

A History of the English Austin Friars

(continuation) *)

16 Droitwich or Wyche 1331-1538

Wychia (wrongly : *Bsychia* or *Bychia*) ; Limit : Lincoln ; Diocese : Worcester ; County : Worcester ; Patron : unknown.

This town received its name from Wyche (Wich = *vicus* = dwelling) and 'droit', right, because the king and a few great nobles had the exclusive rights to the profits from its saltworks which are unsurpassed in England. To the burghers was left only the labor ⁶¹⁰).

The founder of its Austin friary was Thomas Beauchamp, eleventh earl of Warwick (D 596) though he is not mentioned in the first known acquisitions of land confirmed by King Richard II in 1385 ⁶¹¹). The first, a plot of land 300 sq. ft., was obtained in 1331* from Thomas Alleyn « for the building of an oratory and dwelling place » ; another plot 200 × 60 ft. from John Dragoun in 1343 ⁶¹²), and the third, five acres, from John Bush and William Mercer, chaplains, in 1351*. Beauchamp liked the Austins so much that he built a house beside the friary, for which the fathers gave him a

*) *Augustiniana* 8 (1958), 22-47, 465-496; 11 (1961), 533-563; 12 (1962), 93-122, 391-442; 13 (1963), 515-551; 14 (1964), 163-215.

⁶¹⁰) LELAND, *Itin.* II, 92. The author gives a graphic picture of the town but does not mention the Austin friary, the only religious house in town. He might have had it in mind when he wrote: « I also saw another church on a hillet a little beyond the towne in dextra ripa fluvii [Salwarpe], beyond the wod bridge, and a little above the principalli salt springe ».

⁶¹¹) The *Inspeximus* and confirmation of the king is dated 10 Dec. 1385: *Rich. II, Pat. R. 1385/9*, p. 73.

⁶¹²) D 341 is correct. D 235 should be eliminated from our *Sources* because it is misdated.

piece of land without royal permission. When Beauchamp's son fell into disgrace, the house was taken into the king's hands and the Austins had to beg for and received pardon in 1397*. Nine years earlier, in 1388, the same earl of Warwick had erected a cell for an inmate next to the choir ⁶¹³).

The friary did not play a leading role in the history of the province, but cannot have been very small, since provincial chapters were held here in 1391* and 1439*. Its most prominent member was John Lowe who in 1430* was allowed to affiliate himself with the great house in London, where he became confessor to the king, and then bishop of St. Asaph and Rochester.

The friary was staunchly Catholic. Ingworth found eleven bulls of the bishop of Rome and a hundred letters of pardon and in all the books of the choir « the name of the bishop of Rome still standing as it did twenty years ago » (D 1113). The Act of Surrender has disappeared. Despite the need of many repairs the site must have been a most attractive prize for speculators in church property, because Latimer wrote a very bitter letter to Cromwell that John Pye and his friends were given preference when he himself had wanted it. Pye and Robert Were bought the property for £ 20-0-20. (D 1113).

Priors: 1388 Henry Duke (D 596).

before 1538 Blessed John Stone ⁶¹⁴) ?

Literature:

A. G. LITTLE in *VCH-Worcester* II (1908) 173/5.

17. Gorleston or Little Yarmouth 1267-1538

Gorlestunum, Gorledunum, Parva Jeremutha (Gernemute, *Jer-nemute*, wrongly : *Seremute*) ; Diocese : Norwich ; County : Norfolk ; Limit : Cambridge ; Patron : St. Augustine ⁶¹⁵).

Gorleston and Southtown were two hamlets connected with

⁶¹³) P. 185 (XIII, 522) *supra*.

⁶¹⁴) E. A. FORAN, *Notes on the Lives of English Augustinian Martyrs* (London 1922) 16. Foran does not give any source for this claim.

⁶¹⁵) PALMER, *Perlustration* III, 325 had the church dedicated to St. Nicholas. It would have been strange indeed, if the Austins had chosen the same patron as that of the parish church. WORCESTER, *Itin.* 377 assigns as patron St. Augustine (« in choro ecclesiae Sti. Augustini »).

Whenever special references are not given in the following narrative we rely on Palmer.

Great Yarmouth by a bridge over the River Yare ; their territory was also known as Little Yarmouth. Until its incorporation with Great Yarmouth in 1688 it belonged to Suffolk, since then to Norfolk. The road separating Southtown from Gorleston ends in a bifurcation, of which one end turns southwest to Beccles and the other southeast to Lowestoft. Where this separation began, the Austins settled ⁶¹⁶). Since they preceded all Mendicant Orders in this important English port, it is strange that they did not move into the city, unless they arrived before 1256 when they still preferred the solitary life. Their early arrival is indicated by the simple protection which King Henry III granted in 1267* to the Hermits of Gosle of the Order of St. Augustine. Since a town by the name of Gosle is unknown in England, it is most probably identical with Gorleston. In 1277* the friary numbered twenty members and in 1279* it was strong enough to play host to the provincial chapter ⁶¹⁷).

In view of these facts it is untenable that William Woderove was the founder of Gorleston ; he only sold or donated in 1311* a very small plot of land 64 × 4 ft. Other real estate transactions were few, a sure sign that enough land had been acquired before the act of mortmain was enacted in 1276. In addition to Woderove's land the Austins obtained in 1338* a plot of ground 210 × 70 ft. from William Man and in 1340* a message from Richard Hensted and Bartholomew Fraunceys.

Teasdel, one of Gorleston's historians, claims that the church and living quarters of the friars were almost a quarter of a mile apart, the church lying to the south in the parish of St. Andrew's, Gorleston, while the monastery was located within the parish of St. Nicholas, Southtown ⁶¹⁸). Both parishes were held in advowson by the mighty St. Bartholomew's priory in London. When the Austins became so prominent that the town was called *Gorlestuna Augustiniensium* or *Gernemutha Augustiniana*, difficulties were bound to arise. They were settled in 1341*.

The church including the choir was 100 paces long and the nave 24 paces wide, in today's measurements about 175 × 42 ft. (D 853). The square, embattled tower reached 100 ft. high. Certain

⁶¹⁶) TEASDEL, *History* 9.

⁶¹⁷) Other provincial chapters were held here in 1301*, 1390*, 1423*, 1466*. See appendix for list of chapters.

⁶¹⁸) D 333 and p. 54 (VIII, 487) *supra*.

remains found in 1760 place its building in the highly Decorative Period. John of Boston, a monk of Bury St. Edmund's who visited Gorleston in 1400 tells us that the church was built upon an old Roman temple, some remains of it being preserved by the friars for a long time. Encoustic tiles full of armorial bearings paved the church. Cartloads of them were used for paving after the dissolution. John Fastolf, the famous admiral, had bequeathed 100 marks for windows in the church, and John Paston took a lively interest in the progress of this work (D 882). The money, however, was not paid after Paston was deprived of his executorship. Among the many monuments an inscription recalled a stark tragedy. It read :

« Here is Friars Ingram's monument in brasse
Who received his mortal wound at masse » ⁶¹⁹).

Nothing is known about the time of this murder, its perpetrator or victim.

The unroofed walls of the church stood until 1760 when they were pulled down. « The only part left standing being the east wall of the tower » which Camden informs us was in his time « in good stead for a sea mark ». This singular fragment, known as « the old steeple » remained entire from base to battlement until February 1813, when a gale of wind brought it to the ground with a mighty crash ». In 1783 remains of the conventual building were converted into a farm house, called New Hall, parts of which were still standing at Palmer's time (1875).

Many men and women of noble birth were buried in the friars' cemetery which lay northwest of the church. Among several Fastolfs is mentioned also an Austin Friar Richard Fastolf ⁶²⁰). The Bacons had their own burial chapel.

According to Palmer many bequests were made to this friary. Elizabeth Burgh gave £ 8-0-0 in 1343* and in 1504 Wm. Smith of Weston by Beccles bequeathed 20s to the friary itself, 4d to every friar priest and 2d for every friar not priest ⁶²¹).

⁶¹⁹) TEASDEL, *History* 12.

⁶²⁰) The names given by WORCESTRE, *Itin.* 377 can be trusted because he took them from the monuments within the monastery grounds, but few of the persons reported by WEEVER, *Ancient Fun. Monum.* 576 were actually buried here. Joan of Acre, for example, was interred at Clare. The names, which he took from an old missal, were only prayed for, probably in many houses of the Order.

⁶²¹) SUCKLING, *History* 369. These individual gifts are a clear indication of the

The great glory of this house was its library of rare and precious books. Bale writes that he had not even believed that such treasures existed anywhere in England ⁶²²). Its famous librarian, Prior John Brome (ca 1420), provided each volume with an index (D 734).

The royal permission of 1339* to acquire a plot of land in Great Yarmouth confirms the old tradition that the Austins had a cell in the city, probably for begging purposes. The street adjoining the former property is still called Austin Row, though popularly corrupted into Ostend Row.

The Act of Surrender is lost. Ingworth suppressed the friary before December 1538 and John Eyre leased it for 18s8d. Amongst the buildings are mentioned « the infirmary, the winter hall, the bread chamber, the Ostersys chamber and the building called Bokerde » (D 1140). The roofs of the church and monastery were immediately stripped of their lead and for several centuries the unprotected walls bore witness against a ruthless, greedy past.

Priors: About 1420 John Brome (« prior for many years »: D 734).

1422 John Thirlow, a member of Clare friary (D 722).

1509/10 Henry Chapelyn (D 1003).

Literature:

J. C. COX, in *VCH-Suffolk* II (London 1907) 129/30, repeated in *VCH-Norfolk* (London 1908) 437/8. The main source will ever be Ch. J. PALMER, *The Perilustration of Great Yarmouth* 3 (Great Yarmouth 1875) 324-333, from which R. H. TEASDEL copied most of his *History of Gorleston* (Norwich 1933) 8-12. A. SUCKLING, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk* I (London 1846) 369/71. H. Manship, *The History of Great Yarmouth*, written in 1619, published by Ch. J. Palmer at Great Yarmouth in 1854, pp. 427/8. A sketch of the tower prior to 1813 by G. H. Trury in TEASDEL, *op. cit.*

18. Grimsby 1293-1539

Gremisbia, Grynibum, Grunisbia etc : Limit, Diocese, County : Lincoln ; Patron : unknown.

existing *peculium*. — Many last wills may be found in H. SWINDEN, *The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Burgh of Gt. Yarmouth in the County of Norfolk* (Norwich 1772). Special benefactors were the Stalhams of Gt. Yarmouth. In 1349 Simon de Stalham bequeathed 10s and Jeffrey 20s. In 1362 Stephen St. gave five marks and a like sum was bequeathed by John St. in 1374 and William St. in 1379 (SWINDEN, *op. cit.* 818, 804, 806, 808).

⁶²²) D 979 and chapter on libraries *infra*.

Sir William Fraunk, a prominent Lincolnshire man, was the founder of the Austin friary in Gt. Grimsby. He had been mayor of that town in 1287 and 1289, had rendered valuable service to Isabella, the Queen Dowager, and received many favors from King Edward II ⁶²³). On 22 November 1293 he received royal license to alienate a messuage in Grimsby for the purpose of establishing an Austin friary ⁶²⁴).

