Act of Treason was alleged against him, but only in general "sedition and refusing allegiance". The Attainder, however, went on to decree death against CARDINAL POLE and several others because they "adhered themselves to the Bishop of Rome". Catholic tradition was always held that Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE died for the same cause, and modern Protestant critics have come to the same conclusion. His cultus has always flourished among the KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN, and he was beatified by POPE LEO XIII in 1895.



- THOMAS CROMWELL, (1485 - 1540), was an English Statesman and Lawyer, was briefly EARL OF ESSEX, who served as CHIEF MINISTER or PRINCIPAL ADVISER to King Henry VIII from 1534 to 1540, when he was beheaded on orders of the King, who later blamed false charges for the execution. His servants were also killed for treason on the same day but were hanged, drawn and quartered at Tyburn.
- THOMAS CROMWELL was chiefly responsible for establishing the REFORMATION in England, for the DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES, and for strengthening the Royal Administration.

Adrian Fortescue (martyr)

- ADRIAN FORTESCUE was the son of Sir JOHN FORTESCUE of **PONSBOURNE PARK** located in Hertford, Hertfordshire 7-miles from Hatfield House.
- He was a descendent of RICHARD FORTESCUE, younger brother of Sir HENRY FORTESCUE (fl. 1426), Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland, and of Sir JOHN FORTESCUE (1394 – 1480), Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, all sons of Sir JOHN FORTESCUE (fl.1422) of Whympton in the Parish of Modbury, Devon.
- He was appointed in 1422, CAPTAIN of the captured CASTLE OF MEAUX, 25 miles North-East of Paris.
- His mother ALICE FORTESCUE (born BOLEYN) was the daughter of GEOFFREY BOLEYN, Lord Mayor of London, and Great Aunt to Henry VIII's second wife, ANNE BOLEYN.
- He was made a KNIGHT of the BATH (KB) in 1503.
- He spent most of his time in the Country, busy with his lands and with County affairs.
- He lived at his wife's family seat at **STONOR PARK** in Oxfordshire, where he served as a JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.
- Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE participated in England's wars against France in 1513 and 1523 and was present at the meeting in 1520 between Henry VIII and FRANCIS I of FRANCE at the *Field of the Cloth of Gold*.
- He was made a KNIGHT of the Order of St. John in 1532 and the following year became a DOMINICAN TERTIARY of the Blackfriars of Oxford. He attended the Coronation of QUEEN ANNE BOLEYN in June of that year.

On 29 August 1534, he was arrested, without any stated reason, and taken to WOODSTOCK, where he was questioned. He was freed after a period of months. In February 1539 he was again arrested, and in April he was among those condemned for TREASON, without a TRIAL by Parliament, for UNSPECIFIED ACTS presumably relating to hostility to Henry VIII's CHURCH POLICIES. **In July 1539 he was BEHEADED on Tower Hill and his SERVANTS were hanged, drawn & quartered.**

■ **IN SHORT, Sir ADRIAN FORTESCUE was NOT a supporter or ally of KING HENRY VIII, who did not tolerate "DISLOYALTY" or "CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION"... WHERE HAVE WE HEARD THAT "DICTATOR'S CREED" BEFORE...?**

"I AM YOUR RETRIBUTION...!"



YOUR 2024 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE CAN (& MUST) PREVENT THIS POLITICAL DISASTER...!

The HISTORY of PONSBOURNE HOUSE, Hertfordshire, England.

During the 15th Century, many of the large Estates in England were commandeered by the Crown following the DISSOLUTION OF THE MONASTERIES. The PONSBOURNE Estate was different, given that it had already been sold to Sir JOHN FORTESCUE, the CHIEF JUSTICE of the KING'S BENCH and the author of *De Laudibus Legum Angliae*, (*The Commendation of the Laws of England*). He was responsible for building the original "stately and large" mansion in the Valley.



During the 18th Century, the Manor was sold to **LAWRENCE SULLIVAN** Esq. of Mile End, who proceeded to knock down the Mansion that Fortescue had built.

[Mile End is an area in London, England and is located in the London Borough of TOWER HAMLETS. It is in East London and part of the East End. It is 4.2 miles \(6.8 km\) east of Charing Cross.](#)

He then built the current Mansion in a slightly different location, offering a better vantage point than the previous. He also undertook large amounts of landscaping, creating a series of features that successfully added to the ornate beauty of the Estate. It is easy to see the work that was completed when JAMES WILLIAM CARLISLE eventually purchased PONSBOURNE in the 19th Century, as we can see a series of Victorian improvements, including the addition of a memorable staircase. We can also still see some of the stained glass windows that he added, along with monograms that have been hidden throughout the building and the Carlisle Coat of Arms.

Naturally, Carlisle focused on creating a landscaped garden to reflect the beauty of the world around him. This included the establishment of Rock Pools, Waterfalls and Bridges that can still be seen in the grounds today. At one point, there was also a "Winter Garden" in the basement of the Mansion, but it has unfortunately been lost to time.

PONSBOURNE PARK was held of the **MANOR of HATFIELD**. There is no early mention of it by name, but members with the family name of "**Ponsbourne**" held lands in Hatfield in the 13th and 14th Centuries. Therefore, it seems likely that they were the early owners of Ponsbourne House. The first of these to be mentioned is **WILLIAM De PONSBOURNE** in 1281. The name of **JOHN De PONSBOURNE** also occurs in 1293 with **ROBERT**, the son of William De Ponsbourne in 1308.

