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| 1086 | The great survey, the Domesday Book revealed that East Anglia was the most heavily populated area, some 95,000 people in Norfolk. Most people lived in the countryside, with the villages surrounded by two or three open fields, and beyond these were areas of uncultivated land, marsh and woodland. This pattern continued until the late 18th century and enclosure. The Normans built castles to consolidate their victory. It seems likely that there was a wooden one somewhere in the Raveningham/Hales area. There is excellent Norman decoration on Kirby church. | |
| 1087 <i>William II</i> 6 Sep 1087 - 2 Aug 1100 | William the Conqueror died in Caen in France. In his will he left money for every minster to say prayers for his soul, and each country church to receive 60 pence to be spent on alms for the poor. A real windfall for parishes! | |
| 1089 | A massive earthquake affects the whole country on 11th August. | |
| 1100 | Ellingham and Kirby Cane's peasants would by this time have settled into the feudal hierarchy. The lord was at the top, paying the king through his own and his tenants military service, in return for his lands. Villeins were next. They paid rent (in money or kind) for between about 25 and 100 acres, and worked for their lord three days a week, helping with ploughing, sowing and harvesting as needed. The next down were the bordars or cottagers who had smallholdings of about four acres. Lowest of all were the serfs, who were little more than slaves. There were still sokemen, who were often independent craftsmen, such as millers or smiths. They could sell their property and move if they wished, but still had some obligations to the lord of the manor. | |
| <i>Henry I</i> 5 Aug 1100 - 1 Dec 1135 | | Ranfrid was succeeded as lord of Kirby manor by Godbold de Kirkebidea, his son, to whom Anselm, Abbot of St Edmondsbury granted this lordship with all 'appurtenances and to his heir to be held by one fee, without date and this grant confirmed by letters patent of Henry I. |
| <i>Stephen</i> 26 Dec 1135 - 25 Oct 1154 | King Stephen granted Ellingham with Stockton to Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, probably because he swore that he had witnessed a deathbed change of mind on the part of the previous king, Henry, favouring Stephen over his daughter, Matilda. Ellingham became part of, or a <i>soke</i> of, Stocton (Stockton cum soke) and it was held by the earls of Norfolk and then by a lesser branch of the Bigod family until 1421. | The state passed to Gobold's son, William. |
| | England's small Jewish population was expanding. They provided a valuable service to the crown as moneylenders and, in return, received King Stephen's protection. A community lived in Bungay. Because they were wealthy, and could build fine stone houses, they were often the targets for racial attacks prompted by jealousy. | |