The friars' church was but two hundred yards distant from the parish church of St. James ⁶²⁵) which was appropriated to the abbey of Wellow. Whether it was the building of their church without permission of either the bishop or the abbey ⁶²⁶), or for some other reason, the Austins found themselves under interdict levied by Bishop Sutton († 1300). The ban was not lifted until 1307* when a rather one-sided compromise was effected. The provincial, John of Clare, and the prior, Simon of Eston, practically surrendered their papal privileges in order to have the interdict removed ⁶²⁷). How the Austins survived during this period is not known, but it must have been a time of extreme hardship. Seeing that they could not succeed by themselves they turned to higher authorities. When in 1315* John atte Sea wanted to give them a messuage, they asked Queen Isabella herself to mediate for the royal license. In 1342* John's son, Peter, undertook to pay the annual tax of 10s resting on this messuage. In March 1337* the friars obtained half an acre of land from William de Brocklesby ⁶²⁸), the king's clerk. Royal aid was also quickly given in 1339*, when some kind of riot broke out in which an Austin was mistreated. Not only the friary but even their lawyer was granted special protection for one year.

⁶²³) SHAW, *Old Grimsby* 136.

⁶²⁴) Fraunk's bequest was made to the Austins of Lincoln, where the vicar of the limit was located (D 116). Fraunk charged his own property with 6d a year which was due to the Exchequer.

⁶²⁵) OLIVER, *Monum. Antiq.* 110.

⁶²⁶) Little in VCH quotes DALDERBY's *Register, Memoranda Roll*, fol. 26. We could not find this passage in the printed edition. The settlement of 1307* concerns the payment of taxes rather than the building of a church.

⁶²⁷) P. 48 (VIII, 480) *supra*; D 136.

⁶²⁸) He was probably a relative of the Austin Longspey of Brocklesby (D 306). Either one might have given the Brocksby chest to the Cambridge library (D 788).

Some other acquisitions of land were a plot 80×48 ft. from William Dudale (Dugdale ?) and another 80×24 ft. from Edmund de Fal, both in 1305*, and a third 140×84 ft. from Simon of Grimsby in 1333*.

In 1421 John Cotes, knight of Cotes Parva (situated one mile west of Gt. Grimsby), wanted to be buried in the Austin Church of Grimsby and donated for his burial two oxen ; he also bequeathed 4d to each member of the friary and 4d to each priest who would attend his funeral ⁶²⁹).

Evil times befell the city in 1483 when it was plundered and scarcely twelve men of substance were left. It would be impossible, the city fathers wrote to the king, to restore it and provide for three parish churches, two friaries (Franciscans and Austins), an abbey and one house of nuns.

About this time King Henry VII wrote to Grimsby that some citizens had attacked the Austin friary « riotous wise » and indicted certain brethren without reasonable cause to their « unportable » charges and cost. He ordered them to desist. No further details are known ⁶³⁰).

Under such conditions it is not surprising that nothing important is known until 1518* when Sir Marmaduke Constable of Flamborough established a chantry for three years under the condition that a different priest sing a mass every day for him and receive a stipend of 5d. of which 3d was the stipend for the mass and 2d a pittance. Several bequests were also made to the *Scala Coeli* erected in the friars' church (D 1039, 1073).

Leland found some very old (*vetustissimi*) manuscripts in their library but gave no details ⁶³¹).

During the Pilgrimage of Grace, the newly elected prior of the Austins rode into the camp of the insurgents and offered them money. He was, however, not executed like some other religious because the rebels had threatened to burn down the friary if they would not support their cause (D 1104). The cruelty with which Henry VIII proceeded against the participants was no doubt the reason why in October 1538 the royal visitor, John Freeman, found most members gone. He made the prior keeper of the house for the king, with a promise of five marks at his departure. On 1 March 1539 Ingworth suppressed the house, committing it and its bells to the mayor. The city wanted it for ordnance and other necessities of

⁶²⁹) FOSTER, *Lincoln Wills* I, 12. See index of this work and VCH for other minor bequests.

⁶³⁰) *Hist. Mss. Comm.* 14. *Rep.* 269, 243.

⁶³¹) EHR 54 (1939) 93.

defense. « It stands very well for the purpose near the water and open to the sea ». Its site, containing about five acres and valued at 20s p. a., was, however, granted to the dean and chapter of Westminster, who sold it in 1546 to Augustine Porter of Bolton and John Bellow (D 1150). In 1825 nothing remained of the edifice but some old walls which enclosed a small farmyard still called the « Friars » ⁶³²).

Priors: 1300 William de Hardewone (D 142).

1307 Simon de Estone (D 163).

1307 (fall) Roger de Boctone (not Woctone as in D 163).

1339 Walter de Belesby (D 322).

1419 John Danyell (D 711).

1529 « Sir » William Taylor (D 1073), probably identical with Frere Tyallzer in D 1104.

1530 Bryan Curtes (D 1073).

1536 John Aske (D 1104).

Literature:

M. A. LITTLE in *VCH-Lincoln* II (1906) 218/9, G. OLIVER, *The Monumental Antiquities of Great Grimsby* (Hull 1825); G. SHAW, *Old Grimsby* (Grimsby 1897). PRO, *Historical Manuscript Commission. 14. Report. Appendix, part 3. The Mss. of Lincoln, St. Edmunds, Great Grimsby Corporation.* (London 1895).

19. Hull or Kingston-on-Hull before 1300-1539

Hulla, Hulia, Hullae, Regiodonum Hullinum ; Limit, Diocese, County : York ; Patron : St. Michel.

Hull is today a large city of 300,000 inhabitants but in 1300 it scarcely numbered 2,000 people ⁶³³). The founder of its Austin friary was one of de la Pole, the rich wool merchants of the city. They are not directly mentioned but in a survey of estates belonging to Sir William Sidney, made in 1538, it was stated :

« Also there is two houses of Freers within the said town of Kingston upon Hull, the one called Whight [Carmelites] and the other the Austyn Freers, and the Chauncell of the Chorches of the said Freers with part of the cloisters be covered with lead. And the said William is the founder of them » ⁶³⁴).

⁶³²) OLIVER, *Monum. Antiq. III*.

⁶³³) The number of 2,000 inhabitants for 1377 is given in J. MONSON-FITZJAHN, *The City of Three Crowns* (London 1927) 13. The city grew rich under Richard II after it had annexed the whole trade in stockfish: LELAND, *Itin.* I, 48.

⁶³⁴) The original was in Frost's possession (*History* 67n), but seems to be lost now as I was kindly informed by Mr. Hadon Glen, the town clerk.

Though the Sidneys were an old noble family they did not come into prominence until Sir William lent valuable assistance in the battle of Flodden ⁶³⁵). For this he was knighted in 1515 and received part of the forfeited estates of Edmund de la Pole, the last Earl of Suffolk. With these lands he also inherited the rights connected with them, among them the the rights of a founder. This conclusion is certainly correct for the Carmelite friary which was without doubt a foundation of the de la Pole ⁶³⁶), therefore, it must also be right for the Austins. The contact between the Order and de la Pole is evident from the favor which Simon of Pistoja, prior general from 1295/8, granted to William de la Pole the Elder ⁶³⁷).

The Austins did not partake in a royal pittance in spring of 1300 ⁶³⁸), a sure sign, that they were not yet settled in Hull, but their place is recorded in 1303 in the description of an adjoining property owned by Gilbert de Bedford ⁶³⁹). Another property in the Flesh Market bordered on the their garden in the East, while the tenement of Sir Thomas de la Paule [Pole] flanked their friary ⁶⁴⁰). The street in front of their house was called Monkgate, which was turned later to Blackfriarsgate, though the Dominicans did not have a foundation in the city. This street led to the only landing in the old city, now known as Southend ⁶⁴¹).

For some reason the new plant does not seem to have flourished until the relatives of the Prior Provincial Richard Wetwang gave their support. John Wetwang donated in 1317* a plot of land 204 × 115 ft. for the construction of an oratory and house and Richard Wetwang, rector of St. Denis in Walmgate, Yorks., caused the east window of the church to be enlarged and the whole choir to be covered by lead ⁶⁴²). Difficulties arose when Sir Geoffrey de Hotham added a large messuage in 1317*. He held it in free burgage for life, but after his death it was again to pay 26s8d in annual taxes, equally to be divided between king and city.

⁶³⁵) GENT, *History* 107.

⁶³⁶) P. R. McCaffrey, *The White Friars* (Dublin 1926) 277.

⁶³⁷) D 443. For details see note 741a *infra*.

⁶³⁸) Communication of Father Keith Egan O. C.

⁶³⁹) FROST, *Notices* 67n. The Bedfords were rich merchants and ship owners (FROST 145).

⁶⁴⁰) STANEWELL, *Deeds* 193 and 292.

⁶⁴¹) J. SYMONS, *Kingstonia* (Hull 1889) 10.

⁶⁴²) GENT, *History* 78. No date is given for Wetwang's donation.

In 1322* the city was willing to donate its half to the Austins « in considération of having the benefits of their prayers », but the royal officials were not moved by a like spirit despite the fact that the king had allowed its alienation in mortmain in 1317*. They were satisfied only when Richard, the son of Geoffrey Hotham, and John of Wilflet charged the tax to other tenements in their possession (D 331). The city, however, which held rents by gift of the crown, did not quite trust the arrangement and without informing the Austins, effected a counter-indemnity which in case of default would make the Order responsible for the payment of 16s8d ⁶⁴³).

The monastic buildings must have been large and stately. They stretched across Queen's Street, then the best business street of the city, to Myton Gate (Gate meaning street) with a kind of subterranean path for pedestrians. It took up half of the street and supposedly had fine gardens, fountains and courts ⁶⁴⁴).

The conventual church had a square tower six stories high which still existed at the end of the eighteenth century ⁶⁴⁵). It stood on the east side of the market place near the townhall and to the left of Trinity church ⁶⁴⁶). In 1520* Robert Wilfit, « maryner » and probably a descendent of John Wilflet, endowed lights before the shrines of Our Lady and St. Catherine.

The monastery in Hull was certainly one of the more substantial places of the province. Chapters were held here in 1369*, 1435* and 1472*. It still numbered eighteen members at the beginning of the sixteenth century (D 275).

In the wills of the neighboring noble families, the Austins are frequently mentioned. In 1391*, for example, Adam Corey asked to be buried in their church and bequeathed ten pounds of wax for candles to be burnt at his funeral, 12d to each chaplain attending it, to the Austins 5 marks sterling, and to Fr. Williams of Bridling-

⁶⁴³) FROST, *Notices* 67n. BAILDON, « Notes on the Religious Houses in Yorkshire » II (1931) 19, edited by the *Yorks. Archaeol. Soc. Record Ser.* 81, gives Inquisitions *a. q. d.* for 1314 and 1317 which show Hothum and Wetwang as substantial citizens. On Hothum see *Sources* note 113.

⁶⁴⁴) G. HADLEY, *A New and Complete History of the Town and County of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull* (Hull 1788) 707/8. Hadley seems to belong to the romantic school of historians.

⁶⁴⁵) TICKELL, *History* 20.

⁶⁴⁶) LELAND, *Itin.* I, 48.

ton ⁶⁴⁷), member of the house, 9 marks sterling. In his testament of 1346*, William de Erghume, probably a relative of the Austin master, John Erghome, bequeathed 6s8d. About 1390 John de Quintino, kn., bequeathed 20s for eight trentals and 13s4d for one pittance ⁶⁴⁸). If his wish was that each friar should receive 4d as the King's pittances intended, then the house must have numbered 40 brethren. John Constable of Halsam in Holderness gave 20s in 1407 and a descendant of the same 5s in 1482 « to do an obit for my soule in the quere [choir] » ⁶⁴⁹). In 1523 Lady Joan Thurescross of York bequeathed 20s « to buy a vestment with all » ⁶⁵⁰) and in 1528 Richard Leycock, vicar, wanted 3s4d to be divided among the members of the house ⁶⁵¹).

