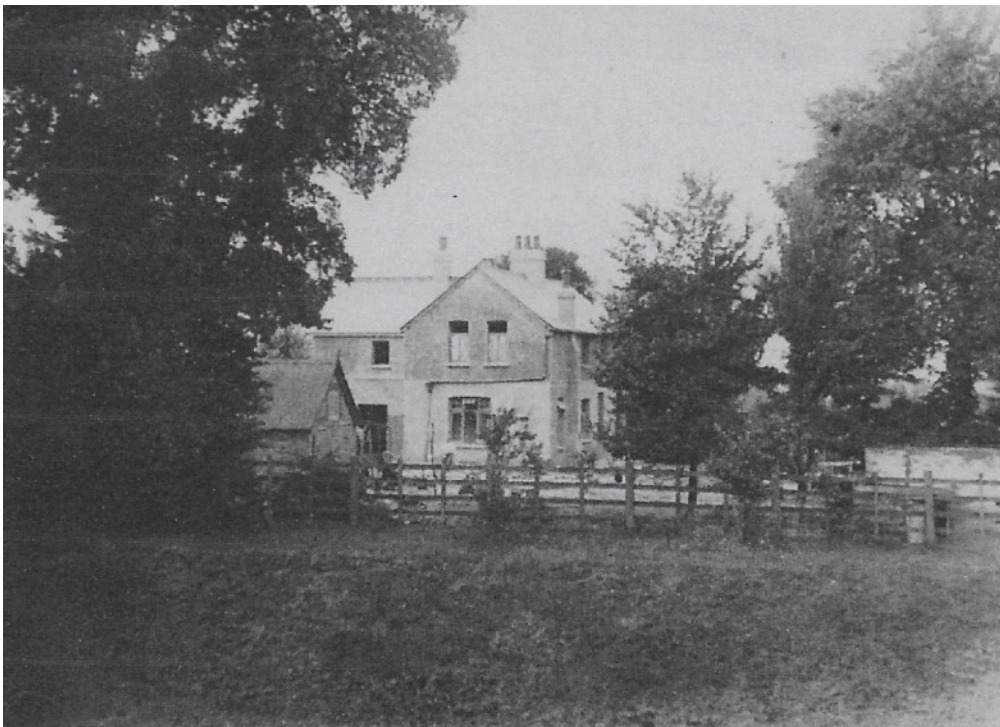




# BASILDON HALL



*Pre – 1920*



*Registered Charily No. 1176037*

*Registered address: The Green Centre, Wat Tyler Park. Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea SS16 4UH*

## Basildon Hall

Basildon appeared in the Domesday book compiled in 1086, appearing under the entry for the Hundred of Barstable (a hundred being a pre-conquest land division of Saxon Times).

### Domesday Entry – 1086

#### (Translation)

Berdestapla (Barstable) which was held by a freeman as 5 ½ hides (hide-120 acres) and 30 acres is held of the Bishop (Odo of Bayeux) by Ralph the son of Tuold. And there are 30 acres of wood (land) and pasture for 100 sheep. Then (1066) as now ploughs (8 oxen per plough) on the desmesne and 2 belonging to the men. There are 6 villeins and 11 borders. It was then worth 4 pounds, now 100 shillings. There were then in the desmesne 2 rounceys (horses), 5 beasts (non-ploughing oxen), 18 swine and 36 sheep, now 1 rouncey, 9 beasts 24 swine and 80 sheep.

You can see from fig. 1, that Barstable, is bordered on the east by Rochford; on the north by Chelmsford; on the north-west by Ongar; on the west by Chafford. It is made up of 35 parishes.

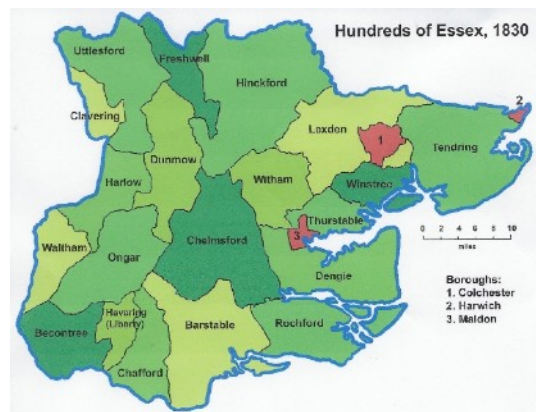
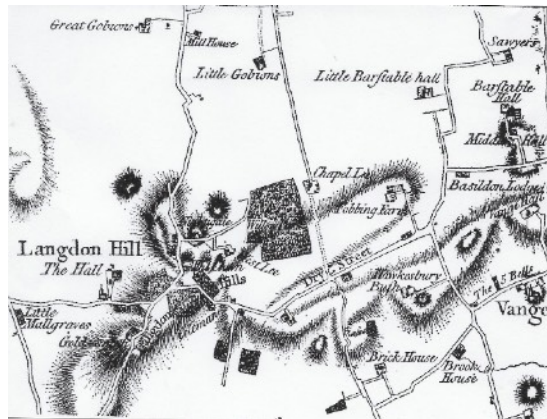


Fig.1

Morant, writing in 1768 referred to the Manor of Berdestaple with the Hall being very important as its name suggesting a meeting place – by a pole-, meaning this Moating site was where important meetings were held in Saxon times.

