

Notes on the History and Antiquities of the Parish of Radley.

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Radley, in the hundred of Hormer, lies about four miles south of Oxford, on the lower road from that place to Abingdon. The eastern and southern boundaries of the parish are formed by the river Thames; the western, approximately by the upper Oxford road; while the northern limit is a line drawn from a point about 600 yards north of Chandlings' Farm (at Bayworth, in the parish of Sunningwell), to the Thames just above Sandford Mill. The eastern part of the parish is low-lying; in it is the larger portion of the village of Radley; the church, vicarage, village school and manor house (now St. Peter's College) are separated from the rest of the village by more than half a mile.

The name Radley is said by Skeat ('Berkshire Placenames,' s.v. Radley) to mean 'Rada's Lea, or field,' the Anglo-Saxon form being Radan-teak, in which Radan is the genitive of Rada. Skeat quotes the name Rade-teage (in the dative case) in Wiltshire (Birch, *Cartularium Saxonicum*, iii, 85). Other forms of the name are Radeley (*Testa de Neville*, t. Henry III—Ed. I), Raydely (*Valor Eccles.*, t. Henry VIII), and Rodley, a form mentioned by Hearne. The derivations suggested in the Rev. T. D. Raikes's *Fifty Years of St. Peter's College, Radley*, page 3,—viz. 'the road through the meadow' and 'the meadow of reeds,' are erroneous.

This place is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey; and there is no foundation for the tradition that the Radley Oak is mentioned in Domesday Book.

There are indications of the existence of settlements of a primitive description in two parts of this parish. The first site is a little more than half a mile north of the church, near the 59th milepost of the Great Western Railway from Paddington,

and extends on both sides of the railway line. On the west side of the railway is a field called Radley Plains, now under the plough¹, in the centre of which are the remains of an old gravel-pit, about seven feet in depth. Close to this pit, the field rises to a height of 222 feet above sea level, from which point it slopes gently on all sides, the height of 211 feet being recorded on the edge of the field opposite the entrance of Sugworth Lane. Here, about 1880, two Roman pots were found²; their subsequent history is unknown. In the field adjoining this, on the other side of the railway, Professor Haverfield noticed circles indicating a settlement.³ The surface of Radley Plains is strewn with fragments of ancient pottery—chiefly local Romano-British grey ware, and a certain amount of local imitation of Samian ware. A few roughly worked arrowheads and scrapers of flint have also been found here: these were probably made or used by the inhabitants of the Romano-British settlement. About a thousand yards to the east of the gravel-pit, at the Thames Conservancy gate No. 99, on the right bank of the Thames, a discovery was made in June, 1916, which is not improbably connected with this settlement. Here, two boys from Radley College found, imbedded in the bank of the river, a Romano-Keltic cinerary urn, of grey ware; at the time of the discovery, it contained 'ashes,' which were immediately tipped out. Its measurements are roughly: height, 8 inches; diameter at top 3 inches; diameter at neck, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches; diameter at middle, 4 inches; diameter where base joins body, 2 inches; diameter of base, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It has been assigned to the third or fourth centuries A.D.; but this date appears to be too late, in view of the base, which shows Keltic traces, approaching to the 'pedestal bases' of urns from France in the Morel Collection

¹ It was under the plough in 1920; since when I have not seen it.

² *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Arch. Journal*, July, 1898, p. 44; V.C.H. Berks, i, 212.

³ *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2 Ser., xviii, 15, where he adds: 'Barley fields should be watched most carefully for, owing to the nature of its roots, barley shows the underlying trenches, squares and circles far more clearly than wheat or roots. In a barley field the crops above the trenches will sometimes tower more than a foot higher than the adjacent crop, while in a wheatfield, under similar circumstances, hardly anything will be discernible.' 'The pits and trenches... filled with clay or with other soil which retains moisture longer than gravel does.' (*Ib.*, 11).

