

From Vallis Eboracensis by Thomas Gill

In 1604, the plague raged to such an alarming extent in this neighbourhood that the markets were prohibited to prevent the contagion from spreading in the country; and stone crosses were erected in various places in the vicinity, where the country-people brought their goods (marked with the price demanded) and left them at or near the cross; afterwards the villagers came there, took away their goods and left their money in their place, which afterwards the owners of the goods came and took away; the parties thus never coming in contact, These stones were called plague stones, and the markets thus held, the fetch and carry market. One of those crosses still remains at the spot where the lanes cross each other leading to Tollerton, Youlton, Flawith, and Tholthorpe, to memorialize the period when so many thousands of our fellow beings were suddenly swept into eternity. This pestilence is said to have proved fatal to 11,000 persons in York.

From a supplement to the Yorkshire Herald dated November 19 1927

In 1604 the plague which, during the preceding year, had carried off 30,578 persons in London, raged to an alarming extent in York and district, no less than 3,512 inhabitants of York alone falling victims to it, though by the precautions used, it was not of long duration. To prevent the contagion from spreading into the country, stone crosses were erected in various parts of the vicinity of York, where the country people without coming into the city, met the citizens, and sold them their commodities.

David Newton's personal notes

In 1604 the plague raged throughout York and district. (In Alne in 1604 and in Huby in 1625.) Robert Bossal of Huby was prosecuted: "Brought, thought to be infected goods from London". His punishment was a fine of £40 and he was put in the stocks at Malton for three hours.