

**CHEDISTON EXTRACTS FROM : Walter Arthur Copinger's 'The Manors of  
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*Manors of Suffolk Vol 2*

CHEDISTON.

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THE entire parish was held at the time of the Domesday Survey by three Norman proprietors—Roger Bigot, Alan Earl of Richmond and Bretagne, and Gislebert Balastarius, or the master of the crossbowmen. The estate of the first of these magnates was by far the largest, comprising several small manors. The details as given in the great Record are as follows: One manor was held by Goodwin, a freeman under the Queen, with 55 acres in the Confessor's time. There were 2 villeins and 2 bordars, one ploughteam employed in the demesne, and one belonging to the tenants. There was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acre of meadow, wood sufficient to support 30 hogs, and the rest of the stock consisted of 2 beasts, 12 hogs, and 20 sheep. The whole was valued at 10s. This manor was held by Robert de Vallibus under Roger Bigot. Bigot also held 13 acres formerly held by Wolsey, a freeman over whom one who was himself under commendation to the predecessor of Robert Malet had half commendation, and the Queen of King Edward had the other half in the Confessor's time. In the same place a freeman named Anant had 13 acres and another freeman named Ulf a like number under commendation to the Queen in the Confessor's time. Among them they formerly had 1 carucate, but at the time of the Survey only half a carucate and an acre of meadow, valued at 4s., and the King and the Earl had the soc. Edric, a freeman, of whom the predecessor of Robert Malet had half the protection, and the Abbot of Ely the other portion, in the Confessor's days, held 100 acres for a manor. In this lordship were always 2 villeins, and 5 bordars; one plough on the demesne lands; before the Conquest, the tenants had kept 2 ploughs, but at the Survey they employed only one. Here were 3 acres of meadow land, wood sufficient to maintain 60 hogs, 1 beast, 4 hogs, 22 sheep, and 7 goats. Five parts of the church were appended to this estate, with 16 acres of glebe; its value was always 30s.; and William Malet was seised of it, when he went upon the King's service, where he died. Two freemen, Ledman and Stanhart, who were under the protection of the King and the Queen, also held in the Confessor's time 30 acres for a manor in this village; they had one bordar. Then there was here one plough, with wood for 20 hogs, and 1 acre of meadow, valued at 5s.

Leuric, a free Saxon, held 26 acres for a manor in the Confessor's time, of whom the predecessor of Baignard had the protection; here were always 1 villein and 2 bordars, one ploughteam, 3 acres of meadow, wood for 12 hogs, 2 beasts, 4 hogs, and 20 sheep; valued at 10s. Couta, a freeman, held 15 acres under the protection of the predecessor of Robert Malet; this estate was valued at 2s., and formerly had half a ploughteam, and William Malet was seised of it.

A freeman, by name Lewin, of whom the predecessor of Robert Malet had also the protection, held 14 acres and half a ploughteam. William, his (Malet's) father, was also seised of this property; valued at 2s. 4d. The King and the Earl divided the soc of these estates. The entire village was one league in length, and 5 quarantenes in width, and paid 5½d. gelt or land tax. It seems that these estates were consolidated into one manor by Roger Bigot, because the Survey returns them all as then held under this chieftain by Robert de Vallibus, or Vaux.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dom. ii. 332.

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The estate of Alan, Earl of Richmond, comprised 80 acres of land, 3 bordars, 2 ploughteams and a half, 2 acres of meadow, wood for 60 hogs, all included in the valuation of the manor, and the Earl had the sac and soc.<sup>1</sup> The length was 10 quarantenes and the breadth 15.

Gilbert Balastarius held here 20 acres, 2 bordars, half a ploughteam and half an acre of meadow, with wood sufficient for 6 hogs, valued at 4s. Gilbert also had 1 villein, 6 skitel, with 20 acres, and half a ploughteam, all included in the valuation of Easton.<sup>2</sup>

The parish in later years was divided into three manors, known as Bavents, Wrights, and Hovels.

