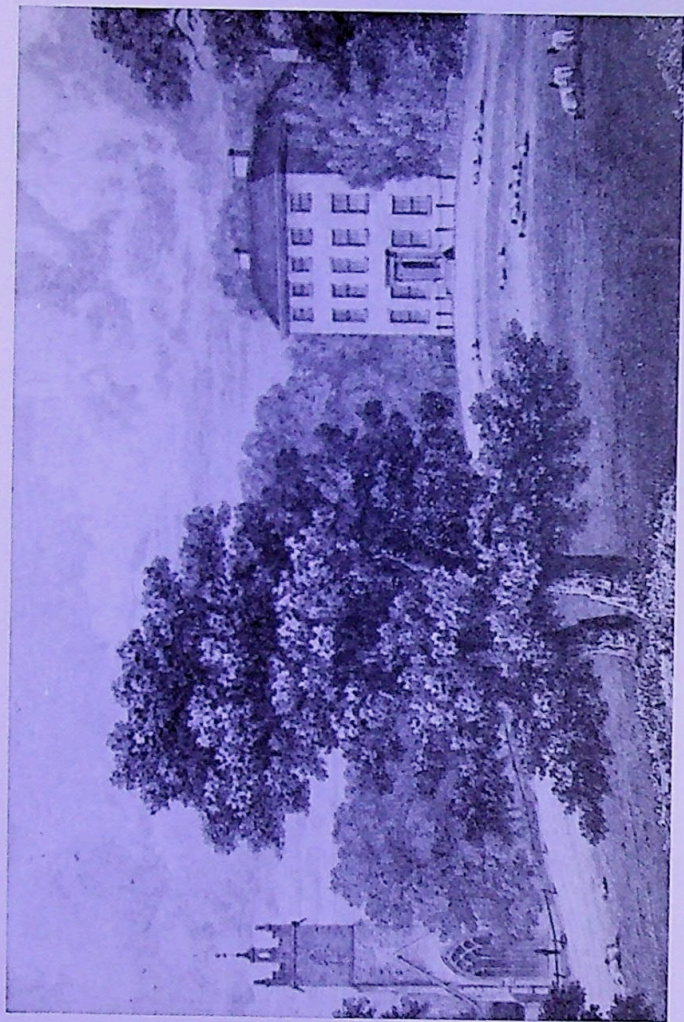


BRAMPTON

SUFFOLK





Brampton Hall from an engraving by J. Lambert
after a drawing by H. Davy, 1824

THE DOMESDAY VILLAGE

BRAMPTON shares its name with at least five other places in this country which gives weight to the theory that the word is derived from burnt town. It might record some dreadful disaster a thousand years ago when Danes and other invaders ravaged these coastal districts. The earliest evidence of a village is that there was a Saxon settlement here at the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 which the Normans recorded as Bramtun and Brantun in the Domesday Book. A tun or township was an enclosed group of huts and a number of townships formed a hundred which in this area was Blything Hundred, the largest in Suffolk. Following the completion of William the Conqueror's Survey in 1086, the records were bound in two volumes. One was for the rich counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, known as the Little Domesday Book, and the larger volume, in less detail, was for other parts of England.

There were three principal estates in Brampton of which only one was considered to be the manor. This had been held by Padda in Saxon times, but at the time of the compilation of Domesday it was held by Robert de Curcande, as part of the vast possessions granted to Roger Earl Bigod by the king. The manor comprised two carucates (about 240 acres) with two villeins (labourers) and six bordars (smallholders) held in demesne or farmed directly. There were two other carucates occupied by tenants and nine free-men with a half-carucate attached to the manor. The lord had three ploughs, twenty-four sheep, wood for six swine and an acre of meadow.

Ralph Bainard, lord of Castle Bainard in London, had the next largest estate of 300 acres with seven ploughs, two acres of meadow and wood for twenty swine. The third estate was retained by the King and held by William de Noers, one of his stewards. This had previously been occupied in King Edward the Confessor's time by Turstan, a free Saxon, under the protection of Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury.