At the time of the dissolution the Order held only the site with a garden in Blackfriarsgate, measuring 49 × 33 yards, worth 5s p. a. The deed of surrender was signed by Prior Alexander Ingram on 10 March 1539. Hull was the last Austin friary of England to be suppressed (D 1145).

The seal represents St. Michel in combat with the dragon, in a canopied niche : in the base on a corbel a friar kneeling in prayer. The legend : « *prior covetus : Hull : Ordis : Sci : Augustini :* » ⁶⁵²).

Priors: 1539 Alexander Ingram (D 1154).

Literature:

M. A. LITTLE in *VCH-York III* (1913) 270. John TICKELL, *History of the Town and Port of Kingston-upon-Hull* (Hull 1796) with a good picture of the church tower carrying the inscription: « Built anno 1331. Taken down and demolished Anno 1796 ». Ch. FROST, *Notices Relative to the Early History of the Town and Port of Hull* (London 1827). This excellent account, based on the town records, was overlooked in *VCH*. Th. GENT, *History of Hull* written in 1735, published at Hull in 1869. L. STANEWELL, *City and County of Kingston upon Hull Calendar of the Ancient Deeds* (ib. 1951).

20. Huntingdon before 1258-1538

Huntingdonia, Huntigelonia, Huntictonia, Huntyntonia, con-

⁶⁴⁷) Two Austins by the name of William Bridlington are known: *Sources* note 137h.

⁶⁴⁸) *Test. Ebor.* I, 215.

⁶⁴⁹) *Test. Ebor.* I, 350 and III, 279.

⁶⁵⁰) *Test. Ebor.* V, 171.

⁶⁵¹) *Test. Ebor.* V, 249.

⁶⁵²) TICKELL, *History*, 941 with picture; *Brit. Mus., Catal. Seals* 3352.

ventus Huntingensis ; Limit : Cambridge ; Diocese : Lincoln ; County : Huntingdon. Parish : St. John Baptist ; Patron : St. Augustine.

The Austins were the only Mendicant Order in this town of fifteen churches and two chapels ⁶⁵³). They had arrived some time before August 1258* when King Henry III gave them four oaks for building purposes, a gift which was repeated in 1269* and 1271*. He also took them under his special protection in 1265* and 1266*. Scarcely were the buildings completed when disaster struck. Early 1286* the entire friary burnt to the ground and left its members without resources. John le Romaine, archbishop of York, granted, therefore, in April of the same year an indulgence of 20 days to all who would help in its rebuilding (D 82). In the following month the king also came to their aid by donating eight oaks fit for timber and six neighbors sold their property so that the house could be rebuilt on a larger scale (D 108). By 1293* the task seems to have been completed because Bishop Sutton gave them leave to have their altars blessed by any Catholic bishop. A provincial chapter was held here in 1306 to which the King donated 10 marks. In 1335 the friary numbered twenty brethren ⁶⁵⁴).

A few men of this house have left their names to posterity. One was Roger Clacton or Glatton, STP and a friend of Robert Wyville, bishop of Salisbury. He was provincial in 1334 and still alive in 1356*. Another learned member was William of Walcote, probably a native of the city and the son of William Walcote who gave an acre of land in 1334*. Friar William is mentioned as bachelor of divinity in 1342 studying at the University of Cambridge (D 340). In 1354* he and several other Austins helped Richard de Dalton, condemned to death and on the way to the gallows, to find sanctuary in the parish church of S. Andrew, for which the king brought suit against them but then pardoned them. When Matild Algarkirk, a recluse of St. John's, Huntingdon, was accused in 1346 of introducing doctrines contrary to the Catholic faith, Thomas Bek, bishop of Lincoln, assigned to her as confessor Magister David Newbigging of the local Austin friary (D 366).

The greatest of all its members was William of Monklane, a most holy man, confessor to Earl Humphrey Bohun and himself of

⁶⁵³) CARRUTHERS, *History* 132. See also appendix to this page.

⁶⁵⁴) See appendices on chapters and membership.

royal blood ⁶⁵⁵). His influence might be seen in the establishment of a chantry or daily mass at the altar of St. Augustine for Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III, in 1373*. All friars of the house signed the agreement as did the Provincial Thomas Grove. The king thought it so important that he had it entered in both the Patent and Close Rolls of that year. In return he gave a weekly cartload of underwood drawn by four horses and Henry IV confirmed this arrangement in 1406*. The royal benevolence towards this house continued through the fifteenth century. In 1477* Pope Sixtus IV granted an indulgence of seven years and seven quadrages to all the faithful who helped in the upkeep of the buildings of the Augustinian Order in Huntingdon « for which Elizabeth, queen of England, and other faithful have a singular devotion ».

During Monklane's life time (1363) the king also granted permission for a very costly undertaking, the building of an underground aqueduct which led in a straight line from a well near the old pesthouse through the town to the monastery (D 473). The wooden pipes were placed in a brick conduit and this brickwork was still intact at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

One of the estates acquired in 1293 had belonged to Roger Mateshale and his wife Christiana. It owed to the Benedictine nunnery of St. James, Hinchinbroke 4s6d in yearly taxes. The Austins promised in 1296* to continue payment of this sum. On 24 September 1452 John, local prior, issued a new bond for the same amount to Margaret Lyle, prioress of St. James, making her at the same time a benefactress of the Order. He promised to enter her and her sisters' names in the martyrology of the house, recommend them with other benefactors regularly in chapter and to recite the accustomed suffrages for them after their demise. Lady Margaret's name was to be inscribed on a tablet which was to be hung above the high altar for a daily commemoration ⁶⁵⁶).

In 1472* the prior general gave Huntingdon the right to accept three or four priests from other houses for their *studium*, because they had but few brethren for divine services. It is the only time that this school is mentioned; it was most probably a *studium grammaticale* for the limit of Cambridge ⁶⁵⁷).

⁶⁵⁵) P. 180/2 (XIII, 517/9) *supra*.

⁶⁵⁶) *Brit. Mus. Add. Charters* 33, 620 (P 53/10535).

⁶⁵⁷) D 209 and p. 143 (XII, 408) *supra*.

Huntingdon's friary is seldom mentioned in published wills. In 1345* Elizabeth of Burgh, lady of Clare, bequeathed 40s and in 1383 Richard of Croxton, canon of Lincoln, bequeathed them 20s ⁶⁵⁸).

On his way to Boston in Lent 1538, the royal visitor, Richard Hinsley, « found » the Austin friary in Huntingdon and promptly suppressed it. He thought the house very poor but « metely leaded », the lead amounting to about eight foders. Besides the residence and a dovehouse, there were six acres of meadow in Brampton and a tenement in St. Peter's parish of the city (D 1146). The king sold it to Thomas Arden and Richard Long, from whom it was purchased by the Cromwell family. On the site and out of the ruins of the friary, a dwelling was built, in which Oliver Cromwell was born on 25 April 1599. In 1631 he disposed of all his property in Huntingdon, « all capital messuage and tenements belonging to it, called Augustine Freers ». It changed owners several times and part of it finally came to John Rust, esq., who had purchased it from Mr. Maule, the city solicitor, who retained the Friars' Close lying next to the brook ⁶⁵⁹). The Cambridge and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society inspected the remains in 1913 but did not publish a report ⁶⁶⁰).

The Act of Surrender was either lost or possibly was not taken.

Priors: 1452 John (*Br. Mus. Additional Charters* 33-620).

1488 John Veninghun [Huntingdon ?] D 952.

Literature:

VCH-Huntingdonshire I (London 1926) 396 has nothing on the early history of this establishment. R. CARRUTHERS, *The History of Huntingdon* (Huntingdon 1824).

King's Lynn vide Lynn

Kingston-on-Hull vide Hull

21. Leicester 1254-1539

Leicestria, Lancestria, Licesbira etc. ; Limit : Lincoln ; Dio-

⁶⁵⁸) GIBBONS, *Early Engl. Wills* 43.

⁶⁵⁹) CARRUTHERS, *History* 109.

⁶⁶⁰) *Transactions of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Soc.* 3 (1913) 389.

cese : Lichfield and Coventry : County : Leicestershire ; Patron : St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Capgrave places the foundation of Leicester in the year 1254 (D 9), and there is no reason to doubt him though the first document is only from the year 1304* when Thomas, earl of Lancaster and the king's kinsman, received license to alienate three messuages for the enlargement of their property. The very fact, however, that this is the only known real estate transaction proves that the house was sufficiently provided with land before the law of mortmain was enacted.

The property was located just outside Westgate, lying « very pleasantly » between two arms of the River Soar ⁶⁶¹). In the middle of this peninsula stood the church 150 ft. long and 90 ft. wide ⁶⁶²). It is mentioned for the first time in 1304, when John of Crowley, parson of Heyford, kept in prison for stealing, sought asylum in it ⁶⁶³). A narrow and elegant bowbridge which was carried away by the great flood of 1791 led from the monastery to Saint Austin's well, from which the friars took their drinking water. In direct connection with the south-east side of the great Westbridge stood a house with a chapel and a bell, where always two friars were stationed to accept alms ⁶⁶⁴). These were most probably not Austins but so-called bridge-friars responsible for its upkeep. Johnston called the Austin friary the most important of the three within Leicester but does not give any proof for his statement ⁶⁶⁵). The place was dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria (D 1134).

It numbered 20 members in 1301, 27 in 1320, 20 in 1323 and 22

⁶⁶¹) LELAND, *Itin.* I, 16.

⁶⁶²) According to BILLSON, *Mediev. Leicester* 69 these measurements were taken by NICHOLS (*History* I, 301) from a manuscript of Throsby who personally had traced the outlines of the church. The width seems to be out of proportion with the length. In THROSBY, *History of Leicester* (Leicester 1791) 289 the prior of the Dominicans, Ralph Burrell, is falsely said to be the superior of the Austins. Throsby, therefore, should be used with caution.

⁶⁶³) BATESON, *Borough Records* I, 371.

⁶⁶⁴) NICHOLS, *History* 301/2. A picture of the Bowbridge on p. 302.

⁶⁶⁵) T. FIELDING-JOHNSTON, *Glimpses of Ancient Leicester* (Leicester 1906) 75. His statement is contradicted by a royal pittance of 1320/3 which gave the Dominicans and Franciscans of the city 10s each, while the Austins received only 6s8d: *Brit. Mus., Stow Ms. vol. 553 fol. 22r.*

in 1328 ⁶⁶⁶). In 1372* John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster and the most powerful man in the kingdom, gave 10 marks to « his beloved freres » to defray the expenses of their « general » (provincial) chapter. Another chapter was held here in 1532*, at which William Wetherall was re-elected for a term of seven years by order of Parliament. It is the only English chapter of which the report to the general has been preserved.

Towards the end of the fourteenth century (1390) a *studium particulare* flourished here which apparently provided for the philosophy students of the southwestern part of the extensive limit of Lincoln, while Stamford took care of the north-eastern section ⁶⁶⁷).

Famous men of St. Catherine were Geoffrey Herdeby+ and Thomas Radcliff. Herdeby was provincial, confessor of the Black Prince and author of an important treatise during the Fitzralph-Wycliffite controversy, entitled *De vita evangelica*. Radcliff, his contemporary, became suffragan of Lincoln Diocese. The ordination lists in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry carry a multitude of names from other Augustinian houses but very few from Leicester, because most of its men were ordained in Lincoln.

