

Fiennes family and many living in north Oxfordshire, were Parliamentary sympathizers. Indeed, in 1642 the King had specifically excluded Sir William Cobb (together with Lord Saye and Nathaniel Fiennes) from a declaration of pardon to persons in the county who had taken up arms against him.⁶

These Dutch cavalry troops were serving in the Royalist army and were being used to guard the local bridges. Lord Wilmot, a senior Royalist cavalry commander whose home was actually at the nearby Adderbury House, was a professional soldier. Before the Civil War, as a mercenary in the Dutch army, he had been a captain commanding a troop of cavalry. Wilmot was presumably the connection between the Dutch troops serving in the vicinity and the Royalist army.

Sir Thomas Cobb, baronet

With the Restoration, life everywhere returned to normality and, despite the family's parliamentary support, Thomas Cobb was created a baronet by Charles II in 1662. Such honours usually involved a monetary contribution to the Crown, and the King was always short of cash!

Warden Woodward of New College conducted progresses (administrative visits) from time to time to its many manors. These included the Winchester Manor of Adderbury, for which since 1381 the college had rectorial responsibilities. He recorded⁷ that he visited and received hospitality from Cobb regularly from 1659.

In 1659 the Parsonage house though large was *'impossible to bee made Convenient... without pulling downe.'* He suggested that lead to the value of £40 from the old building

'bee allowed Mr Cobb towards the Charge of his Building... a new House, it will cost him, hee believeeth about a hundred pounds more... There are also 4 Barnes, two of which Mr Cobb would willingly pull downe...'

'The Tenants of our Court there were very clamorous and unruly... They also layd claime unto certaine Customes, viz. that... the Colledge as Lords should find them a dinner... havinge enquired thereunto ... wee found that [this was] not by any Custome, but uppon Courtesy only. And soe Mr Cobb would provide for them still, but not otherwise, not as a Custome by any meanes.'

⁶ Beesley, p. 329.

⁷ *The Progress Notes of Warden Woodward round the Oxfordshire Estates of New College, Oxford 1659-1675*, ed. R.L. Rickard, ORO 27, 1945, pp.17-27.