

FWP07

'Raddun'

- in the Account Rolls from the Custumal of St. Swithun's Priory Lands - after E.G.H. Kempson in Bowen, H.C. & Fowler P.J. 'The Archaeology of Fyfield and Overton Downs, Wilts (Interim Report) W.A.M. vol. lviii, No. 20, pp. 98-115; VCH Wilts. vol. III, pp. 181-203; Greatrex, J (ed) *The Register of the Common Seal of the Priory of St. Swithun, Winchester 1345-1497*, 1978, Hamp. Rec. Series, Vol 2.

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'Raddun' presumably means *red down*, a name which may derive from the colour of the soil. The Winchester Cathedral manuscripts give the name 'Raddun' for the period 1247-8, but 'Raddon' between 1267 & 1318. The Pembroke Survey calls it 'Rodden', as do the Enclosure Map of 1814 and the 1773 Andrews & Dury map. At present the wooded area is referred to as Wroughton Copse and the enclosed area, which includes the medieval settlement of Raddun and the copse, is called Wroughton Mead.

This change to Wroughton, clearly similar in sound to Raddon, may be due to a *faux-ami*; the village of Wroughton situated about six miles to the north, and/or it may be due to Wroughton Copse being used as a shooting ground for Colonel Wroughton at the turn of the century. We are sure, however, that the change took place after 1500 as the site was still known as 'Raddon' in 1496 when the farm of the manor of Overton was leased to Robert Wroughton and his wife Agnes. On the day on which the lease was signed, 10 cartloads of good hay was released to the farmers from the grange at 'Raddon' (Greatrex, 190 - see below). Indeed, the incoming leasees' surname may be the key to this change.

According to Kempson 'the documents refer to walls (*muri*) at Fyfield & Overton, but only to partitions (*parietes*) at Raddon [sheepcote]. The sheepcotes appear to have had three entrances (*hostia*) and one door (*porta*). They were regularly lined with wattle and straw' (140). check details of 'documents'; the account rolls.

1248 - Richard in possession of 'Raddun'. He holds half-virgate (about 11-18 acres) of land and is in charge of two teams of oxen. By virtue of being in charge of the oxen, Richard holds the land without having to pay the normal rent of fifteen pence. Richard, according to Hanna, was also a shepherd. **'In fact the land has been brought back into the demense'** (Kempson, 113). - What was the land classified as before? Who owned it ? to check!

- Kempson also notes in his letter to PJF of 22/03/63, that 'Richard of Raddun also held a half virgate of land in Alton in 1248 which continues to be called afetr him, right up to the 16th century'.

The following is Kempson's translation of 'The Customs of Richard of Raddon' from the 'Custumal of St. Swithun's Priory, Winchester':

'Richard of Raddon holds ½ a virgate of arable for which he must look after his lord's two ox-teams at his own expense from devastation by wolves and from theft of thieves and robbers. He must drive the said teams to ploughing and bring them back when the ploughing work is done. And whatever damage the said ox-team commits, the said Richard is responsible. Moreover he will look after the field under corn between Hill and Aist. If any damage is done there, he shall pay sheaf for aheaf, until it is safely stored in the barn. And daily in autumn he

shall supervise the reapers and hand over them a sheaf, which they shall receive if the land is properly reaped. And when he carries the corn he shall himself collect the remains of the ears with a rake; and in carrying the lord's hay, he shall have a rake to help. He must concern himself with the ploughing for the ffe of the oxen, in seeing that it is properly ploughed. In the ploughing taskwork he shall himself help with the ploughing and sowing. He ought too to keep safe the two downs of Hackpen and Raddon, when they are hedged off from the cattle and to answer for the damage from outside. He must give the seventeenth hen as Cherchsett at Christmas and 200 eggs at Easter. He is to help at the lord's sheep-shearing in packing up the fleeces and shall receive one fleece and one lamb when they are separated from their mothers. And he is to have one cheese and one acre of corn at his free choice from the cornlands, except for the one plot set aside for the lord's choice.

In addition to this translation, Kempson notes in his correspondence that 'the defence is no more than a line of hurdles to keep out the cows!'

- By this date the whole of the copse has been surrounded by hurdles - archaeological evidence?

- The target of chickens & eggs the Prior demanded was not reached in this year and the reeve was to blame - how many? climatic evidence? **NB** Richard of Raddon had to give every seventeenth hen to the Prior as '*cherse*' and at Easter provide two hundred eggs. Check Kempson's sources. Points to quite a large number of hens.

- Raddon is worked by two teams of oxen, chickens are kept and it is also a sheep farm = busy.

1267 - Richard no longer holds the land as it is now called 'late Richard of Raddon's'.

- Wheat is grown on the holding - three bushels were paid as tithe in this year.

1283 - Meal was allowed to be ground at the Raddon sheepcote
- Target of chickens & eggs again not reached

1299 - Three sheepcotes on the combined manors of East Overton and Fyfield; one at Audley's Cottages, one at Hackpen and the other at 'Raddon'. '*Berceriae at Raddon, Attele & Hacan penne*' and '*Beccaria de Raddon*' (Kempson's notes).

1307 - Shepherd at Raddon sheepcote received a gift of a bushel of peas as 'an extra' on top of the annual wage of four shillings.

