

RADLETT IN THE YEAR 1841 WHEN THE FIRST CENSUS WAS TAKEN

The Ecclesiastical Parish of RADLETT was created by an Order in Council dated 5th December, 1865 by cutting it off from the eastern portion of the ancient parish of ALDENHAM; it was originally gazetted "DISTRICT CHAPELRY OF CHRIST CEURCH, RADLET" - one 't' you will notice. Reference is made in the "LONDON GAZETTE", in which the Order was published, to four boundary stones inscribed, "R.Ch.Ch.D.C. 1865", but, alas! they have disappeared.

Originally, beginning on the south, the parish boundary line followed the old parliamentary divisional boundary westward from the railway to a point marked on the 6"; Ordnance Survey Map of 1868, '313' (spot level) south of South Medburn Farm. From there it ran along the middle of Watling Street, N.W. to a private road in Aldenham Park opposite North Medburn Farm. Turning west along this road across the park, it gradually bent N.W. crossing New Grubb's Lane - now known as Butterfly Lane - keeping to the west of Slade's Farm along the centre of Sawyer's Lane and at the end continuing N.W. straight across the fields, leaving Little Kendals, Moses Dell, Loom Farm and the Ridgeway within the parish, but Battler's Green outside, to a point in Loom Lane exactly opposite Gill's Hill Lane. The line now ran along the middle of this old lane - that is about six feet from the western side - turning to the right at the bend until new Willow Way was reached. {It followed that all the houses on the right or eastern side of Gills Hill Lane, up to the junction with Willow Way, were in the parish, and that those which were on the opposite side were in Aldenham ecclesiastical parish.} Leaving Gill's Hill Lane, the line ran along a ditch skirting the S.W. side of Willow Way to the bottom of the hill on the Watford Road, marked B.M. 296.7 on the O.S. Map; from there it ran in a straight line N.W. to the former Aldenham and St. Stephen's boundary. The houses on the N.E. side of Willow Way were in the parish, but those on the opposite side were not.

By the County of Hertford Review Order of 1955 considerable changes were made in the boundary of the civil parish of Aldenham, portions of the parish of St. Stephen's being now included in Aldenham. These changes did not, however, effect the parish of RADLETT, which conformed on the north to the old Aldenham boundary. The line, therefore, ran eastward keeping north of the Nursery Gardens and the Folly and south of Starveacres and Newlands, across Newlands Avenue and down the centre of Malt Lane to Watling Street. Turning N.W. the line went along the middle of Watling Street to a point just north of 'Marble Arch', the cottages being inside the parish, and also all the houses built on what was formerly the park of Aldenham Lodge. The children of Mr. C. T. Part, the former owner of the park, called the railway bridge the 'Marble Arch' and the Shenley Hill entrance to the 'drive', the 'Grosvenor Gate'; the former derisive name was soon firmly established.

Leaving Watling Street the boundary ran N.E. across the fields to Wild Farm where it turned abruptly to the S.E.; the farm house was within the parish. Crossing the grounds of Porters Park and the road to Shenley it passed Wood Ha11, which was included, and proceeded S.E. to Lat 51 deg. 40 mins. N. That line of latitude continues westward to the railway and divided Radlett from Boreham Wood. Turning S.E. the boundary ran down the centre of the railway to the point from whence we started. (In 1969ⁱ Radlett had to give up some of its land on the eastern side of the railway to help form a new parish of Boreham Wood.)

In 1969 there was included in the parish the whole of the Battlers Green district, the end of the Ridgeway and Heyford Road, which were all previously in the ecclesiastical parish of Aldenham. Some residents of Newlands Avenue and the whole area north of Malt Lane over to Oakridge Avenue, who were, surprisingly enough, previously living in the parish of Frogmore, became included in the parish of Radlett. The revised boundary now runs from the Watford Road end of New Road across the fields to Oakridge Lane on the Radlett side of Hill Farm, which it then follows up to the A 5ⁱⁱ. Crossing over Watling Street the boundary now runs up Harper Lone and includes Harperbury Hospital in the parish.

