

Oglethorpe

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These notes were mostly taken from Harry Speight 's "Lower Wharfedale"[1902] which contains a chapter on Oglethorpe[pp.376/83]

Pre - 1000 Oglethorp [Ocelestorp , Oglestorp] was part of the Saxon lordship of Bramham.

1085 / 6 Domesday recorded that Oglethorpe had been given to Osbern de Archis , who gave his name to Thorp Arch . Osbern was Reeve of the county of York [ie. the king 's chief representative , official , magistrate.] Nigel Fossard of Bramham held one carucate of land there. [Carucate : an area that could be ploughed in a year by one plough and eight oxen.]

1172 William of Occlesthorp was witness of a land grant to Kirkstall Abbey.

1199 William de Oglethorpe was recorded as being in bondage to William de Stuteville of Bramham [ie. he owed services to him] , and was also a tenant of William Fossard.

1282 Nicholas of Okelestorp petitioned for freehold use of common pasture in Bramham.

1378 Johannes of Okilsthorp , a merchant , and his wife , rated at 2 shillings , were the second highest capitation tax payers in Bramham - cum - Oglethorp.

Throughout this period between 1200 and 1500 the monks of Nostell Priory held land in Oglethorp and in Bramham itself.

1500 Owen Ogelthorpe [later Bishop] was born , probably son , not of Owen Oglethorpe of Oglethorpe , but the third son of George Oglethorpe of Newton Kyme. [See Speight 's family tree.]

1510 One Oglethorpe , Vicar of Bramham , was charged with neglecting the duties of his office.

1524 Owen Oglethorpe graduated at Magdalen College , Oxford.

1557 Owen Oglethorpe became Bishop of Carlisle , reward for his support of Elizabeth in her drive to succeed her father , Henry VIII . Owen Oglethorpe founded Oglethorpe Grammar School , Tadcaster [its full name] , and almshouses nearby.

1558 Bishop Oglethorpe crowned Elizabeth Queen of England at Westminster Abbey, he being the most senior clergyman she could find to do so. [Elizabeth visited Oglethorpe Hall, where she signed a Bible.]

1558 Owen Oglethorpe was stripped of his bishopric by Elizabeth for refusing to take the oath of allegiance to her.

31 Dec 1559 Owen Oglethorpe died and was buried at St. Dunstan's Church, Fleet St., London.

1650 The Oglethorpes left the family home after 600 years, they having backed the 'wrong' side in the Civil War. The Hall and estate were given to General Lord Fairfax, one of Cromwell's chiefs of staff.

1662 Rev. Henry Fairfax, second son of Sir Thomas, first Lord Fairfax, moved from Bolton Percy to Oglethorpe, "and there, said Brian Fairfax his son, " spent the remainder of his life in pious and contented solitude."

1665 Henry Fairfax died at Oglethorpe Hall, which was later to be sold to Lord Bingley -- the start of the Lane Fox connection.

1672 The Hearth Tax Returns for Bramham show Oglethorpe Hall to have had 10 chimneys, second only in number to Bramham Biggin which had 17, and equal to the home of Nicholls Leake. [?]

1718 John Warburton visited, and drew *, the Hall, which was being rented by his relative Richard Warburton of Boston Spa from one Burnet.

1744 Richard Warburton died; Oglethorpe Hall then became the home of his son for around 40 years.

c.1784 The Wright family began a 100 year ownership. The Wrights were considerable people in the Bramham parish; it was a family member who built Bramham Lodge in 1789.

c.1830 John Holmes, a well-known railway contractor [he built the North East Railway bridge over the river between Newton Kyme and Thorp Arch], and uncle to Richard Wright, rebuilt the central portion of Oglethorpe Hall. Harry Speight, writing in 1902, described it:

" He ... is said to have used over 60 tons of grey stone in the re-slating of the extensive roof of the building. It is of two stories, but with the exception of portions of the outer walls at the east and west ends, the whole house has been re-constructed, and its aspects have quite changed since Warburton's time. It is now approached from behind through a massive Jacobean gateway, enclosing a spacious yard, while

to the front or south side of the house lie the gardens and orchards ; 3 the front walls of the dwelling being completely covered with luxuriant fruit trees.

