

## A History of Kenton Hall.



Compiled by Mary Terbrack.

**KENTON HALL** \*This estate was held by Ivo de Keneton , and Alicia , his wife, Anno 1194 and descended in a direct line through the family of Garneys

Taken from A Genealogical and Heraldic History of The Commoners of Great Britain And Ireland Enjoying Territorial Possessions or High Official Rank: But Uninvested With Heritable Honours.

### *BLOOD HALL AND THE BLOODY FIELD*

*TRADITION SAYS THAT BLOOD HALL NEAR DEBENHAM WAS BUILT ON THE SITE OF A CLASH WITH THE DANES. OTHERS SAY THE HALL WAS USED AS A HOSPITAL WHILE THE BATTLE RAGED CLOSE BY. BLOODY FIELD. HERE WAS ONCE TWO, BIG AND LITTLE BLOOD FIELDS, THE SUPPOSED BATTLE SITE. DURING FIELD LEVELING IN 1859, A LARGE QUANTITY OF BONES, BOTH HUMAN AND HORSE, WERE FOUND HERE, PLUS AN*

*IRON SPUR AND OTHER ODDMENTS, CONFIRMING THE LOCAL BELIEF. PROBABLY SPECULATION RATHER THAN GENUINE TRADITION, IT HAS EVEN BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THIS IS THE SITE OF KING EDMUND'S FINAL AND FATEFUL BATTLE WITH THE DANES IN 869 AD.*

### KENTON

*"KENTON, a parish in the hundred of Loes, county Suffolk, 2 miles N.E. of Debenham. Stonham is its post town. The village is small, and the inhabitants chiefly employed in agriculture. The surface is high tableland, and the soil clay alternated with sand and loam. The impropriate tithes have been commuted for a rent-charge of £147 4s. 8d., and the vicarial for £148. The living is a vicarage\* in the diocese of Norwich, value £137. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is an ancient edifice, with a square embattled tower. It contains an ancient mural plate of the Garney family, with an inscription bearing date 1524. The charities produce £38 per annum, £25 of which is for the repair of the church, the remainder for the benefit of the poor of this parish and that of Debenham. Kenton Hall is the principal residence."*

From The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland (1868)



All Saints' church comprises a nave with S aisle and N and S porches, a chancel and W tower. The nave is of flint with a S doorway dating from the end of the 12thc. and a plain N doorway of the same period (not accessible). Both doorways are protected by flint porches: the N (now a vestry) plain and designed by Hakewill in 1871-72; the S more elaborate and 15thc. The nave windows, two on the N and one W of the porch on the S, belong to Hakewill's restoration, and he also lowered the nave roof slightly; the line of the old roof is visible on the tower wall.

The S aisle is a two-bay brick structure built by John Garneys, Lord of the Manor, in 1520-22, as a chapel to St John the Evangelist. It occupies only the section of the nave E of the S porch, and can be entered from a doorway in the E wall of the porch.

*The south aisle is now furnished in a devotional manner, albeit dedicated to the Blessed Virgin rather*



than to St John . It once contained an excellent, intricate Garneys brass, contemporary with the chapel, which Cautley and Arthur Mee both saw in the 1930s.

Kenton s' p.147

In a south chappell of the church upon the south wall on a plate of brasse are engraven the pourtraytures of a man kneeling & a woman by him, at his backe 4 sonnes at hirs 9 daughters, over hir head arg. a chevron gul. entre 3 pheons (*pheon upright drawn*), under them this epitaph

Here under this tombe lyeth buried John Garneys esquier & Elisabeth his wife, which John deceased the xith day of June in the yeere of our Lord god 1524 on whose soul Jesu have mercy.

There are besides 2 gravestones in the chauncell wheron were 4 escocheons but all reaved together w'h the epitaphs.<sup>163</sup>

Taken from An Historical and Chorographical description of Suffolcke (1594)



T.M. Felgate illustrates it in his excellent *Knights on Suffolk Brasses* of 1976, at which time he records it as being 'loose in the vestry'. I wonder where it is now.?

### **The Story of the GARNEYS of Kenton Hall**

John Garney (1464) HRH Charles's 14-Great Grandfather. -PM Churchill's 13-Great Grandfather. - Lady Diana's 14-Great Grandfather.

The main family manors were Kenton, Redisham , Roos and Boyland Hall

Robert was feudal Lord of the Manor of Soham Hall in Bereford, Norfolk, (1384), and was no doubt descended from the Robert Garnoise who in 1194 held lands in Chippenhall in Fressingfield Suffolk.

Robert of Heveningham of Beccles purchased Redisham Hall (1394). He married Aveline; then (1400) Catherine of Heveningham (daughter of John Blanchard of Huntingfield, Suffolk). Catherine died 1405, and Robert died May 1411. Both were buried at Beccles where there was once a memorial inscription.

Piers (son of Robert & Catherine) married Anne (daughter of Ralf Ramsey by his wife Alice, who was daughter of Sir Roger Wellisham) .Piers Garneys died 1451.

Thomas (eldest son of Piers) of Kenton Hall, married Margaret (daughter and one of the heirs of Sir Hugh Francis of Giffard's Hall, Wickhambrook Suffolk, Thomas died December 1458,

Thomas Garneys and Margaret Francis had four known children, 1 son died without issue, and 1 daughter who married into a noble family.

