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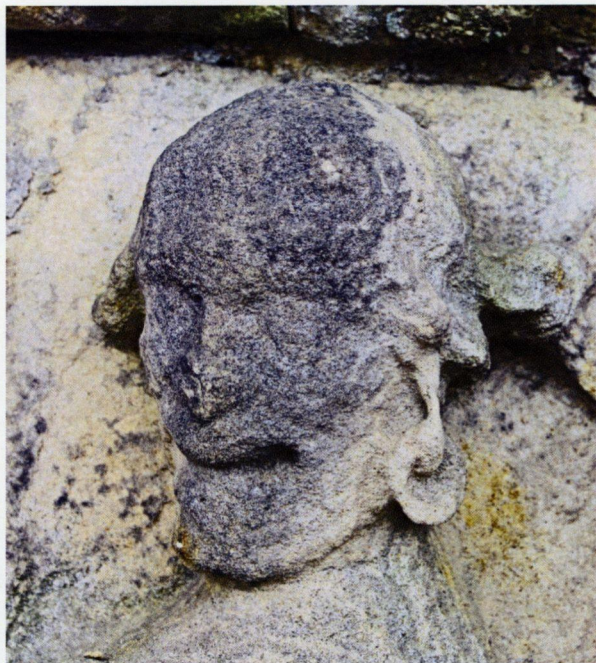
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PLATE 3



Above (a), Saracen's head crest of Carnaby, carved at Hexham Abbey House. *See pages 29-30.*

Below (b), medieval copper-alloy harness mount from Longdon in Staffordshire. *Scale 2:1. See page 35.*



– see above) was buried with his wife Margaret in the quire of Swineshead church. George Holland did not know her maiden name, however, and by his day the tomb inscription was already illegible: ‘the scripture of his burial being in French, the date worn out, he married Margaret, but further appears not’ (Blomefield, *op. cit.* vol. 1, p. 344). The 1562-4 Visitation is likewise unable to furnish anything more than her Christian name (see **Figure 2**).

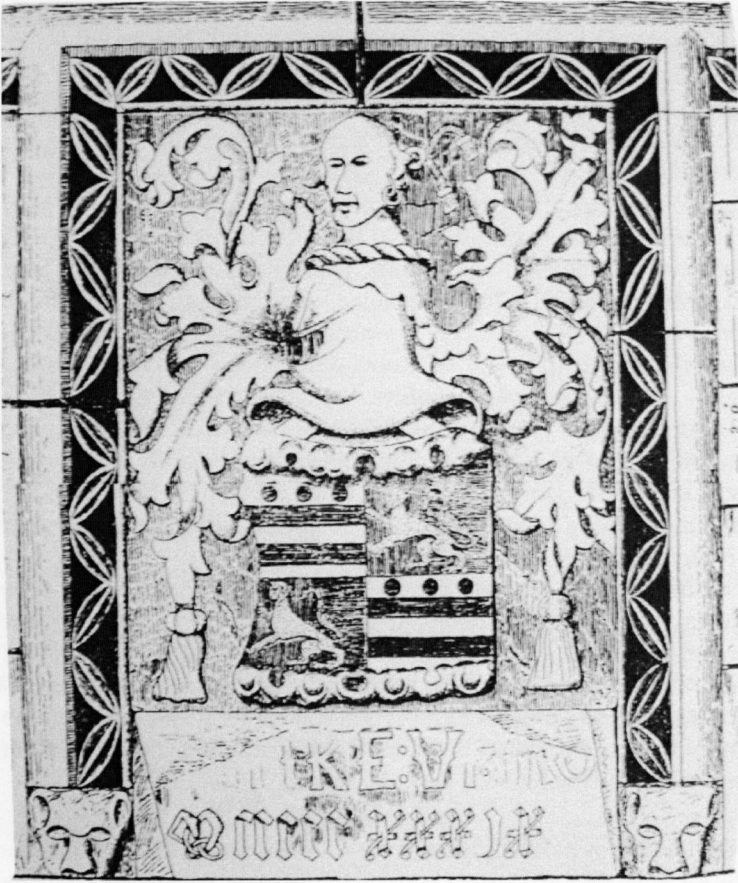
The seal offers hope of identifying Margaret better – but sadly it has not yet been possible to convert this hope to reality. The shield she holds in her right hand seems to show a chevron between three escallops. It is likely that these are the arms she bore before her marriage, but as Adrian Ailes has pointed out to me they could be those of a former husband rather than her father’s. Furthermore, while *DBA* 2, pp. 331-5, offers several medieval families to whom such arms were regularly ascribed, there is no very good reason to select one over the others. Some, such as the Chamberlains of Sherborne in Oxfordshire and Denton in Northamptonshire, or the Melbournes of Derbyshire, seem unlikely on geographical grounds; while one family with strong East Anglian associations, the Garneys or Garnish family of Kenton in Suffolk and Boyland Hall, Morningthorpe in Norfolk, seem to date from a later age than Margaret de Hoyland; for a pedigree see Blomefield *op. cit.*, 3, pp. 194-6.