in the British Museum (*B.M. Guide to Antiquities of the Early Iron Age*, p. 66, and pl. iv, Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), and of urns from Aylesford (*ib.*, pp. 120-122, and fig. 101, Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). A more suitable date is probably the first century A.D. Later Romano-British examples of similar shapes (e.g. Akerman, *Archæological Index*, pl. x, No. 28) do not show this Keltic base. On the level ground above the site of this discovery and a few yards from it are the remains of a long barrow, 100 feet in length, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height. It is possible that this urn, and perhaps also the barrow, represent a cemetery used by the settlement at Radley Plains. A cemetery was discovered in 1860 two miles south-west of the Romano-British settlement at Northfield Farm, Long Wittenham⁴, which seems to have been originally Romano-British, and afterwards used in Anglo-Saxon times; and another was found in 1857 near the late-Keltic village on Standlake Down in Oxfordshire⁵; and with regard to which Professor Haverfield says, 'the circular enclosures, the late-Celtic urns, the burials may denote that the village existed before the Roman Conquest, or at any rate before Roman Civilisation spread over Oxfordshire. The rectangular enclosures [*i.e.* at Long Wittenham] may be, with the Samian and Romano-British pottery, and other such things, the introduction of the second or the third century of our era.'⁶

The second site is at the extreme south end of the parish, on the Abingdon Road. It was recorded by Professor Haverfield. It is on the north side of the road from Radley to Abingdon, half a mile south of Peachcroft Farm, and opposite the drive to Wick Hall. Of this, Professor Haverfield says, 'mainly lines and rectangles, seen by myself. I do not know if this is the place referred to by Mr. Akerman in our Proceedings [of the Society of Antiquaries] for 1863 (2nd Ser., ii, 248), when he records the discovery of skeletons, a 'British urn,' and trenches like those at Standlake. Obviously, however, his site is an instance [of sites similar to those at Long Wittenham, Radley Plains, etc.], and I think from his account that it is

⁴ *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2nd Ser., xviii, 10.

⁵ *Archæologia*, xxxvii, 363.

⁶ *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2nd Ser., xviii, 13.

nearer Abingdon than that which I observed.⁷ If this site, described by Akerman, is nearer Abingdon, it is not in Radley parish, but in that of St. Helen, Abingdon.

The inhabitants of these settlements were probably 'engaged in pastoral and possibly in agricultural pursuits.'⁸ They were not in any way highly civilised, nor were they influenced to any great extent by the Roman occupation.

From the Romano-British period to the seventh century, nothing appears to be known of the history of Radley. In or about 675, Cissa, sub-king of Berkshire and Wiltshire under Kentwin, granted twenty hides (about 2,000 acres) to his nephew Hean 'to build a monastery by Bagley Wood,' in honour of the Blessed Virgin, to contain twelve monks of the Benedictine order, over whom Hean was to be prior. The site of this monastery was at Chandlings Farm, in the north-west corner of Radley parish, and close to the hamlet of Bayworth in Sunningwell parish, which was formerly 'a considerable hamlet . . . which had a chapel of ease, now gone to decay.'⁹ The conventual church was probably built of wattle and daub, with a thatched roof; it was 120 feet long, and was circular at the east and west ends.¹⁰ After a few years, however, whether on account of the site being found unsuitable, or for some other reason, it is not known, the monastery was removed to Abingdon at the request of the prior, Hean, by Ceadwalla, the son and successor of Kentwin, who succeeded his father in 686: he gave the monks 'the town of Seovecesham, with all its appendages, commanding that it should be thenceforwards called 'Abbendon,' which, according to the account of a monkish writer of the thirteenth century, was the name of a hill near Bayworth, in the neighbouring parish of Sunningwell, where the abbey was first built.'¹¹

During the middle ages, the abbey of Abingdon possessed the manor of Radley, until the dissolution of the abbey in 1538.

⁷ *Ib.*, 15.

⁸ Haverfield in *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, 2nd Ser., xviii, 13.

⁹ Lysons, *Magn. Brit.*, I, ii, Berks, p. 383.

¹⁰ de Abbatibus, ii, 272.

¹¹ Lysons, *Berks.*, p. 217.

From a decree of master John de Burton, 'officiarius de sede Cant, Decano et Capitulo Sarum sede vacante institutus,' of 1284 (taken from an imperfect copy dated 1594)¹² we learn that the vicar of St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, was to have the oblations and lesser tithes of the chapels 'de Radeleia, Dratton [Drayton], de Scupen [Shippon], de Samford [Dry Sandford]'; except the tithes of lambs, wool and cheese, which the abbey was to have; also, that the chapel of Radley was to be served by one of the chaplains of St. Helen's.