Richard, Who married Elizabeth Toppesfield. He was of Mendlesham, Suffolk, and Lord of the Manor of Boyland Hall, Morningthorpe, Norfolk. He died on May 14th, 1515

John was born c.1464. He succeeded as Lord of the Manor of Kenton (1492 after his mother died). He also held the Manor of Hammonds in Mickfield (1515), He married Elizabeth Sulyard, the daughter of Sir John Sulyard of Wetherden, Suffolk, who was Chief Justice of England. He died age 80 (June 1524). His wife Elizabeth died c.1527. Both were buried at Kenton.

John Garneys and Elizabeth Sulyard had twelve known children: 2 boys who died without issue. And seven daughters, who all married into noble families, except for one Agnes, who became a Nun.

Robert Garneys of Kenton Hall , eldest son and heir of John , succeeded to the estates at the decease of his father, and married Anne , second daughter and co-heir of Thomas Bacon , esq. of Baconsthorp , in the county of Norfolk ,



John Garneys (Son of Robert) married Anne Rookwood, the daughter of Edmund Rookwood of Euston, Suffolk, He died about 1553

John Garneys and Anne Rookwood had eight known children: 3 boys died without issue, and 3 daughters who married into noble families, and two sons who inherited the hall in turn.

Thomas Garneys of Kenton Hall , eldest son of John Garneys of Spexall , who, as before stated, died without heirs. His wife was Frances , daughter of Sir John Sulyard , knt. of Wetherden Hall aforesaid, by whom he had an only child and heir, Elizabeth Garneys , who was three years old at her father's death. She married Philip Strelly of Strelly , in Nottinghamshire. On the decease of Thomas Garneys without issue male, which occurred on the 20 Dec 1566 , the Kenton estates devolved, by virtue of an entail, on his brother,

Nicholas, who was baptized at Spexhall, Suffolk, on July 27th, 1546, and died about 1623. He married Anne Clere. Nicholas inherited Kenton at the death of his brother, Thomas.

Nicholas and Anne had 9 Children

Oldest son Charles GARNEYS c: 25 Sep 1570 in Kenton, married Elizabeth Wentworth of Somerleyton. He died in Kenton in 1678.

Charles Garneys c.25 Sep 1570 of Kenton and Boyland Halls , eldest son and heir of Nicholas , was sheriff of Norfolk in 1652 , and married Elizabeth , daughter of John Wentworth of Somerleyton Hall, Suffolk , and sole heir of her brother, Sir John Wentworth , knt. of the same place. Charles died. 30 Jan 1657, and was succeeded. by his son.



Somerleyton Hall

Charles , the eldest son, succeeded his father at Kenton and Boyland Halls , and Cleve . His sixth son, married. Ann , daughter of John Jolly , of Southwold , and was ancestor of Charles Garneys , of Headenham , in Norfolk ..

His second son John GARNEYS was born 1608 and was christened 17 Apr 1608 in Somerleyton, He died 15 Dec 1661 in Morningthorpe, Norfolk, England He married Ann Ruge abt. 1630, He married Elizabeth Soame abt. 1649

Two of his children eventually inherited the hall.

Mary GARNEYS was born c.1650 in Kenton, was christened 12 Apr 1653 in Kenton and died 1726. She married William SHIPMAN of Morningthorpe, Norfolk. She married William Dutton COLT 2 Aug 1679 in London, Middlesex,. He was born ABT 1650 in the Grange, Dorset, England

Wentworth GARNEYS was christened 17 Jun 1656 in Somerleyton, Suffolk,. He married Ann GAWDY 24 Jul 1679 in Debenham, Suffolk. She was born ABT 1658 in Debenham, and died 7 Sep 1681 in Morningthorpe, Norfolk, He married Mary ABDY ABT 1680 of Felix Hall, Kelvedon, Essex, England. She was born ABT 1657 in Felix Hall, Kelvedon, Essex and died ABT 1739. He had no issue.



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The manor of Kenton descended to Wentworth Garneys , esq. the last heir male of this family, and on his death the greater part of it became the property of Lady Colt , his eldest surviving sister and co-heir, by whose grandchildren, Mary , wife of John Bond , esq. of Grange, county of Dorset , and Mary-Alice , wife of John Westbrook , esq. of Forrest Hall , in Essex , it was sold in 1772 , and 1774 .

Denis Bond , esq. of Grange. This gentleman was M.P. for Dorchester , 7th Anne, for Corfe Castle , 1st and 8th George I. and for Poole , 1st George II. He espoused, in 1729 , Leonora-Sophia , relict of Edmund Dummer , esq. and youngest daughter of Sir William-Dutton Colt , (He was second surviving son of George Colt , esq. of Colt Hall , in Suffolk , by Elizabeth , his wife, eldest daughter and co-heir of John Dutton , esq. of Sherborn , in Gloucestershire , and brother of Harry-Dutton Colt , crested a baronet, 4th William and Mary. (See Burke's Peerage and Baronetage.)) knt. envoy at the court of Hanover , by Mary , his third wife, (of whom she was co-heir) eldest surviving daughter of John , and co-heir of her brother Wentworth Garneys , esqrs. of Boyland Hall , in Norfolk , and Kenton Hall , (This estate was held by Ivo de Keneton , and Alicia , his wife, Anno 1194 , 6th Richard I. and descended in a direct line through the family of Garneys , to the late Mrs. Westbrook , of Forest Hall , in Essex , who was sole daughter and heir of William Stane , esq. of the same place, by Elizabeth Colt , his wife, the elder sister of the said Leonora-Sophia , and was sold by her about the year 1774 .) in Suffolk . This lady was born in Hanover , and obtained her baptismal name from the Electress Sophia , her sponsor. Mr. Denis Bond d. s. p. in 1746 , and the estates devolved upon his nephew,