In 1346 the heir of **ROBERT De PONSBOURNE** is mentioned, after which there is no further record of the family, but in 1441 **JOHN KIRKEBY** died seised of lands (i.e. [put in legal possession of lands](#)) formerly of ROBERT PONSBOURNE. It probably was acquired with GACELYNS by Sir JOHN FORTESCUE, the Chief Justice. He forfeited in 1462, when Lord WENLOCK was granted his lands.

JOHN FORTESCUE, who ultimately succeeded, was Sheriff in 1481 and 1481; he died in 1499-1500 and was succeeded by his son John. This John Fortescue died seised of the **Manor of PONSBOURNE** in 1517. His son and heir HENRY FORTESCUE next held it. He leased Ponsbourne to Sir WILLIAM CAVENDISH for eighty years and sold the reversion in 1538 to Sir THOMAS SEYMOUR, Lord Admiral of England, who conveyed it to the Crown in exchange for other lands. In 1553 Ponsbourne was granted by Edward VI to Sir JOHN COCK, who died in 1358 and was succeeded by his son Henry Cock.

In 1622 the Manor of PONSBOURNE was held by Sir EDMUND LUCY, the husband of ELIZABETH COCK daughter of Henry Cock. He conveyed it in that year to EDWARD SHELDON, who in 1630 sold PONSBOURNE to Sir JOHN FERRERS, who died seised of the Manor called **PONSBOURNE PARK** in 1640. Sir John's eldest son KNIGHTON FERRERS predeceased him, leaving a widow Katharine and an infant daughter of the same name. In 1649 Ponsbourne was in the possession of THOMAS VISCOUNT FANSHAWE of Dromore, County Down, Northern Ireland and KATHARINE his wife, the daughter and heir of Knighton Ferrers, who in 1655 conveyed the Manor to STEPHEN EWER.

In 1660 STEPHEN EWER repaired the **Chapel** at PONSBOURNE PARK, and in 1662 obtained a licence as a **PRESBYTERIAN**, presumably to hold services in his house. In 1674 he sold the Manor to JOHN WOLLASTON who sold it again to PARIS SLAUGHTER, whose son PARIS succeeded in 1693. His daughter and heir married a Mr. Clarke, whose son WILLIAM CLARK sold PONSBOURNE PARK to SAMUEL STRODE, who was Lord of the Manor in 1728. He was succeeded by his son, William, who died in 1756, and by his grandson, William, who in 1761 conveyed the Manor to LAWRENCE SULLIVAN.

From LAWRENCE it passed to his son STEPHEN SULLIVAN, who sold it in 1811 or 1812 to WILLIAM BUSK, from whom it was purchased in 1819 by his brother JACOB HANS BUSK. In 1836 the Manor was again sold to **Mr. WYNN ELLIS**, who disposed of it in 1875 to **Mr. JAMES WILLIAM CARLILE**. The latter is the present **LORD OF THE MANOR**, and resides at PONSBOURNE PARK. PONSBOURNE MANOR HOUSE is the residence of COLONEL SIR E. HILDRED CARLISLE, M.P. for Mid-Herts.

MR. WYNN ELLIS was the son of MR. THOMAS ELLIS, of Oundle, Northamptonshire, by his wife, ELIZABETH ORDWAY, of Barkway, Northamptonshire, and was born at Oundle, in July, 1790. At an early age he commenced business in London as a WAREHOUSEMAN, and in that capacity amassed an enormous fortune. In 1814 he married MARY-MARIA SMITH, daughter of JOHN SMITH, of Lincoln, Esq., and Great-Niece and heir of CHARLES FEARSON, of Tankerton, Kent.

[Tankerton is a suburb of Whitstable in Kent in south-east England. It was designed in the late 19th century as the train network brought holidaymakers to the sea. It gives its name to a ward of Canterbury City Council.](#)

She died in 1872, leaving no issue. Mr. WYNN ELLIS represented LEICESTER in Parliament as an Advanced Liberal for about 18-years, until 1847, when he retired from Parliamentary life. He died on November 27, 1875, and by his Will, made 9-days before his death, he bequeathed to the Nation his noble collection of paintings by the Old Masters, on condition that they should be exhibited by themselves, for a period of 10-years, in a room or rooms of the NATIONAL GALLERY, to be called "THE WYNN ELLIS COLLECTION." After that time they may be exhibited as the Trustees of the National Gallery may think fit, but the frame of each picture must be labelled, "The gift of Mr. Wynn Ellis".

In May, 1875, Mr. WAYNE ELLIS sold the Estate, commonly known as PONSBOURNE PARK (lying about five miles south-east of the Town), to JAMES-WILLIAM CARLILE, of Huddersfield, who has pulled down the old house, which dated from about the time of King James II, and on its site has erected another, and a much larger residence.

The PONSBOURNE HOTEL has been restored to its former glory, with original features being perfectly complemented by the addition of modern facilities and luxurious furnishings.

The Estate was originally owned by JAMES WILLIAM CARLILE in 1875 when a number of Victorian modifications were made to the Mansion. In 2018, THE COMER GROUP took ownership and now the Hotel has contemporary facilities suitable for hosting opulent weddings, meetings and corporate events or conferences with a world-class restaurant and brassiere.

The PONSBOURNE is located just 15 miles north of central London and 45 minutes from Stansted Airport by car.

