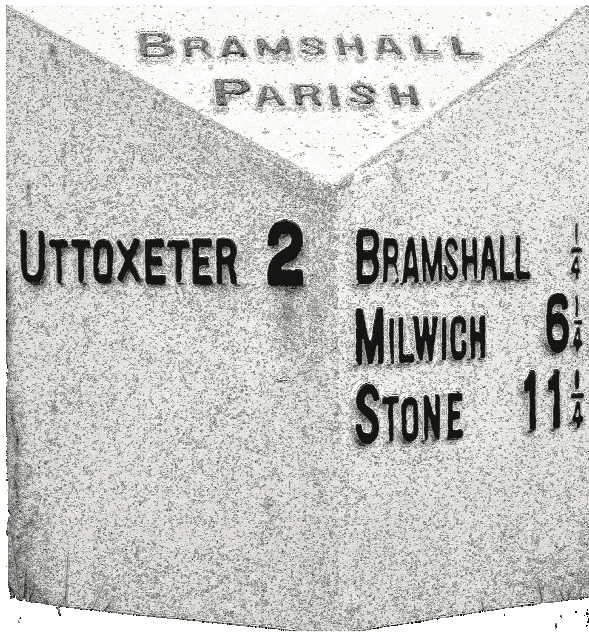


# The History of Bramshall



Ancient Britain to 1900

by Jenny Wall

2013

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The first 30 copies of this booklet (all signed) have been financed by monies left over from the former Bramshall and Loxley Historical Society. Copies are available at a cost of £5 by contacting the author. All proceeds from the sale of this booklet will be donated in equal parts to St Lawrence Church Bramshall and Bramshall Newsletter.

# The History of Bramshall Ancient Britain to 1900

## 1. Introduction

What will it be like in 500 years when an amateur historian like me is trying to research the history of Bramshall? The challenges will certainly be different as digitalisation transforms the way we store, retrieve and access information. However I suspect the 'information revolution' of modern times will create even more challenges in establishing fact from fiction!

For now in the year 2013 the history of Bramshall remains patchy and incomplete, I am however confident that others will follow and add more to this first attempt to record the history of our village. Studying local history for me is like a jigsaw; each new piece of information adds to the completeness of the picture. Using this analogy local history is also a three dimensional jigsaw; the picture changes over time; it is never quite finished, it is sometimes misled by the wrong piece and is only ever as complete as the number of pieces which fit together correctly at a given point in time! In addition pieces get lost, sometimes forever or prove very difficult to find making completing the jigsaw an ongoing challenge. In reality the history of Bramshall is also part of a much much bigger picture, the wider history of the region and indeed the nation, which I have only made reference to where it helps to make sense of what I am trying to record.

I have not attempted to compile a history of twentieth century Bramshall, primarily because I have run out of time as we are about to move house. I do also believe that recent history; the memories of those living and their family stories and records would be much better told by a local person, perhaps a person who has lived in this community all their lives. It has never ceased to amaze me the breadth and depth of local knowledge that is held by older members of this community and their families. To this end I challenge them; the history of Bramshall Parish remains unfinished and awaits the next local history enthusiast to add the next pieces to the jigsaw!

One point of clarification, by Bramshall I refer to the parish, the original Church of England unit of land and the people who live within this boundary; therefore when I refer to Bramshall I also mean Loxley and the hamlet of Dagdale.

I have tried to tell the history chronologically, which presented me with the odd challenge in terms of ordering, for example the church. To this end the church or should I say the three churches that have existed as a minimum on or near the site of St Lawrence Church Bramshall have a separate chapter dedicated to them.

You may notice that some parts of this text are revisions of former articles that have appeared in Bramshall News during the time my husband and I were the editors. To all those who have contributed their time, knowledge and skills to the writing of this first history of Bramshall I thank them for their hard work, friendship and dedication. I also extend my thanks to Joe my husband, for his love, patience and IT skills in preparing this document for printing. Where appropriate or possible I have identified names, references and sources of information throughout this document.

One further important note is to direct the reader to a large collection of historical papers and documents which were originally researched and collected by Mr Richard Statham (deceased) and Mr Mike Bennett. I have over time added to, sorted and collated the collection into files, which are now stored for safe keeping by Rev. John Lander and Sally Anne his wife as part of Bramshall Church property. I make references to the collection throughout this text and also reflect that many of the documents need to be studied in more detail than I have managed to achieve. I have listed in full what I refer to as the '*Bramshall Collection*' by file name and number at the end of this document.

Bramshall is an ancient place; its name probably dates from Anglo Saxon times in meaning a windy hill, shelf of broom or hillside croft.

Shortly after the Norman invasion of 1066 'Bromshulfe' is recorded as the name of one of three manorial fields, during the time Henry de Ferres was Lord of Uttoxeter Manor. Throughout time Bramshall, Loxley and Dagdale have been spelt in different ways some of which are used as they are occur in the reference documents used in researching this booklet.

- Brum's shelf, Broom shelf, Branselle, Bromsulf, Brumschulf, Bromshall, Bromshulf and latterly Bramshall
- Locheslei and Loxley
- Dagdale, Dagdayle or Dugdale

## 2. Bramshall during ancient times

In the country side surrounding Bramshall there is evidence of ancient Britain, which for the purposes of this document is inclusive of the time of the first arrival of humans, through the Roman occupation to the Norman Conquest of 1066. During these very early times Britannia as the Romans referred to us, was an island that went through many changes.

Records and archaeological finds to date suggest that during the years prior to the Roman occupation of AD 55 the population of what we now call Staffordshire remained sparse. The country side around Bramshall was primarily a hilly forest with rivers such as the Dove acting as the motorways for the people of ancient Britain.

## 3. The Roman Occupation

It is from the beginning of the Roman period that evidence of occupation becomes more apparent. The Romans built substantial communities in Derby, Wall near Lichfield, Chesterton and later they also built a small station or garrison at Rocester. There has been some dispute over the first origins of several tracks and ancient roadways which pass near Bramshall. There seems little doubt that a very ancient pack horse track made its way from Uttoxeter to Stafford via Loxley Bank prior to the Roman occupation and much later in 1763 the track became a turnpike road which ran as far as Newport.

The nearest known Roman road was Rykeneld Street or Ryknield Street which ran north from Derby to Chester passing through Uttoxeter. Many archaeological finds have been recorded in the area which at the time of discovery has occasionally led to historical assumptions which have later proved inaccurate. A great example of this is the Loxley Vase<sup>1</sup> - Roman or Medieval as first described by Frances Redfern in his book, the history of the town of Uttoxeter (page 77-79 2nd Ed) first published 1865. Readers are advised to read the texts of Frances Redfern<sup>2</sup> and crucially also the works of

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1 The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 77. Bramshall Collection File: 10

2 Copy of the 2nd of the book donated to the Bramshall Collection File 10. History of the Town of Uttoxeter 1865 (1st edition) & The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern. Reference copies of both editions at: Redfern Cottage Museum of Uttoxeter Life in Carter Street Uttoxeter and in the local library.



W G Torrance<sup>3</sup> entitled Following Frances Redfern. These two local antiquarians offer different perspectives and help the reader to understand the complexities of establishing accurate historical facts about these ancient times.

After the Romans departed in AD 410 the country became splintered into a number of kingdoms and peoples, the Angles, Saxons, Britons, Jutes and Picts who continued clearing hilly areas and creating small settled communities across the country side of England.

#### **4. Bramshall in the Kingdom of Mercia**

Bramshall remained in the Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Mercia following the Viking invasion which followed in AD 793. The division of England following the invasion was roughly along the old Watling Street (now the A5) and therefore the population of this area would have been caught up in fierce battles during these periods of conflict. Both Anglo Saxon and Danish artifacts have been found across the area, for example cross-shafts were found in the graveyard of Checkley Church and nearby a Danish funeral monument still stand. Many of our place and field names date back to this important period of history by way of example: Pigeon Hay Lane – the Anglo Saxon word “hey” meaning land surrounded by a hedge.

The Saxon activity of bear or bull baiting is reported by Frances Redfern at Bear Hill (now the market square Uttoxeter)<sup>4</sup> although William Torrance in part 1 page 35 of his book suggests bear or bull bating took place in Uttoxeter much later during the medieval period. What does emerge from my reading of this period of our local history is a way of life based on farming and hunting in an area where bears, wild boar and wolves roamed free in the surrounding Needwood forest.

In summary of my investigation to date it seems highly probable that Bramshall and the surrounding district was primarily an area where ancient peoples including the Romans passed through; on route to

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3 Following Frances Redfern: Published in 10 parts by William G Torrance (1969 – 77) Distributed by H M Bowring of Market Place Uttoxeter Currently out of print – some parts are still available for sale at Redfern Cottage Museum of Uttoxeter Life in Carter Street. All 10 parts available for reference at the museum and as part of the Bramshall Collection File:14

4 The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 84 & Bramshall Collection File 10

other places. Later the area became a scene of turmoil and warfare between Saxon Kingdoms and the Vikings, finally being more permanently settled by small communities from about AD550. It is therefore I believe most likely, that it was during Saxon times that the first community settled on this windy hill and built their homes primarily from the materials found in the surrounding Needwood Forest.

The Staffordshire Hoard of over 3,500 items discovered in the village of Hammerwich, near Lichfield on 5 July 2009 with additional artifacts found as I write this in late 2012 are collectively the most significant collection of Anglo-Saxon objects ever found in England. Having seen the Staffordshire Hoard it served to remind me of the sophistication, knowledge and skills of these ancient peoples, a few of whom lived on this windy hill well over fifteen hundred years ago.

## **5. Bramshall: From the Norman Conquest to the end of the Medieval Period**

Following the Norman Conquest (1066) a feudal system of land ownership with service to an over lord or nobleman became more firmly established across great swathes of the country. The basic unit of land distribution was a "Manor" which was part of larger administrative subdivisions of land called "Hundreds" first introduced by the Saxons.

In the Domesday Book of 1086, a survey of land ownership (following the invasion and seizure of lands across England by King William) details the manors of Branselle (Bramshall) and Locheslei (Loxley) in the Totmonslow Hundred are to be found:

## **6. Domesday Book entry for Bramshall**

*"In Bramshall one virgate of land (30 acres) A half of this virgate is the King's, as the road divides it; but Robert<sup>5</sup> has annexed the King's part and makes himself answerable. Bagot<sup>6</sup> holds from him. Wulfgeat<sup>7</sup> held*

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5 Robert de Stafford, (Principle seat at Stafford Castle and use of the Stafford Knot)

The knot probably pre dates this family as a heraldic symbol of early Mercia or a Celtic Christian symbol brought to Staffordshire by missionary monks from Lindisfarne.

6 The Bagot (d) family (of Blithfield Hall) who held part of Bramshall from Robert at the time of the Domesday Survey & see Bramshall Collection File 80

7 Presumed to be the original land owner

*it; he was a free man. Land for 3 ploughs. In Lordship<sup>8</sup>, 2 slaves, 4 villagers and 1 smallholder with 1 plough. Wood lands half a league long and 4 furlongs wide. Value 20s”*

## **7. Loxley Park and the Domesday Book**

There has been an estate and house at Loxley since before the Norman Conquest and indeed it appears in the Domesday Book:

*“Locheslei (Loxley) had land for 4 ploughs; there are 4 acres of meadow and woodland of 1 ½ leagues in length and ½ league in breadth. It is worth 20s. Edmund held it and he was a free man”*

As with the church, Loxley Park, the Lord of the Manor’s residence is another building which spans time and therefore its fuller story is told in a separate chapter of this booklet.