Fig.2 map is from the Chapman & Andre map of Essex (1777) showing the location of Barstable Hall and Little Barstable Hall. Location of Little Barstable

Hall is now under the later known as (Basildon) Cottage.



Town Centre was B a r s t a b l e

Fig.2

In 1886 fifteen acres of the estate was sold to the London Tilbury & Southend Railway Company to enable them to complete the Fenchurch Street to Southend line.

Over the centuries the Hall and Estate had numerous owners, not all actually lived there. The Hall itself being rebuilt/altered several times. It would appear that Herman Gleissner the last owner purchased the Hall sometime just before the declaration of the First World War and continued to run the farm until 1937 other than for a short period when he was interned. He continued to own the farm and rent it out.

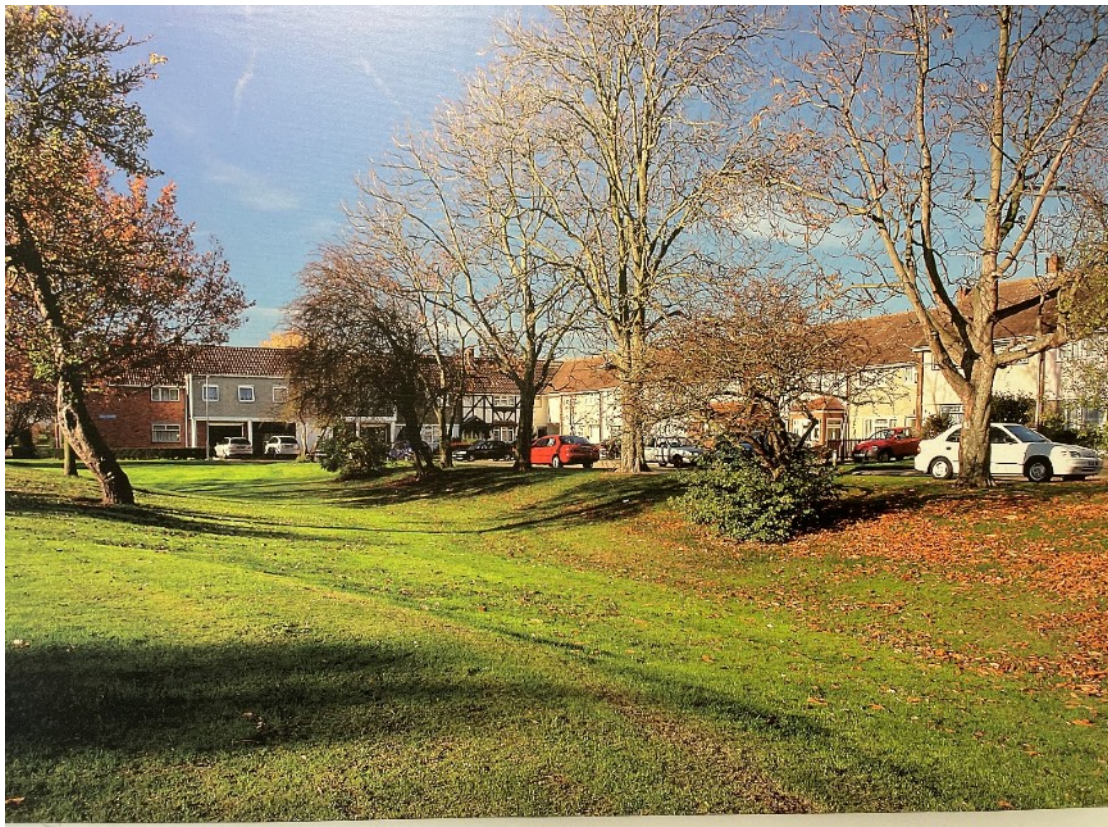
Facilities were similar to those that generations had contended with, no main drainage, water collected from five wells on the land, though a hand pump was connected to one of the wells so that water could be pumped into the kitchen sink. Lighting was by candles, oil and tilly lamps. The oven was heated by a fire.

The last family, kept pigs, goats, cows, chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits and had cats, dogs and a horse. Eggs were collected packed in boxes and sent away to a packing station for checking, they were only paid if the eggs were in perfect condition. Occasionally animals would be taken to Auction to be sold. During the Second World War a eleven acre field was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture and wheat was grown.

There was also a large orchard which contained apple, plum, pear, cherry, quince.

Like many old Halls there were rumours that it was haunted. There is a story that when an earlier Hall before it was destroyed by fire a horse got inside and walked up the stairs, this started the rumour that the building was haunted. Also, there is the story of the Lady in a Red Cloak. It is understood that sometime in the early 1800s, the hall had been an inn and that a worker had put a candle into a bottle which contained a small amount of spirit. He fell asleep and as the candle burnt down, it fell down into the bottle, igniting the spirit and causing an explosion. The house caught fire and a lady died. The last inhabitants believed things would mysteriously go missing only to reappear months or even years later in its correct place. There was one occasion when the family were settling down, their daughter for the night into her cot, they could not find her bottle. They hunted high and low but could not find it at all. The baby suddenly stopped crying and there was the ghost of the lady looking over her and on the floor was the small bottle which was not there a few moments earlier.

The site is currently registered as a historical Scheduled Monument.



*Fig.3*



*Fig.4 – Pre 1950*



## Appendix 1

### Herman Alwin Gleissner



Herman Alwin  
Gleissner.

