

Radley History Club

Life in Radley in the 1930s and 1940s

Information extracted from interviews in the Radley Remembered series, mostly carried out in [2003 and 2004?]

Archive number:	A.37
Date of interview:	27-May-03

Personal details pre 1953

Interviewee (complete separate form for co-interviewee if also resident in Radley pre 1953):	STEVE TUBB (with Daisy Tubb)
Date of birth:	1926
Date came to Radley (if different):	
Address in 1930s/1940s:	<p>Steve lived with his aunt from birth at 44 Lower Radley as his mother was not well. Steve's family originally lived in the middle cottage at what is now Spinney's Cottage but moved in with aunt when mother died when Steve was 3. Spinney Comley moved out of 42 and the cottages were knocked through to make more room for them.</p> <p>Moved to Bigwood Camp with his wife Daisy when they married in 1946 but later moved back in with Tubbs in Lower Radley as Bigwood home was very cold and problem with stove.</p> <p>Then moved to the row of thatched cottages in LR (opposite Bakers Close) for about 18 months.</p> <p>Then moved to Combe, Woodstock (Daisy was very lonely there), then back to Kennington in 1960.</p>
Other family information:	<p>Married to Daisy who previously lived with her family at Bigwood. Steve was cared for by aunt when first born and after mother died. Aunt later married his father. 6 siblings. 2 brothers, one died young, the other died of heart attack at 40. One sister lived at Wheatley, another at Swindon. One lived in houses with Jeff Shepherd. All now dead. Remaining sister lived in Kennington at time of interview. Aunt had a hard life. She left school at 12 to look after her siblings, then later looked after her sister's children. She never had any of her own.</p>

Education

Schools/colleges attended:	Radley Primary, then council school in Abingdon, Ock St/ Conduit Street. Left at 14.
Other information about education:	Mentioned Miss Middleton who taught him and was still teaching at Radley Primary at the time of the Coronation.

Work

Occupation and place of work of father:	Worked at Morlands from age 13 to retirement, first screwing tops on bottles and then driving to collect money from pubs. He went to Reading twice a day for 29 years. Acted as a general carrier in war, for example taking Mr Frearson's wool somewhere.
Occupation and place of work of mother:	
Occupation and place of work of interviewee in 1930s/40s (if any):	While at school, used to deliver milk for Mr Beck to council houses in Church Road. Aged 14 to 18, worked for Mr Beck at Neat Home Farm doing general farm work. Took a job on a farm at Combe near Woodstock in 1950. In 1960 worked for Pressed Steel in Oxford but only for a year. Last in, first out.
Information about farm work and farms:	
Other information about what jobs people were doing:	Father was the first chap to drive a lorry at Morlands.
Travel	
Mode of travel to school:	
Mode of travel to work (interviewee and parents):	
Any comments about the station and use of the train:	
Any other comments about travel including, including car use and ownership:	
Buildings - location and characteristics	
Location of interviewee's home:	44 Lower Radley
Any comments on size, numbers of rooms, sharing, outside loos, source of water, electricity and telephone services etc of interviewee's home:	
Any comments on location and characteristics of other buildings in Radley including dwellings, shops, village hall, barns, laundries etc:	Can remember when there was only one house in Foxborough Road. That was Turner's. There were a lot of Turners - Ted, Bob, Jack, 2 girls. Milk deliveries as schoolboy included houses in White's Lane.
Services and pastimes (excluding education and travel covered above)	

<p>Comments about shopping including retail deliveries:</p>	<p>Mr Slatter used to come round with a van every week. Sold groceries, paraffin, sweets. Mr Goodley used to come as a baker from Abingdon. [?] from Harrison Matthews came with corn for chickens. Cotterills came round and took your order for meat on Saturdays.</p>
<p>Comments on health and health services:</p>	<p>Steve was 7 1/2 months when he was born (ie 6-8 weeks premature) at the Radcliffe hospital in Oxford. His aunt looked after him when he was brought home. The doctor said he would die. He was christened in 44 Lower Radley so as to be prepared for burial. Wife Daisy had to go to hospital in Wokingham for birth of son Barry in ? 1947.</p>
<p>Comments on play, pastimes and recreational activities - eg swimming in river, pub, clubs and societies, football, darts, guides:</p>	<p>Met wife Daisy at the pub - the Bowyers - when he was 17. She was there having a drink. Allotments. Were two lots of allotments in LR. The ones by Spinney's Cottage were 10 poles; the others were 15 poles. "All took, all done properly, edges trimmed." Mr Grimes had the one next to Steve.</p>
<p>Comments on religion, church and choir:</p>	
<p>Miscellaneous</p>	
<p>Any comments about Radley people not covered elsewhere:</p>	<p>Spinney, the roadman, went round several times a day. If it was freezing, he was up gritting before anybody was about. Petty (?) Comley who had only one arm used to plough and do everything on the farm, same as anyone else. Mrs Dawson in Dawson's Cottage. Kept herself to herself. Reckoned Dawson's Cottage was haunted. Bob Godden [Godding?] (round the other side) - used to clean the school out. Charlie Bolton (at the top here). Mrs Pocock where the two new houses have been built at the corner.</p>
<p>Comments about Radley College, its way of operating and relations with the village:</p>	
<p>Comments on Coronation and Jubilee events:</p>	<p>For the Coronation, a decorated tractor and trailer from Peachcroft Farm went round the village and up to the College. There were events at the College. There was a big children's party in the village hall. Daisy helped. Children got a mug. They 'done a pig and all that' by the former football pitch where Catherine Close is now. Very good do. Everyone dressed up, Victorian clothes and things like that, Mrs Smewin, Mrs Hadland, Mrs Jeacock, all the old uns. Youngsters in fancy dress also.</p>
<p>Any information on impact of WW2 in Radley and about wartime activities:</p>	