

THE

HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY

OF

➤ HARROGATE, ◀

WITH NOTICES OF

BIRSTWITH.
BLUBBERHOUSES.
CASTLEY.
CLINT.
DUNKESWICK.
FELLISCLIFFE.
FEWSTON.
GREAT TIMBLE.
HAMPSHWAITE.

HAVERAH PARK.
KILLINGHALL.
LINDLEY.
LITTLE RIBSTON.
MENWITH-WITH-
DARLEY.
NORWOOD.
PANNAL.
PLUMPTON.

RIGTON.
SCRIVEN.
STAINBURN.
SWINDEN.
THORNTHWAITE-WITH-
PADSIDE.
THRUSCROSS.
WEETON.

AND

THE FOREST OF KNARESBRO'.

BY

WILLIAM GRAINGE,

AUTHOR OF

“THE BATTLES AND BATTLE FIELDS OF YORKSHIRE;”

“THE CASTLES AND ABBEYS OF YORKSHIRE;”

“VALE OF MOWBRAY;” “NIDDERDALE;” ETC.

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.

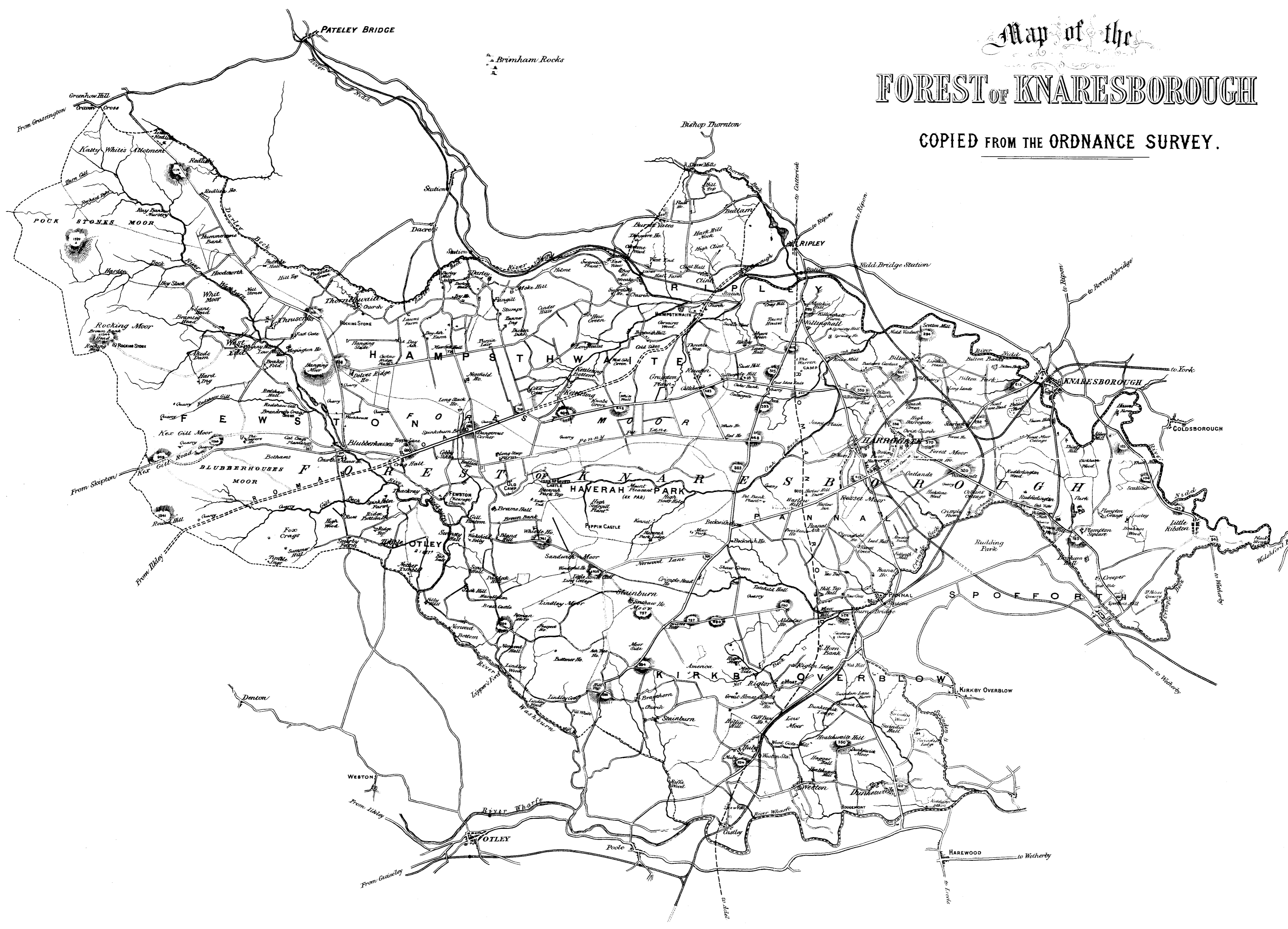
YORK: JOHN SAMPSON.

