

SADBROOKE HOLME

Country Houses

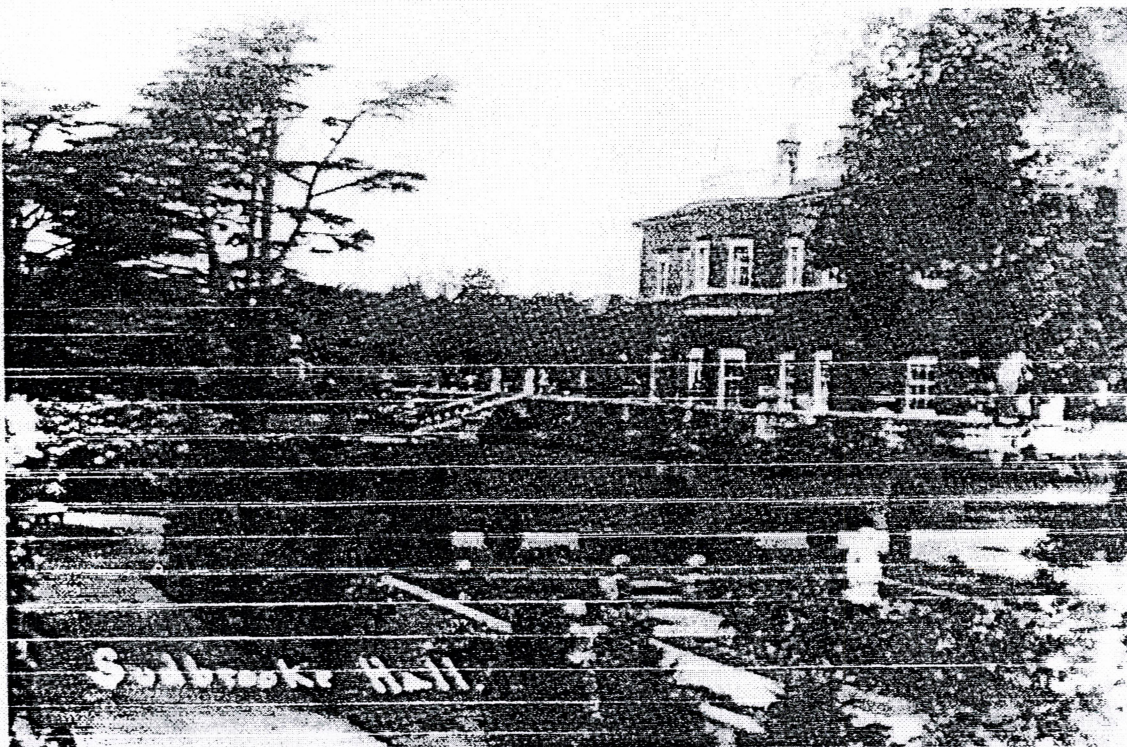
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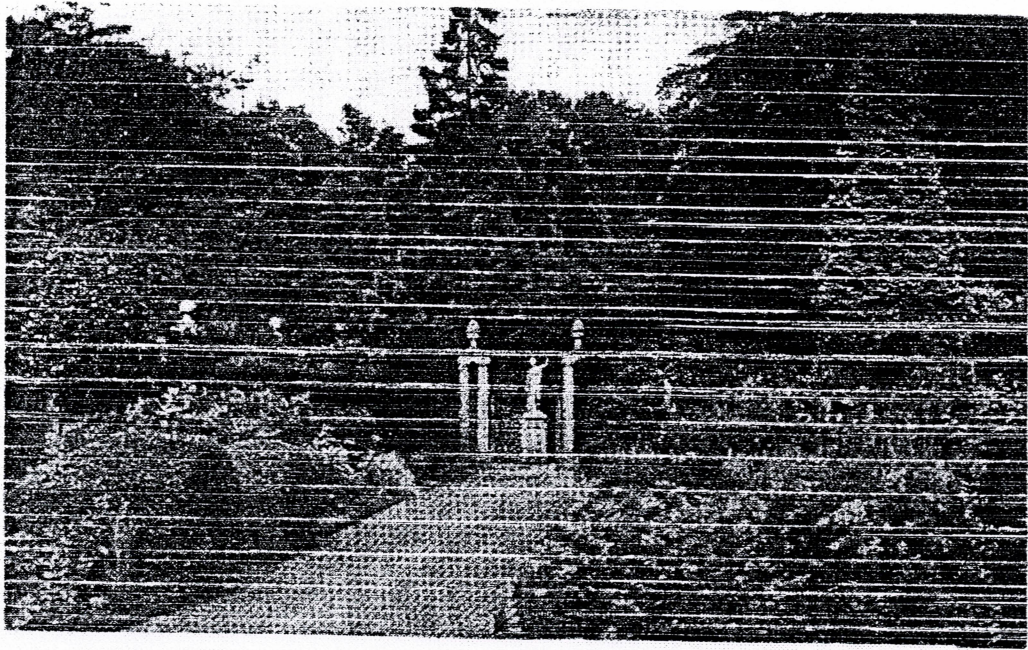
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Sudbrooke Holme after the building of the forecourt and gates.



