

## 1. Oglethorpe Hall.

The home of the Oglethorpe family for more than five centuries until they lost it supporting the Royalist cause in the Civil war. The Fairfax family acquired the Hall, in whose hands it remained until it was sold to the first Lord Bingley. It is still part of the Bramham Park Estate One of The most notable members of the Oglethorpe family was Owen Oglethorpe, Bishop of Carlisle 1500-1559 He officiated at the Coronation of Elizabeth I and a commentary signed on the fly leaf by Elizabeth was given to Newton Kyme Church, probably by Oglethorpe. He was deprived of his see by refusing the Oath of Supremacy in 1559. He founded the Grammar School at Tadcaster in 1556-7 but this probably replaced the education carried out by the Uchurch preceeding the reformation. General Oglethorpe, founder of Georgia U.b.A. was a Member of the same family. In the 1930's the American University of Oglethorpe, Atlanta, Georgia wanted to buy the gate posts to erect at the entrance of the University but Lord Bingley would not let them go to America. There is a history of the family in Amos Aschbach Ettinger's

James Edward Oglethorpe. Imperial Idealist: Clarendon Press 1936 The gate posts are the only remaining part of the original building': It is of particular interest to the Village Society that General Oglethorpe was the man who freed Job Ben Solomon in Professor Grant's last book 'The Fortunate Slave'.

## 2. Wise Warren Farm.

This is presumed to be the site of the Warren granted. to the Monks of Holy Trinity Priory, York. Rabbits were raised in those days and they grew turnips for them Later the, turnips were used for sheep.

## 3. Headley Hall.

In the 12th Century, possibly year 1120, Nigel Fossard of Bramham gave to the Church of Holy Trinity, York a site in Bramham Wood called Headley together with all the ground to the hill at Oglethorpe. Headley became a cell to Holy Trinity Priory at York, and the monks obtained a grant of a free warren and having stocked it with rabbits it continued for many years.

Owen Oglethorpe built a manor house here presumably from the stone of the Monks dwelling. It later belonged to the Winn family. Sir George Winn was created Lord Headley, Baron Allanson and Winn in 1797. He probably erected the Georgian Facade on the present house. When the University took over the house, there was a very unusual wooden spiral staircase made of triangular blocks of oak about 8" thick. Unfortunately the bottom half of the staircase had to be replaced with concrete owing to dry rot and about ten years ago the top half also.

When water was being brought to the farm, a Monk's burial ground was discovered and in another part, more skeletons were found, probably buried after the Battle of Bramham Moor, but no weapons.

In the first World War, there was an aerodrome between the house and the York Road.

#### 4. Battle of Bramham Moor 1408.

Between Harry Hotspur, Earl of Northumberland and Sir Thomas Rokeby, Hotspur was killed. It helped to secure the throne for Henry IV. The stone commemorating the battle now stands in the wood on the right hand side of the road between Bramham and Toulston. It was moved by Major Lipscomb when agent at Bramham Park, with the permission of the Society of Ancient Monuments because it was being damaged by farm implements.

There is a legend of ghostly horsemen who can be heard fleeing from the Battle of Bramham. The first University farm manager before he knew of this tale, got up in the night on three occasions because he thought the horses were loose but there was nothing to be seen.

#### 5. Race Course on Bramham Moor.

Site Uncertain.

Bramham Moor Races were evidently of some importance and established prior to 1702.

Queen Anne took a great interest in North Country racing and presented a gold cup, value £100. "Upon Bramham Moor Course in Yorkshire for six year old horses, gentlemen to ride 12 st., three heats of horses to be entered upon the place seven nights before they run". London Gazette, 1702

Mr. Hugh Bethells' Ruffler by a son of Brimmer out of Dick Burtons running mare won the Trophy in 1705. Mr. Adrian Bethell Sold the cup in the 1920's for £100. per oz.

#### 6. Rising of 1745.

Speight using contemporary evidence states General Wade with his Army camped on Branham Moor, Clifford Moor is also marked as the Camp site for General Wade's Army. The discrepancy probably occurs because General Oglethorpe led an advance party which was to cut off the advance of Charles Stuart. he failed in this. After '45 he was tried for failing as a Major General to carry out his task, but was acquitted.

#### 7. Bramham.

In Domesday it records 'The site of a mill is there, a Church and a Priest: William the Conqueror gave Bramham to Robert, Count of Mortain in Avrenches. He is shown on the Bayeux Tapestry, at the feast, on the left of the Conqueror, Bishop Ado his brother on the right.

