

A study of Beachborough and the Manors in the County of Kent possessed by the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family.

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Beachborough was the home of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family, who were squires of the estate and the Manors that they acquired during the family history.

This record is not a history of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family, which would be subject to a substantially larger exercise than that recorded here. The point of this document is an attempt to give the reader an idea of how the estate evolved over the centuries. We are indebted to Brigadier General David Henry Drake-Brockman C.M.G. late of Lindfield Sussex, (hereinafter referred to as The Brigadier), for compiling a record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman Family. Without this record the task of producing my account of the estates indeed would have been very difficult. Consequently, I have used much of the Brigadiers account and research papers of Hugh Drake-Brockman currently of Wokingham to complete the account. I intend to further research documentation in the form of a collection of estate management papers, day books, conveyances and other papers currently in the archive of the British Library. An account by Miss Burford Butcher in *Archæologia Cantiana*, describes how in 1931, after Francis Drake-Brockman's death, there came to light an interesting collection of some two thousand papers. They had been stored and preserved in two enormous chests and were in consequence in extremely good condition. The chests had not been opened in the memory of anyone living and the locks were forced in order that the contents could be viewed and catalogued. The contents were then presented in their entirety to the British Museum.

Most of the material at hand relates to life and experiences of those family members who inherited Beachborough. One begs the question what a home is without people, so this must be the first avenue to explore. Further to this, the various actions and words of the family add flavour to the way that people lived over the centuries that I am about to relate to you.

Regarding the house and to research, I shall be exploring these details currently held at the British Library in due course including the input from Henry Brockman (grandson son of John Brokeman of

Witham) who made substantial improvements to the house and the estate. Also worthy of note are the accounts and papers of Rev.Ralph Drake-Brockman who on the face of it appeared to be a fine estate manager. This will give me a sounder idea as to the nature and cost of materials and labour which went into management of the estate and maintenance of Beachborough House.

Further to this are the research papers belonging to Hugh Drake-Brockman relating to the family, his input I am sure will prove of great value to my work. I also mention Alan Jackson currently of Perth Western Australia, a family descendent who has written and published a record of the Australian Branch of the family; whilst not directly associated with Beachborough, Alan has nevertheless been instrumental in updating and publishing the Brockman and Drake-Brockman Family Tree a document of great value when identifying points relating to the family.

As an appendix to this paper, I have included a note to me from Giles Drake-Brockman a family historian who has already contributed a great deal to the family history.

© Christopher James O'Connor (Drake-Brockman family descendent)

Hythe April 2020

1 Brockman

The topography surrounding the estate puts the house in a relatively cosy situation, nestling within the folds of the surrounding downs. The mansion is a fine one situated in a park of 300 acres.

On studying the map one notes the close contours stretching to the west to Tolsford Hill, and the south west to Summerhouse Hill, thus favouring the house climatically from prevailing unsettled weather from the west.

The estate is accessed from the main road to Canterbury from Folkestone and is within the Parish of Newington.



Ordnance Survey map Explorer[™] No 138 grid reference 1638
Beachborough (Please note to the N.W. Temple Pond and Brockman's Bushes)
Compare this with the 1630 map see Appendix 1

For many years the house was the home of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family who were responsible in presenting many incumbents to the livings in Newington and the nearby Parish of Cheriton, some of whom served in this duty for many years. Amongst these were family members. Tombs and memorial tablets are present in both churches, in Newington, the Senior Branch and in Cheriton, the Junior Branch.

I was asked the question by one of the Hythe History Group, namely, as to how the Brockmans first acquired the lands that they owned and advance to the notoriety that they eventually had in the County of Kent. So in obligation to the questioner and all readers; before starting to explore the history of Beachborough House, I think it appropriate to outline how the Brockmans first appeared on the scene in the County.

According to the Brigadier, the first record of the family dates from the reign of Richard II. Lands which had had become vested in the Crown on the attainder of Sir Robert Belknap, were granted to John Brockman in the 13th year of that monarch's reign, i.e. in 1390, and consisted of the Manor of Pierrie or Perry, extending to Old Romney and Medley, with other lands in Stowting and Crundale, by a patent which was enrolled in the Tower in that year.

Part of this Manor was the Manor of Bere (Berry Court). Before the reign of Henry VIII this Manor was alienated by John Brokeman of Witham in Essex (grandson of the aforementioned John Brockman) to John Newland Esqre.

Brockmans Barn was once a landmark within the Brockman marsh estates. It has long since disappeared but was in the area of Jesson, a hamlet between Dymchurch and New Romney, current day St Mary's Bay.

Another Manor called Broadgate in the Parish of Birchington was granted to John Brokeman of Witham in Essex, on the attainder of Henry Beaufort, Duke of Somerset. This was in the 16th year of Henry, later to become Henry VIII.

The record continues in detailing the family history and we move forward to 1570 when Henry Brokeman or Brockman, grandson of John Brokeman of Witham in Essex acquires Beachborough by sale from George Fogge of Brabourne.

Beachborough or Beechborough anciently Bilcheborough is made reference to in Harris's History of Kent: Page 216

'Bilchborough are two ancient seats in this Parish which of old belonged to the family Valoigns; and by a daughter and coheir of that name it went to Sir Francis Fogge about the end of the reign of Edward III^d which gentleman lies buried in Cheriton Church with the arms of Fogge and Valoigns impaled on his tomb; and in this family it is staid till about Queen Elizabeth Ist reign and then George Fogge Esq. sold Bilchborough to Mr Henry Brockman.

Bertrams is another manor here which is so called because it was part of the estate of Bertram de Criol who died possessed of the estate in the reign of Edward Ist,

Henry Brockman was a grandson of John Brokeman of Witham in Essex. Henry married the daughter and heiress of Thomas Chilton of Kent. The Brigadier tells us that it was he who purchased and rebuilt the house in Tudor style and made his abode there. He also tells us that that the purchase was completed circa 1570. The house remained in the family thereafter until the early 20th Century.

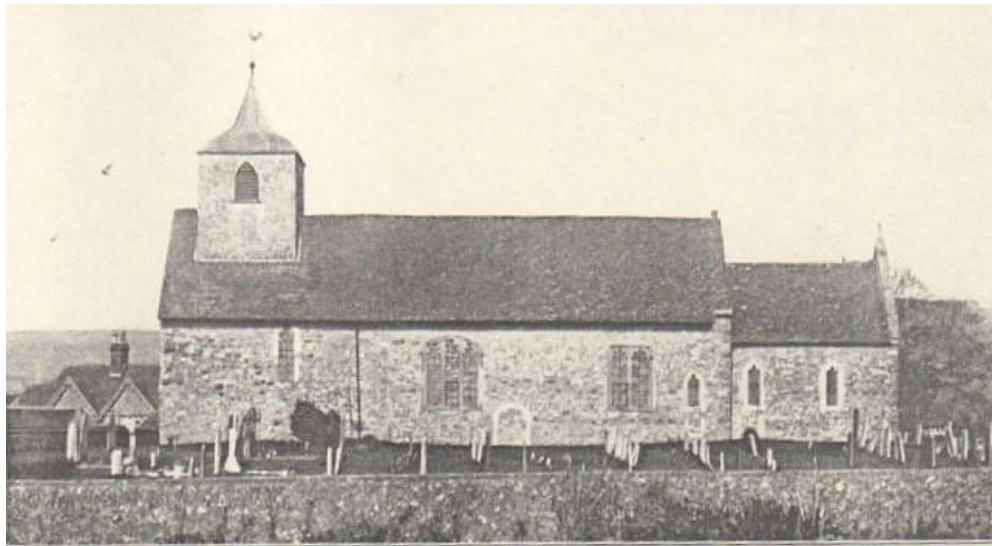
There is an account of the history of the manor of Newington in a section of the Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman as written by the Brigadier.