In 10 Richard II (1387) an allusion to property of the abbey in this parish occurs in a cartulary of Abingdon abbey now destroyed, from which extracts were made by Twyne:¹³

RICARDVS Dei gracia rex Anglie et Francie et dominus Hibernie, vicecomiti Berk' salutem. Cum nuper per quamdam inquisitionem apud castrum nostrum Oxonie coram Johanne priore sancte Frideswide Oxonie, et Johanne Dautry clerico ad omnia maneria, hameletta, honores, dominia, villas, terras, tenementa, foeda, parcos, boscus, chaceas, warrennas, piscarias, libertates, et quascumque alias possessiones nostras in comitatu tuo super-videndum et de novo extendi faciendum assignatis captam, in Scaccarium nostram retornatam, compertum fuisset quod nos habuimus dare officium cuiusdam valecti custodientis sylvam abbatis de Abbendon apud Radle, etc. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium 30 die Junii anno regni XI^o. Ipsa inquisitio facta erat undecimo Aprilis anno regni Ricardi II decimo.

The present parish church was built about 1450, and is chiefly in the Perpendicular style. It is evident, however, that there existed before this an earlier church, as is shown by records, and by the beautiful Norman font and one or two earlier features incorporated in the present edifice. The church is dedicated to St. James, and consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, south transept and west tower. Of work earlier than the Perpendicular period there remain the Norman font, which was found in the village, and replaced in the church some time in the last century; and two restored early Decorated windows in the transept. It is not known what was used in place of the Norman font; but about a mile north of the church there is, on

¹² Quoted in J. Townsend's *History of Abingdon*, p. 65.

¹³ Printed by the Rev. H. Salter in the *Berks, Bucks and Oxon Arch. Journal*, xxiv, 34.

the west side of the lower Oxford road, an octagonal stone said to be the base of a font from Radley Church.¹⁴ The east window has three lights, each of which contains pieces of old glass, exhibiting the following subjects: a man praying: an unidentified coat of arms: a crowd. There are neither piscina nor aumbry. The choir stalls, six in number, have miserere seats with cherubim carved thereon; they were bought in Cologne by Sir G. Bowyer. On the south side of the altar is the large tomb of William Stonhouse (1631), with a long inscription in Latin, and effigies of William and his wife. The chancel arch, chancel roof and pulpit are modern; the latter has a fine Perpendicular sounding board, with linen-pattern carving, said to have come from the old House of Commons. The pulpit window has three lights, each containing coats of arms in old glass. The south arcade consists of four chamfered oak pillars, each about eighteen inches square and resting upon a stone base; it is said to have been built by Elizabeth Stonhouse in 1635. The south, west and priest's doorways are all Perpendicular, the latter restored; the south door is made of oak, and has carved upon it, just above the lock, what appear to be the letters

Reddit Dni lojg
1606

The Perpendicular tower is of three stages; the battlements have been restored. In the west window is the portrait of a man, possibly Cardinal Wolsey. There is a modern sundial on the tower. There are seven bells: the original peal of five cast in 1754 by Abel Rudhall, of Gloucester, a sixth cast in 1897, and a small bell. The inscriptions on them are:

- Tenor. ABEL RVDHALL OF GLOUCESTER CAST
VS 1754¹⁵
4. PROSPERITY TO THIS PLACE¹⁵
A! R 1754
3. PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD¹⁵
A! R 1754

¹⁴ *The Radley District*, p. 47

¹⁵ These appear to have been stock inscriptions used by the Rudhalls. Cf. bells at West Hanney (3, 4); and Longcott (4, 5).

2. WHEN YOU RING : WELL AND SWEETLY
SING A! R 1754

I. HARK TO OUR MELODY A!R 1754

Treble.

MEARS AND STAINBANK

FOUNDERS LONDON

AMDG

ANNO FELICI FIO CAMPANVLA VICI

MVLTA FELICES PERSONITVRA VICES

A. S. MDCCCXCVII

Small Bell. HN KNIGHT MADE ME 1617

An inscription in stained glass, now lost or destroyed, is recorded by Ashmole¹⁶ : ' In a glass window on the south side of the church is this inscription :

“ ORATE PRO BONO STATV IOHANNIS SANT¹⁷

“ ORATE PRO BONO STATV ADAM MAVDE ET
DENYS VXORIS EIVS.”

The parish registers begin in 1599; the churchwarden's accounts are modern. Under 1643 is the entry of the burial of seven men killed during the Civil War, probably in a skirmish near Radley :

1643

Thomas Gylburts, captain under Collonell Langford's Regt.
was buried Jul. 5th.

