

**HISTORY OF THE
PARISH OF EAST
LOCKINGE, BERKS**

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History of the Parish of East Lockinge, Berks by W. H. Hallam

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W. H. HALLAM

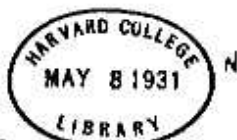
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BY
W. H. HALLAM.



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PREFACE.

The following notes on the "History of East Lockinge," were collected for the most part some ten to fifteen years ago. They are now published in the hope that they may be found interesting to the local resident.

For the descriptive account of the Pictures, &c., in the Mansion I am indebted to Lady Wantage.

My thanks are also due to the Rev. J. G. Cornish, Rector, for so readily allowing access to the Parish Registers.

W. H. H.

Kent Road, Swindon, 1899.

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THE PARISH
OF
EAST LOCKINGE, BERKS.

CHAPTER I.

NATURAL FEATURES.

EAST LOCKINGE is a Village in North Berks, lying two-and-a-half miles eastward of Wantage, in which Hundred it is situated. Its outline is long, and irregular, but narrow throughout. In length it measures five miles, while its breadth nowhere exceeds one mile, and in some portions contracts to little more than a furlong.

Its circumference measures about $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles, exclusive of the outlying hamlet of Ginge. The present acreage of the Parish is given as 2,822 acres, including the tythings of Betterton and West Ginge, and the rateable value £3,471.*

Of the Natural Features of the Parish it may be enough to say, that its general surface is a gradual rise from the North to the South, broken by a depression about midway, in which the village itself is situated. The Ordnance Survey gives the Levels as 219 feet above the Sea Level at the Northern extremity, rising to 373 feet where the Portway crosses the Parish, marked by a plantation of trees which

* *Kelly's Directory of Berks.*

form a conspicuous landmark in the vale, and are known as "Lockinge Clump," and locally as the "Land of Trees" or the "Waggon and Horses," which they resemble in shape.

From this point the land falls away until the village is reached, 329 feet above sea level, and then again rises gradually till the Parish terminates in the Chalk Downs of the Cuckhamsley Hills where it attains an elevation of 740 feet.

The soil is varied, consisting of loam and clay in the lower parts; chalk loam and greensand being met with before it reaches the marl and limestone on which the Village stands, while in the Downs it is wholly composed of chalk of which that range of hills consists.

In the Geological Section of the G. W. Railway, that portion in Lockinge Parish is described as composed of sand and from two to eight feet of chalk marl and greensand, covering blue clay.

The Railway here has a rise of eight feet per mile.

The time when these lowlands were part of the vast Eocene sea, which was slowly depositing the beds of gault clay and greensand above which the Down lands stood as Islands, or later still when it was a thick forest, impenetrable, both from the thick masses of vegetation, and the swamps which they concealed, is too remote to be included as part of this History and is beyond the scope of the present writer. The first human inhabitants who lived here, would be those who descended into the valleys from the higher and dryer lands; and of these no traces remain except their roads, to an account of which, another chapter is devoted.

CHAPTER II.

THE MANORS OF EAST LOCKINGE, THEIR HISTORY AND DESCENT.

THE Parish contains three Manors ; all of ancient date and each mentioned in "Doomsday Book."

The absence of coins (in any large numbers), pavements, and such like remains, lead us to infer that our Parish was not occupied by the Romans. The name Lockinge itself is Saxon and may be derived from Hlaw, a hill, and ing, a meadow, common, or close ; or again from Loki the Norse god of mischief, or perhaps from the name of the first chief who settled here. In Rowden's map of Berkshire 16—the name is given as Long or Lower Ginge, as if suggesting that derivation ; but the ancient names of these two places are too widely different to be connected in this manner. Mr. Kemble in his work "The Saxons in England," has collected the names of nearly 1400 English parishes ending in "ing" and compounds of it, as Basingstoke, Uffington, etc.

The whole of this district was from an early period in Saxon History, the possession of the Kings of Wessex. Cenwalh, in 648 A.D., gave to his nephew Cuthred (son of Cwiclem, from whom Cwiclemslaw or Scutchamore Knob is derived) the immense tract of 300,000 acres on the Berkshire Hills.

The earliest mention by name of our Parish however is A.D. 868, when Queen Adelswith or Ealhswyth, the daughter