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On Her Majesty's Service

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WALTHAM FISHERIES

LEA CONSERVANCY

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EXTRACTS from "A COMPLETE
HISTORY OF ESSEX" 1730 with a Plan
by Robert Morden.

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TREASURY SOLICITOR,
Law Courts Branch,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
STRAND, W.C.

Essex is a large and populous County, so surrounded by waters that it makes a Peninsula for it is bounded on the East by the German Sea on the North by the River Stour which separates it from Suffolk and Cambridgeshire on the West by the River Stort which divides it from Hertfordshire and the River Lea or Ley which parts it from Middlesex and on the South by the River Thames - which separates it from Kent

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Waltham Holy Cross or (as it is commonly called) Waltham Abbey near which spreads out a Forest of large extent full of game and well stocked with Deer the largest and fattest in the kingdom - It was anciently called the Forest of Essex and that with good reason for it extended through this County as far as the sea as appears by Edward the Confessor's Grant to Randolph Peperkin and tho' it be much lessen'd at present it still thrusts itself into several Hundreds.

There happening many contests about the Bounds and limits of this Forest an Act of Parliament was made 17 Car. 1 empowering certain Commissioners to call together and examine the most ancient inhabitants of the County concerning them and it was determined and agreed that Wansted Leyton Waltham Stow Woodford Loughton Chigwell Lamborn and Stapleford Abbots are within the Forest that Stratford East and West Ham Ilford Barking Dagenham Navistock and Thoydon Boys are part within and part without the Forest and that the Hundreds of Harlow Uttleford

Hinkford Lexden Tending Dengy Wytham Chelmsford Dunmow
Clavering Freshwell Chafford Barstable Thurstable Rochford
and Winstree and all the parishes in them contained are
out of the bounds of the Forest. It is now called Waltham
Forest from this Town whose name Waltham in Saxon Wealldham
i.e. a dwelling in the woods, refers to its situation, but
of late it is better known to the distant parts of the
County by the name of Epping Forest another town which
borders on it and is of more note.

The Town is of no ancient Original for in the
latter times of the Saxons one Tovius, a man of great
wealth and authority Standard Bearer to the King by reason
of the abundance of Deer built this Place and guarded it
with 66 men to preserve them. After his death his son
Athelstan squander'd away this Estate and Edward the
Confessor bestowed this Village upon Harold the son of
Earl Godwin who built here a Monastery where himself was
afterwards interred, for having possessed himself of the
Crown of England after Edwards death - he raised that
Structure in Honor of the Holy Cross and upon the Invasion
of the Normans made his Vows for success solemnly here but
being soon after slain in fighting against them, his
mother by many intreaties obtained his body and deposited
it in this place. His body is thought to have been dug up
in Queen Elizabeth's days by the workmen employ'd by Sir
Edward Denny to convert the old Abbey into a Seat for
himself and Posterity.

This Monastery (of which more afterwards) was at
the Dissolution bestowed by K. Henry VIII with many other
lands upon Sir Anthony Denny then one of the Gentlemen of
the Kings Bedchamber and Groom of the Stole for thirty one

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years before which time Sir Anthony dying Dame Joan his wife purchased the Reversion in fee with many large Privileges in the adjoining Forest of King Edward VI.

Edward the Grandson of this Sir Anthony inherited this estate in Queen Elizabeth's Reign and was by her Knighted Anno 1589 which title he so well deserved that King James I created him 3 Reg: Baron Denny of Waltham and summon'd him to Parliament by that Honour. King Charles I raised him to an higher degree of dignity being made by Letters Patent bearing date October 24th 1627 2 Car: I. Earl of Norwich but both honours dy'd with him, he leaving only one daughter Honora, married to James Lord Hay, afterwards Earl of Carlisle. He repaired the remaining buildings of the Abbey and made himself a seat in it which now is of the same use to Jones Esq. late Sheriff of this County. While the Monastery flourished it had several Fairs and Markets which were granted by King Richard I and King Henry III of which one Fair continued seven days but since the dissolution the Market is but small on Tuesdays weekly and the Fair on

This Town gave birth and name to two persons of name and distinction viz: Roger de Waltham Canon of St. Pauls in London i.e. of Cadington Minor. He was much in favor with Fulk Basset Bishop of that See and wrote many learned books of which two especially are worth perusal viz: his Compendium Morale and Imagines Oratorum For the rest see Pitts de Illust Angl Script Anno 1250.

John de Waltham Bishop of Salisbury Lord Privy Seal and Chancellor of England. He was so much in the favor of Richard II that that King expressed great sorrow for his death and in Testimony of his love to him caused his body

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to be buried in Westminster Abbey among the Kings with an Epitaph on him (tho' now defaced) declaring the fame.

This Church is neither Rectory nor Vicarage but a Curacy or Donative cum cura Animarum and had anciently a poor stipend of £8 per annum only belonging to it till by the pious bounty of Edward Earl of Norwich above mentioned £100 per annum with other considerable accommodations were settled upon the present Curate and his successors and good lands ty'd for the true payment thereof.

Dr. Thomas Fuller a famous writer in his time and the Author of The Church History of England Pisgah Sight The Holy War, Worthies and divers other Works of good use had this Curacy given him by the Rt. Hon. John Hay Earl of Carlisle.

Mr. Joseph Hall afterwards Bishop of Exeter was Minister here and was a principal instrument in determining Mr. Sutton to erect his Hospital of Charter House Hern in Vit Sutton 59.

The nomination to this Curacy is in the owner of the Site of the Abbey which is the forementioned Mr. Jones

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Waltham Holy Cross a Monastery and College for a Dean and eleven Secular black Canons founded by Earl Harold who endowed it with 17 manors all particularly mentioned in King Edward the Confessor's Charter of Confirmation and further granted them cum soca and sacha Toll and Team &c.

It contained a college according to the Foundation about 115 years when King Henry II purposing to institute regular Canons instead of Seculars and having the Pope's mandate commission'd the Archbishop and the Bishops of

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London Durham and Norwich to put in 16 regular Canons of St. Augustin viz. six from Cirencester six from Osney and four from Chich making Walter Gaunt Canon of Osney first Abbot and Ralph Canon of Cirencester the first Prior but the ejected Dean had a manor given him in exchange for his Deanery and the Prebendaries their Prebends or the value for life. The King promised to make their revenues large enough to maintain 80 or 100 Canons but did not perform his word, yet he confirmed all former gifts and added the rich Manor of Sewardston and Epping to them.

King Richard I by his Charter also granted to these Canons the whole Manor of Waltham with the Wood Park and 300 Acres of Assart land and the Village of Nessinges and 160 acres of Assart land with all the rights &c. paying £60 yearly into the Exchequer for all services and by another Charter gave them the Church of St. John Baptist of New Windsor and his Chapel of Old Windsor with the Churches of All Saints in Hertford Abridge and Nasing.

Pope Lucius III exempted this Abbey from all Episcopal Jurisdiction and our Kings made the Abbot a Lord of Parliament as they did divers others upon which account they were called Mitred General or Sovereign Abbots.

The Revenues of this Abbey at the Dissolution were found to be worth £900 4s. 3d. Dugd. 10792 12s. 1d. Speed.

Thus the Monuments of Popery fell in this Country but how dear it cost to set up a more pure Church will appear by taking a survey of the Martyrs of this Country.

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