Hugh Lovet was buried Jul. 6:

Jenkin Nicholls was buried Jul. 6.

John Porter was buried Jul. 6.

Davied Jenkins was buried Jul. 8.

John Allen, captein'd under Colonell Langford Regmts.
was buried Jul. 8.

Vmphrey Baine, capt. Lieutenant under Collonel Bellesis
was buried Jul. 18.

¹⁶ Ashmole, *Antiquities of Berkshire*, i, 142.

¹⁷ John Sante, S.T.P., was Abbot of Abingdon in 1468.

The monumental inscriptions in the church are nine in number. They are as follows :

1. [On the south side of the altar, with two effigies ; inscription in capital letters :]

Lector Academice.

Sive quisquis es qui huc accesseris,
quam iniquo pede senectutis pariter ac iuventae fores
mors pulset hoc (si libet) in speculo contemplare

GULIELMVS STONHOVSE, baronettus, antiquâ et generosâ STONHOVSIORVM / de Radley prosapia oriundus, vir ob singularem probitatem et eximium ingenii acumen / maiorib : par negotiis quam propria modesta sinebat post adolescentiam in literis ac / transmarina peregrinatione feliciter emeritans procul urbano tumultu et aulae praestigiis / maluit in salubri patrimonii sui gleba sibi et vetuti vacare. Vbi animo in / egenos munificio, in caeteros in hospitali, erga omnes comi et candido satis laudatus, eâ, qua irenarcham, qua / comitatus sui vicecomitem, qua patremfamilias decuit prudentia publica munia sic / administravit ut una privati laris splendori consuleret : donec anima diutina chiragra / corporis afflicti nodis soluta fugam sursum capesseret. Morbo eâdem ac vitae periodo / deposita Febr. V. A^oD. 1631. Æt. 76. / Cuius exuviis hic depositis (ut missi fiant, qui ad cœlum praemissi sunt, 4 infantes). Johannes, Georgius, / Gulielmus, Elisabetha, Maria, Vrsula, Anna, Dionysia, liberi superstites debito fletu parentârunt. / Nec tamen omnes superstites, Quippe (proh dolor !) lectissimus agri Berkeriensis flos / commune amicorum dulcium, paterni fundi et virtutem hæres IOHANNES STONHOVSE / Eq. Aur. et Baronettus, olim in Coll. SS. Trinit. Oxon. educatus, deinde Graiens. hosp. / socius Galliâ ac Belgio, tanti viri peragratione illustratis, tandem ob insignem corporis / et animi decorem iussu CAROLI R. in privatae camerae sodalitiū adscitus, haud sustinuit / paterno funere diu superesse. Sed loci pariter ac parentis amore tactus, postquam luctui / 4 menses indulserat paterna nimis proprio gressu premeus vestigia cœlebs hinc / concessit et terrenam hæreditatem cœlesti commutavit Iunii XIII A^oD. 1652. Æt. 31 / Elisabetha fil : unica Iohannis Powel armigeri Gulielmi relicta, quocum / 40 annos suavissimo coniugii nexu vixerat, H.M. fieri curavit. Alex. Gil. flevit.

2. [On a brass plate west of No. 1, in the chancel] :

Here lyeth the body of the Lady Margaret
Stonehouse, departed this life the 7 day
[of M]arch in the year of our Lord 1694, being
In the 80th year of her age.

3. [On the north side of the chancel] :

In this chancel lieth ye
Rt. Honble. Sir John Stonhouse
Baronet Comptroller
of the household of her
late Majesty Queen Anne
One of the Lords of her
Majesty's most honble. Privy
Council and member for
ye County of Berks in 3
successive parliaments.

4. [Adjoining No. 6, on the north side of the altar] :

Sacred to the memory of / Lieut. Col. William Bowyer / son to
Admiral Sir George Bowyer Bart / and Henrietta his wife / who
died at Barbadoes 1808 / aged 23. / high in his profession /
brave honourable and universally beloved / all his prospects in
life seemed bright and flattering when it pleased Almighty God /
that he should fall a victim to the climate / of the West Indies.

