

## The Chapel of St. Clement at Brundall, Norfolk.

COMMUNICATED BY

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Little or nothing of the history of this building, which has been totally destroyed for more than one hundred years, has ever been printed, beyond the bald statement by Blomefield,<sup>1</sup> that the Manor of Bradeston extended into the parish of Brundale, and that there was a chapel belonging to it, dedicated to St. Clement, valued with the Rectory of Braydeston. In 1861 the late Mr. Henry Daveney drew attention to it,<sup>2</sup> and the present writer having spent his boyhood at Braydeston House, within a few hundred yards of the site of the building, was led to investigate its history, and endeavoured to gather such vague traditions about it as then existed. These he has put together, in the hope that this Society may consider them worth recording for the benefit of future inquirers.

<sup>1</sup> *History of Norfolk*, vol. vii., p. 221.

<sup>2</sup> *East Anglian*, old series, vol. i., p. 134.



## THE SITE AND THE BUILDING.

On the east side of the Station lane there was, some forty years ago, an uninclosed sand pit, the haunt of a colony of sand martins. Being mildly interested in fossils at that time, the writer used to visit it for the purpose of obtaining shells, etc., from the Norwich Crag,<sup>1</sup> and while so engaged, noticed the occasional occurrence of human bones. Their presence was accounted for by the fact that when the building was destroyed the remains interred around the Chapel were cast down into an adjoining hollow. Of the actual *exact* site all that is known is that the field was formerly in two enclosures called "Upper and Lower Chapel Field," and it was on the brow of this upper field that the building stood—probably only a short distance to the south of the house now improperly<sup>2</sup> called "The Manor House." That the site had been used from remote times for burials, was demonstrated when the building was destroyed, as in levelling the soil round it, many human remains were found, and also a number of urns, probably cinerary urns, as they contained ashes. Of the date of these there is no information, whether Roman or Anglo-Saxon, but the fact of their being found indicates a very respectable antiquity for the site. Some of the urns

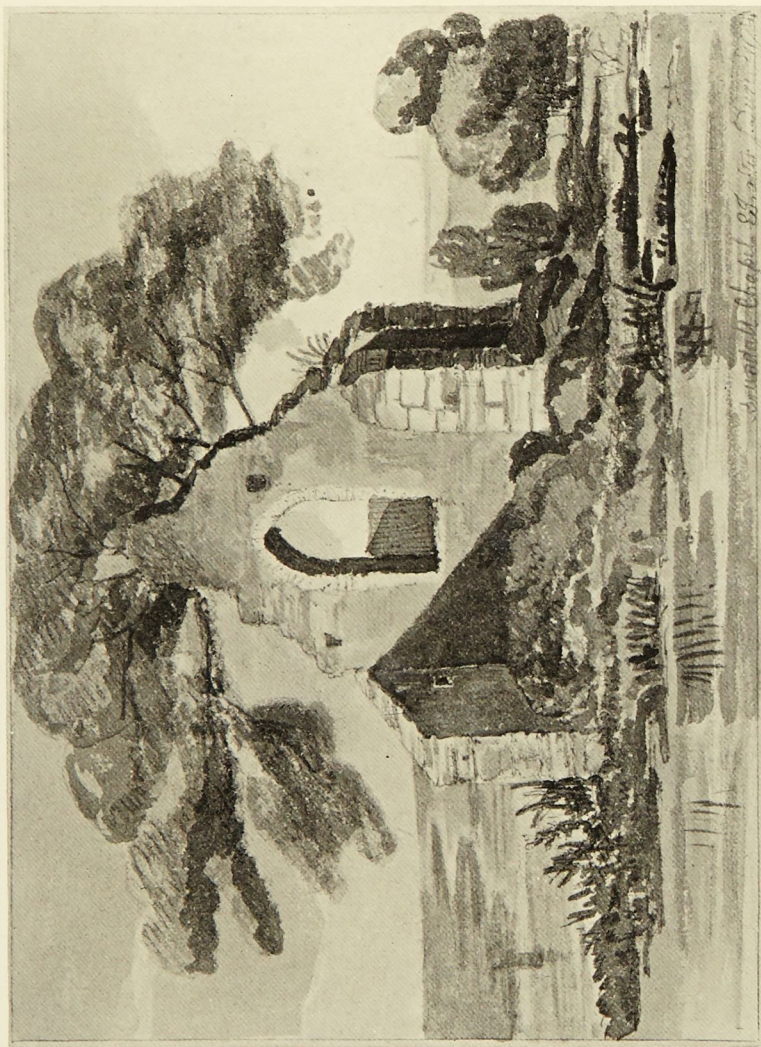
<sup>1</sup> For list of fossils found there (1884) see *Proceedings of the Norwich Geological Society*, vol. i., p. 237.

