

## THE OLD PALACE AT SOUTHWELL AND ITS CONTENTS

BY RICHARD BEAUMONT IN 1955

[Amended to show the relocation of the portraits July 2014]

### FOREWORD

The writer must record his thanks to the Librarian of the Bodleian Museum of the University of Oxford for permitting him to have a microfilm of part of the Rawlinson Manuscript (No B396) for research purposes. Also to the Reverend Henry Thorold for advice concerning research into pedigrees; to the Bishop of Southwell and to the Vergers of the Minster, all very busy people, for tolerating a persistent busybody. RMB October 1995.

The purpose of this essay is to tell visitors about the old part of the former Palace of the Archbishops of York at Southwell, which is now called the Great Hall, the portraits hanging in it and the people whose armorial shields are shown in the windows.

### INTRODUCTION

A short note should say something about the building itself.

The late Dr Norman Summers in his book "A Prospect of Southwell" published in 1974, confirms earlier opinions that no part of the ruins, or the present building including the ancient remains that are built into the present Bishop's house, can be dated earlier than the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. He suggests that the Palace may have been started during the short episcopate of Alexander Neville, who was exiled for rebellion and died abroad in 1392. Later Archbishops are known to have spent time at Southwell, and work was certainly carried out by Kempe and the two Booths in the 1400s whilst Cardinal Wolsey put repairs in hand before taking up residence in 1530. The last Archbishop to spend much time at Southwell was Sandys, who died in the Palace just at the time when the Spanish Armada was seen entering the English Channel in 1588.

The Palace became uninhabitable as a result of the arrival of the Scottish soldiers in 1646, and eventually fell into ruin, with the exception of that part which is the subject of this study. This has been kept in some repair by the Stewards of the Archbishops after the Restoration as they had needed it for Court purposes, and, in later years, a part was used as a schoolroom.

As a result of the ecclesiastical reforms of 1840, the Southwell properties of the Archbishop passed into the ownership of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. In 1881, Bishop Trollope, who was then the Bishop Suffragan of Nottingham, bought the remains of the Palace and the garden for £1,600; restored the Court Room at his own expense and later conveyed the property to the Bishopric of Southwell. He hoped that it would become the official residence of the Bishop, which in 1905 was the case after Bishop's Manor had been built for Bishop Hoskyns using as much of the ruins as was possible.

In 1988, the Great Hall, including the former Bishop's Chapel and the Refectory, was leased to the Cathedral Chapter for a nominal rent. As a consequence the Great Hall is used for functions of various kinds, and the former Chapel is used by the Choir.

Visitors upstairs in daylight are wont to show curiosity about the shields in the Victorian window glass, and when the room is well lit, may interest themselves in the portraits.

### THE WINDOWS

Bishop Trollope used a manuscript in the Bodleian Library (Ms Rawlinson B396) which includes "*a copie of such armes of nobilitie and other gentlemen as be standing in stones, wodd and glass within the bishoppes place in Southwell.*"

Forty-nine coats of arms painted in their proper colours were shown. There was also a statement that "John Kempe Archbishop of York AD1425 founded the house". The Manuscript bears the date 1570.

An earlier section records the glass in the Minster at that time. Bishop Trollope did not restrict his copies to the Palace glass, but used some of the Minster shields as well. There is some duplication between the two series. The Victorian shields look less attractive in style than the simpler Elizabethan shapes.

The writer has added brief notes where appropriate to try and explain who the people are whose arms are displayed. In some cases he has not been able to identify them with any certainty. In summary we have here an interesting storehouse of history with a local slant.

## **THE WINDOWS**

### **The large west window behind the platform**

1			
A small St Edward the Confessor roundel			
2	3	4	5
King Edward 111	Prince Edward The Black Prince	Lionel as Duke of Ulster	John, Duke of Lancaster (John of Gaunt)
6	7	8	9
Edmund Duke of York	Thomas Duke of Gloucester	Henry Earl of Hereford	John Beaufort Duke of Somerset
10	11	12	13
William Bothe Archbishop of York 1452 - 1464	Laurence Bothe Archbishop of York 1476 - 1480	Thomas Scot Archbishop of York 1480 - 1500	Edwin Sandys Archbishop of York 1577 - 1588
14	15	16	17
Thomas de Corbridge Archbishop of York 1300 - 1304	John Kempe Archbishop of York 1425 - 1452	George Neville Archbishop of York 1465 - 1476	Thomas Wolsey Archbishop of York 1514 - 1530

### **Note**

Edward 111 probably slept at the palace on his journeys to and from Scotland to fight the Scots from 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> July 1331 and on 24<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1335. His badly worn carved stone head is high up on the NE corner of the ruins.

