

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 Bishopric. 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

P. W. HAMMOND

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

there seems to be doubt in the minds of some members, it seemed opportune to summarise the evidence for the traditional site. This begins with the *Historia de Regibus Anglie* of John Rous, written before 1492, which states that Richard 'was buried in the choir of the Friars Minor at Leicester' (Alison Hanham, *Richard III and his early Historians 1483-1535*, 1975, pp.123-4). The Franciscan Friars Minor were the Grey Friars of course. This is confirmed by Polydore Vergil, who says that Richard was buried in 'thabbay of monks Franciscanes at Leycester' (*English History*, edited by Henry Ellis, Camden Society, 1844, p.226). A document in the Early Chancery Proceedings in the Public Record Office, first described by Rhoda Edwards (*Ricardian*, Vol. 3, No. 50, 1975, pp.8-9), concerning a dispute over the setting up of the tomb, states that it was placed in the church 'of Friers.' It first named the church as Newark, but this was deleted, a change which would not have been made if there had been any doubt that the tomb was in a Friary. The final confirmation that the church was, in fact, that of the Grey Friars is found in the Itinerary of John Leland. Leland visited Leicester before 1543, and says: 'The Grey-Freres of Leicester stode at the ende of the hospital of Mr Wigeston . . . and there was byried King Richard 3 . . . These thinges brevely I markid at Leyrcester' (*Leland's Itinerary*, edited by Lucy Toulmin-Smith, Vol. 1, 1907, p.15). It seems very likely that Leland saw the church very shortly after the Friary was suppressed, or perhaps before, and he may even have seen the tomb of Richard III.

There is thus no doubt that the tomb was built in the Grey Friars' Church. Further confirmation, if needed, is provided by Leland's reference to Wigston's Hospital, which was undoubtedly next to the Grey Friars.

JOHN NESFIELD

An interesting quotation, further linking Nesfield with Richard of Gloucester and the events of 1483, has been sent by W. E. Hampton, author of the article of the above title in the September (*Ricardian* Vol. 4, No. 58, pp.2-8). This quotation is from Thomas More's *Richard III*, where in the account of the events of 24th June, 1483, after the description of the Duke of Buckingham's speech to the citizens assembled in the Guildhall occur the words: 'tyl at the last in the neder ende of the hal, a bushement of the dukes seruantes and Nashefeldes and other longing to the protectour . . . began sodainelye at mennes backes to crye owte as lowde as their throtes would gyue: king Rycharde kinge Rycharde, and threwe vp their cappes in token of ioye' (edited by R. S. Sylvester, London, 1963, p.76). As Mr Hampton says, this quotation shows that Nesfield, or his servants at least, were involved in these events, that he was a man of substance with a following, and famous enough for More to refer to him by surname without otherwise identifying him. It seems probable that he was already a retainer of Richard's.