LORDS OF THE MANOR

The manor belonged to Alan de Wymondale in 1270 who obtained in that year a charter from Henry III to hold a market and fair. This was a rare privilege as comparatively few Suffolk villages were granted these rights and must indicate the importance of Brampton at that time. The Townshends of Raynham, Norfolk purchased the estate *circa* 1451 and their interests continued here for about a century. There were joint lords and patrons in 1592 who were John Aylmer, Bishop of London, and Samuel Aylmer.

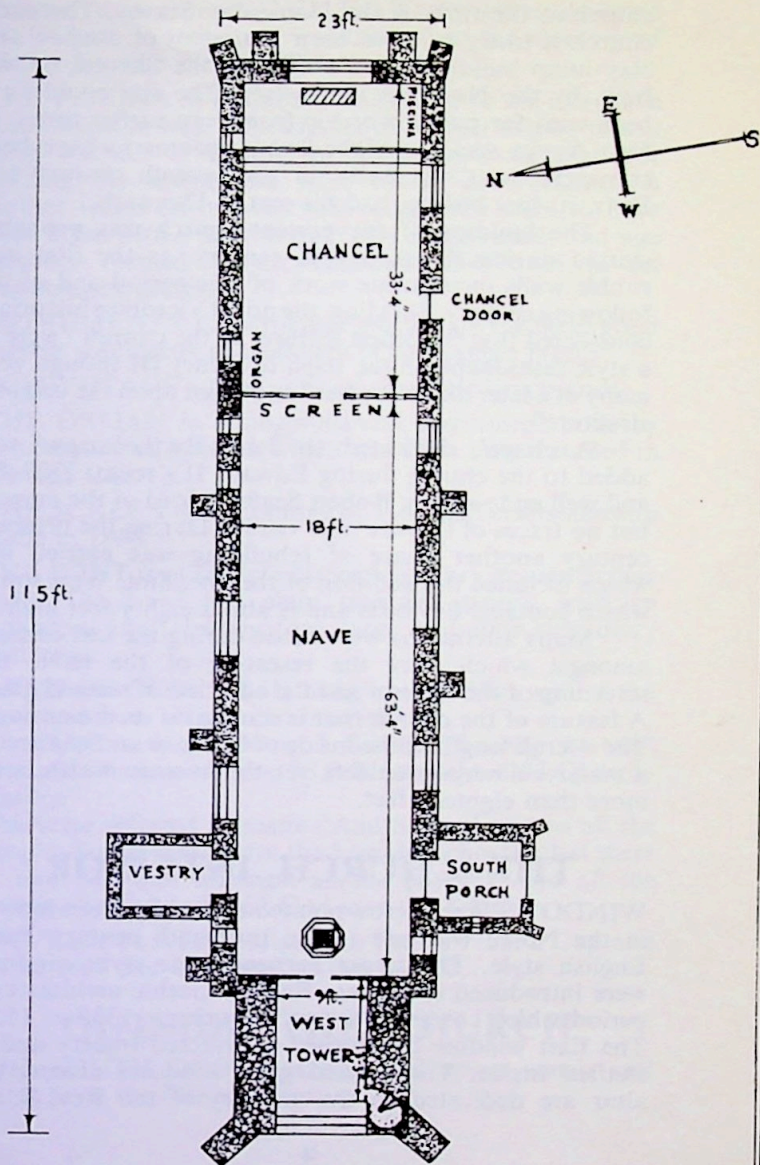
Probably the most famous lord of the manor was Sir John Leman who was born in Saxlingham, Norfolk in 1544. He became lord and patron in 1606 when he was Sheriff of London and afterwards became Lord Mayor of that City in 1616. He died in 1632 and was buried in the Fishmongers' Chapel, St. Michael's, Crooked Lane, London. By his Will dated 1631 he founded and endowed the Free School in Beccles. He was succeeded by John Leman the son of his brother, William, who was Fenreeve of Beccles in 1580 and Portreeve in 1590.

