

## Notes on Rimington Meare/Mere, In Meare/Meer/Meire and Out Meare/Meer/Miere

(All years are as listed in the church registers.)

Elizabeth Briarley of Rimington Meare in Craven left a will granted Oct 5 1587 at York. She was buried at Gisburn January 1586, widow of William Briarley. No abode was recorded in the burial register. At first glance Rimington Meare would appear to be the name of the property where she lived. It wasn't. It was another, if rarely used form of Rimington. An earlier example of the name was in the Loan Book of 1522 when 45 men were listed under Remyngton Mere. A few other old documents also show that for some purpose Rimington Meare was sub-divided into 'Rimington-In-Meire' and 'Rimington-Out-Meire.'

Despite 'In-Meire' and 'Out-Meire' being descriptions of places only Out-Meer appears in any of Gisburn Church registers, and just once: Maria filia Johis Watterworth de Rimington-Out-Meer baptised 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1715.

Meare means a boundary. An earlier thought that the Meares were to do with the Landowners and Freeholders using Rimington Moor has been discounted following an investigation of the names and places recorded on the 1648 hay tithe and correlating them with entries in Gisburn Parish Church of that period. See the 1648 Hay Tithe spreadsheet.

It also appears to be a unique location because there are only two references of the terms in the National Archives records. Both refer to Rimington and are listed below from the Bradfer-Lawrence Collection. (They don't appear to have the reference to the 1648 hay tithe.)

Held in the Bradfer-Lawrence Collection at Yorkshire Archaeological & Historical Society.

Ref MD 335/1/1/25/3

Title Howgill

### Description

22 May 1635 Bargain and sale, with separate feoffment, by Sir William Lister of Thornton in Craven, knight, and William Lister his son, to Stephen Hargraves of Hellifield and William Hargraves his son; of a dwelling house in Howgill with barn and closes late in the occupation of Thomas Brocden in Rimington and Middop; all corn to be ground at Sir William's mill at Howgill [Former ref: Box 72 G100] 22 Mar 1676 Release from William Hargraves of Howgill to his father, Stephen Hargraves, of dwelling house in Howgill and the barn on the south side of the house [Former ref: Box 72 G149] 25 Mar 1686 Lease for 200 years from John Assheton of Lower Hall to Jane Speake of **Howgill in the Outmeare of Rimington**, of house and closes at Howgill formerly the inheritance of her brother Christopher Speake, deceased, and now in the possession of her mother Rosamund Speake [Endorsed: 'John Bulcock Lease; Robert Bulcock Lease' Former ref: Box 38] 25 May 1688 Probate of will dated 20 March 1677 of Stephen Hargraves of Howgill, yeoman; leaves all his lands and houses to his son and daughter Thomas and Mary, provided his wife Jane has her third; probate granted to Jane Hargraves, widow [Former ref: Box 78 bn 36 V64]

Reference MD 335/1/1/25/15/1

Date 23 Sep 1727

Deed of Exchange

### Description

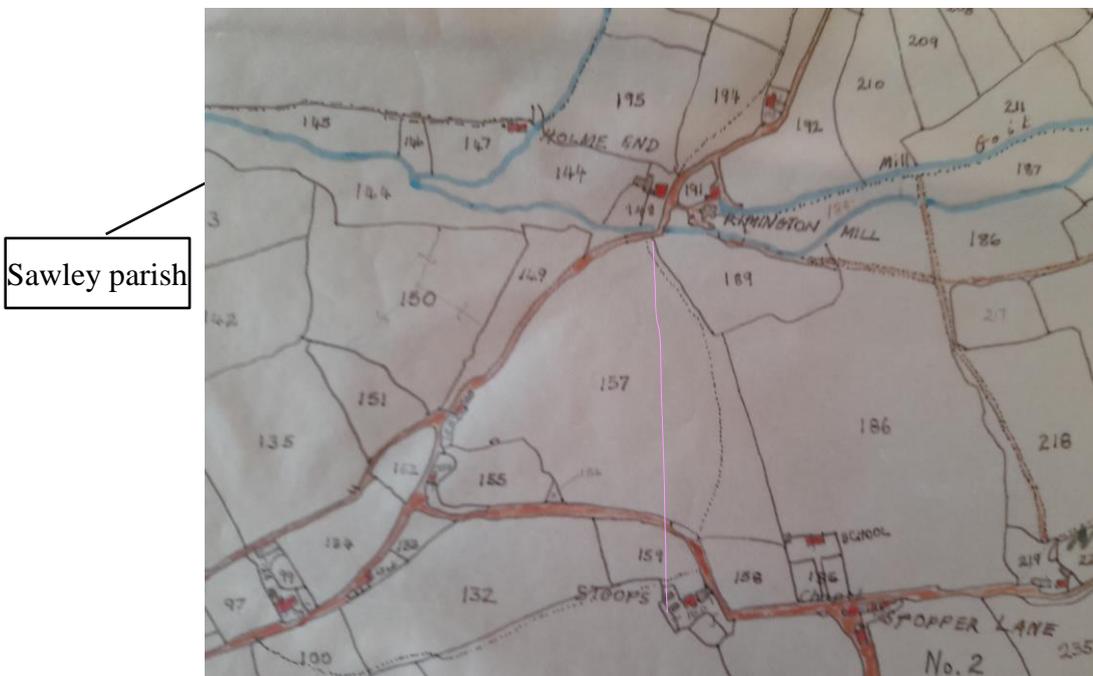
1. Robert , Lord Bingley 2. Thomas Lister of Arnoldsbigging, esquire Exchange of Lord Bingley's land in Allan Riding, Brearley Rough Ing and Little Narrcroft for Lister's **hay tithe due on Lord Bingley's land at Inn Meer and Outmeer, Rimington** [Former ref: Box 74 bn 13]

