

# 1586 MAP OF BLAKENEY HAVEN AND PORT OF CLEY : Part I

*By Jonathan Hooton*

*Since the publication of 'The Glaven Ports' I have once again turned my attention to finding out more about the 1586 map of Blakeney Haven and eventually, perhaps, to track down the original. Although the whereabouts of this map is currently a mystery, more information has come to light about the possible reasons why it was drawn, and this will be the subject of a further article in the next issue of this journal. Meanwhile, discussion about the map is bedevilled by the fact that there are many different copies. The following notes summarise my understanding to date, but this remains 'work in progress' and I should be grateful for any comments or corrections that readers can offer.*

## **The Original Map**

The original map of 1586, once in the possession of the Thomlinson family, then at Cley Hall, has now disappeared without trace. Copies of the map show that it covered the coast from Stiffkey to Cley: the villages are included but it is the marshes, sands and channels which appear to be the real focus of the map. A version painted by Godfrey Sayers was used as the cover for *The Glaven Ports*.<sup>1</sup>

## **The Two Principal Copies**

Two 19th century copies of the map are known to exist.

### **A The Monemont-Long copy**

This copy, now in Sudbury, Suffolk, is owned by Paul Long, who inherited it from the Monement family. Brigadier Mellor (who died in 1997) said, on the authority of a letter he received from the Norfolk Record Office, that this map was obtained from the Thomlinson family, who owned the original in the 19th century. Basil Cozens-Hardy used this map in two of his articles on the north Norfolk coast. In the first<sup>2</sup> he names the owner as Mr Frank Monement, of Cley. In the second<sup>3</sup> the ownership remains the same but he adds that it is a 'vellum' map. He also notes that the arms depicted are those of Sir William Heydon, then Lord of the Manor of Cley. In a third article<sup>4</sup> Cozens-Hardy says of the Thomlinson family that they came from Blencogo in Cumberland and acquired the Cley Hall estate in 1717.

### **B The Cooke copy**

This copy now resides in Norwich, in the possession of the Revd Hereward and Diana Cooke. In the bottom left-hand corner of the map is written:

Taken from the original parchment in the possession of the representatives of the late J.W. Thomlinson Esq. Lord of the Manor of Cley, Norfolk. This corner of the map within the dotted line awaiting in the original when copied in 1846.

## Other copies

At least six other copies are known to exist.

### C The 1929 Cooke copy

This copy is thought to have been made for Arthur Cooke in 1929 and carries the initials F.E.W. It is kept with the one described above as **B**.

### D The Burrows copy

This dates from 1930 and has written upon it:

Copied and painted by Francis Seacombe Burrows from an antique map. The property of F.Monement Esq of Cley. August 1930.

The map is a much freer copy than the others, with colourful additions and an analysis of the coat of arms. It is now owned by the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society and is kept in their library at Garsett House, Norwich.

### E The Tidal Harbours Commission copy

A simplified version was drawn for the Commission's report of 1846, wherein it is described as follows:

This map is in the possession of the Thomlinson family to whom the Cley Manor belonged; it shows the encroachment of the sea on this part of the Coast, and that the channel to Salthouse marshes was then open and nearly as large as that to Cley. Titled *Cley and Blakeney in Norfolk 1586* at the top of the map.

