

* Didn't know about
* when + notes - 1612
P. 271

believed River Soar
(bates in river' story (p. 64)
Great quakes on L3
on pp. 65 & 64

body on display
at town hall??
P. 63

+ stone coffin
Catesby executed
(without any ceremony
or decency, P. 63)

John Throsby
↙



Published by J. Throsby, Leicester Sep 17 1792, & Sold by W. Walker N° 46 Regentman's St London.

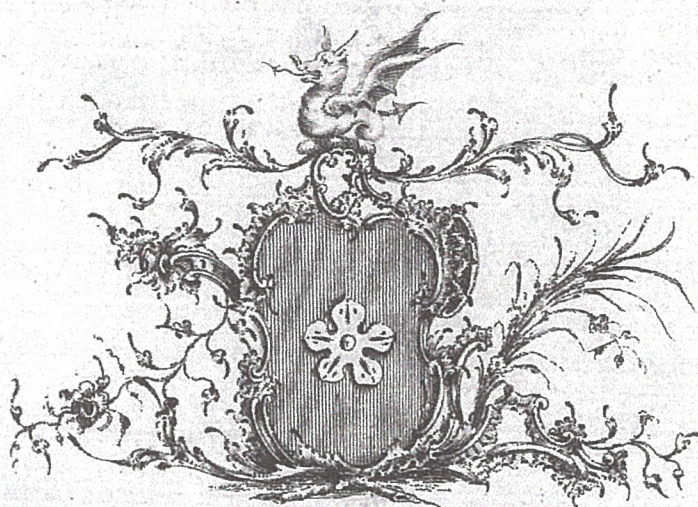
Published by J. Throsby, Leicester, Sep 17 1792

* The History And Antiquities of the Ancient Town of
Leicester (1792) *

THE
HISTORY and ANTIQUITIES
OF THE
ANCIENT TOWN
OF
LEICESTER;

ATTEMPTED BY
JOHN THROSBY.

"GENERAL KNOWLEDGE IS TO BE DRAWN FROM PARTICULARITIES."
WARTON.



LEICESTER:
PRINTED BY J. BROWN,
FOR THE AUTHOR.
M, DCC, XCI.

C O N T E N T S.

S E C T. I.

THE Origin, History and Antiquities of Leicester, 'till it became chartered under King John.

S E C T, II.

It's History and Antiquities continued under its Government of Mayors.

S E C T III.

It's religious Houses, Churches and Hospitals.

S E C T. IV.

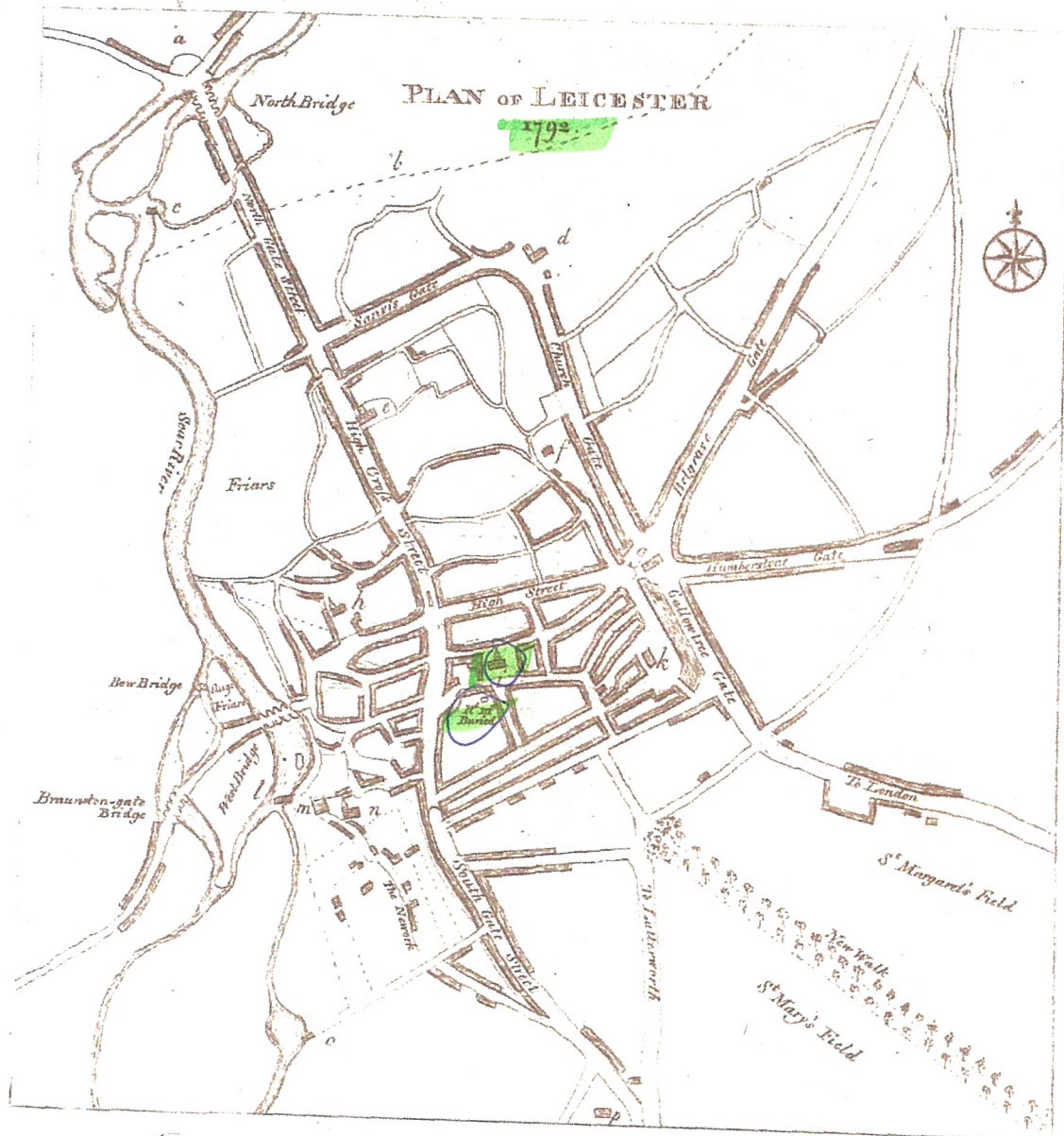
It's Earls.