A new Deaconry of Aldenham was also brought into being to include the parishes of Aldenham; Radlett; Bushey, Bushey Heath, Elstree, All Saints, Boreham Wood; and St. Michael & All Angels, Boreham Wood, Shenley Colney St. Peter and Frogmore.

Though small the Ecclesiastical Parish of Radlett is remarkable for lying within two of the ancient divisions of the County, the Hundreds of DACORUM and CASHIO. CHAUNCY, our earliest County historian (1700), says of DACORAM, "In the time of the Conqueror it was sever'd by the Names of DANAIS and TREUNG (or TRING) Hundreds, but about the reign of EDWARD III they were consolidated into one hundred now called DACORUM from the Danes that were in old times Inhabited here". In DOMESDAY BOOK the area later known as DACORUM is referred to as DANAIS, and in the PIPE ROLL (1196-1250 A.D.) as 'de hundredo Dacorum'; the name means hundred of the Danes, Dacorum being genitive plural of DACI, literally the DACIANS, or inhabitants of DACIA, erroneously in medieval times of the Danes because of a legend that certain tribes from that province had emigrated to Denmark.

The CENSUS - a counting of heads - taken in the year 1801 was of no use to the genealogist; it merely enabled the statisticians to establish the number of inhabitants in the various parishes and townships, and to give us the first official count of the population of the country as a whole. The first Census to be of value - and not only to the compilers of family 'trees' - was that of 1841 which, together with those for the years 1851, 1861 and 1871, may be seen on microfilm deposited in the Public Record Office (Land Registry building in Portugal Street, London, W.C.). Census returns are not made available to the general

ⁱ This date is not clear in the original typed document: It could be 1909 or 1969.

ⁱⁱ Renumbered A5183 since.

public until after a hundred years have elapsed from the time of taking them. The word 'CENSUS' is of Latin origin. In ancient Rome the CENSOR was a public official whose duty it was to keep a roll of citizens; if any one of them was considered unfit to have his name on it it was struck out - hence we get the word 'censorious', or to 'censor' something or other.

In 1841 persons were asked to state (a) their full names, (b) their ages. To the nearest five years, (c) their occupations, and (d) whether or not they had been born in the county in which they happened to be living at the time of the taking of the Census. In 1851 each person had to state in addition to his or her occupation, his or her exact age; where he or she had been born - village or town, or country, if born abroad; and the relationship which existed between the other members of the household and the 'head' of the house, e.g. wife, son, daughter, and so on, or whether a servant, sojourner, or lodger.

And now let us begin with the first 'count' of RADLETT in 1841, of which a copy of the particulars will be found on the REFERENCE shelves of the LIBRARY, and try and interest you in some of the matter contained in it; the names of the inhabitants etc. have had to be extracted from the Census of the parish of Aldenham as a whole. It is not possible to say what the population of RADLETT was before the Census of 1841 when it was just 325 (if one includes in it Battlers Green - although this hamlet was excluded from the ecclesiastical parish until 1969 - 'The Folly'; Darnhills; Newberries Mansion and Farm; Aldenham Lodge and Lodge Farm; and Cobden Hill), but we do know that in 1871 - the first Census taken after the formation of the parish of Radlett - it was 443. In 1901 when the writer came to live in the village the population had grown to 808; in Aldenham the number of inhabited houses was then 249 plus 57 in the Elstree portion of the parish, and 171 in RADLETT. And here we think it proper to interpolate the population figures for the ecclesiastical parish up to the year 1971 when the last Census was taken;

1871	443
1881	480
1891	541
1901	808
1911	2063+
1921	2431+
1931	3188*
1951	3808*
1961	4601*
1971	8420*

Figures marked (*) were taken from the St. Albans Diocesan Directory; those marked (+) from trade directories, and the rest from the printed census returns. Owing to the War there was no Census taken in the year 1941.