<sup>2</sup> The initials on the east gable of the house, to which Mr. Gilbert Daynes very kindly drew my attention, are R. B., which *may* refer to Richard Berney, although I rather think they mean Richard Baldwin, who certainly lived there. To call a house a manor, when it is not, nor ever was such, is absurd, for a manor house is not a mere fancy name, but it is the name of a particular kind of house and no other. To call a house what it is not, is a falsification of history. If the place must have a name, why not "St. Clement's"?—this would perpetuate history. The Manor House of Braydeston was on the site of the existing Braydeston Hall and farm buildings; and that for Brundall Manor was most probably in the neighbourhood of the mansion at the west end of the parish, at one time the residence of the late E. W. Trafford, Esq.

were removed by the Rev. Simon Peter Routh (died 1837 in his 81st year), then living in Brundall, and were used to ornament his garden walks; but although every inquiry was made forty years ago and in later years from the owner of the house where he lived, no trace of anything in the shape of urns was to be found in the garden: probably they had by then crumbled into dust by the action of wind and rain. It is as well to state here that the site is within the bounds of the parish of Braydeston, which parish, under an Order of the Local Government Board, dated 17th December, 1883, has been for civil purposes dissolved and united to Brundall, although for ecclesiastical purposes the parish of Braydeston still survives.

By a fortunate chance, there was living in Braydeston, from about 1805 to 1828, a Mr. Deere,<sup>1</sup> who made a drawing of the ruins, which was copied by one of the

<sup>1</sup> This gentleman, always spoken of in the parish as "Captain" Deere, had a curious career. The son of a well-to-do grocer in Norwich, he entered at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, in 1792, taking his B.A. degree five years later. On leaving college he lived in the Cathedral Close for a few years, and then, about 1805, bought a house at Braydeston (now known as "Braydeston House"), upon the improvement of which he spent a considerable sum. He had some literary tastes and moved in good society, and collected materials for East Anglian biographies, which are now in the library of his college. The outlay incurred by him, in making cellars and adding to the south front of his house, crippled him, and he left the parish and went to live in London with an uncle, from whom he had great expectations, but who actually left him little but a Chancery suit. He is believed to have died at Westminster, about 1848, in great poverty. He is also said to have adopted the son of a servant of his uncle, whom he called by his name and trained for a doctor. His MS. collections were bought by a bookseller for £5, but were eventually purchased by his college. Mr. Deere sold his house at Braydeston about 1828 to the Rev. Thomas Drake, who in 1836 conveyed it to Mr. Michael Stark, a brother of James Stark, the Norwich artist, and Mr. M. Stark sold it in 1842 to Mr. Daniel Read, the writer's maternal grandfather, and his descendants have recently sold it to Mr. F. Deyns Page, of Norwich. It was during Mr. Stark's residence in the house that he asked his brother James to paint the picture called "View from Bradeston Cottage," being a view from the garden of the house, and which painting was until recently in the possession of the late Mrs. Charles Bolingbroke (a niece of Michael Stark), and now belongs to Mr. Leonard G. Bolingbroke, of Norwich.



E. Turner, del. after J. Deere

Emery Walker, sc.