5. [Adjoining No. 3] :

To the memory of / Sir Andrew Snape Douglas KT. Captain /
of H.M.S. Queen Charlotte and Colonel / of marines. Only son
of William / Douglas Esq. of Edinburgh grandson of Captain
Andrew Douglas of Maines / a branch of the house of Morton. /
Among various most essential services / which signalized his
zeal and ability / his valour and conduct at the / victory of the
first of June MDCCCLXXIV / when he commanded the flagship / of
Lord Howe were equally conspicuous / and honourable, uncon-
quered by / a painful and incurable wound in the head. He
engaged the enemy's / fleet foremost and alone on that / glorious
day the XXIII of June / MDCCXCV. Overcome at length with /
bodily suffering he died at length in conse- / quence of that

wound on the / iv of June MDCCXCVII in the xxxvth / of his
age and lies buried / at Fulham in the County of Middlesex. /
Mildness, affection benevolence / and piety were not less con-
spicuous / in him than valour fortitude / patience and military
ability. / Lady Bowyer his daughter / and her children erected
this / stone to his memory.

6. [On the north side of the altar]:

Sacred / to the Memory of Admiral Sir GEORGE BOWYER
Bart. / who died Dec. 9th 1800 aged 60 / respected and
beloved. / This brave officer continued to discharge / the
duties of his profession till the year / 1794: when being
disabled by the loss of a leg in the victory of the 1^o of
June / he retired from Military service and / devoted him-
self to the quiet occupations / of a magistrate, and to the
exercise / of every private virtue. / This monument is
erected as a small / tribute of grateful affection to / the
best of husbands.

7. [On the south of the Chancel]:

To the loved and honoured memory of / Sir William
Bowyer Bart. / 8th Bart. of Denham Court, Bucks, 4th
Bart. of Radley Hall, Berks. / born 12 Oct. 1811 / ' fetched
by the Angels ' passed above 30th May 1893 / The soul
of honour, justice and of truth. / Grandson of Admiral Sir
George Bowyer Bart. / Sir William rests in a mausoleum
erected by / Lady Bowyer at the Extra Mural cemetery
Brighton.

8. [On the south wall of the south aisle]:

Near this place are deposited
the remains of
MR JOHN DAVIS
who departed this life the 8th December
1820. aged 56.

Also in the same vault rest the
remains of
MR WILLIAM DAVIS
his brother
who died June 25th 1852
In the 50th year of his age.

Also in the same vault rest the remains
 of ELIZABETH DAVIS
 wife of the above
 William Davis
 who died Decr. 7th. 1862. Aged 75 years.

The remains of JOHN LAURENCE DAVIS
 third son of the above WILLIAM DAVIS
 are enclosed in the same vault.
 He died Feb. 23rd. 1838.
 Aged 19 years.

9. [Near No. 8]:

In memory of
 The Revd. John Radcliffe, M.A.,
 for more than 40 years
 Vicar of this parish.
 He was found dead with his
 prayer book in his hands
 Feb. 21. 1852.

'Be ye also ready: for in such an
 'hour as ye think not the son of
 'Man cometh.'

In the same vault rests
 the body of his only sister
 Mary Radcliffe
 who died unmarried
 24 years before.

The following is a list of the vicars since 1755, and the
 patrons:—

	<i>Vicar.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
1755.	James Stonhouse	Stonehouse family.
1792.	John Bradford	Bowyer family.
1796.	J. Lemprière	"
1803.	E. Lenton	"
1806.	M. R. Tarpley	"
1810.	John Radcliffe	"
1853.	W. H. Heathcote	"
1853.	Robert Gibbings	"

1862.	R. W. Thomson	St. Peter's College, Radley
1865.	W. H. Ranken	"
1868.	William Wood, D.D.	"
	(Warden of Radley College)	
1871.	Charles Martin	"
	(Warden of Radley College)	
1890.	R. J. Wilson	"
	(Warden of Radley College)	
1894.	Charles Gore	"
	(afterwards Bishop of Oxford)	
1895.	J. O. Nash	"
1898.	C. B. Longland	"
1916.	C. S. Phillips, B.D.	"

