

BOLSTERSTONE IN 1743.

Thomas Herring, Lord Archbishop of York in 1743 sent a paper of questions to all the Beneficed Clergy in the Diocese of York in order, as he states, that he might become better acquainted with the circumstances of this large Diocese. The replies from the Clergy to these questions are preserved at Bishopthorpe, bound in three large volumes. The following are the replies sent from Bolsterstone in 1743 by the Rev. Francis Haigh, B.A., Incumbent of Bolsterstone at that time :—

*To the Most Reverend Father in God, THOMAS, by Divine Providence Lord
Archbishop of York, Primate of England and Metropolitan.*

May it please your Grace,

The following are clear and (I hope) satisfactory answers to your Grace's questions :—

- i. There may be about an hundred and twenty-five families within the liberties Bolsterstone, in the Chapelry of Bradfield. Two of whom are Presbyterians, Four Quakers, Three Papists.
- ii. We have no meeting house, except they meet at a Papist's house sometimes, but how often or in what numbers they do assemble I know not.
- iii. We have a Public School, meanly endowed. There are about forty scholars taught in it, and very good care taken by the Master, who instructs them in the Principles of the Christian Religion according to the Doctrine of the Church of England.
- iv. We have no almshouses or hospital. No lands left for the repair of our Chappel, excepting a little croft value 5s. per annum, and three small legacies bequeathed to the use of the poor, which are regularly distributed according to the direction of the benefactors by the inhabitants at a public meeting, nor any fraud committed in the management of them.
- v. I reside personally upon my Cure, but we have no house properly belonging to the said Cure.
- vi. The former answer I hope will hold for this.

- vii. I do not know of any who come to our Chappel that are not baptized. There are some of a competent age not confirmed.
- viii. We have public Service read in our Chappel twice and two Sermons preached on the same day during the time of two Sundays, and the same is performed every third Sunday at Midhop (a small Donative) in the same Township.
- ix. I catechise about five or six Sundays in the summer season. The Parishioners duly send their children.
- x. The sacrament is administered in the Chappel of Bradfield, to which our neighbours do resort, but for the benefit of the aged and infirm it is administered on the Easter Sunday and Christmas Day. Twenty-seven or eight communicated last Easter Sunday.
- xi. I give timely notice of the sacraments being administered. The Parishioners do not send in their names. I did not refuse the sacrament to anyone.

If I shall meet with any difficulties or observe any particular defects in the Canons or Discipline of the Church, or any abuses in any Ecclesiastical Officer, or shall have any proposal to make, I shall willingly and freely communicate them to your Grace.

I am, Your Grace's most humble and dutiful servant,

FRAN. HAIGH,

Bolsterstone, May ye 21st, 1743.

Curate of Bolsterstone Chappel.

From the above (i) it would appear that the population of Bolsterstone in 1743 was 625.

The place where the Roman Catholics held a service, referred to in ii., was at Spink House.

The doles referred to in iv. are now lost—the only doles we now have are Scott's dole and Bland's dole which have been given since that time.

The question vi. was—Have you any Curate?

From viii. it would appear that every third Sunday there was no service at Bolsterstone, on that Sunday there was service at Midhope. The Sunday when there was no service was called by the old people "Mucky Sunday," because there was no service for which to prepare and dress themselves in their Sunday clothes.

Midhope was held with Bolsterstone for about 200 years.

Mr. Irving was Incumbent of Midhope as well as Bolsterstone.