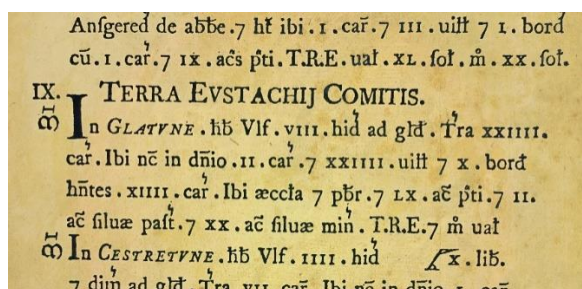


## Glatton – History and Heritage

For such a small village Glatton has a truly extraordinary history and heritage!

Lying roughly two miles west of the A1 and approximately halfway between Peterborough and Huntingdon, Glatton, or “*Glatune*” (Saxon for “*A Farm in the Glade*”) as it was called in the Domesday Book, is essentially a crossroads on the edge of the “Huntingdonshire Wolds” with gently rolling countryside to the west and flatter Fenland to the east. Glatton is frequently described as a “quintessentially English village” with ten “chocolate box” thatched cottages, an abundance of tall, mature, high-value trees, lush vegetation and pretty country walks.



Glatton (“*Glatune*”) entry in the Domesday Book

Prior to 1042, Glatton was held by the Saxon King Ulf. However, after the Norman conquest in 1066, *Glatton* belonged to William the Conqueror who gifted the manor, amongst others, to one of his noblemen, Count Eustace of Boulogne in 1086 as a reward for his service. Count Eustice was married to Mary, Queen of Scotland. The manor was known for centuries as “*Glatton and Home*” (also referred to as “*Glatton cum Home*”). At that time the estate was one large manor, combining what is now the separate Parishes of Glatton and Holme. Until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Parishes were exclusively ecclesiastical. However, the 1866 Parliament passed an act which defined the concept of civil parishes. Parish boundaries were, and in many cases, are still defined by the estates of established manors. Such is the case with Glatton and adjoining parishes, notwithstanding the fact that those manors with their defined boundaries have long been broken up as successive heirs inherited portions of estates which were broken up and divided amongst heirs. Importantly, Glatton’s history and heritage has been shaped by events that occurred not just within its own Parish boundaries but also by those of its neighbours.

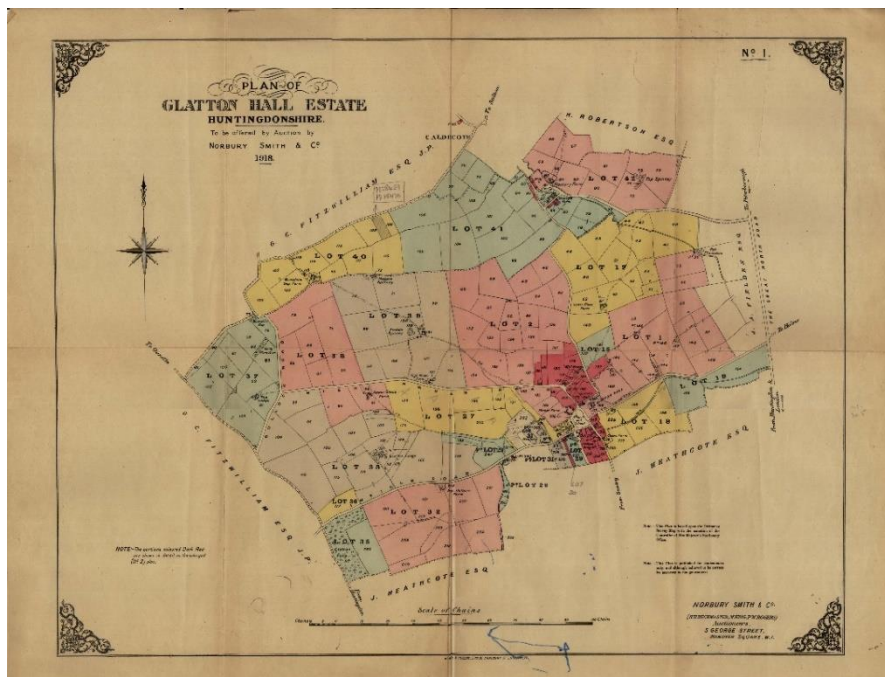
Following a series of successions resulting from death, marriage and divorce, the Honour of Boulogne escheated to the Crown around 1214 after the Count of Boulogne died following his capture whilst serving King John. He left no heirs. King John subsequently bestowed the Honour of Boulogne (the name given to a collective of estates, many of which were in the Port of Calais and in the village of Arrovaize near to Boulogne where the great Abbey of St Nicholas stood) to the sitting tenants, the Dudeauvilles; a baronial family who held the Glatton Manor until around 1236. In 1239 it was returned to the crown following the death of Baldwin de Dudeauville who died without heir. The manor was granted in 1242 to Fulk de Novo Castro who subsequently surrendered it to the Crown upon marriage. In 1243 the Glatton Estate was granted to Richard Count of Poitou and Earl of Cornwall and his wife, the king's sister-in-law. Upon his death the estate passed to Richard’s son Edmund but when he died in 1300 the manor once again reverted to the King. In 1314 the King granted Glatton to the Abbot of Thorney for life at a rent of £100 a year, and in 1323 he gifted it to Hugh le Despenser the younger who was executed in 1326. It then, once again escheated to the Crown and in 1327 it was granted to Queen Isabella for life, 'in furtherance of a resolution of Parliament for her service in the matter of the treaty with France and in suppressing the rebellion of the Despensers and others. Following Isabella’s death in 1359 the king gave it to Queen Philippa who held the estate until her death in 1369 when it again reverted to the Crown. In 1372 the King