## **8. Bramshall Church (s)**

There has been a church on the site in Bramshall since ancient times. The Plea Rolls for Staffordshire dated 1227 make three references to a church at Bromshelf and a Parson called Silvester (see separate chapter page 36 for more about the churches)

## **9. The Lords of the Manor**

From the earliest of times Bramshall and Loxley residents served different masters: Following the conquest the most significant land owner was Robert de Stafford (1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Derby and descended by marriage from the Bagot family of Blithfield<sup>9</sup>) who was the son of William the Conqueror. He had extensive estates in Staffordshire including Stafford Castle. At some point during the reign of Henry 3rd (1216-1272) the Loxley Estate passed to the de Ferrers family whose principle seat was Tutbury castle. In circa 1327 Joanna de Ferrers<sup>10</sup> of Chartley Castle married John de Kynnersley and Loxley Park (Estate) passed to the Kynnersleys of Shropshire, later through marriage, the

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8 The Lord of the Manor resided at Loxley Park.

9 See Bramshall Collection File 80

10 Robert de Ferrers, 1st Earl of Derby son of Henry de Ferrières of Normandy France principle seat Tutbury Castle amongst others including Chartley Castle (site of one of the earliest wooden castles in England circa 99 AD)

Sneyd – Kynnersley family<sup>11</sup>. The estate (later called Little Bramshall) consisted of all the land south of the B5027 which included Blouts Green, The Plough public house, Highfields Mansion House and numerous farms and cottages. North of the road was the Bramshall Estate owned by the Willoughby de Broke family of Compton Verney (descended from the Erdeswicke family the first Lords of the Manor) from the 1300's. The Bramshall Estate<sup>12</sup> was sold off in 27 lots on June 20<sup>th</sup> 1906, and Loxley<sup>13</sup> some 12 years later in 1918.

From the Norman Conquest to the end of the medieval period is a historical timeline of some 400 years which witnessed an accelerated development of European and indeed worldwide trade, increasing prosperity and population growth, coupled with devastating events such as plague and the demands of long bloody wars.

The Black Death which killed around half of England's population threw the economy into chaos and prompted social unrest during the 1300's. Bramshall's community would have also been affected by the crusades, the 100 years war, the Wars of the Roses, a mini ice age, failed harvests, small pox, famine as well as plague followed by the peasants' revolt of 1381. The revolt later came to be seen as the beginning of the end of serfdom in medieval England, the beginning of a better life for tenant farmers and what emerged as the beginning of the modern era from 1500.

Snippets of information survive in the records on how Bramshall fared during these turbulent early years. It's possible to speculate that being only 3 miles from Uttoxeter, a community of significant commerce and trade, particularly in cheese<sup>14</sup> and butter<sup>15</sup>, that Bramshall would have remained a small farming community with increasing and varied tradesmen amongst its residents.

From about 1290 the names of the people paying tax, usually the freeholder, were entered onto a roll. The amount paid depended on how much money the King or Over Lord needed for military campaigns or building projects.

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11 See Bramshall Collection File 82

12 See Bramshall collection File 31

13 See Bramshall Collection File 32

14 Found at Bramshall Early 20th century cheese taster County Museum Shugborough:  
Acc NO: 75.032.0003. Description: Spoon auger mounted in gimlet like handle.  
Made of stell with a sycamore handle "T" Used for testing cheeses.

15 Seven Studies in the economic and social history of Uttoxeter and its adjacent rural parishes 1530 – 1830 by Peter Woolley: Study 1 & Bramshall Collection File 8

At Bromschulf (Bramshall) Manor ten individuals are named who paid the Lay Subsidy of taxation; one tenth of all goods they owned on Christmas day to King Edward 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1332. These names were:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ➤ <i>De Will'o de Stafford</i>  | ➤ <i>Thom' fil' Radulfi</i>               |
| ➤ <i>Rob'to fil' Petronill'</i> | ➤ <i>Thom' le Stedemon</i>                |
| ➤ <i>Joh'ne le Couherde</i>     | ➤ <i>Rad'o Fox</i>                        |
| ➤ <i>Julian' ux'e Ricardi</i>   | ➤ <i>Rob'to de Gaywode</i>                |
| ➤ <i>Will'o Douchty</i>         | ➤ <i>Simon' de Stafford</i> <sup>16</sup> |

In addition the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century saw the beginnings of comprehensive record keeping. By way of example, legal records and court proceedings in the form of Feet of Fines and Plea rolls offer some fascinating snippets of events in Bramshall:

#### **10. Agnes Bagot of Brumschulf 6th October 1221**

*"Agnes gave 1 mark of Silver for three bovates (about 20 acres each) of land in Strangricheshall (Stramshall). Roger and Alice Gin remit all claims"*<sup>17</sup>

#### **11. Petronilla the widow of John del Boys of Bromsulf 1267**

*"Petronilla, the widow of John del Boys, of Bromsulf, sued John, son of Elias, for one-third of a messuage and a croft in Bromsulf (Bramshall) which she claimed as dower. John did not appear, and is to be summoned for fifteen days from Easter; the land to be taken into the King's hands. m. 2, dorso (Roll no 130)"*

#### **12. Alice widow of Robert de Bromsholf 1268**

*"Staff: Alice, widow of Robert de Bromsholf (Bramshall), appeared against William de Bromsholf and William Sheld, for taking away the chattels from her house in Stafford to the value of 100s. The defendants did not appear and are to be attached for the morrow of St. Martin. m. 1, dorso. (Roll no 131)"*

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<sup>16</sup> Staffordshire Lay Subsidy 1332-3: Totmonslow hundred', Staffordshire Historical Collections, vol. 10, part 1 (1889), pp. 111-118. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

<sup>17</sup> From the Feet of Fines of Henry 3rd

### 13. John de Bromshuff who was a bailiff of Tatemoneslowe Hundred

John de Bromshulf Bailiff who took money to conceal felonies and lived with his family in Bramshall late in the reign of Edward 1st (1272-1307)

*“Respecting Sheriffs who took money to conceal felonies, they say that John Bareil took of William the Provost of Bokenhale feloniously 100s, and John de Bromchulf, the Bailiff of the Hundred of Tatemoneslowe, took 20s. of Robert de Lebenet feloniously, and also of many others of whose names they are ignorant; and William Rome, the Bailiff of Henry de Aldithelee, has in his house at Alstonefeld, Yun a felon and outlaw, who is brother to the said William. (3 Edward I, 1275, fragment)”*

*“John was a witness to a will. His father was Hugh de Bromsulf. Roger son of Hawisia le Bromsulf made a gift of four acres of land at Bramshall – Roger had a son called William.*

*In 1335/6 John de Bromsulf exchanged ‘tenement’ for land at Bramshall (Michaelmas (29 September) 7 Edward I)”<sup>18</sup>*

### 14. A Mill in Bramshall: Plea rolls during the period 1239-1307

*“Gift by Roger son of Hawisia le Bromsulf to John son of Ralph de Frodeswale clerk and Matilda his [Roger’s] sister of four acres of land in the vill of Bramshall with all appurtenances of which three acres and a messuage which Henry Baleyne once held in the same vill and one acre of land between the **mill of Bramshall** and the house of Henry Molendinarius*

*Witnesses: Thomas son of Clericus Hervey de Leghes, Hugh son of Clericus, Adam de Gaywode, Roger de Hathspot, Roger de Vernay, Robert le Chatin, William son of Richard de Gratwich and others”<sup>19</sup>*

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18 Staffordshire Historical Collections <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>  
19 D(W) 1733/A/2/100)

## 15. Roger le Teler of Bramshall 1357

*“Gift by Robert de Ferr[ers] of Loxley to Alan son of Roger le Teler of Bramshall for his homage and service of 8½ acres of land with all appurtenances eighty perches in length and extending eighteen and a half perches in width namely Les Donnsiholmys between le Monstrud and Blythe and of Hondleye descending to Blythe with housbote and heybote:*

*Witnesses: Roger de V[er]nay, William Bibby, Thomas de Bosco, William son of Richard de Gratwich, Hervey de la Leye, Simon de Leys, Walter de ? Orco and others.”<sup>20</sup>*

## 16. Bramshall Deer Park 1413

A Medieval deer park enclosed out of the Needwood Forest is mentioned in a Plea roll dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 1413.

*“Humfrey Stafford, the younger, chivaler, sued John Walter, of Coton, fleccher; John Lord, chaplin; William Gretebache, Henry Woderove, and others, for breaking into his park at Bromshulf (Bramshall) and chasing and taking his game. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce them on the Octaves of St Hillary. M.120, dorso”. Note: the Octaves of St Hilary is 14th January”*

## 17. Margaret at Loxley: whose life was despaired of in 1457

*“Ralph Wolseley and Margaret, his wife, sued Richard Porter, William Wodeward, John White, Robert Lysot, Humfrey Lysot, Richard Grene, and Richard Starten, all described as yomen, of Bromshulf, (Bramshall), for breaking into the close of Margaret at Loxley, and insulting, beating, and wounding her, so that her life was despaired of. None of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to arrest and produce them on the Morrow of St. John the Baptist. A postscript shows that they had not been arrested up to Hillary term, 15 E. IV. m. Extract from the Plea roll dated Easter in the 15 year of reign of Edward 4<sup>th</sup>”*

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20 D(W)1733/A/2/45

## 18. The Stocks or Stocks Manor



### **Stocks Farm**

Site and Monuments Record  
Staffordshire County Council Records Office (1975)  
Reference Number C/P/65/2/1/54 1-12

The image above is the original Stocks Farm photographed by Staffordshire County Council Archivists as a historic building record prior to major re-development of the house which took place in the 1970's. This image *may* also be the original house which was known as Stocks Manor, the former residence of the Warner Family. Certainly other internal images of the property held at the Stafford record office suggest a 16<sup>th</sup> century construction.



## 19. The Warner Family

The Warner's<sup>21</sup> were an old Warwickshire family who lived at Stocks Manor or The Stocks<sup>22</sup> and owned substantive other properties and land across Staffordshire<sup>23</sup>. The property in Bramshall is known to have consisted of 13 rooms in 1615 and the origins of the family are to be found living in Bramshall as early as 1583<sup>24</sup>. George Warner married Dorothy Thacker of Leigh in 1590. We know that Mr. Roger Warner was a carpenter and that John Warner's occupation was listed as Gentleman. In his book of 1886 Frances Redfern comments: "*Mrs. Lassiter occupies the old manor house which has been in the family of her father Roger Warner for about 400 years*"

The Warner family played a significant part in community life, their names appearing frequently at records of events, signatures on documents such as wills and in the providing of a charitable trust for the poor by Dorothy Warner in 1676<sup>25</sup>. The last member of this large family who lived in Bramshall was Roger Warner who was buried in the family tomb (to the right of the kissing gate exit to the Parish hall) in 1861. There was a son who immigrated to America.

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21 Thomas Warner died 1650 Bramshall collection copy of Will File Number 63

22 On the 1881 census the house is referred to as The Stocks, lived in by Sarah 66 a farmer and was 327 acres ( see Bramshall collection File 47)

23 On the 28th February 1826 Mr Thomas Warner resided at Park Farm Bromshall. Staffordshire Advertiser Saturday February 18th 1826

24 The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 341

25 Whites Trade Directory 1834: The poor have 10s yearly out of Gilbert parks left by Dorothy Warner in 1676 & Kelly's Trade Directory for 1901 " Warner's Charity"

## 20. Bramshall Medieval Moated Enclosure

In 1963 prior to the housing development of Leigh Lane aerial photographs taken by Staffordshire County Council<sup>26</sup> indicate the presence of a medieval moated site under what is now part of Church Croft and the parish hall. The photograph below shows an apparent rectangular earth work / crop mark which is easily visible. This rectangular feature appears as late as on 20<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps of the village.



Photograph 1963



OS Map 1924

Bramshall Ariel view: Staffordshire County Council: Hunting Surveys Ltd.  
Run 30 – 7222 (June 12<sup>th</sup> 1963).

One can only speculate what these earthworks were, perhaps an enclosure for animals or perhaps a building. It is interesting to note that there are numerous local registered medieval sites and monuments usually evidenced by earth works denoting moated grounds including:

Dead Man's Green at Checkley, Park Hill at Leigh and across the A518 near Willslock, a registered medieval moated site called Thorntree House<sup>27</sup> with fish ponds surviving as earthworks.

