



THE GREAT CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY LONG MELFORD

Rector of Long Melford: The Rev. Christopher Sansbury
Patron of the Friends of Long Melford Church: Sir Harry Secombe

Long Melford Rectory,
Sudbury, Suffolk

July 15th 1996

Treasurer,
Clopton PCC

Dear Mrs Foster,

Herewith a cheque for £130 representing tea towels sold to members of our founding family the Cloptons while on their recent visit. They are not, as far as I know, anything to do with your village, the name being derived from a disappeared village in Cambridgeshire. Nor are they anything to do with the Clopton village on the Cambridgeshire - Northamptonshire border; I was most disappointed to see that the pub there is not the Clopton Arms with our Cloptons' shield on its sign! The history of our Cloptons effectively begins when they moved to Wickhambrook, where there is a Clopton Hall (as, I believe, there is in your village). The present family are all Americans and are descended from one man who emigrated to Virginia in 1677, which is why the family history is entitled "The Ancestry of William Clopton of York County, Virginia". Among their slightly improvable claims is to be descended from four of the barons who made King John sign Magna Carta, and among their even less probable claims is to trace their ancestry to someone who came over with William the Conqueror. Their ancestral homes include Ford Hall at Bridge Street (just north of Long Melford), Castlings Hall at Groton, and above all Kentwell Hall at Long Melford. They seem very happy to have done business with you; we've had a great time with them.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Sansbury

Rector of Long Melford