

oaks in his grounds were not to be felled. After his death this was done and his ghost appeared on the spot. Another story was that two men were poaching in the stream and on looking round saw Sir George's coach and four coming towards them, the horses breathing fire. They were so frightened that they said they would never poach again. Two women, on going to the well on the Cobb property, found one side fallen in and at the side was a pot full of guineas. They informed the constable and were allowed 4s. a week as long as they remained unmarried.⁹

George Montagu at Adderbury

Sir George's two daughters, Anne and Christian, leased their family home in 1768 to George Montagu (c.1713-1780), who had been living at Greatworth, a few miles east of Banbury. Montagu was connected to a wide-ranging aristocratic family. He had been M.P. for Northampton and in 1761 had been Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod in Ireland during his cousin Lord Halifax's vice-royalty;¹⁰



George Montagu - an engraving of a portrait by Eckardt.

⁹ H.J. Gepp, *Adderbury*, 1924, p.66.

¹⁰ See 'Three Lost Northamptonshire Houses and their owners', J.S.W. Gibson, *Northamptonshire Past and Present*, vol.5.4 (1976), 311-14; and 'The Manor House', Pam Carpenter, *A Village of Great Worth*, ed. W. Stageman, 1994.