

# INFORMATION CONTINUED

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## The manor of Gunstone (Gunston) and Associated Families - continued

**John Fowke** (1555-1642) was succeeded by his son, **Roger Fowke** (1588-1649), in 1642, who on his death in 1649 was followed by his son, **John Fowke** (1613-1669). **Gunstone Hall** was noted as 'the seat of Squire Fowke' in 1666. John Fowke was succeeded in 1670 by his son, **Roger Fowke** (1645-1698) who was living there c.1680. The subsequent history of this manor tenancy is not yet known but there is now no visible trace of the original capital messuage called **Gunstone Hall**.

The **present Gunston Hall** is a gabled stucco farmhouse dating from about 1840 and stands on the location occupied by the original **Gunstone Hall**. By c.1841 the land within the manor of Gunstone was owned by T. W. Giffard, and most of it was in the hands of three tenant farmers. The owner in 1956 was T. A. W. Giffard. No Fowke family occupation is recorded.

**The Hattons** evolved from the manor of Gunstone, the Hattons being two farms there c.1680. A messuage and land was held here by a Roger de Sparham of Hatton in 1302. Richard Lane of Bentley (Wolverhampton) and Hyde, and his heirs, was granted by the Bishop, what was described as the 'manor of Hatton' in 1428. Lands here, together with lands at Hyde, descended in the Lane family until at least 1477 but in 1495 the bishop leased all his messuages and lands at Hatton to Sir John Giffard and **Roger Fowke** (b.1460), for 99 years. In 1540 Bishop Roland Lee seems to have granted a messuage and lands in Hatton to Roger Fowke's son, **John Fowke** (b.abt.1490-1547), lands which John Lane was claiming c.1547. In 1571 **Roger Fowke**, son of John Fowke, made a settlement of lands and a free fishery in Hatton. An estate here then descended in the Fowke family, along with the manor of Gunstone, until at least 1680, when **Joyce Fowke (nee Marche)**, widow of **John Fowke** owned the two farms called '**The Hattons**', devised to her by her husband. Joyce seems to have been living at **Hatton House**, presumably the present **Old Hattons**, the oldest of three on the property. Part of this estate was sold to one of the Giffards of Chillington, while the remainder, continuing to be called **The Hattons**, was sold, c.1698, to a Mr Nichols who in turn sold it to a Mr Stannier, c.1713. By 1728 it was occupied, and probably owned, by Thomas Plimley, while the Giffard portion was divided between two tenants. Sir John Giffard's grandson, John Giffard made a settlement in 1579 and purchased another messuage and lands in Hatton and Brewood from John Lane in 1592. John Giffard was holding lands in Hatton at his death in 1613, and his grandson, Peter Giffard, held the 'manor or lordship of Hatton' in 1633. Peter Giffard's son, John Giffard, held the manor of Hatton in 1689, but the subsequent descent is obscure.

**Longbryche**. Land by this name adjoined the land owned by **John Fowke** in Hatton and was granted to him by the bishop in 1540. The land and a **house** built on it called '**The Long Birch**' were held by **Roger Fowke** who shortly before his death assigned part of the estate to the use of his three unmarried daughters. What was then described as 'the capital messuage called **Long Birch**' was occupied in 1664 by James Greene and his mother. In about 1677 **Long Birch** was sold by one, Fowler of Salt, to Walter Giffard. Other owners and occupiers ensued.

The **old house at Long Birch** appears to have been of three distinct dates. Medieval origin, late-16th Century and mid-17th Century.



*The present Gunston Hall was built about 1840 on the location of the original building which featured prominently in Fowke family history. However, no Fowke family occupation of this building is recorded.*

Enquiries encouraged. Corrections and additions gratefully accepted. Click on email link below.  
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### DECLARATION

The information contained within these pages is based on data supplied from many sources. Whilst every effort has been made to be accurate not all the connections and facts are guaranteed 'officially proven', either by the submitters, or by the Editors.