THE CHAPEL OF ST. CLEMENT, BRUNDALL.  
DESTROYED 1820

accomplished daughters of Mr. Dawson Turner, for his greatly enlarged and extra illustrated Blomefield, now in the British Museum Library, and this drawing is here reproduced. There is little in the drawing to furnish information as to the date of the building—apparently it represents the east or west end, probably the former, of the ruins. The pointed window arch seems to indicate an early Decorated date, but the buttresses, which appear to be broad and flat, rather point to an earlier period. That the building existed at an early date is shewn in the section dealing with its history. The ruins were totally demolished in 1820 by Mr. Thomas Tuck, the then owner. According to Mr. Daveney, the difficulty of severing the blocks of masonry was immense. Various reasons have been assigned for its destruction. One story goes that Mr. Tuck had a dispute with the Rev. Lambert Blackwell Foster about the site, and to spite him he destroyed the Chapel; but as Mr. Tuck was the undoubted owner, there seems no adequate reason for the destruction of his own property. Another and more probable reason is, that after the enclosure of the Brundall Common, about 1816, it was necessary to make roads and river walls, and the contiguity of the ruins to the Common, at the bottom of the lane, then called the Common Lane, was particularly convenient for that purpose.

If one were inclined to believe with Spelman that the grantees of monastic and ecclesiastical buildings were overshadowed by ill-luck, of which he gives many pertinent instances, one might almost adduce this building as an example—for the Cleres, to whom it was granted soon after the dissolution of the chantries, came to grief, and the Berneys, who later owned the site, also ended up in bankruptcy. Mr. Tuck himself lost his favourite daughter, and hoped to create a family estate by devising

it to his son, Thomas Gilbert Tuck, but he had no son and it passed to his relatives, the Gilberts, who in their turn became involved and the whole estate was sold.

The Chapel was dedicated to St. Clement,<sup>1</sup> B. and M. (23rd November), one of the saints retained in the Prayer Book Kalendar. Most of the churches dedicated to him are of ancient foundation; there are about thirty-five in the whole of England, of which there are eight in Lincolnshire (mostly near the sea), and at one time six in Norfolk and one in Suffolk. Those in Norfolk were Terrington, Burnham, Outwell, and this Chapel, as well as two in Norwich, St. Clement ad pontem and St. Clement of Conesford, the latter being destroyed. It is sometimes said that he was a favourite saint with sailors, and the situation of many of the churches so dedicated would seem to bear this out, although considering that he was traditionally drowned with an anchor fastened to him, it is not easy to understand this preference. It was in the 12th century that his greatest fame was reached, and this may possibly give an indication of the date of the building.

That the building was of ancient foundation is proved by the entry in the "Norwich Taxation" of 1254,<sup>2</sup>—"Breiston cum capella, valued at 100s." In the later Taxation of Pope Nicholas, 1291, it was valued at 8 marks. On the De Banco Roll of Hilary term, 6th Edward I.<sup>3</sup> we find that Agnes, who was wife of Henry de Boyton, brings actions against sundry persons, for dower, including William, parson of the Church of Braydeston (as to 5 acres of land and 80 acres of marsh in Braydeston

<sup>1</sup> Instit. Books, vol. ix., p. 85; vol. xvii., p. 79, &c.

<sup>2</sup> *Norf. Arch.* (Hudson), vol. xvii., p. 94.

<sup>3</sup> De Banco Roll, Hilary, 6 Edward I. (No. 23), m. 24d (January and February, 1277/78).

and North birlingham), and William Iberd (as to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Breydeston), Hugh de Mouton ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Brundall), and Agnes de Brundale (a messuage and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres in Breydeston and Strumpeshagh). In the course of the proceedings it is recorded "Et Willelmus dicit quod Brundale est quidam hamelettus et membrum de Breydeston et [? pertinens] ad villam de Breydeston; et quod quicquid est in parochia capelle de Brundale est in Breydeston, Et quod, etc.....ponit se super patriam"; and again, "Postea coram J. de Lovetot, apud Norwyč die lune proxima post festum Sancti Gregorii, papæ, Anno regni regis Edwardi sexto.....Juratores dicunt..... Et quoad predictas villas de Brundale et de Breydestoñ dicunt quod capella de Brundale pertinens est ad ecclesiam de Breydestoñ et quicumque est Persona de Breydestoñ est Rector Capelle de Brundale; Et quod predictus hamelettus de Brundale est pertinens et dependens ad villam de Breydestoñ."