Recorded gifts are numerous. Among others, William Cheworth, kn., bequeathed in 1398 ⁶⁶⁸), ten marks and the same sum was left in 1415* by Lady Isabelle Wyleby to the priest who would say requiem mass for the souls of her departed husband and Joan, the wife of Ralph, Lord Basset (D 697). In 1416 John Fouleshurst bequeathed 20s ⁶⁶⁹) and Sir Hugh Willoughby the same sum for the soul of his father Edmund (D 697). In 1481* Lord Hugh Hastings donated 100s and in 1525*, when « Sir » William Browne was prior, Sir Thomas Findern of Radcliff on Sore bequeathed to the house one quarter of malt and a « ronte stere ».

The Journeymen Shoemakers probably held their guild meetings here, certainly their annual services. In 1532* they promised before Mayor Nicholas Reynolds to give 10s a year « so that their members are prayed for ».

The Act of Surrender was signed on 10 November 1538 by Richard Preston, prior, Richard Holmes, subprior, and the Friars

⁶⁶⁶) See appendix on membership.

⁶⁶⁷) P. 144 (XII, 409) *supra*.

⁶⁶⁸) *Test. Ebor.* I, 248.

⁶⁶⁹) *Canterbury, Reg. Chichele* II, 78.

John Whyte and John Hunter. The net annual value of the house was £ 1. In 1538/9 the dean of Leicester purchased the former dormitory for 28s8d. The remaining property was sold for £ 120-0-0 to Robert Heyricke in 1597 (D 1134).

Priors: 1329 William Blount (D 311).

1525 « Sir » William Browne (D 1051).

1538 Richard Preston (D 1134).

Literature:

R. A. McKINLEY in *VCH-Leicester* II (1954 35; Ch. BILLSON, *Medieval Leicester* (Leicester 1938) 69; M. BATESON, *Records of the Borough of Leicester* (Leicester 1906); J. NICHOLS, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicestershire*, 4 vols, (Leicester 1795-1815); Austins I, 300-302.

22. Lincoln about 1269-1538

Lincolnia : Limit. Diocese, County : Lincoln ; Patron : St. Augustine.

St. Augustine's in Lincoln was always one of the principal houses of the English Province. It served as head of its extensive limit and housed an advanced school of theology, a so-called *studium concursorium* ⁶⁷⁰). Outwardly it seems to have gained little fame because of its location in the suburb Newport (*Neoportia*) which was principally inhabited by hardworking truck farmers ⁶⁷¹). This suburb on the eastern flank of England must not be confused with the Austin friary in the town of Newport in Wales.

The building of the friary started auspiciously when King Henry III granted his protection on 2 January 1270* and donated in the following March six oaks for its construction (D 37). In 1291* Bishop Sutton gave permission for their church and area to be dedicated by any Catholic bishop.

Within the suburb were two parishes : St. John and St. Nicholas. The Austins settled in the immediate neighborhood of St. John which was held in advowson by the cathedral chapter of Lincoln. In 1273 its prebendary moved to protect his interests. Fr. Robert, the prior of the Austins, agreed that they would not receive any gifts by which the income of St. John would be diminished nor

⁶⁷⁰) P. 147 (XII, 412) *supra*.

⁶⁷¹) HILL, *Medieval Lincoln* 69.

acquire new property without the consent of the cathedral chapter and of the prebendary of St. John. For any breach of contract, full reparation would have to be made, and the Austins agreed to accept even interdict without availing themselves of their papal privileges (D 1163). The agreement did not solve all problems because the oldest register of the cathedral remarks about 1300 : « Here many entries have to be made of the arrangements (*composiciones*) with the cemetery of the Black Monks outside of Lincoln and the oratory of the Austin Friars in Newport (D 144) ». The entries were not made.

In 1292* Master Gilbert of Stratton gave them a messuage adjoining their buildings and in 1369* William Bilton, John Merkyati and Thomas Felisson received license for the alienation of three tofts. In 1293* Lincoln was given a messuage for a foundation in Grimsby.

The number of friars was 33 in 1284, 30 in 1300, 31 in 1301, 36 in 1316, 28 in 1328 and 36 in 1335 ⁶⁷²).

King Edward I recommended himself to the prayers of the general, that is, provincial chapter held here in 1307*. Another chapter took place in 1332* to which Melton, archbishop of York, gave two marks. Master William of Lincoln, one of England's saintly men, was the shining light of this house at the beginning of the fourteenth century.

As long as the theological school was under the direct supervision of the priors general, it makes its appearance in their registers but it disappears from them after 1425. Because of the school, one would expect as splendid a library here as in York and London, but Leland reports only : « There are some books here, but either in common use or printed, or such as do not bear on our subjects » ⁶⁷³).

With the exception of bequests almost nothing is known at present about the last hundred years ^{673a}). Richard Ingworth received

⁶⁷²) See appendix on membership.

⁶⁷³) EHR 54 (1939) 91.

^{673a}) LITTLE in *VCH*, GIBBONS in *Early Lincoln Wills* and FOSTER in *Lincoln Wills* are at present our main sources. Gibbons has omitted much interesting material which can be found in the completely published episcopal registers. In this note we quote the above works as *VCH*, Gibbons, Foster.

In the earliest known will (1327) Avice of Crossley bequeathed half a mark (*Test. Ebor.* 1, 5). In 1363 Gervase de Wylleford, rector of Bernach and Castle, assigned £ 8 to the four Orders of the city (GIBBONS 89). In 1383 Henry Asty of

all four friaries of Lincoln in February 1539. He described their buildings as very poor : « Nothing left but stones and poor glass, but metely leaded » (D 1148). The lead was taken down and sold and the unprotected walls were left to the destructive forces of nature. Leland mentions only the ruins of the place on the southside of Newport⁶⁷⁴). The site consisting of about four acres was given to Robert Dighton, esq., at a rent of 21s p. a. and two tenements were leased at 8s each (D 1148). On 10 October 1539 six former members received their capacities from Archbishop Cranmer. They were Thomas Pott, William Jackson, John and Robert Foryman, Richard Heyton and William Marshall (D 1177).

Priors: 1273 Robert (D 1163).

1331 Robert de Bromham (D 311).

1418 Thomas Everard, subprior (D 712).

Literature :

M. A. LITTLE in *VCH-Lincoln* II (1906) 219-220; J. W. HILL, *Medieval Lincoln* (Cambridge 1948).

Babington, kn. and justice of the Common Bench 20s (GIBBONS 26). In 1390 William Marmyon of Koesby, kn., appointed among other executors also Thomas Wynton [Winterton], prior provincial of the Austins in England (GIBBONS 58). Lady Elizabeth Darcy stipulated in her will of 1412 that £200 be set aside for five chaplains who had to say mass for ten years after her death, among them the magister of the Austins in Lincoln, his stipend being £4 per year (*Lincoln, Reg. Repingdon* II, 66). The will of Juliana Lufchild in 1419 was written by Thomas Everard, subprior (D 712). In 1451 Ralph Lord Cromwell assigned ten marks to the mendicant friars of Lincoln and Berton (*Test. Ebor.* II, 197). This is one of the few records for the existence of the hospital in Berton (HADCOCK-KNOWLES, *Rel. Houses-England* 254 know none). In 1455 William, seventh baron of Lovell, bequeathed 100s to the mendicants of Lincoln, Dominicans excepted. (CLARK, *Lincoln Diocesan Documents*, EETS 149 (1914) 74. In 1476 Robert Echard, rector of East Bridgeford, left £1 to Fr. Robert Hall for *Placebo and Dirige* (D 914). In 1513 Richard Burgh gave 8d to every friar of the four Orders in Lincoln (VCH) and in 1522 Sir Roger Basset of Fledbrough ordered 6s8d to be given during Lent to each house of friars for seven years after his death (*Test. Ebor.* V, 148). In the latest known will (1531) Wm. Bucknell bequeathed « one stryke of barley » (FOSTER II, 137). There are dozens of wills which left small sums of money to all four houses of Mendicants or to Austins alone.

⁶⁷⁴) LELAND, *Itin.* I, 31: « ... suburbe of Newporte gate: in the which now is no notable thing but the ruines of the house of the Augustine Freres on the south side ».

Little Yarmouth vide Gorleston

23. London 1253-1538

Londinum ; Limit : Oxford ; Diocese : London ; County : Middlesex ; Patron : Blessed Virgin ; Parishes : All Hallows on Wall and St. Peter le poore on Broad Street.

At 2 A. M. of 10 October 1940 a German landmine destroyed Austin Friars, London ⁶⁷⁵). Thus disappeared the last vestige of the once largest house of the Order in England which had survived since 1354. It was the strange irony of history that the Germans should destroy that edifice which had served as the « German » church since 1550. Though the church had served the Dutch Reformed Congregation a century longer than the Austins, it has retained its old name « Austin Friars », a tribute to the conservative spirit of the English and of the impact this friary had made on London's populace. It was located between Throgmorton Str. (South), London Wall (North), Broadstreet now Angel Court (East) and Copthall Ave (West).

Despite its importance, the beginnings are wrapped in obscurity. John Stow in his *Survey of London* flatly stated that it was founded in 1253 ⁶⁷⁶) by Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford and Essex, who died in 1275 and was buried in their church. This date seems to be corroborated by the gift of 40s which King Henry III made 25 February 1256 ⁶⁷⁷).

The next document is dated 1271*. Therein the Austins acknowledge that they built upon the place formerly occupied by the parish church St. Olave, and, therefore, owed 3s a year to the Archdeacon of London. About a year previous Prior William of Clare had bought a large mansion from Master William de la Cornere within the parish of Fynkeslane, worth 40s a year and owing to the Bishop of London 3d. Since the mansion had been acquired before the sta-

⁶⁷⁵) GREENHILL, *Austin Friars* 73.

⁶⁷⁶) STOW, *Survey* I, 177.

⁶⁷⁷) *Calendar of Liberate Rolls 51 Henry III* p. 274. The text does not mention the city, but only the Order. The juxtaposition of the gift with that for the Franciscans of London, however, leaves, no doubt, that the Austin friary in London is meant.

tute of mortmain, its sale did not need royal approval, nevertheless it was taken into the king's hand after 1279 « to the great loss of the Order » until Edward II restored it in 1320*. The reason which might have justified the action of the escheator is the possibility that this manse was not contiguous to the site of the friary.

In 1334* John Haudlo, son of the founder of Oxford's Austin friary, received license of mortmain for a messuage and a garden, he wanted to give the London house, but the duties and services upon it were not remitted. In 1345* three messuages were obtained from Reginald de Cobham, kn. Friendly relations with the Cobhams had been greatly strengthened in 1324*, when Bishop Hethe of Rochester allowed two Austins from London to say daily mass at Cobham's manor in Grombridge. As a consequence of the Black Death, the London House expanded its site considerably. It acquired two brewhouses and four tenements at an annual tax value of £ 13-4-0. The first to oppose this increase was the pastor of St. Peter le poore. He came in 1349* to an agreement with Prior John Arderne wherein the Austins promised to pay annually 20s8d for all lost tithes and an additional 3s for a lamp in his church. A year later the king intervened and took all newly acquired property not only of the Austins but of all Mendicant Orders into his hands (D 385). What became of his *Inquisition a. q. d.* is not known but it seems that the Orders were allowed to alienate the new acquisitions in mortmain. When more taxable property was acquired, the king ordered another inquisition in 1358* and a third in 1361*. The difficulties were settled in 1363* when he allowed the Austins to keep all former acquisitions and several new ones « provided they have not any tenements except for their habitation ». No further additions are known until the dissolution.