1309 - 11 acres of meadow at Raddon
- More than the usual amount of thatching was required this year to rethatch the sheepcote at Raddon due to a great storm - check Titow; any link between acreage & weather?
- £10 was spent on getting hay for sheep from Patney because of bad winter - Titow. '*Prati apud Raddon*' (Kempson's notes).

1311 - 6 acres of meadow - result of weather?
- The whole croft was ditched round & fenced in by 1311, as 1,500 cuttings (*planti*) were bought at a penny a hundred (= 15*d* or 1*s* 3*d*) to make enclosure-hurdles '*loc-*

hach' - hence Lockeridge ? Kempson, in his notes, says that mending of the sheepfold at Raddon enclosure and of the pens took place but omits the date - until further checks can be made, I assume it is 1311.

- £9-2-3³/₄d spent on an ointment to cure or prevent murrain, a disease which killed many sheep. This ointment was made from pigs' fat, fortified with equal parts of quicksilver, verdigris (copper acetate?) and copperas (copper sulphate?). Although smaller sums were spent on this treatment in other years, £9 is the most mentioned.

1312 - Four bushels of barley were provided from store (at Fyfield court-house?) to improve the feed of '*some old cattle*' (113) then being kept at Raddon. '*Sarclacio et fald' pratorum. Crofta de Raddon.*

- Meal is again allowed to be ground at the Raddon sheepcote 'because it was so far away from the manor court' and so saving the farmer & miller, Miles of Patney, time and effort. '*In farina facta per bercarium de Raddon quia lone distat a Curia*' (Kempson's notes).

- Lockeridge sequestrated and given to the Knights Hospitaliers.

1316 - 17 acres of meadow at Raddon

1318 - A carpenter (*carpentarius*) was paid a salary for his work at Raddon, which would probably have included making & mending wooden ploughs and other agricultural instruments, as well as repairing buildings.

1496 - the 20th of April to be precise, Mr. Robert and Mrs. Agnes Wroughton are granted the farm of the manor of Overton. Robert is described as 'a resident instructor of music and grammar [and is] classed as *generosus* [plu. *generosi*] with regard to [his] eating arrangements' (Greatrex, 1978, xxxii). As mentioned above, Raddon is described as containing the lord's sheephouse in the grange.

- 'If Robert dies before the expiry of the lease (1516) and *Alice* is unable to provide sufficient security she will have to sign a bond for £100 sterling to guarantee that she will fulfil the terms of this indenture (*ibid.* 190 - my stress). The scribe or the translator has renamed Agnes! - to check.

1562 - From 'The Survey of the Land of William, 1st Earl of Pembroke' there is mention of a Thome Wroughton, who, like his grandfather (?), is described as '*Generosi*'. More importantly he is '*in tenura et occupacione*' of the '*Manerio*' in '*Est Overton*'. In the same document we have mention of the '*Dyllinge*' and '*Roddons close*', as well as '*vide infra pro Roddon Cowdowne que est pastura valde bona. Nota quod mensura hic est 18 pedum ad perticam*' [my stress]. Also; '*Bunde ... et in sic per lez Corner de Roddon Cowelease, et sic par Roddon Copice yate et sepam per Cattedborowgh per Roddon Somerdown ad Stanchslade, per metas bene cognitatas inter Clatford et Phipheld*' and '*Bunde in Australi occidentalis parte dicti mentis et camporum vij Rowdon, Dyllinge, Lockridge downe, et sic ad lez Corner de Cleve ...*'

To Note:

The period from 1309 to 1312 (at least) seems to have been a particularly expensive time when one notes the amount of money spent during these years at Raddon. For example, the extra thatch & thatching work and the purchase of hay (£10) in 1309; the ditching and fencing work in 1311, costing a minimum of 15*d*, whilst not forgetting the £9 spent on the murrain

ointment. In 1312 four barrels of barley are provided from the store, which, one presumes, were given for a fee of some sort (straight purchase or exchange, or by an easy payment scheme in handy instalments - to check). In 1318, the last documented date for Raddun before 1492, the carpenter would also have needed paying.

In addition to these costs, the probable cause of many of these financial burdens ought to be added; the bad weather. Kempson, quoting from the Custumal Records, mentions the 'great storm' of 1309. Titow (1960 *Eco. Hist. Rev.* vol. xii, no.3. 360-407) notes that the autumn of 1308 was 'wet and long' and that flooding was reported in the winter of 1309/10. The latter part of 1310 & the year 1311, on the other hand, were dry and references are made to the repairs to *bladi* (blades; *ibid*, 384). However, from 1312 to 1319 flooding was reported every year, and *throughout* the years of 1315, 1316 & 1319. Correspondingly, the average price of wheat, as calculated by Titow (see 362), rose from 6.25 in 1314 to 16.58 in 1317; a rise of over 250% in three years (*ibid*. 383-87). In 1319 it had dropped to 4.75, although Titow was unable to calculate the yields for that year. It should also be noted that 'the harvest of the hard winter of 1314 was very good indeed considering the very wet and long autumn of 1313' (*ibid*, 364). Of possible interest is that in 1310 at *Douttona* (Downton), south of Salisbury on the banks of the Avon, '13 oxen, 32 cows, 11 boveti, 11 boviculi, 16 annales, and 99 pigs and piglets were lost *per inundacionem aque*' (*ibid*. 383).