

BEAUCHIEF ABBEY AND THE PEGGES*

By ROSAMOND MEREDITH

“WE have in this family an instance, which by some has been supposed rare, of the direct descendants of the original grantee possessing and residing upon the abbey-lands granted to their ancestor”, wrote Joseph Hunter of the owners of Beauchief in the early 19th century¹ — a statement which remained true until about the beginning of the present century. The family portraits, spanning two centuries, left in an outhouse at Abbey House when the property was finally sold by Edward Strelley Pegge Burnell in 1923, bear witness in pictorial form to this continuity. They formed the starting point of these investigations into the history of the family.

Sir Nicholas Strelley, the original purchaser of the abbey, settled it on his second son Nicholas, while the elder branch continued to hold the family seat in Nottinghamshire. Three generations later it devolved on an heiress, Gertrude Strelley, whose marriage brought the Pegges to Beauchief at the end of the Civil War. They are interesting as an example of a family whose fortunes date substantially from the Interregnum, during which time they were, after initial hesitation, supporters of parliament and presbyterianism. They continued as local gentry on a fairly modest scale, their income drawn from rents and farming. Unlike most Derbyshire gentry, they appear to have owed nothing directly to the lead trade, and considering that several of the family were called to the bar, surprisingly little to legal business, with the exception of the father of the first Pegge of Beauchief, Edward Pegge of Ashbourne, with whom this account begins.

2. *The Pegges of Ashbourne*

Edward Pegge of Ashbourne, born about 1585, was a grandson of Ralph Pegge of Shirley (whose name stands at the head of the family tree) and nephew of Christopher Pegge of Yeldersley from whom descended the

* This article is published with the help of a grant from the Paul Mellon Foundation for British Art.

Records of the Pegge-Burnells of Beauchief and Winkburn are in Sheffield City Library (Beauchief muniments, cited as BM), in Notts. County Record Office (DD. CW), and in the possession of Mr. A. F. B. Crawshaw. Photocopies of the latter papers have now been added to the Beauchief muniments and the *copies* are cited in the following notes.

A group of deeds and papers relating to the Strelleys came *via* the Bullocks to Norton Church. These are now deposited in Sheffield City Library (PR. 2); some are catalogued in T. W. Hall's *Sheffield and Rotherham . . . a descriptive catalogue*, 1916.

¹ *Hallamshire*, 1819 ed., 200.

senior (and Roman Catholic) branch of the family.² As the younger son of Humphrey Pegge of Osmaston, himself a younger son, Edward can have inherited little property. He was trained in the law and practised as a local attorney. His name makes occasional appearances in this capacity in the earlier 17th century; for instance, as a commissioner appointed for taking the inquisition post mortem of William Strelley in 1636, and in legal business of the Eyres of Hassop.

His upward progress can be measured by his two marriages. He was probably in his mid-thirties when he married his first wife, Anne Jackson, sister of Philip Jackson of Stanshope in the parish of Alstonfield on the Staffordshire side of the Dove. The Jacksons came of yeoman stock, originally from Hassop, and had a respectable estate (after the Restoration said to be worth £300 p.a.).³ Of Anne's younger brothers one, John Jackson, was an attorney at Bubnell (later at Unstone), and another, Roger, married a daughter of the Ashbourne dyer George Lees.⁴ One son, the future Edward Pegge of Beauchief, and a daughter survived of the marriage of Anne and Edward Pegge.

Shortly before the Civil War Pegge married as his second wife Jane, daughter of Francis Mundy, esquire, of Markeaton, head of an old-established gentry family who had acquired Mackworth and Markeaton at the beginning of the 16th century.⁵ Their son Christopher was born in 1639. Both the Jacksons and the Mundys played a considerable part in Pegge's affairs during and after the war, as did the Buxtons of Bradbourne who were related to him through the marriage of his sister Mary to George Buxton.

His marriage into the wealthy Mundy family suggests that Pegge had, by the time it took place, already acquired considerable property. The "estates of inheritance" in the Ashbourne area including the "mansion house in Church Street", which in 1669 were held by Edward Pegge junior, had undoubtedly been his. He also provided in his will for his younger son Christopher, leaving him land and messuages in Ashover and Wingerworth which may have been acquired during the war.⁶ Willed by Christopher in 1670 to the school and almshouses at Ashbourne, they were then worth £29. 13s. 4d. p.a.⁷ Some time before 1645 Pegge acquired the lease of one-third of Castleton tithes and rectory, Thurstan Brown being tenant of one other third which he had acquired from the earl of Newcastle in 1622. In 1645 they made complaint to the county committee that the tithes had not been paid by certain people, against whom the committee issued an order for payment.⁸

² Pegge pedigree, *Familiae Minorum Gentium*, 305. Pedigree of Strelley and Pegge of Beauchief, *Hallamshire*, ed. Gatty, 345.

³ Jackson of Stanshope pedigree, *Harl. Soc.*, LXIII, 137-8; "The gentry of Staffordshire", in *Collections for a history of Staffordshire*, 4th Series, II, 19. Respited for proof of arms at visitation of 1663-4.

⁴ For Roger Jackson see BM. 1001 (claims of his daughters under will of George Lees).

⁵ Burke's *Landed gentry*, 1850 (Mundy of Mackworth); J. C. Cox, *Derbyshire churches*, IV, 289-90.

