

Under New Ownership,

In 1552 Headley was bought by the brothers Owen and Andrew Oglethorpe, whose family had been settled nearby for several centuries, their estate probably having developed from one of Liguif's manors. The Patent Rolls record:

1552. 23rd Nov: Licence, for 45s 4d paid in the Hanaper to Arthur Darcy, Kt. , to grant the manor or farm of Headley, Yorks, and parcel of land called Headley Flatt in Clyfford, Yorks, and all the lands in Bramham, Tadcaster, Sutton and Clyfford or elsewhere, Yorks, in tenure of George Goure, and also the several meadow called Smythall (20 a,) in tenure of Thos, Parkyns in Beall parish, Yorks, to Owen Oglethorpe, clerk, and Andrew Oglethorpe, their heirs and assigns

The purchase must have been financed by the sale, only two weeks before, of the farms of Lyverton and Heywood in Berkshire, "late of Lytlemore Priory, Oxon." which Owen had bought in the June of the previous year. Despite his conservative views he was not averse to the lucrative business of dealing in former monastic lands, Even the sole actual endowment of his Foundation in Tadcaster, Cobcroft Farm at Griddling Stubbs, had come from Pontefract Abbey.

Some sources refer to Owen as being illegitimate, but whatever the truth of this, he rose steadily through the church, Although best known in this area as the founder of Tadcaster Grammar School, Owen Oglethorpe rose to national fame by being the only bishop who could be prevailed

upon to crown Queen Elizabeth I. He was unwilling to do the job but his protests were weak his excuse that his vestments were not to hand was quickly thrown aside and he carried out the coronation in a set of brofrowed robes.

Despite this Elizabeth disliked Oglethorpe, suspecting him of Catholic tendencies. The final straw came when she walked out of one of his services and the Bishop finally found the courage, or perhaps the good sense, to resign. Subsequently he refused to take the Oath of Supremacy and was stripped of his positions, titles and possessions. He died in 1560 and was buried in Fleet Street. He left a will detailing his instructions for the foundation and support of both a hospital (almshouse) and school at Tadcaster but these proved to be rather too optimistic as there was not enough money to properly finance the scheme. His nephew was asked to administer the will but there were many legal objections and it was years before anything got underway. Even after the Civil War, the Oglethorpes (then based in Rawdon) were pleading poverty because of their obligations at Tadcaster,

Victorian historian Harry Speight declared that there was a local tradition that it was the Oglethorpe brothers who built the present house at Headley but a thorough examination is needed to establish this. The bishop's share of the property passed to Andrew who was one of the few resident owners. He was mentioned as living there in 1568, but became entangled in local politics in 1569, when the northern earls fomented the final feudal rebellion against a monarch. Tadcaster still being largely in the hands of the Percy family, it was one of the major

centres of the uprising and the whole area was awash with armed men, Minor skirmishes were frequent and on the 19th or 20th. of November, the Earls were at Wetherby, threatening a Mr Tempest who had just been taken prisoner at Tadcaster along with his two hundred horsemen when, "...divers ii,e, various people) were commanded to go to Oglethorpe's house. .to fetch some enemies who were reported to be there", said Christopher Norton when later interrogated in the Tower about his part in the affair, "Such house would have been spoiled had I not drawn my sword against my own company, I was in some danger thereby, as Mr Vavasour and Mr Flompton will report, for I saved their ^{lives}.

The Catholic historian Aveling puts this scene at the Oglethorpe house at Hilton, and suggests that Andrew may have been killed in the skirmish, and that Flompton and Vavasour were 'knocked about' by the soldiers because they drew back from the cause at the last moment, When the Earl of Northumberland was interrogated in Berwick on June 13th 1572, he claimed that Andrew Oglethorpe had been privy to the plot. The truth of the matter is not clear but all three families were related by marriage and continued to have Catholic sympathies, Andrew did die before 23rd February 1570 for that was the date of a post-mortem into his affairs, Further research on this is not yet complete.