In the Census of 1841 the description of Enumeration District No.9, part of the Civil Parish of Aldenham, states: "All that part of the Parish of Aldenham which lies to the North-east of DARNELLS FARE, near RADLETT, within the following Boundaries:

From DARNELLS FARM to ALDENHAM LODGE, to CLARK JAMES'S LODGE, to NEWBERRIES FARM, to WAGSTAFF'S near SHENLEY, to HIGH GARDENS; to CAMPBELL'S, Theobald Street; to BLIGHTON'S HILL; to KENDALLS POUND: to COBDEN HILL and RADLETT Inclusive."

Darnells Farm, Aldenham Lodge, Clark James's Lodge, Newberries Farm, Wagstaff's, High Gardens, Campbell's, Blightons Hill and Kendalls Pound have all gone, the first-named but recently. CLARK JAMES'S LODGE would have been the lodge which once stood close to the entrance of what is now PORTER'S PARK GOLF CLUB and gave admission to a long track which led to MODEL and WILD FARMS; and WAGSTAFF we know to have been living at PORTERS FARM HOUSE near SHENLEY.

HIGH GARDENS was a small mansion which was built on or about the site of HAYDONS FARM, an ancient homestead that for centuries lay in the fields off Theobald Street about half-a-mile N.E. of ORGAN HALL FARM; just on the edge of what is now the 'Overspill' town of BOREHAM WOOD. Haydons, Cressalls and Tile House Farms – the last two were in Theobald Street, and now only Tile House remains - were in the same ownership for many years, and in the possession of Robert Shafto in 1765. HAYDONS was mentioned in 1645, and shewn on a map of 1765 with field names of the year 1657; the name is a corruption of AYDENS or EYDENS, and probably received it from the family of Roger de Hayden, a tenant of John de Titberst who was the owner in the 15th century. This family is most likely connected with JOAN EYDEN who, in 1415, made a bequest for the upkeep of four lights in the parish church of ALDENHAM. EYDENS was acquired by RALPH PENNE of PENNE'S PLACE who, on his death in 1485, bequeathed it for the purpose of building a chantry in the parish church but this provision did not take effect, and it eventually became part of the Manor of CHARINGS owned by the CONINGSBYS in 1546.

CAMPBELL'S in Theobald Street may well have been ORGAN HALL FARM, and BLIGHTONS HILL, the name given to an eminence near the spot on which KENDALL HALL was built. In or about the 13th century there was a moated homestead at the south end of Kendalls Wood by the lake but all trace of this has disappeared. KENDALLS POUND is now 'LITTLE KENDALLS'; the 'pound', long since vanished from the scene, was a small piece of the field on the west side of Watling Street just to the north of what is now the drive up to the mansion. Before enclosures became general straying cattle etc. were impounded here and the pindar, a parish officer, would exact a fine before he allowed the owner of the beast to remove it.

THEOBALD STREET (TITEBERST) and MEDBURN were both medieval hamlets, mention of the former going back to the Conquest; MEDBURN dates back at least to the 15th century, mention being made of MEDBRON-HALLE, and in the following century we hear of GREAT MEDBORNE and MEDEBORNE; the name means 'meadow stream'.

There were 6 holdings in TITEBURST in the DOMESDAY SURVEY of 1086, one held by the BISHOP OF BAYEUX, which it is difficult now to identify; one by the ABBEY OF WESTMINSTER which was the Tithing of TITBERST, parcel of the manor of WHEATHAMPSTEAD, and which lay eastward of the road (Theobald Street) from RADLETT to BOREHAM WOOD: one by GEOFFREY de MANDEVILLE which he held of the ABBOT OF WESTMINSTER; another by the same GEOFFREY, which may be what known as the Manor of WELD (PORTERS PARK); one by GEOFFREY de BECH, which could have been the Manor of TITBERST & KENDALLS; and another by the same GEOFFREY which may be the strip of the parish of RIDGE between ALDENHAM & SHENLEY. The Tithing of TITBERST held by the Convent, and later by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, included the Manors of Titberst and Kendalls, Sherlands alias Randolphs (later Aldenham Lodge), Charings, and the property called Porters in Shenley. These six holdings are more fully described in the VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY which will be found in the Library.

