

BARHAM DOHNS.

NOTES FOR COMMUNITY OF KENT & THE GREAT REBELLION 1640-1660

It had always been the duty of Kent to receive foreign ambassadors and covered leads with a certain amount of pomp & circumstance; These visitors usually disembarked at Dover and spent the first night at Canterbury where they were received by the mayor & aldermen & attended with guards of honour & bands of music. Never before had there been such elaborate preparation as those made of Charles II. The new royalist County Committee instructed the Gentry to provide new & arms to be sent for Dover for a military escort for the new king. The rusty rusty armour laid aside in 1648 was brought & refurnished & sent to the brigades at C. Maidstone & Tonbridge. Like their neighbours Kent's builders & harness makers of the latter every man with the king's colours & his hat the gentry made their way to the ancient rendezvous of the gentry on Besham Down near the Ferry of Winchelsea & his faithful kinsman Sir Thomas Kingsley Sir Thomas Peyton had called to Whitchurch & gentry to meet CII. Many "gallant troops of horse" arrived from the other counties headed by the Duke of Buckingham the Earl of Oxford Lord Northampton & Lichfield and a host of gentlemen and men of quality. As one observer recorded it would be useless to reckon the number of troops that are gone down into Kent their way more than 20 miles from London to Dover. On Friday 25th May 1660 at about 3 in the morning King Charles II. with his baggage & his carriage. Next day he following afternoon they disembarked; Camp set over his head. Accompanied by General Monk & the Whately & with his "life guard all most richly attired" the King made his way by Dover to Barham Down where multitudes of the county people stood with their hands & the troops bearing to his knees the hilts of their swords & their hands raised above his head.

Theme of loyalty to country & loyalty to state.

'Oliver Cromwell could not dispense with support of county gentry.

growth of water power like T.M. worked power of gentry.

'The Kentish men are a people that are sworn down by gentry laws

than any way enforced; their aspects that show unenforced.

Strategic situation of county, vicarious grip of parliamentary control but mostly royalist. Cade & that Tyler led made "Crisis trouble".

Deeply rooted in this latter soil, the Conservative excessively inclined.

not a general of mercantile or legal extracts. - 'a distinct personality'.

The real power consisted of 20/30 related families.

1/10 of the Kentish gentry also appears in the social lists with neighbouring counties

2/30 of gentry married among their neighbours,

Oxford, Dorset, Somerset solid base.

3/10 of Kentish lords were in lay control.

2nd Draft on guide to Bridge Church.

The village of Bridge, straddling the main road from Dover to Canterbury has been an important village since the Roman occupation of England. There was probably a Roman bridge across the river (cf Brugge, Bruges which has a similar name and site). There is however no village mentioned in Domesday book but there is a "Hundred of Brige" i.e. a meeting point for the villages on the "Burne" Bishopbourne, Patixbourne & Bekebourne and hence perhaps had its chapel (not a church) built. This Hundred was part of the manor of Blackheathway and was part of the possessions of St Augustines Abbey until the suppression of the monasteries by Henry VIII. In 1258 the church at Bridge was appropriated by Archbishop Britface to the Prior and Convent of Merton in Surrey in which patronage they remained until the middle of the 15th Century. The church has 3 aisles and a chancel with some Norman features remaining in the tower and the western doorway. There are three bells and there is a board above the belfry stating that the church and steeple were repaired by one Samuel Hills churchwarden. The pillars which separate the aisles are large for this size of church; the east end of the north aisle was formerly partitioned off for a school room. The font is small and though it appears to be old has nothing peculiar on it. In the chancel at the north side is a semi-circular compartment containing in stone the following particulars exceedingly well carved in 'alto-relievo'; in the division at top was formerly a figure for the Almighty and now much defaced; in the second division from the West end is the serpent with Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit. In the first from the same end, the Angel driving them out of Paradise; The third contains Cain and Abel preparing their sacrifices, the fourth Abel offering his sacrifice with Cain standing beside him and the fifth Cain slaying Abel. Under an arch in the wall below the above compartments lies the effigy of a man with his hands closed in the attitude of prayer, on the south wall is the portrait of Robert Bergrove painted on copper in a wooden frame believed to have been executed by Cornelius Jansen the Court painter. There are several interesting tablets in the church - in the middle of the chancel lies buried the second daughter of Sir Dudley Digges of Coker Castle Master of the Rolls in 1693, married to Anne the first wife of Sir Arnold Baines who built much of Dover Harbour in the 17th Century and lived at Bridge Place behind the church. Notice also in the left side aisle the tablet to Mr Sicard who is one of the many people who lived in the village with Huguenot forebears. There is unfortunately no stained glass of any value in the church. The church was restored by Mrs Gregory the wife of a vicar of Bridge in the middle of the XIXc and it is to her that we owe the striking Kentish flint stone on the exterior. She was not a native of the village but the daughter of Nathaniel Pattison of Congleton Cheshire and his grandfather founded the first silk mill in Congleton in 1752.