S E C T. V.

It's present State.

T H E

Medieval Leicester Plan 1792.



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| a St Leonard's Church Yard | f Great Meeting | l Castle Mill |
| b Line of the intended Navigation | g Assembly Room | m Castle |
| c North Mill | h St Nicholas Church | n St Mary's Church |
| d St Margaret's Church | <u>i St Martin's Church</u> | o Swaner Mill |
| e All Saints Church | k Change | p Infirmary |

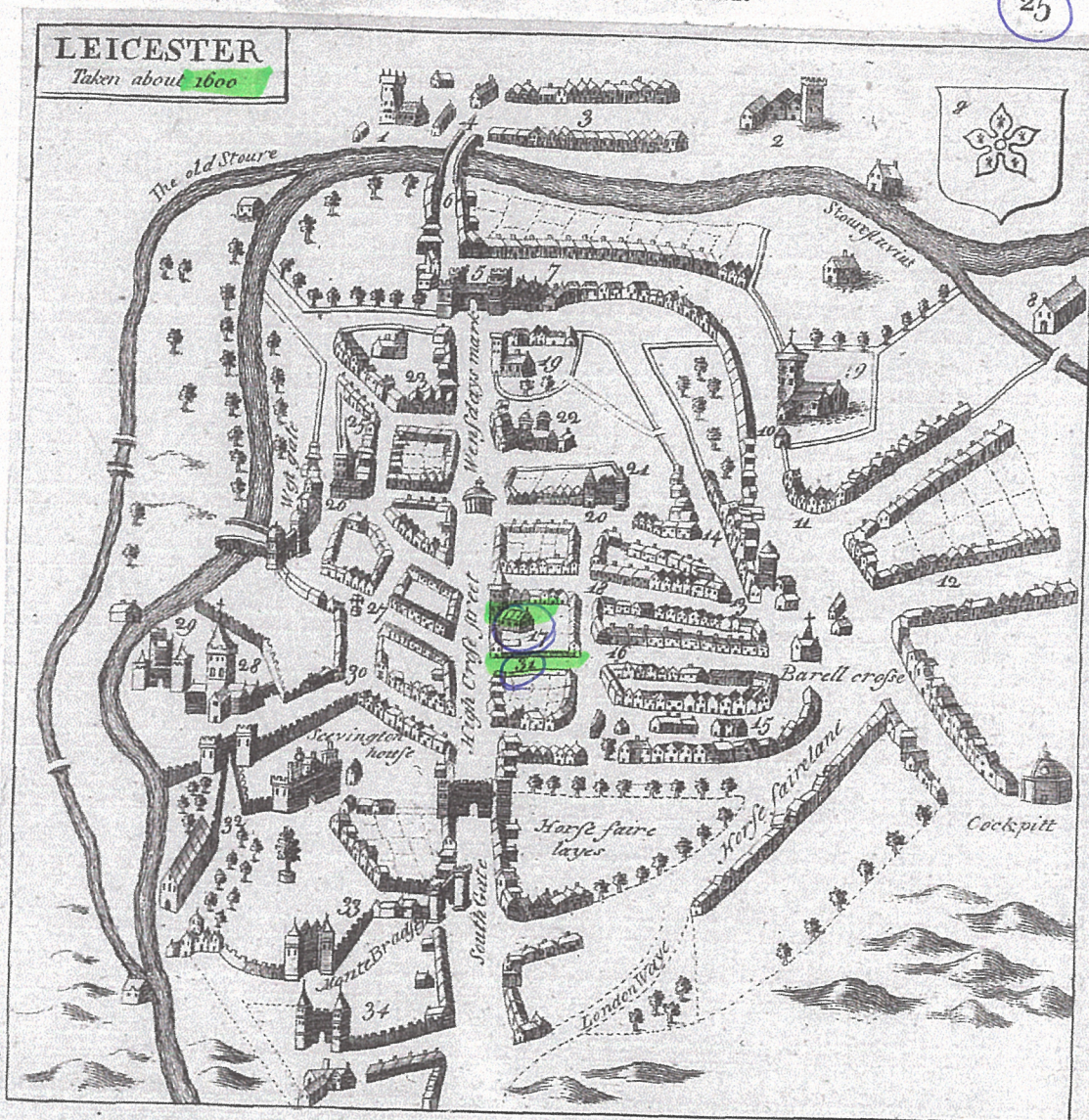
Leicester 1600

(should be p. 22?)
index

Page

25

OF LEICESTER.



Chief places of y^e Citie by figures Noted

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 S. Leonards | 10 Churche gate | 19 Alhallower | 27 Redd crosse street |
| 2 Leicester Abbey | 11 Belgrave gate | 20 High Street | 28 S. Marves |
| 3 Abbey gate | 12 Humberston gate | 21 Huntington place | 29 The Castell |
| 4 Sundaye Bridge | 13 East gate | 22 Woole Hall | 30 Castell street |
| 5 North gate | 14 Swines market | 23 Graye fryers | 31 Black fryers lane |
| 6 North gate street | 15 Satterdayes market | 24 Graye fryers gate | 32 Oldd Hospitall |
| 7 Sinuis gate | 16 Cankwell Lane | 25 S. Nicholas | 33 The newe warke |
| 8 The Spittle | 17 S. Martines | 26 S. Nicholas shambles | 34 The Grange |
| 9 S. Margrets | 18 S. Martins Street | | |

Archbishop Cuthbert Anno 747, and died 751. Then Eadulphus; after him Ceolulphus who died in 787. After whose death the See became vacant some years; but Anno 872, Brightred being made Bishop, it was removed to Dorchester near Oxford.

by the order of Richmond, the request of the mayor and his brethren, or while the officer who brought the body could procure a fit place for its interment I know not. But this we are informed, from the best authority, that at the end of the second day it was taken to the church of the Gray Friars, near St. Martin's church, and there buried in a stone coffin. From these circumstances we may hazard an opinion which is probable; that the body lay at the town hall not to meet the insults of the rabble; but only while a shell of stone was formed to contain it, at the expence of some who might detest the actions of the man while they pitied fallen majesty. All were not like Richmond, who, while in the possession of a complete victory, was totally destitute of that mercy and compassion which ennobles man!

Two days after the battle, Catesby, Richard's confidential minister, with some others who were taken prisoners, without any ceremony or decency, were executed at Leicester.