In the State Papers is a record of a licence granted on 3rd October 1570! " ,,,for John Oglethorpe to alienate the manor of Hedley and lands in Hedley, Branham and Srnedall, co, York, to William Scropham and Christopher Selbye. For ^{4/Js} 6d-" Another source includes "Three messuages and a windmill with lands in Hedley, Brambam and Smedall, and

two messuages with lands in Tockwith and Wilsthroppe". This was the end of the Oglethorpe association,

In 1620 a Thomas Wetherall of Headley Hall was witness against William Clough, the former vicar of Wighill. Clough had been accused by Edmund Troutbeck, a surgeon, of using irreverent and improper words, unseemly conduct in church and abuse of his parisioners, saying the King's book on the day of Sabbath was contrary to God's laws", Wetherall declared that Clough had also said that the king (James I) was a fool and fit for nothing but catching dotterils, The Lord President was also a fool, and fit for nothing but gaming..,—the north was governed by a doddering old bishop, As if all this was not enough, Clough threatened to get leave to go and preach at Paul's Cross so that he could expose the evils of the government. It would be interesting to know if this Thomas was the son of Roger Wetherall, vicar of Branham, who had brought a case against Clough in November 1611, accusing him of illegal intrusion into the living.

The next known owner was Henry Druell, He had been born in Leeds but had interests in the City of London and Stanwell in addition to being co-owner of the manor of Coldwell. It seems that the family had 'moved up' In society comparatively recently as he was the only man in Branham parish called by Dugdale ',.to spew unto me by what right they do use and bear any such Arms, Cognizances and Crests,,, ' during his official enquiry. But whatever their origins, the Druells were now very affluent

and well-established, The family's status is emphasized by an entry relating to Druell's grand-daughter In the Tadcaster parish registers:

Christened 9th. January 1661/2, Dorothy Leake, daughter of Nicholas, gent. 'who the Lady Vavasour, being one of the godmothers, was pleased with the name because it was borne OR Christmas Day and signifieth the gift of God, Baptised by me, John Hall, vicar of Tadcaster'. Was this the same Dorothy who married Richard Horner In Tadcaster church on 11th December 1707?)

Another indication of wealth is Henry's will which was proved on March 29th, 1667 (probably 1663, as legal documents usually considered March 31st the year's end), Druell left:

to my grandson Nicholas Leake, £200 to be disposed of for his good and benefit as my trustees for my executrixes shall think fit,

100 to the child my daughter is now great with if it lives to be two years old,,,

...,to my servant George Hudson all my apparel except for gowns and silk suits or cloaks or waistcoats,

to the poor of Bramham, £5 to be paid. within three months.

to all my servants who hath served me above a year, half a year's wages above their due and to those who hath served me less, one quarter's wages.

-.further, my daughter may have the use of all stock upon Headley for life, and that she shall govern until the executrixes come of age.,"

Further my will is my daughter may have the
use of all the stocks upon Hadley during her life,
& that she shall govern till she is married or come
to age, with my son & Dale

the 20th of April 1687

Henry Druell



The final lines and signature of Druell's will.

Druell signed the will, indicating that he was literate as well as prosperous. It was unusual to leave such large sums of cash; he must have been engaged in business as well as farming. Such wealth would have allowed him to purchase Headley and. his friendship with the Catholic Lady Vavasour would indicate a Royalist rather than a Parliamentary past. But it must have been a reticent one for him to have emerged with such large assets intact.

Later codicils provided for other grandchildren, particularly Druell Leake, who may have been the expected child of the original will. His grandfather wanted him to be 'brought upp in learning and putt to the studies of Law, Phisicke (or otherwise) as by his Genius hee shall be most inclinable'. These were typically middle-class ambitions, although Druell may have aspired to being 'gentry' with a. coat-of-arms, estate, money and aristocratic neighbours! But less fortunate children were not forgotten; Henry left t100 to be invested by the mayor and corporation of Leeds ¹...that by the intrest and proceed therof some poor children ...may from time to time (as shall be most requisite) be bound apprentice and brought upp to such trades as they shall he capable of',

Druell's son-in-law Nicholas Leake may have been one of that family who had been in the area for a long time, possibly as high-ranking servants to the Oglethorpes. As early as 1534, Robert Oglethorpe of Thorparch stipulated in his will

.... I bequeath my grete **potte** to .John Leeke to se me have two trentalse of messes to be sid for my salle at Branham Kirke or at the freres at Yorke.