“ In the gardens are some fragments of old gable finials , the stand of an ancient sun - dial , and a much - used stone quern or hand corn - mill . There was also dug up some years ago a much - decayed iron prick - spur , apparently of the 12th or 13th century , doubtless a relic of some early armour - bearing member of the house. In a field on the east side of the house are indications of extensive foundations , with traces of a wide moat , which has possibly enclosed the original homestead of the family in feudal times. About half - a - mile to the east is the site of another Fairfax home , old Toulston Hall ... “ [Speight described Toulston Hall elsewhere in the book . It is now part of Tadcaster Grammar School.]

During the **20th Century** Oglethorpe Hall has been used as a farm , part of the Bramham Park Estate . In 2000 its tenant was Peter Cornforth and his family , with adjacent cottages occupied by farm employees.

* “ John Warburton FRS, of the Somerset Herald , visited Oglethorpe in October 1718 , and made a rough sketch of the old Hall , which is here reproduced “ :



OGLETHORPE HALL TWO CENTURIES AGO.

WEST YORKSHIRE
LEEDS

SE44SW

BRAMHAM CUM OGLETHORPE
LS23

1/17

Gatepiers and garden
wall to Oglethorpe
Old Hall Farmhouse
at SE446442

Grade II listed

Pair of gatepiers and garden wall enclosing small garden on north side of Oglethorpe Old Hall Farmhouse. C18. Magnesian limestone, the gatepiers of ashlar and the wall of coursed squared masonry. Gatepiers of square section, approx. 3 metres high, with chamfered plinths, prominent moulded caps, large ball finials carried on moulded pyramidal pedestals; a scrolled console on the inner side of each pier. Wall attached to each gatepier, approx. 2 metres high with rounded coping.



CHAPTER XXXIV.

OGLETHORPE.

Antiquity of Oglethorpe - Parcel of the lordship of Bramham and Newton Kyme—Ancient family of Oglethorpe—The 12th century homestead—Some notable scions of the family—Bishop Owen Oglethorpe—He built Headley Hall—The Brandesby family—Pedigree of Bishop Oglethorpe—The family property—The founder of Georgia—General Oglethorpe's antecedents—Arms of Oglethorpe—Oglethorpe acquired by the Fairfaxes—Oglethorpe Hall two centuries ago—Recent history.



ABOUT half-a-mile south-west of Newton Kyme station stands Oglethorpe Hall, now a large and valuable farm, which for the past three generations has been in the occupation of the Wright family. Although little or nothing has been recorded of this place, its history goes back into distant centuries, and around it cluster memories of departed greatness. For more than five centuries Oglethorpe continued the residence of a family of the same name, until fortune was denied them, and ruin fell upon their house for their loyalty in the unhappy wars of King Charles' time.

Oglethorp, or Ocelestorp and Oglestorp as it appears in *Domesday*, had long before the Conquest been parcel of the lordship of Bramham, and its inhabitants owed suit to the lords of that manor. But, as related in the history of Newton Kyme, there was also an undefined quantity of land in Oglethorpe appurtenant to that manor held of the family of De Arches. Nostell Priory subsequently acquired a small estate in Oglethorpe which was given to the canons by Ralph [Ryther], son of John de Touton, and confirmed to them in 8th Edward I. (1280).* The earliest mention of the famous family that derived its patronymic from the place, is of one who is said to have been reeve in the county of York at the time of the Conquest. The next record of the name which I have met with is in the person of one William de Occlesthorp, who with Ranulph de Rigton and William de Withetuna (Weeton), and others, appears as a witness to a charter of William de Paganel granting land in Cookridge to Kirkstall Abbey, A.D. 1172.†

* *Vide Rot. Hund.*, 2nd Edward I.

