

RAWDON ARMS AND CREST.



Arms Argent a fess between three pheons sable

Crest - On a mural coronet argent a pheon sable
 with a laurel branch issuant thereout
 proper.

Motto - NEC IN ARIDO DEFIT.

THE RAWDONS

The surname Rawdon is a locative name from the place Rawdon situated north of Leeds.

My interest started in 1966 when driving north of Leeds I came across a signpost to Rawdon - little did I realise the fascinating story connected with the name. The following is an attempt to set out information from many sources into one manuscript.

There is evidence of a British settlement and the name is of Celtic origin and can be defined as Raw - a wild goat, Don - on a hill. The area around Rawdon formed part of the small British kingdom of Elmet which was occupied by the Saxons in A.D. 616.

The Domesday Book (1086) says 'Ilbert de Lacey has it, and it is waste' The area was surveyed as Terra Regis - kings' land - being held in several manors by Saxons. The manor of Rawdon was granted by William I to Paulynus in gratitude for services rendered by his band of archers at the Battle of Hastings. Weaver in his funereal monuments gives the following:- 'I, William, King, the third year of my reign give to the Paulyn Roydon, Hope, and Hopetown etc etc.'

The early Rawdons were buried at Kirkstall Abbey, two miles south of Rawdon, they were benefactors of the Abbey and an early record reads as follows:- Grant by Michael de Roudoune during the reign of Edward I 'To God, St Mary and the monks of Kirkstall Abbey of all the land at a place called Eslairode', among the witnesses is Henry, son of Walter de Roudoune.

The ancient residence of the Rawdons was to the east of the present parish church now known as Rawdon Old Hall. It passed out their ownership via Anne daughter of Michael. Anne married Stephen Paslewe who is said to have committed suicide in the house, it then passed to the Oglethorpe family who sold it in 1630 to the Layton's, whose descendants sold it to a Mr Emmott.