Mr Joshua Vanneck sold all his estates at Kenton (all freehold, with two Manors) at London in May 1794. Kenton - Hall Farm, containing 242 acres, together with ye Manor and 258 Top Oaks - 121 Timber ashes - 62 Pollard Oaks - 249 Pollard Ashes - 359 small trees - in ye occupation of Messrs. Darbys sold for 5800£

Here follows the Suffolk History, Gazetteer, and Directory, 1844

ter Tuesday. In 1701, *Richard Porter* left a cottage for the residence of a *Schoolmaster*, and a yearly rent-charge of £12 out of his estate here, for the education of 12 poor boys of Hacheston and Parham. The schoolhouse was rebuilt in 1825. The churchwardens and principal inhabitants appoint the master, and his annuity is paid out of an estate belonging to the Earl of Rochford. Here is also a *School*, built and chiefly supported by A. Arcedeckne, Esq., and attended by 75 children, mostly girls.

Arcedeckne Andrew, Esq. <i>Gleivering Hall</i>	<i>Boot &amp; Shoe Mtrs.</i>	Glandfield Stpn. (bailiff,) <i>Gleevg.</i>
Barker Chas. sweep and beerhouse	Blaxhall Fras.	Walker Thomas
Barthropp Mrs Mary	Cornish Edmund	<i>Grocers &amp; Dprs.</i>
Barthropp Nathl. maltster; house <i>Cretingham</i>	Hunt John	Comyn Thomas
Carver Mr Thomas	Smith Henry	Hamond Blomfield
Garrett John, chimney sweeper	Tye Thomas	Turner Thomas
Gregory Thomas, gentleman	<i>Corn Millers.</i>	<i>Tailors.</i>
Hanbury Edw. Esq. <i>Bloomville Hall</i>	Brown John, <i>Gleivering</i>	Felgate George
Hill James, veterinary surgeon and vict. Queen's Head	Titshall Rd.	Titshall John
Porter John, bricklayer	FARMERS.	<i>Carriers &amp; Coach-</i>
Titshall Wm. & Jane, Free Schools	Bond Robert	<i>es to Ipswich</i>
Tricker Php. coachmaker & wheelwg. <i>Blacksmiths.</i>	Clarke Jas. Williams, <i>Abbey</i>	and Norwich,
Pawsey Abm.	Cooke Jonth.	call at the
Hill James	Eade Wm.	<i>Queen's Head.</i>

HOO, a small scattered village on the southern side of the vale of the Deben, 4 miles S.S.W. of Framlingham, has in its parish 211 souls, and 1163 acres of fertile land, mostly the property of the Duke of Hamilton, (lord of the manor,) Andrew Arcedeckne, Esq., and the Rev. Ellis Walford. *Hoo Hall*, now a farm house, anciently belonged to the Earls of Norfolk and Suffolk; and an estate called Goodwins, belonging to a family of that name, and was afterwards a seat of the Wingfields. Here were formerly *Guilds*, dedicated to Holy Trinity, St. Mary, St. Peter, St. Andrew, and St. John. The *Church* (St. Andrew and St. Eustachius) was appropriated to Letheringham priory in 1470, by the Duke of Norfolk. It is a perpetual curacy, valued in 1835 at £44, and is now consolidated with that of Letheringham, in the patronage of certain Trustees, who recently purchased the advowson of Mrs. Reynolds, and have provided a Parsonage for the incumbent at Brandeston. (See page 179.) The Rev. John Burt, M.A., now enjoys the benefice, which has recently been augmented by Queen Anne's Bounty. The rectorial tithes have been sold to the landowners. A neat *School House*, for the two parishes, was built by subscription in 1843 on land given by A. Arcedeckne, Esq. The FARMERS are Edward Brooke, Ellis L. Gleed, *Hoo Hall*; John Gooderham, Jeremiah Gosling, *Goodwin Place*; John Lewcock, James Scoulding, Richard Hill, *shopkeeper*; and James Saunders, *parish clerk*.

KENTON, a pleasant village, nearly 3 miles N.N.E. of Debenham, has in its parish 287 souls, and 1209 acres of land, forming a detached member of Loes Hundred. It was formerly the property of the Kentons, who resided at *Kenton Hall*, a large ancient mansion, encompassed by a double moat, and now occupied by a farmer. This hall,



with the manor to which it gives name, now belongs to Wm. Mills, Esq. *Suddon Hall*, another old mansion and manor, is the property of E. Hayward, Esq. Mr. J. Freeman owns Kenton Lodge, and W. Adair, Esq., has an estate in the parish, which is partly in the manors Blood Hall and Crows Hall. (See Debenham.) The families of Willisham, Stane, and Warreyn, were formerly seated in Kenton. The *Church* (All Saints) was appropriated to Butley priory, but was granted to Fras. Framlingham in the 34th of Henry VIII. Lord Henniker is now impropriator, and also patron of the vicarage, valued in K.B. at £8, and now enjoyed by the Rev. Nicholas Wood. The tithes have recently been commuted for a yearly modus of £154. 14s. 6d. to the impropriator, and £150. 5s. to the vicar, who has also 33A. 15P. of glebe, and a good parsonage. The *Church and Parish Lands, &c.*, comprise a double cottage and half an acre, occupied rent-free by the sexton and parish clerk; and a house and 6A. of land at Bedford, and 10A. at Monk Soham, let together for £16 a year. In 1684, *Wentworth Garneys* bequeathed a house, cottage, and 22A. of land here, to the ministers, churchwardens, and overseers of Kenton and Debenham, for the time being, in trust that they should distribute the rents yearly among the poor of those parishes. This property is let for £31. 10s. a year. *Directory* :—Lucretia Artiss, vict., *Crown*; Lionel Moyes, blacksmith; Robt. Plant, shoemaker; John Shulver, wheelwright; Rev. Nicholas Wood, vicar; and Abel Ashford, Wm. Bennett, John Clarke, Wm. Clement, Samuel Cupper, John Freemam, Emma Garneys, (*Lodge*), Wm. Hill, Peter Kersey, (*Hall*), Samuel Kersey, (*Suddon Hall*), Eliz. Page, and Wm. Shearing, farmers.