## The Hay Tithe of 1648

On the evidence of the places named in the original list of the tithe and matching the other people with places recorded in Gisburn parish church registers, and plotting them on a map of Rimington, a distinct division emerges of where In-Meire and Out-Meire were: Rimington In-Meire was all the area of Rimington north of Ings Lane and west of Stopper and Stoops Lanes, including the main village itself, and north from the junction of Stoops Lane with Rimington Lane to Bridge End then west across to Holme End. See Map 2.

The natural boundary here would be Rimington beck but two properties in In-Meire, identified as of Briggend / Bridge End would lie just north of it. This would suggest the boundary was purposely set to include Rimington corn mill and/or the tenants of it in the In-Meire half. (Aynhams, between plot nos 192 & 194, and Holme End at plot 147 on Map 1 were later properties.)

Everywhere else in the township was in Rimington Out-Meire, which would also include the corn mill at Howgill. However it should be noted that although Stoops Lane is an obvious boundary the early maps show a more direct hedge boundary lying almost straight from Stoops Lane and Stopper Lane junctions to Rimington Bridge and Bridge End. See Map 1.



Map 1

Boundary lines. Yellow = Possible line of the Meires boundary. Green = Takes in the Rimington Mill area of Bridge End. Between the two yellow sections are: Pink = Hedge option, Stopper Lane straight to Rimington Bridge. Orange = Stoops Lane and Rimington Lane option.

What differentiated and warranted the meire designations remains a mystery. Rimington belonged to and was at the edge of the West Riding of Yorkshire at that time. The In-Meire area bordered Lancashire along Ings beck but also bordered Sawley, along the Stankhill & Swanside becks section of the boundary, which was also in the WR of Y. (Sawley has a large area called **Grangemere**.) Both terrains are hilly. The southern most point of In-Meire starts near Rimington Moor and sweeps down to the lowest point where Ings beck and Swanside beck meet and flow on to the River Ribble.

The division wasn't used in the 1379 Poll Tax return, the 1522 loan book record despite Rimington being called Remyngton Mere, the Hearth Tax list of 1672, or the Craven Muster Roll of 1803.

Some more notes:

Elizabeth Briarley, named above, had a grandson who became curate of Colne parish church. He was called Richard Brierley. He also left a will. It was granted at York Feb 24 1635. He left land to relatives in Rimington including *'one parcell of meare ground lyeing and being in Skellerne as the same is now meared in severall places containing by estimation two Acres of ground...'*

There are several properties named now lost: Neither Skelleron nor Windhill could be Hollins because that was named in a Gisburn register in 1598. Windhill may have been the site of what is now a converted barn. The barn had the date 1795 carved in the cross beam. Whitfieldhead/Whitwell head – would be somewhere in the vicinity of Whitwell Hill just east of Salem Chapel. Twistles would be somewhere close to Downham Bridge also known locally as Twisles Bridge. (I tend to spell it rightly or wrongly without the 't'.)

The burials of at least two people on the list are unrecorded: Alexander Varley of Newby (outlived by his widow), and John Calverley of Rimington, husbandman, made a will Dec 1656 which was granted January 28 1663. (Turns out he was also a soldier and was about to march to Scotland when he made his will verbally.)