At the time of the First World War German phobia soon became a national obsession and any German was automatically deemed to be a spy. Because of all this scaremongering on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 the government introduced the Aliens Registration Act. The act required all those of enemy nationality to travel with a permit and register at the local police station. It was not long before internment was introduced.

Herman Alwin Gleissner was born in Germany on 26 September 1878 and came to England sometime between 1901 and 1908. The 1911 census has him living with his wife Bertha at Nelson House, Fairhouse Estate, Vange. He had married Bertha Amalie Weitz, a widow who was nine years older at the parish church. St John's the Baptist, Hoxton, Hackney on 5 January 1908. At the time of the marriage and the census, his occupation is recorded as being that of a carpenter. At some date after his marriage, he moved to Vange and on the declaration of war it would appear that he owned and was living at Basildon Hall. He must have had farming in his blood because his father back in Germany was a farmer. He continued to farm at the Hall until 1937 when he moved to Hill Road. He still owned the property and he rented it out.

**At the outbreak of war, he was interned at Frimley Internment Camp in Suffolk** for the duration of the war returning to Basildon Hall in 1919. In his absence the house was ransacked so it would appear that Bertha either went with him or moved elsewhere for the time being. Following his return in September 1919 he was issued with a new identity card which states that he had been in the German army from October 1898 to September 1900 and had reached the rank of corporal.

He died on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1956 and a newspaper report following his death stated that the reason he had stayed in England is because he missed his ship at the London Docks.

Conditions in the internment camps in Britain in the First World War were far from good so it is a little surprising that he returned to Basildon and settled into

the community. He became a well-respected member of it and when the New Town of Basildon was mooted, he helped to form the Basildon branch of the Residents' Protection Society and for five years he was chairman of the branch and member of the Association's Executive Council. He was also Vice-President of the St Alban's Mission Boys' Club and later became a member of the Basildon branch of the Conservative Association. The newspaper report stated 'Basildon lost an old pioneer on Saturday but the story of his struggle through life without giving in is a lesson to us all.'

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## **Appendix 2**

The following advert appeared in the Southend Standard and Essex Weekly Advertiser on Thursday 12 September 1907.

### **Mr Robert Matthews**

Is instructed to sell by Public Auction, at Railway Hotel, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1907 at 6.30 o' clock precisely, **THE CHARMING COUNTRY RESIDENCE** known as **BASILDON HALL. BASILDON, ESSEX.**

Having extensive residential accommodation; together with greenhouses and large range of stabling; at present in the occupation of the owner, but of a rental value of £75 per annum.

The property may be viewed previous to the sale by cards to view, to be obtained of the Auctioneer.

**I wonder if this is when Herman Alwin Gleissner purchased the hall.**

## **Appendix 3**

### **Maria Ryan**

Back in 2017 we received the following email from Maria:

Greetings to the members of Basildon Historical Society. I am doing some work on my family history. My great grandfather, Edward Clark, came to Australia in 1847. His family lived at Basildon Hall which I understand was destroyed in World War 2 and demolished in 1958. It is named on a 1950 map of Basildon before the new town was built. It was near Church Road. Edward was baptised

in Holy Cross Church. The moat is shown on the Heritage listing. I understand it is just a ditch today. Edward's mother and siblings are listed at Baidon Hall in the 1851 census. Her name was Honour Clark and she is described as a 'widow' and a farmer of 160 acres employing 3 labourers. She was born at Rettenden, Essex. One of her sons was born in Vange and one her daughters in Basildon. I was wondering if the Society had access to any old photos of the Hall, even if it is of the ruins before they were demolished. I can't find any online. I would appreciate any information you might have or any contacts that you could recommend to help me further my research, I now live in Melbourne, Australia.

**We sent all the information we had on Basildon Hall at the time, and Maria replied:**

Thank you so much for the two images attached. It is amazing to see a place, so different from Australia, where your great grandfather grew up. He was only 16 or 17 when he came to Australia in 1847, was smart enough to realise that **the** main money to be made from gold rushes was not in mining but in providing materials for miners and then was able to take advantage of the beginnings of the land grants to very ordinary people in the 1860s. Young men and women in that age must have had extraordinary courage to set off to the other side of the world knowing they would never see family or home again.



*Edward Clark*



## Appendix 4

The tithe map of 1841 shows Basildon Hall with its moat and fields around it and was owned by a Thomas Morrin but was occupied by George Clark.

Documents at the E.R.O. lists a few of its previous owners:

- The will of John Smith who died May 1797 left the estate to his sons Henry and Charles.
- Followed by H.J.Townsend and Charlotte Townsend (1826-1831) – Followed by Attwell Lake and Edward Lawford.
- Edward lawford put the estate up for Auction on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1833 and Thomas Morrin bought it for £6,500 (170 acres 2 roods 10 perches)
- Thomas left it David Morrin on his death in November 1842 who sold 15 acres of the estate in 1886 to the London Tilbury Southend Railway Company.
- David died on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1887 and left the estate to his friend Augustus Montague Haines who put it up for Auction on 25 August 1887.
- In 1902 the estate was sold to William Drury Wayne

The censuses for 1841-1901 shows who was occupying the hall:

- 1841 – George Clark – Farmer
- 1851 – Honor Clark – Farmer of 160 acres
- 1861 - William Skipworth – Farmer of 163 acres
- 1871– Sarah Skipworth – Farmer of 174 acres
- 1881 – William H. Swann – Ag Labourer
- 1891 – Henry Swann – Ag Labourer
- 1901 – Jess Barbridge – Farm Labourer.

