
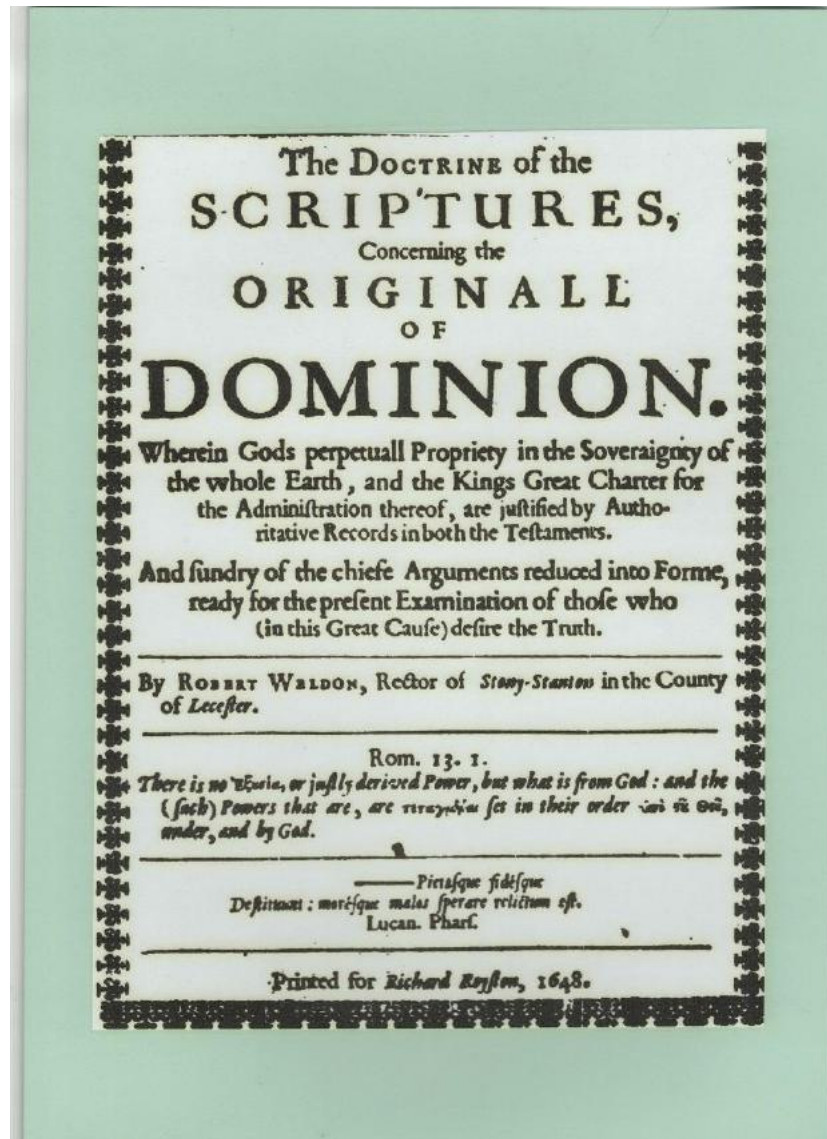


# Manorfield Detectives.



This is the signature of a man who lived in Stoney Stanton at a very difficult and scary time in our history. The signature comes from a document held at Leicestershire Records Office, it's an indenture (a legal agreement).

The man in question lived in Stoney Stanton from 1626-1640; he was the rector of St Michael's and a very well educated man.



He attended Christ Church College, Oxford and after he became our village rector, wrote several religious books. The front cover of one of them is shown above.

If you look closely you can see his name and that he is 'Rector of Stony-Stanton in the County of Leicester'.

This book was published in 1648 and another was published in 1651.

Several of his books can still be found in important libraries around the world, including the very famous Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Robert Weldon had a very big dilemma, at that time there were increasing problems between King Charles I and the Parliament.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNi9YzBhL4s>

King Charles didn't want Parliament telling him what he could and couldn't do. He believed he had been made king by God and that he should rule alone.

Parliament had very different ideas; they could see the problems of the ordinary people and wanted to make sure the king couldn't take decisions alone that could harm the country and its people.

Things eventually got so bad that war broke out, a civil war. All those involved were English; it was the King against Parliament.

The people that supported Charles I were called Cavaliers and those who supported Parliament were called Roundheads.

Robert Weldon was a loyal Royalist who believed in the king. This increasingly became a problem for him and others as the country divided itself into two opposing sides.

Things became so bad for Robert that he had to leave Stoney Stanton and escape overseas-probably to France or Holland to escape worse happening.

His name appears on a list of gentry, nobility, farmers, clergy and traders from Leicestershire who were sequestered (fined in money or property confiscated forcibly) before the end of 1648.

As you can see from this map of Leicestershire, there were battles and skirmishes everywhere, even in Hinckley in 1644. Robert had to leave to stay safe. King Charles I was eventually caught and put on trial. He was executed in London on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1649.

<http://www.hinckleypastpresent.org/civilwarhinckley.html>



Another royalist clergyman, Richard Drake from Radwinter in Essex kept a diary of the events as they were unfolding during the civil war. He mentioned Robert Weldon in his accounts-

*"He was very active for the king and endured great hardship in several places where he was forced to conceal himself til he went overseas to the royal exiles."*

Robert must have returned at some point as he died and was buried in London in 1652. Unfortunately, he didn't live to witness the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 when Charles II, son of Charles I, was crowned king.

Sadly, the churchyard where Robert Weldon was laid to rest, St. Peter's, Paul's Wharf, near the River Thames in London, was destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666 and no longer exists.

It's strange to think that a village rector from Stoney Stanton was so tangled up in national events that divided so many families in this country.

Sadly, around 200,000 people died in the English Civil Wars as a whole, either from battle or disease.

What can you discover about the English Civil War?