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Title List of Burgage Houses in Knaresborough

Date 1 September 1720

Source Atkinson Papers, Harrogate Library

Folio Note 176

List of Burgage Houses in Knaresborough 1st of September 1720

10 This list is one of several in a bundle of papers relating to Elections in the days before the Reform Act was passed.

There was no general election in this year, 1720. The Parliament then sitting met on the 17 March, 1714-15 (Imperial Calendar 1843, Companion, p76: Wade, British Chronicle p. 340: cf. R. N. 1008) and was dissolved 10 March 1721-2 (Imperial Calendar , p76: Wade p.360: cf. R. N. 1008) Coote and Hitch were returned for Knaresborough (R. N. 1008: Calvert, p88), while Henry Slingsby and Cyril Arthington were rejected. Slingsby and Arthington petitioned against the return, 29 March 1715, alledging unfairness on the part of the bailiff, John Flesher, but this petition was withdrawn, 4 February 1716 (R. N. 1008)

20 In September 1715, the Honourable H. Coote became Earl of Mountrath (R. N. 1008: cf. Calvert, p88). The elevation does not appear to have disqualified him from sitting in the House of Commons, seeing that it was not until his death, apparently in 1720, that a new writ was issued to fill up the vacancy in the representation of Knaresborough, 5 April (R. N. 1008).

The Irish peerage of Mountrath, created 1660, became extinct in 1802 (Debrett: Peerage, 1920, I p.1014). It was then, apparently, that the honourable Richard Arundel came forward for the first time, and offered himself to fill the vacancy, and was elected (R. N. 1008).

Why Slingsby or Arthington did not offer himself is not apparent. At the next general election for the Parliament which met 10 May 1722 (Imperial Calendar, 1843, p76) Slingsby and Arundel were both returned. The Parliament lasted until 5 August 1727 (Ibid). They both represented Knaresborough on into the Parliament elected in 1754 (R. N. 1008), and thence to their respective deaths in 1757 and 1763 (R. N. 1008: cf. Slingsby's Diary, 414:415).

30 The following list is too late in date to have been prepared for the bye-election in 1720 apparently, and it must therefore have been made out at leisure in readiness for the next general election, which took place early in 1722. The deeds reproduced in F. N. 248 and F. N. 249 are of about the same date, a little later perhaps, and were evidently made in preparation for the same election.

The list is remarkable for the number of houses possessed by Mr Stockdale. Christopher Stockdale, M.P. died in September 1713 (Grainge: Forest, p209). Though he was succeeded at Bilton Hall by William Stockdale, he was the last of the Stockdales to sit in Parliament for Knaresborough (cf. R. N. 1008).

From 1660, when William Stockdale and Henry Bethell were returned, a Stockdale was always one of the representatives of Knaresborough, until 1713, when Christopher died (R. N. 1008: cf. however, Calvert, p87, which is a little different). This is an unbroken period of 53 years, and the result shows how well this system of 'tied houses', in an electoral sense, worked.

40 When the Stockdales ceased to represent Knaresborough and, apparently, no longer aspired to do so, what did they do with their burgage houses? Did they continue to own them for some time longer, or did they sell them severally or in gross? Calvert says that in the year 1720 the burghers were principally brought up by the Earl of Burlington & family, and leases of 900 years of the premises were granted to the parties for a nominal rent (p86, footnote). We see in this list that Lord Burlington had already begun to buy these burgages; but the number is still small. It is possible that shortly after this he might buy the bulk of Stockdale's burgages, and thus become the principal patron, as his successors, the Dukes of Devonshire, certainly were. (Dod: Electoral Facts, p164).

The reason that the Honourable H. Coote on his elevation to the peerage was not disqualified from sitting in the House of Commons is evidently that it was an Irish peerage, and the Irish peers only sit in the Lords by election and representation (Walpole: Electorate, 33:39). Apparently, those peers who are not elected to sit in the Lords are qualified for election as members of Commons.

10 Taking the allocations of the ownerships as they are numbered, without the qualifying remarks it appears that the Slingsby-Arundell family now owned 35 burgages, the Stockdales 29, Lord Burlington 9, Mr Byerley 6, Mr Holden 5, while there were 6 remaining – total 90. In actual fact, with Burnand Hall counting 2 votes (No. 30), the Rhodes-Casse house (apparently No. 20) counting 2, and the George Casse house, (apparently No. 69), counting 3 or 4, the Slingsby's would command 39 or 40 votes. Added to these would almost certainly be Mr Collins's (No. 25), and when the reversions, defeazances, and other irregularities are made use of, the family total would approach one-half of the total of the town. The accession to the---- of practically any one of the remaining burgage owners would give them an assured majority. With the r----- so nearly balanced, it will be seen how strong a position (missing line(s))

