

FACTSHEET No 270

EDWARD CLUDD

1603 – 1678

Cromwellian

Man of Affairs

Land Speculator

[Transcribed from Richard M Beaumont's pamphlet of 1979]

During times of civil disturbance it commonly occurs that men of ability, who would not otherwise have become notorious, are thrust into a temporary prominence in local, or even national affairs.

Such a man was Edward, the second surviving son of Thomas Cludd of Arnold, whose baptism is recorded in the Parish Register in 1603. His parents were both of the gentry; his father Samuel owned part of one of the Manors in Arnold, and the family were descended from a younger branch of the Cludds of Orleton, Shropshire. His mother was Alice, daughter of Thomas Sulley of Arnold. But neither the Cludds nor the Sulleys seem to have made any notable mark on Nottinghamshire affairs.

Of his family, mention should be made that his elder brother Samuel married Isabell Odingsells of Epperstone and their daughter Elizabeth married Edward Millington, son of Gilbert Millington late of Felley. Samuel died in 1626, but both the Odingsells and the Millington family supported Cromwell (Gilbert was a regicide) and a sister, Susan married John Hacker of Flintham who was presumably a relative of the Colonel F. Hacker of East Bridgford who was commander of the guard at the execution of Charles I and treated as a regicide. So perhaps it is not surprising that Edward Cludd was later to become a strong supporter of Cromwell.

Another sister, Sarah, married a Fillingham of 'Crophill' Notts. and their son Bartholomew became eventually Cludd's Executor.

It would appear that Cludd himself went into business in London, because he is described in a Deed (DDM 76.36 at the County Record Office) as Citizen and Mercer of Lombard Street, London. He also married outside the County circle, one Mary Bonner of Milton Hall, Essex. But they had no children.

How Cludd began to be involved in the political crisis which developed during the 1630's and 40's we do not know, nor to what extent, if at all, he fought in the early battles and skirmishes of the Civil War.

According to various accounts, it was Cludd who persuaded the Scots to take up residence in the Archbishop's Palace at Southwell in 1645, and, if so, he is at least partly responsible for the damage and vandalism which was done then, certainly to the Palace, and most probably to the Minster also.

In 1650 Cludd is mentioned as being a Captain in the County Militia though he was not among the 24 Nottinghamshire Roundheads who were on the Committee of the Eight associated Counties in which Nottinghamshire was included. However, in 1653 the Rump Parliament was dissolved by Cromwell and in July of that year the so-called "Barebones" Parliament was created. The Nottinghamshire members were Gervase Piggot, John Odingsells and Edward Cludd. This Parliament complained of the cost of maintaining the Army: a minority abdicated to Cromwell and the remainder were dismissed.

From 1650 onwards Cludd's main concern seems to have been involving himself in the compilation of lists of Church property which had been expropriated by the Commonwealth after April 1649. In Southwell Minster there is what seems to be a complete draft of the survey prepared by the Parliamentary Commissioners of whom one was Cludd, another was James or John Odingsells, the brother of his sister-in-law, and the third William Shelley. Whether anyone else was involved with them cannot be said. The work was carefully and accurately done from such records as were available and from verbal statements of tenants and Lessees. There is a paragraph in it which might well emanate from Cludd and his local knowledge. After reciting that

time out of mind the Chapter had paid £12 a year to the schoolmaster and that £200 a year for the repair and maintenance of the Minster came out of land all or most of which had been sold; "We thought it our duty to inform you that if there be no care and provision made by or out of the purchases above-mentioned, both the schoolmaster will be unprovided for and the said Collegiate and Parochial Church will go to utter ruin: And so the parish consisting of about 3000 people will want a meeting place for the public worship of God which will seem very hard"

Cludd was also concerned in compiling a similar record for the "Deanery of York" for which he was given an allowance of just over £40 by Parliament.

Doubtless it was the knowledge he acquired in this work which inspired Cludd with the idea of purchasing as much of this former Church property as he was able to do, and in Southwell he bought Norwood Park of which he was described as "the Keeper", the Little Park and Hexgreave, all of which were until their expropriation the property of the Archbishop, as well as some Chapter land. At Norwood for which he paid £964 (some Accounts make it £1000) he built what Thornton calls a "pretty brick house" and for Hexgreave and the Little Park, which probably included the partly ruined Palace, he paid £666.7s.3½d.

He continued to be mixed up in Government affairs and was one of the Committee of 11 men who ruled Nottinghamshire under the Government of Major Generals, which has been described as the most unpopular government that England ever had. So much so that Cromwell was forced to summon another Parliament, though the members of it were largely nominated by the Major Generals. Once more Cludd represented Nottinghamshire from 1656 with one E. Neville and Peniston Whalley, who was himself not a Roundhead.

