

Chesterfield and District Local History Society

HISTORY PAPER NO. 8

BRAMPTON ENCLOSURE ACT 1815 — Details of the Award of 1827.

Mrs. N. K. Webb, with an introduction by Maeve Hawkins (from Penguin Encyclopaedia)

ENCLOSURES

The open field system of medieval agriculture remained unchanged until the 14th century when shortage of labour due to the Black Death and the profitability of sheep raising led to extensive enclosures of much farm and common land. This continued until the 18th century when improved farming methods and food shortages led to a new wave of enclosures encouraged by the Board of Agriculture which was set up in 1793.

Between 1760 and 1815 there were more than 3000 Parliamentary Enclosure Acts. Each of these was a Private Act applying to particular estates and parishes. They were usually brought about by the actions of the chief landlords and tenants in an area. Three-quarters of those affected had to give their consent before the Act could proceed but this was calculated by land ownership and so was in favour of those already in possession of large tracts of land. Enclosures brought about enormous advances in farming and food production but at the expense of the small yeoman freeholders who were transformed into landless labourers. The ruthless enclosures of the Scottish Highlands virtually depopulated large areas. The Act required the appointment of Commissioners, usually three in number and a surveyor whose responsibilities were to map the area and examine all claims to a share. When their work was done the villages and parishes were changed for ever with open fields and strips gone. Occasionally a piece of land was set aside for the use of the poor.

By 1850 the enclosure of most of the countryside was complete.

BRAMPTON – OLD AND NEW

From the middle of the 18th century industry was beginning to develop in the extreme east of the Parish close to the Chesterfield boundary. The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul was at the centre of the Parish now known as Old Brampton. The population of Brampton in the second half of the century was about 1500, most of whom were earning a living from the land, either directly or indirectly. The population had risen to 2047 by the time of the first census in 1801. In 1831 the numbers had risen to 3574 with nearly half of those relying on the new industries for their support.

In the Map and Survey accompanying the Tithe Assessment of 1840 for Brampton, the parish is shown to consist of approximately 8000 acres of which about 1000 acres remained uncultivated. This was mainly on the high moorland where efforts were being made to develop its potential by drainage and soil improvement. However this does not appear to have been successful as much of it remains uncultivated today.

BRAMPTON ENCLOSURE AWARD 1827

The enclosure act for Brampton was passed in 1815. Some abortive attempt at the enclosure had been made in 1785.

- Commissioners:
1. John Burcham of Coningsby, Lincs.
 2. John Nuttall of Matlock.
 3. Francis Raynes of Everton, Notts. (He replaced Francis Calvert of Houndhill who was incapable).

Burcham was appointed by the Duke of Devonshire in place of James Dowland of Cuckney who had died. He was empowered by the Act to do so.

29 July 1815 — The Commissioners took oaths at the Angel Inn, Chesterfield — George Unwin of Cuckney sworn in as surveyor.

BOUNDARIES

From ancient boundary stone at Humberley Sitch (near Humberley Well), East Moor along sitch to Stoneley Brook (or Clod Hall Brook) via brook to bridge built on turnpike. Along a sitch on East of Leashfield to a boundary stone at North East corner of field (Brampton No. 1) then by a straight line to a boundary stone at old slate quarries (Brampton No. 2.) Then along old highway from Baslow to Newbold by a boundary stone (in the water) at Slate Pit Sitch and across turnpike from Newbold to the High Moors to a Boundary Stone nearly opposite to Toll Bar House at Grangehill (No. 3). Along the wall in front of Toll House and along track of above highway across turnpike to boundary stone on common called Grangehill Side (No. 4) to North Grain of Iming Clough and along it to South Grain of this clough. Then by clough and water to old inclosures in Barlow — to Cutthorpe Common and along its fence on North side to inclosed lands in Newbold (occupied by Wm. Hardwick).

The above boundaries are the only ones not well ascertained; the others go by old inclosures in Newbold, Chesterfield and Walton, and by Beeley Commons.

PUBLIC CARRIAGE ROADS

1. Holymoorside Road — from Holymoorside to W — S. of Harwood Cupola — to join road from cupola to Darley Flash.
2. Moor Edge Road — from (1) East of Ipper Snitch — on East of High Moors across two turnpikes to Grange turnpike and across it to Moor Hall Road in Barlow.
3. Watchelf Road — from old Chesterfield — Baslow turnpike — West of watering trough at Pudding Pie — South across commons and old inclosure (Wigley Stile owned by Sir George Sitwell) — over a common field (Watchelf North Field) and into North end of lane into Wadshelf village.
4. Watchelf Green Road — West from Watchelf over commons (Watchelf Green) to join new turnpike.
5. Hollow Lane Road — from (4) over above common to North end of a public lane, Hollow Lane.
- 6.. Barlow Road — South from end of lane in Barlow on West of Cutthorpe Common to turnpike from Four Lane Ends to Grange near Cutthorpe.
7. Chanderhill Road.
8. Brampton Hall Road — from Brampton Nether Moor (at South end of Matlock turnpike) — on West side of moor North to Old or Middle Turnpike to Barlow and then North to South East corner of a barn and old yard (owned by W. B. Thomas). Then via Barn Close and the Lawn to most northern opposite old inclosure of Thomas Barker.
9. Somersall Road — from new turnpike West of late bowling green on Over Moor — North to and over private occupation road of the late Marquis of Ormonde via his old enclosed lands (formerly a colliery road) across some waste land (Little Moor) into the Middle Turnpike almost opposite the cottage.
10. Red Lead Mill Road — nearly opposite the Bulls's Head south to nearly opposite a wheelwright's shop (of Charles Calow).

