

Rimington Moor and its Ancient Mere Stones

A few early documents of Rimington listed inhabitants either below a heading *Rimington In Mere* or below a heading *Rimington Out Mere* e.g. the Hay Tithes 1648. The mention of ancient mere stones on Rimington Moor in the second letter of 1834 below, written to the lord of the manor, suggest the headings identified who were the lord of the manor tenants and who were the freehold farmers.

Rimington 17 Sepr 1834

Sir,

I herewith send you a Plan of Rimington Moor, and the breadth belonging the Freeholders. I am informed they will be as cross as they can, respecting you walling them off. I have taken a great deal of pains to ascertain the Boundary of their Rights, I shall insert the Names of Proprietors as under with the Occupiers

<i>Proprietors</i>	<i>Occupiers</i>	<i>Stirk Gates, Rods of Walls</i>	
<i>The Exrs of the Late Wm Baildon</i>	<i>John Baildon</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>- - 2</i>
<i>Geoe Lane Fox Esqr</i>	<i>4 Thos & Ambrose Dean</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>- - 10½</i>
<i>John Parker</i>	<i>Jas Bullock</i>	<i>1 ½</i>	<i>- - 3¼</i>
<i>William Wright</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>2 ½</i>	<i>- - 5½</i>
<i>John Whipp</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>- - 2¼</i>
<i>The Exrs of the Late Jno Hargraves</i>	<i>John Howorth</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>- - 9 & 2yds</i>
<i>The Revd Philip Abbott</i>	<i>John Parkinson</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>- - 9 & 1½ yds</i>
<i>Mr. Willm Bollard</i>	<i>John Starkje</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>- - 17</i>
		<i>Stirk Gates 27 or 6¾ horses</i>	
			<i>59 rods</i>

The old paper which I have, says the Freeholders for every Acre maketh 2 Rods of Fence and some of them above. It will take 155 Rods to wall them off, The undertakers have not yet done any thing, nor they dare not till something is heard from you. The Freeholders have had a meeting and they say you must produce an old Map of the Moore Or they will not suffer you to wall them off. Thos Taylor says Wm Mascow had an old map with him when he surveyed Rimington.... [rest of the letter missed being copied]

Rimington 18 Octr 1834

Sir,

The day after Rimington Court we went to Rimington Moor and took James Brigg with us. I found he knew more of the boundary than anyone I had conversed with before the stone [e] () which Hy Hall spoke of he went straight to it and said it certainly [sic] was the Boundary. (now Markde) we sought and found other 2 stones cover[e]d with long ling mark[d] b & c on the plan and concluded they must be the Ancient Mere Stones. And towards the west we made a handsome curve meeting with John Dean's Mere stone making The Freeholders part just 27 Acres, and we staked it out so thatt R. Broughton cannot miss finding it out. I An Yout Hble Sert Hayes Dean*

* For the plan see file Rimington Moor Plan 1834