However, there are several other names to whom similar arms are ascribed more than once without any geographical association, and any of these may repay further enquiry. Additional evidence may also emerge from some other source which, taken together with this seal, will shed light on the full identity of this independent medieval woman, who was defending inherited interests in southern Lincolnshire at a time when the Hollands of Lancashire had yet to establish any connection with that district and their greatness still lay in the future.

The arms of Sir Reynold Carnaby at Hexham Abbey House, 1539. *Peter F. Ryder writes:* Hexham Abbey House comprises a complex of buildings on the west side of the cloister of the ‘abbey’ which have served a variety of uses over the years and are currently undergoing renovation to serve as a visitor centre for the Abbey – work which has afforded the opportunity for detailed archaeological recording. The medieval buildings of the Abbey, whilst incorporating the crypt of St Wilfrid’s seventh-century cathedral, are basically those of an Augustinian Priory founded in 1113. Following the Dissolution of the Priory in February 1537, in November 1538 the Crown granted the monastic buildings to Sir Reynold Carnaby, who had become bailiff and general administrator of Hexham in 1536: see A. B. Hinds, *History of Northumberland* vol. 3 (*Hexhamshire* part 1: Newcastle 1896), p. 52. Carnaby added an L-plan block to the medieval complex; now known as ‘The Carnaby Building’, this is very much a self-contained ‘strong house’, built in the angle between the west range of the cloister and the Prior’s House range which extended to the west, and thus strategically set in the south-east angle of the monastic outer court.

The arms of Carnaby are displayed on the north front of his building. An illustration of these was published by Charles Hodges in his *Ecclesia Hagustaldensis*:

THE COAT OF ARMS



*Figure 1: The arms of Carnaby at Hexham Abbey House, as illustrated in Charles Hodges, *Ecclesia Hagustaldensis* (London 1888).*

the Abbey of St Andrew Hexham (London 1888: see **Figure 1**) but a close examination, made possible by scaffolding access, shows that his depiction is inaccurate. The arms, carved in coarse grit, are framed by a border with a running laurel-leaf motif, continued as a cornice along the whole elevation and itself an interesting revival of a Roman motif seen on re-used stones in Wilfrid's crypt. Much of the carving remains in relatively good condition, although the line of inscription below it is unclear other than the date 1539 in Roman numerals.

The new drawing (**Figure 2**) shows a significant detail that was missed by Hodges: in the upper left-hand corner of the first quarter, which contains the Carnaby arms, a segment is now seen, with bars surmounted by a bend and a small demi lion issuant at the top. This is a canton granted as an augmentation to Carnaby at the petition of the Earl of Northumberland in 1534 by Thomas Hawley, Norroy King of Arms, in