#### MANOR OF BAVENTS *alias* NORTON BAVENTS.

This was part of the holding of Roger Bigot, and in 1263 was held by Hubert de Bavent, who this year had a grant of free warren.<sup>3</sup> In 1327 Edmund Merkeshall, Jeffrey Inglose, and Peter de Madingthorpe were deforciants in a fine, and Thomas de Bavent and Alice his wife querents, when a moiety of the lordship of Haynford, in Norfolk, &c., was settled on Thomas and Alice, and the said Thomas in 1339 settled this manor with the Manor of Easton Bavent on himself for life; remainder to William his son and Catherine his wife; remainder to Felicia his daughter, sister of William, and the remainder to John, son of Thomas of Ulveston; remainder to Richard, son of John, son of Baldwin Bavent; and in 1346 William Bavent and Robert Pavilly were lords. In 1362 Thomas Bavent held this manor.<sup>4</sup>

The manor then passed to Sir Robert Shardelowe, Knt., who died in 1399, when it passed to Sir George Felbrigg, Knt., John Shardelowe, son of Sir Robert, Roger Candish, and Edward, Vicar of Eye, who were no doubt trustees, and they appear as lords in 1408.

Three years later we find Ela, widow of Sir Robert Shardelowe, Knt., lady of the manor. Her will is dated in 1437, and her son Sir John Shardelowe, Knt., son and heir of Sir Robert, died without issue in 1433, in the lifetime of his mother.<sup>5</sup>

In 1547 the manor was held by Ralph Everard, who died this year, and was succeeded by his son and heir, Henry Everard. On his death the manor passed into the Norton family, and Robert, son of Walter Norton, of Halesworth, and of Jane Purpelt his wife, held the same about 1550. He married Mary, daughter of Richard Copcott of Pirton, co. Herts., and died seised in 1561,<sup>6</sup> when the manor passed to his son and heir Walter Norton. In 1584 we meet with a fine levied of the manor by Henry Everard against this Walter Norton.<sup>7</sup> Walter Norton married Katherine, daughter of Sir Henry Bedingfield, Knt., and dying in 1609, was succeeded by his son and heir Henry Norton, who married Anne, daughter of Edward Sulyard, of Wetherden, and died in 1638, when the manor went to the trustees of Walter Norton, his son and heir, namely, Sir Edward Waldegrave, Knt., Robert Mason, of Lincoln's Inn, and Anthony Bedingfield.

The manor then passed, no doubt by purchase, to the family of Pettus, and in 1655 Sir John Pettus held the lordship, and is described as of Chediston Hall. The family sprung from Thomas Pettus, an eminent and wealthy

<sup>1</sup> Dom. ii. 293.

<sup>2</sup> Dom. ii. 444b.

<sup>3</sup> Chart. Rolls, 48 Hen. III. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Suckling, ii. 197.

<sup>5</sup> See Shardelowes Manor, Little Barton, in Lackford Hundred.

<sup>6</sup> ? before 1583.

<sup>7</sup> Fine, Hil. 26 Eliz.

citizen of Norwich, who lies buried in St. Edmund's Church, in Lombard Street, in London.

John Pettus of the city of Norwich, son and heir of the above-mentioned Thomas Pettus, took to wife a daughter of — Crow, and widow of Simon Dethick, and Thomas Pettus, his son and heir, married Christian, the daughter of Simon Dethick, of Norfolk, and had with other issue, a son, Sir John Pettus, Knt. He married Bridget, daughter and coheir of Augustine Curtis, of Honnington, in Suffolk, by whom he had with other issue one son, Augustine. Sir John died 9th April, 1613.

Sir John Pettus was a prominent royalist, and had to compound for his estate for the sum of £886. 13s. 4d.

