

## EASTON BAVENTS

### BACKGROUND

Easton Bavents was, from the maps of early 1600s, the most eastern point of land in the kingdom with its promontory called Easton Ness. This anciently projected more than two miles into the ocean, and formed the northern bounds of Southwold Bay, and the most eastern point of the English coast.

A market was granted to Thomas de Bavent, from whom the place takes the affix to its name. Thomas de Bavent in 1330, obtained a licence for a weekly market at Eston-Bavent, in Suffolk. He was succeeded by his son Peter, who died in 1370, leaving Eleanor and Cecily his daughters and heirs.

The church (St. Nicholas) and an ancient chapel, with the greater portion of the parish, have of course long disappeared, "gone down into the sea" in the language of Whites Directory. According to the Directory of 1844 the church was standing in 1638, and had a chapel dedicated to St. Margaret. But the records below indicate there "being neyther church nor chappell" in 1650. All vestiges of it were gone by 1844.

Whites Directory says the rectory, valued in K.B. at £12, is consolidated with Benacre.

### LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS

The text below is a poor transcription of records held at the Lambeth Palace Library, predominantly from 1655 and 1656. The script is not easy to read to the unpractised eye, and the errors are mine. I have tried to reproduce the various spellings of the place names accurately.

In these years, Oliver Cromwell ruled as Lord Protector. During the early months of the Protectorate, he sought Godly reformation, a broad programme involving reform of the most inhumane elements of the legal and judicial systems which clamped down on drunkenness and immorality. A set of "triers" was established to assess the suitability of future parish ministers, and a related set of "ejectors" was set up to dismiss ministers and schoolmasters who were deemed unsuitable for office. The triers and the ejectors were intended to be at the vanguard of Cromwell's reform of parish worship.

The text uses the term **Chapelry**. This is a subdivision of an ecclesiastical parish. It had a similar status to a township but was so named as it had a chapel which acted as a subsidiary place of worship to the main parish church. Such chapelries were common in northern England where the parishes had been established in medieval times when the area was sparsely populated, thus obliging parishioners to travel long distances to the parish church. A chapelry also had a role in civil government, being a subdivision of a parish which was used as a basis for the Poor Law until the establishment of Poor Law Unions in the 19th century.

Comm XIIa/15 page 511

*a massive leather bound tome needing two pillows to rest on. The edges of the pages are weathered with time; no smell from the parchment. Large looping script gothically illuminated and headed as an **Inquisition** – bear in mind that Matthew Hopkins, the Witchfinder General, had been active in Suffolk less than 10 years before.*



*15<sup>th</sup> October? 1650*  
*An Inquisition*

*By virtue of a A.... of the People? Of the Lybertyors of England by Authority of Parliament out of the High....*

John Loose of Easton Bavents

p560

Easton Bavents

Establishing ..... Jeffrey Sowlard is pastor and Thomas ... the Incumbent . Ands .... the ..... hath not .... there being neyther Church nor Chappell in the parish of Easton and .... to Southold and .. to be united to Southold....

January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1655

The Trustees do appoint to take into consideration the petition of John Bayly on behalf of the inhabitants of Easton Bavent in the County of Suffolk for the uniting of Easton Bavent aforesaid to the parish church of Southroold in the said County to make them but one entire parish of them. Found on the 29 January instant so hereforfe the Patron and Incumbent and parishioners of both the said parishes and to have ..... notice

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1655

Upon hearing p... on both sides upon the Cohron of John Bayly in behalf of the inhabitants of Easton Bavonts in the County of Suffolk for the uniting of the parish of Easton Bavonts to the church or chappell of Southold within the parish of Roydon in the county aforesaid. And of Jeffery Horoland Haiming to the patronage of the said church of Easton Bavonts the said Mr Horoland ..... to the said union provided his right of profontason may be forfeited to him according to the ordinance of this Highness and Councoll ordered that the said church and parish of Easton Bavonts aforesaid be accordingly united to the said Church of Southold. And that the said Church of Southold is within the parish of Roydon in the said County. It is ordered that the parishioners of Roydon aforesaid have liberty to show what raise? they can on the 24 April next so aforesaid the mooting place of the said parish of Reydon and Southold and of Eason Bavonts so to be united ..... should not be the said Church of Southold so hord of the Patron Incumbent and parishioners of Roydon aforesaid and to have..... inordinant notice.

MS 991 p65

`By the Trustees for the better maintenance and encouragement of preaching Ministers and for uniting of Parishes April 24 1656