The great real estate activity and the leniency of the king were, no doubt, due to the building of their church in 1354* by Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford, and a blood relative of the king. He died childless and was buried in the choir. The church was of tremendous size. The length of the choir is no longer known but the nave of the church was 83 ft. in width while Exeter Cathedral is only 70 ft., and that of Winchester but 80 ft. In its length of 153 ft. it exceeded Exeter by 13 ft. and was only 8 ft. less than Canter-

bury ⁶⁷⁸). It had the largest floor space of any city church ⁶⁷⁹). Its nine large windows on each side were regarded as the most beautiful of London in the latter part of the fourteenth century ⁶⁸⁰). Their stain glass is still mentioned in the eighteenth century but apparently was lost in the disastrous fire of 1862, which destroyed also all wood-work and fittings, together with the roof. These were replaced by very poor substitutes ⁶⁸¹). In the transept of the cross aisle ⁶⁸²) were the chapels of St. John and St. Thomas. Of side altars only those of the Blessed Virgin, St. James and St. Catherine's are known ⁶⁸³). All chroniclers are loud in the praise of the steeple. Stow called it « a most fine spiral steeple, small, high and straight. I have not seen the like » ⁶⁸⁴). It was blown down in 1362 but rebuilt forthwith. In 1609 it was badly in need of repairs, whereupon the Marquis of Winchester sold it to a carpenter who started to take it down. The city fathers protested ; but unwilling to pay for its repair, they let the carpenter proceed ⁶⁸⁵). Besant called this church « one of the noblest temples of London which like that of Sainte Chapelle of Paris was the pride of the city » ⁶⁸⁶). The claim that around 1500 some major changes must have taken place ⁶⁸⁷) is verified by the fact that a great fire is reported in 1503* and that the prior general accused the prior, Edmond Bellond, of having wasted the monastery's treasury by uselessly turning round sections into square ones (D 1032, 1041).

⁶⁷⁸) BUMPUS, *London Churches* 128. The measurements of the nave vary greatly. Most of the authors follow Bumpus, but MARTIN, *Franciscan Architecture* p. 23n gives them as 285×83 ft. and FORAN, *Notes* 36 as 239×183 ft. The latter (183 ft.) is probably a printer's mistake.

⁶⁷⁹) FORAN, *Notes* 36.

⁶⁸⁰) A. CAPES, *The Old and New Churches of London* (London 1880) 15.

⁶⁸¹) G. COBB, *The Old Churches of London* (New York 1942) 38.

⁶⁸²) Much ado has been made about the aisled choir, e. gr. by MARTIN, *Franc. Archit.* 17 but « there is a slight error in Stow's rendering: « side aisles to the choir adjoining », the original being « le cros ile et cepellas ibidem » which more correctly read: « the cross aisle (or transept) and chapels in the same »: CATER, *Priory* 33.

⁶⁸³) CATER, *Priory* 31, 81/2. The cloister is mentioned in *LP Henry VIII*, vol. 14 no. 906.

⁶⁸⁴) STOW, *Survey*, I, 177. The steeple may be seen on VISSCHER, *Panoramic Picture of London 1616*.

⁶⁸⁵) CATER, *Priory* 31; BUMPUS, *London Churches* 128.

⁶⁸⁶) W. BESANT, *Medieval London II* (London 1906) 37.

⁶⁸⁷) BUMPUS, *London Churches* I, 129.

In 1355* the house (friary) was rebuilt and in 1358* the prior general praised the Prior John Arderne for his intention to build an infirmary and gave definite rules for its occupancy. The gable of this « fermory » fell down in 1397 and Richard Salyng, the mason, being judged by members of his own craft, had to rebuild it at his own expense ⁶⁸⁸). Arderne's great building program seems to have met with financial difficulties and consequent accusations of having misused funds. In 1364* the Provincial Geoffrey Herdeby, the Prior William Ainukelan [Monklane ?] and Subprior Thomas Letse appealed to Rome whereupon Pope Urban V ordered Simon Sudbury, bishop of London, to look into the matter. In 1419* General Augustine Favaroni approved a special building for lectors of the house of study and about 1456 John Lowe, bishop of Rochester, erected the « magnificent » library at his own expense. He donated to it many precious books, but only three of its codices have been found so far ⁶⁸⁹). Other buildings mentioned are the cloister, chapter house, refectory, dormitory (D 756) and « priour chambre » ⁶⁹⁰).

London was the largest place of the Order in England. As early as 1289 it counted over 60 members and the same number recurs in 1289 and 1319. Between the last two years lower numbers occur, the lowest being 47 in 1300. The sudden drop in membership was probably caused by the foundation of Orford in 1299 and was only temporary. In 1314 the number had risen to 80, the highest total reported of any English house. In 1317 there were 66 ; royal pittances of 1319 and 1324/5 place the membership at 60 and 58, the fluctuations being caused by the ever-changing number of students ⁶⁹¹). In the sixteenth century, however, there was a definite decrease in vocations. London could no longer provide through its own sources the thirty priests needed and received, therefore, in 1510*, from the prior general, permission to call in outside help. Students and brothers considerably increased this number, otherwise Bale would not have spoken of a « numerosa societas » in Austin Friars, London ⁶⁹²).

Within the church some of the most powerful personages of the

⁶⁸⁸) *Calendar of Select Pleas and Memoranda of the City of London* III (1932) 178.

⁶⁸⁹) See chapter on libraries *infra*.

⁶⁹⁰) P. 236 (XIV, 184) *supra*.

⁶⁹¹) See appendix on membership.

⁶⁹²) BALE, *Catalogus* I, 575.

kingdom lay buried ⁶⁹³). The Bohuns as the founders had the place of honor in the choir. Edward, the first born son of the Black Prince, and Joan, « the fair maid of Kent », were also entombed here. A surprising number of « rebels » against the various dynasties found here their resting place. The most famous was Richard Fitz Alan, earl of Arundel and Surrey, who was decapitated in 1397*. He was a hot-tempered, very popular man, the persistent political opponent and bitter personal enemy of Richard II. He was also one of the best sea captains of his time and married as his second wife, Philippa, widow of John Hastings, daughter of Edmund Mortimer, earl of March, and heir of Lionel, duke of Clarence ⁶⁹⁴). A personal relationship between the Earl and the Austins seemed, therefore, inevitable. He chose Master Ashbourne as his confessor. After his condemnation, Ashbourne heard his confession and accompanied him to the scaffold reciting with him the Office for the Dead. One clean stroke of the sword separated Arundel's head but for the space of an Our Father his body stood straight and then crashed to the ground. Austins carried his body back to their church, one of them, Master Fekenham, holding the head in his lap. Before burying Arundel, they sewed the head back to the body. Through some misunderstanding, a rumor spread like wildfire through the city that God had worked a miracle by fully uniting head and body. Excitement ran high and a popular uprising seemed imminent. King Richard II, half insane with worry, sent the duke of Lancaster and the earls of Northumbria, Rutland, Kent, Nottingham and others to the friary to investigate the rumors. They roused the fathers about midnight, frightening them terribly. They opened the grave but no miracle had taken place. Thereupon all lamps around the grave and anything else which might indicate it, had to be removed, the ground was made level and covered with tile. Six or seven brethren who shared Ashebourne's conviction were sent to other parts of the country (D 643). Whether Ashebourne had to leave with them is not known but it is the last news of this great prior. Arundel remembered him in his testament by leaving him 100 marks and a cup made of maser, probably his own ⁶⁹⁵).

⁶⁹³) CATER (*Priory* 80/2) made a collation from STOW, *Survey* I, 177/9 and *Brit. Mus. Harleian Manuscripts* 6033, 544, 6069. He seems to have forgotten Harl. 38, 133, fol. 34b and 37b; WEEVER, *Ant. Fun. Mon.* 203/4.

⁶⁹⁴) *Complete Peerage* I, 244/5.

⁶⁹⁵) NICHOLS, *Royal Wills* 135; *Sussex Rec. Soc.* 43 (1938) 139, D. 613. His

The number of decapitated rebels, buried in Austin Friars, quickly rose. One of the more famous being John Vere, twelfth earl of Oxford, put to death in 1463* together with his son, Auburn and Sir Thomas Tuddenham, the great benefactor of John Cagrove, Jr. The Earl found his last resting place before the high altar. In 1486 Sir Roger Clifford made a bold attempt to save his life while on his way to the scaffold. One of his « ghostly fathers » cut the ropes which tied him to the hurdle but before Chifford could find sanctuary, he was recaptured and hung as ordered. He also was buried in Austin Friars before the altar of St. Catherine⁶⁹⁶). Whether his « ghostly fathers » were Austins is not reported. The imposter Perkin Warbeck and five of his followers were interred here in 1499*. They were followed in 1521* by Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham. Six Austins carried his body in a coffin to their church.

Sometimes tumultuous political uproars reached into the very church. During the revolt of 1381* thirteen Flemings who had sought refuge in the Augustinian church were dragged out and murdered unless they could clearly pronounce bread and cheese ; for « if their speech sounded anything on brot or cawse, off went their heads, as a sure marke, they were Flemings ». In 1508* the church witnessed another act of violence, when a servant of the Princess of Spain killed an Englishman within its sacred walls. It happened during Vespers of Easter. Easter services could, therefore, not be held nor the processions of March. The church was reconciled only at the end of April by the suffragan of Canterbury (D 998).

The roughness of the times is also reflected in some actions of the Austins themselves. Several were jailed in 1525* because one of their confreres died in the monastic jail, a fact which deeply shocked the general. In 1532* six Austins of London had to bear tapers because they had been striving with the pastor of St. Dunstan's for the corpse of a stranger.

As has been previously pointed out, special care was taken of the strangers coming to London, especially the Lombards and Flemings. Foreign students of the Order speaking their language and studying at Oxford and Cambridge, were ordered by the prior general to go to London during vacation time and especially during

nephew Thomas added £40 in 1415: *Canterbury, Reg. Chichele* II, 74; *Sussex Rec. Soc.* 41 (1936) 370.

⁶⁹⁶) *Great Chronicle of London* 236.

Advent and Lent to preach to them and hear their confessions ⁶⁹⁷). It is, therefore, not surprising that just this church was chosen by the English king to serve as « foreigners' church » after the dissolution. It finally became the « German » church when it was given to the Dutch Huguenots in 1550 ⁶⁹⁸).

Like other medieval monasteries, Austin Friars in London had converted many of its tenements into hostelries. These lodgings were eagerly sought, especially by the foreign merchants who had chosen this section of London for their residence. This also could bring excitement into the monastery as the men who sought in 1345* the Lombard John Poket in order to kill him. It also brought the accusation in 1534 that the cloisters and doors were so loosely kept, that the Lombards dwelling within the gates took pleasure in conveying their harlots (D 1095).