granted the manor among many other lands to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster in exchange for the Earldom, Honour and County of Richmond. With the Duchy of Lancaster, it again became vested in the Crown in 1399 when his son ascended the throne as Henry IV. The manor was granted with many other lands to Henry, Archbishop of Canterbury, Henry, Bishop of Winchester, Edward, Duke of York, John Leventhorpe, and others in 1415 for 12 years. This may possibly have been a mortgage to raise money for the war with France, but in 1428 it was still held by Henry, Archbishop of Canterbury, John Leventhorpe and 'other feoffees of the king.' In 1483–4 two annuities were granted from the issues of the king's lordship of Glatton.

In 1611 the Manor of Glatton ceased to be a Royal Manor when James 1st granted it to Sir Robert Cotton of Conington. Following Cotton's death in 1752, the estate was sold to Mr William Wells, a renowned shipbuilder of Chatham on the River Thames. The eldest son, Admiral Thomas Wells RN, was the owner of Holme Wood and lord of the manor of Glatton until his death in 1827, leaving his son & heir William to run the manor until his death in 1889 after which his executors sold the property to Lord de Ramsey who retained the title lord of the manor until 1890. It was purchased from him by Mr. John Ashton Fielden in 1902 and was subsequently sold it to a syndicate in 1918, who auctioned it a few months later when it was bought by Mr. R. H. Edleston.

Holme was granted Parish status in 1857 when Glatton and Holme became independent parishes sitting alongside Conington Parish.

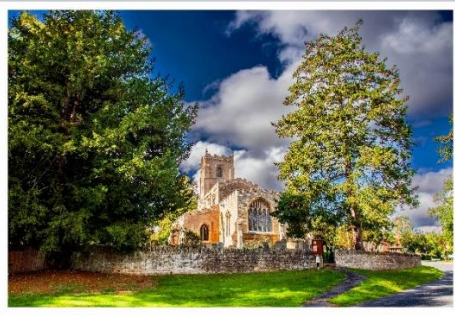
In 1918 Edleston auctioned off the Glatton Hall Manor in Lots: the various lots comprised 12 High Class Farms, 35 Cottages, the Addison Arms Inn, the Rectory House and 10 acres and Glatton Hall estate.



At various dates following the break-up of the Glatton Manor estate in 1918 (illustration above), each of the various lots were further broken down by their respective owners and sold off as either smaller, individual properties or "land for development" (Lots). The illustration below is just one such example.



**St Nicholas' Church** The Parish Church of St Nicholas lies at the heart of the village and was recorded in the Domesday Book. The Church is of considerable architectural interest and is a Grade 1 listed building.



It is likely that most of the Churches mentioned in the 1086 survey would have been constructed of wood, but several architectural historians have reasoned that Glatton unusually may have been of stone. Nothing now remains of this early Church, although Saxon relics have been unearthed in recent years. The earliest part of the present Church are the Nave Arcades which were built around the year 1200, although some re-used stones in the Church itself are crude enough to be Anglo-Saxon. Rebuilding of St Nicholas Church was completed in April 1869 after a complete restoration. The walls of the tower are faced with ashlar in Ketton stone, those of the Chancel with coarse hammer-dressed stone and the rest are of rubble with stone dressing. The roofs are all leaded.