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26 See Bramshall Collection File 54

27 <http://www.ancientmonuments.info/en13510-thorntree-house-moated-site>

## 21. Modern Bramshall – From 1500

Briefly a time in British history which bore witness to the world being discovered , through to the religious upheaval of the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530's , the works of William Shakespeare, divorces, beheadings, civil war, the Enlightenment , the agricultural and Industrial revolutions and finally the Victorians !

## 22. Bramshall Parish Records from 1587

From 1587 parish records for Bramshall have been compiled by Staffordshire Parish Records Registers Society<sup>28</sup>. Reference to this book, for listings of baptisms, marriages and burials which took place at the church from 1587, is available by contacting Rev. John Lander vicar and as part of the Bramshall Collection File: 84

With thanks to Mr. Peter Woolley, a local historian, whom I met briefly a few weeks ago it is possible to include some insights into the lives of Bramshall residents during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Peter spent many years studying hundreds of local wills<sup>29</sup> and other probate records which have provided invaluable information of ordinary people living in Bramshall and the surrounding area during this time. His book is entitled 'Seven studies in the economic and social history of Uttoxeter and its adjacent rural parishes (1530 – 1830)<sup>30</sup>. The book is available for reference and purchase at Redfern Cottage: Museum of Uttoxeter Life in Carter Street Uttoxeter and for reference as part of the Bramshall collection File 8.

The first of the seven studies pages 1-12 (which were originally lectures) offers an insight into the wealth of the deceased from the reading of their wills, by way of examples:

- A certain Thomas Heely of Bramshall died in 1564 and left effects to the value £1. 16s 8d; comprising of one weaning calf, one pig, two geese, two hens, one load of hay, two sheaves of corn, one brass pot, one pan, his bedding, one table, one chair , two stools, pothooks and chains

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28 ISBN 978-0-9565117-4-4 Transcribed by Marion Hall (2011) & File 84

29 See Bramshall Collection File 9 for a list of Bramshall Wills at Lichfield record office

30 Seven Studies in the economic and social history of Uttoxeter and its adjacent rural parishes 1530 – 1830 & File 8

- Between 1540 -1550 the average cow cost 11s and 9s; many inventories illustrated the ownership of just one cow at this time.
- One sheep keeper in Bramshall had a flock of 124 sheep during the period 1550-1580, which by comparison with others locally was a large flock.
- Walter Massey of Loxley left one cayde lamb (a hand reared lamb) to Anne Lucas in 1622
- Alice Wetton of Bramshall a widow had 20 cheeses in 1540 worth 3s 4d<sup>31</sup>
- Thomas Shaw had 23 cheeses in 1620 valued at 7s and 8d
- At the begging of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Patrick of Bramshall had 32 cheeses valued at 33s 4d.
- There were three weavers in Bramshall recorded over time 16th & 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Richard Bratt of Bramshall died in 1553.  
He was "*sick in body ... whole and perfect in mind*"

He left his soul to God and his body in the churchyard and:

5 God children 4d each

Richard Waule a lamb and 2 brass pots, cupboard and his voider or spittoon

Henry Taye a yew

Alice Hoster a yew

Thomas Cook his best jacket

William Middleton best doublet

Richard Waule his 2<sup>nd</sup> doublet

John Marple a rush jacket

George Adcock his best shirt

The residue to Jane his wife and she and T Cooke to be his exectutors

Total value £3 11s and 5d

The second economic study (pages 13-30) concentrates on what can be learnt about trades and tradesmen during the study period. The first mention of a Bramshall resident is of two brothers, Richard and Christopher Mawe who were weavers and lived at Loxley. Christopher died in 1635 and was apparently well off leaving: 13 cattle, 18 sheep, 2 pigs and 2 horses. His looms and items of his trade were valued at 30s and his total assets amounted to £53.13s.0d. . Richard died six years later and his will commences "*I Richard Mawe Webster sujirning at the howse of Widdoe Mawe of Great Loxley ... to be buried as neare my brother as may bee*"

Another weaver living in Bramshall was a Frances Bennett<sup>32</sup> who died in 1594 leaving the following items in his will: 3 looms with 9 linen gears, 2 woollen gears, warpstock, ringgrathes, pinwheel, lachet and 4 pairs of temples.

Other prominent trades (excluding farming & stock keeping) during these centuries were occupations associated with leather and those working with wood / timber including coopers.

One large Bramshall family of this time was of the Wettons, who were known to be prominent coopers. Alice Wetton lived in Bramshall and when she died 1540 she left 3s 4d to buy a cross for Bramshall Church. I wonder what became of it.

A Loxley smithy called William Scott died in 1588 and his will is interesting. He left an anvil to his son John, to his apprentice his anvil if his son died, to his eldest son the smithy and all his tools. To his daughter he left £20 in the form of a bond on a Leehill man. William the son was allowed to borrow ½ of this bond until Michaelmas 1591 when he had to pay his sister back and in return the sister was to pay her brother John "*10 strakes of iron to bind a wain*"

Chapter 3 of Mr. Woolley's studies turns to housing from which 126 local wills or inventories were studied for the period 1540 – 1650. It must be remembered that most dwellings in Bramshall at this time would have been small, purely utilitarian, 1 or 2 roomed, and made from locally sourced materials and the owner would have been too poor to make a will. However the wills studied do make fascinating reading<sup>33</sup>, with the following references to Bramshall:

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32 See Bramshall Collection File 74 for further information about the Bennett family

33 See Bramshall Collection File 9 for a list of Bramshall Wills held at Lichfield record office from 1535

- John Warner Gentleman had a house with 13 rooms in Bramshall (1615)
- Thos. Patricke<sup>34</sup> had a 6 roomed house with parlour, 2 chambers and a barn (1612). By 1631 a descendent John had added a second floor and the house had 2 parlours and 2 chambers over the parlours<sup>35</sup>
- Walter Massey a keeper had a house at Loxley with seven rooms, 2 parlours, 2 chambers and a chamber over the house.
- William Middleton had a three roomed house with a parlour and buttery (1628)
- John Hayley had a five roomed house with parlour, buttery, kitchen and chamber (1628)

Over time I have seen for sale (mainly on eBay) documents which provide further snippets of information about Bramshall Parish through time, one example as follows:

### **23. Thomas Horne of Dagdale 1691**

For sale: a fine and early original manuscript inventory and valuation of the household contents and property belonging to Thomas Horne of Dagdayle (Dugdale) in the parish of Bramshall, near Uttoxeter dated 1691.

Listed items included:

goblets, purse & a parell, beds, table & buffitt stool, etc. farming stock incl. two bullocks, & five stirks

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34 John Patrick was church warden in 1563 see Bramshall collection File 45  
 35 Bramshall Collection File Number 61

## 24. The Hearth Tax 1666

In 1666 the Hearth Tax sometimes called the chimney tax was introduced by King Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> on all houses graded according to the number of fireplaces they had. Two shillings per year per fireplace was to be paid in two equal installments at Michaelmas (29 September) and Lady Day (25 March) by the occupier or, if the house was empty, by the owner according to a list compiled on a county basis and certified by the justices at their quarterly meetings. This tax record provides us with a definitive list of the houses in the village in the 1660's as per the number of fireplaces they had!!

### **List of houses in Bramshall by name of occupier and number of fireplaces (NB: Bramshall village only, not the parish)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>No</b>
Mrs Ellen Warner	3	William Asbury	1
Mr Roger warner	2	Thomas Ampson	2
William Worrall	1	Richard Lees	2
Ellen Partridge	1	Thomas Horne	2
Raph Lees	1	Thomas Wootten	1
Richard Richardson	1	John Rushton	1
Thomas Goolde	2	Matt Watson	1
Frances French	6	William Clones	2
Mr. Dawson	3	George Taylor	2
John Abberley	1	Richard Wedgwood	1
William Hanson	1	John Richardson	3
Thomas Carter	1		

It is interesting to note that known old families we know were residing in or near Bramshall by the time of the Hearth tax such as the Durose's and the Wetton's do not appear on the tax return. The probable explanation is that they resided in the wider parish and that the tax return quoted only covers the centre of the village.

## 25. The Durose Family

The Durose family is able to trace their origins back to France from before the Norman Conquest. They are known to have resided in Loxley and Little Bramshall from the 1700's. Peter Woolley quotes an early reference to William Durose of Loxley "*as perhaps better described as the indigent poor rather than vagrant*"

In the Quarter Sessions in 1779 William Durose was convicted of unlawfully allowing rogues and vagabonds to lodge or shelter in his house and outbuilding. Please visit [www.durose.org](http://www.durose.org) for further information about the Durose family<sup>36</sup>.

I also note from Poor Law records a Mr. William Blurton of Bramshall, an inn keeper who died in 1623. He was intestate at the time of his death and kept an inn somewhere "*on the street*". His cellar contained four hog heads, a flagon, cans, glasses and brewing vessels.

## 26. The Civil Wars

The 1600's bore witness to the civil wars, a time which denotes significant religious, political and social changes that would have been felt even in a rural village such as Bramshall. The wars were in effect "people power" an uprising against an all powerful King (Charles 1st) leading ultimately to his execution! These wars marked the end of the divine rights of the monarch and the beginning of a period of parliamentary / military rule under Oliver Cromwell until the restoration of the King (Charles 2<sup>nd</sup>) in 1660.

In summary these wars were the beginning of the formation of democratic rule through the parliamentary system of government. However the civil wars were very bloody<sup>37</sup>, Bramshall and the surrounding geographic areas of 'middle England'<sup>38</sup> got caught up in the difficult position of frequently being asked to support either the Royalists or the Parliamentarians. 'Support' for the wars even for ordinary people took various forms including providing monetary contributions, their labour, transportation, the building of fortifications as well as equipment supply, food and accommodation for armies i.e. locally at Tutbury Castle. Sir O. Mosley<sup>39</sup> noted in his book called the History of Tutbury (1832) "blood of many a brave man stained the ground by the side of the Dove"

Several examples of incidents during the civil wars involving the residents of Bramshall survive. These are primarily recorded in the

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36 See Bramshall Collection File 1 & 77

37 The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern Chapter 2

38 For example: The Battle of Hopton Heath near Stafford in 1643 - between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians.

39 Sir Oswald Mosley, 2nd Baronet, of Ancoats. He wrote a number of local and natural history books, including History of the Castle, Priory and Town of Tutbury (1832), Gleanings in Horticulture (1851) and Natural History of Tutbury (1863)



records of a committee which was based in Stafford and controlled the county during the civil wars:

- James Sargant of Uttoxeter who owned a meadow in Little Bramshall (South of the village) and an Inn in Uttoxeter<sup>40</sup> was one of nine persons ordered by the Stafford Committee to loan the King's army money to the sum of £50 in 1642<sup>41</sup>
- In 1644 Mrs Jane Lathrop of Uttoxeter was unable to pay army expenses because she was owed money by Thomas Rushton of Bramshall. He was ordered to pay his debts in one week or appear in court<sup>42</sup>
- In 1642 damage was caused to Bramshall Church by the Scottish army who were being billeted following their surrender in support of the King.
- Further an account of the demands made by the Parliamentarians from Richard Richardson Farmer of Bramshall in 1648. . Richard complained that on October 2nd 1648 the soldiers had caused him to lose all his forage, they consumed or used all his hay and pease. For this damage he later claimed £6<sup>43</sup> from the Parliament Commander. It's unclear whether he ever received payment<sup>44</sup>.

## **27. Did Oliver Cromwell stay with his army for 2 nights at Bramshall in 1648 ?**

The story of Richard Richardson who was later buried in Bramshall church yard in 1673 leaves an intriguing question. During the years of researching the history of Bramshall I have been told by several locals that Oliver Cromwell accompanied his army to Bramshall in 1648 and indeed slept here, reportedly at Stocks Manor for two nights!<sup>45</sup> True or false, I have been unable to establish the truth! I have managed to establish that Oliver Cromwell was in Ireland in April of 1648 and

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40 Peter Lightfoot survey of Uttoxeter 1629 – not in print, copies available from Redfern Cottage – The museum of Uttoxeter Life Carter Street Uttoxeter & Bramshall Collection File Number 69

41 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance MA Part 4 page 29

42 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance MA Part 4 page 31

43 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance MA Part 4 page 36

44 See Bramshall Collection File 48

45 See Bramshall collection File 66

elsewhere in October of that year<sup>46</sup>. Please be sure to let me know if you find documentary evidence of Oliver Cromwell's presence in Bramshall 😊 My contact details appear as part of the contents page at the beginning of this booklet.