Tradition informs us that the town's people of Leicester, with the promptitude with which the lower orders of mankind engage in every purpose that is either recommended by novelty or example, obliged the proprietor of the inn, where Richard slept, to change the White Boar, his sign, for that of the Blue.

"The fluctuations of the human mind are remarkable; the tide of applause runs parallel with the tide of prosperity; when this falls, the voice of popular favour falls with it. While the house of York swayed the British sceptre, the *white rose* was held in repute, bloomed on the bosom of beauty, and on the sign-post of the publican; but when that house fell, it faded with it, and from that moment was elevated no more. Even now, if ever we see the sign of the rose, it is always a red; nay, it was but recently, that this innocent and lovely flower recovered its pristine credit; for in the contests between the houses of Stuart and Brunswick, it was supposed to be tainted with the smell of treason." (a)

In an act of attainder passed in 1485, it is recited that "Richard, late duke of Gloucester, calling and naming himself by usurpation

R

king

(a) Hutton.

Was this by
a Yorkist?

king Richard III. with John duke of Norfolk, Thomas earl of Surrey, (and many others therein mentioned) the 21st day of August, the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, assembled to them at Leicester, a great host; traiterously intending, imagining and conspiring the destruction of the king's royal person, our Sovereign Liege Lord. And they, with the same host, with banners spread, mightily armed, and defended with all manner of arms, as guns, bows, arrows, spears, gloves, axes, and all other manner of articles apt or needful to give and cause mighty battle against our Sovereign Lord, kept together from the said 22d day of the said month then next following, and then conducted to a field within the said shire of Leicester, there by great and continued deliberation traiterously levied war against our said Sovereign Lord and his true subjects, there being in his service and assistance under a banner of our said Sovereign Lord, to the subversion of this realm, and commonweal of the same." By this act the above named persons are declared traitors, and their estates forfeited, with some few exceptions to some particular persons.