The Leman family continued to hold the manor and advowson, or right to present the rector, until 1807 when Mary Leman of Bury St Edmunds, a spinster, died and bequeathed her property at Brampton to her near relation the Rev. Naunton Thomas Orgill. He assumed the name and arms of Leman by royal license in 1808 and built Brampton Hall, no doubt to accommodate his twelve children. He was succeeded in 1837 by his eldest son George Orgill Leman who continued to live in the Hall. His successors Naunton Robert Twysden Leman and Robert Naunton Leman, who died in 1927, lived elsewhere.

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH

There has been a church at Brampton for at least 900 years as it is recorded that there was a patron, Ralph Bainard, and sixteen acres of glebe attached to the

PLAN OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH BRAMPTON SFK.



church at the time of the Domesday Survey. The early church is likely to have been a timber or timber and clay lump building taken over from the Saxons, or one built by the Normans themselves. The site could have been used for public worship from even earlier times, as East Anglia was one of the first kingdoms to have been converted to Christianity in the seventh century and Felix, its first bishop, had his seat at Dunwich.

The building of the present church was probably started during the thirteenth century, as the flint and rubble walls incorporate work of this period and of the following century. Suckling, the noted Victorian historian, considered that the oldest features of the church "were in a style fashionable in the reign of Henry III though very many of a later date have been engrafted upon the original structure".

A chapel, dedicated to Saint Bartholomew, was added to the church during Edward II's reign, 1307-27, and well endowed by Robert Seafeld, lord of the manor, but no traces of this are now visible. During the fifteenth century another phase of rebuilding was carried out which included the addition of the fine, flint, West tower which contains five bells and is about eighty feet high.

Many alterations were made during the last century amongst which were the reseating of the nave, the screening of the chancel and the addition of stained glass. A feature of the church that is unusual is its dimensions. The overall length of the inside of the nave and chancel is a massive ninety-seven feet yet the average width is no more than eighteen feet.

THE CHURCH INTERIOR

WINDOWS. The narrow pointed-arched Lancet windows in the North wall are in the thirteenth century Early English style. The larger Perpendicular style windows were introduced in the late English Gothic architectural period which covered the two centuries *c.* 1335-*c.* 1530. The East window has cusped intersected tracery and is shafted inside. The stained glass windows nearest the altar are dedicated to the memory of the Rev. T. O.

Leman, rector from 1837–73. The West window, designed by William Warrington, is dedicated to the memory of Henry Jex who died in 1862.

THE PISCINA in the South wall, close to the altar, is a stone basin in which the chalice and other sacred vessels were washed. It retains the stone credence shelf for holding the bread and wine before consecration. A further recess on its West side would not seem to have been fitted with a door to hold any of the vessels and was possibly formed to accommodate the towel in an unobtrusive position.

MONUMENTS. Of particular interest are the three good marble memorials to members of the Leman family.

POPPYHEADS adorn some of the choir bench-ends.

THE ORGAN is a single-manual instrument built by John Squire of London which was for a time installed in Ellough Church.

THE SCREEN is an example of Victorian craftsmanship made in 1883.

THE FONT is of the late fifteenth century Perpendicular style. The bowl has plain traceried panels with an octagonal shaft having four large and four subsidiary buttresses.

ARMS OF GEORGE III hang on the West wall of the nave and have an unusual inscription:

“God save the King I Samuel X chap 24 ver”
beneath which is written “S.B.Bloomfield 1797 Church-warden”

The verse referred to reads “And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the Lord has chosen, that there is none like him amongst all the people? And all the people shouted and said God save the King”.

CHURCH PLATE consists of a Cup *c.* 1723, a Cup and Paten 1801 and an Almsdish dated 1802.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

THE SOUTH DOOR has traceried upper panels and dates from the fifteenth century.

THE SOUTH PORCH. There is flushwork decoration on the fifteenth century porch and on the buttresses on the South side of the church. Flushwork is the decorative use of flint in conjunction with dressed stone so as to form patterns and is found mainly in East Anglia.

SCRATCH DIALS or Mass dials are visible on each jamb of the chancel door. Their purpose is not fully known but they are only found on South walls and are generally considered to have been medieval sundials, although stonemasons' marks have also been suggested. With a stick placed in the central hole, the priest was supposed to have been able to measure by the movement of the sun's shadow cast on the dial the progress of the "Canonical Hours".

