

A HISTORY OF ENGLAND

(COMPRISING ITS)

Ancient and Modern History.

*Representation of its Physical Situation, Productions,
Agricultural Condition & Statistics, &c. &c.*

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Embellished with a Series of Views from Original Drawings

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BOOK II.

Population.

Soil.

Bradwell
Hall.

The population, in 1821, consisted of one hundred and sixty-two males, one hundred and fifty-five females; total, three hundred and seventeen.

The parish is small, and lies very low; the soil, in some parts, heavy but good. It has but one manor, called Bradwell Hall.

Bradwell Hall stands near the church, and formerly had a park. Not being mentioned in Domesday-book or the Red-book of the exchequer, it is conjectured to have included, or constituted, what are mentioned as encroachments on the king's demesne lands in Kelvedon. In the reign of King John, a family named Daggeworth held this manor, and, in the following reign, Osbert Daggeworth had free warren in Bradwell and in Dagworth in Pebmarsh, and a license for himself and heirs to hunt in the forest of Essex. In 1383 this estate was granted to Sir John Sutton, who is said to have holden it of the king in capite, as of the honour of Peverel. Ten years afterwards, it was in the possession of Sir John Hende, or Hinde, a rich alderman of London, of which city he was sheriff in 1381, and lord mayor in 1391 and 1404. He was a great benefactor to Coggeshall Abbey; in gratitude for which, they engaged to celebrate his obit with the solemnity of a founder. His eldest son, John Hende, Esq., was sheriff of Essex in 1413 and 1447, and died in 1461, leaving his mother, and a second John Hende, Esq., his brother, who was sheriff of the county in 1456, and died in 1464; and Joan, daughter of the elder brother, became the heiress general to both, and brought a vast estate in marriage to Walter Writtle, Esq., of a very ancient family, descended from Ralph Fitz-Ralph, Esq., who had a grant of the manor of Writtle from Margaret, countess of Galloway, and from thence took his surname. From defect of heirship, these possessions afterwards became the property of John Basset, Esq., of Great Chishul, in right of his wife, daughter of William Andrews, Esq., and Amicia, sister of Sir John Hinde. Sir John Smyth, of Cressing Temple, also laid claim to this great inheritance, as the descendant of Alice, daughter of John Hende, alderman of London; but the estates were confirmed to the first claimant. John Basset was descended from the noble family of the Bassets, of the south. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Gregory, who married Margaret, daughter of Robert Forster, Esq., of Birch, by whom, on his death, in 1528, he left Dorothy, his only daughter, at that time only one year old. His widow was, after his death, twice married, first to William Ayloff, of Great Braxted, Esq., and afterwards to Eustace Sulyard, Esq., of Runwell. Thomas Bonham, Esq., of Kent, procured the wardship of the great heiress Dorothy Basset, and, as her guardian, kept his first court here in 1531. He procured her to be married very young to his son, Robert Bonham, Esq., who had by her Jeremy and Charles, and two daughters; Mary, married to Andrew Clarke, Esq., of Bocking, and Elizabeth, the wife of John Filiol, Esq., of Old Hall, in Raine. Charles, his second son, married Jane, daughter of Gilbert Songar, and had an only daughter, Dorothy, married to Sir John Selby.

The Saxon word *we* signifies a village, castle, farm-house, or dairy; the true signification to be determined by the circumstance and situation of the place. The first part of the name is said to be *Paatz*, (Saxon) a way or path, but this etymology is doubtful: Norden derives the name from the family of the Pates, of the time of Edward the Second; but this name occurs in records of a much earlier date, and it does not appear that the Pates ever had an estate here.