His Parliamentary duties certainly did not mean that Cludd was away from his native County, as locally he was a member of the Committee for removing scandalous Ministers (i.e. controlling the church) from 1654 and was an acting County Magistrate during the whole Commonwealth period. He was indeed entrusted by Quarter Sessions with £200 to spend on rebuilding the House of Correction on Burgage Green, which had fallen into decay, and was said to be active in formalizing the civil marriage ceremony which had taken the place of the marriage in church. As to how many such marriages there were we do not know, because the old system of registering christenings, marriages and burials had of course broken down, and the new "Register" appointed under the Commonwealth after 1653 was rather haphazard. But curiously enough there is one entry in the Southwell Register on 17 June 1658 of a marriage ceremony in church followed by a declaration by the couple that they were man and wife before "Edward Cludd Esquire", and there are a few other references to him in other local registers. It is probable that, as tradition asserts, Cludd sat under an oak tree outside his house to transact this business in summertime. The oak itself blew down at the end of the last century and in the Minster library there is a box and a carved panel made out of the wood from it.

In 1659, when the Protectorate began to show signs of breaking up under the weak rule of Richard Cromwell, there was a curious little local uprising. It was anticipated by the Government. On the 2 July a circular was addressed to Military Commanders warning them of a Royalist Plot, and in Nottinghamshire this was received by Captain Cludd as Southwell was the H.Q. of the Militia Horse. Lord Byron was the local Royalist ringleader along with a discontented Parliamentarian called Charles White and Robert Pierrepont and others. He intended to raid Southwell and take Newark. But things went wrong and Cludd's militia with reinforcements chased the Royalists over Trent Bridge and rounded most of them up. The incident is referred to in Mrs. Lucy Hutchinson's well-known life of her husband.

This was the beginning of the end of the Commonwealth, and on 19 January 1660 General Monk with his Army passed through Southwell, watched by William Mompesson and doubtless many others including Cludd, on his way to London to declare for the King.

After the Restoration it was essential to sort out and settle the political and social upheavals caused by the civil war and the Commonwealth, and the new Parliament promptly set about this urgent business, passing several Acts, notably the Act of Oblivion and the Act for Confirming

Judicial Proceedings of 1660. By the first named Act all persons, other than those mentioned by name, (including the Regicides), were given a free pardon for having committed treasons, murders, felonies or misdemeanors between 1 Jan 1637 and 24 June 1660 under cover of authority from either the Cromwellian government or under Royal Authority. Likewise sales of land under the necessities of the times effected for value were generally speaking not to be impeached. But there was an exception in favour of the Crown and for Archbishops, Bishops, Deans and Chapters. Also any persons who had entered upon Fabric lands or had sacrilegiously enriched themselves by converting Church Plate were specially excepted. By a further Act (12 Car II cap XVII) ordained Ministers were for the most part entitled to reclaim their livings.

Thus poor Cludd's title to the Archbishop's property was totally void, as likewise in the case of any Chapter land he had acquired, and nowhere is there any mention of a right to claim back what he had paid for it.

Now it is perhaps pertinent to mention here that there is not among such papers as we have at Southwell, nor those at York, any exact information about what former Chapter property Cludd himself acquired during the time when it was suppressed. Yet his nephew Bartholomew Fillingham certainly did not scruple to buy what he could, and it is fair to assume that Cludd may have put him up to it, having himself compiled the official record of what property there was for disposal. Or perhaps Bartholomew may have bought it with Cludd's money.

In a statement written in his own handwriting Fillingham sets out the details of all his forfeited purchases, 28 lots in all, for which he paid the very large sum of £851.6s.3d. The statement bears no date, but is quite obviously written by him after the Restoration because in the margin in certain cases he pleads for consideration as having a right to become the Lessee. This is stressed in 4 cases of properties bought "in possession", that is, not being in Lease from the Chapter at that time, and therefore he hopes he has a right to the Lease. The records of Leases granted by the Chapter after the Restoration contain no reference to any Lease in Fillingham's favour until after the death of Cludd when he succeeded to his Uncle's interest.

Cludd himself took at least 4 lots under lease from the Chapter as follows:

<i>Date and term</i>	<i>Property</i>	<i>Rent</i>
I 2 Nov 1661 21 years	A tenement and land at Moorhouse and Laxton formerly occupied by Richard Pye and later his Widow and a cottage at Easthorpe occupied by Robt Buckle	15/- & 2 capons 6/8
II 1 Dec 1662	Cottage at Westorpe together with oxgang Called "Itchbone land and two doles of Meadow 3 roods	£3 land 6/- cottage
III 19 Sept 1662 21 years	William Little's Cottage at Burgage Southwell Two toftheads etc And a close called Plummers Close belonging To the fabric	6/- "Itchbone" 2 capons and 1 hen 8/6

(Fillingham also states that he paid £15.6s. for William Little's cottage the rent of which was 14/- increasing to 16/-).

