

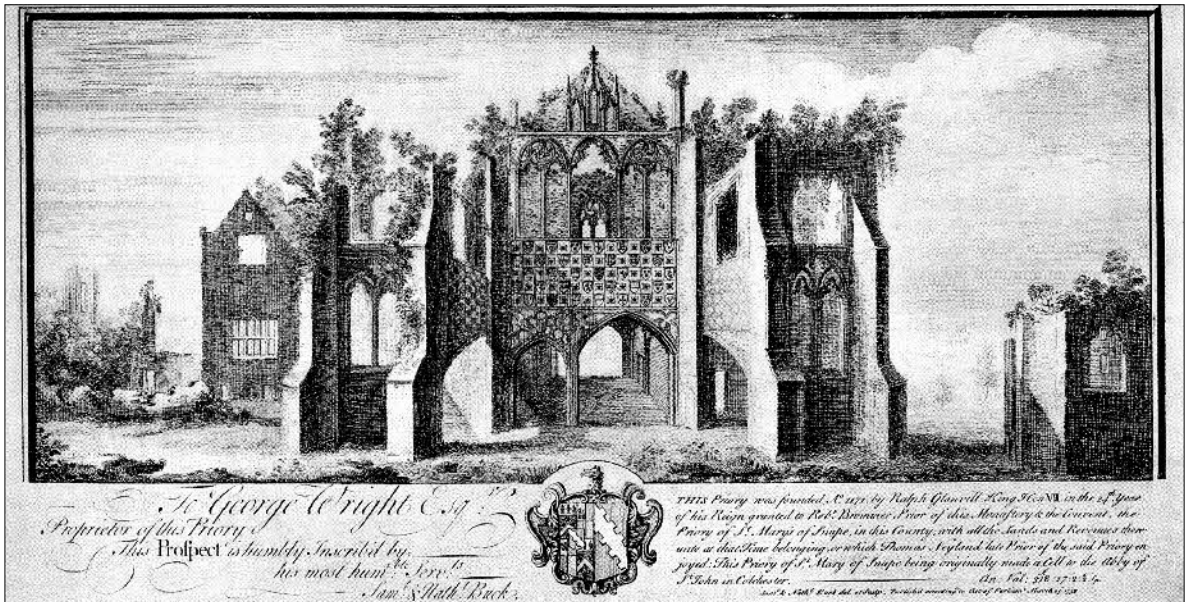
Hawes Marsh; 20 acres between the Lesser Sheep Course and Relie Green; and small pieces of land containing a further 14 acres. These totalled only some 300 acres, plus the woods, out of an estate of more than 5,000 at the beginning of the century. There was an arrangement whereby Samuel would be able to recover his costs from various rents and profits following the death of either John or his wife.

The final two cases involved further challenges to the Clyatts' title to Burrow Hill and some other parcels of land. After all this wrangling the widowed and childless John Clyatt was to enjoy his wife's inheritance for only eight years. In his will, dated 1691, he left nearly everything to cousin Samuel. Probate was delayed until 1694. By this time the wily lawyer was dead also, but his widow Frances owned the run-down property for the next 25 years.

For the 18th century there are only scraps of information about the Clyatt family. She managed to arrange a good marriage for her daughter Frances to Robert Harland, gent. of Wherstead Park, Ipswich, where portraits of her late husband and herself hung until the house was sold in 1934. In 1706 as patron of Butley church she appealed to the Bishop of Norwich for permission to sell

one of its bells and with the money raised to repair the tower. It had been weakened by the Great Storm of 1703 which brought down one of the chimneys on the Gatehouse. The other two bells needed to be recast as the parishioners were unable to repair them *'being all poor farmers...'* She may have moved to London for in 1716 she wrote from Highgate to her steward, complaining about her bailiff's management of the income from the estate. Her kindly nature is revealed by the words, *'as for the poor widow that had her house burnt, I forgive her the fine and pray God make up her loss to her'*. The death of her son Samuel in 1725 was followed by the death of his only son three years later. Thus in 1728 the remnant estate descended to her granddaughter, Rebecca, whose first husband had died. She was now married to George Wright, a gentleman who had property in Norfolk and a London residence.

Ten years later the couple decided to demolish the ruinous family mansion. The medieval Gatehouse, although derelict, was saved and was converted into a property to let. John Kirby's map of 1766 provides the sole clue that the widowed Mrs Wright returned to Butley and was living there towards the end of her life.



The only representation of the old Mansion-house; it appears on the left of Samuel Buck's engraving of the roofless Gatehouse made in 1738 shortly before its refurbishment by the Wrights. Ruins of the Priory church can be seen in the distance on the far left.