**Cavell Family Graves** Within the Chancel at St Nicholas' Church is a dedication to the memory of nurse Edith Cavell who served as a nurse in Belgium in the First World War. She was arrested and shot for helping allied Soldiers escape to freedom. Although Edith is not buried in Glatton, she frequently visited her uncle, Alexander Cavell who was a priest at the church from 1931-1936 and is buried in the graveyard alongside other Cavell family members.

**Tudor Cottage "Allways"** There are 10 pretty and picturesque tudor, or tudor-style, thatched cottages in Glatton, contributing to the village's "picture postcard"/ "chocolate box" reputation. Most of these cottages date back to the early part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century or even late 16<sup>th</sup> century. One of the oldest is 'Allways' (pictured below left), the former home of the author Beverley Nichols who lived at the cottage from 1929 – 1936. Nichols bought the house from a survivor of the Titanic, Emily Borie. Of the 62+ books Nichols wrote, his most celebrated works include three books about his life & time in Glatton Village which together are collectively known as "The Glatton (or Allways) Trilogy". The celebrated status of Nichols and his tudor cottage "Allways" attracted visitors from far and wide and from overseas, making it England's most visited tudor cottage throughout the mid 1930's, even surpassing Anne Hathaway's cottage in popularity for a while. After Nichols death in



1983 his ashes were scattered in the churchyard at St Nicholas. A memorial stone (below right) sits at the crossroads half-way between his beloved cottage “Allways” and his final resting place. The cottage was originally constructed as accommodation for fisherman who fished nearby Whittlesey Mere.



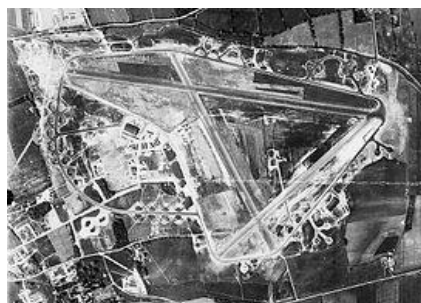
**HMS Glatton** As unlikely as it sounds, four ships of the Royal Navy have been named HMS Glatton. But why name a ship after a tiny village many miles from the sea?

The answer is because in 1611, James I granted the Manor of Glatton to Sir Robert Cotton. In 1752 it passed to William Wells of Holmewood Hall. The Wells family founded Wells & Co, a Shipbuilding Company based in Blackwell on the Thames estuary. Wells & Co found a rich source of quality hardwood on the Glatton estate that William Wells owned. Timber was taken by horse & cart to Whittlesey Mere where it was floated down the River Nene to the port at Kings Lynn before its onward journey to the shipyard at Blackwell. Today, all that is left of the woodland that once extended from Glatton toward Great Gidding is the wood known as “Roundhills”. The first ship built was named HMS Glatton after the source of the timber. On 2nd of April 1801 HMS Glatton, commanded by the infamous Captain William Bligh (of Mutiny on the Bounty fame), served as part of Nelson’s Squadron at the Battle of Copenhagen (pictured below left – red hull to the left of centre). Her service was sufficiently distinguished for the Royal Navy to name three other ships after it. Very tragically, the 4<sup>th</sup> HMS Glatton (pictured below right) was deliberately torpedoed by another ship of the Royal Navy whilst fully laden with explosive armaments in Dover Harbour after it suffered an internal explosion that threatened to cause an explosion of such magnitude that it would have destroyed nearly all of Dover. Some 98 crew lost their lives in this tragic incident of September 1918.



**RAF Glatton** During WWII, the establishment of RAF Glatton had a massive impact on the Parish of Glatton. The base was built to provide a forward operating base for the USAF. The 457<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group was the last of the B-17 Flying Fortress Groups to join the 1st Air Division and it was fully equipped by 1944 when it commenced operations attacking targets deep into Germany. From its first mission in the Autumn of 1944 to the Group’s last mission in April 1945, the 457<sup>th</sup> had flown 236 missions losing 86 aircraft in action and nearly 800 men were either killed in action, reported missing or became prisoners of war. The 457<sup>th</sup> BG dropped 16,916 tons of bombs, 142 tons

of leaflets and claimed 33 enemy aircraft destroyed, with a further 12 probables and 50 damaged. On June 4<sup>th</sup> 1945, those B-17's considered sufficiently airworthy, began to fly back the USA ending RAF Glatton's active service history.