† *Thoresby Soc. Pub.*, vol. iv., page 263.

The home or farm-hold of the family is mentioned shortly after this time, and also in 1282 when Nicholas de Okelestorp pleads against Peter de Mauley (Malolacu) and John de Reygate, that they and the Abbot of St. Mary's, York, and the Prior of Nostell should permit him to have the common of pasture in Bramham which belongs to his free tenement in Okelstorp.* Nicholas claimed his farm as freehold, but by what license is not stated. Two or three generations before, his family were certainly in bondage to the Stutevilles, for in a charter of the first year of King John (1199) that monarch confirmed to William de Stuteville, Bramham, with the appurtenances, and with the essarts of the gift of Ranulph de Glanville and of William Paganel, together with the services of certain tenants, including the service of William de Oglethorpe of the whole tenement which he held of William Fossard in Bramham and in Oglethorpe.† It would, however, appear that his land in Oglethorpe had by 1282 become freehold, and the family having been enfranchised was consequently in a position of honourable standing at this early date. And with respect to the above Nicholas, it is stated in the inquisition p.m. of Nicholaus fil Domini Anketini Malore that Nicholaa, wife of Nicholas de Oclestorp' and Sarra, wife of William de Glenton' and two others, are his next heirs and are of full age.‡

The head of the family was evidently living at Oglethorpe in 1378 when the capitation tax was levied for carrying on the war with France. Johannes de Okilsthorp, *marchaunt*, and his wife, were rated at 2s., being the second highest taxpayers in the township of Bramham-cum-Okelstorp. Sir Thomas Oglethorpe was curate of Bilbrough in 1506, and he is probably the same person who was rector of Ryther from 1506-13. His will is dated 3rd Nov. 1513. One of the family became vicar of Bramham and in 1510 he is charged with neglecting the duties of his office. It is stated that "ye chauntre is not occupied nor servyd as it aght to be by parson Oglethorpe," and moreover he "hays beyne absent fro his benefys a yer and more."§

The exact relationship of Bishop Owen Oglethorpe, with the parson of Bramham, I have not been fortunate enough to discover. He is stated in the *Dictionary of National Biography* to be a son of Owen Oglethorpe, but it is more probable he was the third son of George Oglethorpe, of Newton Kyme, and was born there about the year

* *De Banco*, 10th Edw. I., m. 32.

† *Memoirs of the Meeting of the Archael. Inst. at York* in 1846, page 119.

‡ *Rot. Fin.*, 4th Edw. I. in *Calend. Genral.*, vol. i., page 221.

§ *Fabric Rolls of York Minster*, page 266.

1500, was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford; B.A. in 1524; Fellow in 1526; M.A. 1529; D.D. in 1536, and was made President of his College in 1550, Canon and Dean of Windsor, and in 1557 Bishop of Carlisle. As previously recorded he officiated at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1558, and was deprived of his see for refusing the oath of supremacy in May, 1559. He built Headley Hall, now a good farm house on the east side of Bramham Moor, afterwards a seat of the Winns, one of whom, Sir George Winn, in 1797, was created in the peerage of Ireland, Lord Headley, Baron Allanson and Winn. The house, situated in the midst of a large and well-cultivated estate, is conspicuous from the Leeds and Tadcaster highroad, opposite Headley Bar, and is still the property of Lord Headley.

Bishop Oglethorpe died Dec. 31st, 1559, and was interred in the church of St. Dunstan, Fleet Street. In the Calendar of State Papers, there appears a letter, dated from London, Sept. 27th, 1550, from Wm. Turner to Sir Wm. Cecil (Lord Burleigh), praying to be preferred to the Presidentship of Magdalen College, Oxford, if the Archdeaconry of the East Riding of York, vacant by the death of Thomas Magnus, should be given to Dr. Oglethorpe. The latter, however, received the Presidentship, as stated.