Here follow various lists for the year 1841 which show:-

- (a) the number of mansions, houses, cottages, farms and inns of RADLETT and its vicinage,
- (b) the population figures of the various parts of RADLETT, and environs,
- (c) the occupations of the inhabitants, together with the number of adults and of children under the age of 16.

NUMBER OF HOUSES RADLETT IN 1841

	INNS	COTTAGES	HOUSES	FARMS	MANSIONS
RADLETT INC. FOLLY	2	36	--	1 (Darnhills)	--
COBDEN HILL	--	10	2	1	--
NEWBERRIES	--	1	--	1	1
ALDENHAM LODGE	--	--	--	1	1
	2	47	2	4	2
BATLERS GREEN	--	4	--	2	1
MEDBURN HAMLET	--	7	--	2	--
THEOBALD HAMLET	--	1	3	5	--
KENDALLS	--	1	--	--	1
WOOD HALL	--	--	--	--	1
PORTERS LODGE	--	1	--	--	--
	2	61	5	13	5

POPULATION RADLETT 1841

		<u>NUMBER OF ADULTS</u> aged 16 or over	<u>NUMBER OF CHILDREN</u> under 16
BATLERS GREEN	35	23	12
FOLLY	13	6	7
MEDBURN HAMLET	52	26	26
THEOBALD STREET HAMLET	47	36	11
RADLETT	182	90	92
PORTERS LODGE	2	2	--
NEWBERRIES LODGE FARM & MANSION	18	11	7
WOOD HALL	5	4	1
ALDENHAM LODGE	6	6	--
LODGE FARM	9	3	6
DARNHILLS FARM	4	4	--
COBDEN HILL	58	30	28
KENDALLS	8	7	1
KENDALLS LODGE			
	439	248	191

(Number of Males 221

Number of Females 218)

The Population of RADLETT including say:

BATTLERS GREEN	35	was 325
FOLLY	13	
RADLETT	182	
NEWBERRIES LODGE FARM & MANSION	18	
ALDENHAM LODGE & LODGE FARM	15	
DARNHILLS	4	
COBDEN HILL	58	

The population of the other parts:

MEDBURN HAMLET	52
THEOBALD ST. HAM.	47
KENDALLS inc. LODGE	8
PORTERS LODGE	2
WOOD HALL	5

OCCUPATIONS

RADLETT (including Cobden Hill, Batlers Green, Folly, Newberries, Newberries Lodge and Farm, Aldenham Lodge, Lodge Farm and Darnells)

1841 CENSUS

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS	71
FEMALE SERVANTS	12
MALE SERVANTS	8
FARMERS	4
INDEPENDENT	2
VICTUALLERS	2
WHEELWRIGHTS	2
GAMEKEEPERS	2
GARDENERS	2
BLACKSMITH	1
PENSIONER (47)	1
CARPENTER	1
HIGGLER	1
BAKER	1
CARRIER	1
BAILIFF	1

We have listed the decennial population figures for the Civil Parish of Aldenham (and also those for ELSTREE RURAL and SHENLEY) from 1801 to 1971.