WEST TOWER. The buttresses and battlements are decorated by flushwork panelling and at each corner of the parapet there are seated and headless figures as pinnacles. Above the West window there is a niche.

RECTORS OF BRAMPTON

1323 Augustus, fil. Aug. de la Cliff, de Donewico	1606 William Cocheram Thomas Batho
1349 Robert Burchard, de Wynaston	1622 Ranulphus Tench 1681 John Talbot
1361 Adam Payn	1728 Samuel Bull
1405 William Bernham	1742 Nunn Prettyman
1411 Richard Pethaw	1793 Naunton Thomas Orgill Leman
1435 Robert Alverych	1837 Thomas Orgill Leman
1469 Thomas Payn	1873 T. S. Curteis
1504 Robert Godfrey	1914 Herbert Alfred Phelps Gardiner
1506 Walter Shiggs	1952 H. N. Cox
1533 Nicholas Lincoln	1968 Hugh Dawson Tyson
1577 Lionel Chowse	
1592 Edward Hatton	
1601 William Flowerdew	

CHURCH REGISTERS date from 1760 and are held in the Suffolk Record Office, together with churchwardens' accounts (1721-1829), terriers (1806-1912) and a tithe map of 1838. The earlier records were accidentally burnt during the course of church repairs between the years 1795-6.

CHURCH LANDS. The Church Marsh is situated at the southern end of the parish, adjoining the Blythburgh road and the Sotherton boundary, and comprises about ten acres of grazing land. The Parochial Church Council lets the grazing rights for £350 per annum and uses the income for church expenses.

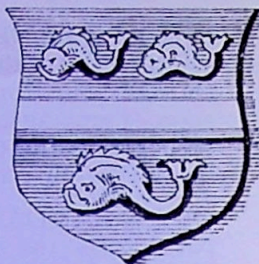
TOWN LANDS. A property that once belonged to the parish was the Town Fen or Marsh adjoining the Blythburgh road. This had become difficult to let by 1961 and so the Trustees decided, with the approval of the Charity Commissioners, to dispose of it and reinvest in Government Bonds. The small income that is produced is distributed by the Trustees to worthy parishioners.

BRAMPTON BUILDINGS

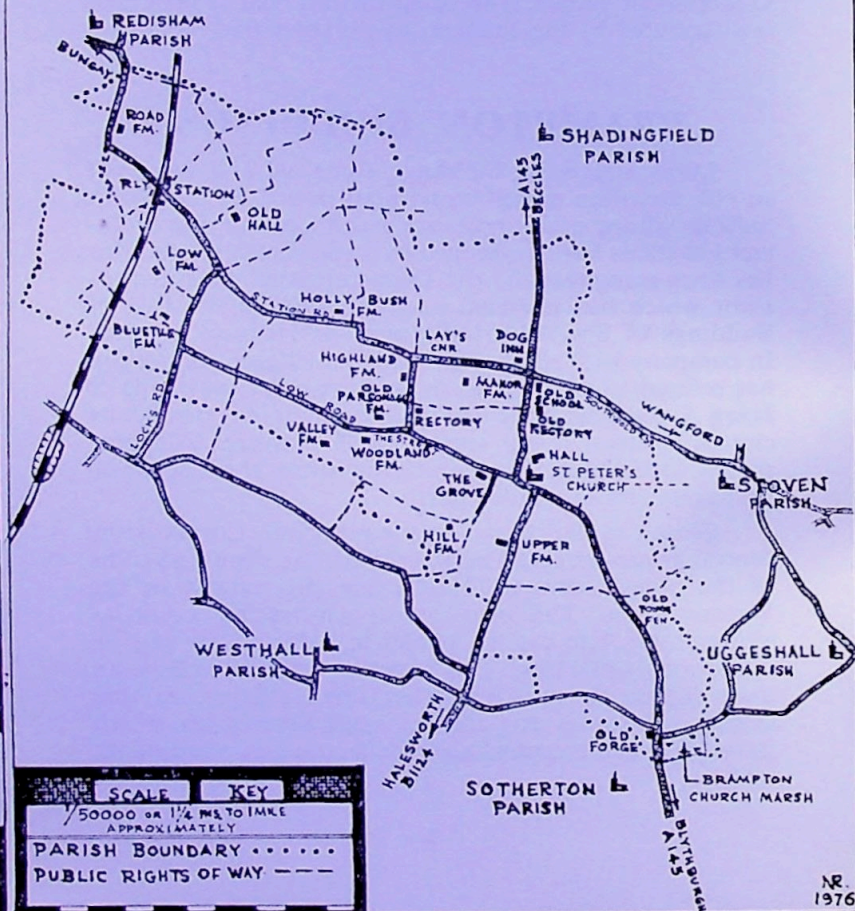
Many interesting buildings, some old and some not so old, are often passed by without notice. In the North Suffolk village of Brampton a wealth of varying architectural styles have developed over the centuries, and this has been recognised by the Department of the Environment which has included several houses in its List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. In company with many East Anglian villages, Brampton has refused to conform to the picture-postcard image of being a compact little community huddled around its church. Instead it has spread itself over the 2075 acre parish with eleven farms and grown into three separate "villages", up to a mile apart.