From the Bishop's will,* proved in London, 15th May, 1560, it appears that his father had at least one brother, in all probability John, of Oglethorpe, whose son Robert was living at Rawdon, in 1585. This Robert, cousin to the Bishop, was one of the executors to the will. The descents of this branch of the family are recorded in the Visitation of 1612, and I have found a very similar pedigree amongst the Hailstone Papers in the Minster Library at York.

The family at Brandesby was also descended from John of Oglethorpe, as recorded in the Visitation of 1665. This John had Richard, of Oglethorpe, and a son Thomas, of Beale. The latter married a daughter of Vavasour, of Haselwood, and two sons are recorded of the marriage, William Oglethorpe, rector of Kellington, and Henry, of Beale, who married Eleanor, eldest daughter of Francis Percy, of Scotton, near Knaresbro', of the family of Percy, of Stubbs Walden.† Henry Oglethorpe by this marriage had two sons, Richard and Thomas. Of the latter it is recorded in the Calendar of State Papers, May 10th, 1579, that he has left Douay, and entered the English seminary at Rheims. He encloses in the letter addressed to his father, Henry, of Beale,—

* Printed in the *Yorks. Archæol. Jl.*, vol. xiv., pages 402-3.

† See Clay's *Addits. to Dugdale* (1894), page 28.

An Exhortation to his well-beloved uncle, Mr. William Oglethorpe, parson of Killington, advising him to consider his woeful and damnable case, to leave vice and follow virtue and honestness, whereby he may come to the eternal and everlasting Kingdom of Heaven.

This is scarcely the language one might have expected to find addressed by a young college student to his parent at home, and still less does it appear creditable to the moral status of the parson of Killington.

The following descents (*see* page 380), compiled chiefly from his will, indicate Bishop Oglethorpe's immediate kindred.

From these particulars it appears that Bishop Oglethorpe had four brothers and four sisters, who lived to be upgrown. The Roundhay family held considerable property at Clifton, near Brighouse,* and they also succeeded to a good deal of property at Steeton in Craven, formerly held by Wm. Bevercotes, whose widow afterwards married Clement Oglethorpe. When the spendthrift Earl of Cumberland, lord of the honour of Skipton in Craven, sold a great part of his estates in 1599-1600, William, son of Clement Oglethorpe, bought from him the manor of Glusburn and one-fourth part of the manor of Steeton. These he soon afterwards disposed of, chiefly to the Garforths of Steeton Hall.

The descent of William Oglethorpe, of Oglethorpe, is given in the Visitation of Sir Wm. Dugdale (1665). He would appear to have been a younger brother of Bishop Oglethorpe, and was living in 1585. He married in 1580, Anne, daughter of Robt. Sotheby, Esq., of Pocklington, co. York (an alliance not given in the Visitation), and his arms: *argent a chevron between three boars' heads coupéd, sable*, are to be seen empaled with those of Sotheby, on a monument in Pocklington Church. From him descended the Oglethorpes who suffered so disastrously for their loyalty to King Charles during the Civil Wars, and also the distinguished General Oglethorpe, the colonist of Georgia, who was the third and youngest surviving son of Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe, a native of Oglethorpe on the Wharfe, and afterwards of St. James's parish, London. A long account of him will be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. He was 32 years M.P. for Haslemere. During the Jacobite conspiracy in 1745, he was suspected of covertly assisting the aims of the Young Pretender, and was eventually tried by court martial (Sept. 29th, 1746) but was acquitted.† His father, Sir Theophilus Oglethorpe, was in 1681, Gentleman of the Horse to the Duke of Richmond, and married Eleanor Wall,‡ an Irish lady, who is frequently mentioned by Swift in the *Journal to*