On 3 June 1663 there was another Lease of the above cottage property for reasons which are not clear (unless it was a different cottage) and the rent was to be 14/- for the cottage and croft and 1/- each for the toftsteads.

IV 10 Nov 1666 A messuage at Westhorpe formely occupied by
Nicholas Warriner then James Plowman and
Richard Uffitt with St. Katherines cottage and
1 rood nigh it and 1 other cottage

45/6

In all the above Leases Cludd is described as of Norwood Park "Esquire", and the description of the properties have here been shortened. The rents charged appear to be the customary rents and sometimes this is mentioned as being the case.

While all this was going on, Mr. Cludd was doing what he could to preserve his own purchases made of the Archbishop's property as very much more was at stake. In addition to the capital laid down for Norwood, Hexgreave and the little Park, he had built his own house at Norwood; this is made very clear in the negotiations conducted with Archbishop Frewen's Commissioners after the Restoration. It appears that before the War a Patent for the Keepership of Norwood had been granted for two lives and that this term had been assigned to Edward Cludd before his purchase "under the tittle of the late usurped powers" "in the tyme of the late troubles". Cludd was clearly desperate to secure his own residence and agreed with the Commissioners a rent of £80, far above the property's true worth "to quit all competition and competiores". The Commissioners thereupon granted him the house and Park at this rent during the Archbishop's pleasure, but reserved his right to enter the house on 14 day's notice, using Cludd's furniture and utensils and having the right to feed his horses in the Park, with a suitable abatement of the rent. This was done because of course the Southwell Palace had become ruinous and was quite uninhabitable. In 1663 there is a mysterious interlude and it appears that Cludd went to prison for suspected disloyalty. There is even a draft of a new lease of Norwood Park and the house to one John Rolleston of Welbeck, which presumably was prepared on the assumption that Cludd would remain in custody. A letter from Bartholomew Fillingham in the Minster seems to confirm the date of this incident. He writes to Francis Leeke, one of the Canons, about some rent due to him which Fillingham has collected for him and, as £4.10s. is due to him he suggests that the Canon should "take it up of my Uncle Cludd if he bee in a condition and at liberty he will pay it to you". The letter is dated from Westminster 13 Feb 1663/4. Cludd was, it seems, released in that very month as there is a letter at York from Cludd to Moseley, one of the Archbishop's Commissioners, thanking him for his mediation to Mr. Rolleston. "Nor will you ever" he says "receve any dishonour in so swearing of my innocence". There is little doubt that the Lease was restored to him and that his pleas were successful in getting the rent reduced to £60. He was very careful to ingratiate himself with Mr. Moseley by looking after some horses for him in the Park and keeping some "littell spaniall whelpes" for his daughters.

He was however unsuccessful in retaining a Lease of Hexgreave Park or the Little Park. Hexgreave was leased to one Hugh Cartwright upon payment of a fine of £236.01s.8d. with an annual rent of £10 rising to £12 and the Little or New Park was also leased to him and later to William Pierrepont for 20 years for the herbage and panngae "and 12 good couple of conies out of the warren at the coombes" at a fine of £100 and a rent of £5.13s.4d. Both these leases were granted in 1661 and there is no further record in the York records of Cludd having leases of other land.

In the few remaining scraps of paper at Southwell covering the immediate post-war period there is one letter from Cludd written in a rather wavery hand and showing every sign of a guilty conscience towards the Church. It is unfortunately undated, but is addressed to "my Honnored friend Mr Dickes at his lodgings in Southwell this prsel" and is signed "Yr very affectionate friend Edw Cludd Norwood this Wensday".

Now Edward Dix was the first of the new Canons to be installed after the inter-regnum and was appointed to the Prebend of Norwell Overhall, his installation being on 4th August 1660. In fact he soon became the senior Canon and took a prominent part in the affairs of the Chapter from that time on, becoming Resident for the first time on 1 Jan 1661 for the Quarter beginning then. He was then succeeded by his predecessor John Neile once more as residentiary, though on 29

