

Bridge Place

- on site of ancient Court Lodge
Garwintons of Bekesbourne owned it, the last of whom was Thomas Garwinton who died in the 11th year of the reign of Henry IVth (c1411). Bridge Place went to a daughter of his by marriage to the Hauts of Hautbourn and by another female of that name to the Isaaks, who had also some estate here many ages before that.
From this family part of it went somehow to the Lawrences.
- 1545 Henry Lawrence held the court lodge in the 36th year of the reign of Henry VIII
- c 1680 about the middle of Queen Elizabeths reign they both joined in a sale of it to William Patrick Esq; grandfather to Sir Edward who parted with it and the manor to Mr Arnold Braeme of Dover.
- 1638 was the property of Sir Edward Partherich (Patrick?) and his wife.
- 1638 Manor of Blackmansberry bought by Sir Arnold Braems from Partherich. Braems was from a family out of Flanders, ie Flemish. His father(Charles) was a merchant in Dover. Sir Arnold was elected MP for Dover in 1660 and was knighted at Canterbury on May 27th 1660 for services to King Charles II. He pulled down the ancient Court Lodge and built Bridge Place. Bankrupted himself by so doing. Built of hand-made Dutch bricks brought over from Holland and landed in Sandwich. Died at Bridge Place in 1681. Married first Joanna, 2nd daughter of Walter Henflete (or Septvans) of Bekesbourne,
secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Dudley Digges, Master of the Rolls, & thirdly, Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Palmer, of Wingham, Bart. During his life Bridge Place often visited by the artist Cornelius Janssen. Nov 15th 1660 Samuel Pepys records a meeting with Sir Arnold Brames. "And did myself walk homewards (hearing that Sir W Pen was gone before in a coach) to overtake him and with much ado at last did in Fleet Street, and there I went in to him, and there was Sir Arnold Brames, and we all three to Sir W Batten's to dinner, he having a couple of servants married today" They all had dinner and then made offerings of money - Pepys gave 10 shillings & thought most of the others gave more.
Dec 27th 1660 Pepys diary:- "This afternoon there came in a strange lord to Sir William Batten's by a mistake and enters discourse with him, so that we could not be rid of him till Sir Arn. Breames and Mr Bens and Sir W. Penn fell a-drinking to him till he was drunk, and so sent him away."
Oct 5th 1661 Pepys diary-"And at night Sir W.Penn and I alone to the Dolphin, and there eat some bloat-herrings and drank good sack. Then came in Sir W Warren and another and staid a while with us, and then Sir Arnold Brames, with whom we staid late and till we had drunk too much wine.
Subsequently owned by his son, Colonel Walter Braems who died in 1692- heirs could not afford it's upkeep. In the 17th century it was the largest country house in East Kent after Chilham castle - had a large deer park and aviary.
- c1680 visited by the artist Schellinke. Described the house as containing, in addition to Braems's own fine residence, a large number of rooms, chambers, halls and other good appartments. The grounds were 'very well kept pleasure grounds with fruit trees, well watered by a fast flowing stream of wonderfully clear sweet water, (the Nailbourne). This splits up into several branches and rivulets; also some fish ponds in which ... trout is bred. There are also some vineyards. .. also a brewery, bakery, wine-press, hop garden, barns, stables, oxen, cows, sheep, pigs, geese, ducks'
- 1704 sold to John Taylor of Bifrons by Sir Thomas Braems- pulled it all down apart from one wing. Held by the Taylor family until
- 1823 purchased by the Marquis of Conyngham.
Bridge Place re-let after an auction of contents - belonged to Rev Hughes at this time.

1849 R Brice Esq, vice-chairman of Board of Guardians of the Union
1857 Tombstone in churchyard - sacred to memory of George Athill Esq of
Bridge Place
1878 Contents of Bridge Place auctioned April 2nd - property of Walter Gipps
Esq - leaving the neighbourhood.
1890-1897 Oscar de Satgé
1903 Mrs Wilson
1904 J B E Wilson Esq, Mrs Wilson
1907 Mrs Wilson (an Arthur Thomas Wilson M.B.,B.Ch was physician &
surgeon, medical officer & public vaccinator No.1 district, Bridge union &
medical officer of Bekesbourne sanitorium. Any connection?)
? Dr Wilson (GP for Bridge & surrounding villages) & his brother Mr J
Wilson : sons of Mrs Wilson above. members of a well-known Irish family?
Another brother called Sir Samuel Wilson- not in Bridge.
1913-1915 Seymour L Harries
1924-1940 Mrs Ethel Penn TN 8
1927 Mr Wiliam Howard - conflict of dates. Tenant of Marquis of Conyngham.
?? General & Lady Bing. The Duchess of Albany, daughter of Queen
Victoria, stayed there after opening some official event in Canterbury
1954 Bought by the Hon Mrs Neame
? sold by Mrs Neame to Mr Malcolm Pinhorn (genealogical printer) with an
entrance lodge and 6 acres of ground

Granddaughter of John Corbett +
Elizth Ancher of Bourne Park. Their
dau. Antonina married Ignatius
Geoghan (who built Higham Park)
Anil Leach 9/13

Bridge Hill House

- 1824 Charles Louis Secondat, Baron Montesquieu, died at Bridge(1749-1824). Also of Chateau de Labreade nr Bordeaux. Settled in England after the Revolution. Fought in the American War of Independence. Decorated by George Washington with the Cincinatti Medal. Returned to France. Fled to England in 1790 & married Miss Anne McGeoghegan O'Neill - Irish descent. Left the house to his wife (Marianna) in his will drawn up in 1822. After her death it was to go to his godson Charles.
- 1849 Rev Edward Gregory (curate of Lower Hardres 1815-1829)died (b1789, son of Elizabeth Beckingham of Bourne Park & first cousin of Mrs Edward Taylor of Bifrons). He probably built the present Bridge Hill House. ??
- 1853 Mrs Gregory named as the chief supporter of the infants school. Presented new plate to the church in 1850. Restored Bridge church in 1859/60.
- 1861 Mrs Gregory(B1788), from Cheshire(daughter of Nathaniel Pattison of Congleton and whose grandfather founded the first silk mill in Congleton in 1752), widow, landed proprietor & fundholder. Had 10 servants in 1861:- butler, resident cook, lady's maid, governess, kitchen maid, footman, groom, housemaid, page, gardener. Died in 1867
- 1867 For sale (+30 acres) by executors of Mrs Gregory ("Times" June 6th 1867: "it is entered through a spacious conservatory with fernery at side, and contains 10 principal and secondary bedrooms, two dressing rooms, sitting room, water-closet, and a suite of rooms in wing, consisting of a large bedroom, small room, dressing room, sitting room, and water-closet on the ground floor, entrance hall, excellent dining room, drawing room, communicating with a library, and opening by folding casements with a verandah; conveniently arranged domestic offices, detached servants hall, laundry, washhouse, two men's rooms, stabling for four horses, coach-house, brewhouse, granary, and other useful outbuildings, large walled kitchen gardens, two greenhouses and vinery; beautiful pleasure grounds, lawns, and ornamental flower beds" 30 acres. 1700 foot frontage on highroad from Canterbury to Dover.
Mrs Gregory was responsible for the restoration of Bridge Church
Mrs G employed more than 9 servants.
- 1870 Major Castle - keen on amateur theatricals
- 1890-1897 Mrs Castle
- 1903 Mrs Castle (Bridge house) ??
- 1904 W H Peto Esq
- 1907 Countess Zborowski (house belonged to Mr Ralph Peto)
- 1913-1940 George Knox Anderson DL; JP (called Bridge House in 1931)