

BROUGHTON'S PAST.

Rev. Norman G. Powell.

From the notes of Wm. Steele Tomkins, files of the Parish Magazine (first published 1869) and the enclosure maps and awards.

The name is of Saxon origin. But in Roman times it was BRIGAE or BRAGA, and is shown on Roman military maps as the first halt or stopping place on the march from Winchester to Old Sarum, and the greater part of the way can still be traced and some is still in use in the form of various "B" roads.

The village is mentioned in Domesday and was one of some size. A "Chapel", one of six administered by Mottisfont Abbey, three mills, and several manors - Oake and Roake, Pittleworth, Frenchmoor and Oakley. The Rector was the Archbishop and Canons of York.

In the 14th century the patronage became vested through the Bishop of Winchester in the Hospital at Portsmouth, known as the Domus Dei, which became the Garrison Church, and as the Religious community had the manorial rights and were Rectors, the right of keeping pigeons went with it - hence our pigeon house in the churchyard.

In about 1625 the Church was much damaged by fire, and many thatched cottages destroyed. The initials of the churchwardens on two of the pews, W.B. and H.B. 1638, record it.

Sir Thomas Dowse in 1601 left property for endowing a school, which had it been better administered might well have been a grammar school or minor public school. Two of the oldest farm houses were Coolers, of which now no trace remains, which many of you will remember well, and what was known as "The Old Laundry" in Dixon's Lane behind Mrs. Rock's house.

Dr. Fox records in 1850, great consternation amongst farmers over free trade in corn. Bread 9d to 10d per gallon.

Labourers' wages 7/- per week.

Fat pigs 7/6 per score.

Bacon 9d per lb.

Constant changes in population. There are very few names in the Church Registers, or on tombstones that go back more than 150 years. Cricket has been played here for more than a century and we have a score-book containing the name of Dr. W.G. Grace and records of a five-ball over.

As far back as late medieval times there was a weekly market and a three-day Fair each summer in July. Relics of this remain in the name "Market House" and the strip of grass under the Rectory wall in the High Street where stalls stood. The tradition of the July Fair is now maintained by the summer Flower Show.

At one time the great event of the summer was the races where Mr. Tom Cannon had the Chattis Hill racing stables. The old school log-books are amusing in their references to the drop in school attendances at this time of year.

The early files of the Parish Magazine are full of interest and Mrs. Dawkins is the possessor of two bound copies.

The greatest social change which came over the parish in the last century was the enclosure of common lands when out of a total area of 3,500 acres, 2,000 were enclosed. In this matter the early maps and plans are most illuminating as also the early churchwardens Accounts and Poor Relief and Church Rate Books.

Several people have notable collections of early photographs of places of interest in the village, notably the Revd. R.E.Langdon, Mr. H.Munday, and quite a number in a tin box kept in the Church. To say nothing of various early sketches and water-colours. With the co-operation of various Old Broughtonians I have managed to collect photographs of my predecessors from 1840 onwards which hang in the vestry.

With so many houses being altered or pulled down we hope all newcomers to the village will keep photographs and notes of any discoveries they may make.

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