Among the Miscellaneous Books of the Exchequer, No. 30, is a very valuable Inventory, made by order of the Archdeacon of Norwich, William de Swyneflete, *circa* 1368, of all the ornaments of the churches within his Archdeaconry. On fo. 45d there is the Inventory for the Church, "visitata fuit ecclesia iij<sup>o</sup> Kalend: Julij, 1368"; and on fo. 46, "Ornamenta capelle"—of which I give an English version:—"Ornaments of the Chapel: two Ordinals, one with a troper and the other with a psalter: two old legends of festivals and saints, in two volumes: the Statutes of Synods: a missal: two graduals with a troper: three pairs of Vestments: four linen cloths: four towells: two corporas cases: one frontal and one on the lectern<sup>1</sup>: a Lenten Veil: a chalice of silver and another of pewter<sup>2</sup>: two phiols: one super altar: a censer: a lantern: a pix for the Eucharist: a chrismatory and font

<sup>1</sup> "et j. in ambone."

<sup>2</sup> stannum.



with lock: a hand-bell: a bier: one psalter with a manual with the service for the dead: one hymnal, in quires: a chasuble of silk: one new censer."<sup>1</sup> This Inventory was no doubt made in compliance with the Constitutions of the Archbishop Simon [Langham], of Canterbury, about 1367, and it is remarkable that, although special enquiry is made in them for Bells in the Belfry with cords, Images and Principal Image in the Chancel, in very few instances are these items mentioned.

It is worth mentioning that the Institutions of the Rectors of Breydeston, as recorded in the Episcopal registers, in nearly every case use the formula "to the rectory and parish church of Braydeston, with the Chapel of Brundale annexed," and this form continues until after the Restoration, although the Chapel had long before then passed into secular hands. Further, it is remarkable that nearly all wills of early residents in Brundale, desire to be buried in Breydeston, and there are, as might be expected, small legacies to the repair of St. Clement's Chapel, *e.g.*, Benedict Laweys, of Brundale, 1456, desires to be buried in the Churchyard of St. Michael of Breydeston, and leaves (*int. alia*) to the repair of the Chapel of St. Clement of Brundale, 10<sup>d</sup>. Roger Ormesby of Brundale, 1479, desires to be buried in St. Michael's Churchyard of Breydeston, and John Fuller of Brundale, 1480, on the West side of the Font in Breydestone Church. John Lek of Brundale, 1470, desires burial in St. Michael's Churchyard of Braydeston and leaves half a coombe of malt to St. Clement's Chapel of Brundale.

Of the later history of the Chapel only the scantiest material remains, but that is of interest:—On the Judgment Roll of the Exchequer of Pleas, Hilary term, 19th Elizabeth [1576-77], roll 26, it is recorded "that in Easter

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of these items see *Norf. Arch.*, vol. v., pp. 93-95, and the valuable paper in vol. xiv., pp. 153-240.