The Manor of Newington in Domesday Book record, is entered as having formed part of the possessions of Hugo de Montfort. Under King Henry I, this Manor was vested in the Crown, under King John, it was held by Baldwin, Earl of Guisnes of whom it was purchased by Hugo de Burgh, Earl of Kent. His eldest son, John de Burgh, succeeded and obtained a charter of free warren for the Manor.

In the 55th year of King Henry III he passed it to his cousin-german, Sir Thomas Belhus, Seneschal of Ponthiue. In the 48th year of Edward III the property passed to the Knevets by way of marriage of Joane, daughter of Sir Thomas Belhouse. The estate remained in the Knevet family till the 16th year of King Henry VII, when Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Knevet, espoused Sir John Rainsford,

On dying in 1507, it devolved to Elizabeth, then wife of John Clopton, as his next heir. In 1535, the Manor was alienated to Thomas Lord Cromwell, on whose attainder the estate falling to the Crown, it so continued until the first year of Queen Mary, who granted it to Lord Clinton and Saye. He in the ensuing year, passed it to Mr Henry Herdson, of London, whose grandson Francis alienated the property, under King James I, to Henry Brokeman, of Newington, in which line it continued to James Brockman of Beachborough, who willed it to the Rev. Ralph Drake, who assumed the name and arms of Brockman, in which family it continued to the present time. A court-baron was held for this Manor.

With Newington came also the Manors of Newington Bertram, Newington Belhouse and Newington Fee Also by the same route came the Manor of Newington Brenzett. A court-leet was held for this Manor.



From a photograph

in possession of Brig.-Gen. David Henry Drake-Brockman, C.M.G.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, Newington.

Photograph from Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family by Brigadier D.H. Drake-Brockman C.M.G.

And so also the Manor of Cheriton by way of the same Record.

This was held of the Barony of Averanches by a family which thence derived its name. Waleran de Ceritone possessed this property under King Henry III, and in the reign of King Edward I it went to Roger de Mereworth. It passed to the Valoigns, and by marriage of a female heir it devolved to her husband, Sir Francis Fogge, who was interred in the church of this place, but of their effigies nothing remains. George Fogge Esquire of Brabourne, sold this property to the Brockmans, when James, dying unmarried in 1767, devised the Manor to the Rev. Ralph Drake, who assumed the name of Brockman, in which line it continued. A court-baron is held on this Manor.



From a photograph

in possession of Brig.-Gen. David Henry Drake-Brockman, C.M.G.

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, Cheriton.

Photograph from Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family by Brigadier D.H. Drake-Brockman C.M.G.

One could assume it accurate to say that the conveyance of the Manor of Cheriton to Brockman could have coincided with the acquisition of Beachborough. A comparison of the two accounts included above namely that of *Harris History of Kent* and the account of the *Manor of Cheriton* connect ownership of both by the family Valoign and Fogge. Both were in possession of the Manor and the house of Beachborough in whatever form this was as a building. The transaction relating to the two properties were from the same source, namely George Fogge to Henry Brockman.

With Cheriton came also the Manor of Sweton.

We learn from *Hasted* that later during the reign of James I the Manor of Newington was alienated to a Henry Brockman.

At this point I find the Brigadiers record a little confusing. Now, there were two Henry Brockmans during these times. For sake of convenience let us call them Henry (snr), and Henry (jnr), the grandson of Henry (snr). The Brigadier accounts for the purchase of Beachborough; *page 14. With it Henry Brokeman also bought the Manor of Cheriton, so that the Brokemans or Brockmans were Lords of the manors of both Newington and Cheriton.* [sic]

At first glance the Brigadier alludes to the effect that the Brockman's became lords of both Manors at the time that Henry (snr) purchased Beachborough circa 1570, he dies in 1573. The Manor of Newington was alienated to the Brockmans during the reign of James I, (as detailed by *Hasted page 202*), who was crowned in 1603 in which case Henry (snr) would have been dead thirty years since. My view is that it would be far more likely that the alienation of the Manor of Newington from Francis, the grandson of Henry Herdson of London, was to Henry Brockman (jnr). So it was *at that* time Brockmans became Lords of the Manors of both Newington and Cheriton. Another point according to the Brigadier which we may consider follows. *Henry became by purchase the owner of Beachborough which he bought from George Fogge of Brabourne, circa 1570. He married the daughter and heiress of Thomas Chiltern, of Kent. He then rebuilt the mansion, and fixed his abode there.*

Seeing that Henry dies in 1573, this gives him very little time to purchase, plan, rebuild the Tudor mansion and set his abode there. The likelihood then would be that the rebuilding was completed by his son William or his grandson Henry (jnr).

I should add that with all these Williams and Henrys one can get confused, even official records fall to error with the recorded family relationships and links.

Further research of dates and monetary consideration, might be corroborated on examination of deeds and conveyances in the British Library Archive.

There were other Manors whose ownership in due course came possessed by family Brockman, these are listed at the end of this record.

Henry Brockman died in 1573 and was succeeded by his elder son William. After settlement to the family and various servants by way of various chattels and after clearing all estate debts Henry Brockman completes his will to William:

The residue of all my goodes and cattells whatsoever they be not bequeathed my detts payd my legaceys performed and my funerall I dormie I wholly give to William my sonne whome I ordayne and make my sole executor of this my present testament and last will and Thomas Brodnex my sonne in Law my overseer And i bequeath to hym for his paynes to see my will performed xl,

William dies in 1605 and passes the estate to his son, Henry. It is my belief that this Henry acquired the Manor of Newington from the grandson of Henry Herdson, and at this point the Brockmans become Lords of the Manors of both Newington and Cheriton.

Henry Brockman dies in 1630 and bequeaths the estate to his son William. Of all the Brockmans this Sir William was a most illustrious member. He was an ardent Royalist and was knighted by King Charles I, whose devoted adherent he was.

Giles Drake-Brockman currently of Darlington has written and published an account entitled 'Sir William and Lady Ann Brockman of Beachborough, Newington by Hythe: a Royalist Family's experience of The Civil War'. *Archæologia Cantiana volume CXXXII 2012*. This record makes very interesting reading. It includes an account of the Battle of Maidstone.



Sir William Brockman

© Maidstone Museum and Bentsliff Art Gallery 2010

A note from the Brigadiers record [vide] I much regret that I failed to get a photo of the portrait of Sir William Brockman, our most illustrious ancestor, whose courageous defence of the town of Maidstone is recorded. The painting was sold in 1931.

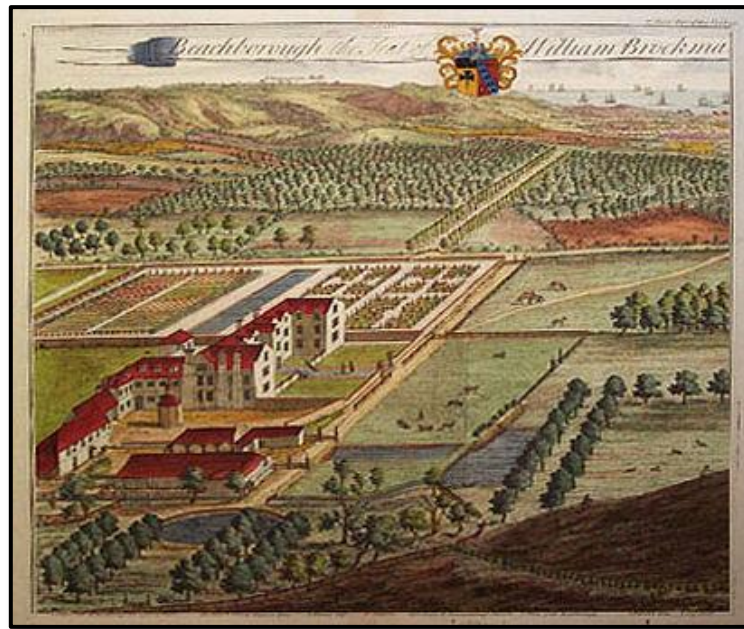
I am glad to say that this painting along with a portrait of his wife The Lady Ann, both are in the Civil War Collection at the Bentsliff Art Gallery in Maidstone and equally glad to be of service to the Brigadier albeit in his case, posthumously. In 1611 Ann inherited Hall Place in the Parish of Otterden from her father Simon Bunce. This was a further addition to the Brockman estate when she married Sir William in 1616.