The Manor of Radley belonged to the Abbey of Abingdon till its dissolution in 1538; the monks had a hunting lodge here. In 1539 the manor was granted by the King to Lord Seymour of Sudeley, brother of Somerset, the Lord High Protector, on whose attainder in 1548 the manor was granted to the Princess Mary by her brother Edward VI. In 1575 the manor was bought by George Stonhouse,¹⁸ one of the clerks of the Green Cloth to Queen Elizabeth, whose eldest son was created a Baronet in 1628. Sir George, second son of George Stonhouse, 'having distinguished himself by his activity in the service of King Charles I, was obliged by the parliamentary sequestrators to pay a large sum as a composition for his estates.'¹⁹ A further patent of baronetcy was granted to the family in 1670, under which, in 1813, Sir Thomas Stonhouse, who resided in the East Indies, enjoyed the title.²⁰ In 1733, Thomas Hearne, the antiquary, recorded in his diary²¹:— 'Dec. 30.—On Thursday, Dec. 20 last, Sir William Bowyer of Denham Court, near Uxbridge, in Bucks, was married at Radley (by Dr. Thomson, rector of Sunningwell) to Mrs. Anne Stonehouse, a very fine woman, daughter of the late Sir John Stonehouse, bart., Knight of the Shire for Berks.' In 1792, on the death of the Rev. Sir James Stonhouse, the manor passed,

¹⁸ Lysons, *Berks*, p. 327.

¹⁹ *Ib.*, p. 327.

²⁰ *Ib.*, p. 183.

²¹ Hearne's *Diaries*, ed. Bliss, 1857, ii, 791.

by a female heir, to his nephew, Captain George Bowyer, who was created a baronet in 1794 for his services at the naval victory of the first of June in that year.²² In 1799 Sir George succeeded to the title of his elder brother, Sir William Bowyer, bart., of Denham Court, in Buckinghamshire. He died in 1800, and was succeeded in both baronetcies by his son George.²³ At some date between 1794 and 1800, Admiral Sir George Bowyer, having been persuaded by some fraudulent person that there was coal on his estate at Radley, began extensive works, including a canal to the river; he found no coal, however, and stopped the work, after spending nearly all his fortune. The manor was thus heavily encumbered, and the Hall was leased to the authorities of a Nonconformist school. In 1847, their lease having expired, Dr. William Sewell, of Exeter College, Oxford, who was looking for a suitable site for a school, took the Hall and park, and founded there his College of St. Peter, which has survived the vicissitudes of seventy-seven years and is now a flourishing Public School. It is not within our province to discuss the history of this college, information concerning which may be found in the Rev. T. D. Raikes's 'Sicut Columbae: Fifty Years of St. Peter's College, Radley,' and in the V.C.H. Berkshire, Vol. 2.

The original manor-house was built by George Stonhouse when he obtained the manor in 1575. This house was destroyed in 1727 or 1728 by Sir John Stonhouse, who built the present Hall in 1726—1727. Of the older house a few traces still remain, *viz.*, (1) a stone gateway and walled garden, in which is a very fine mulberry tree, near the parish church; (2) a small plain lancet window, built into the wall of this garden; this may be a relic of the house used by the monks of Abingdon; (3) the Steward's Cottage, outside the north wall of the garden; one of the upper rooms contains a good sixteenth century fireplace; (4) a big timbered barn, which has been repaired and added to, and is now used as a part of the College buildings. It is known as 'School.' It is panelled with woodwork carved in linen-pattern; and in the east window is some old heraldic glass said to have come from the old House of Commons. The present manor-house is a fine red-brick building; it is now in-

²² Lysons, *Berks*, p. 327.

²³ *Ib.*, p. 327.

habited by the Warden and some of the masters of the College. Hearne visited it on July 1st, 1727, and records in his diary that he walked to 'Radley, or Rodley, where Sir John Stonehouse hath built a new brick house, but 'tis nothing near so pleasant nor snug as the old house, most of which (they say) is to be pulled down. The inside and gardens &c. of the new house are not quite finished. An old woman told me that Sir John and his lady are very charitable to the poor, though I had heard the contrary from others. Sir John's eldest daughter by this lady (whose maiden name was Penelope Dashwood), viz., Mrs. Penelope Stonehouse, (a fine creature), is married to Sir Henry Adkins.'²⁴

'Sugworth, in this parish, was once a considerable hamlet, now depopulated: the manor, which belonged to the Abbot and Convent of Abingdon, is now [1813] Sir George Bowyer's. Part of the hamlet of Kennington is in this parish.'²⁵

Sugworth now consists of a cottage, known as Sugworth Farm. The name means 'Suga's farm.' It is mentioned in the Domesday Survey as Sogoorde, in the hundred of Hornimere [Hormer], and was assessed at 4 hides, which were held of Warinus by the Abbey of Abingdon. It was included in Bertune [Barton, near Abingdon]. In the 'Testa de Neville' (p. 110) John de Chereburk, and Thomas de Hynton (pp. 121, 127) are said to have half a fee of the Fee of the Abbot of Abingdon. Kennington in the Domesday Survey is coupled with Soningeuuel [Sunningwell] as Chenitun; the two places contained 5 hides, and were held of Bernerius by the Abbey of Abingdon.

