

Lyneham and the Civil War

At the time of the Civil War Sir William Button, Bart, was the owner of Tockenham Court, a manor housing standing in the parish. He was a royalist and was terribly punished for his loyalty. In June 1643 his estate was raided by Sir Edward Hungerford, the leader at that time for the Parliament in Wiltshire, who carried off 380 sheep, 69 beasts, 160 'weights' of wool, the beds and pewter and brass of the kitchen. The whole valued at £767. Twelve months after, Sir William was again raided, this time by a party of horse from the Malmesbury garrison. He then suffered the loss of 440 sheep, 50 beasts, 62 mares and foals and other livestock, 100 cheeses and all the butter and apparatus from the dairy and damask curtains, scarlet cloth, silver plate etc. from the house: total value £526.

On November 22nd the same year (1644) he was dispossessed of his Tockenham property, Sir Edmund Powell becoming, under Parliament, the tenant of the estate, at a rent of £320 per annum. And to crown all, in 1646 Sir William was fined £2380 for 'Delinquency'. But through good and evil repute, through calm and storm, he remained true to his principles. Surely at his death enemies and friends alike must have said 'Peace to his ashes, for he was a MAN!'"