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Ye Olde Kings Towne of Bradinge

Bradinge is reputed to have been found by King Alfred,

SIR John Oglander describes the now straggling village as ye awntientest Towne in owre Island and although poore now (this was in the reign of the first Charles)

It was formerly ye richest and of best repute, It was ye only towne for receipt of strangers that came by shippinge, St Hellens then beinge ye sole and only harbor and betwixt St Hellens and Ride Cows Stoeke Bay and Headale was no ther towne.

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There belonged in those dayes to
Switellens and Baineslye fifty
sayle of shipes of Nettlesone Point,
by aev a myle into ye see, they
had made a good Harbor by eastinge
up of ye beache on both sydes

Bradinge in Queen Elizabeth's tyme
was a Randsome towne, that was
in itt many good liviers that
myght dispend £40 a yeare apiece,
now not one, formerly Twelve in
my memory

Extracts from Brading Town Book
first entry dated 1551 give an
insight into Tudor life.

Curfew Bell. We owe and desire
that the order for the bell ringing
at 8 of the clock in the evening

and 4 of the ³clock in the morning
shall be continued on payne of 6d
1555 Fines, We payne all those
who hang clothes in the Churchyard
to lose 7d

Seolds. We do payne James Poeecke
to redify evering steele and to
make up the towne prison called
the cage, in as good manner and
form as here before, Penalty 30s
We payne all the exattomen and
Knudsmen in this ~~to~~ towne that
from thenceforth they should not
open their windows on any
Sunday or holidays after the bell
hath rung the second peale to
service 6stine

We payne every inhabitant of

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this Towne to have a elubb or blunt staff at all times in his Rouse searer or eight feet long for the preservation of the Queens Majestys peace. Penalty 2s.

We payne every inhabitant of this Towne during all the summer to have a tubb of water at his doore or in his back-side, always for the better preventing of the danger of fire Penalty 12 pence

We present the wife of John Seavell for drawing blood upon the bailey Beale for which punishment in Cippes (Perished in the stocks)

The stocks are still preserved in the Old Church-house

We present John Waggs maid

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servant for gathering of acorns
in Beaper or Beau Repare
(beautiful site) on the Sabbath day
in time of Divine Service 1603

In 1582 widow Hall was made
Towne chandler to sewe candles
at 3d a pound

A price was fixed for butchers
meat, and fines if sold at an
excessive price 1593

A fee-farm sum of four marks
was annually paid into the Exchequer
Kil Itelb. Bradug was governed
by two bailiffs, a recorder, and
thirteen jurats

School was held in the Town Hall
The Corn-Market did good business
every Monday, and two annual fairs
were held

~~The~~ Originally Brading paid its two Parliamentary members 4d a day. The borough was relieved of its burden on presentation of a petition to parliament stating that the inhabitants were unable to support it.

The oldest part of the village is the main street one of the houses are half timbered & they date from the 16th-17th centuries.

A cottage near the church is inscribed on the lintel "William Southcote 1698, Brading Town and also half timbered, was restored in 1876 now contains the Town library.

The James cottage on the slope of the Down is linked with a hundred or twenty six years ago, when Henry Richmond visited James, after immortalised in Richmonds Annals of the Poor.

In John Orlander's write concerning Brading, the church is the ancientest in our Island and on the last leaf of the oldest volume of the parish registers is an entry made by him that it was built by St Wilfred A.D. 704. In 686 the saint just raised a cross in the Isle of Wight.

The church was entered in Domesday Book as BERARDING from the two Saxon wards brad broad and ing a meadow. Sir John continues

The chawneell wase bwylded in Edward ye 1st time. ye south isle was bwylded by ye Sglanders. The chawneell by ye Abbott of Bremon whoe wase parson of ye priese, or ye middle-
isle ~~isle~~.

The North isle by ye Priese and ye Hollises w^{as}

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gave ye moyety with ye Piriseh towards ye
bwylding of it. There be two of ye Oglanders
John & Oliver (Koombes) but there ye lyeth in ye
church and south chawneell many seove of ye
Oglanders

Sir John who died at Nunwell in 1655 was
buried in the chapel belonging to his family
at the east end of Brading Church.

On altar tombs are recumbent effigies of his
father and himself in full armour. In a niche
above his own figure is another on a red-ee
seale, that of his son George who died at
Caen in 1652 excited for his attachment to his
Sovereign.

Another interesting monument is that of Sir John
Cherwin (or Carwen) Constable of Portchester Castle
ob. 1441. one of the few incised slabs to be found
in England, designed by a Flemish artist. In the
vestry are two altar tombs bearing the inscriptions
JHU Have merci on Wylyam Howlys Soul Amen
mccccxx Helizbeth hys Wyf.

