

Lordship of Billing

Parish/ County	Little Billing Northamptonshire	Principal Source	Victoria County Histories
Date	History of Lordship		Monarchs
871	Creation of the English Monarchy		Alfred the Great 871-899 Edward Elder 899-924 Athelstan 924-939 Edmund I 939-946 Edred 946-955 Edwy 955-959 Edgar 959-975 Edward the Martyr 975-978 Ethelred 978-1016 Edmund II 1016 Canute 1016-1035 Harold I 1035-1040 Harthacnut 1040-1042 Edward the Confessor 1042-1066 Harold II 1066 William I 1066-1087
Pre 1066	There are two lordships of Billing held by the Saxons Osmund and Leofric.		
1066	Norman Conquest- Battle of Hastings Robert, Count of Mortain is a Norman nobleman and half-brother of William the Conqueror. He provides 120 ships towards the invasion fleet and fights at the Battle of Hastings. As a reward William combines the two Billing lordships and grants them to Robert.		
1086	Domesday		
1095	Robert dies leaving a son and heir William. The transition of Robert's lands and titles was not seamless.		William II 1087-1100
1097	William's uncle Odo, Bishop of Bayeux dies whilst on the 1 st Crusade.		
1100	William has still not received the land and titles of his father and in addition he is claiming his Uncle's lands and titles. His relationship with King Henry is strained as Henry keeps putting him off. Henry offers him the hand in marriage of Mary of Scotland (daughter of King Malcolm III) which he refuses (this is a great insult to King Henry).		Henry I 1100-35
Unknown	William continues to press King Henry for the inheritance he thinks he is due. Frustrated and angry he leaves England for Normandy. There he joins forces with the Duke of Normandy		

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1106	William and the Duke attack several of King Henry's holdings in Europe. William and the Duke meet King Henry and a large force at the Battle of Tinchebrai. They lose and are captured. William is imprisoned in the Tower of London and all his lands and titles are stripped from him. Billing is granted to the D'Avranches family. They subenfeud it (create a junior lordship) to Walter fitz Winemar (or Walter de Preston as he is also lord of Preston Deanery). He, as lord of the manor bestows 1 virgate of land together with Little Billing church to St Andrew's Priory in Northampton.	Stephen 1135-54
Unknown	Walter dies and leaves a son and heir Gilbert de Preston.	
Unknown	Sibyl de Preston (daughter of Gilbert) gives up her right in 5 virgates of land to St Andrew's Priory. This is conditional that her daughter Eustachia and Eustachia's husband Robert (son of Ralph Raye) should continue to hold 2 virgates from the Priory, this making the prior lord over the Preston holding.	
1154-1187	Billing passes to Michael de Preston who confirms the gifts to the Priory. Michael dies leaving a son and heir Walter, who confirms the gifts to the Priory.	Henry II 1154-89 Richard I 1189-99 John 1199-1216
1207-8	Walter is appointed High Sheriff of Northamptonshire.	
1215	Magna Carta	
1215-1217	First Barons War	Henry III 1216-72
1264-1267	Second Barons War	
Before 1272	Walter dies leaving a son and heir Gilbert who once again confirms the gifts to the Priory.	
1291	The Priory's lands are valued at £6 15s.	
Post 1307	The Priory sue Philip (son of John of Boughton) unjustly disseising (taking control of) 1 messuage (farm) and 3 virgates of land within Billing.	Edward I 1272-1307 Edward II 1307-27 Edward III 1327-77

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Post 1377	George Longueville contends that 40d due from the whole village of Billing for the ward of Northampton Castle or Rockingham Castle 6d is due from St Andrew's Priory. The prior pleads that the land was given in free alms (land given to the church without obligations). The prior is successful, and no payment is due.	Richard II 1377-1399 Henry IV 1399-1413 Henry V 1413-22
1455-1487	War of the Roses	Henry VI 1422-61 1470-71 Edward IV 1461-70 1471-83 Edward V 1483 Richard III 1483-5
1534	The Act of Supremacy – Church of England	Henry VII 1485-1509 Henry VIII 1509-47
1535	The value of the Priory lands has fallen to 16s.	
1538	The Priory is dissolved and the lordship in Billing is taken into the King's hands.	
1553	King Edward grants Billing to Thomas Sidney and Nicholas Haleswell. The is manor of Billing is not recorded again.	Edward VI 1547-53 Mary I 1553-58 Elizabeth I 1558-1603
1642-1651	English Civil War	James I 1603-25 Charles I 1625-49 Charles II 1660-85 James II 1685-88 William III 1688-1702 Anne 1702-14
1750-1850	Industrial Revolution	George I 1714/27 George II 1727/60 George III 1760-1820 George IV 1820-30 William IV 1830-7 Victoria 1837-1901 Edward VII 1901-10 George V 1910-36 Edward VIII 1936 George VI 1936-52
2019	The title appears not to have been used for 466 years.	Elizabeth II 1952-