

1. Parish: Rattlesden

Meaning: Denu = valley (First part obscure could be name Ratel's (Ekwall))

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (- 1972), Lavenham (1972-)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: Thedwastre RD (- 1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 3,299 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a) Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils
 - b) Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils. Slight risk of water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Woodland for 28 pigs, 18 acres meadow, 5 cobs, 12 cattle, 90 sheep, 40 pigs, 11 goats
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig-keeping, horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

1204 Permission granted to impark 20 acres
circa 1724 Small fen said to be enclosed (1844)

7. Settlement:

1958 Settlement possibly built on multi green system. Main development, relatively large is situated at Birds Green and the church. Secondary development at Poystreet Green, Hightown Green, Clopton Green, Top Road, Rising Sun Hill and Workhouse Lane.
Line of Roman Road forms eastern boundary. Rattlesden River meanders across parish W-E. Disused airfield in S.W. corner of parish. All possibly influences on development
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 76, 1801 – 98, 1851 – 270, 1871 – 259,
1901 – 214, 1951 – 228, 1981 – 263

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Gedding, Buxhall, Woolpit and Brettenham. Line of Roman Road.
1844-1912 - Carriers to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
1891 – Carrier to Stowmarket on Thursday
1912 Carrier to Stowmarket on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Rail: 1891 4 miles Elmswell Station. Bury St. Edmunds – Cambridge line opened (1879), unmanned halt (1967)

Air: Rattlesden airfield allotted to U.S.A.F. (1942), returned to R.A.F. (1945). Land returned to agriculture (1960's). Part used By Rattlesden Gliding Group on Saturday and Sundays (1978)

9. Population:

1086 — 60 recorded
1327 — 34 taxpayers paid £1. 17s.
1524 — 68 taxpayers paid £8. 5s. 10d.
1603 — 320 adults
1674 — 121 households
1676 — 270 adults
1801 — 814 inhabitants
1831 — 1,113 inhabitants
1851 — 1,201 inhabitants
1871 — 1,104 inhabitants
1901 — 894 inhabitants
1931 — 770 inhabitants
1951 — 750 inhabitants
1971 — 716 inhabitants
1981 — 759 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Valued £16. 13s. 4d.
1291	Valued £20
1535	Valued £20. 0s. 2 ½ d.
1831	1 Curate. Stipend £106 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £500 p.a. Modus of £775 p.a. in lieu of tithes (1840)
1844	50 acres glebe
1887	42 acres OR 39P glebe. Gross rent of £58. 11s. p.a.
1891	40 acres glebe, house, yearly, rent charge of £850 in lieu of tithes
	Residence built of Woolpit red brick. (1892)
1912	Nett value £240 p.a. 43 acres 3R glebe.

Patrons: 1305/1392 Bishop of Ely, 1395-1484 Crown, 1497-1557 Bishop of Ely, 1573-1603 Crown, 1614-1644 Rivett family, 1671-1675 W.Pooley, 1711-1750 G. Goodday, 1763-1831 Moseley family, 1874 Trustees of J. Barney, 1891 Mr. Wild.

11. Church St Nicholas

(Chancel, N. vestry, nave, clerestory, aisles, S. porch, W. tower with spire)

1086	Church + 24 acres
13 th cent.	Original building with 14/15 th century Addition
Circa 1300	S. doorway with circular window over
14 th cent.	Tower and nave, arcade of 5 bays
15 th cent.	S. porch, clerestory, aisles, and chancel, upper portion of tower and shingled broach spire.
16 th cent	Chancel chapel with room over
1879/83/87	Restoration
1909/1916	Restoration of nave and aisle roofs.

