



THE CANTERBURY RACES

(circa 1804)

by

Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827)

Canterbury's race-course was on Barham Downs, beyond the village of Bridge and a few miles outside the city on the way to Dover. Races were held here throughout the 18th century, and for much of the 19th - with the last race in 1879. They were very popular in their heyday, attracting a wide range of local people and others too. The young Mozart, staying at nearby Bourne Park on his way home, visited the races in 1765, and Jane Austen had a good account of them from her brother Henry. No traces of the course now survive.

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