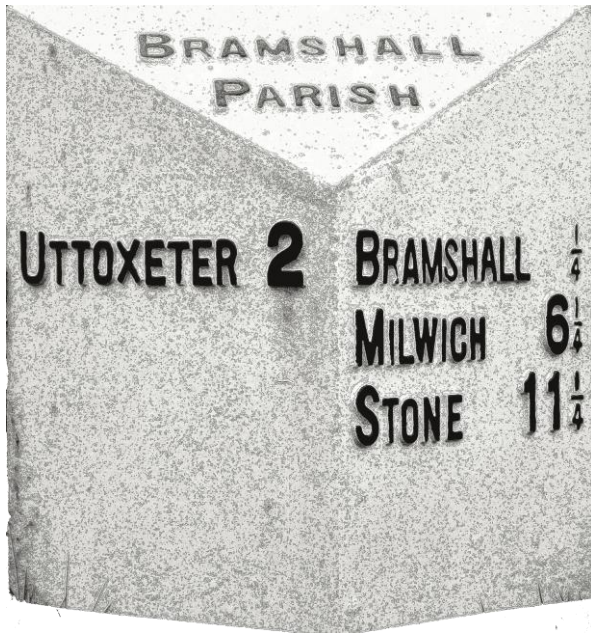


The History of Bramshall Part 1



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 Vase¹ - 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 Redfern² and crucially also the works of

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 Torrance³ 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)⁴ 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

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 Robert⁵ has annexed the King’s part and makes himself answerable. Bagot⁶ holds from him. Wulfgeat⁷ held

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 Lordship⁸, 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 (1st Earl of Derby and descended by marriage from the Bagot family of Blithfield⁹) 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 Ferrers¹⁰ of Chartley Castle married John de Kynnersley and Loxley Park (Estate) passed to the Kynnersleys of Shropshire, later through marriage, the

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 family¹¹. 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 Estate¹² was sold off in 27 lots on June 20th 1906, and Loxley¹³ 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 cheese¹⁴ and butter¹⁵, 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.

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 3rd 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> ¹⁶ |

In addition the middle of the 12th 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"*¹⁷

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)"

¹⁶ 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>

¹⁷ 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)”¹⁸

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”¹⁹

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.”*²⁰

16. Bramshall Deer Park 1413

A Medieval deer park enclosed out of the Needwood Forest is mentioned in a Plea roll dated 14th 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 4th”

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 16th century construction.

19. The Warner Family

The Warner's²¹ were an old Warwickshire family who lived at Stocks Manor or The Stocks²² and owned substantive other properties and land across Staffordshire²³. 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 1583²⁴. 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 1676²⁵. 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.

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)

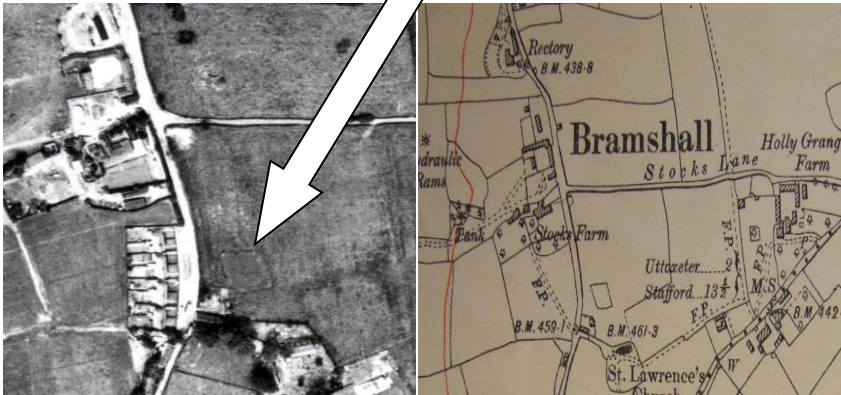
23 On the 28th February 1826 Mr Thomas Warner resided at Park Farm Bromshall. Staffordshire Advertiser Saturday February 18th 1826

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 Council²⁶ 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 20th 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 12th 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 House²⁷ with fish ponds surviving as earthworks.

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 Society²⁸. 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 16th and 17th centuries. Peter spent many years studying hundreds of local wills²⁹ 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)'³⁰. 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

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 ³¹
- Thomas Shaw had 23 cheeses in 1620 valued at 7s and 8d
- At the begging of the 17th century Patrick of Bramshall had 32 cheeses valued at 33s 4d.
- There were three weavers in Bramshall recorded over time 16th & 17th 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 2nd 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 surjining 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 Bennett³² 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 reading³³, with the following references to Bramshall:

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. Pattricke³⁴ 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 parlours³⁵
- 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

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 2nd 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)

Name	No	Name	No
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 for further information about the Durose family³⁶.

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 2nd) 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 bloody³⁷, Bramshall and the surrounding geographic areas of 'middle England'³⁸ 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. Mosley³⁹ 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

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 ⁴⁰ was one of nine persons ordered by the Stafford Committee to loan the King's army money to the sum of £50 in 1642 ⁴¹
- 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 ⁴²
- 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 £6⁴³ from the Parliament Commander. It's unclear whether he ever received payment⁴⁴.

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!⁴⁵ 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

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 year⁴⁶ . 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 18th and 19th 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 16th century. Under the Enclosure Acts land was fenced and deeded or entitled to an owner.

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 owner⁴⁷. 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 19th century farmer's cottage in Bramshall was, Hob Hill⁴⁸. 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 1825⁴⁹. 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 18th 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 supply⁵⁰. I have

47 A survey of feveral 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 report⁵¹ 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 gown⁵²

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,

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 ³ shop keeper and the following farmers and graziers: W Allsop ¹, Thos. Bond ², Thom Cope, Gco. Dawson ³, Jane Holland ³, Wm Lattimer ⁴, Thos. Perkin, Frs Richardson, Wm Rushton ³, Thomas Ward and Jph Wetton³

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 Bennetts⁵³ 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, Buckley⁵⁴, Heath and Statham⁵⁵. 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.

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 10th 1869

On the 10th 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 1968⁵⁶

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.

⁵⁶ See Bramshall collection Black file numbered 58

38. The Bramshall Diamond Jubilee Committee 1897



* Back row: Samuel Buckley Bennet, John Tunnicliffe, Henry Leason Statham, Sam Buckley, Peter Gill (organist). Front row: Captain Henry Richardson, Elloway Smith, Reverend Oakden, ? Richardson, John W Health (Tippit) Second photograph with unidentified ladies present

39. Bramshall Bank Farm 1890



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

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.

Name	Occupation	Address
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 Tunnicliffe	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.