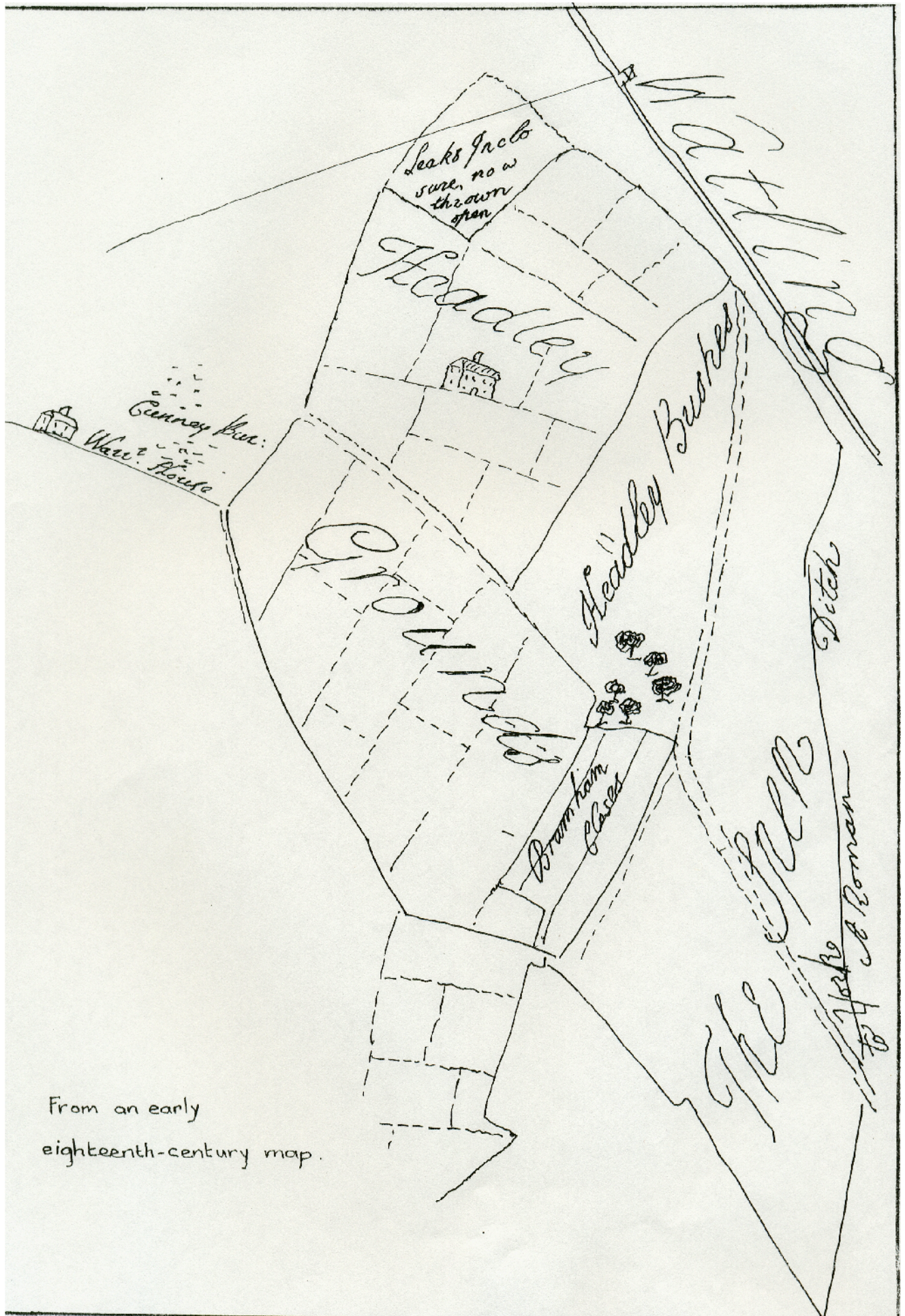
bequeath my sister Isabell Oglesthorp vis (six shillings) to be takyn at the hands of John Leeke as she needs hit.-

By 1672 when the Hearth Tax was assessed, Headley Hall had ten chimneys and was the largest house in Bramham parish,

Druell's grandson, also Nicholas Leake, eventually took over Headley, He rented Bramham Moor from Sir Thomas GascOigne in 1671 and illegally enclosed a piece of land on Headley. A later map shows . 'Leake's enclosure now thrown down'. Although they left Headley within the next few years, the Leakes remained in the area for some time, renting various pieces of land at Bramham and Toulston.

