

From The History of Willoughby up to 1828:

....The retreat of the parliamentary troops across the country (which at that time was for many miles a wide, rude and uncultivated plain) it is said they passed, through Willoughby, where formerly stood a handsome Cross. The parliamentary troops had tied, a rope round the ancient cross to pull it down when the vicar quenched Their thirst with strong beer after having harangued concerning it's innocence . A writer observes that the cross consisted of one stove, five yards long, and that near it was a hillock called, 'Cross Hill" where the country people observed the annual festival.

That Willoughby has been a place of more consequence than its present character and appearance would denote, abundant proof will show; for besides the markets and fairs which were there, there was, report says a public gaol near the church and adjoining the farm of Mr. M. Jeccott, part of the foundation of which was discovered many years since by some labourers digging gravel. It is now called "Gaol Close" and, held with other land by T. Newbold Esq: of Baggington.

The principal house at Willoughby for the reception of company, is the Four Crosses kept by Mr. Crupper, the proprietor of the new baths and is noted for being the house where Jonathon Swift Dean of St. Patrick usually slept on his way to and from the Deanery in Ireland, On one occasion, as is reported of the Deans visit to the house (which hitherto was called. the 'three Crosses') it happened landlady was occupied other visitors, and did of pay that attention she was wont to do to the command of his

worship (who was of a very irritable Disposition) and to mark his displeasure at some hasty observation by her wrote with is diamond. ring on casement window the following

There are 'Three Crosses at your door,
Hang up your wife, and you'll count four.

From that time forward, the house was altered, to the sign of the 'Four Crosses' as it at present stands.....