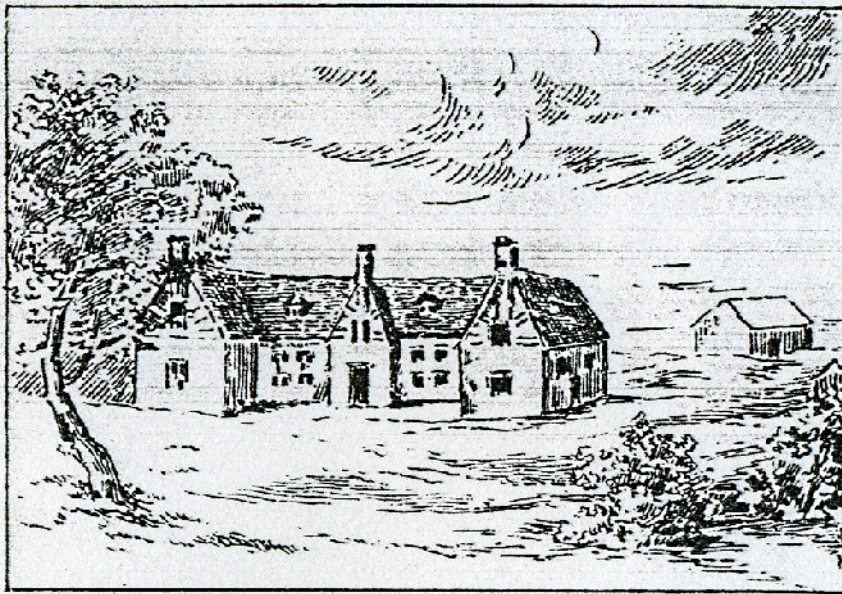
* *See Yorks. Archl. Jl.*, vol. vi., page 78.

† *Hist. MSS. Comm.* (1900), page 346.

‡ *Ibid.*, page 49.

Stella. The pedigree on page 382 is taken from the Visitation of 1665, with additions continued to the time of the General's death in 1785. Soon after the birth of Sir Theophilus, in 1650, the family left Oglethorpe, after a residence there of probably not less than six centuries. On the sequestration of the estate after the Civil War, it was given to General Lord Fairfax, who sold it to Lord Bingley, and with whose descendants, now the Lane-Fox family, it is still vested.*

Upon their acquisition of Oglethorpe the Fairfaxes lived at the Hall some time. The Rev. Henry Fairfax, second son of Sir Thomas Fairfax, first Lord Fairfax, of Denton, removed from Bolton Percy to Oglethorpe in 1662, "and there," says Brian Fairfax, his son, "spent the remainder of his life in a pious and contented solitude." He died April 6th, 1665, aged 77.



OGLETHORPE HALL TWO CENTURIES AGO.

John Warburton, F.R.S., Somerset Herald, visited Oglethorpe in October, 1718, and made a rough sketch of the old Hall, which is here reproduced. He speaks of it as "belonging to Burnet, seated amongst trees." In this or the year previous it had been rented by Mr. Richard Waddington, of an old family long resident in the neighbourhood of Boston Spa. Mr. Waddington's grandfather, also named Richard, was married at Bardsey in February, 1625, but it is not known where he was born. It has been suggested that he may

* The arms of the Oglethorpe family, as recorded at the Visitation of 1665, are: argent, a chevron between three boars' heads coupéd, sable. The arms of the Brandesby branch, entered at the same time, are: argent, a chevron engrailed between three boars' heads coupéd, sable. But in the west window of the Founder's Chapel in Magdalen College, the arms of Bishop Oglethorpe are shewn thus: argent and sable a cross ermines and erm. counterchanged between four boars' heads, proper, each bearing in his mouth an oak branch, being empaled with the arms of the See of Carlisle. See also *Thoresby Soc.*, vol. ii., page 117.

PEDIGREE OF BISHOP OGLETHORPE.

George Oglethorpe=
 of Newton Kyme.

(? John) Oglethorpe=
 Robert, third son,
 cousin to Bishop Oglethorpe.

Matthew=
 of Oglethorpe
 and Roundhay,
 gent.; Will
 dat. at
 Thorner, 2nd
 Aug., 1552;
 d. 1558.