Pattiswick, as a member of Feering, belonged to Westminster Abbey till the dissolution of monasteries. By reference to ancient writings, it appears that Simon Betail, lord of Wivenhoe, in the thirtieth of King Henry the Third, had free warren in Pateswik, Stisted, and Wivenhoe.* And in the forty-ninth of the same reign, Sir Theobald de Fering† had free warren in Patiswick. In 1377, John Sewale, Esq., of Coggeshall, held here, under the abbot of Westminster, one carucate of land: and the greater part of the parish seems to have been held, under the same abbot, by the Hende family, of whom Sir John Hende died in 1418, possessed of the manor of Picots and other lands here. John Hende, Esq., the eldest son, died here in 1461, leaving an only daughter, wife of Walter Writtle, Esq., who, in her right, inherited this and other great estates. His son John dying under age, they devolved to his kinsman, John Basset, and were in possession of his son Gregory at the time of his death, in 1528. Some of these lands in Pattiswick, Bocking, and Cressing, are stated to have been holden of the earl of Essex, and others of the prior of St. John, of Jerusalem. After the dissolution of the bishopric of Westminster, this manor of Pattiswick was given, with that of Feering, to the bishop of London.

The subordinate manor of Pattiswick took the name of Picots, or Pigots, from its ancient owners. Edward Fabian, Esq., died possessed of this estate in 1561: William Fabian was his son. It was the property of Sir Edmund Huddleston in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James the First; and in 1623, his son and heir, Henry, jointly with Sir Robert Huddleston, Knt., sold it to John Darcy, Esq., serjeant at law, and it passed by will to Sir Thomas Darcy, of Braxted Hall. On the death of Sir George Darcy, unmarried, it came to his three sisters, coheiresses,—Frances, married to Sir William Dawes, Bart., afterwards archbishop of York; Mary, to Richard, or Thomas Boteler, Esq.; and Elizabeth, to William Pierpont, Esq.: these three coheiresses sold the estate, in 1703, to Herman Olmius, Esq., who, in 1704, gave it to his son, John Olmius, Esq., grandfather of Lord Waltham, of New Hall.

The capital messuage called Pattiswick Hall was formerly enclosed in an extensive park: Oldfield Grange estate belonging to Osgood Hanbury, Esq., Woodhouse farm, and Stanstead lordship, and other estates, extend into this parish.

* Cart. Antiq. 30 Henry III. m. 9.

† Idem, 48 Henry III.

that Walworth and Philipot should be treasurers of the war funds – a tribute of trust in them and distrust of the late king's and new king's advisers, especially Gaunt. Such hostilities should not be assumed to have been very systematic. These men were by no means hostile to the court or nobility generally. They needed the king for their success as much as he needed them and Brembre finally met a miserable end by being accused in the Merciless Parliament of 1388 of too much influence with the king. The king himself tried to defend him, and it was only by making use of the notorious enmities that existed between certain of the city companies that Brembre's enemies were able to get him condemned to die a traitor's death at Tyburn.

Another friend of Chaucer's hardly less rich and eminent was the draper John Hende. The drapers being non-victuallers were generally at odds with the victualling gilds, such as the Grocers (Brembre) and Fishmongers (Walworth and Philipot), but it is characteristic of Chaucer to have had friends in opposing camps. Hende had some very stormy passages in his career. He was a brave or at least an obstinate man, who clashed in a lawsuit with the court, so that Chaucer's mainprising of him in 1381 shows the poet no coward in standing by his friends. Mainprising was guaranteeing a form of bail, and that a person would appear at the proper time before the judge. Another mainpemor of Hende was Ralph Strode, whom Chaucer refers to at the end of his poem *Troilus and Criseyde*. Hende was thus part of an interestingly literary and legal group, since Strode was probably a lawyer. Hende, who was frequently an alderman, married first the widow of a Suffolk landowner, and second the daughter of Sir John Norbury. When he died in 1418 his widow married the future Baron Sudeley. His younger son became first, like Chaucer, an esquire of the king, and later marshal of the hall. This is a family like Chaucer's own, of property and wealth, trade and gentry, with close relationships to the court and learned professions. Another acquaintance was Gilbert Mawfield (Maufeld, Maghfeld), a Collector of Customs after Chaucer's time, and comparable in wealth and status with Philipot and his friends. He was a moneylender and Chaucer borrowed from him, as did John Gower, and many courtiers and other acquaintances. Professor Manly thought he was the original of the Merchant in *The General Prologue*. He seems to have died bankrupt.