



From "Francis White's History, Gazetteer & directory of Norfolk" 1854.

WALSOKEN, 1 mile E. of Wisbeach [sic. Wisbech], and 12 miles S.W. of Lynn, is a parish and considerable village, comprising 2,740 souls, 726 houses, and 4,656a. Or. 1p. of land, mostly arable, including a large portion of the Smeeth and Fen, and belonging to a number of freeholders and copyholders. C. Metcalf, Esq., is lord of the manor of Walsoken ; but four other manors extend into this parish. New Walsoken forms a populous suburb to Wisbeach [sic. Wisbech]. The Church, dedicated to All Saints, is a curious and interesting specimen of architecture, with a tower surmounted by a lofty spire. At opposite ends of the nave, are effigies of King Solomon and King David, boldly sculptured in relief. On each side of the former, is a large painting, representing the judgment of Solomon on the two harlots. The font is of the most elaborate workmanship, being of an octagonal form, with numerous figures in the compartments, representing the seven Sacraments of the Church, and the Crucifixion. Here is a beautiful gothic screen, and memorials to the families of Gardiners, Edwards, Southwells, Wensleys, and Herrings. One of the latter family was Dr. Thos. Herring, Archbishop of York, and afterwards translated to the See of Canterbury ; he died in 1757. The living is a rectory, valued in the King's book at £30 13s. 4d., in the patronage of Mrs. Crockford, and incumbency of the Rev. John Bluck, M.A. The tithes are commuted for £1,224 5s. 11d.