## **28. Bramshall during the 18th and 19th centuries**

In 1801, at the time of the first census, only about 20% of the population lived in towns. By 1851 the figure had risen to over 50%. By 1881 about two thirds of the population lived in towns.

Furthermore in 1801 the majority of the population still worked in agriculture or related industries. Most goods were made by hand and very many craftsmen worked on their own, with perhaps a labourer and an apprentice. By the late 19th century factories were common and most goods were made by machine.

The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries bore witness to a major shift in all aspects of people's lives. Sometimes called the 'Age of Reason', this was a time which commenced with technological advances particularly in the making and use of iron for construction and steam as a source of power. These developments quickly led to rapid economic growth and the associated road, canal and later railways required for moving goods around an ever expanding empire. It was also a time of great social unrest and injustice leading to gradual social reform e.g. The Luddites and the Tolpuddle Martyrs.

It was a time when life would have been ever changing even in rural communities as new agricultural practices were introduced. Most noticeably for the community living at Bramshall would have been the enclosure of lands away from the use of ground as common land for all to use, which took place gradually from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Under the Enclosure Acts land was fenced and deeded or entitled to an owner.

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46 The Calendar of State Papers 1625-49. William Salt Library Stafford

## **29. Survey of Bramshall 1768**

By 1768 when a survey of Bramshall was undertaken by S. Wyatt, the village was divided up into over 240 fields, each with a number, field name and owner<sup>47</sup>. The enclosure system of land management proved impractical and uneconomic leading to frequent changes in land ownership and undoubted misery and poverty. Housing at this time for the majority of people who continued to live in rural communities such as Bramshall would have been simple and practical. We approach a time in history when examples of buildings, (although often so much changed they may be unrecognizable as being several hundred years old) still survive. One example of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century farmer's cottage in Bramshall was, Hob Hill<sup>48</sup>. The house and grounds were extensively recorded by Staffordshire Archivists before it was demolished a few years ago. The workers cottage was brick built and consisted of 4 rooms on two floors.

I have found further snippets of recorded information about Bramshall Parish from searches at the local records offices, British History on line, Ancestry.co.uk, Staffordshire Past Track and the National Archives at Kew:

## **30. Land Tax Records for Bramshall 1781- 1825**

Land Tax records for Bramshall survive for a period of 36 years between 1781 and 1825<sup>49</sup>. These records provide an accurate list of land / property ownership in Bramshall and the details of their tenants. By way of example in 1781 there were 10 land owners in Bramshall their names were: Willoughby De Broke, Kynnersley, Hancock, Warner, Walker, Richardson, Mullins, Shipley, Turner and Fletcher.

## **31. Bramshall and Uttoxeter water supply**

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there are surviving records of a serious dispute between Lord Willoughby de Broke (the land owner) and the residents of Bramshall and Uttoxeter over their water supply<sup>50</sup>. I have

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47 A survey of several farms and lands in the manor of Bramshall by S Wyatt 1768.

Photo copy of the survey and map in the Bramshall collection File 17

48 Hob Hill Cottage Historic Building Report by C Henshaw and B Meeson. William Salt Library Reference: MISC 1098

49 Stafford County Records office Reference: Q/67. Photo copy in the Bramshall Collection File 30

50 See Bramshall collection File 7

been able to establish that originally Bramshall supplied Uttoxeter with some if not all of its water from a series of wells and or ponds. By 1809 the communities were in dispute over both supply and payment for water received. It seems a stream at Bramshall had been diverted some 70 years earlier which appears to have been the root cause of the problem in terms of supply. C. Abbott the author of a report<sup>51</sup> also states an overdue payment of 7s 6d was being disputed. The village pump I understand was on the west side of Church Lane with a footpath which ran under where the house called Pennygoran now stands. It was located in a field that was and indeed I understand still is called Well Field.

### **32. Burglary in Bramshall 1796**

In September 1796 a printer in Uttoxeter by the name of Wetton reported that a certain Mr James Durose of Bank Top Bramshall had been the victim of a burglary. The report includes a long list of items stolen including one purple and white linen gown<sup>52</sup>

### **33. Bramshall in 1834**

White's Trade Directory of 1834 offers a glimpse of how Bramshall was adapting to change:

*Bramshall is a small village on the bank of a little rivulet, 2 miles west of Uttoxeter, comprising within its parish the hamlet of Dagdale, on a declivity half a mile north of the church; and 1100 acres of fertile land with 170 inhabitants. Lord Willoughby-de- Broke is the principal land owner, lord of the manor and patron of the rectory which is now enjoyed by the Rev. John Sneyd of Elford. The church a humble and ancient structure on a lofty eminence and will be rebuilt in 1834. It is endowed with a house and 8 acres of land called Smithe-lee, in Checkley Parish now let for £18 per year. The poor have 10s yearly out of Gilbert's pars left by Dorothy Warner in 1676. The south side of the village, called Little Bramshall, is in Uttoxeter Parish. The wake is on the first Sunday in August.*

*W. Bottomer a tailor, Rev. Brian Sneyd curate, Henry Foster beer house, Thomas Heath Blacksmith, Thomas Health jun. Shoe maker,*

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51 Division of a stream. Report dated 1889. William Salt Library, Reference Number CB/ Bramshall/1

52 Bramshall Collection File 65

*Thomas Osborne, parish clerk, John Perkins butcher and beer, Thomas Ratcliffe<sup>3</sup> shop keeper and the following farmers and graziers: W Allsop<sup>1</sup>, Thos. Bond<sup>2</sup>, Thom Cope, Gco. Dawson<sup>3</sup>, Jane Holland<sup>3</sup>, Wm Lattimer<sup>4</sup>, Thos. Perkin, Frs Richardson, Wm Rushton<sup>3</sup>, Thomas Ward and Jph Wetton<sup>3</sup>*

*1 = reside at Bank top, 2= Bumble Castle, 3 = Dagdale, 4 = Park and the rest reside at Bramshall*

### **34. The Highway Act of 1862**

Staffordshire County Records office holds an interesting file regarding the High Way Act of 1862. It seems this act was designed to centralize into more regional groupings the responsibility for roads. Bramshall was part of The Cheadle and Uttoxeter Highway District. It transpires that local people (ratepayers) were very unhappy about this act of parliament and hundreds of petitions were drawn up across Staffordshire. On viewing the petition for Bramshall some familiar names pop up: Lassiter, Heath, Minors, Richardson, Tideswell, Wragg, Foster, Tooth, Johnson, Cope, Williams, Durose and Rushton.

### **35. Bennett's Lane**

The name Bennett as in Bennett's Lane Bramshall derives from the Bennetts<sup>53</sup> who were maltsters and lived in the second cottage down (which is joined to the first building) on the corner at the junction with Stone Road. They also apparently had the lease on the cottage that remains on the other corner of Bennett's Lane and Stone Road.

The Bennetts are one of a handful of old Bramshall families whose name and heritage dates back many hundreds of years. Examples of others are those of Durose, Buckley<sup>54</sup>, Heath and Statham<sup>55</sup>. Any reader who is particularly interested in the old Bramshall families please do access the Bramshall Collection. Many of the files have details such as family trees and wills which are yet to be fully explored.

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53 See Bramshall Collection File 75 for further details about the family

54 See Bramshall Collection File 73 for further details about the family

55 See Bramshall Collection File 74 for further details about the family

### **36. A terrible storm: Bramshall September 10<sup>th</sup> 1869**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> September 1869 there was a terrible storm and much thunder and lightning. The Rev D Smith recorded an alarming accident which occurred by 'electric fluid' at the house situated at Kiddlestitch that belonged to Mr. William Buckley:

*"The residence is rather an extensive one part of it being occupied by in connection with Mr. Buckley's farm and the rest consisting of suites of rooms being let to Rev. Smith. .... The electrical fluid first struck the chimney on the south gable completely destroying it ..... Propelling bricks and chimney parts some 20 yards ... the concussion causing windows to break .... The electrical fluid attacked the bell wire throughout the house except the cheese room. It consequently passed through a great many 9 inch walls and left its terrible traces in almost every room .... There were 9 people in the house and all had a narrow escape from losing their lives"*

Copied from an old of the Rev. D Smith lent to Ms E Statham by his son Dan Smith in 1968<sup>56</sup>

### **37. Bramshall in 1897**

The 1901 census together with Kelly's Trade Directory of that year provide us with some fascinating clues as to the way of life in Bramshall by the last years of Queen Victoria's reign.

#### **Kelly's Trade Directory for 1901 describes Bramshall as follows:**

BRAMSHALL (Bromshall) is a village and parish on a gentle declivity, 2 miles west of Uttoxeter Station ..... The Church of St Lawrence which stands on an eminence above the village was rebuilt in 1835. .... The living is a rectory net yearly value of £190, including 42 acres of glebe. The Rector was Roger Oakden who lived at the vicarage on Leigh Road with his wife, daughter, sister and two servants.

There is a Parochial School (mixed) originally a dwelling house converted into a school in 1847 for 50 children. Average attendance: 35 Teacher: Miss Elizabeth Tranter

There is an endowment of £16 per year, arising from land given in the year of 1564, for the repair and maintenance of the church: and 10s for the poor called "Warner's Charity". Lord Willoughby de Broke is lord of the manor and principle land owner.

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56 See Bramshall collection Black file numbered 58



### 39. Bramshall Bank Farm 1890



\*John Henry Statham with his wife Mary Ann (nee Baldock)  
Female child Nellie Torrance (nee Statham) and the boy Henry Leason Statham

### 40. Lower Loxley Farm circa 1890



\*Henry Richardson in a trap & Mary Ellen Richardson (nee Buckley)



#### 41. Roycroft Farm Bramshall circa 1900



\*Tom Sargeant in a smock

#### 42. Dagdale Cottages circa 1900



\*Original photographs from the Richard Statham collection reproduced with the kind permission from the Statham family of Bramshall.

### 43. Edwin Bebbington Roadman for Bramshall circa 1900



Photo: Ted Bebbington. Information from Ted Bebbington's Story in: The Road to Chartley Part 1 by Jim Foley 1998.

Edwin Bebbington was a roadman for Bramshall in the early 1900s. He told his grandson Ted Bebbington that he remembered going to the annual 'Gayboys' Market in Uttoxeter on the first market after Christmas Day. Farmers and would-be farm workers met in the market and arrangements were made for a 12 month period. The contract was 'bonded' by the gift of a shilling in a similar way to recruiting sergeants in the Army who clinched the enlistment of a recruit with the King's Shilling.

A Road man: Worked on building and or maintaining roads – they often had a stretch of road which he was responsible for filling in potholes etc. - usually a mile or two. A tramp or vagrant was also often referred to as a Roadman

#### 44. Bramshall 1901 Population Census

The population of Bramshall and Dagdale amounted to 140 persons of whom many were farmers. Listed below are just a few of the 140 residents and their occupations, taken from the 1901 census.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Address</b>
Samuel Buckley	Farmer	Bank Top
Henry Eden	Carpenter	
Thomas Fradley	Baker	Stone Road
Lavinia Organ	Dress Maker	
Frances Gill	Bailiff	Leigh road
James Elliot	Cattle dealer	
Edward Eyre	Blacksmith	
John Tunncliffe	Farmer	Stocks Farm
Hannah Farmer	Beer retailer	The Butchers Arms (Bramshall Inn)
Ann Durose	Shop Keeper	? Wheelrights shop on the Stone Road
John Griffin and son	Shoe and Boot makers	
Frances Edensor Richardson	Farmer and land owner	Holly Grange
Joseph Bentley	Railway signalman	
Frances Wigley	Inn keeper	The New Inn (The Robin Hood)
Thomas Sargeant	Butcher	Little Bramshall
Henry Statham	Farmer	Little Bramshall

This concludes the main section of the History of Bramshall Parish. I can only hope that in reading this you have been inspired to carry on where I have left off. Please do see the following chapters on the church (s), Loxley Park, Bramshall School and the Stafford to Uttoxeter Railway line.