The population of Radley, Thorpe-wick [Thrupp, near Abingdon] and Kennington (in Radley and Sunningwell) was given in the returns of 1801²⁶ as :

	Inhabited houses.	Uninhabited houses.	Families.	Persons.
Radley	46	0	78	368
Thorpe-wick	3	0	4	25
Kennington	17	2	21	86

²⁴ Hearne's *Diaries*, ed. Bliss, 1857, ii, 668.

²⁵ Lysons, *Berks*, p. 328.

²⁶ *Ib.*, p. 175.

In 1837 the Great Western Railway Company built their line from Didcot through Radley, instead of from Steventon through Abingdon to Oxford, owing to the refusal of the people of Abingdon to allow the railway through their town. In 1856 a branch line was built from Radley to Abingdon; it belonged to a private company till the Great Western Railway bought it in 1903.

In a gravel pit called Sylvester's Pit, near Goose Acre Farm, which is situated in the second terrace of river-gravel, have been found remains of the following animals: horse, ox, hippopotamus, stag, and part of the upper jaw of a cave lion.²⁷ In

²⁷ *The Radley District*, p. 112.

digging the foundations of a new house at Radley [? at the College] was found the thigh-bone of a mammoth, which had sunk into the clay from the overlying fourth gravel terrace.²⁸

²⁸ *Ib.*, p. 111.

The geological formation at Radley is shown by sections obtained in the sinking of two wells at Radley College²⁹.

²⁹ *Ib.*, p. 114.

No. 1.

Gravel	...	...	...	...	...	12
Kimmeridge Clay	{	Clay	...	...	...	30
		Clay and rock	...	...	...	34
Upper Coralline Oolite	{	Sand, with water	...	...	...	24
		Rock	...	...	...
Calcareous Grit		...	...	...	...

100

No. 2.

Kimmeridge Clay	...	...	...	...	81
Coralline	{	Sand and Rock	...	...	16
		Hard Rock	...	...	4
		Sand, with water	...	...	6
		Hard Rock	...	...	5
		Sand and Clay	...	...	1

113

The parish is well wooded ; the central part, Radley Park, contains some good trees ; in the northern part are part of Bagley Wood, and Radley Large and Small Woods ; besides which, various copses and woods occur in other parts of the parish. In the area formed by the G.W.R., the Abingdon branch line and the River Thames, at the south end of the parish, is a tract of swampy ground called Thrupp Marsh, where many water and marsh plants are to be found. The following is a list of some of the plants and trees which are more uncommon in this parish :—

BOTANICAL NAME.	COMMON NAME.	LOCALITY.
<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	muscatel	near College, and on the Abingdon Road
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	moonwort	Park
<i>Calamintha acinos</i>	basil thyme	
<i>Calamintha officinalis</i>	common calamint	
<i>Campanula hybrida</i>	Venus' looking-glass	
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	nettled-leaved bell flower	
<i>Carduus pyenocephalus</i>	Italian Thistle	Pumney
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	hounds'-tongue	Pumney
<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>	fritillary	near Nune- ham
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	hemp nettle	
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	blue meadow geranium	
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	mountain crane's-bill	
<i>Helminthia echiioides</i>	ox-tongue	Willow Lane
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	small St. John's wort	
<i>Limnanthemum peltatum</i>		
<i>Lychnis githago</i>	corn-cockle	
<i>Malva moschata</i>	musk mallow	
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	bird's-nest orchid	near College on Abingdon Road
<i>Nepeta cataria</i>	catmint	Park
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	adder's-tongue fern	
<i>Pinus silvestris</i>	Scotch fir	
<i>Pyrus aria</i>	white beam tree	on Abing- don Road
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	buckthorne	
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	wild sage	
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	dwarf elder	Kennington Avenue
<i>Stellaria palustris</i>	march stitchwort	Thrupp