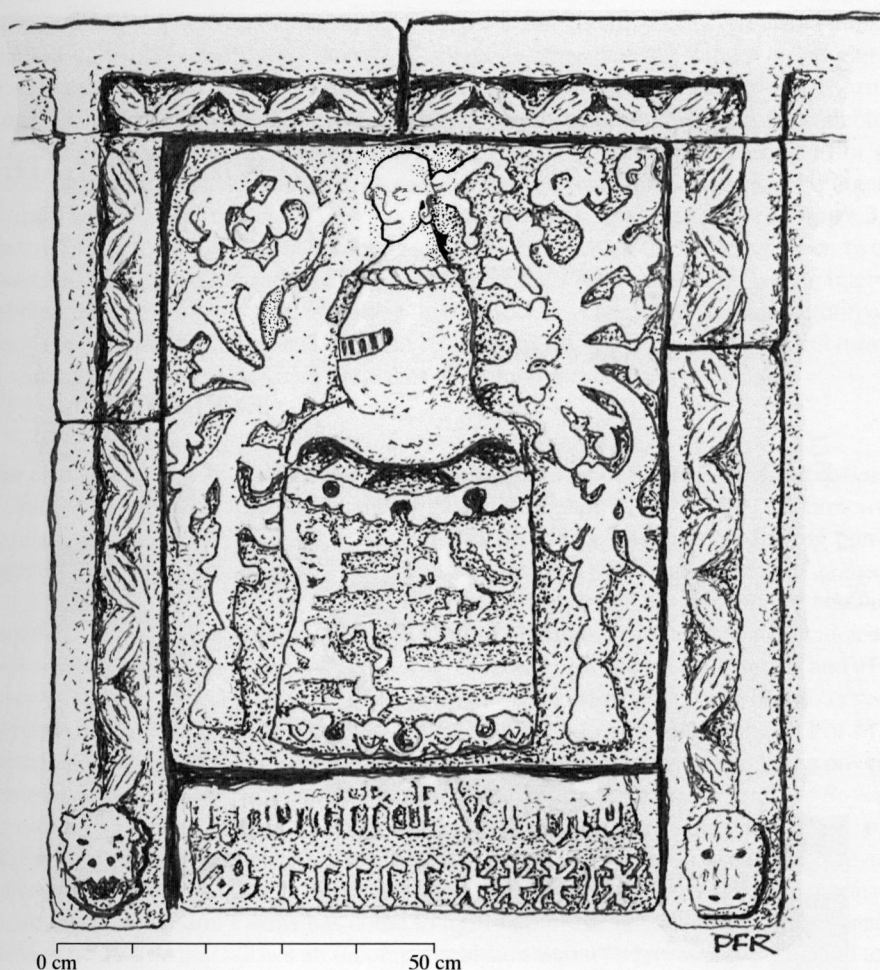


Figure 2: The arms of Sir Reynold Carnaby at Hexham Abbey House, as newly drawn by the present writer.

recognition of services in Scottish campaigns. The full text of the grant is printed in H. H. E. Craster, *History of Northumberland* vol. 10 (*The Parish of Corbridge*: Newcastle 1914), p. 408, and blazons the canton as follows:

... gold and vert, barrey of six pieces, on all a button [= baton] in bend gules, in cheife gold a demy-lion azure, enarmed and langued gules.

Carnaby's crest was also augmented from a simple Saracen's head to one with a 'sermet russet gould and tawny' tied round the temples, with three silver crescents on it and two silver 'tirretts' by his ear. A 'sermet' is presumably a cloth band of some kind (possibly a mis-spelling of 'sars(e)net', a word that is itself derived from 'saracen'). A 'terret' or 'tirrit' is defined by the *OED* as a ring or loop by which strings, ribbons or