Brading Church has a fine peal of bells. In the
churchyard is an ancient sun-dial & many old
graves with quaint inscriptions, including
"little Jane" and Mrs Berry, the wife of an exercise
man, beginning "forgive bless shade the Tributary
tear", which was set to music by Doctor Calcott.
West Nunwell half a mile from the present house
was the first home of the Oglander family,
~~The~~ associated with Brading since the Norman
Conquest, their original seat was Chateau d'
Oglander near Valognes, department of La Manche
once a part of Normandy. A branch of the old tree

still exists in France and the Marquis d'Oglander was a member of the Chamber of Deputies in 1825. In the reign of Henry I the Oglanders held West Nonwell from the Castle of Eavisbrooke. They still hold the Manor, making an uninterupt possession of more than 700 years.

Thirty years after the Conquest Herbert Oglander was attached to a de Redvers and a certain Peter Oglander became the first ~~prior~~ prior of Evesham. Sir Henry Oglander served with the Black Prince in the French Wars.

West Nonwell was burnt with sixty neighbouring houses by the French in the reign of Richard II. and later by accident so Sir John Oglander pulled down the poor remains in 1604. He built the Jacobean part of East Nonwell, which had been bought by Oliver Oglander in 1522 from the Keene or Kymm family, whose ancestor married Princess Cecily a daughter of Edward IV. There is a Tudor work in the Kitchen and Hall. The last additions were made in 1765 and they tend to give the Jacobean House the appearance of a Georgian Manor.

The bedrooms over the Hall were once one large apartment called 'The Withchawing Room' where Sir John Oglander after dining in the hall and discussing business, presented King Charles I with a purse of gold. The King afterwards retired to the "Wrought Chamber" which is still known by that name.

Sir John Oglander is best described by himself in the Oglander Memoirs "The life of Sir John Oglander K

who came to keepe howse at Nunwell
 Anno Dom 1607 borne att East Nunwell in ye
 ehawmber over ye parlour (May 1583) and nursed
 att Bordewoode by one Eocks wyfe brought
 up in his infancie at Bewlie, and afterwards put
 to schoole at ~~St~~ Schatleett in ye Island --
 from thence to Rynewood and ye Newe florest
 Andover and Winehesker, Baylioll College in Oxen
 for three years, thence to Middle Temple Stuard
 att ye Readers Feaste, and one of ye Revelors --
 Of all vices I hate drunkenness, but I would play
 ye good yellowe, and would not mutch refrayne
 from drinking 2 or 3 healthes -- I am of a
 middling stature, bigg but not very fatt, of a
 moderate dyott, not caring how litte or
 eourse of cleane an handsome -- for my
 intellectual partes let my actions judge of me
 I live at a greates rate of expence in my
 housekeeping for I always keep 3 serving
 men and a foot ~~boye~~ boye, besides retainours
 alwaies ~~keep~~ my coaches well ~~housed~~ horsed
 (my coach was ye second that ever was in
 ye Island) I spend usuolly \$400 everye year
 soe that I could not lay up mutch, -- I do
 assure that my wyfe and I lived at Nunwell
 for ye space of fifteen years, had it not bene
 involvred with sickness, as haplye for owre
 estate, as well and plentifulie and in eis good
 repute and fashon as anie eould or would
 deserve, but true contente, thou must not
 expect in this worlde

Sir John married the youngest daughter of
 Sir George Hore of Hooley in Surrey - Till this

father's death I wed at Winchester, Westdeane
Sussex and Eichester

On succeeding to Nunwell estate he tells his readers
I waise putt into ye comission of ye Peeree at
ye age of 22 ~~years~~^{years}, when I not well understoode
myselfe as plasee and wase aschamed to sitt on
ye Bench as not having then any Raye on my
face and less wit - I could endure anything
save where my reputation and credite wase
kouted and nothings moore vexed me than ye
unkindness of my traynds.

Sir John had very indifferent health until he
reached the age of forty, when he became more
robust except for "greate payness in ye sowles of
ye feete."

When the Civil war raged he sided with the King,
with very disastrous results to himself, being
one of the earliest sufferers for his loyalty. Attention
was called in the House of Commons to the "demeanour
and carriage of one Oglander in the Isle of Wight"

In 1643 Colonel Thomas Lane, Deputy Governor
for the Parliament, wrote from Carisbrooke Castle:
I have sent up Sir John Oglander and sufficient
matter to keep him awhile by the leg if you do to
him justice; peradventure the place will be the
better for his absence, and some of the elegy
(God willing) shall follow him

Amongst the "sufficient matter to keep him awhile
by the leg" was the following episode recorded
in "Mercurius Aulicus" August 1643

This day we have received intelligence that
Sir John Oglander being in the Isle of Wight one said
to him that the Kings ships were goodly ships