Henry VII. neither from motives of love nor compassion, we may apprehend, erected afterwards, over king Richard's remains, an ordinary alabaster monument to his memory, on which was the figure of the king; but at the dissolution of religious houses, in the succeeding reign, about 50 years after his death, it was ruinated with the church, the grave ransacked, and his bones taken in triumph thro' the streets; and at last thrown over the bridge over which he rode to the fatal battle of Bosworth, so called from its vicinity to Sutton field. The stone coffin which contained his body was sold, or given, to an inn-keeper, in whose possession and his successors it remained as an horse trough till about the beginning of this century. The inn was the White Horse in Gallow-tree-gate. I remember being shewn some fragments of it about the year 1760.

A representation of this bridge I have given in the annexed plate, fig. 2. behind which peeps the little robber, Bow-bridge, which by the revolving of a few centuries has almost stolen its honours. Bow-bridge was trodden by the religious of the house of the Augustin or Black

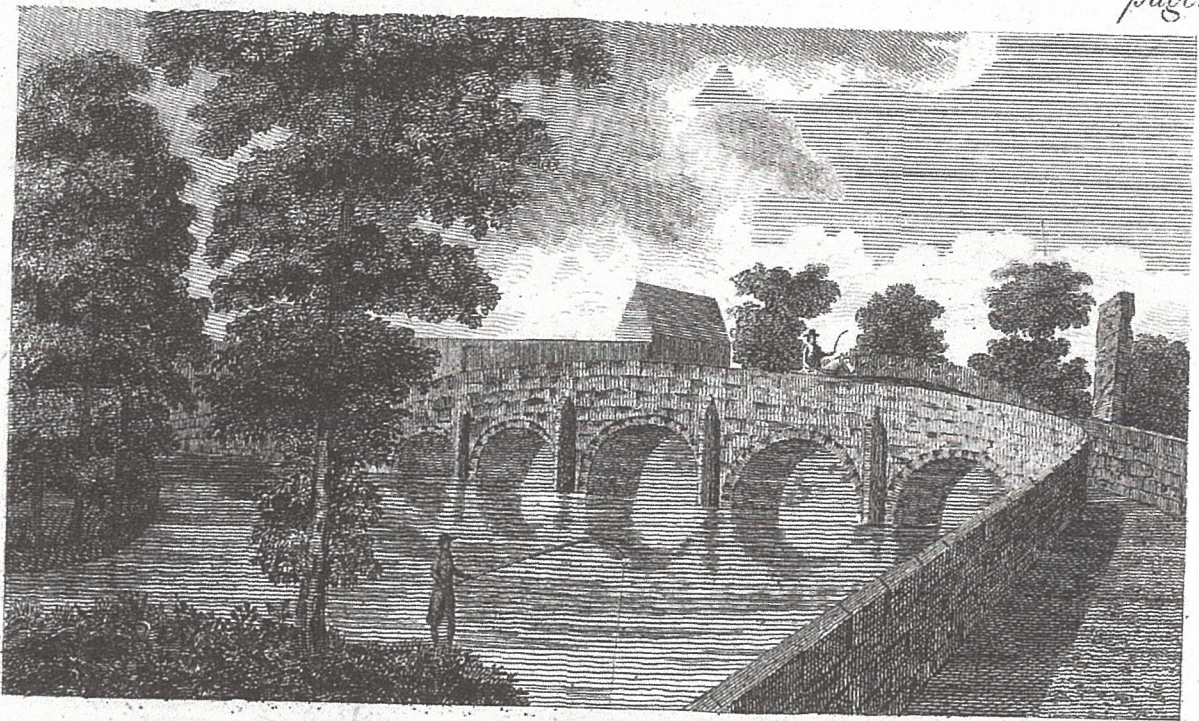


Fig. 2.
King Richard's Bridge taken in 1791.

