

**HISTORY OF LEE  
AND ITS  
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

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History of Lee and Its Neighbourhood by F. H. Hart

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**F. H. HART**

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LEE PARISH CHURCH, A.D. 1800 to 1813.



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# HISTORY OF LEE

AND

ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD,

BY

F. H. HART,

*Member of the Lee Parochial Committee, Guardian of the Poor, &c., and formerly  
Overseer for the Parish of Lee, and Surveyor of Highways.*



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## PREFACE.

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**H**AVING now completed my long-promised History of the ancient Parish of Lee, I respectfully present the same to my Fellow-Parishioners and other Readers. It owes its publication to an appeal from many old Parishioners to the Writer, and as I have been a resident in the parish for upwards of seventy years, and a Parochial Officer and elected Member of the various Parochial Committees for more than forty years, and being familiar, also, with the local traditions and records of the Parish, and having in my possession many ancient plans and drawings of the old Church, Rectory, and Mansions, I am enabled to do something in writing this short history, and leaving a memento of my local knowledge to the Parishioners.

Several years have rolled away since the first application was made to me for its production. It is now due to the leisure the Writer enjoys, after having toiled hard in various ways, with close application, for the benefit of the Parish at large. For the part of the History previous to the present century, I have employed HASTED'S and EDWARDS'S Topographies and Surveys, and no one can be more convinced of the truth of these materials, and their ability to do justice to the subject, than I am. Every parish has its history in its Church Registers and Parish Records and local Traditions, which may prove of value to all succeeding generations of Parishioners; and I venture to hope that this History may be of some value too, so far as it forms an integral part, however small, in a parish with its landmarks.

Some of the matters I have touched upon, are the great local changes during the past half-century ; the ancient tenure of the Manor and its surroundings, with the gentlemen's country seats ; also the ancient monuments in the Old Churchyard and on the Tower, one erected in 1604 to BRYAN AINSLEY and AWDRY his wife, and his three daughters ; also one to NICHOLAS AINSLEY, "sergant of the seller" (chief butler) to Queen ELIZABETH ; and other memorials of the departed, worthy of notice.

To illustrate the good and stately old mansions, I may mention the Manor House (H. WOLFFRAM, ESQ.), the adjoining one (J. H. YOUNG, ESQ., J.P.), Pentland House (R. WHYTE, ESQ.), and The Firs (J. W. LARKING, ESQ., J.P.), all in the Old Road ; also Dacre House, Brandram Road ; and The Cedars (MRS. PENN), Belmont Hill.

"The stately homes of England,  
How beautiful they stand !  
Amidst their tall ancestral trees,  
O'er all the pleasant land."

I earnestly hope that I have not failed in doing my best to place before my fellow-parishioners, and others, a History that they will be pleased to peruse for information of the past ; although I know I have executed my task in a manner not above criticism.

F. H. HART.

*Brandram Road, Lee,  
July, 1881.*

