

Extract from Whellan's Directory - 1849
Woodford Parish

The boundaries of Woodford are formed by the river Nene on the east, Denford and Islip on the north, Cranford on the west and Ringstead on the south, It contains 1750 acres; its population in 1801, was 491 and in 1831, 639 and in 1841, 680 souls. The amount of assessed property is £3,395 and the rateable value £3,203. The land is principally of stiff clay and W.B. Stopford Esq., (lord of the manor), and the Right Hon. Charles Arbuthnot are the principal proprietors. In the vicinity of the village are three tumuli, near which Roman tiles, fragments of tessellated pavements and an urn have been discovered.

Manor - At the time of the Conqueror's survey "Ralph" held 1 hide and 1 virgate in Woodford of the Bishop of Constance; the abbey of Burgh had 7 hides, which were held by Roger; and Roger, Hugh and Seward had 3 virgates here, of the abbey at the same time, and the whole was valued at £3.10 10s. In the reign of Henry II: there were 8 hides here of the fee of Burgh; and in the 9th of Edward II, (1315) John Spigurnell, Roger de Boys Alice Trayly were lords of Woodford In the 19th of Henry VIII, (1503) John Norwich Esq, died seized. Of a manor here which had been previously held by the families of Trayly and Holt, and left it to his posterity; and in the following year Thomas Lenton died seized of a manor here, held of the abbot of Peterborough and which he left to his descendents. In the 2nd Elizabeth, (1559) William Vaux Lord Harrowden levied a fine of a manor here, which subsequently passed to the family of Malory. William Lord St. John baron Bletso succeeded his father in the possession of the manor of Woodford with about half the parish in 1708.

The village of Woodford is pretty large is situated high ground, sloping to the river, about 2 1/2 miles S.W. by W of Thrapston.

The Church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin consists of a nave with side aisles and porches, a clerestory, chancel and western tower surmounted by a handsome spire, This edifice is remarkable for the beauty of its execution, and the peculiarities of its construction and arrangement In the north aisle lie two effigies supposed to represent Sir William Trayly and Alionora his wife. The living is a rectory in the deanery of Higham Ferrers, rated in the KB at £22.9s.6d but worth £540 per annum. Lord St. John is the patron, and the William Lashmere Batley, MA rector. The tithes were commuted for land in 1763. On the north side of the churchyard is an ancient farm house, which presents some features similar in style and date to parts of the church.

Woodford Lodge the seat of the right Hon. Charles Arbuthnot is a plain but handsome building situated on a beautiful lawn and surrounded by tastefully arranged pleasure grounds. The present proprietor of this estate is son of John Arbuthnot, Esq., by the daughter of J. Stone, Esq. banker in London, 3rd niece to archbishop Stone primate of Ireland; is grandson of George Arbuthnot who held a commission in Queen Anne's guards and was descended from an ancient Scottish family.

There is a Baptist Chapel, a neat stone building, in the village; and a charity school here in which 12 poor children are educated and clothed free, by Hon. Miss Arbuthnot.

The Charities of the Parish are the Charity Estate 38a. 1r. 31p. left to the poor in 1577, by Peter and Edward Grey, and which lets according to the commissioners report, for £55 per annum; the church land 14a. 3r. 5p. which yields £28 per annum; and a rent-charge of 13s. 4d called Whalley's money which is given to the poor.

Arbuthnot	Rt. Hon Charles	
Armsby	William	shoemaker and shopkeeper
Bales	Thomas	Blacksmith
Barnes	Matthias	shopkeeper
Batley MA	Rev W,	Rector
Beeby	W	Carrier and beer retailer
Bird	Mary	shopkeeper
Blott	Mr Jon	Road surveyor
Bonsam	Mr James	
Brawn	John	Butcher
Coles	Mr Eusebius	
Eaton	Mr John	Machinemaker and timber merchant
Fletcher	Elizabeth	charity school mistress
Fisher	George	Victualler
Furnell	J	Victualler
Gunn	Samuel	stonemason
Gunn	John	gardener
Gunn	Joseph	Shoemaker
Hicks	Jane	Beer retailer
Hicks	John	Baker
Hughes	Samuel	shoemaker
Jones	William	Butcher
Knapp	Miss Louisa	
Lovill	Mr John	
Mastin	Robert	baker and grocer
Neall	William	tailor and draper
Percival	Mr James	
Ragsdell	Rev W,	Baptist
Skempton	George	Rope maker
Spencer	Mr William	
Summons	Mr Daniel	
Thompson	James	Bailiff
Wadsworth	Thomas	Miller
Wadsworth	Thomas (jun)	Baker
Wells	Mr Lewis	
Freeman	Thomas	farmer and miller
Hill	Henry	farmer and miller
Ivens	William	farmer
Mitchell	John	farmer
Walker	Joseph	farmer

Letters received through the Thrapston Post Office.

Carrier - William Beeby, to Thrapston, Tuesday; Wellingborough, Wednesday; Oundle Thursday and Kettering, Friday.