

The following letters are on the death of Parkinson Esq of Ravendale Hall who died dec. 1840.

The Parkinson family and ours had lived side by side and been great friends for many generations before the marriage of Ursula Jane Parkinson to William Wright of Somersby & Brattleby in 1782. There were five Miss Parkinsons:

- one married William Wright
- a second married - Booth
- a third married - R Wilson
- a fourth married - Isles
- the fifth xxxx married W Johnson of Binbrook and xxxxxx

My earliest remembrance of Ravendale is in about 1870 - when I was taken to spend a long day there. Old Doctor Parkinson and his wife were then living and very much I was awed by Dr Parkinson's rather pompous style. Miss Parkinson was at home and very kind to me and also there were several others - the present Mrs Robert Parkinson in the capacity of governess there, I remember.

The dining room was a handsome room looking out south and west and shelves & shelves of books in it. A French window I seem to remember leading on the lawn and a quaint old pond said to be very deep in the centre.

And a sundial too interested me very much.

They were great gardeners, I even remember the flowers now. & the glass, which in 1870 was not so extensively gone in for as now. The very long drive and the stately trees impressed me very much, & since then I have returned I see how gigantic they grow in that part. We were taken to see the new schools, which had just been finished.

The servants I remember were all very old xxxx, Vere the butler & all seemed to have grown old in the place. The village is very pretty and seemed quite a model village with its cottage gardens vying with each other in prettiness. Several very pretty thatched houses I remember. The church choir was well trained in 1860 & a good Sunday School was kept up even then.

They say this was the home of a famous Norseman and as a Raven is the Norse ensign he called it Ravendale. There is also an old abbey here called West Ravendale. My grandmother's very happiest days were spent in the company of these people and the family coach used to bring them to Brattleby & the Brattleby coach used to take William Wright & his wife there.

Miss Johnson tells an old story of her grandmother and Mrs W Wright driving in the family coach together and suddenly a highwayman seized the horses' reins and pointing a pistol at

the coachman's head dared him to go on if he valued his life. Meanwhile another man with a black mask over the upper part of his face put his hand into the coach and said "a purse please ladies" in a most refined & south country style. His hand was small & white and with handsome rings on. Mrs Wright had not a great deal with her & they were to stay at an hotel that night. "We shall be greatly inconvenienced if you take our purse." The answer came, "I too ladies have known inconvenience for the want of a purse." So saying he took their purse & opened it & took out a sovereign which he gave them with quite the air of conferring a benefit on them.

Between Binbrook & Ravendale is a beacon hill and there are at regular distances all over the wolds so that when the Norsemen and afterwards the Danes were seen at Tetney Lock their favourite landing haven these beacons were lit to give warning; on many, kings have been buried by the contrary party of those savage times. The beacon hill I speak of now is called Swinhope Clump and there is a Norse king buried and also a chest of gold and treasures and there is an old old verse, that the rustics round sing to the children:

Dig & dig & dig again
& if you dig - you will be slain.