## **Bramshall Church(s)**

### **Original research undertaken by Mr. G Gamble & Jenny Wall**

There has been a church on the site in Bramshall since ancient times. The Plea Rolls for Staffordshire dated 1227 make references to a church at Bromshelf:

#### **1. Matilda, mother of Sibilla held land of Bramshall Church for eighteen farthings yearly**

*“..... . The jury state that Matilda, the mother of Sibilla, held the land of the Church of Bromshelf (Bramshall), for eighteen farthings yearly, and gave it to Robert Godman, the father of Margaret, in frank marriage with Sibel, her daughter, who through poverty relinquished the land, and became a wandering beggar (ivit mendicans); and through default of service the said Magister took the land into his own hands, but permitted Sibel to retain the house until she died; but she did not die seised of the land. Magister Robert therefore to hold the land in peace, and Margaret is in misericordiã. Her fine is remitted because of her poverty, and she is to pursue her claim in another form if she chooses”*

#### **2. Silurus of Bromshelf**

*“A jury & whether a messuage in Bromshelf was a lay fee of William de Stafford, or the free alms of Silurus de Bromshelf, pertaining to his Church of Bromshelf (Bramshall)”*

#### **3. Silvester the Parson of the Church at Bromshelf**

*“An assize, &c., whether a messuage in Bromshelf (Bramshall) was a layee of Hervey de Stafford, or the free alms of Silvester, Parson of the Church of Bromshelf. The jury find in favour of Hervey”*

#### 4. Richard de Halghton Rector Bramshall Church 1312-1377

*“Power of attorney by Richard son of Hugh to Richard de Halghton rector of the church of Bramshall to deliver seizin to John de Denstone of all those lands and tenements in the fee of Bramshall which he acquired from William son of Simon de Stafford Thursday next after the feast of Pentecost 26 May 40 Edward III”<sup>57</sup>*

#### 5. Robert Lowe Rector Bramshall circa 1456

*“Demise by John Gresley, kt, Thomas Bludde, John Strethay, Henry Kynnardesley, Robert Lowe rector of Bramshall and Thomas Blysse. vicar of Uttoxeter to Margaret late wife of John Kynnersley, of their manor of Lea with all appurtenances and two pastures called Blaklee and Wynstowe in Loxley along with a messuage in the tenure of Henry Mathowe and a pasture called Tapmore, a pasture called Longheth and four shillings rent arising from a pasture called Hayteley: for life 4 June 14 Ed. IV”<sup>58</sup>*

From: 'Plea Rolls for Staffordshire: 1227, Staffordshire Historical Collections, vol. 4 (1883), pp. 40-67. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

In view of the above 13<sup>th</sup> century references to a church at Bramshall it can be assumed that a total of at least three churches have stood on or near the site of the current St Lawrence. A period of rapid development in church building occurred across England during the reign of Edward 3<sup>rd</sup> (1312 – 1377)<sup>59</sup> including a new church for Bramshall.

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57 D(W) 1733/A/2/100

58 D(W)1733/A/1/4

59 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance Part 3 page 11 & Bramshall Collection File 14

## 6. Bramshall old church just before its demolition in 1835



**Drawing by Thomas Fradgley Architect and Surveyor of Uttoxeter 1835**

As the drawing above illustrates the second church<sup>60</sup> was a wooden structure, which according to records fell into serious disrepair<sup>61</sup> and was eventually replaced by the current St Lawrence Church by 1835. The new church continued its medieval dedication to Saint Lawrence who died in Rome in the year 258 AD (Feast day August 10th). Since Tudor times and following the Reformation “The Saint for today”, St Lawrence considered the poor, ill and unloved to be “the churches treasure”; nurturing and administration for the poor.

Frances Redfern noted in the second edition of his book: The history and Antiquities of Uttoxeter dated 1886 that:

*“The old church at Bramshall, built in the time of Edward III, was taken down in 1835, and the present one was built from a design in the Batty Langley Style, by a person of the name of Laycock, head carpenter to the late Lord Willoughby de Brooke, at his lordship's expense. The tower of the old church appears to have been of wood, and to have stood considerably more south than the present edifice. It did not contain any monuments ....”*

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60 See Bramshall Collection File 45 – Seating plan & names. Design of the old church

61 See Bramshall Collection File 45 – collection correspondence & papers relating to the old church and the rebuild

The Staffordshire Church Register Volume 2<sup>62</sup> states:

## **7. The first stone laid of the new church is 1834**

*The first stone of the new church was laid 1<sup>st</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> of September .... Within the burial ground 15 yards more to the old church..... The old church had a curious old oak roof. Mrs. Cavendish and Miss Archer took a drawing .....*

The present church was built in 1835 by Thomas Fradgley of Uttoxeter at the expense of Lord Willoughby de Broke. Two medieval bells, the Caroline alter rails and some 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century glass windows survive. The church also has some 13th century heraldic glass in the north aisle bearing the arms of the de Broke family.

Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council provide the following interesting details of the church on their website: <http://www.utttoxeteruralparishcouncil.org>

*The church ... is a fairly simple structure of Gothic design, with a seating capacity of approximately 90. The tower contains only 3 bells, of which the tenor and treble have been listed for preservation (these being circa 1590 & 1500 respectively). The little bit of ancient stained glass is limited to 14th century 'de Stafforde' shields, a 16th century panel of fragments representing Alice Tame, the Lady Vemey, and three panels of 14th century glass recently re-instated. In November 1921 Bramshall became a united benefice with Uttoxeter, at which point the patronage transferred from Lord Willoughby de Broke to the Dean and Canons of Windsor. Its only claim to 'notoriety' is that during the war the home guard, stationed as look out on the tower, mistakenly identified some parachutists and rang the bells to signify the German Invasion!*

*(Extract taken from the Bramshall Village Action Plan 2008)*

## **8. Thomas Bakewell was parson at Bramshall from late in the reign of Henry 8<sup>th</sup>**

Thomas Bakewell was parson at Bramshall from late in the reign of Henry 8<sup>th</sup> until the 1580's.

*“To Thomas Bakewell my son £6 due unto me by the last will and testament of Sir Thomas Bakewell, my brother late parson of Bromshulf deceased”*<sup>63</sup>

## **9. Plaque over the entrance to the old church dated 1565**

Copy of a plaque over the entrance door Bramshall Church 1565 which is now displayed in the church on the south wall of the Nave:

John Taylor & Thomas Wettwood by their deed dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of Elizabeth's reign , AD 1565 did give grant and confirm unto several trustees therein named all that meadow of pastures called Smythe Lee otherwise with appurtenances lying and being in the Parish of Checkley in the county of Stafford to the use of the common profit of the tenants and inhabitants of the Parish of Bramshall in the said county and that the rents, revenues issues and profits of the said parcel of meadow should be forever employed bestowed and expended in upon or about the repairing or amending the Parish Church of Bramshall aforesaid buying of bells or other necessities for the furniture of the said church , the payments of the 10<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> temporalities within the said parish setting forth of soldiers for the service of the prince or other such like use as shall be thought beneficiary by the discretion of the parson and church wardens of the same church and the most part of the tenants and inhabitants there for the time being of the common weal and profit of the same parish forever and to no other use intent or purpose.

Wording from a photocopy of the plaque over the door of the old church  
Staffordshire County Council Records Office Reference D3892

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63 Seven Studies in the economic and social history of Uttoxeter and its adjacent rural parishes 1530 – 1830 Bramshall Collection File 8



## **10. St Lawrence Church: Damage during the English Civil Wars (1642-1651)**

In 1642 damage was caused to Bramshall Church by the Scottish army who were being billeted following their surrender in support of the King. Further an account of the demands made by the Parliamentarians from Richard Richardson Farmer of Bramshall in 1648. . Richard complained that on October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1648 the soldiers had caused him to lose all his forage, they consumed or used all his hay and pease. For this damage he later claimed £6<sup>64</sup> from the Parliament Commander.

## **11. Lawrence Dawson Rector of Bramshall (1659-1674)**

The story of Lawrence Dawson as reported by William Torrance<sup>65</sup> remains a bit of a mystery. A brief summary of what is known about this gentleman is listed below. Why did he become rector at Bramshall where he served until his death in 1674? He is buried in the churchyard at Bramshall

- He was involved in legal proceedings during the years 1625-1637 concerning Uttoxeter and its citizen's rights to land during a time of hardship
- He was related to the Warner family of Bramshall
- He owned considerable lands in Uttoxeter and a house with land near the churchyard of St Mary's Church
- He was minister at Uttoxeter 1653-1658
- He had a daughter called Hester Townsend whom he left £5 and a son called William
- To the poor he left £3 /6s / 8d

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64 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance MA Part 4 page 36

65 Following Frances Redfern by W G Torrance MA Part 5 pages 5-7

## 12. The Rectory (The Bramshall Inn)

In 1767 Lord Willoughby de Broke commissioned a village plan (which I have been unable to find). Apparently on this map the building is marked as the vicarage. Later to become a beer house called The Farmer's Arms and later still the Butchers Arms and Bramshall Inn. It was in circa 1823<sup>66</sup> that the building was converted to provide a beer house to meet the needs of the men building the railway<sup>67</sup>.

### The Old Rectory circa 1900



## 13. Daniel Astle Curate at Bramshall Church between 1813 and 1826

Frances Redfern reports an interesting story relating to the church and one of its curates: Daniel was an important local dignitary from an influential and wealthy family. He was an army general and served under General Howe at the battle of Bunker Hill, he was a published author<sup>68</sup> and by marriage was related to the Constable family<sup>69</sup> as well as being the curate at Bramshall between 1813 and 1826. It was reported that a certain Mr. Norris (printer and stationer from Uttoxeter)

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66 See the story of the old clock which stood in the same place for 127 years. Bramshall Collection File 19

67 See Bramshall collection File 19

68 A prospect from Barrow Hill, near Rocester, in Staffordshire 1777 in print on Google books ISBN 9 781170832189.

69 The Letters of Samuel Johnson: Volume II: 1773-1776 page 179 By Samuel Johnson

owned an ink sketch<sup>70</sup> of Captain Astle with Samuel Johnson, reportedly as the Doctor undertook his famous 1784 penance. It is reported the sketch is engraved in The Life of the Doctor in part of a four volume Illustrated London Library (Published by The Illustrated London News) Redfern goes onto to state the image of Samuel Johnson is not accurate and he thought it more likely to be Samuel Bentley, the Uttoxeter poet. A further note about the Astle family relates to Mary Astle who was married to a certain Anthony Rhudde (1738-1816) a gentleman whose life is being investigated by a colleague of mine<sup>71</sup> following the discovery during 2010 of a clasp with his name on in a field he once owned in Uttoxeter.

#### **14. Williams Bennett Rector at Bramshall 1857 – 1893**

Williams Bennett was rector at Bramshall for 36 years. The 1861 census shows him living with his wife Isabella and their six children at the vicarage in Bramshall. Twenty years later he is shown living with his eldest daughter Louisa and her children. Research into the Bennett family has been undertaken by a member of the family. For further details please view the Bramshall Collection File Number 68.

#### **15. Thomas Fradgley Architect and Surveyor of Uttoxeter**

Before moving on from the church it feels only fitting to add a short piece on Thomas Fradgley the architect who designed Bramshall Church and whom is also buried in the graveyard.