By 1700 Headley was in the possession. of William and Kezia Tate who also had a. substantial amount of land spread throughout the Bramham common fields and that piece in the village which. is now the site of Bramham House. Tate's land-interests passed to his son Thomas, a York maltster, and his daughter-in-law Susannah. It may have been they who sold Headley to the Winn family, who had eventually bought up /asten Priory's estate in Bramham after the Dissolution,

Inter-married with the Allansons who had been in the village even longer, they were not the main branch of the Winns who owned Nostell itself, However, until the later years of the nineteenth century they were the parish's major land-owners. The centre of the estate was Branham Biggin, then situated in its own park. It is not clear just when they purchased Headley, but it was owned by the Hon. George Winn in



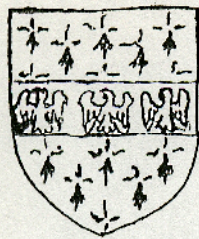
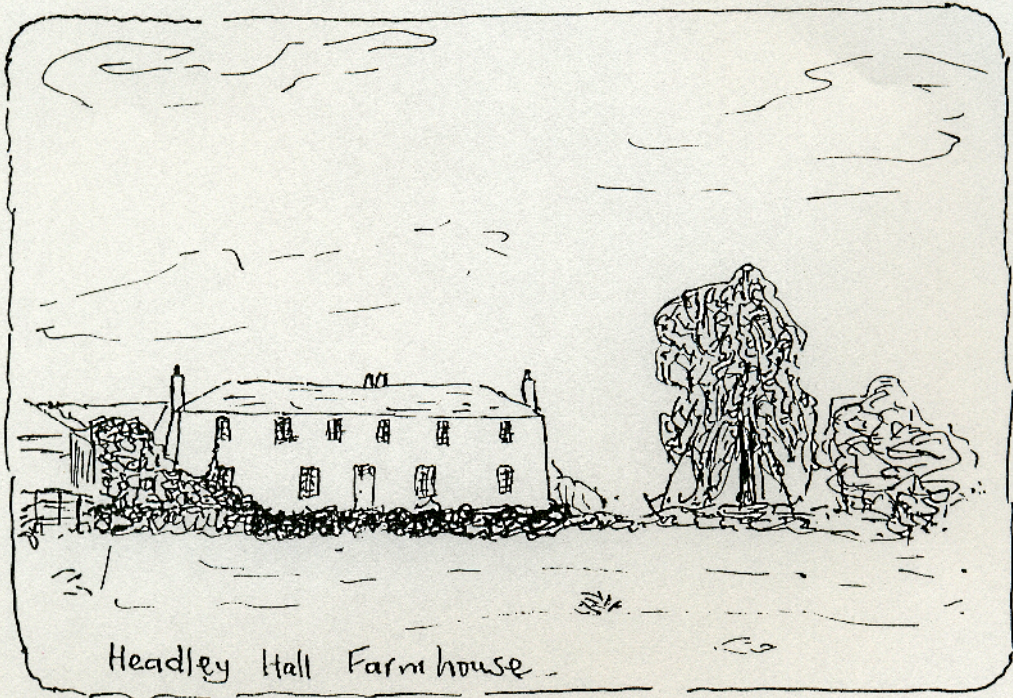
From an early
eighteenth-century map.

1776 and when he was granted. an Irish peerage in 1797 he chose the title 'Lord Headley, Baron. Allanson and Winn', which seems to indicate a long or close connection with the place. But despite their apparent affection for Headley the Vinns almost certainly never lived there.

In 1776 Branham and Clifford were valued so that the amounts payable for tithe could be assessed. John Crowder recorded all tenants, owners, areas and crops in addition to commenting on farming methods, the state of the church and the arrangements for paying tithes. This invaluable report named Joseph and Thomas Poole as the tenants of 'Headley Farm', and recorded their crops for that year. The farm covered two hundred and sixty-six and a half acres, some of it strips in the common fields but much of it 'intake' which had been formed into the type of fields we would now recognise. This had been going on quite illegally for some years throughout the parish but as Mr Allanson had taken 40 or 50 acres into his park, nothing could be said.

The crops were oats and peas, with some wheat and a little barley. About thirty acres were meadow whilst another thirty lay fallow: 'Old Headley, 26 acres and 2 roods of oats, Great Halloway Lays 13 acres and 3 roods fallow, Lime Kiln Close 13 acres and 2 roods of barley' etc. Crowder remarked that the parish grew hardly any potatoes or turnips, seldom more than twenty acres. 'Rape is a casual crop, it is only grown when fresh lands are broken up', although there had been large amounts in the past. 'There is some clover grown but seldom mown more than once....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....'



The arms of Winn



The arms of Allanson