## Appendix 5

The following is extract from Dawn Derricks (nee Andrews) and her families' memories of living at Basildon Hall during the 1940/50s just prior to its demolition: -

This photograph of Basildon Hall was taken in the winter of 1955 when my Mum had lived there for 13 years. Prior to this, she had lived with her parents, Fred and May Hayward, older sister Rosemary and younger brother Fred in Romford.



My grandparents had always had the dream of owning a small holding, so as well as working at Roneo Neopost in Romford, my granddad also took extra jobs of peper rounds before work and watch repairs after in order to save extra money. By chance, they found advertised in either “Smallholder” or “The Farmers Weekly” – “Basildon Hall – smallholding for rent”. They moved in the late summer of 1942 to Basildon Hall – ‘a lonely place in open fields away from Church Road’.

A nearby neighbour who owned a small holding in Vange told the family she remembers the house being ransacked while Mr Gleissner was at Frimley Internment Camp. She recalls how after the war she and her sisters would take eggs to Basildon Hall for Mr Gleissner to take to market as he was the only person around with a motor vehicle. His wife Bertha in broken English would say how the girls has “stretched2 meaning grown!

My Mum – Daphne- has many memories of her home as she lived there from the age of 8 until they moved in 1956 when Basildon Hall had been compulsory purchased by Basildon Corporation as part of its scheme for the new town. By then she had married and my sister was born. Mum and Dad lived in three

rooms of the house until they moved into new property about half mile away with electric lights and running water. It was candles and wells before!

When Daphne first moved into Basildon Hall the first impressions were not very good as the elderly lady who lived there previously had kept chickens in the front room and the floor was still covered in straw and chicken droppings. We were happy to use the front room, once it had been swept, as a playroom and we were allowed to ride our bikes in there.

There were orchards at the back of the house and had been well kept by Mr Gleissner himself as he was a keen gardener. He would often come up to see us and would tell the children the names of the plants that were growing in the garden he had planted. There were all types of trees, apple, plum, pear, cherry, quince and a special peach and plum tree he had crossed himself. Unfortunately, over the years we lived there, the orchard was not kept to his standard.

The living room had a large fireplace that was tiled. It had small cupboards with stained glass doors set in at the sides. A hand pump was connected to one of the five wells we had on the land, so we were able to pump the water into the kitchen sink. Two wells were considered pure enough for us to drink with the other three for the animals. In the corner of the kitchen was there Kitchener which had an oven at one side with two hot plates and on the other side was the fire that heated it. The fire had a square grille on the top that we used to put the kettle or pots on to boil so they would get very black bases from the flames. Mum also had a trivet with a base that we used to hang over the fire in the living room to boil a kettle on or to keep things warm. Lighting was by candles, oil and tilly lamps. On the living room ceiling was a huge hook that Mr Gleissner used to have a chandelier hanging from, but we used to hang a larger tilly lamp from it.

The hall had some bomb damage with cracked ceilings and one time the bedroom ceiling fell down on top of Rosemary and I. It was a very thick plaster with little stones in it. Mr Gleissner got the bomb damage people to repair it. They also replaced the living room ceiling. There was a sun roof over the top of the conservatory which we used to use when we first moved in. We would step out of the bedroom window onto it, but it was unsafe so Dad wouldn't let us use it after a while.

In the small top windows of one of the rooms, were galleon type ships of coloured glass which made lovely patterns on the floor when the sun shone through them. Both the porch and the conservatory had lots of little panes of coloured glass at the top of the windows. The floor of the conservatory was made of large flagstones.

In the winter, the moat would often freeze over for weeks. It would be thick ice, dad would check it was safe first, and then we children would go slipping and sliding on it.

We kept pigs, goats, cows, chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, cats, dogs, and a horse. We would collect all the eggs and pack them in boxes. A man from the Packing Station would come and collect them for checking. We were only paid for spotless eggs in perfect condition. It was my job after school to turn the eggs in the 'chick breeder'. Each egg had an **X** pencilled on one side and an **O** on the other and I also sprinkled them with water.

When it was time to take any of animals to market, some-one would call and taken for us. Dad occasionally took time off from work to take them to Auction in a trailer fitted to the back of our car. He was still working at Roneo using a motorbike to travel to Romford, because he was still working it left Mum to do most of the farm work and designate each of the children with jobs.

Fred and I went to Vange School, while Rosemary went to Craylands Girls School. On numerous occasions, either on our way to or from the bus stop to be picked up by Campbell's Bus we had to dive into a ditch to avoid tracer bullets from German aircraft. When it was safe, we would climb out and pick the empty shells off the road.

Official would come to the school and all the children who lived on smallholdings were taken to various farms to help with either fruit picking or potato picking for no pay. I dislike this as we had to work hard on our own farms.

One harvest time towards the end of the war, two German POEs (Fritz and Hans) were assigned to help us. We grew lots of different vegetables – potatoes, carrots, peas, broad beans, beetroot, and kohlrabi, and for the animals – mangles. Brother Fred remembers watching in amazement when Fritz and Hans were collected after working in the fields all day. A truck would arrive with lots of other men already in it who had been working at other farms. The tailgate would be lowered and Fritz and Hans would climb up, then

the squaddie guarding them would hand them his rifle while the others would help him up, then they would give the rifle back. He always wondered if one day they would shoot him.