Thomas Fradgley was born in London in 1802; he married Clarissa Warner<sup>72</sup> at Bramshall church in 1839. She was the daughter of Roger and Lydia Warner of The Stocks, later Stocks Manor Bramshall. They had two children, a son called Thomas Warner Fradgley who died on January 21st 1841 aged 6 months and possibly a daughter called Ann<sup>73</sup>.

Thomas Fradgley had a long and illustrious career which commenced in the late 1820's when he was employed as an architect and builder

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70 The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 173

71 <http://www.uttoxeter-news.co.uk/News/History-of-owner-of-clasp-sought-20112012.htm>

72 See Bramshall collection File 66 The Fradgley Charity 1895 - 1995

73 Ann does not appear in the church or parish records

at Alton Castle (Towers). Later he worked with the famous E W Pugin, best remembered for his Gothic revival style and The Palace of Westminster. Thomas served as the Clerk of Works at Alton Towers and numerous architectural design features of the Alton estate buildings and gardens are attributed to him. A further early achievement was his being commissioned by a company of gentleman, The Foresters Lodge; to design the old bridge over the river Dove, the foundation stone of this beautiful 170 year old structure being laid on August 8th 1839.



Thomas went onto design the Town Hall Uttoxeter, built in 1854 and in the same year he also designed the original neo classical conduit / weighing machine for market stall holders over a natural spring in market square.

This building was adapted in the 1870's by the sculptor Richard Cockle Lucas into the Samuel Johnson Memorial Kiosk we know today in the market square Uttoxeter. A ceremony is held each year on

the nearest Monday to Johnson's birthday, 18 September, at which speeches are made and a laurel wreath placed over the memorial.

Other architectural achievements of Thomas's include numerous local churches, St. Michael's Stramshall, St. Mary's Uttoxeter, and Marchington. Other buildings include Swiss Cottage or Harper's Cottage Farley and the design of numerous school buildings including Uttoxeter, Draycott, Hanbury, Oakamoor, Cauldon and Alton National Schools. It is also believed Thomas designed and later lived in the substantial house Moorlands on Byrds Lane. He also designed the former Uttoxeter brewery offices; Lathropp's Almshouses and various drainage, gas and sewage schemes in Uttoxeter during his long career.

On the west wall inside St Lawrence Church there is a memorial tablet to Roger Warner, his wife Lydia, their son, which also commemorates the life of Thomas Fradgley who died in 1883. The tablet was commissioned by Clara (Clarissa) Fradgley, Thomas's wife.

## 16. Bertram Philip Taft

Just past the south door into the church lies the memorial headstone of Bertram "Bertie" Philip Taft, a site which is shared with the graves of one of his four sisters, Ethel and his parents John and Annie.

Bertie was an Old Contemptible a name given to those who signed up for service in the regular army during the First World War.

*Image of Bertie Taft from:*  
<http://www.uttoxeterlostgeneration.co.uk>



Bertie resigned from his job as a clerk for the North Stafford Railway Uttoxeter and joined the army in the summer of 1914. His military records indicate Bertie was 18 years of age and declared fit for active service on September 27th 1914. He joined the Prince of Wales North Staffordshire Regiment where he served in both the 1st and 6th Battalions.

It's unclear from surviving records what Bertie did during his first year of his army service but we know that on October 12th 1915 he found himself marching into the final hours of the Battle of Loos in northern France. He was declared missing in action after the charge of Hohenzollen Redoubt; two years later his date of death was confirmed as October 13th 1915, the last day of the Battle of Loos, along with several thousand other young men.

Records show that the Taft family functioned as fruiterers, green grocers and shop keepers living in the Uttoxeter area from at least the middle of the 19th century, his parents only moving to Bramshall after Bertie's death. John and Annie Taft became publicans at the New Inn (The Robin Hood) in 1920 or 1921 and ran the pub for at least 10 years. Bertie was the youngest of seven children; he had a brother called Richard who served in India during the war, and a sister called Ethel whom he shares his memorial grave, she I presume to have died of flu in 1918.

According to his obituary in the Uttoxeter Advertiser Bertie was a courteous lad, which it transpires during the research for this article was 'economical' about his real age on joining the army. We know

from his army records that he was very fit for active service; he stood 5 foot 7 ½ inches tall weighing in at 150 lbs at his army medical in 1914 aged 17 years. Bertie's short life is commemorated every year at the St Lawrence Church Act of Remembrance service in November, along with others from the parish who have lost their lives during conflicts.

## 17. William Grove Torrance MA

Again before concluding this chapter on the church it feels only appropriate to include a chapter on William Grove Torrance MA<sup>74</sup> whom I have quoted so much in compiling this booklet and who is also buried in Bramshall church yard.

William Torrance is perhaps best known locally for his authorship of the series of short books entitled Following Frances Redfern (1972-5)<sup>75</sup>. In these publications he took the opportunity to amend and further develop the first authoritative history of Uttoxeter, written and published by Frances Redfern in 1865<sup>76</sup>. What is perhaps less well known is that these two scholars were known to each other via Torrance's uncle and that during his long and distinguished life Torrance published books and articles on a wide range of subjects. He lived to the grand age of ninety finally passing away in 1977; instructing the placement of half of his ashes on the grave of his first wife Nellie in Bramshall churchyard<sup>77</sup>.

William Torrance was proud as his Scottish ancestry and his distant relation by marriage to the Wedgwood potters<sup>78</sup>. During his life he lived in Oldfields Road in a house which still bears the name of his Scottish routes: Airdrie.

Torrance attended Thomas Alleyne's Grammar school as a young child (1897 to 1902) later working there as an English teacher and then

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74 See Bramshall collection File Number 81

75 Published in 10 parts by William Torrance, distributed by H M Bowring of Market Place Uttoxeter. Currently out of print – some parts are still available for sale at Redfern Cottage Museum of Uttoxeter in Carter Street. All 10 parts available for reference at the museum or contact Jen.wall@btconnect.com. Also a complete copy as part of the Bramshall collection File Number 14

72. History of the Town of Uttoxeter 1865 (1st edition) & The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern

77 The other half of his ashes are with his second wife at Uttoxeter cemetery A13 (548)

78 Uttoxeter Advertiser Profile Mr W G Torrance by Peter Lead Spring 1972

finally the school became the subject of his first book: The history of Alleyne's Grammar School Uttoxeter 1558-1958<sup>79</sup> published in 1959.

William Torrance served in both world wars in the Royal Flying Corps and the RAF, although he never actually flew in combat due to his age, he had a distinguished career and ended the second world war as a Squadron – Leader. Later he held the position of President of the Uttoxeter RAF Association, a role he continued until his death.

A further great passion and subject of his masters degree was rural education and psychology, equipping young people to learn the skills and knowledge to work and live on the land. He was evidently fascinated by varied subject areas in the fields of agriculture, horticulture and conservation; going on to write a further book published in 1967 entitled Saving Our Floral Heritage<sup>80</sup>. In 1949 William Torrance was elected as treasurer to the committee of the Staffordshire branch for the Council for the Preservation of Rural England<sup>81</sup>

Thanks to the 21st century technology even a most cursory search through local newspaper archives broadens the list of the activity and interests of this gentleman: - a campaign for a plaque to remember Mary Howitt<sup>82</sup>, a talk on humor to the Uttoxeter Rotary club<sup>83</sup>, an active Rotarian, a founder member of the Old Alleynians and an avid gardener and member of Uttoxeter gardening club. Indeed a remarkable man who is remembered by Mr. John Walker whose help was much appreciated in compiling this brief summary of William Torrance's life.

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79 The History of Alleyne's Grammar School, Uttoxeter, 1558-1958 by WG Torrance  
Published 1959, by Old Alleynians Association, Uttoxeter.

80 Saving Our Floral Heritage by William Grove Torrance (Paperback, 1967) printed by  
Harpur & Sons 1968

81 Uttoxeter Advertiser Profile Mr W G Torrance by Peter Lead Spring 1972

82 Rotary Club of Uttoxeter Talk on Mary Howitt Uttoxeter advertiser 1959 October?

83 Supplement to the Uttoxeter Advertiser Wednesday December 4th 1946

## **Loxley Park** **Original research undertaken by Mr. G. Gamble**

There has been an estate and house at Loxley since before the Norman Conquest and indeed it even merited a mention in the Domesday Book of 1086. Redfern makes reference to several descriptions of an earlier building on the site on page 427 of this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the history and Antiquities of Uttoxeter.

Like the many layers of an onion, the current house has been greatly altered over the intervening centuries, although the exterior of the present building is believed to look much the same as it did when it was “front – cased” with ashlar stone in 1797.

### **1. View of the front of Loxley Park circa 1821**



Painted by J. C. Baskin.

Engraved by W. Wallis.

### **LOXLEY PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

*London Pub. by J. Baskin, at Bennett's, 57, Pall Mall East, & Sherwood's, 10, Pall Mall East.*

Shortly after the Norman Conquest the park came into the ownership of the de Ferrers family for successive generations until passing into the possession of the Kynnersley family as part of a marriage settlement in 1327. The estate remained within the family until 1815 when Clement Kynnersley died. His nephew Thomas Sneyd duly inherited the estate and added the Kynnersley name to his own.



During the late Victorian period Loxley Park was rented out to a Doctor Fletcher<sup>84</sup> from Manchester who used it as a convalescent home for wealthy persons and during the heyday of the 'Roaring' 1920's the house became the summer residence of a girls boarding school. At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the estate was requisitioned by the Government to serve as a camp for Displaced Persons from Eastern Europe and the Baltic States. Later on, many German and Italian prisoners of war were also interned at Loxley and sent out as part of the war effort to work for local farmers.

### The interior of Loxley Hall circa 1920



Photograph from <http://www.search.staffspasttrack.org.uk>

A view of the interior of the hall showing carved paneling on the walls and a balustraded balcony supported by Corinthian type columns. The room is full of 1920's style furniture, basket weave chairs, table, potted plants, paintings, weapons and antlers displayed on the walls.

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<sup>84</sup> The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighborhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 428

The Sneyd-Kynnersley family eventually sold Loxley Park in 1949 and by 1954 the house was significantly altered and adapted in order to become a residential school for boys with Special Educational Needs, a function it continues to fulfill to the present day<sup>85</sup>.

## 2. Photograph of Loxley Park Outbuildings



Staffordshire County Council Records Office  
Reference: C/P/65/2/1/54/1-12

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85 See Bramshall Collection File 22 for more information about Loxley Park and Hall

### 3. The Dovecot in the grounds of Loxley Hall

In Medieval times a dovecote was a symbol of status, although it is unlikely that the Dovecote which still proudly stands in the grounds of Loxley Park is that old. The building is a grade two listed building registered in 1966 by English Heritage

Reference numbers: ID: 273905 NGR: SK0621632150



Staffordshire County Council Records Office  
Reference: C/P/65/2/1/54/1-12

#### 4. The Robin Hood connection



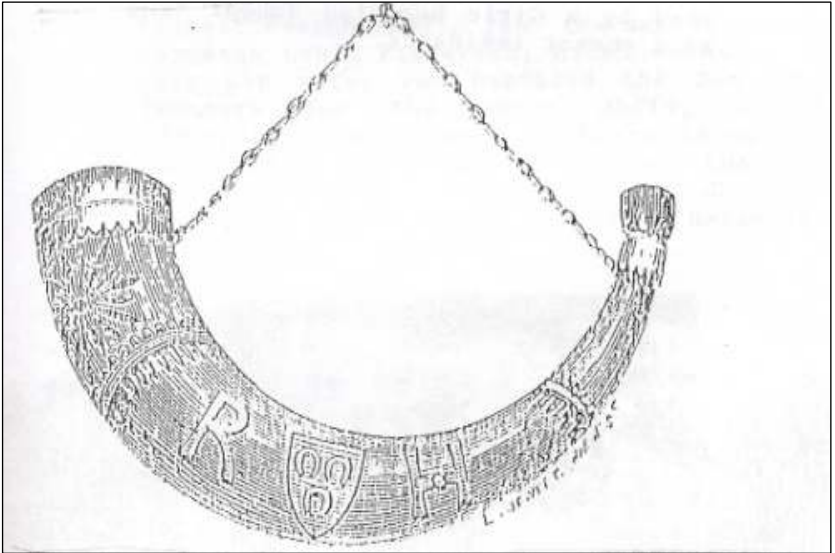
#### 5. Robin Hood's Temple

Many stories exist about a possible link between Robin Hood and Loxley Hall. The picture above depicts a building which once stood in the grounds named Robin Hood's Temple. The temple was erected from part of the façade of the old 17<sup>th</sup> century Loxley Hall, sadly the building no longer exists.

