

*The Watford Knight's Fee*

*aka The Watford Manors*

*A sample of the stories:*

*Meet William de Parles, husband of an heir to a quarter of the knight's fee. Found guilty of murder and hung in 1278, his family asserted his innocence and claimed a rigged trial ... all to no avail.*

*Similarly, the intriguing Catesby family, who came to hold the third manor of Watford by marriage. William was beheaded for treason by King Henry VII, while Robert, 120 years later, was shot dead after discovery of the Powder Plot.*

*Or, Eustace de Ardern de Watford, barely able to pay scutage - a fine - for not sailing with the king's army to France.*

*Thomas Burneby, in prison for debt, at the point of losing his manor.*

*Along the way, a Burneby heiress, married off at the age of 15, is dead at 19.*