KETTLEBURGH, or *Kettleborough*, a small village in a pleasant vale, 2½ miles S.S.W. of Framlingham, has in its parish 355 souls, and about 1400 acres of land. The Duke of Hamilton is lord of the manor, but the principal proprietors of the soil are A. Arcedeckne, Esq., the Earl of Gosford, and the Tollemash, Worrell, and Spedding families. *Kettleburgh Hall*, an ancient mansion, is the seat of Mrs. Garrett. Henry III., in 1265, granted a market and fair here, but they were disused several centuries ago. The *Church* (St. Andrew) is a *rectory*, valued in K.B. at £16, and in 1835 at £290, but the tithes have recently been commuted for £410 per annum. The Earl of Gosford is patron, and the Rev. G. T. Turner, M.A., is the incumbent. The *Town Estate* comprises five tenements, and 4½A. of copyhold land, let for £17. 10s. 6d., and a double cottage let for £4. 2s. per annum. The rents are distributed in coals and money among the poor parishioners.

Alderton Jane, shopkeeper  
Cullum Fredk. Wm. corn miller  
Garrett Mrs Sarah, *Kettleburgh Hall*  
Girling Abraham, shoemaker  
Grant John, vict. Chequers  
Groom Wm. beerhouse  
Hart Samuel, herbalist and poet  
Jackson Wm. saddler & shopkeeper  
Jeaffreson Wm. surgeon, and *Fram-*

Osborne Walter, blacksmith  
Smyth George, tailor  
Stokes John, shoemaker  
Turner Rev. Geo. Ts. M.A. *Rectory*  
Wright James, parish clerk

## FARMERS.

Aldrich Elijah || Drew John  
Barker James, *Rookery*  
Barthropp Edwin Manning  
Edwards John || Felgate Thomas  
Kindred Edmund *Hill Farm*

## The 1841 Census

**Name:** Peter Kersey Age: 40 Estimated birth year: abt 1801

**Where born:** Suffolk, England

**Civil parish:** Kenton **Hundred:** Loes **County/Island:** Suffolk **Registration district:** Plomesgate

**Street address:** Kenton Hall

**Head of household:** Peter Kersey 40 (Farmer) Mary Kersey 35 (wife)

**Children:** Henry Kersey 10 ,Joseph Kersey 8 ,Robert Kersey 6 ,Mary Kersey 3 ,Ellen Kersey 1

**Guests:** living on independent means: Letita Barker 65 ,Maria Barker 20

**Servants:** William Marjoram 28 ,Joseph Ship 18 ,Eliza Souter 16 ,Sarah Catchpole 20 .



Queen Victoria 1841

Here follows the Suffolk Post Office Directory 1875

Bowyer Frederick, farmer  
Bowyer Harriet, shopkeeper  
Bowyer Thomas M. shopkeeper  
Clark George, blacksmith  
Coe John, shoe maker  
Cornwell James, beer retailer  
Cornwell James, shopkeeper  
Deeks Edward & William, wheelwrights

Deeks Henry, carpenter  
Deeks Joseph, bricklayer  
Deeks Wm. *White Horse*, & blacksmith  
Diver John, wheelwright  
Freestone George, *Barnardiston Arms*  
Garhad Elizabeth (Mrs.), farmer  
Goodbill John, farmer, maltster & cattle dealer

Marsh John, thrashing machine owner  
Martin John, farmer  
Price John, brewer, maltster, & farmer  
Price Walter, farmer  
Sergeant Maria (Mrs.), baker  
Taylor Frederick, miller  
Teverson William A. farmer

**KELSALE** is a parish and large village, about a mile and a half north from Saxmundham, in the Eastern division of the county, Hoxne hundred, Blything union, Framlingham and Saxmundham county court district, rural deanery of Dunwich, archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich; it stands on the side of a hill facing the south; the houses are well built, and surrounded by gardens, and its situation is altogether highly picturesque. The church of St. Peter, principally built of flint, in the Saxon style, stands on a hill at the north side of the village, and consists of chancel, nave, and south aisle; the tower has a fine peal of 8 bells and a clock: there is an organ, the gift of the late Samuel Clouting, esq.: there are escutcheons of the Norfolk and Trussell families, and the font is ancient. The edifice is in a condition that needs restoration, and efforts are being made to carry this out at a cost of £3,000, which is being raised by voluntary subscription, and of which about half has been already promised at this date (1875). The register dates from the year 1538. The living is a rectory, with that of Carlton annexed, joint yearly value £847, with residence and 71 acres of glebe land, viz., Kelsale, £717 with 60 acres of glebe and residence; Carlton, £130 with 11 acres of glebe; in the gift of H. A. S. Bence, esq., of Thorington Hall, and held by the Rev. George Irving Davies, M.A., of Worcester College, Oxford. Here is an old building known as the Guildhall, which is now used as a mixed school for

this parish and Carlton, and part of which is used as a parochial reading-room. There are several lands and tenements in the parish, amounting to about £300 yearly, devised for supporting the school, repair of the church, and relief of the poor. The Charity Commissioners have made some alterations in the division of the income of the charities of this parish, as follows:—One fourth for the repairs of the church; two-fourths for school purposes; and one-fourth for the poor. Henry A. S. Bence, esq., is lord of the manor. The principal landowners are William Mawson, esq., Sir John Ralph Blois, bart., William Woodyard, esq., J. G. Wilkinsou, esq., and the Rev. G. R. Pooley. The soil is heavy, with portions of a mixed nature; subsoil, clay and sand. The chief crops are wheat, barley, beans, peas and roots. The area is 3,047 acres: rateable value, £5,417; and the population in 1871 was 1,017.