In more recent years the Hythe Local History Group gave a dramatised talk on the history of Westenhanger Castle, where Sir William was interred by the Parliamentarians as a result of his inciting the Royalist uprisings in Kent. We heard letters from Ann Brockman pleading with Sir Will^{ms} gaolers to move him from London where he suffered ill health, to Westenhanger near his home at Beachborough.

Sir William's died in 1654 and is buried at Newington. He willed the estate to his son and heir James, who died in 1683.

James's son William succeeded him. William married Anne Glydd, whose sister, Martha, married into the Drake family. Martha's daughter, Elizabeth, married Julius Deeds a member of another large local family the record of which is being published by Christopher McGonigal currently of Hythe. The families of Deeds and Brockman were not only related by marriage but also were close business associates.

William dies in 1741 and outliving his two elder sons William ob 1721 and John ob 1739, he leaves the estate to his only surviving son James.



Beachborough Park in the time of William Brockman A.D. 1741
From an old print. During 1935 in the possession of Rev. Edward Drake-Brockman

Illustration from Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family by Brigadier D.H. Drake-Brockman C.M.G.



Fig. 12 Edward Haytley, *James Brockman of Beachborough, Kent (1696–1767)* (cat. no. 6). Oil on canvas, 53.0 × 40.7 cm. Private collection, Kent. (Photograph © Rodney Griffiths)

James Brockman, sole surviving son of William Brockman a painting by Edward Haytley.

Illustration from The life and Works of Edward Haytley by Rodney Griffiths

James (1696 -1767) was the last male heir of the Brockmans, he died unmarried and bequeathed his estates to his cousin and great nephew of his Mother, the Rev. Ralph Drake.

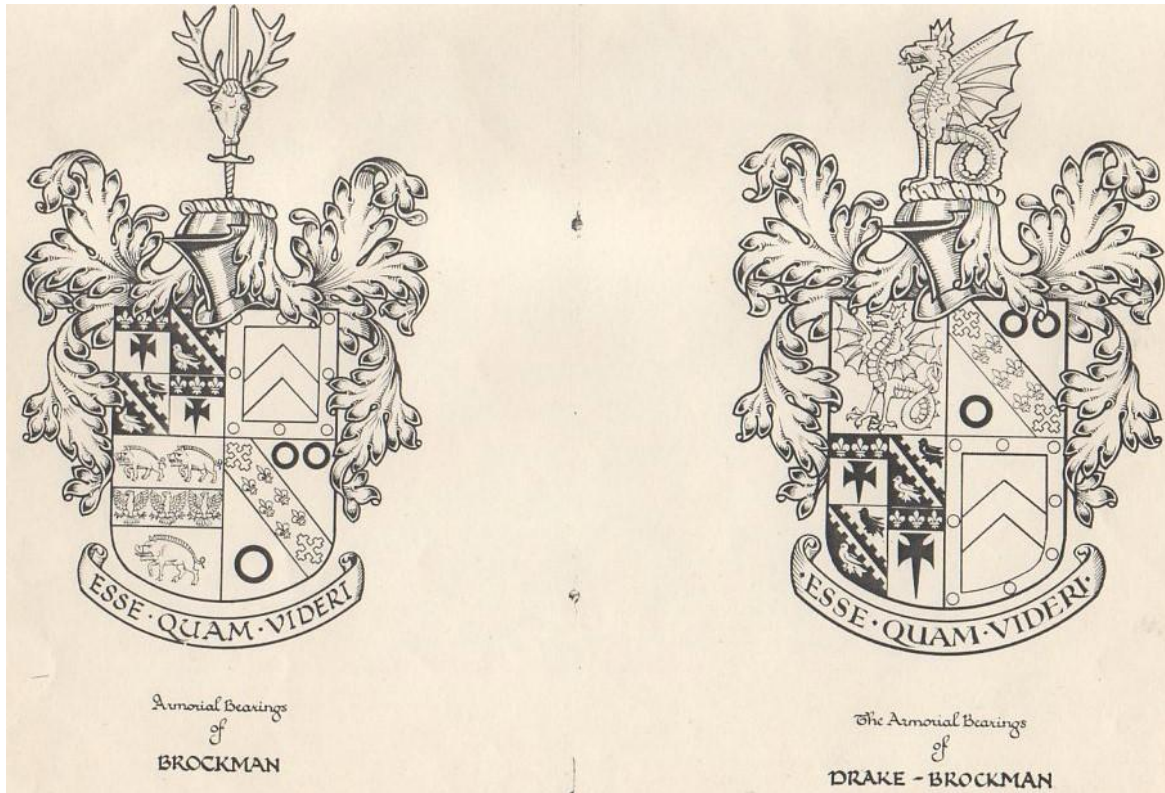
Let us look at James's intentions but quoting from his reflections written on entering his 69th year: [vide] *Brigadier; Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family App, VIII Reflections of James Brockman of Beachborough.*

London December 1764

But as my family has been of some standing at Beachborough, where I have principally resided near forty years, I am desirous to have y^t House continue to be inhabited by one who may prove a useful Member of Society in general, and to y^t neighbourhood in particular. I have now placed ye Revnd Mr. Ralph Drake there, who having a promising Issue and both he and his Wife of my nearest relations, I intend no other than to leave ye whole of my Real Estate to him or in his Family, hoping my Desires as before mentioned, will be fully answered by him or one of them.

Though this may not be immediately apparent to the reader, it was indeed a smart move on the part of James.

Let me explain. James' last testament came with conditions. That the Arms and the name of Brockman be continued by Rev. Drake and his family by Act of Parliament. This was not quite as difficult as it seemed as The Rev Drake was married to Caroline Brockman who was the Great Granddaughter of Zouch Brockman, brother to the aforementioned Sir William of Beachborough. Thus conserved was the name of Brockman. Thus conserved was the line, which was carried on with the double name of Drake-Brockman.



Armorial Bearings of Brockman and Drake-Brockman

Photograph from Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family by Brigadier D.H. Drake-Brockman C.M.G.

Before putting James to rest let us look at another extract from his reflections. It would seem that by current day standards James like many of that era lived amid an atmosphere of piety. This is further borne out by the fact that members of the family did perform the duties of incumbents. James first seems to try to absolve himself of any of his misdemeanours:

How these years which are already past away have been employ'd, I am not here about to relate, ye Errors & Mistakes I have committed in my past Conduct, cant now be recall'd, but I cannot charge myself with having been guilty of many atrocious Crimes, or great Enormitys, & in most of ye actions of my Life, have endeavoured "to keep a conscious void of offence toward God and toward Men.

Then almost by way of a confessionary:

And to take care to add as more to ye number of my past Transgressions as possibly I can, & this thro' ye Frailty of Human Nature, I know I am liable and disposed to fall into many, yet I hope to avoid great ones, & beseech ye almighty to "cleanse me from secret Faults & grant y' presumptious Sins may never have Dominion over me."