**(It is most likely that Fritz and Hans came from the local POW camp at Langdon Hills – Camp 266)**

A field we called 11-acre field was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture at the start of the war and wheat was grown there looked after by their own workers.

At the end of the war when it became possible for people to travel around more freely – Mum advertised in ‘The Daltons Weekly’ – “Short breaks in the countryside”. We used four of the eleven rooms in Basildon Hall for guests. They were always provided with a cooked breakfast and e even had a couple from Canada.

Mum sometimes saw the ghost of a lady in a red cloak, though we never did. We had been told that in the early 1800’s, Basildon Hall had been an inn and that a worker there had put a candle into a bottle which still contained a small amount of spirit. He fell asleep and as the candle burnt down it fell down into the bottle, igniting the spirit and causing an explosion. The house caught fire and a lady died. Things then started mysteriously disappear and only reappear months or even years later in their correct place.

One evening as I was settling Cherry – my daughter – into her cot for the night, I was unable to find the little dankly feed bottle she had to pacify her. We all hunted high and low, but could not find it at all. I went out of the room to look elsewhere. She suddenly stopped crying and Mum saw the ghost of the lady was looking over her. Shen then noticed the dankly feed bottle just sitting on the floor by the cot when it most certainly had not been there a few moments earlier.

It was about 1946/47 that Mum and Dad began to enquire about buying Basildon Hall from Mr. Gleissner. Everything was settled and they were just about to sign the papers, when Dad received a telegram from his solicitor not to go ahead as he had heard plans that here were plans to build a new town of Basildon. I can remember going up to my room and opening the window to look out on the wonderful trees full of blossom, on the shimmering moat and everything, thinking to myself in bewilderment – **how can all this possibly go?**

Basildon Hall was demolished in early 1960 and the moat drained in late 1961. New houses were built on the surrounding fields, but the site of the house was left as a grassed area. In recent years, part of the grassed moat has been cleared and once again water has drained in to it.

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## Appendix 6

### Re: - Basildon-A Pictorial History by Jessie K Payne (1981)

Basildon or Barstable Hall The house has been demolished and the moat was drained in October 1961. The dry moat can still be seen to the south of the housing at East Thorpe and Crickett Hill. The New Town centre has been built not far from this, the old Barstable Manor, which occupied an almost central position in the hundred to which it gave its name. The hundred was the Saxon division of a shire or county and its meeting place was the hundred moot. The Hall was probably the meeting place of the Barstable moot. 'Stapol' means post or pillar and suggests a meeting place and 'Bar' may either represent a personal name or the description of the post. (*P.H.Reaney, Place Names of Essex*). The Sandells were lords of the manor until 1605 when John Lake\* of North Benfleet, who had married Elizabeth Sandell about 1589, bought it for £1,121 (*W.G.Davis Ancestry of Bethia Harris 1748-1833*).



*\*John Lake is an ancestor Hanna Lake whose Blue Plaque was erected in March 2023 at Wickford Library.*



## Appendix 7

### Re: - When Basildon was farms and fields by Jessie K Payne (1987)

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Basildon Farmers usually had families of six or more children. Basildon church registers record the baptism of members of the Jerry Family, who lived at the moated manor house of Basildon Hall. The house has gone but until 90 years ago it was a loney place in open fields away from Church Road.

On 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1777, Elizabeth, daughter of Erasmus and Elizabeth Jerry, was baptised On 14<sup>th</sup> July, 1778, William, son of William and Anne Jerry, was baptised, two days later her was buried.

There is a long entry in one of the church registers about the family –

*January 22, 1772, William of William and Ann Jerry, of Basildon born and pbptised there. August 30, 1779, Erasmus Jerry was born at Hirton in Suffol k and privately baptised there. Ann Jerry born at Basildon, April 23, 1781, and privately baptised there. May 6, 1781. W.P. curate John Jerry born October 2 1784, at Fobbing and privatley baptised there the same year: Mary Jerry born December 21, 1787, at Fobbing and privatley baptised there, these four were fully christened January 22, 1792 at Basildon Chapel and Sarah, daughter of the above Willim and Ann born November 2, 1791, was fully baptised the same time by me, William Potter, curate.*

Basildon Hall at the same time sheltered other families. John Carter, an Irish labourer, died ther in October, 1779. On 11<sup>th</sup> march 1787, Thomas son of

Thomas and Rebecca Claxon, 'Lodgers of Basildon Hall', was baptised. Mary daughter of William and Mary Hearne of Basildon Hall, was baptised 4 June 1786. The Hearnes probably farmed there, while the Jerrys were at Fobbing or in Suffolk.

There is a story that when the old Basildon Hall (not the most recent building) was derelict before it was destroyed by fire, a horse got inside and walked up the stairs, staring a rumour that the house was haunted.

## **Appendix 8**

### **Re: -Basildon Heritage Archive Files. - EAST THORPE MOAT**

East Thorpe pond is the remains of a moat that once surrounded Barstable Hall. Moats are a relic from the days when they were a defence against marauding Danes and wild beasts.

The moat was drained in October 1961 when the house was demolished to make way for the present housing estate. At the time, the house and much of the land surrounding it was owned and farmed by the Moss family.

Barstable Manor is mentioned in the Domesday Survey as one of the three manors of Basildon in the Barstable Hundred. The three manors being: -

BELESDUNAM – ALSO KNOWN AS Botelers or Moat Farm in recent years and south of Holy Cross Church.