Seats: 150 appropriated, 400 free (1874)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676	5 nonconformists
1704-1835	4 houses set aside for worship
1735	Friends Meeting House and burial ground in use. Meeting house disused (1804)
	Baptist chapel built (1808), rebuilt (1825), enlarged (1892)

*Rattlesden Baptist Church 1813-1963 A short history' in parish folder

13. Manorial:

Rattlesden Hall

981-1020	Lordship given to Abbot of St. Etheldreda by Elfwara, a noble lady
1066/1086	Possible manor of 6 carucates belonging to St. Etheldreda
1204	Permission granted to impark 20 acres
1561	Value £34. 17s. 1d. – Crown property
circa 1578	Links to Stoke by Nayland
circa 1671	William Pooley owns
circa 18 th cent.	Links with Fornahm All Saints (George Goodday) passing To Moseley family (circa 1763) (links with Drinkstone
1843	Links with Rougham (Henry Le Heup Cooksedge)

Note: 16th cent. Woods belong to manor

Sub Manors:

Woodhall

13 th cent.	Links with Beyton (Roger de Rattlesden held of Hugh de Plaiz
1342	Richard Buk owns
1486	Links with several other Suffolk manors (Thomas Spring)
1561	Absorbed by main manor (James Rivett)
19 th cent.	Sir Joshua Ricketts owns
19 th cent.	Col. Windsor Parker owns

Rattlesden Castle/Thurmodes

13 th cent.	Hubert Thurmod held 4 th part of Knights fee of Bishop of Ely.
1428	Robert Marshant owns
circa 1491	Links with Lt. Waldingfield, Stoke by Nayland, Polstead, Gedding and Gt. Finborough (Sir Robert Chamberlain)
1548	Links with Debenham and Stonham Parva (John Clarke/Cheke)
1604	Philip Tyse/William Blake own
1910	Links with Gedding (Arthur Wakerley)

Clopton Hall

1086	Estate held by Peter under Abbot of St. Edmunds
1517	Inquis p.m. of John Broughton
1539	John, Lord Russell owns
1540	Linked to Tuddenham (John Smyth)
1616	William Fiske owns
1805	Adam Chadwick owns
1833	Absorbed by Woodhall (William Parker)

Stanham's/Stonham's

1205 John de Stonham held free tenement.
15th cent. Absorbed by Clopton Hall (John Broughton held manor valued 5 marks of Abbot of St. Edmunds) (d. 1489)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £4,607 rental value
1891 £3,170 rateable value
1912 £3,504 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Land sub-divided, soil being mostly freehold
1891 -ditto-
1912 D. Parker principal landowner

17. Resident gentry:

1679 J. Fisk and J. Groome
1854 Windsor Parker, High Sheriff
1912 Rev. J.R. Olorenshaw, B.A., Duncan Parker, J.P.,
Windsor Duncan Parker

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 1 husbandman, 1 yeoman, 1 smith
1550-1599 2 husbandmen, 5 yeomen, 1 wood setter, 1 peddar*, 1 wheelwright, 2 tailors, 1 merer, 1 miller, 1 tanner, 1 carpenter, 1 cloth maker, 1 clerk, 1 glover, 1 fuller
1600-1649 1 husbandman, 1 shearmen*, 21 yeomen, 2 weavers, 1 tailor, 1 merer, 2 knackers, 1 rector, 1 cooper, 1 clerk
1650-1699 4 husbandmen, 21 yeomen, 3 hoop makers, 1 thatcher, 1 wheelwright, 1 tailor, 2 millers, 1 grocer, 1 clothier/yeoman, 1 tanner, 3 spinsters, 1 labourer, 1 inn holder, 1 clothier, 1 cooper, 1 lath maker, 1 linen weaver, 1 glover, 1 say weaver, 1 bricklayer
1844 2 teachers, wheelwright, butcher, beerhousekeeper, collar/harness maker, tailor/drapery, 2 victuallers, corn miller, 2 bakers, 3 blacksmiths, 4 boot/shoemakers, 4 bricklayers, 3 joiners, 32 farmers, 3 maltsters, 2 painters/plumbers/glaziers, 7 shopkeepers, 3 carriers
1912 Sub-postmaster, school master and mistress, carrier, 18 farmers, 2 blacksmiths, maltster, 2 threshing machine owners, 2 publicans, shoemaker, 3 shopkeepers, builder, beer retailer/bootmaker, miller (Roller mills), butcher/grocer, 3 beer retailers, saddler, gamekeeper,