11. Harrod Road — continues (10) to south through allotments made to Duke of Devonshire's two plots and others to Harrod Bridge.
12. Hallcliff Road — from Wadshelf New Turnpike West to Moor Edge Road.

All the above roads are to be maintained by the Brampton Surveyors of the Highways.

PRIVATE CARRIAGE ROADS

1. Hungerhill Gate Road — from Harrod Road (also a drift road and along public bridle road) to Hungerhill Gate, dividing Cathole from Walton.
2. Cutthorpe Green Roads — from Four Lane Ends — Grange turnpike — south into west end of Brockley Lane
To Linacre Lane at its north end from (1)
3. Shorts Road — from Holymoorside Road to north to Thomas Short's orchard.
4. Fretwell Croft Road — South from Holymoorside Road to ancient lane on West of Fretwell Croft.
5. Moor Side Road — front gate of old inclosure (Mill Green of William Watkinson) East to Holymoorside Road and on to Chanderhill Road.
6. Travis Road — North from Chanderhill Road to ancient inclosures of John Travis Road.
7. Willow Piece Road — from Holymoorside Road North to Willow Piece (old inclosure of William Cundey).
8. Sida Road — from Holymoorside Road North and then West along Helenbank to Moor Edge
9. Upper Loads Road — North from (8) to a gate at north end of lane to Upper Loads.
10. Pear Pit Field Road — West from (8) to a croft of Duke of Devonshire at Sida.
11. Wigley Green Road — from Old Turnpike North to South end of an ancient occupation road and public bridle way, High Lane,
12. Birley Road (20ft) from an ancient wood (Channey Field Wood) North West and then east past allotment and an intake of Sir George Sitwell to Brimington turnpike.
13. Three Birch Road.
14. Oxenrakes Road — Brimington turnpike to lane to Barlow.
15. Quarry Road — from Barlow Road to allotment for a public stone quarry
16. Holme Road — from Brimington turnpike to South East to Holme Lane. (ancient occupation road and public bridle way).
17. Heming Green Road.
18. Bowling Green Road — North from Wadshelf New Turnpike to allotment of Duke of Devonshire.
19. Rye Field Road — from (18) to Somersall Road.
20. Over Moor Road — North from New Turnpike to (19)
21. Ipper Road — from New Turnpike south over allotments to Messrs. Hewitt, Longson and Co. across River Hipper to old inclosures on south side of Duke of Devonshire, John Grafton and Thomas Owen.
22. Bump Mill Road — South from the New Turnpike across Hipper to ancient inclosures of Hewitt, Longson and Co., W. B. Thomas' garden and meadow etc.
23. Shepley Road — over Shepley Street bridge to old inclosures.
24. Cross Road.
25. Nether Moor Road — from Brimington Old Turnpike on west of public house (John Wigley) north then west towards Brampton Hall Road.
26. Intake Road — from (25) north to an intake (Marquis of Ormonde).
27. Little Common Road — west from Somersall Road on south of Little Common (Marquis of Ormonde) to old inclosures of Duke of Devonshire and Stephen Melland.
28. Well Road — South from Old Turnpike over allotment (Marquis of Ormonde) with a public well — then to garden of William Collis and to (27).

29. Nether Loads Road – from Holymoorside Road over to north and then west.
30. Lowe's Road – Holymoorside Road (above Massey's public house) to old inclosures.

ALLOTMENTS

- (a) To Brampton Surveyors of the Highways for the general benefit of the parish; Holymoore – 5 plots, Ellen Bank – 1 plot, East Moor – 4 plots, Hallcliff – 1 plot, Heming Green – 1 plot, Cutthorpe Common – 1 plot.
Above allotments for use as public watering places for cattle, public stone quarries (stone, gravel, sand, clay and other materials) for building, repairing and highways.
- (b) At the request of the principal freeholders an award to Vincent H. Eyre, C. D. Gladwin, W. B. Thomas, E. G. Maynard and Joshua Jebb as trustees of Brampton New Church of 1 acre of land on Nether Moor. Also to Lord of the Manor for use as a pinfold – Ir. I p. east of Cross Road.
- (c) To Rev. William Peach, Curate of Brampton – compensation for his unenclosed lands, common rights and glebe lands.
On East Moor – glebe land – 5a.2r.4p.
- (d) To the lord of the manor – 1/20 of the residue of the commons, wastes, moors and unenclosed lands for his rights to the soil and minerals thereof and for his consent to enclosure:
On East Moor – ('the manorial allotment' of 327a.3r. with Moor Edge Road on east and Beeley on West).
- (e) Residue of the commons to the proprietors.

Total of 332 allotments with an area of 3349 acres (3000 acres estimated in the Act)

Please note that all spellings are as per the original document.

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