BERLESDUNA - Also known as Battleswick but the exact site unknown although it was near the church too.

BERDESTAPLA - Also known as Barstable.

Barstable Hall was probably the most important manor as its name suggests a meeting place (by a pole) and this meant the Moot site where important meetings held in Saxon times. Basildon was once the centre of Barstable Hundred and Barstable Hall was built on what was traditionally believed to be the centre of this once large township.

At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) the manor was owned by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, the half brother of the Conqueror. He had assisted William at the Battle of Hastings and was awarded with 216 lordships, Barstable being one of them. The next recorded owner was Edward III and after his reign, very often the Lord of the Manor also held the Hundred on behalf of the King.



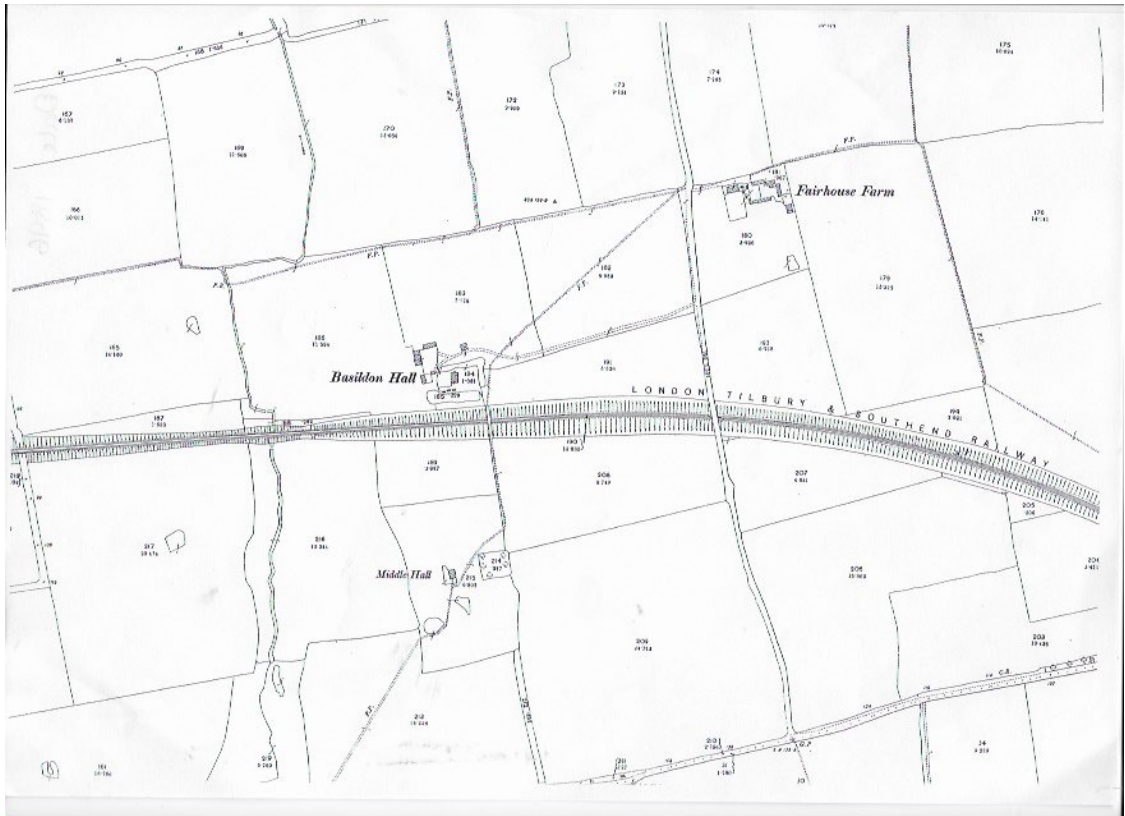
From 1290 the Waldene family held the manor for Edmund of Woodstaocck, the Earl of Kent, who held the Hundred for the King until he was beheaded on March 19<sup>th</sup> 1330. Then Humfrey de Walden owned a half share with Saykinda de Barstable under Roger de Mortimer, Earl of March until his death in 1399. Next, John Walden and his wife Elizabeth held it until his death in 1401, when it went to his son Sir Alexander Walden who died in 1408. In 1481 King Henry V granted to Thomas Breyngnam, Bealstaple Hall with rights and attributions. Whether any public buildings was ther is unknown. John Walden died in 1419 without children so was succeeded by his sisters, Catherine, wife of John Barle jun. and Margaret, wife of Henry Langley. Their son, Henry Langley and his wife Catherin (who died October 18<sup>th</sup> 1511) left it to their only daughter, Catherine who was born in 1475 and married to John Marshall. She held the maor at a rent of six shillings a year. On her death in 1517 and her husband's on 19<sup>th</sup> Frebruary 1520, their two daughters became co-heirs.They were Elianor, wife of Henry Cutt, son of Sir John Cutt of Thaxted and Mary, of John Cutt, son of Richard Cutt. They held it under the same tenurte of six shillingas their mother. Elianor died 20<sup>th</sup> June 1537 and her husband on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1573.

Their son and heir Henry, was afterwards knighted and died 12<sup>th</sup> December 1603 without children. Mary died 14<sup>th</sup> July 1521, and her son Peter on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1547.leaving the estate to his son Richard. On his death on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1607, his share went to his brother William who was then 46.