THE COAT OF ARMS

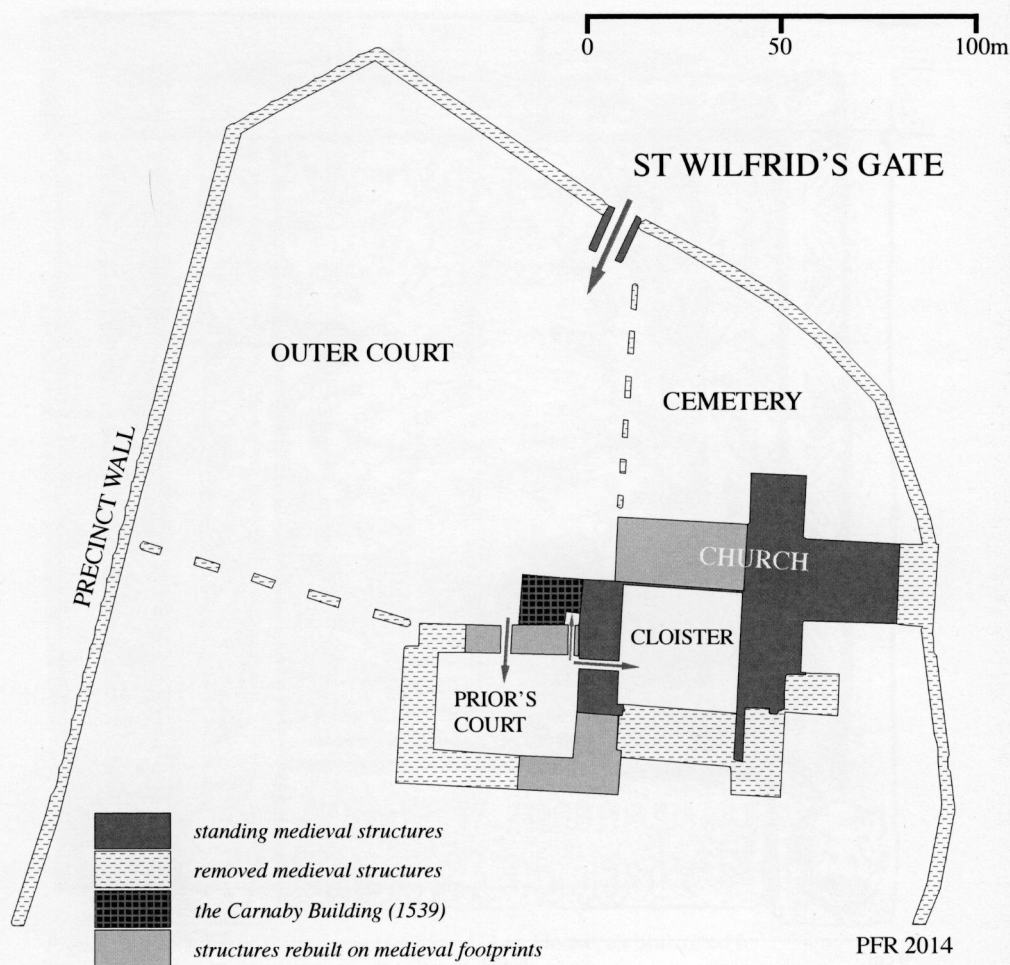


Figure 3: Schematic plan of Hexham Priory and the Carnaby Building, showing access routes.

chains are attached; it would seem reasonable to identify these ‘tirretts’ with the two ear rings hanging from the left ear of the Saracen’s head on the crest (see **Plate 3a**).

Reynold Carnaby lived in difficult times and had many enemies, in particular the Herons of Chipchase who had tried to foment trouble when the Hexham canons resisted the Royal Commissioners in September 1536. This resulted in widespread unrest ‘making it impossible for the Carnabys to remain openly in the district’ (Hinds, op. cit. p. 51); even after the relatively peaceful suppression of the monastery on 26 February 1537 and the return of the family to their home at Halton Castle, there was local feeling against Carnaby who was granted the monastic buildings in November 1538 and he had good grounds to make his residence secure. Whilst his new house

looked out across the Outer Court of the Priory towards its still-extant twelfth-century gatehouse, its outer walls were devoid of openings other than slit windows and gun-loops; entry required one to pass through a second gatehouse in the Prior's House range (rebuilt in the late eighteenth century – old illustrations show a formidable structure equipped with some sort of barbican) and then double back under the Prior's House into a new inner courtyard, from which a doorway, protected by a pendant bartizan, seems to have been the sole access to Carnaby's new quarters: see **Figure 3**. This isolation from the earlier buildings seems to have saved the building when two disastrous fires swept through the Abbey House in the 1790s and 1818. Despite internal remodelling – most drastically in relatively recent years when in local authority use – the Carnaby Building has retained its original floor frames and roof structure, as well as other features such as fireplaces and mural garderobes.

The coat of arms of José de Escandón, founding father of South Texas. *Sebastian A. Nelson* writes: Don José de Escandón y de la Helguera (1700-1770), the famous Spanish soldier and first Conde de la Sierra Gorda, is best known for having conquered what is today the state of Tamaulipas in Mexico's northeast corner and a large part of southern Texas. As the founder and first governor of this province of Nuevo Santander, a region that had resisted all previous attempts at colonization, Escandón won wealth, land, knighthood and a noble title. According to D. Chipman and H. Joseph, *Notable Men and Women of Spanish Texas* (Austin 1999), p. 149, he 'is remembered in extreme South Texas as the Father of the Lower Río Grande'. For M. Cárdenas 'Escandón's life of adventure, action, money, and danger reads like a novel or movie script'; *José de Escandón, the Last Spanish Conquistador: a Study of Royal Service and Personal Achievement in 18th century New Spain* (Kingsville 1999), p. 96. For more information, see L. Hill, *José de Escandón and the Founding of Nuevo Santander: a Study in Spanish Colonization* (Columbus 1926). Now, a contemporary engraving of Escandón's arms has come to light that illustrates the arms that he used during his lifetime and allows an incomplete blazon that was previously published to be corrected.

The engraving of Escandón's arms survives today (**Figure 1**, over) in the collections of Mexico's national archives, the Archivo General de la Nación. It is attached to an ornate academic certificate printed in 1756 and presented to Escandón when he was awarded a degree that year by the Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico: Archivo General de la Nación, Instituciones Coloniales, Fondo Universidad, Volumen 193, Foja 88 (Grados de Maestros y Licenciados en Artes Tomo 3, 1753-1784). The arms can be blazoned as follows: *Quarterly 1 Gules a castle triple-towered argent 2 Argent an eagle displayed wings inverted sable between two roses in sinister chief and in dexter base gules 3 Azure issuant from a pot or a forked pennon gules 4 Vert a castle triple-towered argent overall in centre chief a cross coupé or*. Supporters: *two wild men wreathed about the temples and loins armed with clubs proper*. Motto: *Aunque rústicos, guardamos estas armas, cuya luz ha venido de la cruz y son de el linage de Escandón* ('Although country folk, we guard these arms whose light came from the cross and which are of the lineage of Escandón').