Frances Redfern refers to the legend of Robin Hood and his association with Loxley Hall on page 428 of his 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Amongst other stories Redfern relates the tale from around 1760 in which it is claimed that Robin Hood spent his honeymoon at Loxley following his marriage at Doveridge Church.

## 6. Robin Hood's Horn

To add yet another layer of mystery, the exact whereabouts of the medieval artifact, known as Robin Hood's Horn which was housed at Loxley for many years, is currently unknown. The horn, which apparently passed down the de Ferres family has reportedly got the initials RH on it, was mounted with silver ferrules and had a silver chain for its suspension<sup>86</sup>



*All illustrations and information reproduced by kind permission*

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86 The History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighborhood of Uttoxeter, with Notices of Adjoining Places 1886 (2nd edition) by Frances Redfern page 428

## **Bromshall Railway Station 1848 – 1866** **by Jenny Wall, Andrew Dartnell and Reg Edwards**

### **1. The Clog and Knocker Line**

The journey into the history of Bramshall continues with the story of the Stafford to Uttoxeter railway line which commenced at Bramshall junction. The line originally spurred off the North Staffordshire Railway Stoke to Derby line near the current Loxley crossing.

Nicknamed the '*Clog and Knocker*' line, the Stafford and Uttoxeter Railway was created by Act of Parliament in 1862 and opened in 1867. It is believed that the hand written Act of 1862 was the origin of what was probably an error or misrepresentation of handwriting resulting in the creation of the Bromshall line rather than Bramshall. At its opening the railway owned seven coaches, sixteen wagons, a goods van and eventually a locomotive called the '*Shrewsbury and Talbot*' after a local landowner.

"Why was it called the Clog and Knocker line?" Reg Edwards informed me it seems to have had several different potential origins:

1. **A railway one** - The Lancashire Derbyshire and East Coast Railway, which despite its extensive geographical claim only operated in North Derbyshire and North Notts, as the "Clog and Knocker". This nickname was supposedly then transferred to the Great Central Railway which took over the former line.
2. **A mining one** – a railway line which operated in a largely mining area – and associated with the clogs worn by miners with malevolent spirits called "knockers" who lived underground and were blamed for any accidents! Indeed during its short life the Uttoxeter to Stafford line experienced several accidents and fatalities.
3. **A general one** - the connection between the universal footwear worn by workers and the use of the "knocker-up" who used a long pole to tap on bedroom windows to wake workers in time to start their work in the days before alarm clocks. The knocker-up would be paid to do this and it might be a suitable occupation for someone too old or injured to manage normal work. Usually employed in villages and towns where there was a large enough population required to be at their place of work at a fixed time.

4. **An expression** used to describe an old or obsolete way of working which ignored modern developments and would be characterized by small, underfunded, largely uneconomic country line such as the Stafford and Uttoxeter line which bumbled along in the same old, outmoded fashion from start to finish, a relic of a bygone age!

Bromshall Station was opened on August 7th 1848 on the Stoke - Derby branch line. The 1851 population census records a Mr. Cope aged 43 as Station Master residing with his wife and 5 children. The station had a short life as a passenger service, closing on 1 January 1866<sup>87</sup>. It continued as a goods only station and it is not certain when it closed<sup>88</sup>

## 2. Map showing the station and the railway lines

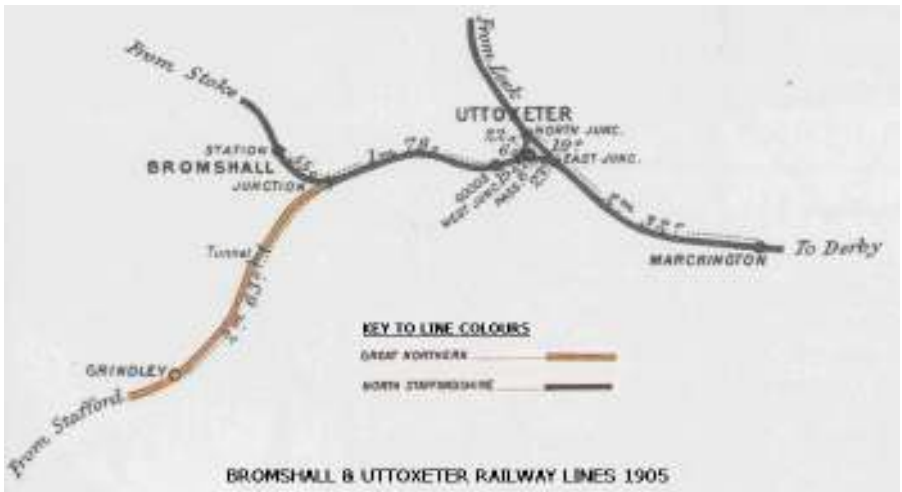


Image adapted from Jim Mc Sharry's photos of the old Stafford Uttoxeter Railway<sup>89</sup>

<sup>87</sup> I have been unable to find a picture of Bromshall Station – there is one picture of a platform of people getting off the last train at Bromshall Station in 1957 in the Bramshall collection file 58. Do let me know if ever a photograph of the station comes to light !!

<sup>88</sup> Allan C Baker. An Illustrated History of Stoke and North Staffordshire's Railways 2000

<sup>89</sup> <https://picasaweb.google.com/102339617777230407674/OldStaffordToUttoxeterRailwayLine>



The *Clog and Knocker* line always struggled economically, although initially supported by the shoe making, ironworks and agricultural equipment industries. It was never financially stable and suffered from several incidents involving loss of life. Passenger services ended on the 4th December 1939 and after WWII the line continued to be used infrequently by military personnel travelling between Stafford and an army depot at Bramshall. The line finally closed on 5th March 1951, however The Stephenson Locomotive Society ran one last passenger train along the line in 1957. Sidings at Stafford Common and the connection to the main line at Stafford, used by the RAF's 16MU, closed completely in 1975.

During the Second World War the Ministry of Defence requisitioned land between the GNR 'Northern Line' and the LMS main line for the purpose of creating an ammunition storage area. It is debatable whether or not its location was known by Germany but certainly one bomb was dropped and exploded close to the old well behind Stocks Farm and on another occasion a bomb exploded in the Loxley area.

### 3. Loxley crossing on Bennett's Lane



Bromshall Junction at the Loxley crossing (1966)  
Photo by Bill Barking 20 March 1966<sup>90</sup>

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90 <http://www.flickr.com/photos/barkingbill/2129185270/>



Walking on foot along the route it is still possible to make out where the line diverted as the photograph below depicts. Remnants of the old Bromshall West signal box and the footbridge over the line to Stoke remain.

#### **4. View from Bromshall Junction Box**



The branch line to Stafford is to the left. Just visible in the distance is the Bromshall West Signal Box on the right of the track. The line to the right goes to Stoke and Crewe. Note the bank in the middle by the hut and the iron footbridge to the right. Photo copyright "Signaling Record Society". Photo provided by Mr. Nick Allsop per Jan and Fons deJong

## 5. Bromshall West Signal Box in 1957 and in 2010



**1957**



**2010**

1957: The old GNR Bromshall West Signal Box on 24.7.1957. Stafford is ahead and the tall Bromshall Junction Box is to the rear. Photocopy courtesy Armand Chatfield.

2010: The old GNR Bromshall West Signal Box, on the 1st June 2010. Photo by Jenny Wall

Moving further along the line the next structure that remains largely intact is the Statham's Cattle Creep which is still being used to pass cattle under the old line

## 6. Statham's Cattle Grid



The next impressive remaining feature, which the line ran under, is the Ipsbridge, which lies just east of the Bromshall tunnel. We concluded this bridge was constructed for the dual purposes of providing access for the land owner and to serve the army depot.

## 7. Ipsbridge Loxley



Ipsbridge Loxley to the east of Tunnel Bridge.  
Photo H.B. Oliver courtesy Jan and Fons De Jong.

It was not possible to gain access to the Bromshall tunnel without trespassing, but this 321 yard tunnel was a major engineering project, which probably contributed significantly to the lines economic difficulties. Today the tunnel is in-filled at its northern end, resulting in floodwaters of up to three feet in depth. The structure is brick lined throughout with its remaining portal edged in stone.

## 8. Bromshall Tunnel



The west portal of the tunnel under the Stafford-Uttoxeter Road, the A518 at Aldery Bank or Tunnel Bank, Loxley, usually referred to as Bromshall Tunnel looking east towards Uttoxeter<sup>91</sup>.

Image from Jim Mc Sharry's photos of the old Stafford Uttoxeter Railway<sup>92</sup>

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91 Please see Bramshall collection Files 37,58,59 &66 for more information about the railway line

92 <https://picasaweb.google.com/102339617777230407674/OldStaffordToUttoxeterRailwayLine>

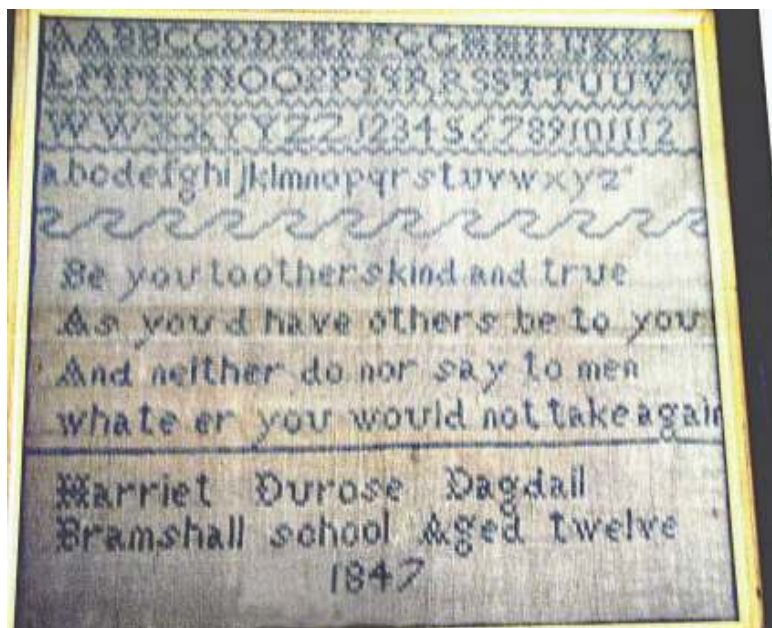
**Bramshall Village School 1847 – circa 1900**  
**by Jane Crosland with additional research by Jenny Wall**  
**and Pamela Gouldsmith**

*'Just the date to add and then my work will be done...'*

Such thoughts might well have occurred to the twelve year old Harriet as she threaded her needle with blue cotton and leant forward to complete her carefully embroidered sampler with the date 1847.

During this same year, 1847, a single-storey dwelling house on the Stone Road<sup>93</sup> was converted to become Bramshall Village School and it is likely that Harriet<sup>94</sup> would been one of the first pupils to be educated there.

## 1. Harriet's Sampler



Reproduced by kind permission

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93 Bidston & Lyndhurst (opposite Sargeant's butchers shop). The school house was modified to become what is now the Old Post Office Cottage.

94 Sadly we know that Harriet died when she was 18 years old and was buried in Bramshall Churchyard on July 12<sup>th</sup> 1853. See Bramshall Collection File 84

Supported by the family of local land owner Lord Willoughby de Broke, as well as voluntary subscriptions, this *free* or *parochial* school had space for up to 50 children who would have come from the many houses and farms surrounding Bramshall, Loxley and Dagdale. Large, mixed-aged classes were common in Victorian times and the first known school mistress, Mrs. Elizabeth Goodwin, may well have enlisted the help of some of her older pupils to act as mentors, or tutors, to the younger children.

