

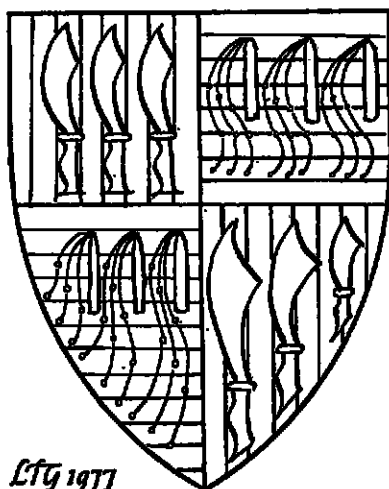
Coats of Arms of some Ricardian Contemporaries

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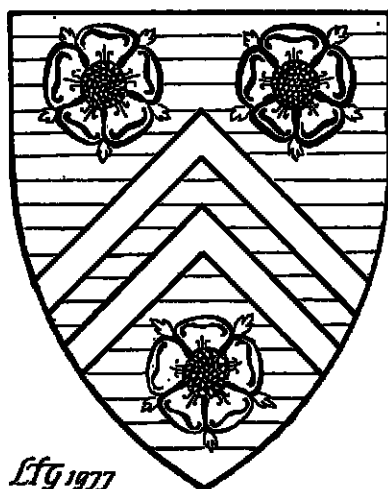
CROYLAND ABBEY: Founded 716

- 699 Guthlac, a hermit, landed at Croyland on St Bartholomew's Day (24th August)
- 716 Kenulf, the first Abbot
- 1076 Ingulf, traditional author of the Croyland Chronicle
- 1393 Abbey raised to mitred status
- 1469 John of Wisbech, Abbot
First Continuation of the Croyland Chronicle written
- 1486 Lambert Fosdyke, Abbot
Second Continuation of the Croyland Chronicle written (brought up to date from 1469—see under Russell below)

The coat-of-arms 'carried by the Abbey in full right' ¹ is the quartered arms of St Bartholomew and St Guthlac. Most of the better known and others of the ancient saints had attributed arms: 1 and 4 for St Bartholomew: Red, in fess three flaying knives of silver with golden handles; 2 and 3 for St Guthlac: Blue, in fess three golden whips each with three thongs. St Bartholomew the Apostle was flayed alive, and the knife was that of his martyrdom. St Guthlac,



CROYLAND



RUSSELL

born *circa* 673, was much venerated in his own time, and even more so not long after his death in 714. He 'enjoyed heavenly visions but also had to combat demonic temptations.'² His whip (almost needless to say, sent in answer to a prayer to his patron saint) was used to flog the Devil. According to Fox-Davies³ the only essential difference in the mitres of abbots and bishops is in the absence or presence of what we call the ribbons (infulae).

JOHN RUSSELL: Bishop of Lincoln, died 1494

1449-62 Winchester, New College, etc.

1466 Archdeacon of Berkshire

1474-83 Keeper of the Privy Seal

Negotiated marriage between Cicely, daughter of King Edward IV, and the future James IV of Scotland, which did not take place

1476-80 Bishop of Rochester

1480-94 Bishop of Lincoln

1483-85 Chancellor of England

1483-94 Chancellor of Oxford University

It seems that the arms of the See of Lincoln were not used before 1495 (and then only as a seal),⁴ so Russell must have his mitre, but his shield cannot impale the arms of the Bishopruc. His personal arms were: Blue, two golden chevronels between three silver roses.⁵ He was evidently not of the same family as the later earls and dukes of Bedford.

It could be said that the most important thing about Russell is his possible connection with the Second Continuation of the Croyland Chronicle (covering 1483-5), and it seems that one can now again agree with Kendall when he said 'There is considerable evidence to suggest that the materials, if not the actual writing, of most of this narrative is the work of John Russell, Bishop of Lincoln, one of Edward's most intimate advisers and Richard's Chancellor.'⁶

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. Croyland Abbey, the *Official Guide Book* (no date), p.8.
2. R. L. P. Milburn, *Saints and their Emblems in English Churches*, Oxford (1957), p.120.
3. A. C. Fox-Davies, *Complete Guide to Heraldry*, London (1951), p.601.
4. E. E. Dorling, *Heraldry of the Church*, London(?) (1911), p.42.
5. Bernard Burke, *General Armory*, London (1884), p.880.
6. P. M. Kendall, *Richard the Third*, London (1955), p.432.

Research Notes and Queries

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THE BURIAL PLACE OF RICHARD III

The burial place of Richard III is usually said to have been in the Grey Friars' Church, in Leicester; since not long after his death this has been given as the site of his tomb, and there appears no reason to doubt it. However, since