Whereas the vicarage of the parish of Easton Bavonts in the county of Suffolk is worth but ten pounds a year having no church or meeting place in the said parish for the parishioners to edfort? Unto to hoard ...And the said parish is near and adjoining the Market Town of Southold being a Chappelry in the parish of Reydon in the said County and about one mile distant from the said parish church the vicarage whereof is worth with the said Chappelry but thirty seven pounds a year. And the said parish of Easton Bavonts and Reydon with the said Chappelry of Southold may with ..... be united and made one intire parish as by a Survey of the said parishses taken by virtue? Of a Commission under the Great Laws of England in pursuance of an Act for providing Maintenance for preaching Ministers and others pious of appoarth?. Therefore upon a petition established on the behalf of the inhabitants of Easton Bavonts aforesaid for the uniting of the said Parish of Easton Bavonts to the said Chappell of Southold And upon a petition exhibited in the behalf of the inhabitants of Southold for the uniting of the said Church and parish or Reydon to the said Chappell of Southold. And upon due consideration? Had of the said survey and? Thinke fitt by consent of all parishioners that the said parish and vicarages with the said Chappelry of Southold stand and by united and consolidated and made one distinct and entire parish and vicarage. And that the said Chapperby of Southold be the meeting place for the parishioners of the said Parish amd the said parishses and Chapperby so united from time to time to .....edsontbuld And that there be from henceforth one vicar and incumber of the said Parish and vicarage so united and consolidated. And that the said Vicarage stand and be indowed with all houses, gleab lands tythes arroards of Bythos - //--// end... as fitt and emoluments of the said vicarage of Easton Bavonts and Reydon with the said Chappelry of Southold or thereabouts belonging or fright attaslom so belong or appoint or so wish have borne? Had escribed or enjoyed by the vicars amd incumbents of Easton Bavonts and Reydon or Minister or Curate of Southold aforesaid or any of them. And that the same be had and enjoyed by the vicar and inumbents of Southod aforesaid for his maintenance and livelyhood ..... it is the true intent and meaning here of by consent as aforesaid that the Minister and incumbents of Southold aforesaid shall form a afore the said parish church of Reydon shall be sufficient e?paired and preach and sermon in a month in the said Parish Church of Reydon aforesaid. ....so him so humbly ..ortifio to this Highness the Lord Protector and the Councoll

Jo Thorogood R Sydenham Jo Pockock Jo Humfrey

Thursday 22 May 1656  
At the Counsell at Whitehall

Upon consideration of a certificate from the Trustees for maintenance of Ministers and for uniting of parishes dated 24 March 1656 for uniting the parishes of Easton Bavont and Roydon within the County of Suffolk to the Chappell of Southold in the said County. His Highness and the Counsell approve of the said union and .....roufound the same. W Jossop Clerk of ye Counsell.

MS 990 Easton Bavent – June 1656

By the Trustees for the better maintenance and encouragement of preaching Ministers and for visiting of Parishes

Whereas the vicarage of the parish of Easton Bavent in the county of Suffolk is worth but ten pounds a year having no church or meeting place so in the said parish for the Parishioners to ...\*\*fort but to hear the word and the said parish is near adjoining the Market Town of Southold being a Chappelry within the parish of Reydon in the said county and about one mile distant from the said parish church the vicarage whereof is worth but seven and thirty pounds by the year ...of which twenty pounds a year is the said Chappelry and the said Parish of Easton Bavents and Reydon with the said Chappelry of Southold may with ..... be united and made one in ... parish as by a survey of the said parish ....by... of a Commission under the Greate ...of England in pursuance of An Act of Parliament ...An act for providing maintenance for preaching Ministers and the.. pious for app...therefore upon a petition? Exhibihted in behalf of the inhabitants of Easton Bavents aforesaid for uniting the said parish of Easton Bavants to the said Chappell of Southold and upon a petition exhibited in behalf of the inhabitants of Southold for uniting of the said church? And Parish of Reydon to the said Chappell of Southold and upon & no....had of the said survey. Wee think fit and accordingly and by and with the approbaron of his Highness the Lord Protector and the .... to us signified by their order remaining boaring sake the .. and ... day of this ... month of May made upon one ... in that behalf and by and with the consent of all parties, that the said pairshes and vicarages with the said Chappelry of Southold stand and be unied and consolidated and they are hereby united and consolidated and made one distinct & ...parish and vicarage. And so we hereby order and appoint that the said Chappelry of Southold be the meeting place for the parishioners of the said Parishes and Chappelry so united from time to time to edfoct visits and that there by from .... for ... visitor ad ..... of the said parish and vicarage so united and consolidated and that the said Vicarage stand and be endowed all ... gleab lands wither vicarage of with...exnt duties prfoitts and emoluments of the said vicarage of Easton Bavents and Reydon with the said Chappelry of Southold or thereabouts belonging or of right accustomed to belong or appertain or so which have been had exercised or enjoyed by the vicars and incumbents of Easton Bavents and Reydon or Ministers or Curate of Southold aforesaid or any of them with their survey of their apportionments. And that the same to hold and enjoyed by the Vicar and incumbent of Southold aforesaid for his in ....and ...kyhood according to the purpose .... intent and meaning of the said Act and of an Ordinance of his Highness and the Council in that behalf. Nevertheless it is the ...and meaning hereof. And it is accordingly further ordered and ... dorheard by rousont as aforesaid that the Minister and Incumber of Southold aforesaid shall from and after the said Parish church of Reydon shall be suffiriously repaired preach and sermnon in a a month in the said Parish Church of Reydon aforesaid aforesaid. Given under hand and ... this nine and twentieth day of May in the year according to the ... of in England 1656

signed Jo Thorowgood R Sydenham Jo Humfrey ... Jo Pocock

Signed and sealed by the in above named in the presence of Tho Doking

Acknowledged by Sir Jo Thorowgood one of the said ..... the before one of the ... in the Chancery in Ordinary Edmund Gylos. 20<sup>th</sup> June 1656