There follows some fine paintings of the Brockmans at home at Beachborough by Edward Haytley. Fig 46 and 47 Commissioned by James Brockman, Haytley's works are documented to the period 1740-1764. It is a great shame that these are now out of the country in Australia and USA.

Fig 45 has in my view some artistic licence as Mount Morris was at Monks Horton; hardly in proximity to the sea as the family portrait suggests.

Beachborough Manor, Kent, the Brockman Family in the Rotunda at Temple Pond Fig. 46
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
Oil on canvas; 52.7 × 65.0 cm
PROV: Commissioned by James Brockman (1696–1767); inherited by Revd Ralph Drake (later Drake-Brockman; 1724–81); by family descent to Winifred Brockman (1895–1988), who had married Capt. Benjamin Arkle M.C. in 1921, and is first recorded as the owner in 1961; acquired by the National Gallery of Victoria through Leggatt's, London, in 1963



Fig. 46 Edward Haytley, *The Brockman Family in the Rotunda at Temple Pond, Beachborough Manor, Kent* (cat. no. 46). Oil on canvas, 52.7 × 65.0 cm. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia. (© National Gallery of Victoria)

The Brockman family are shown in the right foreground in a rotunda beside a man-made pond where men are hauling a net and another is in a boat to their right. There is a distant view of the English Channel with the coastline of France beyond. The Brockman family estate at Beachborough was in Kent on the English south coast. They were neighbours of the Robinsons (see 18, 22, 45 and 50). A letter from Mrs Robinson (quoted in Leger Galleries, *The Montagu Family at Sandford Priory by Edward Haytley, 1744*, London, 1978) to her daughter establishes that this work was painted in 1744. An entry in James Brockman's cash book (British Library, Add. MS 42708) notes, '1746 May 6 Pd Ed. Haytley in full for Pictures and Frames [£]20. 7[s]. 6[d]', and this probably refers to payment for 46 and 47.

I think that the seated gentleman in the Rotunda (fig 46), may be James Brockman.

47 Beachborough Manor, Kent, the Brockman Family beside Temple Pond **Fig. 47**
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
Oil on canvas; 52.7 × 65.0 cm
PROV: As 46
LIT: As 46



Fig. 47 Edward Haytley, *The Brockman Family beside Temple Pond, Beachborough Manor, Kent* (cat. no. 47). Oil on canvas, 52.7 × 65.0 cm. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia. (© National Gallery of Victoria)

The Brockman family and friends are shown around a man-made pond variously fishing, drawing and reading, a temple and pastures beyond. The lady in white shown holding a fishing pole is said to be Susanna Highmore, daughter of the painter Joseph Highmore. (For further information, see 46.)

Illustration from The life and Works of Edward Haytley by Rodney Griffiths

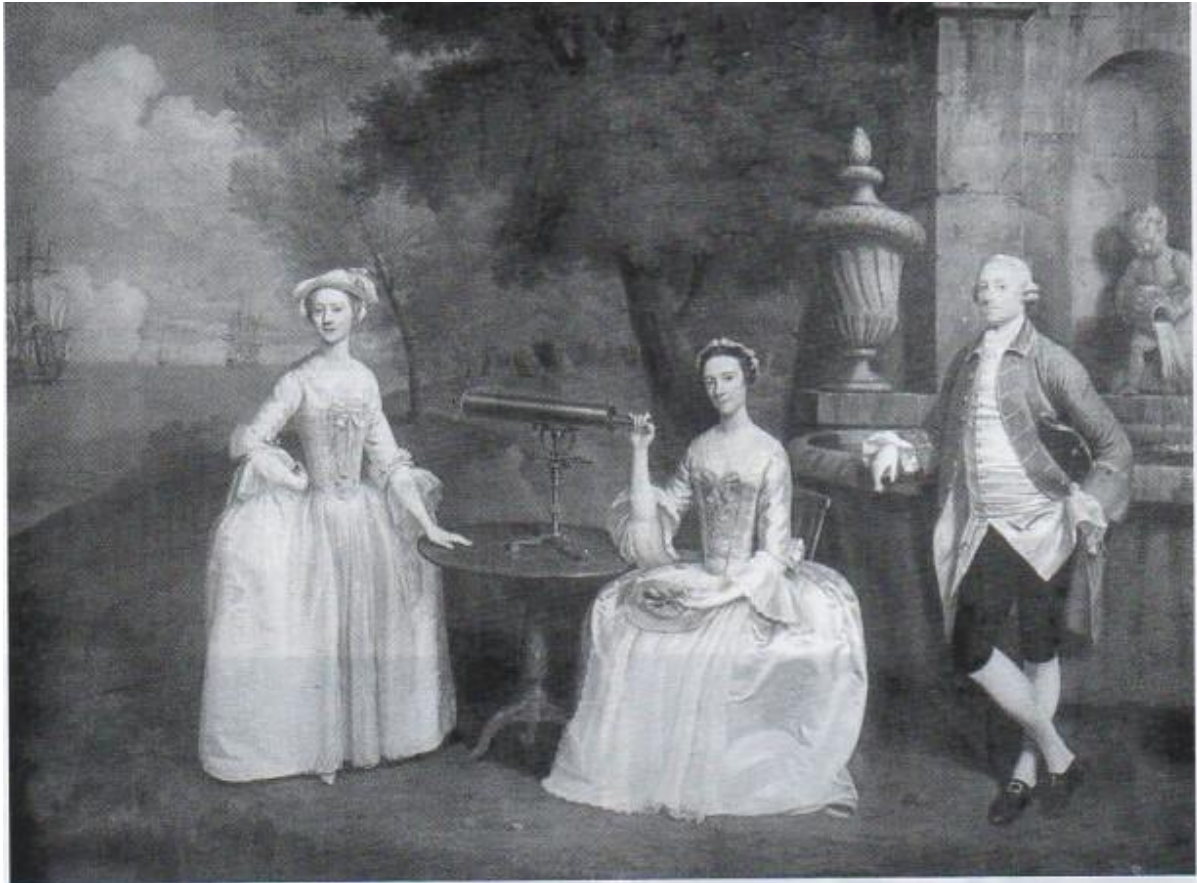


Fig. 45 Edward Haytley, *Lady and Gentleman with their Daughter in the Grounds of an Estate near the Coast* (cat. no. 45). Oil on canvas, 63.5 × 76.2 cm. Private Collection, USA. (© Courtauld Institute of Art, London)

LIT: Leger Galleries, *Exhibition of English Eighteenth Century Paintings*, London, 1978, fig. 9, repr.; Leger Galleries, *Realism Through Informality: The Conversation Piece in Eighteenth Century Britain*, London, 1983, no. 11, repr.

PROV: with Ehrich Galleries, New York, 1929

The gentleman leans against an ornate fountain, his wife sits at a table with one hand on a telescope that is on it, her other hand holding the hat in her lap. Their daughter stands beside them and rests her hand upon the table. Ships can be seen sailing upon the distant sea. It has been suggested that the sitters are Matthew and Elizabeth Robinson and their daughter Sarah (see 22 and 50), who lived at Mount Morris, Hythe, next to the Beachborough estate (see 46 and 47), on the Kent coast. Sarah's elder sister was Mrs Elizabeth Montagu (see 18 and 50). Mrs Robinson died in 1746, the year that Haytley painted this work.