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, Bishopsgate became a fashionable section of London. Thomas Cromwell, earl of Essex, had a great hall, a bakehouse and a stable and two gardens within the enclosure of Austin Friars. It was attained in 1540. Seven years earlier he had started to build this palace and took for his purpose several messuages from the monastery including a large tenement which the Italian banker Cavalcanti had used for his transactions (D 1081). His presence made the rooms in Austin Friars even more desirable. Chappuys, the ambassador of Charles V, rented one of heir houses ⁶⁹⁹) and consequently spoke often of events connected with the friary. In 1528 Du Bellay, the ambassador of Francis I, king of France, followed Chapuys' example (D 1066). One of the most famous men who sought lodging here in 1511* was the humanist Erasmus. When he was asked, however, to pay like any other guest, he became exceedingly angry and ever after poured out the vials of his venom upon the Austin friar André of Toulouse, the blind court poet, who had with great difficulty, obtained the room ⁷⁰⁰).

Among the benefactors at the turn of the thirteenth century were Edmund, earl of Cornwall (1249-1300), son of the German

⁶⁹⁷) P. 159 (XII, 424) *supra*.

⁶⁹⁸) *Cal. of Pat. Rolls Edward VI 1550/3* p. 15; a facsimile of the charter in DULKEN, *Summary* opposite title page.

⁶⁹⁹) « ...church of the Augustines which adjoins my lodging »: *LP Henry VIII*, vol. 10 no. 351.

⁷⁰⁰) See chapter on authors under André *infra*.

emperor, and Richard Gravesend, bishop of London (1280-1303), Edmund left a golden cross weighing 24 ounces, studded with 160 precious stones and worth £ 237-9-0. One twelfth of the proceeds was to go to the Austins ⁷⁰¹). Bishop Gravesend bequeathed 20s ⁷⁰²). Lady Alice West gave 100s in 1395* and John of Gaunt († 1399) ten marks. Five marks of this in honor of the five wounds of Christ and five marks in honor of the five joys of Mary ⁷⁰³). Lucy Visconti, countess of Kent, left in her will of 1424 one thousand *coronae* to have daily mass said « forever » (D 735). Henry Cardinal Beaufort, bishop of Winchester, († 1447) bequeathed £ 10, while to each friary in his episcopal town he left but 20s ⁷⁰⁴). William, marquis of Berkeley and earl of Nottingham, († 1492), wanted to be buried in Austin Friars and assigned £ 100 for two daily masses (D 960), to which Sir Thomas Brandon, kn., added £ 40 in 1509* for a perpetual memory of Lord Berkeley and Lady Margaret, « lately my wife ». In 1524 Sir Thomas Lovell, Knight of the Garter, bequeathed 40s and Sir John Kevington £ 8 to the four Orders of Mendicants ⁷⁰⁵).

When Wolsey and Cromwell started to dominate the scene, they saw to it that only men of their own kind would rule within the English church. This was the principal reason why its final collapse was so easy. London's Austins could no longer vote for a superior of their own choice who would have kept up discipline and fostered the right spirit. Instead they were forced to vote into office men like Wetherall, Browne and Hammond who promoted the ruination of the house spiritually and physically ⁷⁰⁶). That there were many friars left who had the right spirit can be gathered from the vicious epithets of Foxe who called them « caterpillars and

⁷⁰¹) *Camden Soc.*, ser. 3, vol. 66 (1942) p. XVI n.

⁷⁰²) *Camden Soc. new ser.* 10 (1876) 113. This sum of 20s seems to be correct rather than £20 on p. 109.

⁷⁰³) NICHOLS, *Royal Wills* 153.

⁷⁰⁴) NICHOLS, *Royal Wills* 328.

⁷⁰⁵) *LP Henry VIII*, vol. 4 (1) nos. 366 and 952. — In 1436 Elias Stoke bequeathed to each Austin priest 4*d* and to each not priest 2*d*: *Collectanea Franciscana* ed. L. Kingsford 2 (Manchester 1922) 92. — For further bequests see R. SHARPE, *Calendar of Wills proved and enrolled in the Court of Hustings, London*, 2 vols. (London 1889); *Test. Ebor.*; the episcopal registers of London and Canterbury etc.

⁷⁰⁶) See final chapter.

bloody beasts » for not wanting to keep the heretical Robert Barnes even in their monastic jail (D 1057).

In 1534 someone sent Cromwell a list of eleven accusations against the monastery (D 1095). The very first charge shows the malicious spirit in which they were written. It concedes that choir was still held day and night but « more for the laud and fear of the world than love toward God ». By what special gift could the writer look into the hearts of these men ? He further states « that the rules were kept no more « than is [done] in hell by the devils » (no. 8) and that the members associated only with alien friars « who are of the same naughty and filthy sort » (no. 9). No fair minded historian can take such evident malingering at face value though this was done by many. The accuser was rather naive in asking Cromwell that the prior, who was then George Browne, be dismissed « and a more active disciplinarian be substituted » (no. 11). Cromwell had appointed Browne and was the last man to bring about his change. The fact that he kept the very poorly written accusations on file betrays his scheming heart. He probably thought it useful against the friary or for making Browne a more willing tool. Some statements cannot be proved from other sources, for example, that the monastery was in debt to the amount of £ 300 and others generalize single events (no. 3) or failures of individuals (no. 2). What was true of the accusations is that the number of priests had fallen to twelve, that the choir was poorly attended which is understandable in view of the increased work load carried by the diminished number of priests and that the common table was no longer observed. Such failures are known from other sources. Interesting is also that the elementary school for candidates to the Order still existed, though poorly attended and poorly managed if we can believe the accuser (nos. 1, 10).

The inevitable suppression came on 12 November 1538. The royal visitor was Thomas Legh, « one of the vilest men of this vile time » ⁷⁰⁷). None of the members received a penny sustenance, they were « clene put out » (D 1135). Twelve men signed the Act of Surrender. A Fr. William Ballard who later found a position as assistant in the parish of Wyndham, was probably also from London ⁷⁰⁸).

⁷⁰⁷) HUGHES, *Reformation* I, 285.

⁷⁰⁸) G. BASKERVILLE, « Married Clergy and Pensioned Religious in Norwich Diocese 1555 », *EHR* 48 (1933) 57.

The friars' house and cloister were torn down to make room for the palace of Sir William Paulette. His son, the marquis of Winchester, sold the monuments worth many thousand for £ 100 and used the choir for a stable but the church remained to serve the Dutch Huguenots until to-day. Sir Richard Riche, famed for his rapaciousness, took possession of Cromwell's palace in 1540 but had to surrender it the same year to the king's secretary, Thomas Wrythesley, who had to make but a token payment of 5s per year. In 1543 it was sold to the Draper Company for £ 666-13-4 ⁷⁰⁹).

The friary had been valued at £ 57 p. a. before its sale to Paulette. In this sum was probably included the value of twenty tenements totalling £ 32-12-0 p. a. With a shrewd regard for popular feeling foundations for anniversaries were not annexed but transferred to neighboring parishes. Their value was £ 20-0-8 (D 1135).

Attack of the Lollards under Peter Pateshull p. 82 (XII, 150) *supra*.

Conventus generalis, studium concursorium p. 147 (XII, 412) *supra*.

Guilds in Austin Friars, London p. 211 (XIII, 548) *supra*.

- Priors: 1270 William of Clare (identical with William of Sengham ?) D 40, 220. [1290 Jordan of Maldon (D 126), 1298 Roger Ratford (D 129), 1300 William of Flete Sr. (D 133) were recipients of royal pittances. They are not called priors, but might have been].
- 1322/3 Thomas of Durham (*Brit. Mus., Ms. Stow 553*, fol. 23). [1324 Guido of Fressingfield and Nicholas of Morton were recipients of royal pittances: PRO, E 101/379/19 fol. 8r, 11v, 13r. Information of Father K. Egan, O. Carm.].
- 1349-1358 John Arderne (D 381, 409, 427, 438. He is mentioned as prior for 1356 in *Cal. Pat. Rolls Edw. III 1354-58*, p. 466 and for 1358 in *Pat. 1358-61*, p. 145).
- 1364 William Ainukelan [Monklane ?] D 484.
- 1375 Thomas Ashebourne (D 539).
- 1386 John Canston (D 576).
- 1387 John Bankyn of London (D 585).
- 1395 John (D 636).
- 1420/2 John Clerk, lector (D 713, p. 290*).
- 1424/30 ? John Lowe (VCH).
- 1463 Robert Gifford or Giffharde (D 871, 877).
- 1471/4 John Bury (VCH, D 902, 945; EMDEN, *Add. I*, 671)
- 1475 Richard Bleuet (D 911).
- 1486-1492 Naldinus, lector (D 946, 961).

⁷⁰⁹) All documents in CATER, *Priory* 71-79.

- 1496 John Bedford (D 971).
 1508 Dr. Yong (D 998).
 before 1513 John Toney (D 1012*).
 1518 Gilbert Rose (Roose): EMDEN, *B. R. U. Cambridge* 488.
 1520/4 Edmund Bellond (1520: D 1032; 1521: D 1035; 1522: D 1040, to be deposed in same year (D 1041); 1524 « may resign » (D 1049).
 1525 Robert [Gilbert ?] Roose (D 1050).
 1532 George Browne (D 1081, 1083); Prior and Provincial in 1534 (D 1090, 1092, 1094).
 1533 Cromwell is asked to have Th. Hammond elected subprior (D 1087).
 1536/8 Thomas Hammond « confirmed as perpetual prior » by Geo. Browne, bishop elect of Dublin (D 1177, 1135).

Literature:

J. STOW, *Survey of London*, ed. Chas. Kingsford, 2 vols. (Oxford 1908); Miss M. REDDEN in *VCH-London* I (1909) 510-513; W. CATER, « The Austin Friars London », *The Journal of the British Archaeological Society*, n. s., vol. 18 (1912) 25-44 and 57-82; this is the best available history; E. FORAN, « Historical Notes on Austin Friars, London », *Irish Ecclesiastical Record*, ser. 5, vol. 8 (1916) 35-46 and vol. 9 (1917) 130-153; Ph. NORMAN, « Recent Discoveries of Medieval Remains in London », *Archaeologia*, 2 ser. vol. 17 (1916) 7-10. Th. Fr. BUMPUS, *London Churches* I (London 1908) 125-130. His detailed history is the source for later historians.

For the history of the Dutch Reformed Church: J. T. C. VAN DULKEN, *A Summary of the Origin and History of the Dutch Reformed Church — Austin Friars* (London n. d.): J. LINDEBOOM, *Austin Friars* (The Hague 1950); F. A. GREENHILL, « Austin Friars, London », *Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society* 8 (Dec. 1949) 73-95.

24. Ludlow 1254-1538

Ludlovia ; Limit : Lincoln ; Diocese : Hereford ; County : Salop ; Patron : St. John the Baptist ⁷¹⁰).

Upon a hill on the left side of the river Theme lies the town of Ludlow, which derives its name from leod-people and hlawe-hill, that is, hill of the people or hill of judgment. The town was protected by a mighty castle, now in ruins. The walls of the city were erected shortly before the arrival of the Austins, who built out-

⁷¹⁰) L. H. COTTINEAU, *Répertoire Topo-Bibliographique des Abbayes et Prieurés* I (Macon 1939) col. 1674 who mistook the friary for a house of the Austin Canons; they did not have a foundation in Ludlow.

side Galford Gate. There was but one parish within the city and the help of the Austins was probably welcomed by the pastor ; at least there is no record of any dispute.

