



# RAMBLES ROUND HORTON

*Historical, Topographical, and  
Descriptive.*

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## P R E F A C E.

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The Author would fain hope that no apology is needed for the publication of "Rambles Round Horton," albeit the interest of the volume is of a comparatively limited character. Works of this nature form the basis of local history, treating as they do of "things great and small." It may be that many of the items included appear insignificant, but from the historian's standpoint they add completeness to the whole, and are therefore deserving of notice.

Under any circumstances the Author had no alternative but to issue the present work, such was the amount of interest evoked by the publication of the "Rambles" in the columns of the *Bradford Observer*. In bringing them before the public in the present form, he trusts that his patrons will not be dissatisfied with the result. No effort has been spared to secure accuracy, although it is obvious that accuracy cannot always be obtained even with the best intentions.

The Author has to acknowledge his indebtedness to many friends for the facilities they have afforded him for obtaining information; to his former coadjutor, Mr. W. G. HIRD, for his kind assistance in the tedious task of indexing; and to his numerous subscribers, without whose support the work could not have been undertaken.

The Author purposes to continue his rambles round the townships forming the Borough of Bradford, and to publish the account thereof uniform with the present volume, should this literary venture meet with favour.

*January, 1886.*

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## CHAPTER I.

Introductory — Boundaries — Streams — Roads — Conformation — Strata — Acreage —  
Origin of Names — Lords of the Manor — Manorial Customs — Ancient Tenants  
— Ancient Freeholders.

In olden times, when lords of manors enjoyed some degree of feudal importance, the ceremony of perambulating the boundaries of townships excited no small amount of interest in local circles. The ceremony would appear to have been of value, in so far as the feudal lord and his retainers took note of whatever changes might have taken place within the charmed circle they patrolled. In pursuing these "rambles," therefore, our immediate purpose will be to take note of the old landmarks still remaining, and refer as far as possible to some of their former inhabitants. In this way a foundation may be laid upon which a superstructure of township history may be raised, of which, so far as the townships of the borough of Bradford are concerned, no record exists. It will be acknowledged that ample material exists for such a record. Notwithstanding the common interest shared by all the townships of Bradford, an individuality pervades each locality which is sufficiently marked to justify individual reference without attempting the larger task of collating the whole into a history of the borough. Relieved from the necessity of recording the more important events which would be necessary in such a compilation, we can do greater justice to matters often only slightly touched upon or altogether left unnoticed.

Following in the track of ancient custom, therefore, we proceed to describe the boundaries of the township of the Hortons, Great and Little, as they are defined by natural lines of demarcation. The township is bounded on the west by the stream that divides it from Clayton, called Tanner Beck, which flows to Lower Lidget, and then through

Bulgreave Wood, when it becomes known as Bulgreave Beck. Flowing past Scholemoor Cemetery this beck joins the stream called Middle-broke, upon which Sams Mill is situate. From thence to the town of Bradford it is called the Bradford Beck, and forms the northern boundary of the township of Horton. On the east the township is bounded by Bowling Beck, and on the south by a portion of the township of North Bierley. Another portion of North Bierley obtrudes upon the south-east corner of Horton township, but if any modern lord of the manor essayed a perambulation of the boundaries he must needs wade through two Corporation reservoirs at Horton Bank-top. In addition to the above there are tributary streams rising in the township, although they are none of them of great volume. A stream, having several sources of supply near Cliffe Mill once fed the old corn mill at Beckside, and meandering down to Shearbridge was called Horton Beck. At Shearbridge the beck is joined by another, formerly called Broad Beck, having its rise in fields adjoining Horton Park.

The township boundaries formerly extended into Tyrrel Street by a triangular piece of ground called Broadcroft, which was appropriated by Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, and his mother of unsavoury memory. Horton being a mesne manor the lord thereof was not able to resist the encroachment, although he succeeded in establishing his claim to a rent of 3s. per annum. The triangular plot was described by a commission which sat in 1420 to determine as to the continuance of the rental, as "a plot of land in the township of Little Horton, lying within Bradford Brook, Bolling Brook, Horton Kyrkgate (*qy.* Chapel Lane), and the Field of Horton."

The principal roads in Horton township branch from what was formerly called the town-end of Bradford, and are now known as Horton Lane, Horton Road, Manchester Road (anciently Bowling Lane), and Legrams Lane. Manchester Road only passes through a portion of the easterly side of the township, and debouches into Bowling, whereas Horton Lane and Horton Road thread the township until they leave it, the former at Brownroyd Hill, Wibsey, and the latter

at Clayton Heights on the old road to Halifax. Legrams is an old packhorse road, having been an outlet from Silsbridge Lane, joining the old road to Halifax by way of Green Lane, Toby Lane, Scarr Lane, Upper Green, Dog Lane, and what is still called the "old road" at Bank Top.

The hamlet of Lidget is also approached by Cemetery Road (formerly Thiefscore Lane). The oldest highway between Great and Little Horton is Southfield Lane, or Southgate. There are also other connecting links, such as Park Lane, Park Avenue, Laistridge Lane, Clayton Lane, Holme Lane, Thornton Lane, Aycliffe Lane, Jer Lane, Pickles Hill, Old Road, Hollingwood Lane, Cliffe Lane, and "bridle-stiles," too numerous for mention. Examples of the general character of these thoroughfares, useful during the period when the principal means of transit was by packhorses, existed in the road leading from Upper Green down Greenfield to Bracken Hill; in the one from Leventhorpe through Scholemoor by way of Foggs Lane to Horton; and in that leading from Thiefscore Bridge to Birks. The old road at Horton Bank, formerly the main coach road between Bradford and Halifax, is worth a visit if only to realise the contrast between the description of highway which served our forefathers and such thoroughfares as Park Avenue, for instance, a specimen of modern construction.

The conformation of the Horton township is agreeably diversified, the upper portion containing numerous eminences, from which extensive views are obtainable. The highest elevation is attained on the eminence known as Beacon Hill, 975 feet above the mean sea level. From this spot a commanding prospect may be had, embracing the companion beacons at Beamsley, Rawdon Billing, and Halifax, besides a fine sweep of country south and east. From Beldon Hill, Haycliffe Hill, Crag Hill, Pickles Hill, and Brow Hill good and varied views may also be obtained.

There is no moorland in Horton township, the only place bearing even the name being Scholemoor. From ancient documents, to which reference will subsequently be made, we learn that this hamlet was formerly waste land. Within a recent period, however, the only waste land was situate at