Adfter the Cutts, the manor belonged to Colemans of Isleworth and then to Charles Brown in 1772. At that time (1772) it was noted that "present manor house of Barstable Hall is a forlorn weather beaten edifice on a rising ground, deserted for another house in a lower situation with good water where the farmer now dwells".

This could have been Little Barstable Hall, where Hot Water House stood until being demolished to make way for the town centre. The Sandell family were known to have held Little Barstabl Hall in 1562.

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**Appendix 9**

## ★ The end of a nuisance ★



Work on draining the Basildon Hall moat at East Thorpe, Barstable, is well advanced.

### Old moat and its smells are going Landscaped area in its place

NO more swarms of mosquitoes, no more mud-caked children, no more nasty smells. That is what residents in the East Thorpe-Clickett Hill area of the New Town are looking forward to now that the old Basildon Hall moat is being cleaned and drained.

The moat, which is adjacent to the Fenchurch Street-Shoehury railway line at East Thorpe, Barstable, has been the cause of complaints in recent years. Now Basildon Development Corporation are turning the eyesore into an attractive landscaped area.

In the past it was suggested there would be difficulty in draining the moat, but now this object has almost been achieved and work on the landscaping is going ahead.

A Corporation spokesman said, "What is being done is to abate a rather serious nuisance. In the past a considerable amount of rubbish and other stuff has been dumped in the moat.

"When the draining is completed a dry moat will be a feature of the landscaping in this area. The sides of the moat are being bulldozed to make it shallower and grass will be planted there.

"The central area where Basildon Hall once stood is also being attended to. Old wells and cess pools are being filled in and this area will be grassed. Eventually the site will become an amenity to this part of the Barstable Neighbourhood."

#### SIGNS OF RELIEF

Local residents are heaving sighs of relief as the work pro-

gresses. For many of them the moat has been a source of annoyance, discomfort and worry for a number of years.

The moat has been the breeding ground for mosquitoes. One hot summer a few years ago swarms of the insects invaded neighbouring homes. Windows had to be kept closed and one family slept under mosquito nets.

The moat, which at times became smelly, also attracted local children. They climbed trees overhanging it and punted about the water on a makeshift raft. Mothers were constantly worried that there would be an accident.

Said one East Thorpe mother this week, "This is one of the best things that could have happened. The moat has for a long time worried us. It has been an eyesore and a danger to our children."

The moat once stood in open fields and surrounded the timber-built Basildon Hall which was demolished several years ago. Now it is in the centre of a heavily-populated area.

#### DUTY CHEMIST IN NEW TOWN

French and Moon, 59, Southernhay, Basildon, will be the duty chemists in the New Town for the week beginning Sunday. They will be open that day from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and every weeknight from 6 to 7 p.m. (except early closing day and Sunday).

## R.P.A. pioneer dies at 78

**BASILDON** lost one of its old residents on Saturday when Mr. Alwin Gleissner, of Brownlow Green, collapsed and died.

German-born, Mr. Gleissner, who was 78, came to live in Basildon before the First World War. He farmed at Basildon Hall, recently taken over by Basildon Development Corporation, until about 1937, when he moved to Hill Road.

He was one of the first Vice-Presidents of the St. Alban's Mission Boys' Club, which was formed in 1933.

When the New Town was first mooted, Mr. Gleissner helped to form Basildon branch of the Residents' Protection Association, and was one of its keenest workers.

For five years he was Chairman of the branch and later President. He was a member of the Association's Executive Council, and an ardent worker in support of the branch's candidates for the Urban District Council elections.

Mr. Gleissner was also a member of Basildon branch of the Conservative Association. He leaves a widow.

## Pioneer fighter

THE life of Mr. Alwin Gleissner, one of Basildon's pioneer residents, who died suddenly on Saturday, is a story of struggle to success. Mr. T. Walls, himself an old Basildonian, from Hoberpot Lane, told me that Mr. Gleissner's life in England started at an early age when he missed the ship on which he was serving at London Dock.

He had some rough times in following years as he struggled on with odd jobs in London, but he eventually settled in Basildon, where his luck seemed to change.

Basildon lost an old pioneer on Saturday, but the story of his struggle through life without giving in is a lesson to us all.

## MANOR WAS OWNED BY A KING'S SON

**SURROUNDED BY East Thorpe, Clickett Hill and Rayside in the New Town is a dry moat, which until a few years ago was still filled with water. This moat from the days when moats were a defence against marauding Danes and wild beasts is the last link with the manor of Little Barstable or Basildon Hall.**

by **J. K. PAYNE**

In the Middle Ages knights had to be found to guard the manor but later this service was discontinued for a money payment. This manor had to be kept in lieu of castle guard at Rochester Castle on the highway to Kent.

On Tuesday Barstable Manor was in the possession of the Bishop of Bayeux. Henry Walden held it until a son of Edward I, Edward of Woodstock, Earl of Hereford, who was beheaded in 1330 and from 1339 to 1410 transferred to the Walden family.

William Sandell, who died in 1520, possessed Little Barstable Manor which was devalued to be worth £20 and was held by Anthony Walden. Walden's son held the manor until 1520 when John Lake, of West Beccles, who had married Elizabeth Sandell, bought it for £100. He was then succeeded by Hugh Wood, John Lake left Little Barstable or Basildon Manor to his wife for life. His son was the manor to Richard

Chester, of Leigh, in June, 1622.

In the 15th Century the Jerry family lived there. The baptisms of seven of their children are recorded in Basildon registers, one was a private baptism.