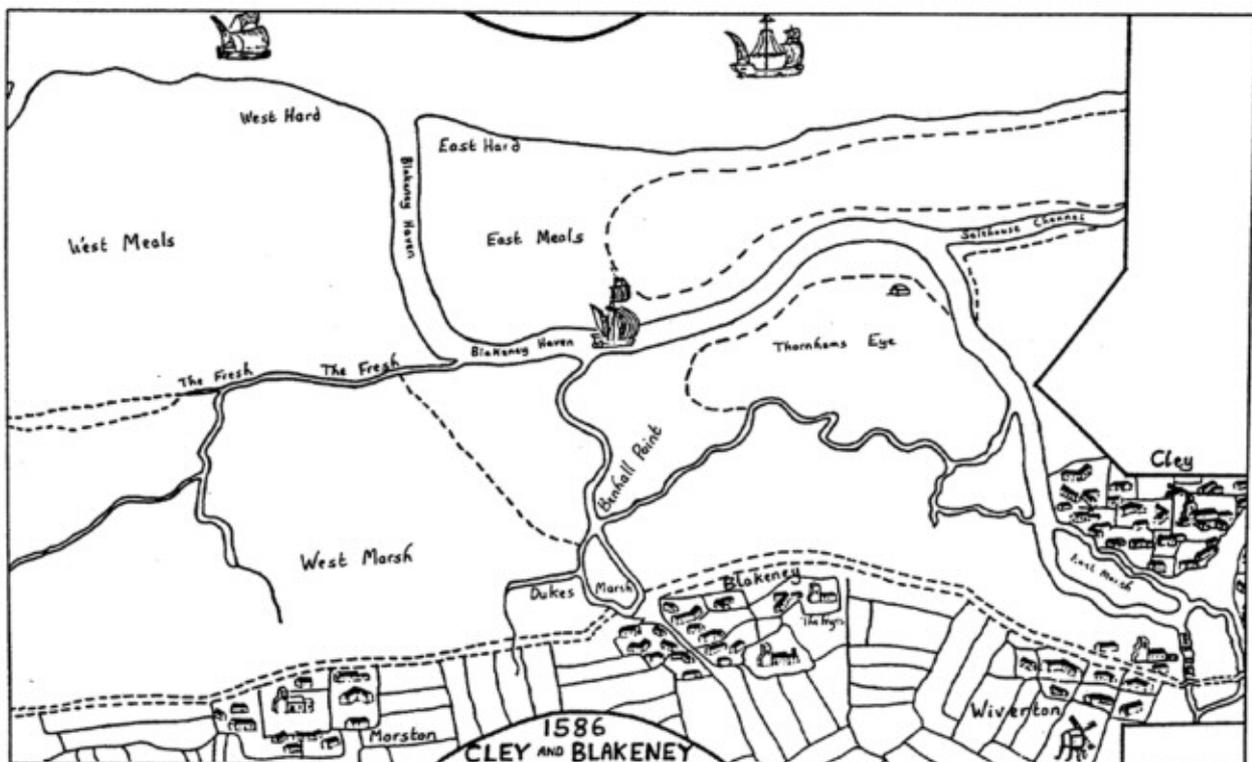


Figure 16. Map of Blakeney and Cley taken from the simplified version of the 1586 map reproduced in the 2nd Report of the Tidal Harbours Commission, 1846, Some of the illustrations on the original map have been omitted as has the decorative information on the border of the map.

Reproduced from *The Glaven Ports*

## F The **British Library** copy

The Library reference for this map reads thus:

Map of Blakeney Haven and Port of Cley ... 1586 ... Taken from the original parchment in the possession of the representatives of ... T.W.Thomlinson Esq. Lord of the Manor of Cley, Norfolk ... copied 1846. 590 x 465 mm. Ordnance Survey (Southampton) 1930. B.L. shelfmark 4325 (3). A photostatic reproduction of a map in the possession of Arthur Cooke, Esq.

This is a copy of the Cooke map **B**. I have a photograph, but have not seen the British Library 'original'. It has what appear to be two large fold marks, forming a cross shape off centre. It has signs of staining, possibly water damage, especially around Wiveton and in the bottom right-hand corner. There are no such marks on the present Cooke copy, perhaps because it has been restored in recent years.

## G The **Catling** tracing and dyeline copies

Catling's tracing was taken from the Cooke copy **B**. I have two prints and several others exist. In his long typescript *History of Blakeney and its Havens*<sup>5</sup> Peter Catling says:

Perhaps the most important source of information about the Haven and its villages is given by a manuscript map bearing the date 1586 and the coats of arms of the Heydon family, very probably of Christopher Heydon who sold Thornham Eye and the decayed Chapel on the Eye to James Calthorpe in 1596.

The original map, once in the possession of the Thomlinson family, then at Cley Hall, has now disappeared without trace. As has one that used to hang in Wiveton Hall. Two later (perhaps 17th century) copies are known, one of which owned by Mrs Monement Long has been reproduced by B. Cozens-Hardy, and another, a slightly less detailed copy, now in the possession, of Roger Gresham Cooke, has been made available to me in an excellent tracing. Other more recent, engraved (dated 1846) and photographic copies of this map are known to exist, but their detail is far inferior to those of earlier date.

This map, about 33 x 26 inches within its frame, bears the latin names of the points of the compass in the middle of its four sides; the date 1586 appearing in a cartouche under 'Oriens'. The title is clearly a modem addition. *Map of Blakeney Haven and Port of Cley, Executed in the Year 1586*, and there is no indication of the surveyor's name to be seen in these copies, though it probably once existed somewhere on the original.

The Catling typescript was lodged in the Norfolk Studies Library and did not survive the fire of 1994, but a replacement copy has recently been given to the Library and other copies are known to exist in private hands.