term, 17<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth, there came before the Barons of the Exchequer, Edward Clere, of Blickling in co: Norfolk, Esquire, debtor to the Queen.....and exhibited.....his Bill against Thomas More, clerk, rector of the parish church of Braydston,<sup>1</sup> otherwise Braiston, being present in Court by Richard Hatton, his attorney, for that whereas a certain ancient Chapel existed in Brundale in co. Norfolk: and before the dissolution and suppression thereof and before the same came to the hands of King Edward VI., by Act of Parliament in his 1<sup>st</sup> year, all masters, chaplains or priests in the same Chapel exercised masses and other superstitious uses in the same Chapel and for maintaining the same rites and superstitious uses they had and received from time immemorial all Tithes of grain of whatsoever kind, nature, or sort growing, renewing and arising from the lands of John Palmer,<sup>2</sup> John Grene, Peter Spratte,<sup>3</sup> Vincent Pope,<sup>4</sup> Nicholas Taverham, Richard Foster and others, lying and being in Brayston otherwise Braydeston and formerly belonging.....to the s<sup>d</sup> Chapel of Brundale and which were given.....for the perpetual maintenance of a priest in the s<sup>d</sup> Chapel to celebrate rites and superstitious uses. And the same Chaplains and priests continued in possession till 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup> Edward VI. when they came to the King's hands by reason of the said Act and they descended from that King to the present Queen, who by Letters Patent dated 19<sup>th</sup> Feby 16<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth granted the said Tithes to Christopher Fenton of London, gentleman and Barnard Gylpin of same, gentleman, who by their deed dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 16<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth bargained and sold the same to the said Edward Clere, by virtue whereof Clere was seized of s<sup>d</sup> Tithes, until the said Tho<sup>s</sup> More, of his own wrong and without any reasonable cause on 20<sup>th</sup> July 10<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth by force and

<sup>1</sup> Thomas More, Rector 1563-76.

<sup>2</sup> John Palmer died 1434.

<sup>3</sup> Peter Spratte died 1538.

<sup>4</sup> Vincent Pope died 1487.

arms at Braydeston, i.e. with swords, sticks and knives entered into the s<sup>d</sup> Tithes and took and carried away four cartloads of wheat, worth 40<sup>s</sup>, 6 cartloads of Barley worth 30<sup>s</sup>, four cartloads of pease worth 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>, one cartload of 'Buck'<sup>1</sup> worth 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> and divers other kinds of grain and tithes, predial and personal to the value of 40<sup>s</sup> which sums amount £6 10 0 and converted the same to his own use for the space of six years before said 20<sup>th</sup> April last, to the value aforesaid every year, the whole amounting to £39—nevertheless the said Tho<sup>s</sup> More refuseth to render that sum to said Edw: Clere, who is therefore the less able to satisfy the Queen for the debts which he owes her at the Exchequer. Pledges for the prosecution 'John Doo and Richard Roo.'"

Now in this Hilary term [19th Elizabeth, 1576-77], Thomas More craved leave to imparle and then answer. He then pleads not guilty, and the parties join issue. More protests that there never was such a Chapel in Brundale, as Clere supposes; and that the said Tithes never came to the Crown, but being within the parish of Braydeston, they have from time immemorial been parcel of the Rectory of Braydeston; and that Thomas Hall, Rector of the Church of Braydeston,<sup>2</sup> was seized of those Tithes as parcel of his Rectory; and after his death, one Henry Barney, Esquire, being seized of the advowson of the Church, presented the same Thomas More, "his Clerk," to John, Bishop of Norwich, then Ordinary of that place, and More was instituted and inducted; and the said Edward (claiming the said Tithes by colour of a Lease of the said Rectory, made for term of his life, by the said Thomas Hall, whereas no part of the Rectory came into his possession by that Lease) entered into the Rectory before the date of the alleged

<sup>1</sup> "Buck" or Buckwheat—sometimes called Brank.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Hall, Rector 1559—1563.

trespass and took those Tithes; upon whose possession the same Thomas [More] re-entered at the time of the alleged trespass, into the said Rectory and took and carried away the said grain, and did so for six years, converting the same to his own use, as it was lawful for him to do. All which is denied by said Edward Clere.

The parties being thus at issue, a precept was issued to the Sheriff of Norfolk to cause a Jury to come here in Easter term, but as he did not do so, the matter was postponed till Trinity term, and then, as the Jurors did not appear, it was further adjourned until Michaelmas term, or till the coming of the Justices of Assize on 15th July next to Norwich Castle, when inquisition was to be made and Judgment to be given in Michaelmas term. The Jury before the said Justices agreed upon their verdict, but the said Edward failed to appear when called upon: whereupon Defendant prayed Judgment. Now, the Barons, in Michaelmas term, after mature deliberation, give Judgment that the said Edward shall take nothing by his Bill, but be in mercy [*i.e.*, amerced] for his false claim.