Closest to the church on the notorious Corner is the central group around The Street with the shop and some of the oldest cottages. Next came the railway in the Victorian era. This was an epoch-making event as although the line cut the parish in half and the station was a long walk from The Street it was, and still is, an asset shared by very few other small villages. A little colony of houses for railway staff sprang up which included, until recently, a public house and shop of its own.

BRAMPTON SUFFOLK



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ARMS



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Within the last twenty-five years or so the village has seen much expansion particularly in the Southwold road area where, under the auspices of the local authorities, a new primary school and specially-designed bungalows for the older generation are part of a growing community. The increase in housing has not, however, led to an increase in population as with around 306 today there are now fewer people in the village than there were in the 1840s.

BRAMPTON HALL, a Grade II listed building, was for many years the seat of the Lemman family. It was designed by Kelly and built for the Rev. N. T. O. Lemman between the years 1794-6. The red-brick, south-facing mansion lies in a wooded park adjoining the church. The Hall was erected some distance from the site of the ancient manor house which was badly damaged by fire in 1733 and later converted into a farmhouse. No traces of this farmhouse remain, although the moats at the rear of the Old Rectory could have some significance.

Situated on the old Beccles to Blythburgh turnpike, the Georgian period OLD RECTORY, a Grade II listed building, was built at the end of the eighteenth or beginning of the nineteenth century probably for the Lemman family. The house was occupied by the incumbent until the late 1960s after which a new rectory was built in what has become known as Molls Lane.

Overlooking the church is THE GROVE an early nineteenth century house having a lake in its grounds. During the 1880s the house was occupied by Henry Jex Woods, a farmer and surveyor, who no doubt was connected with the Henry Jex to whose memory the West window in the church is dedicated. (DoE III)

The red-brick and pantiled UPPER FARMHOUSE, adjoining the Halesworth road, is another example of early nineteenth century Georgian architecture. Pantiles were introduced into this country from Holland but not produced here before 1700, after which they gradually replaced the traditional and locally obtainable reed used for thatching. (DoE III)

MANOR FARMHOUSE, within sight of the Hall, has a seventeenth century timber-framed core with nineteenth century mock Tudor octagonal angle buttresses and wing, and octagonal chimneys. Its name suggests it to have been the home farm of the old lords of the manor, and a moat of some antiquity adds to its interest. (DoE III)

HOLLY BUSH FARMHOUSE is regarded by the Department of the Environment as being of sixteenth century origin, and is therefore one of the oldest of the village relics. A white-brick face has been added to the timber-framed and plastered structure during the mid-nineteenth century. (DoE III)

BRAMPTON OLD HALL, a sixteenth century farmhouse, is surrounded by a moat and stands on or is close to the site of Hales Hall. This was a subordinate manor of Brampton and the property of the Duke family between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries. A white-brick face has been added to the house in the mid-nineteenth century. (DoE III)

One of the three farms on the western edge of the village is BLUETILE FARM which is noted now for its herd of prize-winning goats. The house was built in the seventeenth century and is included on the DoE's supplementary Grade III List.

