

BRAMHAM AND ITS ENVIRONS - PLACE NAMES

The Great North Road: Bawtry-Boroughbridge: Roman road. Stretch between Castleford and Bramham where it joins York Lane is referred to as Watling Street(OE *straet* - 'paved way, Roman road, street'). Direct continuation of this Roman road north through Wetherby has not been established (but modern name Street Ho in Kirk Deighton near Great North Road which crosses Nidd at Walshford). Apparently the route to Aliboron turned east at Bramham on Tadcaster-Ilkley road and near Toulston it turned north and is known as Rudgate. In Bramham York Lane is supposed Roman road from Bramham to Tadcaster and York. A Roman road starting near Toulston on road from Tadcaster-Ilkley went north and crossed Wharfe at St. Helen's Ford - Rudgate or 'Rudda's road' (OE pers. name *Rudda*). York-Tadcaster-Ilkley road passed through Bramham and Bardsey and was there called *Yorkegate*, *Stony Gate* or *Staingate* in Bardsey (ON *gata* - 'a street; ON *steinn* - 'stone, rock'). In Bramham, *Stony Gate* refers to this Roman road running west from Bramham (OE *stanig* - 'stony')

Spen Farm is on end of a headland and on track of the Roman Watling Street (OE *spe* - 'strip of land')

Canp Hill - near Roman road at Spen Farm. Bramham Moor (ON *moor* - 'moor')

Site of Battle of Bramham Moor 1140. The defeat of Earl of Northumberland helped to secure throne for Henry IV (1399-1413). The stone commemorating battle now stands in wood on right hand side of road between Bramham and Toulston

Halloway Leys Wood (OE *hol*, *weg*, *leah* - 'hollow', 'way', 'clearing in wood')

Open Rakes (OE *hrace* - 'rough narrow path, cattle - or sheep-walk') Beck (ON *bekkr* - 'brook')

Black Fen (OE *blac* - 'black' *fenn* - 'marsh')

Bowcliffe (OE *bula* - 'bull' *clif* (ON *klif*) - 'cliff, steep bank' 'river bank')

Bramham (OE *bron han* - 'homestead amongst the broom')

Bramham Biggin (OE *niwe* ~~building~~ (ME *-building*) - 'new building')

Ugleshorpe (OW Scandinavian personal name; *porp* O Dan ON 'secondary settlement' - 'Oddkell's outlying farmstead')

Headley (OE - *haed leah* 'heath' 'clearing' - 'clearing on the heath')

Carr Beck (ON - *kjarr*, *bekkr* 'marsh' 'brushwood'; 'stream')

Old Firth (OE *ald*, *ford* - 'old ford'). The ford crossed Carr Beck just below the Mill Dam of Clifford. It is the ford from which Clifford was named. Ford near steep bank

Gallow Hill (OE *cala hyll* - 'bare hill')

Lendrick Hills (OE, ON *lind* - 'line tree' OE *ric* - 'narrow strip' - 'strip of line trees')

Rhodes Hill (OE *rod* - 'clearing')

West Wood (OE *west wudu* - 'west wood')

BRAMHAM, a large pleasant village, in the vale of a small rivulet, on the great North road, 4 miles W.S.W. of Tadcaster, has in its parish the two townships of Bramham-cum-Oglethorp and Clifford-cum-Boston; the former having 1237 inhabitants, and 3760 acres of land, abounding in lime and freestone, and including OGLETHORP, now a farm, but once the seat of a wealthy family of its own name, who were ruined by their adherence to Charles I., in the civil wars, in which several of them were slain. A large portion of BRAMHAM MOOR is still unenclosed, and prolific in rabbits. It occupies a high plain, rising by a gentle acclivity from the village, and extending southward to the vale of the little river Cock, near Aberford, and having many vestiges of the great Roman road, called Watling-street.

John Watson, Esq., of Malton, who wrote in 1781, says, "Upon the middle of this moor, a man may see ten miles around him; within those ten miles there is as much freestone as would build ten cities, each as large as York; within those ten miles there is as much good oak timber as would build those ten cities; there is as much limestone and coal to burn it into lime as the building of those ten cities would require; there is also as much clay and sand and coals to burn them into bricks and tiles as would build those ten cities; within those ten miles there are two iron forges sufficient to furnish iron for the building of those ten cities, and ten thousand tons to spare; within those ten miles there is lead sufficient for the ten cities, and ten thousand fadders to spare; within those ten miles there is a good coal seam sufficient to furnish those ten cities with firing for 10,000 years; within those ten miles there are three navigable rivers, from any of which a man may take shipping and sail to any part of the world; within those ten miles there are seventy gentlemen's houses, all keeping coaches, and the least of them an Esquire, and ten parks and forests well stocked with deer; within those ten miles there are ten market towns, one of which may be supposed to return £10,000 per week."

On the west side of the moor is Bramham Park, an extensive ornamental enclosure, and one of the seats of George Lane Fox, Esq., but its large and elegant mansion was nearly all burnt down to the ground, with its costly furniture, on the 29th July, 1828, and has not yet been fully restored. This house, standing on an eminence in the park, commanding a view of York Minster, was built in the reign of Queen Anne, by Robert Denison, the first Lord Bingley, whose daughter and heiress carried his estates in marriage to George Fox, who assumed the name of Lane, and was created Baron Bingley, but died without issue, in 1773, when the title again became extinct. Bramham Park was granted by Wm. and Mary to the father of the first Lord Bingley, who enclosed it from the moor, and graced it with those plantations, in which it is now embowered.

Richard O. Gascoigne, Esq., is lord of the manor of Bramham, but the soil belongs chiefly to G. L. Fox, Esq., M.P. for Beverley, and Lord Headley. The latter is lessee of the rectorial tithes, which belong to Christ's College, Oxford, together with the patronage of the vicarage, valued in K.D. at £6 7s 6d., and in 1831, at £159, being augmented from 1770 and 1793, with £400 of Q.A.B., in 1792, with £200 given by Dr. Strafford's trustees, and in 1814, with a parliamentary grant of £600.

Bramham Church (All Saints) is an ancient Gothic structure, with a tower at the west end. The Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists have each a chapel here, the former built in 1818 and the latter in 1826.

In the township is Bramham Biggin and Lodge, and some other neat mansions, but Headley Hall, on the east side of the moor, is now a farm house, though it was formerly a seat of the Winns, one of whom was raised to an Irish peerage, in 1797, by the title of Lord Headley, Baron Allanson and Winn.

Bramham Free School was re-built some years ago, by subscription, and partly at the cost of the present master. The old School and Poor's Land, purchased with £140 benefaction money, and a sum subscribed by the parishioners, was exchanged at the enclosure of the common fields for an allotment of 16A., now let for £21 a year, of which £7 belongs to the poor, and the remainder to the schoolmaster, for teaching eight poor children, of Bramham, and four of Clifford. An annuity of 12s., left by Elizabeth Powell, is paid to the National School. The poor of Bramham have the following yearly doles, viz., 20s. left by Ann Laking, in 1715; 14s 4d left by Samuel Troutbeck; 18s left by Christopher Powell; and 5s left by John Wildman. The poor of Bramham and Clifford have four seventh parts of the rents of 2A. 1R. 26P. of land, at Clifford, and of a cottage and 4 acres, at Keswick, left by Rich-