In connection with this subject, it may be useful to record that for many years the Rector of Braydeston has paid annually to the Rector of Brundall the sum of 15s. 9d. Some years ago I was asked by the then rectors of the two parishes to investigate this, as there is no mention of it on the Tithe maps. The Braydeston Terrier states that there is "no modus of any kind" in the parish; but it is possible the word "kind" means here "payment in kind" as distinguished from payment in money. The payment is mentioned in the Brundall Terrier for 1820, and it occurs in 1706 and in 1709, when it is said to have been "lately contracted." The terrier for 23rd June, 1801 (Brundall), is explicit: "There are also the following Tithes and portions of Tithes

belonging to the Rectory of Brundall, out of the parish, viz., an annual payment of 15s. 9d. from the Rector of Bradeston to the Rector of Brundall in respect of lands, by an agreement made in 1687 between the two rectors for their mutual assistance." Is it possible this may have some connection with St. Clement's Chapel? The actual agreement does not seem to be in existence.

The Inventory of 1368 clearly proves that it was really a chapel of ease and not a chantry chapel, for the bier and the font show it possessed full rights. Of the subsequent history of the building I have little information. Besides the grant to Christopher Fenton, of London, gent., and Barnard Gilpyne, of the same city, gent., by Queen Elizabeth on 19th February, in her 16th year [1573-4], there would seem to have been a grant on 22nd September, in her 17th year [1575], to John Herbert, of London, gent., and Andrew Palmer, citizen and goldsmith, of London, of "the free warren, fishing, convent mark late belonging to the Monastery of Langley; Town lands and Chapel lands in Thetford; Tithes of Santon; the site of the Chapel of St. Nicholas in Sheringham; the site of St. Nicholas' Grene and the tithes to said Chapel belonging; the site of the Chapel of St. Thomas in Clipson adjoining to Fulmodeston and the tithes appointed for a chaplain there and also *all our Tithes of grain whatsoever in Braydeston alias Brayston, and in Brundall, or in either of them, in the county of Norfolk, which before this had been given and appointed to celebrate masses and to pray for the dead, in the Chapel of Brundall.*"

Fenton and Gilpin sold to Edward Clere, by deed dated 18th May, in 16th Elizabeth [1574], and Herbert and Palmer also sold to Clere by deed of 19th (or 20th) November, 18th Elizabeth [1575]. Edward Clere was one of the gentlemen knighted on the occasion of the Queen's visit to Norwich in August, 1578: he died in

London, and was buried at Blickling in 1606. His son, also Edward, was knighted in 1603, but was a spendthrift, and the last we hear of him is that he was in the Fleet Prison. No exact record of his death is known. He, or perhaps his father, probably got rid of the property, but one can only conjecture its later history. I believe it passed to the Berneys, of Reedham, and when Richard Berney died in 1695 without issue and much involved, his estates were sold by order of the Court of Chancery. In 1720 Richard Baldwyn was rated at £32 "for late Berneys" and £12 for other lands late Mr. Russell's. This latter was the large field to the east of the Blofield Road, of late years cut up into building sites by Mr. Slipper. The Berneys certainly had the marsh at the foot of the field where the Chapel stood, and I believe the field to the west of the Station Road and marshes below, were Berney property, but the whole history from Clere's time to the early 19th century is obscure. The last we know of it is the late Mr. Henry Daveney's account of its destruction in 1820; he no doubt had the opportunity of talking to people who either helped to actually pull it down or who saw or heard of its demolition. According to his account [*East Anglian*, 1861, old series, vol. i., p. 134], much difficulty was experienced in breaking the blocks of masonry, etc. I have myself heard traditions of one, if not more, stone coffins having been found—one was said to have been utilized as a cattle trough on one of Mr. Tuck's farms at Strumpshaw, but I have never yet been able to search for it. Another story runs that the last person buried in that graveyard was brought from over the river, by Surlingham Ferry. As the person referred to died towards the end of the 18th century, I do not think it can be correct, for the place had been long secularized; but it may be a perversion of some story which had been handed down of a former burial.