**Glatton Meteorite** On 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1991, a single crusted meteorite weighing some 800 grammes fell into a garden on High Haden Road, Glatton, narrowly missing a resident who was gardening nearby at the time. Until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 when a meteorite landed in Gloucestershire, the “Glatton Meteorite” was regarded as the last **known** meteorite to have landed in the UK! It is housed in the Natural History Museum in London.



**Addison Arms Public House** The Addison Arms has stood in the village of Glatton since the beginning of the 18th century and is named after playwright Joseph Addison, a relative of its first landlord Peter Addison who had the pub re-built on the site of a tavern that once originally stood there. The building is distinctly Dutch in design having been built by Dutch engineers who were seconded for their expertise in draining wetlands and who played a major role in the draining of local Fenland. Of particular historical interest is the buildings architecture which has a prominent spine-beam common in 18th century buildings. Although extended to the rear in relatively recent times, the pub still retains its original and imposing silhouette.

**Agricultural Heritage** During the 18th Century some 200,000 head of cattle a year travelled along the Bullock Road from the North, including Scotland, to the markets of London. This trade contributed to the prosperity and growth of the village as cattle, sheep, hogs and geese were held in small grass closes for an over-night fee before continuing their journey. Horses bred in the Fens and the horse-fair held at Moonshine-Gap on the ridgeway above the village was famously attended by Gypsies until the end of the 19th Century. Glatton's parishioners highly value and cherish its rural setting and its agricultural heritage which continues apace year-on-year and has a strong influence on the development of the village.

**Glatton's Heritage Assets** With so much history embedded within Glatton Village, it is hardly surprising that the villages is blessed with an abundance of listed buildings of both architectural and historical importance. St Nicholas' Church is a Grade 1 listed building and there are some 22 buildings, tombs or monuments listed as Historic Buildings by the Historic Monuments Commission. They are:

Grade	ID	Address
1	St Nicholas' Parish Church	Glatton
2	Shoestring Cottage	1 High Haden Road, Glatton
2	Tile Barn	16 High Haden Road, Glatton
2	Addison Arms Public House	Sawtry Road, Glatton



2	“Allways”	Glatton Ways, Glatton
2	Barn, Ermine Lodge	circa 300m east of Great North Road, Glatton
2	Brook Cottage	Infield Road, Glatton
2	Chest Tomb	Grounds of St Nicholas’ Church circa 2m east of north aisle
2	Gable Thatch	Sawtry Road, Glatton
2	Infields	Infield Road, Glatton
2	Manor Farmhouse	Church Road, Glatton
2	Mychells Mead	High Haden Road, Glatton
2	Orchard House	Glatton
2	Poets House	High Haden Road, Glatton
2	Row of 12 tombstones	Grounds of St Nicholas’ Church, 5m east of chancel
2	Row of 8 tombstones	Grounds of St Nicholas’ Church, 3m east of chancel
2	Row of 3 tombstones & 1 chest tomb	Grounds of St Nicholas’ Church, 9m east of chancel
2	Tea Kettle Barn	Circa 500m north of Glatton Lane
2	The Croft	High Haden Road, Glatton
2	The Homestead & attached barn	High Haden Road, Glatton
2	The Willows	High Haden Road, Glatton
2	2 tombstones	Grounds of St Nicholas’ Church, 7m east of chancel
2	White Roses	Sawtry Road, Glatton

Within the home of former Beverley Nichols at the Grade 2 listed building “Allways”, there is a portion of wall where all guests of VIP or celebrity status would be asked to sign. Effectively, this was a “visitors book” that still exhibits today displaying signatures from some 62 of the most celebrated luminaries of the 1920’s & 1930’s. Signatures include 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Burghley, Cecil Beaton, Dame Nellie Melba, Lord Berners, Rex Whistler, Dame Rebecca West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Churchill, Vivian Ellis, Clark Gable and a host of others from nobility, the clergy, the stage, screen & theatre, sport & literature. This wall has been acknowledged by English Heritage as “of special historic & literary significance & interest”.



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