## 2. Pupils at Bramshall school circa 1890



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The post Office directory for 1854 states for Bramshall: *'Here is a parochial school, supported by the Dowager Lady Willoughby de Broke, and voluntary subscriptions. Miss Elizabeth Tranter, school mistress.'*

By the 1850's Miss Elizabeth Tranter had arrived in Bramshall to take over as school mistress, a post she was to hold with some distinction for over 40 years. Originally born in Uttoxeter, Miss Tranter took lodgings in one of the Mount Cottages, near Stone Road, then home to blacksmith Charles Tooth and his wife Caroline. Miss Tranter also involved herself in other aspects of community life, such as that of St Lawrence's Church where she was organist for over a decade.

Having devoted most of her working life to the education of the children of the village when Miss Tranter retired as head mistress she was presented with a silver casket and a sum of gold in recognition of the "*position she had honourably held for nearly 40 years*".

### 3. Miss Elizabeth Tranter with pupils on the occasion of her retirement circa 1890



In the photograph above, Miss Tranter, is accompanied by about 40 children. On the original photograph<sup>95</sup> it is possible to see:

- A girl with a X on her blouse is Nellie Torrance (nee Statham)

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95 See Bramshall Collection File 15



- Boy with a dot is John Henry Statham
- Boy with + sign on his shirt is Samuel John Alsop Buckley

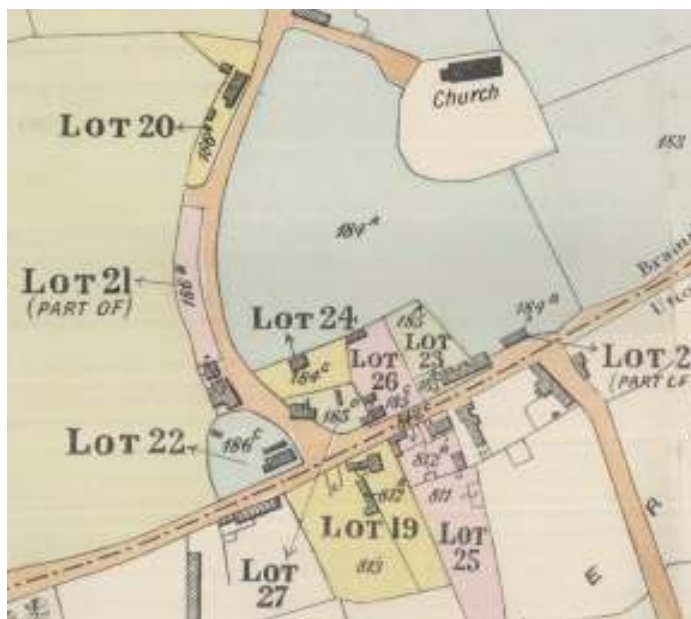
The early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought many changes, not least in education, and as a result Bramshall Village School closed and the existing pupils were transferred to other schools in the Uttoxeter area.

In the sale of the Bramshall Estate in 1906<sup>96</sup> the school buildings and land appear as Lot 23:

*'The village School, Brick built and tiled, together with Play ground, School House, with large garden, in the centre of the Village of Bramshall.'* (Plan 185a: 185b)

At the time let to Mr. G.H. Sanday for £12 per annum, the school was subsequently sold to local farmer Mr. Hibberd for £75.

#### 4. Extract from sale documents showing location of the school - Lot Number 23



By 1906, the work of Bramshall Village School 'was done'.

<sup>96</sup> See Bramshall Collection File 31

## Bramshall Collection List of documents and File Number

Topic	Description	File Number
Mrs. Beaton's Cook Book	Gift to the Parish and signed by L E Durose in 1895	1
Lord Willoughby de Brokes & other land owners - Estate Accounts dated 1716	Photo copy of accounts with names and charges made	2
Archive search results for Bramshall and Loxley	Results of multiple searches Bramshall and Loxley by Mike Bennett	3
Maps	20 <sup>th</sup> century maps of Bramshall	4
Bramshall Charter	Photo copy of the Bramshall charter dated 1289	5
Sale of Farm	Dagdale Farm (sale of)	6
'The Case' – Uttoxeter water supply	Description of a case regarding water supply from Bramshall to Uttoxeter	7
Seven Studies ( Economic and Social ) 1530- 1830 by Peter Woolley	Bought and donated by Jenny Wall	8
Bramshall residents Wills at Lichfield	Wills held at Lichfield from 1535	9
Frances Redfern – early copy of The History of Uttoxeter	Bought for the Parish by Mike Bennett at £47.	10
Bramshall weddings	Brown Photo album	11
Funerals from 1950's	Black album	12
The Old church: Picture of the old church with seating plan, newspaper clippings.	All in Big Ben photo album – Old Church information about Mr. Bennett Williams	13
Following Redfern by Torrance	Bought for the Parish by Mike Bennett – 10 parts	14
In memory of the late Richard Statham	Red Album	15
Thomas Sergeant with horse a trap	Red Album: Photo 1930	15
Sargeant's' outside Ryecroft Farm 1920	Red Album: Photo	15
Buckleys' outside Elms Farm circa 1900	Red Album: Photo	15
The Elms Farm circa 1920	Red Album: Photo	15
Bramshall Bank Farm 1890	Red Album: Photo	15
Bramshall Jubilee 1879	Red Album: Photo	15
Bramshall School circa 1890	Red Album: Photo	15
The old Rectory	Red Album: Photo	15



<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>File Number</b>
Thatched cottages at Dagdale	Red Album: Photo	15
Bramshall development 1994	Red Album: Photo	15
Grange Farm 1994	Red Album: Photo	15
The Old Mill Dagdale	Red Album: Photo	15
Grange cottages and rent book	Red Album: Photo	15
Tom Greenhouse (gardener at Loxley)	Red Album: Photo	15
Burials at Bramshall	1535-1843 & 1940- 1994	16
Survey of Bramshall 1768	A survey of several farms and lands in the manor of Bramshall 1768 by S Wyatt	17
Sales of land / Title Deeds	Lightwood Field 1636, Raph Horne & William Jennines	18
Pubs	Police raid in 1965, Female licensee at pub,	19
Old Newspaper cuttings	The Butchers Arms and the New Inn	19
Pubs	Cuttings from papers and notes of landlords and events	19
Diary	Mrs. E Richardson 1895	20
Diary	Unknown author – started in 1893	21
Loxley Park	Information leaflet	22
Electoral Role Bramshall	Circa 1990	23
Diaries	E Durose 1855 (original)	24
Sale of farm	Stocks Farm ( sale of in 1922)	25
Sales of land / Title Deeds	Glebe properties 1922	26
Bramshall Clothing club	1872- 1877	27
Land Tax	Bramshall land tax 1781-1825	30
Sale documents : Loxley Estate 1918	Details of each Lot, photographs and map	31
Bramshall estate	Bramshall 1906 (original copy of sale documents)	31
Loxley Park Estate 1918	Report of sale outcomes – names & values	32
Rent books	“Corigina” Frances Degg + research documents. Cottage in Bramshall (original copy very fragile)	33
Family histories, detailed	Fisher – including wills and family tree	34
2 cottages opposite Bramshall Inn	Green house	35
Old photos primarily Sergeants	Sergeants	36

Topic	Description	File Number
Sale of Glebe Properties 1922 Sale of Bramshall Inn and other plots in Bramshall	Sale of Land by station, Nine Lands, Far Cow, Fernyhurst meadow, Land near the New Inn pub, opposite the Rectory and Rectory House ( the pub)	37
Church	Record of inscriptions in the church yard ( to 2003)	38
Baptisms	1927-1994	39
Baptisms	1700- 1743	40
Parish records	1589- 1700	41
Trade Directory references: Bramshall	Whites 1834, White's 1851, Kelly 1901	42
Vicars	Vicars at Bramshall from 1890s	43
Parish Records	1772 hand written by Thomas Warner Church warden	44
Church	Drawing of the old church, old church records, list of rectors from 1553. Tithes 1676, correspondence re new church, diagram and seating plan for the old church 1637	45
Church Accounts	1872- 1892	45
Bramshall Census	Census 1841	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1851	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1861	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1871	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1881	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1891	47
Bramshall Census	Census 1901	47
Extract from a book describing Civil War	Seventeenth Century England page 31 -damage to Mr. Richardson from Bramshall in 1648	48
Baptisms	1775-1929	49
FARMS	The Hayes House farm	50
Bramshall Post office	Closure in 2007	51
Old village green	Photo of the old village green with sign posts	52
Farm: Park fields	Sale in 1875	53
Medieval structure with moat	Aerial photographs from 1963 and Staffordshire County Council record	54
Coronations / jubilees	Varies documents and commemorative broaches ( from Joyce Sergeant) + Jenny Wall jubilee brochure	55
Lord of the Manor	Paper article	56
Old village hall minute books	Two minute books dating from 1922	57

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>File Number</b>
Black photo album Bramshall social history	Album of photographs / photo copies WI, cricket, Bramshall sewing, Village song, Gunner a Dobson, ,train crash school room, train at Bromshall	58
Stafford to Uttoxeter Railway Line	Assorted documents, references , copy of last ticket from Bromshall station	59
Will	Alys Wetton 1540	60
Will	Nicholas Patrycke 1556	61
Will	William Stertyn 1552	62
Will	Thomas Warner 1650	63
Staffordshire Advertiser references	Marriage J Shipley & Miss Bennett, sale of lands Bennett, sale of stock Thomas Warner, reward for information about a break in 1826 and notice concerning Roger Warner	64
Burglary in 1796 of the home of James Durose	Bank Top 19.9.1796 as reported by Wetton Printer Uttoxeter	65
Brief history of Bramshall & Loxley Author unknown	Church, WW2, school, railway, Post office, shops, pubs, Wheelwright, Blacksmiths, gravel extraction and Ind. Estate	66
The natural history of Staffordshire by Robert Plot 1686	Map of Bramshall	67
Vicars William Bennett died 1893	Comprehensive notes about this rector for 36 years	68
Uttoxeter 1658 as observed by Peter Lightfoot	Survey of Uttoxeter 1628	69
Dagdale – wills and indentures	Ralph Herryson, Rector Blysse, Richard Hyne 1484, 1480 and 1502	70
Bramshall Song	A local song written by Edward Eyre in 1919	71
Bramshall Golf Club	Golf club at Bramshall Carol Ross at Alba Lodge	72
The Buckley Family and Spring Farm , Elms Farm and The Buckley / Bennett Family	Notes, wills, family trees, copy of family account books, newspaper cuttings, pictures, sale documents etc	73
The Statham Family	Notes, wills, family trees, copy of family trees, sale documents etc	74
The Bennett Family	Family notes, correspondence regarding the family.	75

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>File Number</b>
Assorted family trees of local families circa 15550 – 1700	Need further research	76
Durose family papers	Assorted papers	77
Warner Family	Will of Roger and sale of land	78
Family Notes	Capewell, Perkin, Fish	79
Bagot family	Article	80
Mr. W G Torrance	Profile by Peter Lead Uttoxeter Advertiser	81
Kynnersley and Sneyd	Paper on the family	82
1839 Tithe map and rents	Tithe maps	83
Bramshall Parish records	1587 – 1900 ISBN 978-0-9565117-4-4	84
Old Village Hall	Records from 1922 up to sale of the old hall	Green bags & red plastic box
Map	Bramshall Circa 1923	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Bramshall area owned by Lord Willoughby de Broke as on Lady's Day 1839	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Loxley and Bramshall field names 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Bramshall 1768 (probable medieval field system)	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Bramshall field map 1768 (coloured)	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Composite map Bramshall 1906 and Loxley 1918	Brown cardboard folder
Map	Display boards from the October 2011 exhibition	Brown cardboard folder
	Nanny Goat Fan - The black market man (Bobby Bloor)	Word of mouth