The pictures are copied from 'The Life and Works of Edward Haytley'

By Rodney Griffiths

A note from Giles Drake-Brockman tells us that both of the Hatley paintings that James Brockman commissioned are mentioned in a book titled *The Artist & the Garden* (2000) by Sir Roy Strong (art & garden historian). He made the point that artists like Haytley often made their money by taking on design projects. So, the reason the Beachborough paintings look so stylised might owe more to the fact they were selling a landscape/garden design concept rather than showing off what was there. If one takes a walk around the lake, one will find there are difference in its scale and setting.

Drake-Brockman

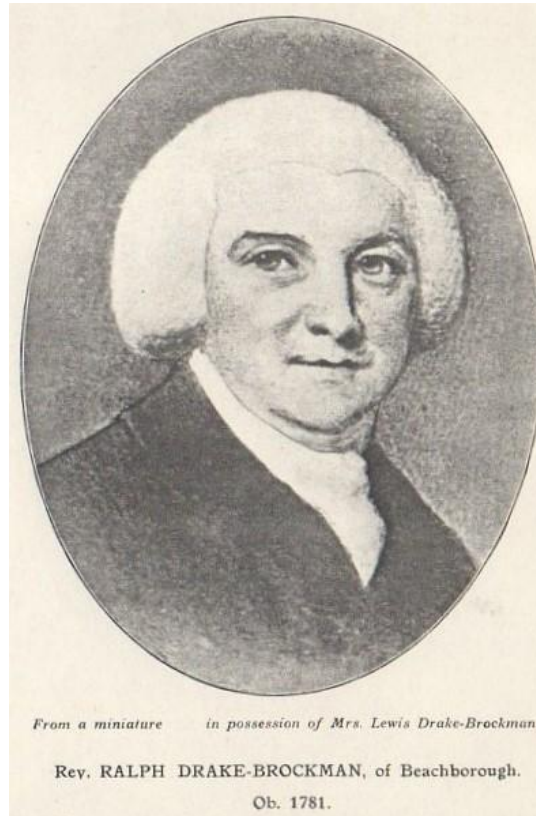


Illustration from Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family by Brigadier D.H. Drake-Brockman C.M.G.

So we commence the line that was to become the Junior branch of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family. As far as this exercise is concerned we are only concerned with the inheritors of Beachborough, but I would like to mention at this point the larger family that from now increased substantially in size. I name a few by way of illustration because to go through all those would be far beyond the scope of this historical account.

Julius, the second of Rev Ralph's sons had fourteen offspring. Julius' son, Ralph Thomas (my Great Great Grandfather) had a further ten. Ralph Thomas's son Rev. Ralph St Ledger had fourteen and his half brother, Lewis James, my Great Grandfather, had nine including my Grandmother. All these offspring are well recorded by letters and other documentation for anyone interested.

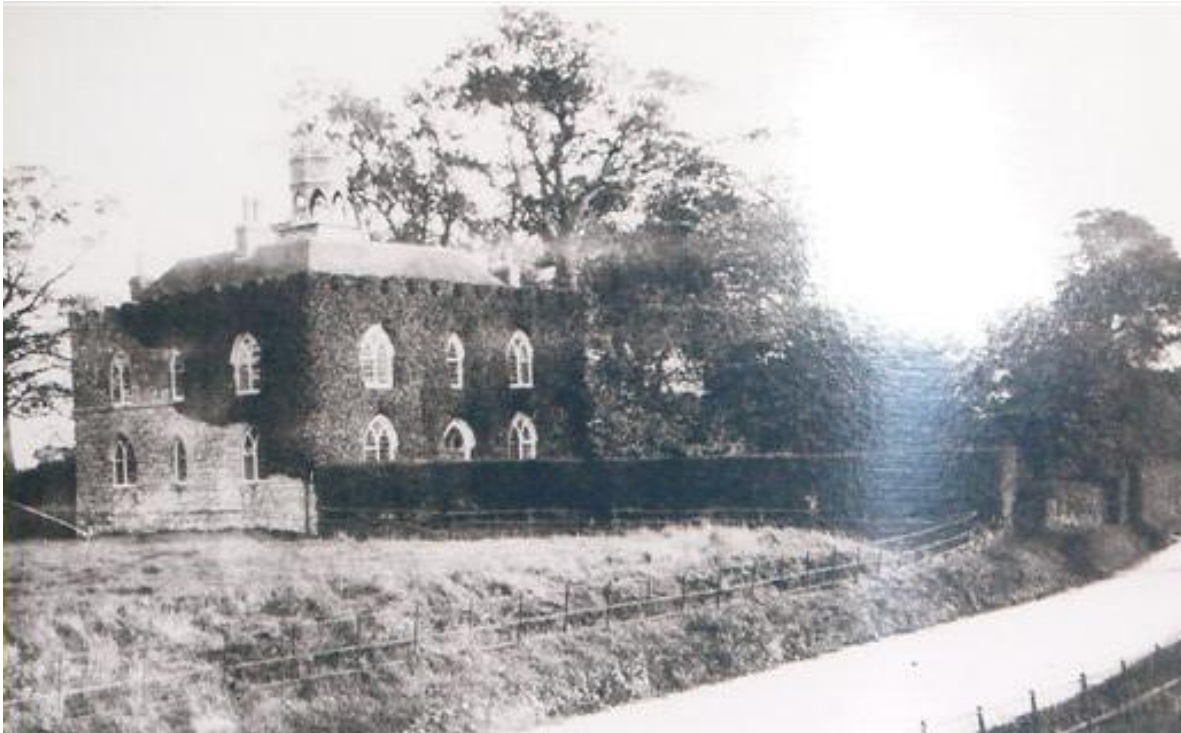
Back now to Rev. Ralph Drake. W. Phillis White in a study of some Brockman letters tells us that Rev. Ralph was a decendent of the Drakes of Bletchingly and Merstham. The Brigadier in his record discounts any relationship to Sir Francis Drake *vide record page 14*. The fact that he even mentions a relationship with the circumnavigator suggests that somewhere it is mentioned to be the case. The Brigadier suggests a near relationship with the Drakes of Shardeloes in Buckinghamshire.

So on the death of James Brockman in 1767 The Rev. Ralph Drake-Brockman becomes squire of Beachborough and he made great improvements in the mansion and adjoining pleasure grounds. During Hugh Drake-Brockman's research he did ask me if I could check the list of incumbants at All

Saints Church Stanford, because there is evidence that the Rev. R.D. performed a baptism there. I think that this was a one off. I don't think he'd been introduced as an incumbent at Stanford.

Another Manor and Mansion was that of Brockhull, in ruins at Saltwood. This was alienated by John Tournay to "James Brockman of Beachborough" whose grandson James gave it by will to Rev. Ralph Drake-Brockman who had the remains of this ancient mansion pulled down and the materials removed to build the Bailiff's House near Beachborough.

The Old House, formally Halden House near Tenterden the seat of the Scott's family was mortgaged to Rev. Ralph Drake-Brockman who took possession of it and passed it on to his son James Drake-Brockman of Beachborough.



The Bailiffs House or Temple. This was constructed from the materials from the ruins of the manor of Brokhull by Rev. Ralph Drake-Brockman of Beachborough. Ob 1781

Rev. Ralph Drake-Brockman did not live to a great age as some of the others did. He died at the age of 57, on the 11th November 1781. He acted as Rector of the two churches, of which he was patron in 1770.

On Rev. Ralph Drake-Brockman's death he bequeathed the Beachborough estate to his eldest son James. He married Catherine Elizabeth daughter of the Rev. William Tatton, D.D., Rector of Rotherfield Sussex. James served in the office of High Sheriff of Kent in 1791.