1882.

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Map of the FOREST OF KNARESBOROUGH

COPIED FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY.



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P R E F A C E .

THE district of which this volume treats was formerly known as the Royal Forest of Knaresborough, and of which no previous history can be said to exist. In this work a detailed account is given of each place, from the earliest known times to the present day, chiefly derived from materials never before published. Pedigrees are given of the principal landowners in the district—both ancient and modern; and pains have been taken to collect notices of eminent individuals and families connected with the district, some of which have been little known to the public. Besides what may be termed the political, civil, and ecclesiastical history of the district, sketches of the physical history and geology are given, principally derived from the author's personal observations, made during the last ten years.

To those who have ever undertaken the task of writing a local history, no apology is needed to explain the delay which has taken place in the production of this volume, as they well know the great variety of sources whence the materials must be drawn, and the difficulty of bringing together such a number of minute facts as are necessary to the making of local history.

By the residents within the Forest of Knaresborough, and also by those, in other places, connected with it by birth or association, I presume this book will be kindly received as the

first attempt to give a regular and authentic history of the district. Along with its companion volume "Nidderdale" it forms a history and topography of more than three-fourths of the valley of the Nidd.

To the clergy and landowners my grateful acknowledgments are due, for the opportunities afforded me for the examination of their registers and other records, and for the information supplied from their private documents, not otherwise accessible. More particularly to the Messrs. Powell, of Knaresborough, for permission to inspect the Rolls of the Honour Court, deposited under their charge. To the kindness of my esteemed friend, R. H. Skaife, Esq., of the Mount, York, I am indebted for many and great favours—some of which are acknowledged, but many are not—so I here tender my sincere thanks for assistance which I can never expect to return.

A preface (always the last written portion of a book) perhaps cannot be better employed than by adding to the information which the book contains to which it is affixed, therefore I shall introduce here the census of the district taken in 1871, and a short account of the new baths at Harrogate, built in the same year, both of which events occurred too late to be introduced in their proper places.

POPULATION IN 1871.

	Mls.	Fms.	Total		Mls.	Fms.	Total
Bilton-with-Harrogate ..	3079	3686	6765	Clint	212	184	396
Pannal	920	973	1893	Hampsthwaite	207	241	448
Plumpton	88	85	173	Felliscliffe	164	157	321
Little Ribston	93	95	188	Birstwith	266	304	570
Dunkeswick	80	83	163	Menwith-with-Darley ..	307	268	575
Weeton	148	165	313	Thornthwaite-with-			
Castley	37	96	73	Padside	135	137	272
Rigton	217	213	430	Fewston	231	168	399
Stainburn	102	95	197	Norwood	304	192	496
Lindley	327	115	442	Great Timble	109	78	187
Haverah Park	49	53	84	Blubberhouses	40	29	62
Killinghall	324	330	654	Thruscross	155	147	302

POPULATION OF THE HARROGATE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

In Bilton-with-Harrogate	5563	
In Pannal	1050	
In Knaresborough and Scriven	42	
		<hr/> 6655
Ecclesiastical Division of Christ's Church		3390
" " St. John's, Bilton		665
" " St. Peter's, Central Harrogate		2908
" " St. Mary's, Bow Harrogate		1267
" " Pannal, Parish Church		668