### **The South Window overlooking the Bishop's Garden**

St Peter	St Paul
18	19
Alexander de Neville Archbishop of York 1374 - 1388	Walter Gray Archbishop of York 1215 - 1255
20	21
Godfrey de Ludham Archbishop of York 1258 - 1265	Thomas Savage Archbishop of York 1501 - 1507

22  
John Neville  
Marquis of Montagu

23  
Richard Neville  
Earl of Warwick

24  
Sir Francis Bea(u)monte

25  
Sir Francis Scrop

#### The Window near the fireplace

26  
Sir Gervas Clyfton

27  
Sir Richard Martam

28  
Richard de Sutton

29  
Sir John Cockfield

30  
Sir William Meering

31  
Sir Hugh Willoughby

32  
Sir Richard Shelley  
(more likely Strelley)

33  
Sir John Zouche

#### The Window near the Main Entrance

Fragments

Thomas  
Neville

Thomas  
Billington

Earl  
Warennne

Louvain  
De Lucy

34  
Ralph Lord Cromwell

35  
Lord Grey of Codnor

36  
Lord Stafford

37  
Sir Francis Zouche

38  
Lord Chaworth

39  
Sir Thomas Plumton

40  
Sir Henry Pierpoint

41  
Sir Richard Stanhope

#### NOTES

Numbers 3 – 8: are the King's sons

No.9: John Beaufort was the eldest bastard son of John of Gaunt and Catherine Swinford. Legitimated by Richard II by patent and Act of Parliament, John became Earl of Somerset. His eldest son became Duke of Somerset.

Nos 10 – 21: are all Archbishops of York.

No 22: John Neville, Earl of Northumberland, created Marquess of Montagu. Brother of Richard, Earl of Warwick. Fought for Edward IV and destroyed the Lancastrian army at Hexham in 1464, but later turned against Edward IV in favour of restoring Henry VI and was killed at Barnet.

No 23: Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick ("Warwick the Kingmaker"). Earl in right of his wife. Likewise killed at Barnet.

No 24: Presumed to be Sir Francis Beaumont of Coleorton, Leicestershire, who acquired the Archbishop's Southwell Property in the reign of Henry VIII, but lost it by forfeiture because, as Master of the Rolls, he was accused of bribery before Edward VI, and so Mary Tudor succeeded to it on his death.

No 25: The Scraps were Yorkists, though I cannot find anything about him. Lord Scrape of Bolton was formerly John.

No 26: Sir Gervas Clyfton of Clifton, Notts. A younger son of a man of the same name who died in 1453. He was Lieutenant of Dover Castle, Treasurer of Calais, fought in the French war holding Pontoise against the King of France. He fought on the Lancastrian side in the Battle of Tewkesbury and was beheaded afterwards in 1471.

No 27: The name "Martam" is unknown to me. Perhaps it should be Markham, a local name.

Nos 28 & 29: I can find nothing about them, though there was a Sir John Cockfield, son of Robert of Nuthall, Notts., Temp.Edw.111.

No 31: Sir Hugh Willoughby of Wollaton. Married Isabella, daughter of Gervas Clyfton (see 26) died 12 September 1491, or a later Sir Hugh who married Joan, daughter of Sir John Dabridgecourt - died 1416.

No 32: Sir Robert Shelley, should probably be "Strelley". He died in 1487 and his wife Isabel was a sister of Cardinal Kempe.

No33: The Zouche family lived at Codner. Sir John married Margaret, daughter of Sir Henry Willoughby. Name also known in Greasley and Beauvale. Lord Zouche was a Yorkist who fought for Richard III and was formerly perhaps this Sir John.

No 34: Ralph, Lord Cromwell, was a Yorkist. Built Tattershall Castle, owned Wressle, etc.; in 1456 he was Constable of Nottingham Castle. He was also steward of Sherwood Forest. He fought for Edward IV and was killed at Barnet in 1471.

No35: Lord Grey of Codner. Said to have been with the Lancastrian forces at St Albans in 1460, but later supported Richard III.

No 36: Lord Stafford. This is presumably Henry, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, who was beheaded in 1483. He had been a Yorkist supporter and continued to support Richard III until the deaths of the Princes in the Tower. It seems that he may have suspected the King to have been implicated in this deed, and rebelled; was captured, tried and executed.

