

Joane Prater

About Joane Prater

Joane Prater was the only daughter of John. Her brother George, already being well established in a much finer manor (Latton Manor) and holding his own property prior to becoming the heir at his father's death, gave Inglesham Manor as dowery to his sister's husband. Thomas Stephens of Swindon (son of Sir Thomas Stephens) was Joane's husband. Thomas became the Rector of the church at Inglesham. (I believe that George Prater was Rector sometime before him.)

Thomas and Joane had a son, Thomas, who was granted the Rectory and Advowson of Swindon Church the same year his father died - 1560. He held the Rectory until his death in 1596. (He also held the grant of Advowson in 1575, 1579, 1580, and 1581. This Thomas (Jr.) had 2 sons; John and Nicholas. One son, John Stephens (wife: Bridget) was the primary heir to his father, but only held the Grant of the Rectory for six years when his brother Nicholas became of age and received the Rectory by the Will of his father, while John Stephens retained all other property.

The Rectory was awarded to the Praters and then to the Stephens by the Crown. John and Nicholas Stephens conveyed the Rectory to two persons in 1602 to "hold" as a trust for Nicholas Vilett, their nephew, who received it the same year.

The Rectory paid about 14 pounds a year with other payments for the land that went with it, totaling about 40 pounds a year. The Rectory later went to John Vilett, then to John Goddard, then the Martins, Webbs, and Rollestons (all descendants).

The tax paid to the church was a tenth of the income of the parish. The grant of the Rectory could supply a person a very high standard of living for this time in history.

Researched by Gary Benton Prather