The manor was between 1666 and 1688 sold to George Fleetwood, and from him passed to his widow, Sarah Fleetwood, who held her first court in 1696. In 1701 Gustavus Fleetwood was the possessor, and the property was sold by his executors in 1722 to Walter Plumer, of Gray's Inn.

Walter Plumer died without issue in 1745-6, and was succeeded by his brother and heir William Plumer, and from him in 1768 it descended to his son William, who died in 1822, leaving the estate to his widow, Jane Plumer, afterwards married to Capt. Lewin, whom she survived and married Robert Ward, the author of "Tremaine," &c., who assumed the name of Plumer. To this third husband she left the manor, but in 1833 he sold it with divers other manors to George Parkyns.

Upon investigating the title it was discovered that Mr. Plumer Ward had mortgaged the Chediston Hall estate to a chartered company empowered to hold a limited amount of land only, and that this limit having been exceeded there had been a forfeiture of the property to the Crown. The Crown, however, immediately regranted to Mr. Plumer Ward, who then carried out his contract by conveying to Mr. Parkyns. The curious part of the matter is that the very grant by the Crown to cure the forfeiture of the chartered company was itself illegal, and operated again by way of forfeiture to the Crown. The circumstances are mentioned by Davy, and also by Mr. Suckling, the latter saying :—

"In order to explain the cause of the second escheat, it is necessary to give a short account of Mr. Parkyns' family. That gentleman's father, who was a son of the second Baronet of that name, married, when very young, a Miss Levett, of Bunny, in the county of Nottingham, by whom he had several children. After some years, differences arose between these parties, and in 1772 proceedings were instituted in the ecclesiastical court to procure a sentence of divorce, which was subsequently obtained 'a mensâ et toro.' This exception of divorce places the parties who obtain it in this position, that though legally separated neither is capable of contracting a second marriage during the lifetime of the other. Notwithstanding this incapacity, Mr. Parkyns, who was then living in France, married a Mlle. Loussay, by whom he had one son, the late Mr. Parkyns of Chediston Hall, and several daughters, one of whom, Marie Claire Parkyns, married a Monsieur de la Croix, and still survives. These children were consequently illegitimate, and being born out of Great Britain were aliens, and incapable by the laws of this kingdom of holding lands in England; so that the conveyance of the Chediston Hall estate to Mr. Parkyns was altogether illegal, and operated as a forfeiture of the property to the Crown.

These circumstances transpired upon Mr. Parkyns' decease, and the property in 1845 was seized into the hands of her Majesty. Mr. Parkyns' only child having died an infant during his lifetime, a regrant of the estate



was made in favour of his widow and his natural sister, Madame de la Croix, Chediston Hall being reserved to the former. Mrs. Parkyns subsequently married Thomas Rant, Esq., of a family long seated at Mendham, and they are the present residents and proprietors of Chediston Hall."<sup>1</sup>

Thomas Rant appears to have held in 1885, but in 1896 the lordship was vested in George Durrant and Francis James Ridsdale, who still hold as the trustees of the late George Parkyns. They hold, however, on behalf of Mrs. Rant and Eugène François Louis Leguen de Lacroix, who are beneficially entitled in equal moieties.

Chediston Hall was built by William Plumer, and is a large mansion in the Elizabethan style, standing on an elevation in the park, facing south, and ornamented with towers, pinnacles, and an embattled parapet. Mr. Suckling says that according to a map of the estate in 1722 the projecting wings of the mansion extended further from the body of the building, and the area in front was shut in by a high wall, having large iron gates opposite to the hall door. Rentals of this manor in 1656, 1691, and 1714 are given in the Davy MSS., Blything, vol. i. p. 200.

#### MANOR OF WRIGHTS *al.* GLEMHAM'S.

This manor also was part of the possessions of Roger Bigot, and in the time of Edw. I. was held by Sir Richard de Boyland of Brisingham, who had a charter of free warren here in 1276, with licence to hold a fair in his demesne lands here and in Norfolk.