DORLEY'S CORNER is a part of Kelsale. NORTH GREEN is 1 mile north-east.

POST OFFICE.—Robert Aldous, sub-postmaster. Letters from Saxmundham delivered at 6.30 a.m. & dispatched at 7 p.m. Saxmundham is the nearest money order office *Kelsdale & Carlton Parochial Schools* (mixed), William Gray, master; Miss Jane Sharp, mistress; Mrs. Mary Ann Coleman, infants' mistress

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.  
Davies Rev. George Irving, M.A. [rector], Rectory  
Freeman William, Maple house  
Harvey Mrs  
Hill Rev. Thomas [curate]  
Randall Robert  
Skoulding Francis, Kelsale lodge  
Skoulding John, Mill house  
Skoulding Thomas, Mill house

COMMERCIAL.  
Aldous Robert, grocer & draper  
Andrews Potter, watch maker  
Backhouse William, farmer, Peak hills  
Benstead Thomas, saddler  
Blunderfield Benj. C. farmer, Parkgate  
Brabbin George, farmer, East green  
Brabbin James, farmer, Carlton green  
Brady Betsey (Mrs.), beer retailer  
Button George, farmer  
Button James, farmer, East green  
Cady —, farmer & cattle dealer

Capon Stephen (exors. of), farmer  
Chambers Frederick, rate collector  
Chambers William, farmer  
Codling Hy. Godbold, farmer, East green  
Dennington James, tailor  
Dennington Wm. *Rising Sun*, & farmer  
Denny Thomas, builder  
Drew Henry, cordwainer  
Fisher Job, blacksmith  
Flaxman Jacob, farmer, East green  
Goss Charles, farmer, Rookery farm  
Guiver John, farmer, Kelsale house  
Hardy George, blacksmith  
Harvey Sarah (Mrs.), farmer  
Hathaway John, farmer  
Holt William, farmer, Whitehouse  
Hurren Anthony (exors. of), farmer & cattle dealer  
Hurren James, farmer  
Jasper Edgar, farmer  
Jasper William, farmer  
Kerridge George, shopkeeper

Manning Eliza (Mrs.), nursery grounds  
Mantle John, farmer  
Marshlain John, farmer & engine proprietor, East green  
Meen Samuel, farmer, North Green farm  
Moore James, farmer  
Noy Joseph, farmer  
Packard Thomas, bricklayer  
Sewell William, farmer, East green  
Sharwood John, farmer, Clay hills  
Skoulding Thomas & John, millers & merchants, Kelsale mills  
Skoulding Francis, farmer & landowner, Kelsale lodge  
Smith Henry, manager to C. Buckmaster, brick & tile works. Carlton grn  
Thompson Benjamin, *Eight Bells*  
Thompson Fenton, carpenter & whilwight  
Thompson Samuel, farmer, Ea. green  
Woodyard Edward, farmer, Church frn  
Woodyard William, farmer

**KENTFORD**, on the borders of Cambridgeshire, is a parish and village, the latter situated about 4½ miles north-east from Newmarket, on the road to Bury St. Edmund's, 9½ west from that place, and about half a mile south from the Kennett railway station, in the Western division of the county, partly in Lackford and partly in Risbridge hundreds, Mildenhall union and county court district, rural deanery of Fordham, archdeaconry of Newmarket, and diocese of Ely, situate on the Kennett river, whence the name is derived. The church of St. Mary is a small building of stone, rubble and clunch, in the Decorated style: it has chancel, nave, small tower with 3 bells, and small south porch. The register has been much mutilated, and is of recent date. The living is a rectory, consolidated with the

vicarage of Gazeley, joint yearly value £430, in the gift of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and held by the Rev. Frederick Teavie, M.A., of that college. There are a few small charities, which are laid out in the purchase of coals for the poor of the parish; they were lost for several years, but have been recovered. The Rev. William Godfrey is lord of the manor, and S. Stanley esq., and Mrs. M. Jonas are the chief landowners. The soil is light and sandy; subsoil, chalk. The crops are wheat, barley, seeds and turnips. The area is 788 acres; rateable value £1,097; the population in 1871 was 192.—Wall letter box cleared at 5.30 p.m. week days & sundays 10 a.m. Letters through Newmarket. Gazeley is the nearest money order office

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.  
Burt Mrs  
Lord Simeon  
Palmer Henry

COMMERCIAL.  
Balechin Francis Augustus, horse trainer  
Filby Isaac, *Cock*  
Howe John H. basket maker

Jonas Mary (Mrs.), farmer & landowner  
Nunn George, *Fox & Ball*  
Willsber Jas. farm bailiff to Mrs. Jonas  
Wilson Elijah, poulterer