The statement of Capgrave that the Austins settled here in 1254 (D 9) is confirmed by an archeological study which shows that the first building dates from before 1260 ⁷¹¹). The chief benefactors were the Bramptons, owners of nearby Kinlet Hall and Brampton Bryan. Their owner, Brian III and his first wife Emma, received a letter of confraternity from the provincial chapter of the Austins held in 1279* because they had alleviated the bitter poverty (*inedia et paupertas*) of the fathers in Ludlow and had greatly contributed to the enlargement of their place. In 1282* the same Brian, a number of knights and the prior of the Austins at Ludlow, saw three suns at Kinlet. In 1284* the friary received royal permission to enclose with a wall and fence a certain lane, and in 1299* Bishop Swinfield of Hereford denounced to the king a violation of sanctuary by the men of Ludlow « in that they dragged from the church of the friars of St. Augustine near Ludlow a clerk who had fled thither for his life ». The same bishop in 1289/90 gave them a pittance of 4s which might indicate the presence of twelve men ⁷¹²).

After the thirteenth century, data for the history of the house become extremely rare. The sack of the city by the Lancastrians in 1459 might have caused the loss of the local records. On 18 July 1323* the Austins received royal protection for two years. Since in other cases such letters of protection indicate the carrying of material for building purposes, we may readily suppose that the friary was in the midst of a building program. In 1326* Richard (or Robert) Doby, parson of Butterleye, sold them two acres of meadow. Sir Edmund Mortimer, earl of March († 1381), bequeathed them 40 marks ⁷¹³) and in 1418* John Chelmyswyk, esq., left in his will 40s each to the Austin friaries in Ludlow, Shrewsbury, Woodhouse and London « to singe the hole Saint Gregories Trentall and to praye fo my soul ».

In 1426 a provincial chapter was held here (D 742).

⁷¹¹) BOTFIELD, *Discovery* 182.

⁷¹²) J. WEBB, « A Roll of the Household Expenses of Richard de Swinefield, bishop of Hereford », *Camden Soc.*, 1858, p. 152.

⁷¹³) NICHOLS, *Royal Wills* 110. In 1338 Thomas de Barre, a citizen of Hereford, bequeathed also some gifts to the Austins of Ludlow and Shrewsbury: *A Descriptive Catalogue of Calendars of Ancient Deeds* VI (1915) C-6735.

The Act of Surrender was signed on 23 August 1538 by the Prior Giles Pickering and three confreres (D 1119). The suppressor was Ingworth.

The inventory shows a very poor house. The choir, however, had been newly stalled ; there were two fair bells and a little one. The land of the friary was quite valuable. The site with a garden and land called « the outwarde yarde » and « le inward yarde » was demised on 21 December 1539 to Richard Palmer for 21 years ⁷¹⁴), but in 1547 given to Robert Townsend, kn. and chief justice of Chester. The Ministers Accounts of that year enumerate besides the conventual buildings, a dovecote and gardens, the Over Orchard (1 acre), the Nether Orchard (1-1/2 acre), the Hill Close (1-1/2 acre) the Friars Meadow (7 acres), all situated between the King's Highway on the North, the cloister itself on the West, the River Theme (*Rivulus Thamisiae*) on the South and other lands belonging to the priory on the North. The large trees on the property were reserved to the Crown. In 1554 George Cotton and William Mannie rented the whole site for £ 9 a year for a period of 24 years. The Queen held other properties at the yearly value of £ 4-15-4. In 1817 the whole was purchased for the sum of £ 1,571-6-0 by a certain Gilley Pritchett who threw down all remains of the old buildings. In 1861 the site was sold to the city for a cattle market and while levelling the ground, a local architect made the plan published in the following articles :

Literature :

BOTFIELD, « On the Discovery of the Remains of the Priory of Austin Friars at Ludlow », *Archaeologia* (39) (1863) 173-188 and J. DOCKING, « On the Remains of the Austin Friary at Ludlow », *Journal of the British Archaeol. Assoc.* 24 (1868) 51-56. Docking quotes from Botfield.

25. Lynn or King's Lynn 1295-1538

Linnia, Lenna Regis, Lenna Episcopi : Limit : Cambridge ; Diocese : Norwich ; County : Norfolk ; Patron : St. Margaret (seal) ⁷¹⁵).

Austin Friars in Hopman's Way, now St. Austin's Street.

⁷¹⁴) *Cal. of Anc. Deeds* II, B 22-67. Greater details in BOTFIELD, *Discovery* 178.

⁷¹⁵) Three pictures of seals are printed opposite title page of CAPGRAVE, *The Book of Illustrious Henries*, transl. by Ch. Hingeston, RS (London 1858).

« must have been once a large, respectable and stately edifice, inferior to none, and in some respects superior to most, and probably to all others in this town ; especially in point of fitness for the accommodation of illustrious personages, or those of princely dignity who might happen to come this way. It accordingly became the abode or place of residence of the king and queen, the Prince of Wales, the king's mother, the royal retinue, during their visit and stay here in 1498. Had there been any other house then in the town better adapted for their reception, it would, no doubt, have been chosen in preference, or instead of this, on so unusual and important an occasion » : Wm. RICHARDS, *History of Lynn* 1 (Lynn 1812) 513/8.

The earliest mention of this house supposedly occurred in the will of Adam Gayton, made in 1276*, but there is no trace of such a will. Capgrave who was well acquainted with its history knew no earlier document than the acquisition of a messuage 100 × 24 ft. from Margaret Southmere in 1295*. It might have been in her honor that the monastery selected St. Margaret for its patron. In 1306 another messuage was purchased from Thomas Lexham (D 156, 169). William and Robert Wykyn (Wykene), gave the Austins two plots of land in 1329* and 1338*. In 1349* John and Thomas Drew, William Biterynge and John Couteshale received license of alienation for five messuages. Since they were held in fief by the bishop of Norwich, his consent had to be obtained but was not given until 1364*. In 1406* two messuages and a moiety of another were obtained from half a dozen « chevalies » (D 692 and 675), acquisitions which gave considerable trouble. The escheator took them into his hands and did not release them until 1413* and then only after the payment of 100s in fine and the promise to say three anniversaries for the king's intention.

In 1383* the Austins laid a subterranean water conduit from Geywood to their monastery for which the bishop of Norwich granted them a plot 24 × 16 ft. containing a spring and permitted, at the same time, to lay the pipes through his demesnes at 1d p. a.

The friary numbered 20 members in 1300, 40 in 1325 and 30 in 1328⁷¹⁶). In 1446 Capgrave could tell the king that 30 priests and 16 schoolboys dwelt here, deacons and those in Minor Orders not counted (D 807). This clearly indicates not only a *schola grammaticalis* but also a *studium provinciale* for philosophy and theology,

⁷¹⁶) See appendix on membership.

though neither school is mentioned in the Registers of the Priors General. Several outstanding scholars received their training here, among them John Goodwich, Ralph Marham, John Capgrave Jr. and William Gallion ⁷¹⁷⁾.

The large church was well attended. Margery Kempe, who lived between 1373 and 1431, described a moving sermon on the passion of Christ before a great audience and the gentility with which the Austin preacher treated her loud weeping ^{717a)}. No details about this church are known except that a *Scala Coeli* had been erected in it (D 1039).

The big monastery must have been completed before 1413*, when the duke of Clarence and his wife with 300 horses took their abode in it. In 1446*, while Capgrave was prior, King Henry VI resided there in the monastery and before leaving, took it under the « perpetual » protection of his dynasty. In 1498* King Henry VII and Queen Elizabeth, and many noblemen, accepted the homage of the city in this house.

A good sense of social consciousness is evident in the contract made in 1378* between the house and Geoffrey Gadgrave, its miller and baker.

Other facts reveal a loosening of religious discipline. « Because of his great merits » Fr. Robert Walton in 1359* received permission from the general to keep his money and use it for the erection of a new building or the improvement of an old one according to his own decision. In 1382* Master John Beston *loaned* his own friary for some special needs, 50 marks which, of course, had to be paid back.

Amongst the benefactors of the house may be enumerated William of Roughton who in 1328* gave 6 pounds sterling to his son Edmund, a member of this house ; in 1340* Radulf Wake left in his will 13s to Friar Andrew ^{717b)} ; Sir Roger Scales, brother of the queen, bequeathed in 1387* the sum of £ 3-6-8 and in 1461* Alicia Cosyn-Pylton ordered the income of several tenements to be used for a chantry.

On 30 September 1538 Prior William Wilson and ten confreres signed the deed of surrender (D 1129). All of them except one received their capacities on 20 December 1539 (D 1177).

⁷¹⁷⁾ See chapter on authors *infra*.

^{717a)} P. 203 (XIII, 540) *supra*.

^{717b)} INGLEBY, *Red Register* 13d.

While the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* of 1535* mentions only three tenements in the city valued at 26s8d p. a., the Ministers Account of 1538 enumerates nine with a yearly value of 55s8d. The site itself was leased to Humphrey Carvill for 3s4d (D 1129). The house stood a good many years until John Lease pulled it down and sold the stone and ground to diverse persons ⁷¹⁸).

The friary was located in the parish of St. Nicholas in the north-west part of the town, between Austin Street and Chapel Street, partly on the site of the Black Horse Inn. Part of a gateway is about all that remains ^{718a}).

Priors ⁷¹⁹): 1382 John Delgate (D 551).

1385 Walter Birington (D 574).

1456 John Capgrave Jr. (D 835) and prior provincial.

1519 Master Thomas Isaac (D 1029).

1535 Thomas Potter (D 1102).

1538 William Wilson (D 1129).

Literature:

Best history in J. CAPEGRAVE, *Chronicle of England* (1858), Appendix V, p. 367/71; J. C. COX in *VCH-Norfolk* II (1908) 427/8; H. HARROD, *Report on the Deeds and Records of the Borough of King's Lynn* (Lynn 1841); H. J. HILIEN, *History of the Borough of King's Lynn* (Norwich 1907); H. INGLEBY, *The Red Register of King's Lynn*, 2 vols. (n. d.); Ch. MESSENT, *The Monastic Remains of Norfolk and Suffolk* (Norwich 1934) 37/8; Fr. BLOMEFIELD, *An Essay ... County Norfolk* 8 (London 1805) 528-530.

In a letter of 1 Nov. 1963 Mrs. Dorothy Ower (formerly Williamson) informed us that she found a good deal of new material among the Borough Records of Lynn which she intends to publish in the near future.

*26. Newark 1534-1539

Neuarca, Newerca; [Limit: Lincoln]; Diocese: Lincoln; County: Nottinghamshire.

When the Observant Franciscans were dissolved in 1534 their foundation in Newark, was given to the Austins. While there is disagreement as to the number of their houses given to the Austins,

⁷¹⁸) For the later history see RICHARDS, *History of Lynn* (Lynn 1812) section V.

^{718a}) MESSENT, *Monastic Remains* 37/8.

⁷¹⁹) Ralph Marham, prior in 1378 and 1389, was not an Austin but superior of an episcopal house, which was also dedicated to St. Margaret, unless Blomefield was mistaken (*Norfolk* VIII, 495).

there cannot be a doubt about Newark joining them. It was dissolved towards the end of February 1539 (D 1151/2).

Literature:

J. C. COX in *VCH-Nottinghamshire* II (1910) 148; KNOWLES-HADCOCK, *Mediev. Rel. Houses* 195, 201.

27. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne before 1291-1539

Novum Castrum super Tynam ; Limit : York ; Diocese Durham (Dunelmense) ; County : Northumberland ; Patron : St. Augustine ⁷²⁰).