#### 8. Branham. Biggin.

Nostell Priory owned a great deal of land in Bramham. At the Dissolution the Manor of Branham Biggin all lands and tenements were given to Thomas Legh one of the Crown commissioners who sold it in 1566 to Sir James Blunt. Subsequently the descendants of Sir John Winn of Nostell acquired the property.

## 8. Bramham Biggin cont'd

Nikolaus Pevsner writes: "Gabled C.17 house with mullioned and transomed windows with hood moulds almost completely remodelled 1756 (rain water head). Recessed three bay centre and projecting wings with Venetian windows on ground floor. Bow windows on side elevation". The Rev. Benjamin Haigh LL.D. leased the house 1844-1869. A distinguished linguist, he conducted a well known boy's school called Bramham College. The Rev. William Bownas, curate of Boston Spa taught there. See Boston Spa a Poem by W. Bownns (republished by the Village Society. Page 48 the poem 'education'. The Society has an interesting folder of photographs and prospectus of the college.

## 9. Bramham Park.

Land given by the Crown to Robert Benson. His son the first Lord Bingley, a favourite of Queen Anne, built the house, architect unknown. The house was finished in 1710. The land was unenclosed and reclaimed from scrub.

Pevsner writes: "If ever a house and gardens must be regarded as one ensemble, it is here. Bramham is a grand and unusual house but its gardens are grander and even more unusual".

Soon after the notable Yorkshireman George Lane-Fox (The Squire) succeeded to the estate in 1825 a large part of the house was destroyed by fire in 1828. The Squire died at Bowcliffe at the age of 80. The house remained partially derelict and one of the oldest pack of hounds in the North, the Bramham Moor was kept in the, stables under their famous huntsman Tom. Smith, whose portrait hangs in Bramham Park and a print in Boston Village Hall:-

The house was rebuilt in 1907 to the original design apart from some alterations by Detmar Blow, notably the door on the garden side. At the North end the summer house built by Paine was soon converted into a Chapel. It is known that John Wood of Bath worked at Bramham as a young man 1724-5 probably on the stone work in the garden.

The Beech Avenue partly destroyed by the gales of 1961 and Le Notre gardens (designer of the gardens at Versailles) are famous. There is no record that Le Notre ever came to England, so they are either after his style or he drew out the design in France.

10. Probably crossing part of the Roman Road from. Tadcaster to Adel and Ilkley.

## 11. West Woods.

Part of the land given to Thomas Legh at the dissolution of Nostell Priory 'Pasturage for 360 sheep on the common moor at Bramham together with the rabbit warren, also two parts of the meadow called Applegarth and the wood called West Wood.'

## 12. Compton.

A Celtic settlement and encampment well situated on an escarpment overlooking the valley.  
The Dalby family farmed the land for over three hundred years.

### 13. Dalton Parlours.

Before the enclosure this field formed part of Clifford Moor. In the copse of Hazels were the remains of walls the stones of which were taken to make out buildings at Compton in 1806. Roman coins and pottery had often been found in the vicinity. In 1855 a thorough excavation was made and the remains of the Roman Villa discovered. in addition to the Roman baths there was found, 100 yards to the West, a very fine tessellated pavement with the head of Medusa. This with the pillars of the Hypocaust can,be seen at the Yorkshire Museum at York.

### 14. Clifford Moor. Rising of the North 1569.

To place Mary Queen of Scots on the throne of England, the Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland joined Richard Conyers from Norton Conyers carrying the same banner than he carried at the Pilgrimage of Grace 33 years before. Gathering supporters as they came South from Darlington, Ripon, Knaresborough and Wetherby,they mustered their forces on Clifford Moor, 1600 horse and 4,000 foot. Not getting the expected support from Yorkshire R.C. and hearing Royal forces were coming North, retreated. Northumberland was beheaded in York and 800 supporters in the villages from Wetherby to Newcastle were killed.

### 15. Race Course on Clifford Moor.

Wetherby is one of the oldest centres of racing in the Country and there are records of racing there in the Middle Ages. The site of the course was moved several times and in the 17th Century it is recorded that the Easter leetings took place on Clifford Moor. -

These notes are rather selective partly from the need for brevity and the oddities of the compiler.

### Oglethorpe Hall

The Waddington family lived here. Samuel Waddington, poet of Boston Spa was a member of the same family. See Douglas Frauts preface to Boston Spa 'A Poem'. The Wright family followed farming here for nearly a century. Richard Wright re-built nearly the whole house. His Uncle John Holmes built the Newton Kyme Thorpe Arch railway bridges.



