

BRANHAM PARISH

Sir Thos Gasaigne Bart is Lord of the Manor of both the townships of Branham and Clifford, and to which townships there belong upwards of 1000 a. of Common. An Inclosure is talked of, and seems much desired by the Inhabitants—so that if the Lord or any of the Principal People would take the lead in this business there is little doubt of its being carried into execution. This will be a great advantage to the tythe as well as to every Landholder as the new inclosed would be ploughed up by which means the crops of corn would be much superior to those grown in the old going Townships Fields.

There has been several inclosures made from the Town fields to the great prejudice of the Tythes, as they are usually converted to Meadow or Pasture. It is said this practice has been time immemorial. However there has not the least check been given to it of late, for Mr Allanson, about 25 years ago took 40 or 50 acres of the Field land into his park, and since then, he could not, as lessee of the tythes, possibly find fault with any other person guilty of the same thing.

There are very few Turnips or Potatoes grown in this parish not 20 Acres one year with another, inclusive of those grown at Branham Park, and these are only seldom

The Tythes of Turnips and Potatoes, have never been demanded they are locked upon to be the Vicars right, & would be paid to him, if insisted upon; But the living being so small, not above £40 a year, the Parishioners in general have been so particularly kind to this and the late Vicar (Father and Son) which compensated for more than the value of these Tythes, and on that account they never were demanded. The Vicars were both Chaplains at Branham Park, and received an annual salary from there, and were also under many other obligations, so that it could not be supposed, these tythes would be taken there.

Rape is a casual crop, it is only grown when fresh lands are broken up. The tythe of Rape was always taken by the Vicar till the last which was grown there, which Mr Allanson insisted upon and took. The Vicar not being able to contend with him was obliged to give it up. I don't find that Mr Allanson is intitled to it by his lease nor has it been insisted in the Terriers till of late. But as the late Vicar did usually receive the tythe Rape, and as that as well as Tythe Turnips & Potatoes generally belong every where to the Vicar, there cannot be any doubt of its being his right.

Mr Placo the late Recorder of York was one of the Lessees of the Tythe of Branham, at which time a large quantity of Rape was grown. He locked upon it as the Vicars due and let him receive it without any molestation.

The lands belonging to the Vicarage, when in the occupation of the Vicar are tythe free, but if he lets them off they are tythed. It may be very inconvenient for the Vicar to keep all his land in his own hands, and if he lets it, it is rather hard he should be deprived of a part of its value. For the greatest part of it, if Tythe free would by that means let for 3s per acre more.

There is no tythe Barn, but there are two little Crofts called Cuttlers garth and part of Gibbon Garth, on which it is said a Tythe Barn once stood—and are now locked upon as Mr Winn's Freehold. The Tythes are taken in kind, except Mr Winns own Tenants, those of Branham are carried to his own estate at the Diggin, and those of Clifford to a small Farm there lately purchased by Mr Allanson; now Mr Winns. They are set up in Stock or Hattock & every tenth is taken.

There is some clover grown but seldom mown more than once. The second crop is generally oat upon the ground every tenth cock is taken, as well as the tythe Hay. The tythe Hay due to the Vicar is out of certain little crofts or garths called Mowstoads at the backs of, or adjoining to the houses and buildings and for which he receives a composition.

The Wool and Lamb is taken in kind. The Chancel is in bad repair.

The Tythes of Branham are assessed at the rate of £100 per year, the Land tax when at 4s amounts to about 1s 8d or 1s 9d in the pound. The whole of the taxes & assessments amount to about £16 or £17.

Clifford Tythes are Assessed at £80 a year, the Land tax when at 4s is about 1s. 10d in the pound and the whole amount to about £17. The General mode of management is two crops to a fallow, it is always so in the Town fields, in the inclosure sometimes three are taken, there are great quantities of Wood lands in this parish belonging to Sir John Goodricke The Hon Geo. Winn, & Dalby Thomson Esq.

John Crowder
May 25. 1776