The painting on the next page, by Thomas Gainsborough of Catherine Elizabeth entitled, 'Miss Tatton' was sold by the late Francis Drake-Brockman for £20,000 to Lord Michelham. When the latter died in 1926 and his effects were sold it was bought by Mr Mellon, late United States Ambassador to the Court of St James for £46,000 and it was shipped to America. Another work of art that has disappeared from the family and gone abroad, and more's the shame.

James was a very keen huntsman, and kept a pack of hounds for a long period before his son Frederick succeeded him as Master of the East Kent Hounds, a post he held for the long period of thirty eight years.



From the painting by Sir Michael Shee in possession of William Drake-Brockman of Beachborough.

JAMES DRAKE-BROCKMAN, of Beachborough.
High Sheriff of Kent. 1791. Ob. 1832.



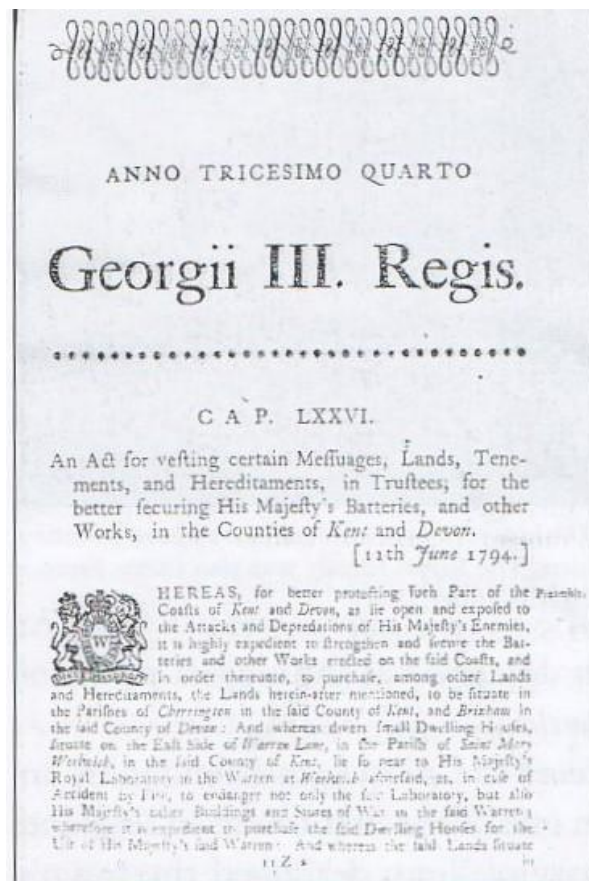
From the painting by Gainsborough.

CATHERINE ELIZABETH (née TATTON). Ob. 1833.
Wife of JAMES DRAKE-BROCKMAN, of Beachborough.

The proximity of the estate and manors to France gave rise to the continuing threat of invasion as was evident as far back as the establishment of the Cinque Ports. In 1794 an act of Parliament was passed authorising the procurement of lands in Kent and Devon I quote from Michael and Martin George 'Coast of Conflict'.

In 1794 an Act of Parliament authorised the purchase of 229 acres of land just outside Folkestone for the purpose of *vesting certain Messuages, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments in Trustees for the better securing His Majesty's Batteries and other Works.* The land to be purchased was described as "all that the said Piece or Pasture Land called Shorn Cliff belonging to the said James Drake-Brockman (on Part whereof a Battery called Shorn Cliff Battery, hath lately been erected and built)" This area then formed a substantial area of the Manor of Cheriton formally alienated to Henry Brockman in 1570. It covered an area west of Cheriton across St Martins Plain to the Church of St Martin. So this was the establishment of Shorncliffe Garrison which served as a military base during the Napolionic and ensuing wars. To this day, the camp is an active garrison.

Whilst this was a compulsory purchase, I'm not sure whether it was favourable to James or not. The maintenance of land must have been an ever increasing drain on the estate and its management including that of finance. As to what the proceeds were to James as seller, I am unsure at this stage, but somewhere amongst the multitude of papers there would, I am sure, be a record.



Act of Parliament 1794. This Act authorised the purchase of land in Kent and Devon for use in the defence of the country against invasion by France.

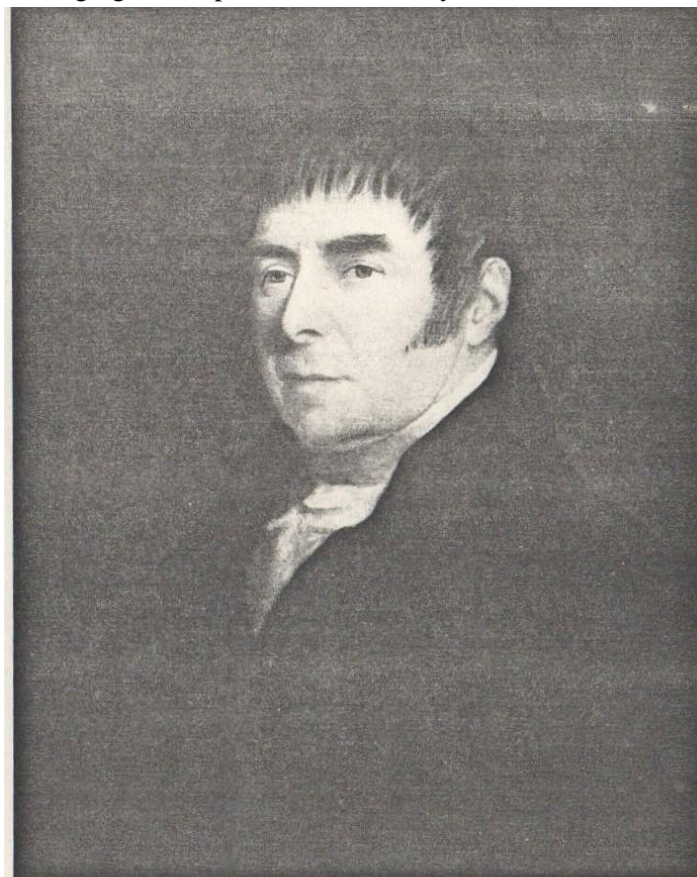
Illustration from 'Coast of Conflict' by Michael and Martin George

The Old Rectory was there, oppisite St Martins Church, it has since gone. I tried to find the remains of it once. It is within a copse of woods but it was summer and very overgrown. During my walk there I encountered a number of Gurkhars who were busy with their unceremonial Kukries clearing the footpath, they kindly offered to help clear some undergrowth from where I thought the foundations were, but the area was substantial and yeilded nothing. Not availing myself to allow them to continue, I did not pursue the search any longer. Old maps do show the site of the Rectory.

Some interesting notes from Edward Hasted concernig the Old Rectory at the time of the possession of James Drake-Brockman, namely the turn of the 18th Century.

[viz]It is a Rectory and is valued in the King's books at £161.12s.6d and the yearly tenths at £11. 13s. 3d. In 1558 it was valued at one hundred pounds, communicants one hundred and seventy. In 1640 at eighty pounds, communicants one hundred and seventeen. It was in the year 1771, united to the vicarage of the adjoining parish of Newington,both churches having the same patron.

In 1793 Rev. Julius Drake-Brockman the younger brother of James after coming down from Oriel College Oxford on the completion of his education there, was presented to the combined beneficis of Cheriton and Newington by his elder brother James. So at the age of 25, he took over the duties of incumbant which he held till he died, in 1849 at the ripe old age of 81, having held the benfices for fifty-six years. The Old Rectory must have been a considerable size by virtue of the fact that the Rev. sired fourteen children bringing them up in the Old Rectory. He is buried at Cheriton.



From a portrait in possession of Charles St. Leger Brockman.

REV. JULIUS DRAKE-BROCKMAN, of Cheriton.
Rector of Cheriton and Vicar of Newington. Ob. 1849.