Isabel

Andrew=
 d. 1578, seized
 of lands in
 Thwayte,
 Tockwith, Bil-
 ton, &c.; was
 joint owner
 with Bp. Ogle-
 thorpe of the
 manor of
 Headley, in
 Bramham; left
 no male issue.

Owen,
 built Headley
 manor ho.;
 rector of
 Bolton Percy,
 1534;
 of Romaldekirk,
 1548;
 Bp. of Carlisle,
 1557.
 * Died 1559.

William=
 of Ogle-
 thorpe,
 living
 1585.
 John and other
 sons; John to
 have Bishop
 Owen's share of
 Headley, which
 is to continue with
 his heirs male.

John,=
 Owen,
 godson of
 Bishop
 Oglethorpe

- (1) Anne
- (2) Alice
- (3) Katherine

Elizabeth, married
 a Raggesdale,
 and had a son
 Owen, who was
 heir to his uncle
 Andrew;
 aged 30 or more
 in 1578.

Mary=
 issue
 mentioned in
 her father's
 will.

Grace=
 Leadbeater
 mentioned
 in father's
 will.

Clement=
 of Ogle-
 thorpe and
 Roundhay,
 gent.

Cecilia,
 widow of William Bevercotes, Esq.,
 and daughter of Sir John Constable, Kt. of Flambro
 (she was a widow in 1571).

William Oglethorpe=
 of Roundhay Grange,
 gent.

Elizabeth
 Other children, to whom grandfather Matthew
 bequeaths his plate.

Susan=
 Stephen Tempest,
 of Broughton,
 md. 1613, d. 1652.

Anne=
 Robert Maude, son and heir of Anthony Maude,
 of Helthwaite Hall,



Oglethorpe Hall

Today the gateposts and gatehouse remain of what was the home of the great medieval Oglethorpe family . See the book p. 99.

BISHOP OGLETHORPE

Bishop Oglethorpe - Bishop of [Carlisle ~~Durham~~]
lived at Oglethorpe Hall in Bramham Parish
(Newton Kyme - now Turkey Farm)

Bishop Oglethorpe crowned Elizabeth I
as there was no Archbishop of Canterbury
and after Mary's burnings the other Bishops
were afraid to crown the Protestant princess
who was still proclaimed illegitimate by
the Pope who never recognised Henry VIII's
marriage to Ann Boleyn.

(Elizabeth I signature is in Newton Kyme
Church Registers.)

THE OGLETHORPE FAMILY. (Listed in notes)

For more than 5 centuries Oglethorpe continued to be the residence of a family of the same name until fortune was denied them and ruin fell on their house for their loyalty to Charles I.

Oglethorpe Hall was the residence of the Oglethorpe Family - it is now a turkey farm and only fragments of the old house exist. A manor house existed at Oglethorpe before the Domesday Survey, but Oglethorpe was part of the 'lordship' of Bramham.

One of the Oglethorpe Family became Vicar of Bramham and in 1510 was charged with neglecting the duties of his office.

BISHOP OWEN OGLETHORPE was made Bishop of Carlisle in 1557.

He officiated at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1558. apparently his conscience troubled him and in 1559 he was deprived of his ~~see~~ ^{see} ~~see~~ for refusing the Oath of Supremacy.

after this he built Headley Hall & retired there.

