

Body Unearthed

In 1988 , whilst work was being done in the churchyard , close to the tower , a large skeleton was unearthed , which lay next to the stone of the tower , and directly underneath the gargoyles . Arthur Tindall had some of the bones dated , with the results as described in the letter which follows . The theory was that a body buried in that strange position could well have been that of a villain but who knows ? Certainly it belonged to someone buried in the previous wave of burials , of which it has always been said that there must have been at least three .

(See over)

In the early 1980 's , when the Sanderson family were gravediggers , they found a complete skeleton of a man so tall that they chopped off head and feet in digging the modern grave . This was in one of the mass graves from the local battles , which lie under the cherry trees , and are easily picked out from the visible humps .

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MAG/PAH

2nd November, 1988.

Mr. A. Tindall,
"Rockleigh",
The Square,
BRAMHAM,
Wetherby LS23 6QU

Dear Mr. Tindall,

Thank you for sending me the fragments of bone which you recovered from the churchyard at Bramham. There are four fragments. Two are from human pelvis, one is a lower part of the ulna, and the remaining fragment could well be from tibia.

They are all dry and brittle and their internal cancellous structure is fragmenting. The outer compact bone is translucent.

These bones are therefore several hundred years old and they could well date back to the 15th century. As you will appreciate more accurate estimation would involve carbon dating which is very expensive, but I hope that this approximate estimation is sufficient for you.

Would you please let me know whether you wish me to return the bones to you, or can I now destroy them?

Yours sincerely,



Dr. M. A. Green,
Senior Lecturer and Acting Head of
Department.