

Tilton Vicarage March 1861

The ancient and honorable family of Tilton acquired their name from their residence in "Tilton" in the Co. of Leicester where they possessed a fair estate in the reign of Henry the 2nd A.D. 1216 in whose time lived Sir John Tilton, who was so charitably disposed that he gave parcels of land belonging to him in the neighborhood for the benefit of the lepers of St. Lazarus in Jerusalem. In 1236-40 the family removed from Tilton to Digby in Lincoln Co. and took the name of Digby which has been retained ever since - many members of the family lie buried in Tilton Church as seen by their monuments but no traces of the name are found after 1600. The manor of Dyestoke afterward became the property of the Digbys by marriage of Everard who owned the lordship of Tilton, Digby and Dyestoke. He was M.P. from Rutland and Sheriff in 1459 and fell with three brothers fighting against Ed. 4th and his lands were attainted but afterwards restored. Seven sons of Everard were in the battle of Bosworth field against Richard 3rd, several of them are named as graced and rewarded by Henry 4th and to Sir Everard the eldest son, the lordship of Digby and Dyestoke was confirmed. A grandson by name Everard was knighted by James 1st in Belvoir Castle April 23, 1603. He was one of the most beautiful men in England and by accomplishments of mind reputed one of the finest gent. in Europe. He was concerned in the Gunpowder plot and lost his life having lent 1500£ to the conspirators. His youngest son Kenelm was called a magazine of Art and the ornament of England. He served Charles 1st and was exiled by Cromwell and became chancellor of the Queen Mother Henrietta Maria, who sent him envoy to the Pope. His daughter Margery married Edward Dudley of Northampton; John his son m. Catherine d. of Earl Arundel, Norfolk, Surrey, 2nd Margaret d. Sir Ed. Longueville by whom he had two d. whose husband sold the manor of Gothurst. 1659 the manor of Tilton was sold by Kenelm for 10000£. The whole estate has passed into the hands of Jacob Earl of Radnor who has divided it into farms. The place is still called "Tilton on the Hill" Leicester Co. 12 miles from Melton Mowbray.

Pedigree of Digby de Tilton.

Arms . Sapphire, a fleur de lys, Pearl. Crest on a wreath, an ostrich Pearl, holding in its beak an horseshoe - topaz. Supporters, two monkeys proper environed about the middle and chained.
Motto "Deo non Fortuna"

Almarus held lands in Tilton Leices. Co. of Wm. Conqueror.
Sir Everard Digby of Tilton-Amiria Bretton time Henry 1st and Stephen.

It would not be surprising if the brothers of Sir John Digby or Tilton after the affair with Gov of the Gunpowder plot emigrated. Two cent. since there emigrated to this country from the west of Eng. 3 brothers Daniel, Jacob and Peter Tilton. They were protestants and left their country on account of persecution for religious opinions. Daniel settled in Hampton - Jacob in Newbury - Peter in Lynn? Nathan of Scar. son of Philip of M.K., Philip son of Josiah E. Kingston, Josiah son of Jethro H. Falls, Jethro ost son of Daniel H. Falls who came over from England settling there.

Copy of record from Tilton Church Leicestershire by Wm. Furniss 1873

Digby - Lord Digby

The surname of this ancient and honorable family is said to have been originally Tilton assumed from their residence at Tilton in the county of Leicester, where they possessed a fair estate in the time of Henry II, in whose reign lived Sir John Tilton, who gave parcels of land in Billesdor, Kirby Bellars in that Co. to the Lepers of St. Lazarus in Jerusalem which the King confirmed to the infirm brethren Burton Lazars.

In 1256 (40 of Henry III) the family removed from Tilton to Digby in the Co. of Lincoln and received a name from that place which has been retained ever since; of this line we read of John Digby, who in the 11th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 32nd, 33rd years of Edward I was commissioner for the gaol-delivery at Harwick, served the king in his wars. He lies buried at Tilton under a slab adorned with his effigy at full length and cross legged holding a shield of his arms of the Fleur de Lis, with the sun and moon thereon.

Of this family was Sir Everard Digby, one of four brothers who fell fighting for Henry VI at the battle of Towton 1461. He was father of seven sons who all fought on the field of Bosworth of whom Sir Simon the 2nd was slain. From the eldest Sir Everard Lord of Tilton and Daystoke in Rutland Co. descended Sir Edward, executed in 1605 as a conspirator in the gunpowder plot. He married the beauty of her day Venetia daughter and co-heir of Sir Edward Stanley of Touge Castle Co. of Salop.

M.F. Tilton

Dec. 13, 1873