Newcastle was one of the most northern possessions of the Austins. Their house was built close to the city, north of the parish church All Hallows and not far from the Pandon Gate ⁷²¹). Its great ⁷²²) church overlooked Pandon, now the oldest part of the city, but formerly an independent town. Neither the time of foundation nor the name of the founder or earliest benefactors are known. Whether the friary was really built upon the site of an old Saxon monastery, where some kings of Northumbria lay buried ⁷²³), can no longer be proved. It was well established in 1291 when John de Capella assigned to its brethren a messuage in Penrith for a new foundation in that town (D 100).

At the beginning of the fourteenth century the monastery was financially strong enough to expand. In 1306* Prior Ralph paid Bartholomew Patun 100s for a plot of ground 200 × 80 ft. ⁷²⁴). This

⁷²⁰) The seal shows St. Augustine in pontificals standing, a fragment only remaining: *Archaeologia Aeliana* 3. ser. vol. 21 (1924) 46.

⁷²¹) See Speed's plan on inside cover of S. MIDDLEBROOK, *Newcastle upon Tyne* (Newcastle 1950). — For plot plan of the friary see *Archaeol. Ael.* 3 ser. 2 (1905) 384. Thomas Oliver made a survey in 1830 before the sweeping changes of the nineteenth century took place. LELAND, *Itin.* V, 126 wrote: « And lower in the same street [Pandon Gate] but on the contrary syde a litle within a lane was the house of Augustine Freires ».

⁷²²) « ... together with the great church of the Austin Friars »: « Memoirs of the Life of Mr. Ambrose Barnes »: *Surtees Soc.* 50 (1887) 95.

⁷²³) CHARLETON, *History* 176. A letter of Mr. Honeyman, secretary of the *Archaeol. Ael.*, from 15. Dec. 1950 informs us that the foundations of the monastery reached into the thirteenth century.

⁷²⁴) The amount is given in *Feet of Fine for Northumberland 181/1* (132). Text published in *Archaeol. Ael. Record Ser.* 11 (1932) no. 140.

is one of the very few instances where we know the purchase price ; it also proves erroneous the surmise of some historians that all or almost all real estate transfers to friars were plain benefactions. In 1317* Wiliam Ros of Hamelake, baron of Warwick-upon-Tweed, assigned to the friary all land within Cow Gate and a year later he added half a messuage. Because of this donation he has been called the founder or received the rights of a founder ⁷²⁵). In 1318* the Austins also acquired Robert Middleton's messuage which had been attainted for treason ⁷²⁶). In 1323* another plot of land 280 × 60 ft. was obtained from John Denton ⁷²⁷) and in 1329* a messuage from Richard Horsseleye. When a parcel of land measuring three and a half roods was procured from Chaplain Adam Colewell in 1330*, the king's license contained the proviso that the mayor and commonalty of the town should have sufficient space between the monastery and the townwall to ride in for the custody and defense thereof ».

Newcastle was one of the larger houses of the province. It numbered 26 brethren in 1300 and 1301 ; 28 in 1315 ; 24 in 1322 and 30 between 1333 and 1345 ⁷²⁸). At the time of dissolution 13 brethren were still present (D 1144).

Despite the importance of the house, few data have come to light so far. John Penrith, kn., who had died in the campaign against the rebellious duke of Lancaster, was buried in this church on 1 August 1322* by order of King Edward II, who gave 72s9d towards the funeral expenses. A friar, Elias, was prior at that time (D 224).

Provincial chapters were held here in 1374* and 1424*. In 1430* John Rhodes, mayor of the city, bequeathed 10 marks. In 1503* Princess Margaret, oldest daughter of King Henry VII, stayed at this house on her way to Scotland, to whose king she had been betrothed. A more famous royal personage, Mary Tudor, queen of the Scots, supposedly passed through Newcastle on her way to the scaffold and was locked up in the friary prison ⁷²⁹).

It is not known when the Company of Weavers selected Austin

⁷²⁵) DUGDALE, *Monasticon* VI (3) 1594.

⁷²⁶) BRAND, *History* I, 345 (*Pat. R. 2 Edw. II p. 2. m. 31*).

⁷²⁷) BRAND, *History* I, 346 copying from Tanner and Wallis (*The Natural History and Antiquities of Northumberland* 2 [London 1769] 209) gives the length as 28 ft. and the width as 16 ft., which is false.

⁷²⁸) See appendix on membership.

⁷²⁹) Letter of Mr. Honeyman.

Friars as its guild church. On 31 August 1527* they passed a resolution that each member should be at St. Augustine's on the day of the Exaltation of the Cross and « on the None of the same go to the dirige and sowle masse to be done for the bruderes and susters of the said fellowship » under pain of forfeiting 6d for each default.

The Act of Surrender was signed on 9 January 1539. George Lawson gave the Prior Andrew Kell and each of his thirteen confreres, among them three novices, a few shillings which would tide them over the first few days and then leave them without resources (D 1144).

The monastery was so well built that Gray's *Chorography* described it as « sumptuous »⁷³⁰). The Great Council of the North wrote to Cromwell on 6 November 1538, that when the king's lieutenant or his Council repair to Newcastle upon Tyne « there was no house there meet to receive them but the Friars Augustine » (D 1144). Therefore, it was reserved for the king at the suppression.

After 1570 the place became known as the Queen's Manor and the street in front of it which had been changed from Cow Cate (= street) to Austin Chare, (= street) was from then on known as Manor's Chare. About 1648 the monastery and church were torn down under the direction of the town surveyor John Pigg, who used its stones for a new meeting house⁷³¹). The Jesus or city hospital stands partially on the ground of the former church and over the cloisters a Catholic school was erected in 1880. The strong, square tower of the friary church still stands and has been declared a national monument through the efforts of Mr. Steedman, president of the Aelian Archaeological Society⁷³²).

Priors: 1306 Ralph (D 158).

1324 Elias (*Brit. Mus. Stow. Ms. 553 fol. 139*).

1513/4 « Sir » Thomas Bertonne (D 1014).

1539 Andrew Kell (D 1144).

Literature:

Newcastle found an excellent historian in J. BRAND, *The History and Antiquities of the Town and County of the Town Newcastle upon Tyne* 1 (London 1789) 344-351. Almost equally important is R. WELFORD, *History of Newcastle and*

⁷³⁰) Quoted in *Archaeol. Ael.* 4 ser. 5 (1928) 37.

⁷³¹) J. OXBERRY, « John Pigg: Newcastle's Puritan Town Surveyor », *Archaeol. Ael.* 4 ser., 5 (1928) 37.

⁷³²) *Archaeol. Ael.* 4 ser. 6 (1933/4) 276.

Gateshead I (London 1884) who enumerates many bequests. Best for the post-Reformation time is R. C. CHARLETON, *A History of Newcastle-upon-Tyne* (London 1882 and later). John QUILLEN, *The Friars of old Newcastle* (Newcastle 1907) offers nothing new. The same is true of later histories.

28. Newport *1377-1538

Novus Portus, Neoportia ; Limit : Oxford ; Diocese : Llandaff in Wales (Wallia) ; County : Monmouthshire ; Patron : St. Nicholas ; Parish : St. Woolos.

Newport is situated on the right side of the river Usk opposite Bristol and is by far the largest city of the county Monmouthshire, Wales. The Austins were the only Mendicants in town. Their house was established shortly before 1377* by Hugh, second earl of Stafford. It was the third of four houses authorized by Pope Urban V in 1364*.

Near the river a little below the bridge ⁷³³⁾ stood since ancient times, a chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas. This chapel, as well as the parish church, St. Woolos were appropriated to St. Peter's abbey in Gloucester. In a long document of 2 July 1377* Provincial Henry Teesdale and Thomas Locke, the first prior, promised to pay 13s4d for the donation of the chapel and the tithes lost on thirty-one burgages which the Staffords had donated. In 1402*, scarcely a generation after its foundation, the friary was destroyed in the revolt of Owen Glyndour. The rebuilding must have taken place immediately. Some time before 1448 Humphrey of Stafford, grandson of Hugh, had given another twenty-one burgages (D 815) and in 1482 Henry, duke of Buckingham, added six more. The Austins, therefore, held sixty burgages on which fixed rents had to be paid in money or services ; the only freehold was the chapel.

About 1800 Wm. Coxe described the remains of the monastery as « several detached buildings containing comfortable apartments, and a spacious hall, with gothic windows neatly finished in free-stone ». The body of the church was dilapidated, but in the northern transept « was a small but elegant specimen of gothic archi-

⁷³³⁾ LELAND, *Itin.* III, 14 writes: « The fairest of the toun is all yn one strete. The toun is in ruine. There was a house of religion by the key beneath the bridge ». — The borough records of Newport have diasappeared: JOHNS, *Histor. Trad.* VI, 55.

ture. The hall is now occupied by a cyder mill and the press is placed in a small recess which was once a chapel separated from the transept by a bold and lofty arch. The gardens are enclosed within the original walls » ⁷³⁴).

Little is known about the members of the house and benefactors other than the Staffords. The only testament found so far in which this house is mentioned is that of Jasper Tudor, duke of Bedford, († 1495) who bequeathed to it 20s (D 968). Archbishop Thoresby's Register records in 1367 the ordination of a William de Newport who might have been the prime mover for a foundation in his hometown ⁷³⁵). In 1377 a Fr. John Gregory was ordained priest as a member of nearby Ludlow friary. He left an interesting sermon on the blood of Christ in which he calls himself John Gregory of Newport. He was, therefore, either a conventual of our friary or claimed Newport as his hometown. The latter is more probable ⁷³⁶). In 1392* Bartholomew of Venice, prior general, made Fr. Mathew Melevyth of Ludlow a conventual of this house in such a way that all his goods should accrue to Newport ; usually they had to be divided in such cases.

The Act of Surrender was signed on 8 September 1538 only by Richard Batte, vicar of the prior (D 1124). In 1543 the place was granted to Sir Edward Carne and is described as « all that house of Friars Preachers at Newport in the county of Monmouth, and one close of arable land, called Friars close, containing six acres in the parish of Newport » (D 1124). The expression « Friars Preachers » is of course false, since the Dominicans never had a house here ⁷³⁷).

In a communication of 1950, J. R. Gabriel, secretary of the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association, added the following items : « The bell was bought by Henry Everard who re-sold it to Maurice Vaughan of Newport for 35s. The priory was leased to Maurice Baker, the lead being reserved. On 21 August 1543 the priory was granted to Sir Edward Carne, King Henry's ambassador at the Vatican. He transferred his title to Giles Morgan, second son of Sir William Morgan of Pencock. It remained in the

⁷³⁴) W. COXE, *A Historical Tour through Monmouthshire*; 2. ed. (Brecon 1904) 71/2.

⁷³⁵) *York, Reg. Thoresby fol. 320.*

⁷³⁶) See chapter on authors.

⁷³⁷) See our remarks under Hull.

Morgan family until 1723 when Lewis Morgan conveyed it to Thomas Clifford. Giles Morgan « of Friars » was the son of William, high sheriff in 1559. In the riots at Newport in 1523, the prior played some part, but if my memory does not fail me, his name was not given ».

Priors: 1377 Thomas Locke (D 530).

Literature:

Thos. WAKEMAN, « The Monastery of the Austin Friars at Newport », *Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association* (1859); W. N. JOHNS, *Historical Traditions and Facts relating to Newport and Caerleon* 6 parts (Newport 1880/5) repeats only Wakeman as far as Austins are concerned; Wm. REES, « The Suppression of the Friaries in Glamorgan and Monmouthshire », *South Wales and Monmouthshire Record Society* 3 (1950) 19.

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(To be continued).