In 1315 Richard de Boyland appears to have been lord, and to have been succeeded at his death by his son and heir Sir John Boyland, Knt.

In the time of Hen. VIII. the manor was vested in Sir John Glemham, Knt., who died in 1537 and was succeeded by his son and heir Christopher Glemham. Christopher Glemham in 1547 sold the manor to Robert Norton,<sup>2</sup> from whom it passed in the same course as the Manor of Bavents *al.* Norton Bavents till the time of his great-grandson Walter Norton,<sup>3</sup> who inherited in 1637. A fine was levied of the manor against him by Edmund Bedingfield and others in 1580,<sup>4</sup> on the occasion probably of some settlement.

In 1847 this manor had but two or three free tenants remaining. The manor seems to have been known also as Boylands, and we meet with five fines levied of Boylands, which probably refer to this manor, or to a manor of this name in Chediston. The first was levied in 1515 by Sir Robert Brandon and others against John Loveday, and included lands in Chediston, Parva Linstead, and Wissett and Cookley.<sup>5</sup> The second was levied in 1537 by Richard Jenour and others against John Jenour and others.<sup>6</sup> The third was levied in 1564 by Charles le Grys against Andrew Jenour.<sup>7</sup> The fourth in 1567 by Robert Stanton against this Charles le Grys.<sup>8</sup> And the fifth by John Pettres (? Pettus) against W. Stanton and others in 1601.<sup>9</sup>

Rentals for this manor for 1656, 1690, and 1714 are given in the Davy MSS. in the Brit. Mus.<sup>10</sup> Strangely the 1st is £1. 15s. 8d., the 2nd £1. 16s. 2d., and the 3rd £1. 16s. 2d.

<sup>1</sup> Suckling ii. 199.

<sup>2</sup> Fine, Easter, 1 Edw. VI.

<sup>3</sup> See Manor of Bavents *al.* Norton Bavents, and Mellis, in Hartismere Hundred.

<sup>4</sup> Fine, Hil. 22 Eliz.

<sup>5</sup> Fine, Mich. 7 Hen. VIII.

<sup>6</sup> Fine, Hil. 29 Hen. VIII.

<sup>7</sup> Fine, Trin. 6 Eliz.

<sup>8</sup> Fine, Easter, 9 Eliz.

<sup>9</sup> Fine, Mich. 43, 44 Eliz.

<sup>10</sup> Blything, vol. i. p. 200.

## MANOR OF HOVELLS.

In the time of Hen. III. this manor was held by Robert Hovel, who was dead before 1275.

It was probably this Hovel's son, Robert Hovel, who is returned in the Hundred Rolls as prohibiting the proclamation of the King's command in this place:

"Dicut qd Robtūs Houvel non p̄misit mand. dni Regis fieri in Chediston." <sup>1</sup>

Sir Hugh Hovel was lord in 1287, and in a list of knights made in the reign of Edw. II. his name stands first among the Suffolk families, and his arms are thus given: "Sir Hugh Hovel, de sable, et une crois de or." <sup>2</sup>

This Sir Hugh was the ancestor of Sir Richard Hovel, Esquire of the Body to Hen. V., and is now represented by Lord Thurlow of Ashfield.

In 1403 the lordship was vested in John Loveday, and in the Loveday family apparently remained for many generations, though the family is not so much as mentioned by Mr. Suckling in his account of Chediston. It is clear that Anthony Loveday was lord in the time of Charles I., and dying in 1633 was succeeded by his son and heir Henry Loveday, who died the same year, when the manor passed to his son and heir Anthony Loveday.

A fine was levied of "Hovell Manor" with appurtenances in Chediston in 1564 by Richard Blackhed against William Brome and Ellen his wife. <sup>3</sup>

All the copyholds were enfranchised, and Mr. Parkyns 29th March, 1841-2, purchased the farm of 188 acres attached to the lordship, which is now, like Bavents, vested in his trustees.