No 37: See No 33.

No 38: Sir Thomas Chaworth. The Chaworth family in the 1400s - 1500s owned lands in Tithby and Cropwell Butler. This Sir Thomas died 25 December, 2 Henry VIII (1487) without issue. He also had a cousin of the same name from whom I believe the Chaworth Musters family of Annesley are descended.

No 39: I cannot identify Sir William Plumton. But the Plumtons were a Yorkshire family.

No 40: Sir Henry Pierpoint was a Yorkist, knighted by Edward IV after the Battle of Tewkesbury for his good services.

No 41: Sir Richard Stanhope. He appears to have been a citizen of Newcastle upon Tyne. Father of John Stanhope who married Elizabeth Maulovel of Rampton. In the Wars of the Roses, it seems that John took no active part. The Stanhopes of Shelford were descended from Edward Stanhope of Rampton.

## **THE PORTRAITS**

The portraits can best be seen in the evenings when the lights are full on for meetings or receptions.

Starting at the fireplace and going anticlockwise around the room:

*On the left of the fireplace*

1 Portrait of Bishop George Ridding, First Bishop of Southwell. Appointed 1884. Died in office 1904. Artist: H.Harris Brown. This picture was given by his widow Lady Laura Ridding after his death, specifically for this room. And the Archdeacons of Nottingham and Derby at that time were charged with the duty of seeing that this condition was observed.

*To the right of the large west window*

2 Cardinal Wolsey, Archbishop of York 1514 - 1530. He caused repairs to be carried out to the Palace before residing here for some months in 1530. A copy of a portrait painted from life by Holbein the Younger.

*To the left of west window*

3 Bishop Edward Trollope, Second Bishop Suffragan of Nottingham, 1878 - 1884. For details about him, see the introduction.

*On the wall opposite the fireplace, to the left of the south window, overlooking the bishop's garden*

4 The Reverend William Barrow. A Prebendary of Southwell 1815, Vicar General 1821, Archdeacon of Nottingham 1830. A memorial tablet in his honour can be found in the nave of the Minster.

*In the middle*

5 \*King James VI of Scotland - James I of England is a Victorian copy of Paul van Somer's state portrait.

*At left corner*

6 The Reverend Richard Barrow, 1747-1839, was headmaster of the Minster Grammar School from 1774 to 11785. He was Vicar Choral of the Minster from 1774-1838.

*To the right of the entry doorway*

7 \*King Charles 1 is a Victorian copy of an early Van Dyck state portrait\*

\*Both presumably provided by Bishop Trollope.

References: Books which have been consulted in trying to find out something about the people whose arms are displayed in the windows include:

Thoroton's Nottinghamshire, 1677

The Wars of the Roses, John Gillingham 1981

The Wars of the Roses, Desmond Seward, 1995

Richard III, Paul Murray Kendal, 1955

(Copyright Richard M.Beaumont and published by the Southwell and District Local History Society 1955)