'Yes' answered Sir John" but they would be better if they were restored to their true owner (the King) I would I had given £500 of my own purse so as they were in his possession". His enemy informed against him with the result that he was sent to prison for many months. One of his letters, written from there to Lady Oglanby, is still preserved and runs:

Dear Franke

Would I could send thee some newes. I apply myselfe to my Lord of Pembroke that by his mean I may procure a hearinge. Sometymes I find him willinge and sometimes passionate, sayinge he is informed I am the only malignant in ye Isle of Wight. I endeavour with reason to pacify him, but his continual informations agaynst me by som that wisches neither mee nor myne any good prayles more with him than my Innocence I pray God forgive them. Truly I knowe not when I shall heere or when I have a hearinge whether my Innocency will prayle more than these informations. Such is my unhappy ease that for 36 yeres service, all my charge and paynes taken for my country my Lord tells me I have not one of my neighbours (ye comon sorte) that speaks well of mee, and that now in our owld adge we should be forced to live asunder, ever when ~~we~~^{we} had most need one of ye others company. All that I desire of you is to beare it with good courage, and not by your gayte to lett our enemyes see you cast down. My black swyke bequins to be torne wherefore pray go to ye krounke in ye cellar where the tabacco is.

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Send up my sattin obbiet and cloth Rose and
eloke lined with pluseke and som tobacco, and
put the other tobacco in the binn. Pray send up
my swyke!

During the time Sir John was confined in
close quarters in London his devoted wife died,
and before he recovered his liberty he was
heavily fined. It is said that meanwhile his
Island home was plundered by a party of Parliamentarian
Sir John Oglander had returned to Nunwell 1647, and he
was visited by Charles I on the Thursday after his
arrival at Lambeth (the last freedom of action
enjoyed by his Majesty) It is said that Sir John
did not survive the Restoration but Charles II
granted his son William a baronetcy to reward
the family for all their sufferings & losses in
the royal cause.

The title expired on the death of Sir Henry
Oglander (1st baronet) in 1874. Sir Henry restored
Bradley Church, including the Oglander Chapel
and raised the Nunwell Company of the Isle of
Wight Rifle Volunteers. By his will as there
had been two recent marriages between the
Glynns & Oglanders, Mr J. H. Glyn was chosen to
continue his cousins name at Nunwell.

At a short distance from Bradley lies St Ursula's
Lapse, now famous for primroses & clofodils & the
reputed site of Woolverton.

St Ursula's Chapel is supposed to have been moved
to Yaveland on rollers

Tradition relates that long ago Bradley Harbour was a
beautiful stretch of fertile valley land, then the sea
broke in drowning many people & destroying their
homestead

The waters were combated¹² in 1620 when Sir Hugh Myddleton dammed the mouth of the Yare at Bemburgh and planted 700 acres of reclaimed land with barley, wheat, oats, cabbages, and rape seed at cost of £1,000. Ten years later the sea again flooded his fields, which reverted to barban bottom.

Last century the attempt was revived by the hibernator Virellus. The sea was barked and as before again it conquered and unfortunately drowned some workmen. At last the waves were vanquished and 643 acres became deprecious lives. Land at the cost of £420,000 and still more.

Today what was once the head of the bay is good pasture covered with cattle. Three crops of grain a year are cut from the fields and at the centre of the old tower stands a farm surrounded by meadows. The ground near the sea is planted with poplar trees.

In the reign of Charles II Bradrig Hoarham estate as far as Bradrig High Street, and goodly she lay at anchor under timbered Rooves. Not far from the main road to Savelown is Mouton Man supposed to possess a secret passage to Bemburgh Down. The village of Yarbidge is near the Roman IV consists of twelve rooms and a hall 50 feet long paved with tessellated pavement depicting a man wearing a red cap and charming monkey, fox per and coote by playing his lute. Miss Vry quote as the only instance in England where a man appears on an Oipheus pavement. The largest room is 40ft by 15ft and the floor

divided into compartments edged with guilloché ornaments in a tessellé of white and red. Oblong panels contain mythological subjects. Each corner is ornamented with well preserved representations of the four seasons. Winter is a woman with her head wrapped in a hood carrying a staff over her left shoulder, from which hangs a dead bird.

Another perfect mosaic is a male figure seated probably Hipparchus the astronomer pointing with a rod to a globe to his right is a sundial. In the centre of the next pavement is a head of Medusa.

Four square panels contain respectively a shepherd blowing a reed ~~and~~ leads him. Ceres offering Triptolemus the fruits of the earth, and an unknown subject. The east end of this floor depicts a Triton and a marine monster. Rooms three and six have a mythological mosaic, including a cock headed man emblematic of watchfulness.