

Research Notes and Queries

Bosworth 1862

O. D. Harris writes:

On 6 August 1862 the annual excursion of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society took place, to Bosworth Field. Also invited were the members of the British Archaeological Association, the architectural societies of Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, and the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society. The day's events are recounted in the *Associated Architectural Societies Reports and Papers*, vol. 6 (1862), pp.243-74; the *Transactions* of the LAAS, vol. 2 (1870), pp.112-47; and the *Leicester Journal and Leicester Chronicle* of 8 and 9 August respectively.

The convoy of fifteen or so carriages which left Leicester some time after 10.00 a.m. (late, because of the many last minute ticket applications) was led by the bugler of the Leicestershire Rifle Volunteers; while the supplier of most of the vehicles rode ahead to pay turnpike tolls. The first halt was Kirby Muxloe Castle, followed by Market Bosworth, to visit the church and hall. Lunch was served at the Dixie Arms Hotel, but there were not enough waiters to cope with more than two hundred excursionists, 'whose appetites by the long drive from Leicester had been not a little sharpened', and some resentment seems to have been aroused. At 3.00, however, the bugle sounded, and the tourists set off for the battlefield itself. There they found waiting a crowd of three thousand, great flags to mark significant points on the field, and, on top of Ambion Hill, a large platform decorated with banners and evergreens at their disposal. On a velvet cushion rested a silver-gilt facsimile of the crown of Richard III.

Major Wollaston of Shenton Hall opened the proceedings, referring to the 'soldiers of the chase' now commonly to be seen on the hill. The main speaker, who followed, was the Rev. Prebendary Edward Trollope, General Secretary of the Associated Architectural Societies. He began by describing the modern landscape, and also the assembled crowd, 'a mighty mass, composed of the

various classes that together constitute England's population, met together for a peaceful purpose, and so entirely destitute of all mutual fear, that the most formidable weapon among them is a walking stick!' He then summarised the political background to 1485, the early life of Henry Tudor, and finally the actual battle (basing his account for the most part on Hutton's *Bosworth Field*, with a few additional points). Afterwards, there was a vote of thanks, and the meeting ended with the presentation to Trollope of the replica crown. Then 'the bugle's note once more sounded on the battlefield, though not for the retreat of men engaged in deadly conflict, but of men who had assembled to refresh the memory of a great crisis in our national history'.

The next stop was Stoke Golding church, where Trollope read a paper on the architecture; and then the church at Earl Shilton. Unfortunately, possibly because of a funeral, not all the carriages stopped here, and the confusion led to further delay. The convoy finally arrived back in Leicester a little before 8.00, but only half an hour later a meeting presided over by the mayor began in the New Music Hall. Three papers were read, including Trollope's account of the battle in a fuller version. The meeting was over by 11.00: and so ended nearly thirteen hours of antiquarian activity.

The Earl of Lincoln's Son

Doreen Lewis writes:

As a footnote to Barrie Williams' article 'The Mystery of Richard de la Pole' in *The Ricardian* (vol. 7, no. 88, March 1985, pp.18-25), Mr. Williams and other readers might be interested to learn that there is a source that cites the Earl of Lincoln as having had a son. His name is given as Edward (or Edmund) and he died in infancy in the life of his father and his grandfather (H. M. Lane, *The Royal Daughters of England*, Constable 1910, vol. 2, p.334). Lane unfortunately gives no source for this detail and *The Complete Peerage* does not repeat the story.

Correction

David Baldwin, What happened to Lord Lovel? *The Ricardian*, volume 7, number 89, page 59, line 7: 'material' should read 'maternal'.