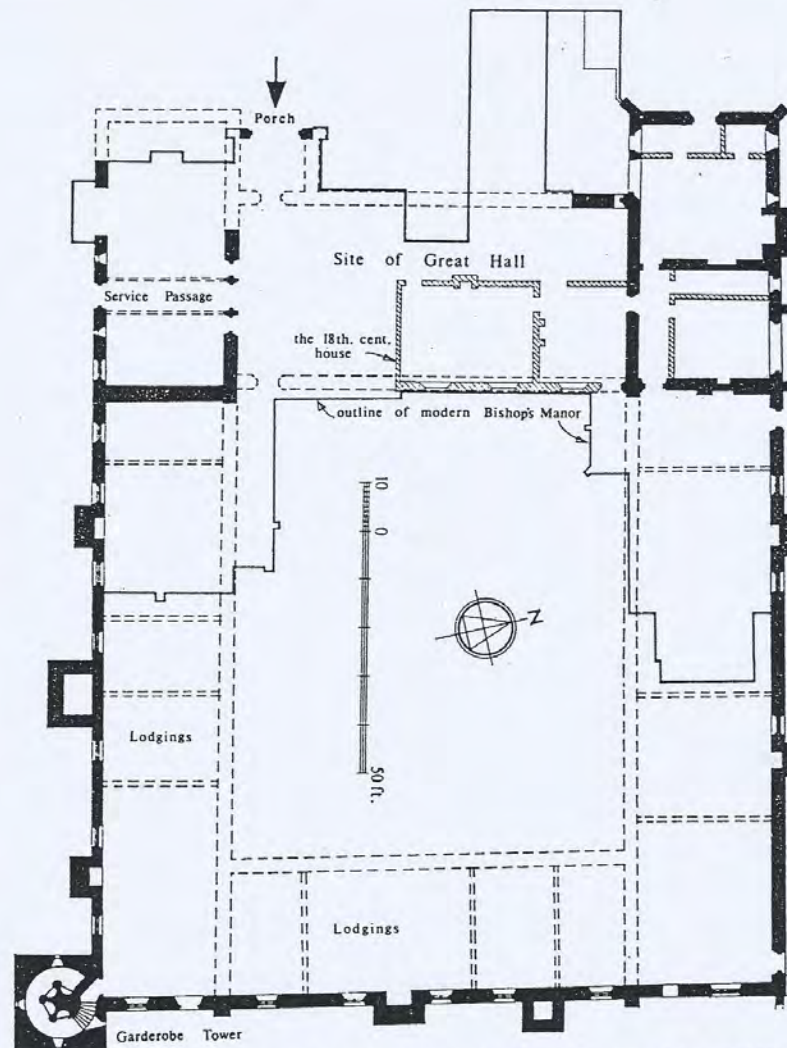


Fig 9: Ground floor plan of The Archbishop's Palace. The remaining masonry walls are shown in black, and a reconstruction of the plan in dotted lines. The modern Bishop's Manor is within the heavy black lines at the west side of the courtyard.

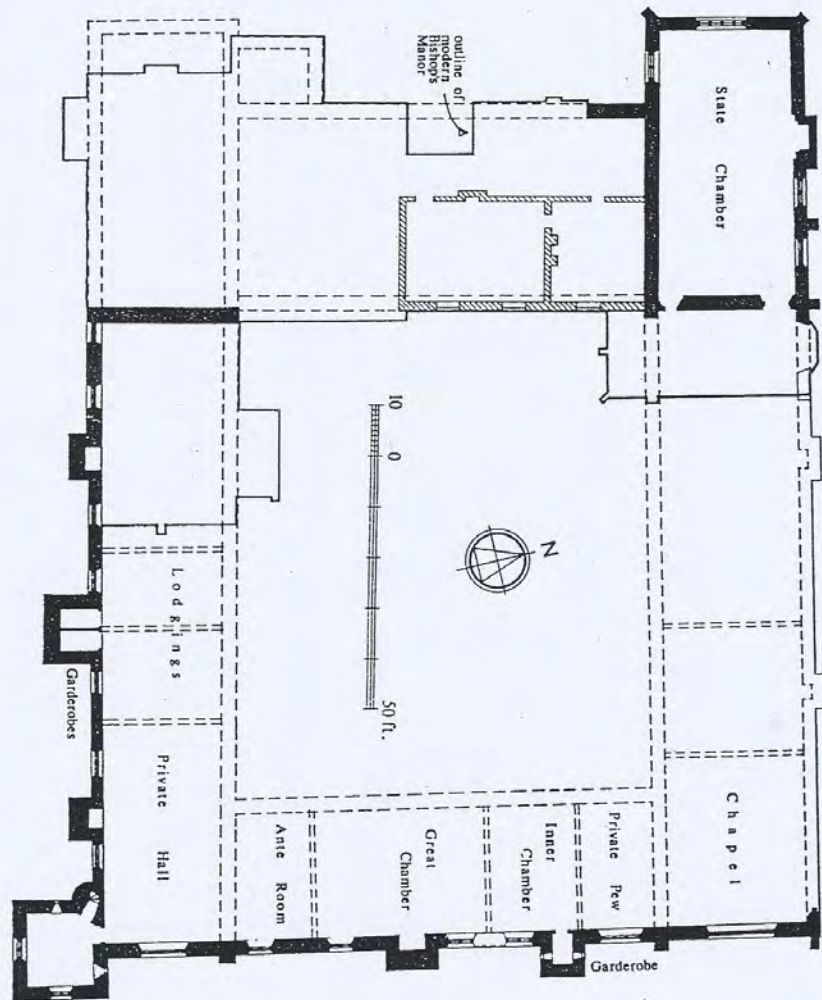


Fig 10: First floor plan of the Archbishop's Palace