

The Stywards and Lakenheath.

1541- After the Abbey had been returned to the monks Robert Styward, Simeon's brother, became the first to hold the important position of Dean of the Cathedral with considerable control over all the land which had been returned by the King. Robert retained the pre- dissolution powers he had had as Prior of the Abbey. It appears that he used his influence to the advantage of his brother, SIMEON, who by now was Bailiff of Lakenheath as well as Undley and had become well-off, partly due to his marriage. He was able to purchase the house and land previously owned by WILLIAM LACY, brother of John Lacy, which seems to have been on part of the land, later enclosed, to become the Hall. By the end of his life in the reign of Elizabeth I he was a rich man, owning or leasing land in Lakenheath, Undley and several other villages.

Simeon's memorial tomb is in St. Mary's church as is a memorial tablet to his wife, Joanna, who on her death left a number of bequests to the village.

Munday



Tomb of Simeon Styward

Later the estate was bequeathed to Simeon's grandson (probably Sir Simeon Stuart) who in turn left it to his uncle, SIR NICHOLAS STEWART (Styward), who already had a manor in Hampshire.

This Hampshire connection becomes significant later.

Oliver Cromwell was a related to the Stywards. After the Civil War he was Lord Protector of England during the Commonwealth period.