

ORIGINALLY "*Hamme*," in Domesday, and other ancient Evidences. *Churcham* and *Highbam* are the more modern Appellations, in order to distinguish the Places. This Parish is divided between the Hundreds of *Westbury* and *Dudstone*, eight Miles easterly from *Mitchel Dean*, seven North-east from *Newnham*, and five from *GLOUCESTER* on the North-west. The Soil is principally of heavy and fertile Clay. The Circumference of the Parish is more than eight Miles, intersected by the Rivulet *Leadon*, in its progress to the *Severn*. Nearly equal Portions of Land are Pasture, and tilled; and in *Huntley Heath* the Inhabitants possess a joint Right of Commonage, where is an extensive Tract of Wood Land, exempted from Tythes, Part of the Estate of Sir JOHN GUISE, Bart.

The Living is a Vicarage in the *Forest* Deanery, with the Chapelry of *Bulley* annexed. Both the Impropriation and Advowson belonged to the Abbey of *St. Peter* in *GLOUCESTER*, and were continued to the Dean and Chapter, upon their first Establishment.

It is probable that the Church was built by the *Normans*, as it consists of one Nave or Pace only, a Mode of Architecture peculiar to them. It has a low Spire at the West End, and the whole has been lately very decently repaired. The Pews are those which were erected before the Reformation, a regular Arrangement of plain Benches, low and open, and without Distinction. Pews, according to the modern Use, would have obstructed Processions, and other Ceremonies of the Romish Religion. *St. Andrew* is the tutelary Saint.

WOLFIN LE RUE, Consul of *GLOUCESTER*, in the Reign of CANUTE was Lord of "*Hamme*." That Monarch, having expelled the Secular Priests from the Abbey of *GLOUCESTER*, and introduced Benedictine Monks, the Resentment of WOLFIN prompted him to kill seven of them in the Year 1048. The POPE taking Cognizance of this Outrage, he was fain to make the usual and only satisfactory Atone-ment; and gave this Manor to increase the Revenues of the Abbey. It remained with them till the Suppression, when it was granted to the Dean and Chapter, under whom it has been held by Lease by the Families of CHAMBERLAYNE, BROWN, HARRIS, BARROW, and MONEY, in Succession.

The Hamlets of *Highbam*, *Linton*, and *Over*, form one Tything in the Hundred of *Dudstone* and *King's Barton*.

1. *Highbam*. The Manors of *Highbam* and *Over* were likewise Parcel of the Abbey of *GLOUCESTER*. King HENRY the Eighth sold them to JOHN ARNOLD, Esq. of the County of *Monmouth*. THOMAS LUCY, Esq. of *Charlcote*, co. *Warwick*, by Marriage with the sole Heir of that Family, became possessed of them. His only Daughter was married to Sir WILLIAM COOKE, of the Family of COOKE, of *Giddy Hall*, co. *Essex*, about the Year 1600. WILLIAM JONES, Esq. of *Nass* in this County, and HENRY GUISE, Esq. of the City of *GLOUCESTER*, having married the Heirs Generals of this last Family, one Moiety of these Estates was inherited, and the other purchased, by JOHN GUISE, created a Baronet Dec. 10, 1783, 23 GEO. III.

The Mansion-house is well situated, and contains several very spacious and magnificent Apartments*. It was built during the Interregnum, from a Plan of INIGO JONES†, by WILLIAM COOKE, Esq. who had borne a Colonel's Commission under CROMWELL; but was reconciled at the Restoration, and was High Sheriff for this County in 1663. The old Manor-house was garrisoned during the Siege of *GLOUCESTER*‡, held by both Parties, and rendered uninhabitable by Fire. A private Chapel was erected

* These Apartments are embellished with many original Family Portraits, particularly of General GUISE, in a Roman Character, painted by GERVASE HAMILTON at *Rome*. The General was highly esteemed by FREDERICK Prince of WALES, and collected Pictures for him in *Italy*; during which Time he made his own sumptuous Collection, which he afterwards bequeathed to *Christ Church, Oxford*. The Family Pictures were returned to the Heir at Law, and a very fine MADONA, by TITIAN, as one of them. An original Portrait of CROMWELL, most probably by R. WALKER (to whom he most frequently sat), given by the PROTECTOR to Colonel COOKE, and another of the Patriot ALGERNON SYDNEY, by LELY. Beside these, is a Half-length of Mrs. JANE LANE, who conducted the Escape of CHARLES II. after the decisive Battle of *Worcester*.

† The Works of INIGO JONES (as it is observed by Mr. WALPOLE, vol. II. p. 273) are not scarce, and some that bear his Name, are the Productions of his Scholars. FRANCIS CARTER studied under JONES, and was in high Favour with CROMWELL, being Surveyor of his Works. JONES, dying in 1651, then quite superannuated, renders a Conjecture allowable, that CARTER was the Designer of *Highbam Court*.

‡ "Meane while a great Power of the Welsh Army advanced towards *GLOUCESTER*, and settled at *Highbam House*, within two Miles of the City and began to intrench. The Governor (MASSIE) placed a Guard at the Bishop's House (*The Vineyard*) to keep them at a Distance; Sir JEROME BRETT, their Major General, had the Confidence to demand the Towne, but the Summons was received with Scorne from a Welsh Brigade, and became ridiculous, when Prince RUPERT had been twice refused. Immediately after the taking of *Malmesbury*, Sir WILLIAM WALLER bent his Course towards *GLOUCESTER* and laid his Designe for the Surprize of the Welsh Army. He gave Notice of his Advance unto Colonel MASSIE, with Directions instantly to draw forth both Foot and Horse before *Highbam*, and to keep them in continual Action, that they might not understand his Approach. The Governor performed according to the Intention of the Plot, drew forth all the Horse, and a Party of 500 Foot, brought up the Ordnance neere the House, and kepte them in the Heat of Play till the Evening. At Night he let Guards rounde the House, with that Straitness and Confidence, that the Enemy durit not stirre, nor a Spy