**A LIST OF THE BOROUGH OF KNARESBOROUGH TAKEN FROM
THE INQUISITIONS AND POLLS RELATING THERETO**

1	Thomas Andrews, purchased by Mr Slingsby etc.
2	My Lord Burlington
3	Math Harrison, purchased by mee for my Lord Burlington
4	John Ingham, purchased by Mr Stockdale
5	William Whittacre belonging to Mr Byerley
6	Mr Stockdale
7	Richard Rhodes Esquire, a house purchased by mee for £200 which Mr Arundell before the last Ellection took the Conveyance of (by my consent) in his own name.
8	William Benson purchased lately by Mr Slingsby etc.
9	Richard Webster purchased lately by Mr Slingsby etc.
10	Mr Catton purchased lately by Mr Slingsby etc.
11	Idem purchased lately by Mr Slingsby etc.
12	Richard Rhodes Equire
13	Marmaduke Coghill Esquire purchased lately by Mr Slingsby etc.
14	George Watsons purchased lately by Mr Slingsby etc.
15	Robert Shann purchased lately by Mr Slingsby etc.
16	Richard Petty's purchased by Mr Stockdale but belongs to an Infant soe that itt can't vote this four or five years.
17	Cornelius Cades purchased lately by Mr Slingsby etc.
18	Mr Saltonstalls purchased lately by Mr Stockdale
19	Fra Umpleby's purchased lately by Mr Byerley's
20	Richard Rhodes Esquire purchased by Mr Slingsby and said to be two Votes
21	Henry Slingsby Esquire
22	My Lord Burlington
23	Elizabeth Wilks purchased by Mr Stockdale
24	Idem
25	Mr James Collings
26	George Cass, this house purchased by Stockdale
27	Widow B radley and James Smith purchased by Mr Slingsby
28	Thomas Marshall and Thomas Wrightson purchased by Mr Slingsby etc
29	Thomas Hansell purchased by Mr Slingsby etc
30	Burnand Hall now Mr Slingsby's etc

31	Thomas Dickenson, now Mr Slingsby's etc
32	Mr Stockdalls
33	Fran Dickenson's, now Mr Stockdall
34	Andrew Holden
35	Thomas Hansell – this house purchased by mee for my Lord
36	Andrew Holden. John Ross is supposed to have part of this.
37	John Butterfield, now Mr Stockdalls
38	John Clark. In hold. Mr Slingsby/s etc
39	Mrs Fish. Mr ~Slingsby's
40	Marmaduke Coghill Esquire; Mr Slingsby's etc.
41	Elizabeth Darley, Widdow; Mr Stockdall's
42	Edward Ridsdall's; Mr Stockdalls
43	Phillip Barker; Mr Slingsby's; this is a disputeable Vote
44	Mr Stockdalls
45	Mr Byerley's
46	William Beckwith; Mr Slingsby's etc
47	Mr Gregory Rhodes etc; Mr Slingsby's etc.
48	Mr Stockdalls
49	Richard Vitty; Mr Stockdalls
	BEACHILL
50	Alderson and Guysley; Mr Slingsby's etc
	FENKILL STREET
51	Mr Fish; Mr Stockdall's
52	Mr Byerley's
53	John Benson; Mr Stockdall's
54	Sir Thomas Slingsby
55	John Clark; Mr Slingsby's etc
56	Mr Stockdalls
57	Mr Stockdalls
58	Mr Stockdall's
59	Mr Holden – he claims another here but not allowed
60	Mr Holden – he claims another here but not allowed
61	My Lord Burlington
62	William Guysley etc; Mr Slingsby's
63	Christopher Yeates etc; Mr Slingsby's
64	John Clark Innholder; Mr Slingsby's
65	My Lord Burlington
66	Richard Thompson and Widow Ingham
67	Mr Chambers
68	Thomas Inman; Mr Stockdallss
69	Mr Cass; Mr Slingsby – there's three or four Votes belonged to this Frontstead
70	Mr Andrew Holden
71	Mr Byerley
72	Mr Saltonstall – this house bought by Mr Stockdall but Mr Slingsby has a defearance of itt and designs to Inc for itt.
73	My Lord Burlington
74	Idem
75	Idem – (2)
76	Thomas Harrison etc; Mr Stockdall's
76	Fra Spence etc; Mr Slingsby's
77	Mr Stockdall's
78	Mr Fawkes's; Mr Stockdall's
79	Bryan Fleming
80	John Cass; Mr Slingsby
81	Sir Thomas Slingsby

82	Mr Ralph Hill
83	Richard Thompson; Mr Stockdall's
84	Mr Ridsdalls; Mr Slingsby
85	Barth Bellowmy; M r Stockdalls
86	John Coates; Mr Stockdalls
87	George Coates; Mr Stockdalls
88	Mr Byerley's
89	Sir Thomas Slingsby's
90	Total 90 – No. 75 being twice marked

Of these ninety, fifty two are in the interest of My Lord Burlington, Mr Arundell, Mr Slingsby and Mr Byerley and Thirty Eight are in the Interest of Mr Stockdall and his friends.

Mr Slingsby has purchased from Mr Rhodes a Borrough in the portion of George Casse which hee says is two Votes by Inquisition 1611 and a Borrough from Doctor Coghil called Burnand Hall which hee says is two Votes, this by old deeds and a Burgage from George Cass Junior which hee reckond as three Burgages.

These by Inquisition 1611.

Mr Stockdall has purchased a house from Mr Fish which he wod have a Borrough but there's noe manne of Colour for itt.

10 In the Account above there are four Votes disputeable that are on my Lords and Mr Slingsby's side which are marked with a hand and four disputeable Votes on Mr Stockdalls Side marked with a Cross.

George Cass house is marked on Mr Stockdalls Side but Mr Slingsb y has the Reversion oif itt after the death of George Cass.

Mr Holden also claims two Burgages which are not in the above mencioned Account.

1 September 1720

(Signed) Tho Flesher