H.R. ii.

<sup>2</sup> Suckling vol. ii. p. 197, citing Lansdowne MSS. 855.

<sup>3</sup> Fine, Hil. 6 Eliz.

manors by Robert Crane, John Fastolf, John Ulverton, and John Waryn against Richard Verneye and Alianora his wife.<sup>1</sup>

The manor by the time of Hen. VII. had passed to Sir John Heveningham, who died in 1499. From this time the manor has passed in the same course as the manor of Heveningham, and is now vested in Joshua Charles Vanneck, 4th Baron Huntingfield, of Heveningham Hall.

Acquittance for a relief of the manor in 1362 will be found amongst the Harleian Charters in the British Museum,<sup>2</sup> and a Rental for 1682 will be found amongst the Davy MSS. in the same depository.<sup>3</sup>

#### COOKLEY GRANGE MANOR.

This was the estate of Robert de Vallibus<sup>4</sup> under Roger Bigot, though not then held as a manor. It was held at an early period by the Abbots of Sibton, who erected a grange or farmhouse here.

From the Hundred Rolls we learn that in the time of Edw. I. the Abbot of Sibton held 2 carucates of land in Cookley, of the fee of the Earl Marshall,<sup>5</sup> and an extent of the land held in Cookley by the Abbey of Sibton, 12-19 Edw. II., will be found amongst the Additional MSS. in the Brit. Mus.<sup>6</sup> A lease of land in Cookley granted by Sibton Abbey in 1406 will be found amongst the Harleian Charters in the same depository.<sup>7</sup>

Sibton Abbey retained till the Dissolution, when the manor passed to the Crown, and in 1537 was granted by Hen. VIII. to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. It then passed to Nicholas Smith, who died seised in 1559, and was succeeded by his son and heir John Smith, at whose death in 1588 the manor passed to his son and heir John Smith. John Smith in 1599 sold the Manor to John Pettus,<sup>8</sup> from whom it passed to his son, Sir Augustine Pettus, Knt. He married 1st Mary, daughter of Hen. Vylett, of Lynn, co. Norfolk, and 2ndly Abigail, daughter of Sir Arthur Heveningham. Sir Augustine Pettus died in 1613, when the manor passed to his widow Abigail, and on her death seems to have passed to trustees, but beneficially to Sir Augustine's grandson, Sir John Pettus, Bart., for the first court in 1674 is stated to have been held by Sir John Pettus, Bart., and John Hall.

It seems to have been immediately afterwards sold to George Fleetwood, for he held his first court for the manor in 1675, and on his death it went to his widow Sarah. The manor was shortly after purchased by Walter Plumer, who died seised in 1745-6, when it passed to William Plumer, who died in 1767, and was succeeded by his son and heir William, who held his first court for the manor in 1770, and died in 1822, when it passed to his widow Jane.

It then seems to have gone, like the Manor of Bavents, Chediston, in this Hundred, to Robert Plumer Ward, who sold in 1833 or 1834 to George Parkyns. The manor subsequently vested in the trustees of the will of the said George Parkyns, but it is now vested in Eugène François Louis Lequen de Lacroix, a beneficiary under this will.

A rental of this manor for 1682 will be found amongst the Davy MSS.<sup>9</sup>

Arms of PETTUS : Gules, a fesse Argent, between three annulets Or.

<sup>1</sup> Feet of Fines, 19 Hen. VI. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Harl. 47 B. 34.

<sup>3</sup> Blything, vol. i. p. 221b.

<sup>4</sup> See Manor of Barsham, in Wangford Hundred.

<sup>5</sup> H.R. ii. 148.

<sup>6</sup> Add. 34560.

<sup>7</sup> Harl. 83 D. 1.

<sup>8</sup> Fine, Easter, 41 Eliz.

<sup>9</sup> Blything, vol. i. p. 222.