Illustration from Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family by Brigadier D.H. Drake-Brockman C.M.G.

I last saw the portait of Rev. Julius in the large dining room of Daneby Hall, Fordcombe in Kent when it was in the possession of Julius Drake-Brockman, my first cousin once removed and the great great grandson of the Reverend.

James died in 1832 and was succeeded by his second son the Rev. William Drake-Brockman who died at the aged 59 in 1847, and was succeeded by his younger brother the Rev. Tatton Drake-Brockman who had four daughters. Tatton having no male heirs wills the estate to his younger brother the afformentioned Frederick Drake-Brockman. There is a very colourfull account of the antics of Frederick as Master of the Hounds in the Brigadier's record. I believe it might be he who built a belvedere, or gazebo, on the summit of the prominent hill still called Summerhouse Hill. This hill is over 400 ft. (122 m.) high, and remained with its temple-like gazebo, until on November 5th, Guy Fawkes Night 1935 vandals burned the attractive little building down. I recall once seeing a monochrome print of Frederick on his horse in the bar of the Seaview Hotel in Seabrook.

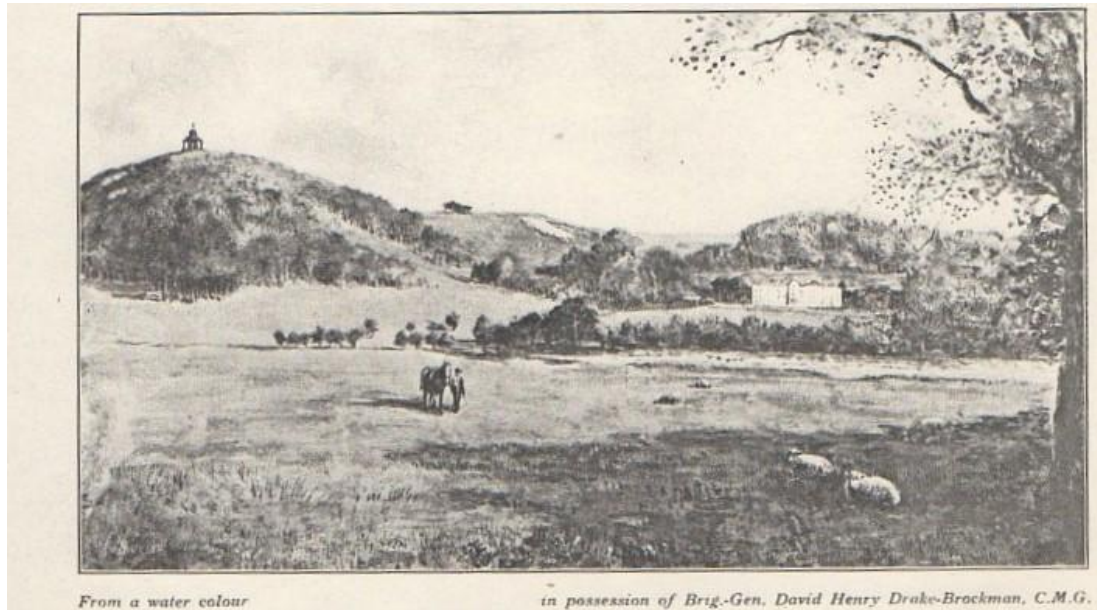
The installation of the sundial on the south wall of the west wing dated 1813 during the tenure of James Drake-Brockman I have been informed it was when the house was decorated by the Adam brothers and had a remarkable staircase included.



Illustration from Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family by Brigadier D.H. Drake-Brockman C.M.G.

Frederick willed the estate to his nephew, Francis who was the last Squire who lived at Beachborough full time (1851-1931). It's known he was there with his family at the time of the 1901 Census. We also know that the buildings were sold in 1936

Twentieth Century Beachborough



Beachborough circa 1930 (note the beeches on the distant Tolsford Hill and the Summerhouse on Summerhouse Hill)

Illustration from Record of the Brockman and Drake-Brockman family by Brigadier D.H. Drake-Brockman C.M.G.

During WWI Beachborough was known as the Queens Canadian Military Hospital, in that function it closed in 1919. Between the wars it was leased out to a preparatory school. The school was called Beachborough and the uniform motif was an image of the Summerhouse. It was also used as an American military hospital during WWII.

There are sources that explain that the house was leased to various tenants, one of whom was a close friend of Lloyd George who was known to visit Beachborough on several occasions

The land surrounding Beachborough was still owned by William (1882-1970) the son of Francis Drake-Brockman up until his death. As William was a bachelor, it is believed that the land was inherited by his sister Winifred who married Capt. Benjamin Arkle and then she sold it. Peter White an acquaintance of mine relates to me "For what it is worth when I worked for a short time at the Orchard Garage at Etchinghill the garage was owned by Mr John Rosslyn-Smith. He lived at Beachborough House and I was under the impression he owned it. This was around the time of 1965-1969. Rosslyn-Smith appeared to be quite wealthy which is why I imagined he owned the house. He lived there with his wife and son David, the son I believe took over the running of the Orchard Garage when his father died". White continues to relate that he understood that Rosslyn-Smith was living at Beachborough at the time of the fire in August 1953 which destroyed a major part of the house. It was said that builders had started a fire (accidentally) in the roof space during some renovation work. Today there remains the west and east wings with a sweeping drive up to the fine Greek Doric old portico to the front door standing forlornly isolated witnessing the presence of the middle of the house which was burned to the ground. On the west wing there remains on the remaining part of the gable,

the sundial on which is the date 1813. It was in that year when the Elizabethan house was replaced by the present one. By whom? this is currently unknown but the best guess would be James son of the Rev. Ralph Drake-Brockman.



West wing of Beachborough House as it is today.

Sketch by Christopher J O'Connor 10 April 2020.

During mid 1960s John Rosslyn-Smith was a councillor on either the Lyminge or Elham Rural District Council". Beachborough Park today is owned by Gordon Wallis who runs it with his son Rob as a Bed & Breakfast Hotel, the accommodation being in the old outhouses and stables. It has in this role been visited by family members worldwide and there is record of this in the visitor's book.

The late 20th Century saw a dramatic change to the area with the arrival of the Channel Tunnel Terminal at Newington. The adjoining hamlet of Danton Pinch and Danton Farm were wiped from the map as was the village pub, The Star Inn; this was located where now is junction 12 slip road off the M 20.

All the Brockman ancestry during the last two decades of the twentieth century must have been turning in their tombs and graves whilst the drill of progress tunnelled its way to France. But by good fortune, though only separated by some hedges and strong fencing from the terminal, the village of Newington with its church still peacefully stands. The Brockmans of Beachborough still rest in peace.

List of Heirs to The Beachborough Estate

Brockman

Henry Brockman ob 1573 descendent of John Brockman
of the Manor of Pirrie
Purchased Beachborough
from George Fogge of Brabourne Kent circa 1570

|

William Brockman ob 1605 aet 74

|

Henry Brockman ob 27th March 1630

|

Sir William Brockman ob 6th December 1654

|

James Brockman ob 22nd February 1683

|

William Brockman ob 27th February 1741 aet 83

|

James Brockman ob 19th May 1767 aet 71

Last heir of the Brockman family. Bequeathed the estate
To his Mother's Great Nephew Rev. Ralph Drake who
adopted the name Drake-Brockman.

Drake-Brockman

Rev. Ralph Drake-Brockman ob 11th November 1781
aet 57

|

James Drake-Brockman High Sheriff of Kent
ob 1832

|

Rev. William Drake-Brockman ob 1847.
No male issue: succession to younger brother.

|

Rev. Tatton Drake-Brockman ob 1869 aged 76
No male issue: succession to younger brother

|

Frederick Drake-Brockman Master of the East Kent Hounds
For thirty-six years ob 1876 unnm no male issue: succeeded by his nephew.

|

Francis Drake-Brockman ob January 1931.
Hard times and Death duties compelled Francis to let Beachborough as a
preparatory school.