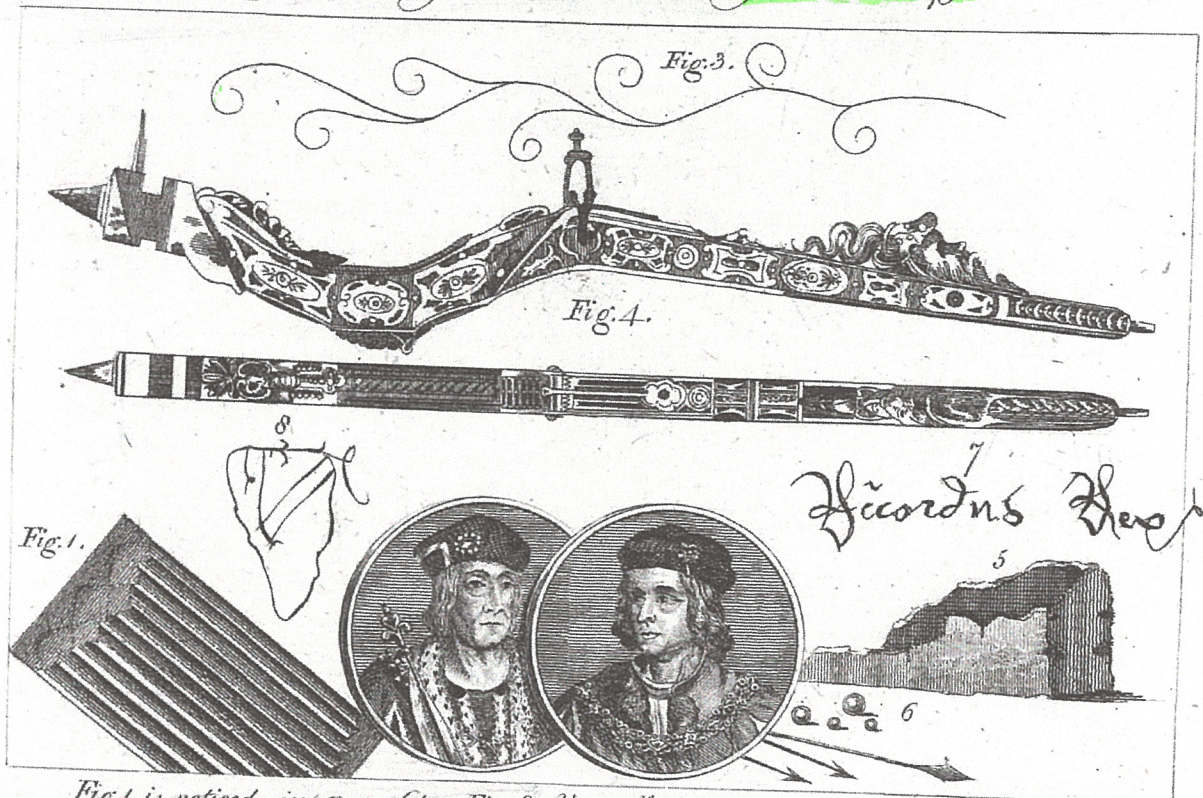


Fig. 1. is noticed in page 61. Fig. 3. Vermillion painting mentioned in the note page 61. Fig. 4. Handle of a Cross Bow found in Bosworth Field. Fig. 5. a fragment of Richard's Coffin. Fig. 6. Cannon Balls &c found in Sutton Field. 7. Richard's Signature. 8. Henry's Monogram, and their Portraits.

Black Friars, which nearly adjoined it; and was used as a private passage to and from the adjacent grounds; but the arches of this bridge, which span the ancient river Soar, should be ever memorable as the passage of one of the bravest kings, that ever swayed a sceptre, to the field of battle and his death, arrayed in martial glory panting for fame and victory. But Oh! how unstable are life, power and even the envied splendour of the great; for in the evening of that fatal day it served as a passage for his naked body also towards its humble grave, the derision of an insulting rabble, whose very look or nod, when living, commanded silence, subjection and often death. And, at the distance of a few years, as if his bones were wedded to the spot whereon these venerable arches stand, it then became their final resting place. (a)

1484, then Robert Crofte was mayor.

1485, Thomas Swicke.

HENRY VII.

I am now arrived at that period of the history of this ancient place, where I am to notice its government in a more particular manner than I have done in the preceding pages, when it put on a new form in consequence of some irregularities that had taken place.

Since those charters, &c. were granted which I have noticed in the preceding pages respecting Leicester, I find the following particulars. In instances where I print the original, or not, the reader will find a very free translation, done merely to help the English reader to the meaning.

Claus. anno 11 Hen. III. m. 19. Leicester'. perambulatio foreste regis ibidem. By this we find that Leicester forest was perambulated long ago.

Escaet'

(a) *Speed*, by the plan he has given of the town of Leicester, which I have copied (see page 22) in part, for the purpose of pointing out his errors respecting the situation of the religious houses, has occasioned several respectable writers who have followed him to err materially. I shall, in consequence, under the Section, *Religious Houses and Hospitals*, endeavour to give each their proper name and situation, and shew in what he has erred.

body by the names of Mayor Bailiffs &c. altho' there is but one Bailiff: this officer is called the king's Bailiff, and was, prior to the office of Mayor, called the earl's Bailiff. He holds his place for life and is chosen alternately by the earls of Huntingdon and the 24 aldermen. The Huntingdon family obtained this privilege from James the first. The office whatever it might have been, is now, in a great measure, honorary; excepting that the Gentleman who holds it is returning officer, in conjunction with the mayor, at elections for Members to serve in parliament.