Irish labourers came to do harvest work, etc. in the 18th Century, and one, John Carter, died at Basildon Hall on 1773.

In 1811 John Woodard lived at Basildon Hall and his fifth son, Nathaniel, was born there that year. He was educated privately and after being to Oxford was ordained. He was concerned at the lack of good schools for the middle classes and thought of public school education on Church lines. As a result of his work a society was founded to bring his ideas into being. Schools were founded, Lancing College, near Shoreham, Sussex, being one of them, and he is buried in its beautiful chapel.

## HE SAILED ROUND HAUNTED HOUSE MOAT IN A TUB!

IN the late 18th Century Basildon farmers usually had families of six or more children at least. Basildon church registers record the baptisms of members of the Jerry family, who lived in the moated manor house of Basildon Hall. The house has been demolished and the moat, now drained, is surrounded by East Thorpe, Clickett Hill and Rayside. Until about 50 years ago it was a lonely place in open fields away from Church Road.

On April 8th, 1777, Elizabeth, daughter of Erasmus and Elizabeth Jerry, of Basildon Hall, was baptised.

On July 14th, 1778, William, son of William and Anne Jerry, of Basildon Hall, was baptised; two days later he was buried.

There is a long entry in one of the church registers concerning this family:—January 22, 1792 William of William and Ann Jerry, of Basildon August 30 1778 at Hinton in Suffolk and privately baptised there.

Ann Jerry born at Basildon April 23, 1781 and privately baptised there May 6, 1781, W. P. curate.

John Jerry born October 2, 1784 at Pobbing and privately baptised there the same year; Mary Jerry born December 21, 1787 at Pobbing and privately baptised there, these four were fully christened January 22 1793 at Basildon chapel and Sarah daughter of the above William and Ann born November 2, 1791 was fully baptised the same time by me William Potter, curate.

Basildon Hall at the same time sheltered other families. John Carter, an Irish labourer, died there in October, 1770. On March 11th, 1787, Thomas, son of Thomas and Rebecca Claxton, "lodgers at Basildon Hall," was baptised.

Mary, daughter of William and Mary Hearnes, of Basildon Hall, was baptised June 14th, 1788. The

By **J. K. PAYNE**

Hearnes probably farmed there, while the Jerrys were at Suffolk and Pobbing.

There is a story that when the old Basildon Hall (not the last building) was decaying before it was destroyed by fire, a horse got inside and walked up the stairs; this started a rumour that the house was haunted.

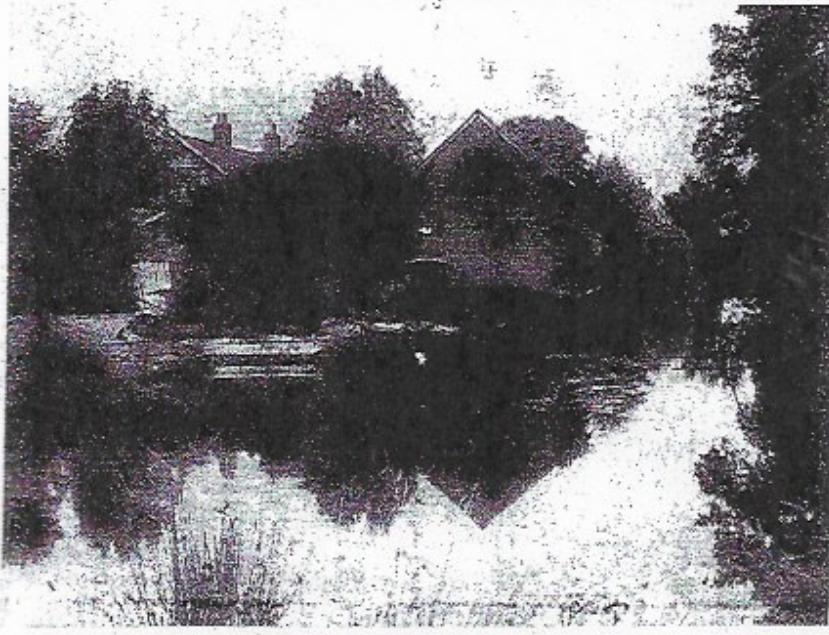
One farmer used to recall going on the moat in a tub and having the farmer's wife bring him out a hot drink.

I took this photo a few weeks ago.



Here are some newspaper cuttings my Nana kept of Basildon Hall.

### This scene won't change



**A** FARMHOUSE nestles snugly amid trees and bushes and a pond is in the foreground. It is a scene which will remain in Basildon even when the New Town is built.

It is Basildon Hall, Beresford Road, Basildon. The hall itself is a fairly recent building—the original building was gutted by fire some years ago—but the moat surrounding it is the subject of a Ministry of Works preservation order. It is classified as an ancient monument. For this reason it is unlikely the farmhouse will be pulled down.

Basildon Hall has been in existence for centuries, and is one of few such buildings in the county.

There is one other farm surrounded by a moat—Moat House Farm—in another part of Basildon. They are not more than a mile apart. Present tenants at the farm are Mr. and Mrs. P. Hayward. Owner is 74-years-old Mr. H. A. Gleisner, of Hill Road, Basildon, who moved into the original building 40 years ago. Not long afterwards the house was burned out. And Mr. Gleisner built the present farmhouse.

SOUTHEAST STANDARD  
THURSDAY JULY 31ST  
1952

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