July 1661 Acceptus Frewen, the Archbishop, wrote to the Chapter from London appointing the "North West part of the Vicaridge where Mr. Barker now dwells for Mr. Dix his place of residency". Mr. Dix was a fairly regular attender at Chapter meetings. So it is not possible to be certain whether he had a permanent residence at the Vicarage or whether the Archbishop was appointing a temporary Residence house, and for the same reason it is difficult to assign any date to Cludd's letter; but it seems likely that it was before the 3rd March 1662/3 when the Chapter formally authorised the leasing to him of the lands at Westhorpe and elsewhere. The letter, the full text of which is verbose and unctuous, contains several assertions; the first is that the writer had already handed over writings which were important to the church but had not been given any thanks for so doing. That Mr..(Francis) Leeke (the next most important Canon and who was himself concerned over the recovery of Chapter property) had stated that these were but "a company of ould papers" or as we should perhaps say, "a load of old rubbish". That he would do his best to find out any other details about unrecovered property of which the Chapter was unaware. That he still had certain surveys of Chapter property but that others were outstanding which had not been in his possession. Some of those sent with the letter are listed, but it sounds as if he referred also to other papers which might be important, notably one relating to land belonging to Sacrista Prebend, the ownership of which might be lost through adverse possession.

The whole tone of the writer is that of one who was formerly important, who feels he has been rebuffed and is sulky about it and would like to buy his way back into favour.

Unfortunately we shall never know how far he was successful.

He mentions the names of some 15 people known to have been tenants, and is quite muddled about Little Park which of course did not concern the Chapter at all, and the draftmanship of the letter does not impress a modern reader with a feeling of respect, as do Mr. Cludd's surveys made more than 10 years earlier.

He was indeed becoming an old man, and his recent worries may have begun to take their toll of him.

At about this time he gave details of his pedigree and arms at the Heralds Visitation of the County, spelling his name "Clud" with one 'd'. He also adds that "26 Aug 1662 having served as Captain of a Troop of Horse under Oliver Cromwell late called Protector of the Commonwealth of England had a special pardon for same and all other treasons granted under the Great Seal of England 8 July 12 Car 2." Why he should have thought this necessary in view of the Act of Oblivion we shall never know. But impoverished Charles II was only too pleased to issue harmless documents to his subjects for a suitable reward.

Before bringing to an end this little life history of a locally famous but nationally obscure Parliamentary, it is necessary to consider dispassionately the event which is said to have occurred at Southwell, namely the saving of the Minster, or a part of it, from destruction. The earliest mention of this alleged event appears in the first Edition of Dickinson's History of Southwell published in 1788, some 135 years after it is said to have happened. Dickinson says he is quoting from a private history of the Church which no-one else since has ever seen and which, if it ever existed at all as a contemporary account, is not in existence now. He says that the Cromwellian Government (he does not say which one) issued a warrant for the destruction of "Cathedrals" (and another mention says "The Anti-Choir") and that Cludd by his personal influence with Cromwell had Southwell spared. This story with slight and unimportant variations is repeated in all the later history books about Southwell and it is clear that the authors copied the tale from Dickinson. Dickinson also adds that Cludd was a moderate and no extremist, which is very likely true. He had too much to lose from the excesses urged by the Levellers and their like; but can the tale be true? Long study of the Acts and Ordinances of the so-called Parliaments of the Protectorate has not so far produced any strong support for the idea of such an edict. Indeed what use would it have served? The Nave was a building then as now of considerable strength, and would have required some knocking down. Moreover it served its purpose for stabling horses, so we are assured and the rings for tying them were still there when Shilton published his History in 1818. Doubtless it was also used as a store for military purposes. It may be added that

similar stories exist in other places, e.g. Lincoln, and modern historians set little store by them. Moreover Dickinson was a notoriously careless historian. He could not even get his facts right about Cludd's death which he says took place in 1672 and credits him with the broken stone with "E.C." upon it of that date near the entrance to the North Aisle of the Choir. In fact Cludd even served on a jury in 1676 and died in 1678 and it is not known where he is buried.

He left a will, the original of which cannot now be found as it is not at Nottingham where the original should be, though a copy is enrolled, Bartholomew Fillingham was his Executor and sole legatee. Mrs. Cludd had predeceased him and the name fades out of County history. The "pretty brick house" which he built at Norwood was replaced by the present house on a new site higher up, and his memory is kept alive only by a supposed incident which probably never happened quite in the way which Dickinson records it. A possible explanation may be that the Puritans were pulling the furnishings out of the Choir and had already removed the old carved stone stalls and then Cludd heard about this and came along and stopped them from continuing their work by destroying the screen. Why was no further damage done? Let us hope that Cludd may have earned our gratitude for this at least. His energetic acquisitiveness in other ways has long been expiated. May his Shade rest in peace!

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MSS in the Minster referred to are as follows:

Parliamentary Survey 219. Lease Books 321 and K Act Book IIA and envelope of miscellaneous documents.

MSS at Boothwick Institute York include CC AblO Bp. Dio CC Ab 2/2.3 and CC ABS/3,4.

See also Professor A.C. Woods History of Nottinghamshire and History of the Civil Wars in Nottinghamshire;

H. Hampton Copnalls's Summary Volume of Notts County records.