1488,	<i>Thomas Davy</i> was Mayor and served till
1490, then	<i>Roger Trigg.</i>
1491,	<i>William Gibson.</i>
1492,	<i>Thomas Swicke.</i>
1493,	<i>Robert Crofte.</i>
1494,	<i>Thomas Snarste.</i>
1495,	<i>Andrew Langton.</i>
1496,	<i>William Rawlet.</i>
1497,	<i>Richard Gilliot.</i>
1498,	<i>William Wigstone</i> till
1500,	<i>William Gibson.</i>
1501,	<i>Roger Trigge.</i>

1502,

burgi predicti sic assignandi, ex commissione regia, separatos a commissioner corporis dicti com' Leyce exnunc assignandi super et in singulis hujusmodi concessionibus, onerationibus, et prestationibus quintarum decimarum, decimarum, quotarum, taxarum, auxiliorum, subsidiorum, aut alterius contributionis vel oneris cujuscunque, nobis, hered' aut successoribus nostris fiend', et quibuscumque inde parcell', omnes et singulos burgenses, residentes, commorantes et inhabitantes ville sive burgi illius et suburbia ejusdem pro tempore existent', pro rata et porcione sua bonorum, cattallarum, terrarum, et ten' suorum, infra villam sive burgum ill' contingen' de jure contributorum et onerabil', taxand' sive apporcionand' vel assidend', videlicet, ad quamlibet integram quintam decimam et decimam, viginti et unam libris, taxa ejusdem ville nobis et heredibus nostris solvend' ultra summam centum et tresdecim solidorum et quatuor denariorum, pro taxa ville sive burgi illius in singulis solutionibus hujusmodi deducend', et eidem burgensibus, ac eorum collectoribus inde deputand' allocand', prout villa sive burgus predicti antiquitus sit contribuere et taxari, ac in deductione sua predicta exonerari aut allocari hactenus pro parte et porcione ejusdem ville sive burgi consuevit cum dicto corpore totius com' Leyce supradicti, dum eidem corpori ipsius com' Leyce in collectione et solutione sua contributor' fuit. Et volumus ac ordinamus quod nos, hered' ac successores nostri, ac quilibet n'rm singulas commissiones nostras majori et quatuor discretioribus burgensibus dicte ville sive burgi pro tempore existent', pro singulis talibus taxationibus, deputacionibus, et nominacionibus collectorum infra villam

(Earl of Huntingdon)
↓
This noble peer died in 1595, after serving Queen Elizabeth in the most honourable employments. The twelfth of her reign he was installed Knight of the Garter, and constituted Lord Lieutenant of the counties of Leicester and Rutland. He was one of the peers who had the care of Mary Queen of Scots, and sat upon the trial of Thomas duke of Norfolk.

SIR WILLIAM HEYRICK, Knight,

Was a native of Leicester, and youngest son of Mr. Alderman John Heyrick, or Erick, who was twice Mayor of that place. This gentleman was seated at Beaumanor, in this county, in the reign of Elizabeth, where his immediate descendant, William Heyrick, Esq. now dwells. By that queen he had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him; and was by her sent ambassador to the court of the Turks. By James the First he was appointed one of the Tellers of the Exchequer. In 1601 he was chosen to represent this borough in Parliament; and again, in 1605 and 1620. He died in 1652, aged 96, and was buried with his ancestors in St. Martin's church, Leicester. See his portrait, fig. 6.

This gentleman was of known probity, punctual in his dealings, remarkably accurate in his private as well as public concerns, and acquired so large a fortune, that it enabled him not only to assist many of the nobility with money in those days of scarcity, but his sovereign on many urgent occasions. His services to this place made him the idol of the people; the estimation he was held in by the body corporate may be seen under the article, *The Old Hospital*, in the third section; particulars of his family are inserted under the article St. Martin's Church, in the same section. The following is from an old paper in my possession, preserved ever since Sir William's time; it powerfully testifies what I have advanced respecting his character.

"To the most venerable and honourable-minded knight, Sir William Heyrick: all ioyes bee multiplied in this and the world to come."

Y y 2

"W el-

RICHARD III.

1 P. at West. *John Roberts Mayor, Peers Curtis.*

HENRY VII.

4 P. at West. *Peers Curtis, Roger Wigston.*
 7 P. at West. *Peers Curtis, Robert Clark.*
 11 P. at West. *Robert Orton, William Wigston.*
 14 P. at Lond. *William Bolte Mayor.*

HENRY VIII.

————— *Roger Wigston.*

EDWARD VI.

1 P. at West. *George Swillington, Esq. Ralph Skinner, Gent.*
 6 P. at West. *George Swillington, Esq. Robert Cotton, Gent.*

MARY.

