

A Tour Through Buckinghamshire.

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(Continued from page 59, Vol. 6).

SECTION VII.—RAILWAY.—BLETCHLEY TO WOBURN SANDS.

There is another station in Buckinghamshire on the Bedford Branch Railway beyond Fenny Stratford, *Woburn Sands*, on the Bedfordshire border.

North of this station one mile is WAVENDON. The Church (St. Mary, register 1567) was nearly rebuilt in 1849, when many new fittings were introduced. It has Dec. chancel and nave arcades. The remainder of the church is chiefly perp.

In the chancel are brasses of Richard Saunders, of Battlesden, 1639, and his four wives. Battlesden is in Bedfordshire six miles distant.

Some Fuller's Earth pits have been worked in the parish.

SECTION VIII.—RAILWAY.—BLETCHLEY TO WOLVERTON.

Proceeding N. by the main line from Bletchley Junction we pass, three miles, W. half-mile Loughton. Two miles further the railway passes through the village of BRADWELL, the Church is E., and the ruins of the Augustinian Abbey founded by Manselin Baron of Wolverton, about 1155, are on the W. side.

Some remains of the Abbey buildings may be found worked into farm sheds, and a little chapel, now used as a store-house, has apparently been built out of fragments after the dissolution, 1526. It has a beautiful Dec. window and a niche at the E. end.

The farm house, which stands on the site of the Abbey, and was in part the mansion of the family of Alston, is of the early part of the XVII. century.

The Church (St. Laurence, register 1557), which is on the E. side of the railway, is an interesting little building, restored 1868. It is partly Early English. The clerestory windows are alternately circular and triangular. There is a S. aisle only, which has a good arcade. The tower is finished with a sloping roof and gables.

Bradwell may be reached from Wolverton, and the road passes through NEW BRADWELL, which is on the banks of the Newport Canal, a collection of rows of modern houses inhabited by the workmen of the Wolverton Works. There is a new district church here.

Two miles beyond Bradwell is *Wolverton Station*. NEW WOLVERTON is a creation of the Railway Company, who have here extensive works for the manufacture and repair of railway carriages. A Church (St. George the Martyr) was erected in 1843 for this new district. There is a Science and Art Institute, with reading and lecture rooms, and there is a weekly corn market.

A steam tramway runs to STONY STRATFORD, two miles W. Half way it passes OLD WOLVERTON, which is a mere village situated on the banks of the Oure.

The Longueville family were here from the beginning of the XV. to the beginning of the XVII. century. Sir Edward Longueville, however, sold the estate to Dr. Radcliffe, the founder of the Radcliffe Library at Oxford, in 1712.

Before the time of the Longueville's, the family of Maigno Brito occupied a castle here, and the site of it, or of the mansion of the Longuevilles which succeeded, may be traced near the church. The bowling green is especially discernible. The mansion was rebuilt in 1586, and pulled down in the XVII. century.

The Wolverton estates of Dr. Radcliffe are held in trust for the Library and Observatory and Oxford which bear his name.

The Church (Holy Trinity, register 1599) was built in 1815, in the Norman style of that period. A good deal has been done for its decoration since that date. In the chancel is the tomb, with figure, of Sir Thomas Longueville, the father of the last owner. He died 1685, of a fall from his horse, and his son, Sir Edward, was also killed in the same way at Bicester races, six years after he had sold Wolverton to Dr. Radcliffe.

Wolverton End has a new Church (St. Mary), erected 1863 from designs by Sir G. G. Scott, R.A. The new parish is formed out of those of Wolverton and Stony Stratford.

The town of STONY STRATFORD, the Northern *Stratford* on the Watlington Street, and seven miles from the Southern *Stratford* is built according to the custom of most Buckinghamshire towns in one long street, which extends nearly to the river, here crossed by Watlington Street on a bridge of three arches. Some antiquarians would place here the Roman station, Lactodorum.

In the days of *the road* this was a town of inns, and one was for a time the centre of a school, Stony Stratford College. In another inn, Richard III. seized his young nephew, Edward V., and at the same time arrested the little King's attendants, Lord Richard Grey and Sir Thomas Vaughan.

There were once two Churches at Stony Stratford. St. Giles' was once a charity chapel, founded 1451. The tower, built in 1487, is the only part remaining. The Church was rebuilt in 1776, and restored as best could be done under the circumstances in 1876. Of the other Church also, St. Mary Magdalene, the tower only remains. This Church was built 1742.

A part of the town is in CALVERTON parish. The Church of Calverton (All Saints, register 1559) is one mile S.W. This Church was nearly rebuilt in 1870.

SECTION IX.—RAILWAY.—WOLVERTON TO NEWPORT PAGNELL.

From Wolverton Station a short branch line, five miles in length, runs to Newport Pagnell.

New Bradwell is the first station.

A little further on the S. bank of the Ouse is STANTONBURY. The tiny village may be considered a portion of New Bradwell, and the little Norman Church is no longer used. It contains monuments of the families of Temple, Tyrell and Wittenronge. The latter family had a seat here until 1727. The last Wittenronge of Stantonbury, Sir John, was outlawed for the murder of a surgeon, and died in the Fleet prison of wounds received in a fight with another prisoner.

Both banks of the Ouse here belong to Buckinghamshire, and opposite Stantonbury on the N. side is HAVERSHAM.

The De Havershams embattled their mansion here by licence in 1304. They were succeeded by the family of De la Plaunch, and the heiress of that family married, as her fourth husband, Sir John Winton.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1665) is interesting. It has some remains of Norman, Early English and Dcc. work, and on the North side of the chancel is a beautiful altar tomb with an effigy of a lady under a canopy. This is probably the tomb of Elizabeth, Lady Clinton, the heiress of De la Plaunch, who d. 1422. The artistic treatment of robe, mantle and veil should be noticed. Angels support the head pillow and at her feet is a dog. The lower

part of the monument is adorned with angels and other figures. The tomb was repaired in 1665. There is also a brass to Alicia, wife of Thomas Payne, 1427; and another to John Maunsell, 1605, ornamented with a skeleton, and recording the length of his life down to months and days.

Edward Cook, whose notes on Buckinghamshire were largely used by Lipscombe in his history, was Rector of Haversham, 1802—1824.

The next station is LINFORD. GREAT LINFORD was the rectory, 1589 to 1634, of Dr. Richard Napier, son of Sir Robert Napier, of Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire. Dr. Napier was also a physician and astrologer, and was looked upon with great awe by the country people round, who supposed that he was able to converse with the Angel Raphael, and also to prophecy the future. When they went to consult him as patients he informed them that he must have an interview with Raphael on the matter. He had also a reputation for great sanctity and asceticism, and it was noted that his knees were quite hard from kneeling in prayer.

The Register records his burial—"Buried Mr. Richard Napier, Rector, the most renowned physician both of body and soul." His papers came into the hands of Mr. Ashmole, and are now in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

The Church (St. Andrew, register 1657) stands in the park of Linford House. It is partly Decorated in style, but has been much altered in later days. There is a later N. aisle, and the roof of the nave and clerestory are new. There are brasses to Roger Hunt and Johanna his wife, 1473; Thomas Malyn and Elizabeth his wife, 1533; and John Uvedall and Anne his wife, 1611. There is also a monument to Sir William Prichard, President of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, d. 1704. He built Linford House, and founded the alms-houses which, with the school-master's house, are close to the church.

(To be continued.)