**KENTON** is a parish and village, 2½ miles north from Debenham, 6 north-west from Framlingham station, in the Eastern division of the county, Loes hundred, Plomesgate union, county court district of Framlingham, rural deanery of Hoxne, Suffolk archdeaconry, and diocese of Norwich. The church of All Saints was erected in the 12th century; it consists of chancel, nave, aisle, porches, and square western tower: there is a mural plate near the chancel in memory of the Garneys family, bearing inscription 1524. The regis-

ter dates from the year 1538. The living is a vicarage, yearly value £150 6s., with residence and 33 acres of glebe, in the gift of Lord Henniker, and held by the Rev. Robert Lawrance, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge. Lord Henniker is owner of the great tithes. There is a National school opposite to the church, which is supported by the vicar and parishioners. There are two charities secured, one of an estate of 25 acres of land and cottage for the benefit of the poor of this parish and Debenham equally, and another

of an estate, value £25 yearly, for the repair and ornament of the church. The Rev. Thomas Mills, M.A., who is lord of the manor, Lord Waveney and Robert Chase and Henry Cupper, esqrs., are the principal landed proprietors. The soil is alluvial; subsoil, gravel. The chief crops are wheat, barley and oats. The area is 1,208 acres; rateable value, £1,845 6s.; and the population in 1871 was 289.

Cupper Henry  
Lawrance Rev. Robert, M.A. Vicarage  
Arbon Chas. carpenter & wheelwright  
Collins Jonathan, blacksmith  
Crowe Edward, farmer

Cupper Elizh. (Miss), farmr. Suddon hall  
Cupper Henry, farmer & landowner  
Nessling Walter, farmer & cattle dealer,  
The Lodge  
Page Elizabeth (Mrs.), farmer

Parish Clerh, Charles Arbon.

Letters through Stonham, *via* Debenham. Debenham is the nearest post & money order office. Pillar box cleared daily at 5 p.m.

National School, Miss Annie Barker, mistress

Page John, farmer, White house  
Read William, *Crozier*, & blacksmith  
Reynolds Maria (Mrs.), farmer  
Salter Geo. boot & shoe maker & shopkpr  
Symonds Robert, farmer, Kenton hall

**KERSEY** is a village and parish near the river Brett, 2½ miles north-west from Hadleigh railway station, and 65 from London, in the Western division of the county, Cosford hundred and union, Hadleigh county court district, rural deanery of East Sudbury, and archdeaconry and diocese of Ely. The church of St. Mary is an ancient structure in the Norman style, and consists of chancel, nave, and a lofty tower containing 6 bells: a chancel was erected in 1862 by King's College, Cambridge. The register dates from the year 1542. The living is a vicarage, yearly value £105, in the gift of King's College, Cambridge, and held by the Rev. Abraham Hume, M.A., fellow of that college. There are some small charities connected with this parish. The

Priory is a superior farm house, occupied by C. J. Newman in the grounds of which are the remains of an ancient Priory chapel. The principal landowners are King's College, Cambridge, and John Cook, esq. The soil is mixed; subsoil, gravel. The chief crops are wheat, barley and beans. The area is 1,510 acres; rateable value, £3,278; and the population in 1871 was 570.

Parish Clerh, Samuel Pittock.

POST OFFICE.—Samuel Pittock, postmaster. Letters from Ipswich arrive at 6 a.m.; dispatched at 8 p.m. Hadleigh is the nearest money order office

Parochial School, Mrs. Rawlings, mistress

PRIVATE RESIDENTS.

Hume Rev. Abraham, M.A. [vicar],  
Vicarage  
Newman Charles John, Priory

COMMERCIAL.

Arthey John Spalding, farmer  
Beeson Benjamin, shopkeeper  
Brook Daniel, miller  
Bull Henry, saddler  
Clover Ebenezer, miller, maltster &  
farmer, Kersey mills

Cuthbert Josiah, baker & shopkeeper  
Everett George, farmer  
Everett Henry, shoe maker  
Frost James, wheelwright & blacksmith  
Grimsey Benjamin, coal dealer  
Grimwade George, veterinary surgeon  
Holmes Elijah, pig dealer  
Howlett Thomas, farmer  
Laws Silas, excise officer  
Newman Chas. John, farmer, Priory  
Partridge Robert, farmer  
Raynham Robert, bricklayer

Richardson James, farmer  
Rush Edward, farmer  
Smith Joseph, carpenter  
Snell Henry, *Bell*  
Sparrow Robert, farmer  
Stow Samuel & Joseph G. farmers,  
Sampson's hall  
Stow Thomas, farmer  
Vince Henry, shoe maker  
Vince Robert, butcher  
Whymark Alfred, blacksmith  
Whymark John, *White Horse*

**KESGRAVE** is a parish and village, 3½ miles east from Ipswich, and 3½ south-west from Woodbridge, in the Eastern division of the county, Carlford hundred, Woodbridge union and county court district, rural deanery of Carlford, archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, situate on the road from Ipswich to Woodbridge. The church of All Saints is a rubble building, consisting of chancel, nave, and square brick tower containing 1 bell. The register dates from the year 1612. The living is a vicarage, united with Foxhall and Brightwell, yearly value £112, with

Cook Thomas, *Bell*  
Dennis George Kersey, farmer

Kent Francis Aldous, boarding school,  
Kesgrave hall

residence, in the gift of Sir John Shaw, bart., and held by the Rev. Ralph St. Leger Brockman, B.A., of Durham. George Tomline, esq., of Naeton, is lord of the manor and principal landowner. The soil and subsoil are of a light sandy nature. The chief crops are wheat, barley and peas. The area is 1,610 acres; rateable value, £368; and the population in 1871 was 88.—Letters through Ipswich, which is the nearest money order office. Pillar box near the 'Bell,' cleared on week days at 4.45 p.m.