1 P. at West. *William Faunt, Esq. Thomas Farnham, Esq.*
 7 P. at Oxford, *Francis Farnham, Thomas Jenkinson.*
 1 and 2 P. at West. *Francis Farnham, Recorder, Hugh Ashton.*
 2 and 3 P. at West.
 4 and 5 P. at West. *Robert Breham, Maurice Tyrrel, Gent.*

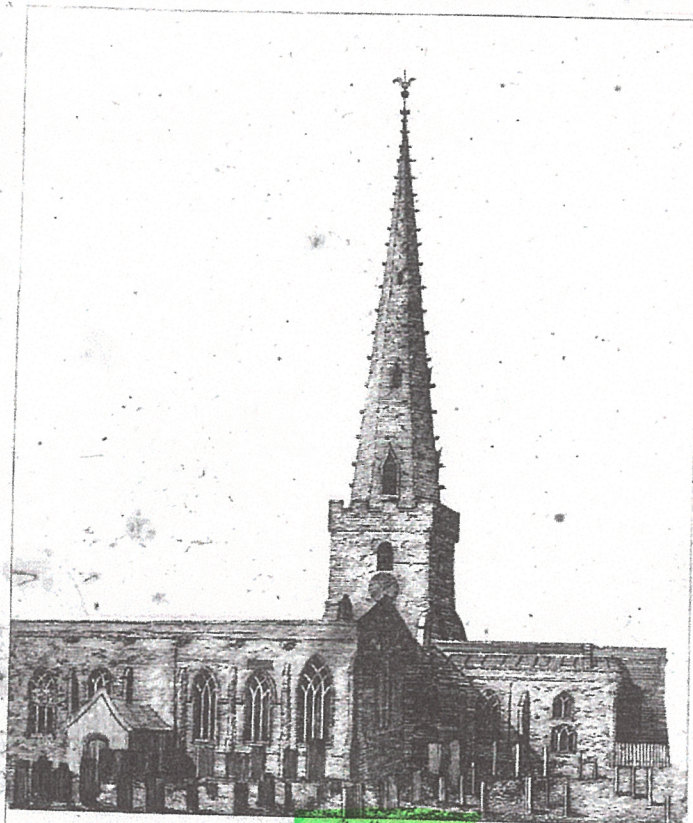
ELIZABETH.

1 P. at West. *John Hastings, Robert Breame.*
 5 P. at West. *Richard Breham, Esq. Robert Brooksby, Esq.*
 13 P. at West. *Thomas Cave, Esq. Stephen Hales, Esq.*

14 P.

Page
240-3
8r. Mochois

(Hearts Chancel p 269)



St. Martin's



Coffin delin. et sculp.

St. Margaret's

St. Martin's Church (LC)

Proposer to R's grave in garden 1612 !!

OF LEICESTER.

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Of this family are buried here, are, "Robert Heyrick, iron-monger, and twice mayor of Leicester," and Sir William Heyrick of Beaumanor. The former died in 1618, aged 78 years; the latter in 1652, aged 90.

A small monument here remembers "G. Heyricke, who died in 1697, aged 32." Stones also remember the present Town Clerk's grand-father, and the father of William Heyrick of Knighton, Esq. some time Town Clerk, all descended originally from the same family (a).

George

(a) I have given in my Leicestershire Views a pretty full pedigree of this antient and respectable family, who derive their lineage from Erick the forester, a great commander, who opposed the landing of William the Conqueror. This veteran retired into Leicestershire, in his old age, after being employed in the service of the Conqueror, where his descendants, in succession, have continued ever since. From him descended John Erick, of Stretton, who left issue Robert, whose son Robert was Bishop of Chester (otherwise called Lichfield and Coventry); and Sir Wm. Eyrick, lord of Stretton, John, and Adelena. In 1360, 34 Edward III. this bishop founded a chantry in the chapel of St. Giles, Great Stretton, in the parish of Great Glenn, and taking the name of Robert de Stretton amply endowed it in the second year of Richard the Second (the deed bearing date Sept. the 4th, 1378), with 198 acres of land in Great Stretton. This family had a considerable grant of land near Leicester so far back as the reign of King John. A Nicholas Heyrick was mayor of Leicester the sixth year of Edward VI. Others of note, descendants, beside those noticed above, were Robert and Richard, sons of Sir William Heyrick; the former was fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, patronized by the earl of Exeter, and numbered among the suffering Loyalists in the last century; the latter was also fellow of All-Souls, Oxford, and warden of Christ's College, Manchester, by the appointment of Charles the First. William, the eldest son of Sir William Heyrick, was commissioned, by Charles the First, about the repairs of Leicester castle, and putting it into a state of defence, prior to the troubles of his reign. This gentleman, for his attachment to the royal cause, was a considerable sufferer in the issue. Branches of this family have lived in the neighbourhood, and in Leicester, for centuries, who are allied, by marriage, to many of the first families who at times have lived in these parts.

The father of Dean Swift was named Jonathan, and was the son of Thomas Swift, eminent for his loyalty to Charles the First. The Dean's father married Mrs. Abigail Erick, descendant of this family. She brought her husband little or no fortune; and Mr. Swift dying two years after his marriage, left his widow in narrow circumstances, and with child of the famous Dean Swift, who was born A. D. 1667, seven months after his father's death. *Essay on the Life of Dean Swift.*

The Dean's mother, it is said, was greatly beloved by all the family of the Swifts. She was extremely

November, 30 Henry VIII. Some suppose one thing, and some another; but Leland, the venerable traveller, who wrote from an actual visit, in company, doubtless, with a good informant of the town or friary, we may depend upon. Those who start different opinions lived centuries after the destruction of the house, when not a vestige of it was visible excepting the traces of its foundation. Another, and a convincing proof is, that the insulated piece of ground opposite the Bath gardens, called *Bruce's Friars*, is the proper site, because within a few paces there remains, to this day, a well of pure spring water, called *St. Austin's Well*, which in my time was surrounded with a brick wall, a yard high, covered with stone.