## H The **Sayers** painting and prints

Godfrey Sayers painted a version of the map in 1992 and from it produced a limited edition of 250 prints. It was based largely on the Cooke copy (**B**), but Godfrey also had access to the Long copy (**A**) for a short time and his map is a combination of the two. One of the problems

he had was that the Cooke copy was not square, a problem he ingeniously overcame by tracing it on polythene and 'pulling' it square. He felt the two copies were cartographically similar but artistically different. There were some slight differences in the channel shapes, especially in the channel from 'Stewky Mill' leading to the 'bower', which was a loop on the Cooke copy, but did not join together at the base on the Long copy. Also, it appears from a photograph of (part of) the Long map in the booklet on Cley by Peter Brooks<sup>5</sup> that the word 'bower' is missing. This is interesting, as 'Bowre Cricke' is mentioned in the Duchy of Lancaster papers referred to below. There also appears to be a second tower on Blakeney church, which Godfrey felt had been added later. I have never seen the Long copy and this, as well as the bottom left-hand corner (which was 'awanting' in the Cooke copy, and also missing from the Brooks photo) are areas of the Long copy that need close examination. It has always puzzled me how the cartographer, who portrayed Cley church so accurately, could miss out the second tower on Blakeney church. Godfrey Sayers also thought that the waves on the Cooke copy may well have been added and so did not include them in his painting.

## Scale and Accuracy

In Peter Catling's words:<sup>7</sup>

There is a conventional grotesque of a 'Green Man' wearing the mask of a horned goat, carrying dividers tucked into his belt, and holding a pole inscribed with the scale of 40 perches to the inch.

A perch is 5½ yards (one quarter of a 'chain' of 22 yards) and therefore 40 perches (one inch on the map) represents 220 yards. This can be expressed as 8 inches to the mile or as 1 to 7,920. The nearest Ordnance Survey scale is 1 to 10,000 (6.336 inches to the mile). Distances on the 1586 map would therefore be correct if the OS equivalents are only 0.79 as long.

Fixed points common to both maps were identified (church to church, church to Wiveton bridge and corner of Blakeney channel to churches) and measurements taken between them and compared. In all but one instance, the measurements on the 1:10,000 map were between 0.64 and 0.76 shorter than on the 1586 map. The exception was Wiveton church to Wiveton bridge which was only 0.35, showing an exaggeration of this small distance on the 1586 map. Half of the measurements fell between 0.70 and 0.76 which, I feel, shows that the map is more than a pictorial representation: it was fairly accurately surveyed.

## Why was it drawn?

Until recently it was not known for what purpose the map had been drawn. However, notes made from a document in the Duchy of Lancaster papers by Dr Andy Wood of UEA, and drawn to my attention by Dr Hassell Smith, may have solved the mystery and further study of the records may confirm this. The paper concerns a dispute between the Attorney General and Christopher Newgate *et al.* about who had the rights of wreck and salvage on Stiffkey Sands: the Manor of Wighton in the Duchy of Lancaster or the Manor of Cley. It has always seemed strange that a map of the port of Cley should have the port on the right-hand side rather than nearer the middle of the map. Also, on the sands in question, the cartographer had added a wreck being broken up and two figures fighting. Many of the names on the map occur in the evidence given in the document, which would suggest that the map was drawn to help settle the dispute.

## Who drew the map?

I once saw very briefly a reproduction of a map of Mousehold Heath with illustrations around the edge that seemed to be of a very similar style to the 1586 map. When I eventually started looking for it, I found it to be the 16th century map mentioned in the Norfolk Record Office card index as:

A trewe discripcion of Mushold ... heath... Coloured, drawings of churches and other buildings and of a surveyor and dog. Showing the area between Norwich, Ranworth, Sprowston and Burlingham. In Norwich Castle Museum deposited by C.Blackwell Foster 1903.

I have now seen this map in the basement of Castle Museum, for a short while only. It included the drawing of a surveyor (who bore a remarkable similarity to the weary figure trudging home on the 1586 map) and a dog (there are two dogs on the 1586 map). Also around the borders were the names of the four compass points enclosed in a border design that included two dragons. It appeared to be in a remarkably similar style and I think it was by the same cartographer. However, this map was not signed and so we are, as yet, no nearer finding out the name of our cartographer.

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## Notes

- 1 J.J.Hooton, *The Glaven Ports: A Maritime History of Blakeney, Cley and Wiveton in North Norfolk*, Blakeney History Group, 1996.
- 2 B.Cozens-Hardy, 'Cley next the Sea and its Marshes', *Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society*, Vol XII, Part III, 1926-27.
- 3 B.Cozens-Hardy, 'The Maritime Trade of the Port of Blakeney, which included Cley and Wiveton, 1586-1590', *Norfolk Record Society*, Vol VIII, 1936.
- 4 B.Cozens-Hardy, 'The Glaven Valley', *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol XXXIII, Part IV, p 508.
- 5 Peter Catling, *History of Blakeney and its Havens*, Unpublished typescript, pre-1980, (in the Norfolk Studies Library, Norwich), p 122-3.
- 6 Peter Brooks, *Cley: Living with Memories of Greatness*, Poppyland Publishing, 1984.
- 7 Peter Catling, *History of Blakeney and its Havens*, p 123.
- 8 Public Record Office, DL4/28/40 (22 Sept 1586) and DL4/29/41 (29 March 1587).