Sudbrooke Holme from the gardens.



One of the many walks in the extensive gardens.

Sudbrooke Holme is remembered chiefly for its extensive and elaborate gardens, mostly a creation of the first decade of this century. The house was eighteenth century, and the origins of it much earlier.

Much of Sudbrooke and Holme was monastic property. It was acquired by the Grantham family. In 1618 Robert Grantham of Dunholme died, leaving his Hackthorn estates to his nephew Cracroft, and his Sudbrooke Holme estate to his nephew George Howe—who in 1629 sold it to Christopher Beresford. By this time at least there was a house of some size upon the property. Here the Beresfords lived. Edward Beresford sold it in 1736 to Elizabeth Buckworth. It was intended for her second son Everard Buckworth, but he unexpectedly succeeded his brother in his baronetcy and sold Sudbrooke to Richard Ellison.

The Ellisons were from the Isle of Axholme. Richard Ellison (d.1792) was a banker who in 1740 leased the Fosse Dyke, which eventually brought a large income to his family.

Richard Ellison (1754-1827) lived at Sudbrooke, was High Sheriff in 1793 and M.P. for Lincoln from 1796 to 1812. He had no children by his wife, but had an illegitimate son whom he set up in an estate at Boultham. His brother Henry Ellison (d.1836) inherited Sudbrooke but did not live there. For some time it was leased—in 1820 the occupant was Sir Richard Sutton (d.1855) one of the wealthiest commoners in England, who became Master of the Burton Hunt in 1824.

Henry Ellison's son Richard Ellison (1788-1859) succeeded him at Sudbrooke. He was a great patron of the arts. When he died he left large sums to local charities. Many of his paintings were left to what is now the Victoria and Albert Museum. He was the last Ellison partner in the Lincoln bank. His widow lived at Sudbrooke until her death in 1873. The estate passed to his two surviving sisters, Mrs. Humphrey Waldo Sibthorp and Mrs. Martin. Mrs. Sibthorp's share passed to her only daughter, who was doubly descended from the original purchaser of Sudbrooke. Being unmarried, in 1877 she sold her interest in Sudbrooke to Coningsby Charles Sibthorp (1846-1932) upon whom it had been entailed by Richard Ellison. He had already purchased Mrs. Martin's share. In 1873 he owned 6,460 acres in Lincolnshire with a rental of over £7,000 per annum.

In the 1870's the house was once again tenanted—one occupant being the Hon. Evelyn Cornwallis Anderson Pelham, second son of the 2nd Earl of Yarborough. The Sibthorps lived in the house, despite having another house at Canwick, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Coningsby Charles Sibthorp did a great deal of work here, especially in the large gardens. New lodges, gates and other works were undertaken until the grounds became one of the most elaborate settings for a country house in the county. Not surprisingly, in 1919 Sibthorp decided he could not keep up Sudbrooke and Canwick Dower House; Sudbrooke and its 1,938 acres were offered for sale. After numerous vicissitudes—including ownership by Terah Hooley the swindler, and the threat of being burned to make a film—the house was demolished. Much of the park and gardens have now been developed for housing.

Pictures of the house indicate that it was altered little externally between the 1790's and 1919. It was built by Richard Ellison (d.1792) and the south front and some additions were made by his son.