DECENNIAL POPULATION FIGURES

	<u>ALDENHAM</u>	<u>ELSTREE RURAL</u>	<u>SHENLEY</u>
1801	1103	286	729
1811	1127	292	990
1821	1399 (252 houses)	309	1132 (222 houses)
1831	1494	341	1167
1841	1662	360	1220
1851	1656	396	1297
1861	1769	402	1304
1871	1929 (Radlett Station opened)	525	1380
1881	1833 (369 inhabited houses)	662	1321
1891	2085 (386 " ")	805	1425
1901	2487 C.P.	1325 C.P.	1509 C.P.
1911	3894 C.P.	1939	1598
1921	4349 C.P.	2238	1729
1931	5879 "	3457	2349
1941	--	--	--
1951	6319 C.P.	10228 *	4258
1961	9110	24782 *	4245
1971	8745 *	29555	3825 C.P. inc. 1820 Mental Homes.
	C.P. Civil Parish * Boundaries altered in intercensal period		

It is interesting to note that the population figures for WATFORD, ST. ALBANS & HERTFORD in the year 1801 were 3530, 3038 and 3360 respectively.

Reverting to the RADLETT CENSUS, it will be observed that the owners of both the mansions of NEWBERRIES and KENDALLS were not in residence when the Census was taken and only the servants were in possession. MARY BUTCHER, laundress, and seven others, four of whom were servants at KENDALL HALL, lived in a pair of cottages at the bottom of TYKES WATER LANE on the west side of the railway-to-be, and close to the arch; these cottages had gone long before the year 1900.

The HOOPERS and LARKINS - ten in all - were living in the pair of semi-detached cottages which later became the 'CAT & FIDDLE' beerhouse in 1845.

JOHN F. MASON of ALDENHAM LODGE, whose family at one time owned and lived in PORTERS PARK MANSION - John Mason, who died in 1750, was Lord of the Manor of WELD which appears to have been absorbed in the 'PORTERS' estate - was one of the examining magistrates in the preliminary inquiries respecting the murder of WILLIAM WEARE in GILLS HILL LANE on October 24, 1823; WILLIAM BULMER was a witness at the Trial. It is interesting to note that the GRAND JURY on that occasion was headed by none other than the HON. WILLIAM LAMB of HATFIELD (BROCKET HALL), who became VISCOUNT MELBOURNE, was Whig Prime

Minister in 1834, and was much loved by QUEEN VICTORIA; this Jury also included William Robert Phillimore of KENDALLS and John Fam Timmins of Hilfield Lodge.

It is extraordinary, to say the least, that a recently constructed cul-de-sac road on the north side of 'The Folly' in the Watford Road, should have been given the name 'HAWTREES' - which name, incidentally, did not commend itself to the Parish Council - for there was living in 'The Folly' in the latter half of the 17th century a family named

'HAWTREE' and Jonathan of that name owned HATCH FIELD on which BATTLERS GHEEN ESTATE has been built, in the early part of the next century. If you take a look at the CENSUS you will see that a descendant, THOMAS, was residing there in 1841; it is most likely that he lived in the old Tudor house which was still standing, way back from the road, in 1914. His youngest son, HAMNET, bore the same name as Shakespeare's boy.

"Murder" cottage - known as Probert's in 1823 - was still standing in Gills Hill Lane in 1841 and, in fact, was not pulled down until the eighties; it is not mentioned in the CENSUS and must have been unoccupied at that time.

GEORGE ORTON, farmer of THEOBALD STREET, would, we are sure, have been an elder brother of ARTHUR ORTON, one of the greatest impostors of all time. It was he who claimed to be the long lost only son of Lady Tichborne, and therefore heir to a considerable estate in Hampshire. He was born in ELSTREE in 1834, his father being the village grocer. The family moved to Wapping, and Arthur emigrated to Wagga Wagga in Australia.

Roger Charles Doughty Tichborne, whose family name became a household word as a result of this imposture, was assumed to have been drowned at sea on a voyage from South America to Australia. We will not go into the details of Orton's attempt to establish his claim to the estate - he had been 'recognised' by Lady Tichborne as her son but she died shortly after his arrival from 'down under' - but after a hearing lasting over 100 days the evidence of the Tichborne family fully convinced the jury of the falsity of the claim and that Orton was an impostor. He was arrested, tried in the year 1874, convicted and sentenced to 14 years penal servitude. It was a 'cause celebre', indeed!