The only thing now visible, that may be said to belong to the friary, is an old frame, on which hung the mendicant's bell, which projects from the house top of that dwelling, partly standing on the West bridge, and partly projecting over the river. Here two mendicants stood begging for the support of their brethren.

GRAY FRIARS

House was situate near St. Martin's Church, and was honoured with the tomb of one of the bravest monarchs that ever fell in battle, Richard III. Leland's words are, "The Gray Freres of Leicester stode at the end of the hospital of Mr. Wigston. Simon Montfort, as I lernid, was founder there, and there was byried King Richard III. and a knight caullid Mutton, sumtyme mayre of Leyrcester." It is imagined that the church is that mentioned in Charity's Rentale, as "Ecclesia Sanctæ Trinitatis," which is described to be in the parish of St. Martin.

Mr. Carte says, "The FRANCISCAN or GREY FRIARY, stood on the South side of St. Martin's church-yard, towards which there is a portal remaining; but the other building is quite demolished, most of it now belongs to Mr. Noble, who has a very fine house

John Throsby
1791

OF LEICESTER.

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house within the precincts of it (a). He adds, that the part of the stone coffin of Richard, which remained in his day, at the White Horse Inn, had appearances of the hollow fitted for retaining the head and shoulders (b).

William Giles was the last warden. He, with other brethren, surrendered it 10th November, 30 Henry VIII.

In 1402, the master of this house was convicted of high treason, and was hanged with a natural son of the famous Black Prince.

The grounds belonging to this Friary were spacious, and extended from the upper end of the Market-place to the Friar-lane meeting-house; much of which has been built on in my time. When the workmen were digging for the cellars, to the range of houses which face St. Martin's church, they cast up, I remember, many human bones; one skeleton lay entire: the Friary church probably stood there.

Hospital of St. Ursula.

Nobody knows much about it, although it is mentioned by Burton, and in the Monasticon; valued by the former at 22l. per annum, and in the latter at 8l. Some think it was Wigfton's hospital they mean; it being dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Catherine, and St. Ursula.

ST. LEONARD'S HOSPITAL

Was founded by William the Leper, son of Robert Blanchmains, earl of Leicester, and was situate, Mr. Carte imagines, near St. Leonard's church-yard (c). In the reign of Edward IV. William Lord

(a) This dwelling has been lately beautified, and two extensive wings added to it, for the residence of Mr. Thomas Pares, whose property it now is. Perhaps there are few dwellings, within a large town, more desirable.

(b) When I was a boy, the end of it that then remained stood as a part of a heap of rubbish, in the inn-yard, of brick ends, stones, &c. and was in appearance like fig. 5, in the plate page 64.

(c) The master of the hospital paid 10s. a year to the abbey for a passage to the chapel, for celebrating divine service, which was received in right of their church of St. Leonard. Therefore it certainly stood near it. The founder being a leper, it was built for the relief of those afflicted with this disorder.

→ Cf. close
10 Nov. H.R. (30)

are some good dwellings. St. Martin's church stands at the West end.

CANK-STREET leads from New-street, near St. Martin's church, to what has been lately named Cheapside, an open way, which may be considered a portion of the market-place, below the conduit. Would not Conduit street have been more proper than Cheapside?

NEW-STREET leads to St. Martin's church northwardly. It was built on part of the Gray-Friars. A bad passage, with some good dwellings.

A bad passage with some good dwellings

APPLEGATE-STREET and BRIDGE-STREET (the latter a name given lately to a passage which contains about two houses of each side leading to West-bridge) form an elbow. These, and the lanes and avenues about them, stand upon the site of the Roman city, in general but indifferently built; but this portion of the town is honourable and venerable from years and its antiquarian treasures. The whole island cannot produce two such monuments of high antiquity as the Janua-Wall, called Jewry-Wall, and the Roman-Sewer.

LOSEBY-LANE, now the the Pig-market, a short street which leads into Cank-street; here are two or three good houses.

Other lanes, &c. there are, of inferior note, besides those that change their names with the whim of the inhabitants. Some places I have noticed in other parts of the work, among which is the Market-place. St. James's Square, a name given to a little opening at the upper end of the Market-place, without the least propriety, might be now altered, with much propriety, to Rozzel's Square, in honour of the poet of that name. His conduct implied this language, "Here will I dwell, for I have a delight therein."

POPULATION,

Taken from the parish registers, &c.

The first statement in the following table is the average of a year in five, at progressive periods, including the four next succeeding years after each date; in the division of each, fractions are not regarded.

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