List of the Manors possessed by the Brockman Family Which made up the estates of the Brockmans in Kent

The Manor of Pirrie and Bere (Berry Court): granted to John Brockman 1390

Broadgate; granted to John Brokeman of Witham Essex ob 1500

Cheirton: bought by Henry Brockman 1570

Swetton: Cheriton. Bought by Henry Brockman 1570

Newington and Belhouse: Newington. Alienated to Henry Brockman under King James 1

Newington Bertram: Newington. Alienated to Henry Brockman under King James 1

Newington Fee: Dymchurch. Alienated to Henry Brockman under King James 1

Newington Brenzett: alienated to Henry Brockman under King James 1

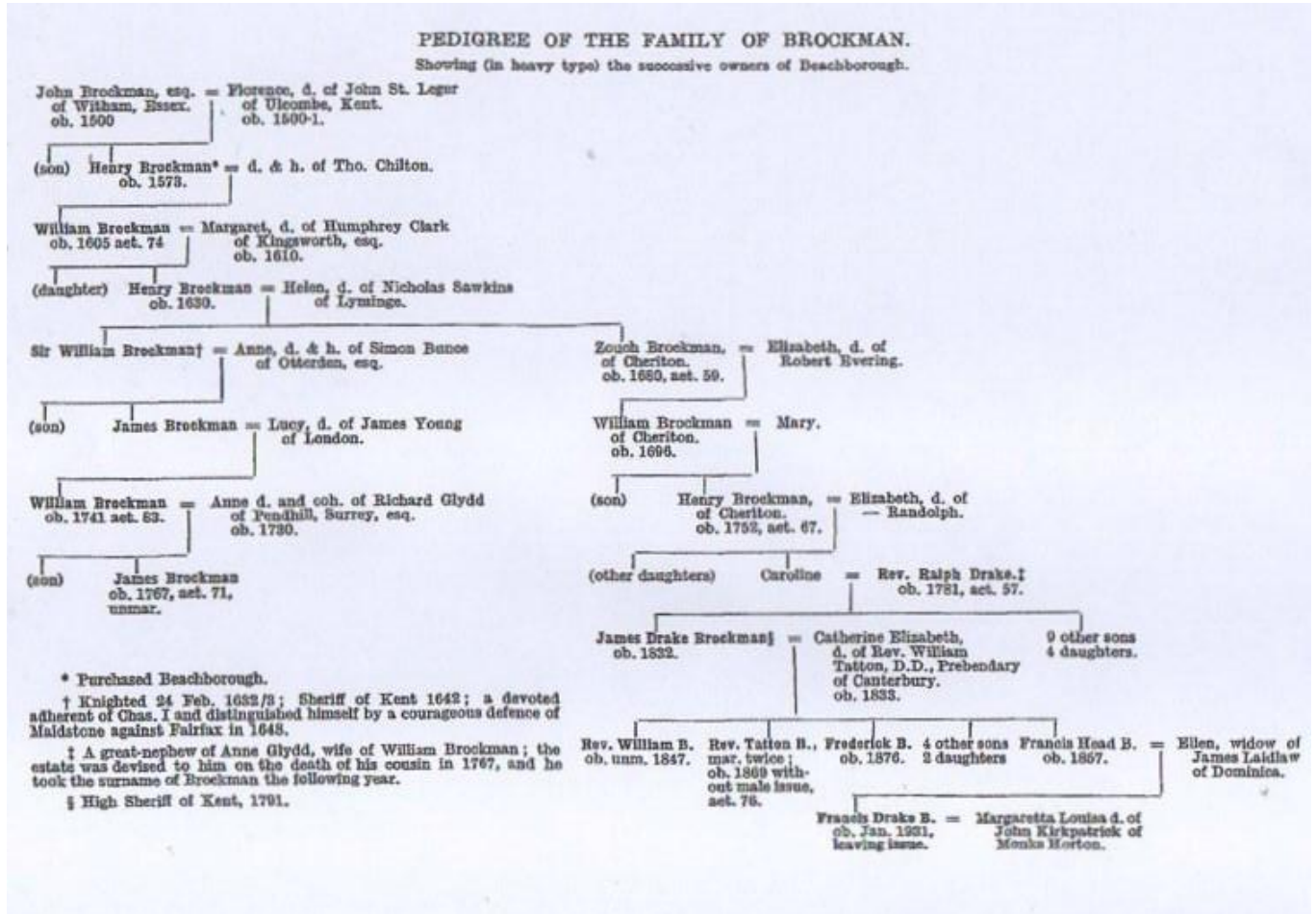
Hall Place: Otterden: willed to Ann Brockman née Bunce in 1611.

Ann married Sir William Brockman.

Brockhull: Saltwood. Alienated by John Tournay to James Brockman mid 17th century

The Old House, formerly Halden House: Rev Ralph Drake-Brockman n.d.

The Pedigree as applied to the owners of Beachborough.



Appendix I

Note from Giles Drake-Brockman. Descendent of the Drake-Brockman family of Beachborough; to Christopher J O'Connor

Dear Chris,

What a good piece of work. When reading this it is also interesting to reflect on the fact that the story is still relatively fresh in the historical context of the Norman invasion securing and dividing up the conquered lands. I had a brief look at Robert Belknap's background which looks mired in the acquisition of land for political and personal purposes. Clearly John Brockman was able to benefit from the breakup of Belknap's estate by the king. But what his particular case was is not known, unless the royal rolls of the day still exist and make specific reference. It might just have been a straight financial transaction rather than an act of royal largesse.

Your paper reminded me that I had some valuable information for you. The attached image came with one of the record purchases I made from the British Library and shows the estate map for Beachborough from 1630. It is a work of art and would have been a costly piece of work at the time, map making being still a developing science. The title box reads:

In this plot is described certerne landes called Bichborroughe wth other landes thereunto adjoininge Lymge in the parrishe of Newington in the County of Kent beinge parte of the possessions of William Brockman Esquire. The contents an number of acres of every parcell of land herein described are written in a Booke made for that purpose with their severall characters and (chphers) for a better finding out thereof. (Ad) measured and plotted November 1630 by mee Ambrose Eogger.

Note another version of the spelling for the estate. You have to remember that this was a time of non-standard spelling and most writers wrote what they heard

On the map, the broad green band on the inside of the boundary line marks the Brockman ownership. Red bands mark neighbouring lands and many of the fields show the owner's names. All the fields are numbered and named. But the area of them is clearly lost in the reference book mentioned. I could probably make a good stab at comparing this to the modern map, given a bit of time. The map is orientated with East at the top side. The North arrow is ornately painted on the right margin of the sheet. So the village of Newington will sit under the red title box. The Beachborough house sits slightly to the left of the centre line. What we have previously called Summerhouse Hill is marked as Bichborough Hill (23). The lake, which features in Haytley's paintings is marked. It did provide the water supply for the estate.

I assume that William had the map drawn up as one of his first acts of taking over from his father, who died in the same year. There are copious notes on parts of the map in what must be William's hand writing that I have not yet been able to transcribe. But I think you have inspired me to take a fresh look at this. If I ever get back to the British Library finding the original copy to look would be wonderful, as I suspect that will be the only way to decipher some of the writing.

Best wishes.

Giles



*Map of Beachborough estate commissioned by Sir William Brockman 1630.
The original map is currently in the British Library amongst the Brockman papers.*