ADAM PATON was head gardener - later to become farm bailiff - at NEWBERRIES. He was a great grandfather of WINNIE and SIDNEY WATSON, who are two of Radlett's oldest inhabitants; he and his wife were the first occupants of one of the FLINT COTTAGES. PATON was a Scot and WILLIAM COBBETT, writing in his Journal ("Rural Rides") at ST. ALBANS in the year 1822, had this to say about the Scots and gardening:- "It is curious to observe how the different labours are divided as to the nations. The mowers are all English; the haymakers are Irish. Scotchmen toil hard enough in Scotland, but when they go from home it is not to work, if you please. They are found in

gardens, and especially in gentlemen's gardens. Tying up flowers, picking dead leaves off exotics, peeping into melon-frames, publishing the banns of marriage between the 'male' and 'female' blossoms The digging, the moving, the carrying of loads; all the break-back and sweat-extracting work they leave to be performed by those who have less prudence than they have. The great purpose of human art, the great end of human study, is to obtain ease to throw-the burden of labour from our own shoulders and fix it on those of others." How very true!

In 1857 John F. Mason of Aldenham Lodge leased his farm consisting of some 240 acres to JOSEPH DICKINSON at a rent of £250 a year. One of the fields was called BLACK WARREN and J. E. SAUL, who wrote "RADLETT, PAST AND PRESENT" in 1927, lived for a long time on Shenley Hill in a house to which he gave that name. Other fields bore the names of Upper, Lower and Little Warren, Upper and Lower Marshalls Heath, Elder Tree Field, Crab Tree Field, Peak's Field and Broomfield. Dickinson was to have the use of the Brewhouse and oven belonging to the Mansion House, and Mason had the right to have for his sole use and enjoyment one bedroom in the farmhouse - an odd condition!

When we were young we remember seeing JOHN TIMSON (aged 3 in the Census); he must have been at least 70 years old then and so bent with arthritis that his nose nearly touched the ground as he walked. Said Fred Saunders, the sexton, to Fred Knee, "Do you think that that young man is going bird-nesting?"

When WILLIAM ANDREWS, aged 5 in the Census, grew to manhood he became the village blacksmith; "Week in, week out, he worked the rule, and children coming home from school, played larks with the sparks, and passed remarks". The first smithy in Radlett, of which we have any record, was behind the "Railway" - when it was called the "Cross Keys"; then followed the one in rear of the "Red Lion", and when that pub was rebuilt and the smithy disappeared "Bill" set up another one - the last - on the opposite side of the road next to 'Flint Cottages'.

JAMES CLARK was the landlord of the "RED LION". Throughout the first half of the 19th century it was kept by the Clark family, Robert, Sarah, James and Edward in succession.

WILLIAM HADNUTT was the tenant of the "CROSS KEYS" and member of a family which had lived and farmed in the parish for some centuries; his uncle Thomas owned the Round Bush 'triangle' at the beginning of the 19th century. His predecessor at the "CROSS KEYS" in 1826 was Jas Burchall.

An analysis of the CENSUS shows that there were six sets of twins living in Radlett and one in Battlers Green (the Sprigg's family were fortunate in having two lots), a high average when you consider that there were only 51 families in Radlett (including "The Folly") and Battlers Green. In one case one child appears to have been born two weeks after the other!

One also sees that there were only 14 double Christian names out of a total of 439 persons, 4 males and 10 females. It is certainly very odd that each of the females was called MARY ANN which, by the way,

must have been the first common double forename in the whole of the country. We are reminded of a song -which was very popular when we were young and went like this:-

Mary Ann she's after me,
Full of love she seems to be;
My mother says it's plain to see
She wants me for her young man.
Father says if that be true,
John, my boy, he thankful do,
There's one bigger fool in the world than you -
That's Mary Ann!