The New Victoria Baths adjoin the old baths of the same name, and extend eastward from Promenade Terrace to Cheltenham Square. The foundation stone was laid Feb. 4th, and the building formally opened to the public Aug. 24th, 1871. The water intended for the use of these baths is the surplus water of the Bog Wells, conveyed from them by means of glass tubes, and stored in five large underground reservoirs at the upper end of the building, so that the water can gravitate to the heating apparatus and the baths. The capacity of these reservoirs is upwards of 200,000 gallons. The building partakes largely of the Italian style, and is at once substantial, massive, and elegant. It consists of a centre and two wings; the former being two stories in height, the latter only one; while at each end is a swimming bath, which rises higher and projects further in front than the other parts of the wings, and adds much to the pictorial appearance of the building. Along the front, with the exception of the portions occupied by the swimming baths, extends a verandah of ornamental ironwork. That part of it in front of the centre and grand entrance projects across the carriage road, so that parties can drive up and enter the rooms under its shelter. On the upper part of this front is cut the name and date of the building—"Victoria Baths, 1871." Above the cornice of this front rises a colossal shield, on which is sculptured, in bold relief, the arms of the town, surmounted by a crown. The windows have circular heads and columns at the sides. The swimming bath at the west

end is twenty feet in height; lighted at each end by a window of three lights, and on the front by two similar windows, each of three lights. The east end swimming bath, owing to the slope of the ground, is thirty-three feet in height; lighted at each end by a window of three lights, and in the front by one of four lights. On the top of a massive cornice, around the roofs of the three elevated portions, runs a stone balustrade, relieved at each corner by a square pedestal bearing a carved urn; a pierced battlement runs along the front of the lower portions of the wings. The roof and ridge are adorned with ornamental ironwork. The grand entrance leads directly to the manager's office, the front of which is circular, and built in such a manner as to command a full view of each corridor. On each side are waiting rooms; one for ladies the other for gentlemen. The corridors run east and west, and are each two hundred feet in length by eight feet in width, and lighted from above by windows of stained glass. On each side are arranged the bath rooms, eighteen in number, each measuring ten feet by eleven, and sixteen in height. On one side of the corridor one dressing room is attached to each bath room, and on the other, two; in each of which is a water closet and lavatory. In each wing provision is made for four shower and as many vapour baths. The floors of the bath-rooms, dressing-rooms, and corridors are boarded, and covered with linoleum. The sides of the walls, to a certain height, are lined with Minton's tiles. Some of the baths are also lined with tiles, and entered by white marble steps; others are made of porcelain. The swimming bath at the east end is 47 feet in length by 17 feet in width, and the height from the floor line to the ceiling is 28 feet. The bath is so arranged that the water at each end will be three feet six inches deep, and the centre five feet deep. The bottom is lined with white tiles, and also the sides up to the height

of five feet six inches, above which is a very pretty border in blue tiles. The roof is open, with moulded wall plates, boarded and stained. The west end swimming bath is similar in its arrangements, but larger, being 68 feet long by 18 feet wide. There is an ample supply of water closets, lavatories, and dressing-rooms, provided in all parts of the building.

The plans were prepared by Mr. John Richardson, surveyor to the Local Board; and the following were the contractors, with the amount of each contract—

		£	s.	d.
Construction of Reservoirs.....	W. Newsome, Leeds.....	1297	0	0
Masons' work.....	J. Stephenson, Harrogate.....	4700	0	0
Joiners' work.....	R. Raworth, Harrogate.....	1536	0	0
Slaters' work.....	Heavysides, Leeds.....	216	10	0
Plumbers' work.....	J. Marshall, Harrogate.....	760	0	0
Iron work.....	Heaps & Robinson, Leeds.....	624	10	0
Plasterers' work.....	R. Fortune, Harrogate.....	209	0	0
		<hr/>		
		£9348	0	0

This does not include the tiling and fitting of the baths, nor the cost of the heating apparatus.

With these remarks and additions this volume is consigned to the judgment of an impartial public.

W. GRAINGE.

Harrogate,

Oct., 1871.