THE DOG INN, a familiar landmark in the district, is the sole public house in the village following the closure of the Railway Tavern. At one time owned by the lord of the manor, the premises were acquired in 1928 by Adnams & Company, the Southwold brewers, following the death of Robert Naunton Leman. White's Directory notes that the landlord in 1844 was John Cleveland. He must have provided a very useful service as his occupations were given as being both victualler and veterinary surgeon.

THE OLD SCHOOL or National School as it was once known was provided at the expense of the then rector, the Rev. T. O. Leman, in 1872 and erected opposite The Dog. With accommodation designed originally for 66 children the building continued in its educational rôle

until the late 1960s when a new school was built further along the Southwold road.

THE OLD TOLL GATEHOUSE was demolished for road widening in about 1930 and stood in the corner of the old school playground at the Dog cross-roads. From time immemorial the village has been on an important highway. A turnpike map of 1831 shows that there were turnpike roads from Beccles to Blythburgh and to Southwold and Halesworth. Mail and stage-coaches must once have been a familiar sight, particularly the Ipswich Saxmundham and Beccles Flying Coach which used the Beccles King's Head as a staging post. Toll gates were situated every six-eight miles and an old gatekeeper's house that has survived can still be seen today at the Halesworth road junction at Darsham, about seven miles south of Brampton.

BRAMPTON STATION

The steam age reached Brampton in 1854 with the opening of the East Suffolk Railway. The first stage of the line ran from Halesworth, via Beccles, to Haddiscoe where it joined the Norwich-Lowestoft Railway. In 1859 the line was completed with extensions from Beccles to Lowestoft and from Halesworth to Ipswich, which already had rail access to London. Before losing its freight traffic to road transport the station, although one of the smallest, was the scene of bustling activity. It had its own staff of six, a coalyard and facilities for the handling of agricultural produce such as milk and sugar-beet.

NEIGHBOURING CHURCH NOTES

REDISHAM, St Peter, is one of only thirteen Suffolk churches where rebuilding has not removed signs of pre-Conquest work. The South doorway is a good example of round-arched Romanesque style used by Saxons and Normans. The East and South chancel windows are of the Decorated style (c. 1290-c. 1330). Font Perpendicular style (c. 1335-c. 1530); pulpit dated 1619 and poppyheads and animals on chancel bench-ends.

SHADINGFIELD, St John the Baptist, has a Transitional nave, Norman North window in nave and two early thirteenth century doorways. Partly thirteenth century chancel with one lancet window; early fifteenth century octagonal font with Maltese cross-shaped plinth; altar cloth dated 1632 used until 1892 and stored in original box; eighteenth century organ case.

SOTHERTON, St Andrew, was rebuilt with old materials in 1854, with roof largely original. Perpendicular style font with a six foot high Jacobean cover; busts of 1st and 2nd Earls of Stradbroke; late thirteenth century enlarged effigy of knight; two panels from roodscreen, on vestry door, depict St John the Baptist and St Mary Magdalene. The inclusion of the evangelist's eagle is unique amongst East Anglian examples.

STOVEN, St Margaret, has a Norman South doorway with zig-zag moulding which survived the rebuilding of the chancel in 1791 and complete restoration of the original, thatched Norman church in 1849.

UGGESHALL, St Mary, has a Norman nave and much altered fourteenth century chancel, both thatched. Blocked Norman North door; fourteenth century South door; octagonal Perpendicular style font with four lions against the stem and four flowers, two lions and two angels against the bowl; Jacobean pulpit.

WESTHALL, St Andrew. The twentieth century South aisle was originally the nave of a small Norman church. The original West doorway was enclosed by the tower in the thirteenth century and a North aisle added which became the present nave. The chancel was added in the fourteenth century and the East window has fragments of fourteenth century stained glass. sixteen surviving panels of c. 1500 roodscreen depict saints, prophets and The Transfiguration and show the benefactors' names; the font with the Seven Sacraments and the Baptism of Christ retains the original colour; mural paintings in nave and South aisle; Jacobean pulpit; few fifteenth century poppyhead bench-ends in South aisle; partly-thatched double roof once used by smugglers, according to local legend.



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