Wainwright Frederick, farmer; & at  
The Hall farm, Foxhall

**KESSINGLAND** is a large village and parish on the sea coast, 5 miles south from Lowestoft station, and 9 south-east from Beccles, in the Eastern division of the county, Mutford and Lothingland incorporation and hundred, county court district of Lowestoft, rural deanery of Lothingland, archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich. The church of St. Edmund is an old building, in the Perpendicular style, with a very handsome and lofty square tower containing 5 bells: it consists of a nave, and the ruins of an aisle on the south side, and a porch on the south side: the church contains a richly ornamented octagonal font, the sides of which are deeply recessed, and in each niche is placed the figure of a saint: the church was re-seated throughout in 1871. The register dates from the year 1603. The living is a rectory, in the gift of the Bishop of Norwich, and held by the Rev. William Woodward, of St. Bees; the Rev. Sidney A. Smith, M.A., of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, is curate in charge. The tithes are commuted at £420 yearly, with 52 acres of glebe land and a substantial parsonage house, built at the sole expense of a previous incumbent. A handsome National school was erected in 1873 by subscription, and there is a library and reading room, well supported, also a reading room at the sea side end. The Wesleyans have a chapel here. A considerable sum has been bequeathed for the repair of the church. There are a few small charities, and an allotment of land, the rent of which is expended in coals and given to the poor. The coastguard have a station on the beach: there is accommodation for eleven families. This was anciently a place of considerable importance, having a weekly market on Tuesday, and a fair on the 20th of

Cooper Charles  
Cooper Miss  
Edwards John

Smith Rev. Sidney A. M.A. [curate in  
charge]  
Youngman Benjamin

November. The fair is now held on the 1st December. The sea is making its encroachments upon the land: a piece of ground known as the "Sea Row," a place thickly populated, was swept away about 1834 by the action of the waves: two walls were left standing, which remained like turrets in the sand, but have now disappeared. A lighthouse was erected in 1874, in place of two formerly at Hopton, for the guidance of mariners through the Gut, the sands of which have shifted. John Hall Moore Boycott, esq., who is lord of the manor, and the Rev. Robert William Fiske are the principal landowners. The soil is a blue clay, and the subsoil sand. The chief crops are wheat, barley and roots. The area is 1,612 acres; rateable value, £3,973; and the population in 1871 was 958.

Parish Clerh, Francis Barnes Potts.

POST & MONEY ORDER & TELEGRAPH OFFICE & Savings Bank.—Edward Rackham, postmaster. Letters arrive, per mail cart, from Wangford at 6.30 a.m. & 5.15 p.m.; dispatched at 8.15 a.m. & 7.15 p.m.

Coastguard Station, Beach, Mr. Thomas Atkins, commander; Benjamin Olliver, chief boatman  
Light House, James Reece, master  
Library & Reading Room, Samuel Smith, sec  
Reading Room, Beach, George W. Utting, sec  
National School, Edward Lawrie, master; Mrs. Elizabeth Lawrie, mistress

CONVEYANCE.—'Morning Star' coach, from Southwold to Lowestoft, during the summer season, passes through on mon. wed. & sat. at 10.15 a.m. returning same days

CARRIER.—James Woolnough, to & from Lowestoft, daily

COMMERCIAL.  
Allen John, boat owner  
Allen Thomas, boat owner



### On the 1851, 61, 71 and 81 Censuses the Inhabitants of the Hall Were:

In 1851 Robert Symonds a 34 yr old farmer of 400 acres, His wife Susan and their 5 children aged between 9 and 3 yrs old and 4 servants

in 1861 he was a widower with the 5 children and one servant

in 1871 still a widower, 3 children still at home and 2 servants.

in 1881 3 grown up children still at home and 1 servant.

in 1891 Robert Symonds was retired and living in Debenham.

### On the 1891 and 1901 censuses the Hall belonged to the Capon family

1891 Ambrose Capon a 45 yr old Farmer with his wife Clara 3 children aged between 11 and 1 , and 2 servants

1901 Clara a widow, 2 grown up children and 1 servant.(2 visitors)

The capons stayed at the Hall until 1940.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES IN ENGLAND**

In 1934 I was born at St Marys Hospital, Paddington, London, within the sound of the Bow Bells and like Princes William and Harry am technically a Cockney.

My father, Paul Capon, was working on a film called 'Little Friend', starring Nova Pilbeam, and directed by Berthold Viertel, Deborah Kerr's father-in-law. They both sent similar congratulatory telegrams punning on the name of the main character, 'Felicity', whereupon my mother decided, "What better name to give a little girl than 'happiness'" and Felicity-Ann I became.

My mother was very beautiful, with a creamy complexion, red hair and green eyes. She was also deaf. My parents lived in small flats with 'good' addresses, entertaining writers like Christopher Isherwood and other notables, particularly film people. On Saturday nights they gave small, bohemian dinner parties using my mother's inexpensive blue and orange pottery and invariably marigolds. Much laughter and daydreaming went on early in 1934, some of those present became famous in their own fields. My father had 38 books published and did extensive TV work. Chris Isherwood wrote 'I Am a Camera', which was later made into a film called 'Cabaret' and his relationship with the poet W.H. Auden added to his notoriety.

Although my parents came from very different worlds, their mothers had had strikingly similar early experiences on opposite sides of the British Isles. Both had been educated by their brothers' tutors, both had eloped to marry and both had become non-militant suffragettes.

