

The boundaries of Woodford are formed by the river Nene on the east, Denford and Islip on the north, Cranford on the west, and Ringstead on the south. It contains 2127 acres; its population in 1801 was 491; in 1831, 639; in 1841, 680; in 1851, 726; in 1861, 913; and in 1871, 1066 souls. The gross estimated rental is £6613, 14s, and the rateable value of the parish is £5677. The land is principally a stiff clay. Large beds of ironstone have been discovered here, and are now extensively worked. Mrs Stopford Sackville (lady of the manor) and the Hon. Mrs Arbuthnot are the principal proprietors. In the vicinity of the village are three tumuli, near which Roman tiles, fragments of tessellated pavements, and an urn have been discovered. The Kettering, Huntingdon, and Cambridge branch of the Midland Railway runs over a part of this parish.

Manor.-At the time of the Conqueror's survey Ralph held 1 hide and 1 virgate in Wodeford, of the Bishop of Constance; the abbey of Burgh had 7 hides, which were held by Roger; and Roger, Hugh, and Seward had 3 virgates here of the abbey at the same time, and the whole was valued at £3, 10s. In the reign of Henry II. there were 8 hides here of the fee of Burgh; and in the ninth of Edward II. (1315), John Spigurnell, Roger de Boys, and Alice Traylly, were lords of Woodford. In the nineteenth of Henry VIII. (1528), John Norwich, Esq., died seized of a manor here, which had been previously held by the families of Traylly and Holt, and left it to his posterity; and in the following year Thomas Lenton died seized of a manor here, held of the Abbot of Peterborough, and which he left to his descendants. In the second of Elizabeth (1559), William Vaux, Lord Harrowden, levied a fine of a manor here, which subsequently passed to the family of Malory. William, Lord St John Baron Bletso, succeeded his father in the possession of the manor of Woodford with about half the parish, in 1608. Lord St John's property passed early in the present century into the hands of the Duke of Dorset and the Right Hon. Charles Arbuthnot, by purchase.

The Village of Woodford, which is pretty large, is situated on high ground, sloping to the river, about 2 ½ miles S. W. by W. of Thrapston.

The Church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, consists of a nave, with clerestory, north and south aisles, north and south porches, a chancel, and western tower surmounted by a handsome spire, and containing five bells. This edifice is remarkable for the beauty of its execution, and the peculiarities of its construction and arrangement. The north ground story of the nave belongs to the Transitional period, and the remainder of the building is in the later styles. The south aisle contains a most beautiful Early English porch; and there is also a very curious arcade of Lancet character; and a most singular monumental arch, with a mask corbel, belonging to the Curvilinear period. It was thoroughly restored in 1867, when the chancel was partly rebuilt, the old pews removed, and chairs substituted. Some of the windows are filled with stained glass. Whilst the church was undergoing restoration, a hole was discovered on the west side of one of the pillars of the north aisle, which contained an old box, in which a human heart was found wrapped up in a piece of cloth, but there was nothing to show to whom it belonged. At Yaxley a similar circumstance is said to have occurred, the box in which the heart was contained being made of a piece of bamboo. This curious incident will doubtless find its explanation in the fact that when Crusaders fell in the wars in the Holy Land, it was customary to bury their bodies on the field of battle, and send their hearts home in a box to their friends for interment. In the north aisle lie two effigies, supposed to represent Sir Walter Traylly and Alianora, his wife; and there is a fine brass in good preservation, dated 1583, to the memory of Simon Malory. The living is a rectory in the

deanery of Higham Ferrers, rated in the king's books at £22, 9s. 7d., and now worth about £540 per annum. The patronage is vested in Lord St John, and the Rev. Christopher Smyth, M.A., is the rector. The tithes were commuted for land in 1763. On the north side of the churchyard is an ancient farmhouse, which presents some features similar in style and date to parts of the church. The Rectory House, pleasantly situated, was built in 1820

There is a Baptist Chapel, a stone building, in the village; and also a Primitive Methodist Chapel of brick, erected by subscription in 1869.

The National School, with a master's residence attached, was erected in 1858, and enlarged in 1872; it will accommodate 150 scholars.

Woodford House, the seat of the Hon. Mrs Arbuthnot, is a plain but handsome building, situated on a beautiful lawn, and surrounded by tastefully arranged pleasure grounds.

The Charities of the parish are the Charity Estate, 39a. 3r. 10p., left to the poor in 1577, by Peter and Edward Grey, and which lets for £102, 9s. 4d. per annum; the Church Land, 14a. 3r. 5p. which yields £40 per annum; and a rent charge of 13s. 4d. called Whalley's Money, which is given to the poor.

Post Office.-John Fletcher, sub-postmaster. Letters arrive from Thrapston at 7.5 A.M., and are despatched at 5.25 P.M.

Arbuthnot Hon. Mrs.	<i>Woodford House</i>
Allen, Sam Miller	<i>Woodford Mill</i>
Arnsby, William	Shoemaker
Bailey, George	Shoemaker
Bales, Joseph	Blacksmith
Barnes, Matthias	Baker & grocer
Beeby, William	Beerhouse
Bird, Joseph	Surgeon
Brooks, Charles	Miller
Childs, Samuel	Shopkeeper
Eady, Moses Irons	Miller & farmer
Ellson, William P	Schoolmaster.
Fletcher, John	Shopkeeper. P.o.
Gibson, Charles vict	<i>Duke's Arms</i>
Green, Thomas	Butcher
Gunn, George	Market gardener
Gunn, Joseph Eaton	Butcher
Gunn, Richard.	Victualler <i>Prince of Wales</i>
Gunn, Samuel	Mason & builder
Gunn, Zachariah	Beerhouse
Harlock, George	Victualler. <i>Bakers' arms</i>
Jones, William	Butcher
Kirton, Benjamin	Wheelwright
Knighton, D	Victualler. <i>Coach & horses</i>
Lort, Geo	Income tax collector
Manning, Emanuel	Shopkeeper

March, William	Carpenter
Milward John	Shopkeeper
Bush, William. George	Manager Newbridge Iron Ore Co.—
Neall, William	Tailor & draper
Percival, Mr James	
Plevins, Charles	Heavy ironmaster
Robinson, Simeon	Butcher
Rooksby, Mrs Elizabeth	
Sanderson, Mr John	
Smyth, Rev. Christopher, MA.	Rector and Rural Dean
Tarrant, George	Carpenter
Tyley, Mrs Mary	
Tyrrell Rev. John (Baptist)	
Vandeleur, Hector Stewart, esq	Woodford House
Wadsworth, .Joseph	Coal Dealer
Wadsworth, Thomas	Baker
Watson, Rev. John Theed, BA.	Curate
Pickett, Samuel	Manager Woodford Iron Ore Work
Farmers and Graziers	
Allen, Samuel	<i>Woodford Mill</i>
Dearlove, John J	<i>Woodford Lodge</i>
Eady, Moses Irons	<i>Woodford Mill</i>
Fisher, William Sharp	<i>Rose Cottage</i>
Jervis, William Hodson	
Linnell, William.	<i>Woodford Lodge</i>
Mitchell, John	
Tiney, John Eaton	
Walker, Joseph	

Carrier George Beeby; to Thrapston on Tues, to Wellingborough on Wednesday & to Oundle on Thursday