



ROCKINGHAM – Kelly's Directory 1914 (Extract)

ROCKINGHAM is a village and parish, separated from Leicestershire by the river Welland, with a station 1 mile north of the village on the Rugby and Stamford branch of the London and North Western railway, 10 miles east-by-north from Market Harborough, north from Kettering and 25 north-north-east from Northampton, in the Northern division of the county, hundred of Corby, petty sessional division of Kettering, Uppingham union and county court district, rural deanery of Weldon (first portion), archdeaconry of Oakham and diocese of Peterborough.

The church of St.Leonard is a building of stone in the Decorated style, consisting of chancel, with south chapel, nave and north aisle, at the north-east angle of which rises the small tower, square below, with an octagonal upper story containing one bell, the chancel and south chapel were rebuilt in 1868, and the other portions restored and a vestry added in 1873, at a cost of £3,000, under the direction of Mr. Browning, architect, of Stamford, and it was again restored in 1902, when a new organ was provided by the Rev. W.Watson M.A. The church affords 200 sittings. The register dates from the year 1552. The living is a rectory, net yearly value £140, including 30 acres of glebe, with residence, in the gift of the Rev. Wentworth Watson M.A., J.P. and held since 1904 by the Rev. Leonard Herbert Rees M.A. of Jesus College, Oxford. The charities, derived from land left in 1720 by one of the Watson family, amount to £13 yearly.

A fair is held on September 25.

This village, seated on the declivity of a hill, in the midst of what was once Rockingham Forest, was a market town in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; on the top of the hill a castle was erected by William the Norman for the defence of the extensive iron works then existing in the adjacent woodlands; the tower and part of the body of the church were destroyed in the Civil War, during the siege of the castle, which was garrisoned for the king by its proprietor, Sir Lewis Watson, afterwards created Baron Rockingham, whose descendants became Earls of Rockingham, Barons and Earls of Malton, and Marquesses of Rockingham, but all these titles became extinct on the death of Charles Watson Wentworth, 2nd Marquess of Rockingham K.G. 20th July, 1782. Rockingham Castle, now the seat of the Rev. Wentworth Watson M.A.,J.P. lord of the manor and sole landowner, is within a part of over 400 acres, diversified by hill and dale and well wooded; the present aspect of the castle at its entrance gates still recalls the idea of the military defences of the past ages; the archway is flanked by two bastion towers with curtain walls extending on either side, and passing through the archway the great court is reached, which comprises that portion of the castle erected in the 13th and 16th



centuries and is still inhabited. The soil is clayey; subsoil, iron and lime stone. The crops are wheat and beans and some pasture land. The area is 921 acres of land and 5 of water; rateable value £1,611; the population in 1911 was 154.

Post, M. O. & T. Office & Telephonic Express Delivery Office – Miss Ada Elizabeth Smith, sub-postmistress. Letters through Uppingham arrive at 6.45 a.m. & 4.35 p.m.; dispatched at 10 a.m. & 6.45 p.m.; Sundays, dispatched at 5.35 p.m.

Public Elementary School (mixed), built in 1843, for 150 children; and supported in part by the Rev. Wentworth Watson; Miss Margaret Lucas, mistress.

Carriers – John Wright, to Kettering, fri. Returning same day; Walter Baker, to Uppingham, wed.; to Kettering, fri.

Rees Rev. Leonard Herbt. M.A. Rectory
Watson Rev. Wentworth M.A., J.P.
Rockingham Castle

COMMERCIAL

Barnes Wilson, farmer
Brown John, land steward to Rev. W
Watson M.A., J.P.
Ellis & Everard Limited, coal & coke
merchants &c; depot, Rockingham
station

Hayr William, grazier
Jones Henry Fredk. Butcher & baker
Manning William, Sondes Arms P.H.
Marchant William, grazier
Ratt George, shoe maker
Smith Ada Elizabeth (Miss), grocer, Post
office
Upchurch William, carpenter
Wright Lucy (Mrs.), blacksmith