In a non-working period during the Depression, my mother and I were sent to live with my father's parents at Kenton Hall in Suffolk and it was there that my earliest memories were formed. Kenton

Hall was a lovely old farmhouse with a rare double moat and was partly situated on Blood Field, where tradition had it that Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni, fought the Romans. When my father was a boy, Roman coins were still occasionally uncovered. The present house had been Elizabethan but



when my father was young there had been a devastating fire. The estate horses had been sent to fetch the fire-engine, three miles away, and quite a few of the salvaged contents were looted. Most of the house was destroyed but the beautiful Elizabethan front with mullioned windows was saved. All the books and the great family Bible with the family records were also destroyed.

My grandfather was unable to find an architect to rebuild, preserving the Elizabethan front, so although he was no architect he decided to do it himself, turning farm labourers into building

labourers, felling trees, dredging moats and re-laying tennis courts, etc. that had been decimated in the upheaval. Wherever possible, he saved and repaired what had been salvaged, and duplicated all the original rooms, with the addition of modern bathrooms. The library became a double garage off his study. The rebuilding took three years to complete and luckily they had another old house to live in during this time, Winston Grange, now the home of a former Cabinet Minister, John Gummer.

When my mother and I joined them, my grandparents lived alone at Kenton with a married couple to look after them, so my earliest memories were afternoon teas in the Drawing Room with various great uncles and aunts, and then in turn visiting them in their old houses. There always seemed to be one odd fly buzzing sleepily in the background when I was sent for my traditional afternoon rest and the reflection of the moat shimmered on the ceiling of my room. The past was a different country then, to paraphrase L.P. Hartley. By the 1930s it was genteel poverty. The glory days for my grandfather had gone when he used to drive endless Buicks and presented my grandmother with a £500 Citroen; when he persuaded fellow investors to build a railway line that ran past the house, and he and a great-uncle built yet another tennis court between the houses so that neither family had to drive too far for a game of tennis, perhaps five miles!

Finally, it came to an end and in the 1940s the house was reluctantly sold to the Earl of Stradbroke and my grandparents moved back to Winston Grange, a few miles away.

*Paul capon was the child of Harry Urban Capon and Bessie Martha Gooderham, So these were the Grandparents who rebuilt the hall. They married in 1907. So the hall burnt down after 1912 (Paul was born in 1912) and before the depression years of 1930's*

### **The railway episode**

The line was intended to run from Haughley to Halesworth, with a second branch running from Kenton station to Westerfield near Ipswich. The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway, or Middy as it became affectionately known, was built to provide transport to the rural Suffolk communities who had no reliable transport links. It was built in accordance with the 1896 Light Railways Act, which allowed for cheaper construction methods in return for a speed restriction of 25 mph. The railway was built as cheaply as possible: the buildings were constructed using corrugated iron, and the route followed the natural contours of the land to minimise the need for embankments and bridges.

The railway was built too late, long after the great railway boom that had affected the country in the Victorian age, and soon came into financial difficulties.

After just 6 years the branch was already in decline and the extension to Cratfield was closed. Originally there were cattle docks provided at every station except Haughley, but these also fell into disuse as agriculture turned from cattle to corn. In World War I, part of the link to Kenton and Debenham, which had been started, was lifted because the materials were more urgently needed elsewhere and this effectively ended any hopes of completing the original scheme.

### Other articles

Just north of here, the remarkable Mid-Suffolk Light Railway ran on its way from Haughley Junction to Laxfield (it was planned to reach Halesworth, but this never materialised). This early 20th century enterprise was the setting for the novel *Love on a Branch Line*, and is still remembered fondly by older Suffolks.



At the time of the First World War, a spur was built from Kenton Junction to a field just north of Debenham. It was an expensive and hare-brained extension, for permission to carry passengers along this stretch was never obtained, and nor was the last stretch into Debenham itself ever built.

Although very little evidence of this company's railway survives today, there are substantial remains of a bridge and embankment of the Kenton-to-Debenham spur on the road to Aspall, about a mile north of the church. The traffic rushes by, but to clamber up on this overgrown ridge is to consort with ghosts.

**The Earl of Stradbroke.** (*The Rous family were an unsavoury bunch, enough to give nobles a bad name. In their long unsavoury family history, Kenton Hall was not mentioned, though they owned many properties in many different counties.*)

George Edward John Mowbray Rous, 3rd Earl of Stradbroke was born on 19 November 1862. He married Helena Violet Alice Fraser, daughter of Lt.-Gen. James Keith Fraser, on 23 July 1898. He died on 20 December 1947 at age 85. He gained the title of 3rd Earl of Stradbroke

George Edward John Mowbray Rous, 3rd Earl of Stradbroke KCMG CB CVO CBE VD TD (19 November 1862 – 20 December 1947) was a British noble and the 15th Governor of Victoria, Australia.

He also served in the British Parliament, holding the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries from 1928 until the defeat of the 1924-1929 Conservative Government. Was the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk 1935–1947 At some time he also served in the British Army, rising to the rank of Colonel.

He married Lady Helena Rous, Countess of Stradbroke, DBE Helena Violet Alice Fraser (b. 18?? - d. 14 April 1949), daughter of Lt.-Gen. James Keith Fraser married George Rous, 3rd Earl of Stradbroke on 23 July 1898.

She was created a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1927; she died on 14 April 1949.

#### Children

Lady Betty Helena Joanna Rous (b. 24 April 1901 - d. 19??)

Sir John Anthony Alexander Rous, 4th Earl of Stradbroke (b. 1 April 1903 - d. 1983)

Sir William Keith Rous, 5th Earl of Stradbroke (b. 10 March 1907 - d. 1983)

Major Hon. Peter James Mowbray Rous (b. 23 January 1914 - ????)