APPENDIX 1

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE OGLETHORPE FAMILY

It is possible that the Oglethorpe family were descendents of Ligulf, Thane of Oglethorpe. In Domesday, the Manor of Oglethorpe in Bramham is recorded. The Oglethorpe family gained in wealth and importance. John Oglethorpe of Bramham, in 1308 and in 1316, was ordered to supply four feudal soldiers for Edward II's campaign against the Scots. An Oglethorpe in Bramham Parish endowed a chantry light 'to have continuance forever as a token of family piety'. The family consolidated their position by matrimonial alliances with wealthy and influential neighbours. John Oglethorpe of Oglethorpe had four sons, William, George, Robert and Andrew. George moved to Newton Kyme, where, before he married the mother, his son Owen Oglethorpe was born in 1500. Because he was considered illegitimate by his 17th and 18th century relatives, in 1707 Sutton Oglethorpe wrote that his Coat of Arms 'must certainly be distinguished by some mark of bastardy'. In spite of this Owen Oglethorpe became first, an undergraduate and then, fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, reading logic and moral philosophy. He was later made Doctor of Divinity. In 1536 he was elected President of Magdalen. Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell held him in high esteem. He was made a Canon of Windsor and in 1551 Vice Chancellor of Oxford University. Oglethorpe appears to have been a Vicar of Bray because Mary Tudor made him Bishop of Carlisle, though he did prevent the worst of the Marian persecutions in the North.

When Elizabeth became Queen in 1559, Owen Oglethorpe was the only Bishop who would crown her. A commentary, signed on the fly leaf by Elizabeth, was given to Newton Kyme Church, probably by Oglethorpe. He founded the Grammar School at Tadcaster (1556-57) but this probably replaced the education carried out by the Church preceding the Reformation. Owen Oglethorpe built Headley Hall, probably from the stone of the Monks' Dwelling. He left the Hall to a nephew.

William Oglethorpe, a descendent of John Oglethorpe, is listed among the gentry of Yorkshire in 1584 and contributed £50 for the defence of England against the Spanish Armada. This William Oglethorpe married Anne Sotherby of Pocklington. Their son, William, went to Sidney Sussex College in 1605 and was made a member of Lincoln's Inn in 1610. He made a match, marrying Susan, daughter of Sir William Sutton. The eldest of their nine children, Sutton Oglethorpe, was born

at Oglethorpe Hall. Sutton Oglethorpe was a devoted and active Royalist supporter, until in 1651 he was arrested, tried and imprisoned. He had to sell Oglethorpe Hall and lands to Ferdinando Fairfax to pay his fine. The Estate seems to have been divided, and this is probably when the Gascoignes became Lords of the Manor of Bramham and Clifford.

Sutton Oglethorpe had married a widow who had been Frances Mathew, daughter of the Archbishop of York. Their youngest son, Theophilus, had been born at Oglethorpe and was a captain in the Horse Guards in 1675, the family having been restored to favour at the accession of Charles II. In the retinue of Charles II's French mistress, whom he created Duchess of Portsmouth, there was an Irish girl, Eleanor Wall. She was an intriguer and became a person of some importance having been head laundress and seamstress to the King at a salary of £2,000 a year. Theophilus Oglethorpe fell in love and married her. She always remained an ardent Jacobite and later a spy in their cause.

Theophilus Oglethorpe became an M.P. for Morpeth and had a distinguished career in the Army and Parliament. After the exile of James II, he spent his time either in exile or evading arrest.

In 1696 the last and ninth child and fifth son, James Edward, was born to Lady Eleanor Oglethorpe. He was educated at Eton and Corpus Christi College, the most Jacobite of all the Oxford colleges, as befitted the son of such an ardent Jacobite father and mother. He was commissioned by George I in the first troop of foot guards in 1713. His eldest brother, Theophilus, was created one of the few Jacobite Peers, Baron Oglethorpe of Oglethorpe, in 1717 by the Old Pretender.

James resigned from the British Army in 1715 and went to Paris. In 1717 he joined Prince Eugene of Savoy in his campaign against the Turks. He returned to England to the family estate at Godalming in 1719, where he took a great interest in local affairs. In 1722 he was elected M.P. for Hazelmere. His Parliamentary career started in an inauspicious manner; he killed a linkman in a drunken brawl in a bawdy house. A plea of self defence must have been successful as he took his seat in the House of Commons. His work in Parliament appears to have been routine work in committees; probably the most important for his future career was the Committee on 'The Relief of Insolvent Debtors'. In 1729 he was Chairman of the Committee to inquire into the 'State of the Gaols of the Kingdom'. His three reports on the Fleet Prison, the