carpenter/wheelwright/building, baker, 2 farm bailiffs,
poultry dealer

*pedder = a maker of panniers/baskets or a pedlar

shearman = one who cuts woollen cloth

19. Education:

1818 1 day and Sunday school endowed by Rev. R. Mosely for Drinkstone and Rattlesden (44-60 attend)
1616-1620 School held in Rectory
1633 1 endowed school (48 attend)
3 daily schools (55 attend), 1 Sunday school (established Church) (125 attend), 1 Sunday school (Baptist) (71 attend)
1844 National school (160 attend daily, 240 Sunday scholars)
Received £16 p.a. from Moseleys charity
National school built (1872) (average attendance 184)
Enlarged (1897) average attendance (1912) 155.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£394. 0s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£394. 18s.	spent on poor relief
1818	£911. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£1,188. 18s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£1,140. 14s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£1,177. 1s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Poors Land: 1711 7 acres given for poor by William Clopton let at £10 p.a. (1840) Rents distributed among poor.

Church Estate: 1840 Tenement and yard appropriated to use of church, occupied by parish clerk at rent of £3 p.a. retained as part of his salary.

Moseley's Gift: 1804 by will of Richard Moseley. Bequest of £700. Dividends applied to support of Sunday school and weekly day school for Drinkstone and Rattlesden.

22. Other institutions:

1471 Guilds of St. Margaret, St. John Baptist and St. Trinity
1776 Workhouse – 26 inmates – situated in thatched building N.E. of Five Bells Inn. Accounts date from 1741. Sold by auction (1838)
1844 Friendly Society. Lodge of Odd Fellows

1891	Police officer listed
1894	'Brotherly Love' Friendly Society
circa 1891	Coal and Clothing Clubs, Mens Guild
circa 1900	Hill Farm known as old workhouse (derives from use as Infirmary for smallpox victims)

23. Recreation:

1844-1912	Five Bells and The Half Moon public houses
1844	1 beerhouse
1891	3 beerhouses
1912	4 beer retailers
1976	Gliding Group formed, used disused airfield

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'Notes on the Church and Parish of Rattlesden' by Rev. J.R. Olorenshaw (1900) contains various accounts and Parish Register transcripts

Old manor map was held at Clopton Hall (circa 1900), dated from 16th century. The map marked houses, cottages, other buildings, roads, lanes and ponds.

Coffin and skeleton found in building of new rectory (1892), believed to be bones of Robert Bumpstead who died (1780) in debt. Buried in haste by friends to avoid seizure by his creditors. Reinterred in churchyard.

Churchwardens Accounts (1783) – repairing stokes £0. 7s. 6d. probably situated in Top Street by the Almshouses.

Parochial Magazine begun (1892)

Ancient Whalebone arch across the river at Whalebone Cottage (1980)

Rattlesden Mill, built (mid 1800's) stands of site of old smock mill, land also contain derelict mill tower (1974)

Memorial to WWII airmen to be erected at Hightown Green, unveiled (1984)

Dwelling house called 'St. Margarets Priory' at Hightown Green, believed to date from (1380)

Clopton Hall: believed to be a guest house belonging to Abbey of St. Edmunds. Monks reputedly dug 4 fish ponds to south of Hall. Oldest portion of building dates from (1681) with projecting wings. Timber framing evident to rear. Additions made in (1834 and 1870). Hall requisitioned during 1939-54 war. Houses Divisional Headquarters (1940) Surrounded by woods and plantations. Some well stocked fishponds, park and grounds.

Old Moot House: Hall house built (circa 1430). Believed originally to be meeting house (historical note re. architecture in parish folder)

Permission granted to Bishop of Ely to enclose 20 acres for park (1204) if he is able to purchase same (Copinger)

5 cases of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest (1 person apprehended) (1844)

River here at one time said to have been navigable. Stone for building of Bury St. Edmunds Abbey said to have been brought by water to this point

Archaeological Sites:

Church of St. Nicholas (CRN 2024)

Med. moated site (CRN 6297, 6298)

Moat and fishponds (CRN 6301)

Length Roman Road (CRN 6304), possibly length of Peddars Way (CRN 6307/08)

Moat and possible fish ponds (CRN 6305)

Misc. moat (CRN 6306)

Stray finds:

Med. pottery (CRN 6299, 6311)

Med. figurine (CRN 6300)

Med. lead seal (CRN 6302)

Neo. flint axe (CRN 6303)

I.A. bronze harness (CRN 6310)