⁶ Will proved at Lichfield, 7 July 1666; "cousin" Henry Buxton first-named executor.

⁷ *Charity Commissioners' Report, Derbyshire*, 1827, Wirksworth, 10.

⁸ County Commissioners' order, 24 March 1644/5 (BM. 1000). Thurstan Brown's deed recited, Oakes deeds 263, in Sheffield City Library.

During the first Civil War Philip Jackson was active as a colonel in the parliamentary forces in Staffordshire and expended a good deal of money in the cause;⁹ John Jackson was deeply engaged on parliament's behalf as a sequestrator in north Derbyshire where he earned the active hostility of Rowland Eyre of Hassop and his royalist friends.¹⁰ Francis Mundy and Edward Pegge appear at first to have equivocated. The leading royalists in the Ashbourne district — Sir Aston Cokayne and Sir John Fitzherbert — were probably Pegge's clients, and the royalist army was active there in the winter of 1643. A subsequent legal case provides some slight information about their private activities "in these late troubles". Pegge received from his father-in-law two trunks containing valuables for safekeeping at his own house in Ashbourne. Shortly afterwards, the soldiers of the king having come to the town, "for the better securing of the trunks and also divers of his own goods", he had them "sett in private places" and afterwards "perceiving that the said trunks had taken wet" opened them and had the contents (about which the subsequent legal dispute arose) dried and aired. From the same source we learn that Pegge's son-in-law William Bache was a "prisoner in the garrison of Tutbury" and that his discharge was obtained for £100.¹¹

None of this however indicates why Pegge and Mundy were at one stage both sequestered delinquents, or so the more ardent spirits on the (parliamentarian) county committee considered them. These three, Gresley, Wigley and Wigfall, refused to sign the certificate returned to the central Committee of Both Kingdoms naming delinquents sequestered in Derbyshire, because it omitted the names of Sir Edward Coke, Sir Samuel Sleigh, Francis Mundy, Rowland Morewood and Edward Pegge, whom they considered had been unlawfully discharged by the other committee members. This was in September 1646. Next month the central committee ordered the sequestration to be renewed, but in May next year we learn the information depending against Francis Mundy, Edward Pegge and Rowland Morewood is dismissed.¹² All of them were subsequently actively engaged on the side of parliament. Pegge later became a justice of the peace, and his name appears frequently in the Ashbourne parish registers as one of the attesting magistrates at the civil weddings celebrated during the Commonwealth.¹³ In July 1654 he and Henry Buxton (probably his nephew) were made assistants to the Derbyshire commissioner for sequestrations, Thomas Newton.¹⁴

An additional activity for him at this time was lending sums of money up to £50 or £100 to a number of local people, many of them his relatives,

⁹ *Order-book of the Staffs. County Committee*, ed. D. H. Pennington and I. Roots, *passim*. Henry Jackson, who also appears therein, was probably of the Jackson family of Wall (see S. Shaw, *History of Staffordshire*, II, 56). The two families do not appear to have been connected, though Pennington and Roots assume Henry and Philip were father and son.

¹⁰ *Recusant History*, VIII, 18. PRO. C5/7/67.

¹¹ PRO. C9/19/70.

¹² BM. 1000. *Calendar of Committee for Compounding*, 45, 47. *Calendar of Committee for Advancing Money*, 64.

¹³ *Derbyshire churches*, II, 395.

¹⁴ CCC., 692.

including his son-in-law Bache, cousin Eyre, and brother-in-law Philip Jackson. Lent at 6% this business must have been a useful addition to his income. Under the heading "Debts owing me" these transactions are recorded for the years 1652-58.¹⁵ The money troubles of the Jackson family however proved more than he cared to deal with early in 1660. Jackson had borrowed money from several people and mortgaged his property to others, and in spite of his plea that "if you will be pleased to please me therein yow do me an extraordinary favour for the doinge whereof yow shall not receive any prejudice at all", Pegge gave him the following blunt answer: ". . . I conceive it will be the best course . . . to resolve to sell soe much as will cleere both [your brother John] & the rest of your debts, wherein you will fynd much comfort in freeing yourself & yet leavinge sufficient both for you & yours".¹⁶

Another minor source of income he acquired about this time, with John Jackson, was a lease of heriots falling due to the crown from heriotable estates in the High Peak.¹⁷

Pegge's relations, the Buxtons, were active presbyterians and lay elders, their names appearing in the minutes of the Wirksworth classis.¹⁸ His father-in-law, Mundy, was patron of the living of Mackworth; here Samuel Ogden, ordained by the Wirksworth presbytery in 1653, was vicar, and when he was ejected under the Act of Uniformity John Mundy refused to make an appointment, the new vicar being appointed by the king (by lapse).¹⁹ Pegge must also have been a presbyterian, but there is no evidence of any notable activity on his part and he presumably conformed after the Restoration. To all appearances he was determined to improve his fortune and was not above using his influence with his father-in-law to further his ends, as a legal case between him and his brother-in-law Adrian Mundy suggests. Adrian, who was Francis Mundy's third son and one of his executors, complained that "the said Francis Mundy in his lifetime being aged and unable to manage his estates and other business, employed and intrusted Edward Pegg of Ashbourne . . . an attorney at lawe and one who had married [his daughter Jane]"; Pegge had been called in by Adrian himself during his father's last illness to draw up a will, but he complained that Pegge had nominated his own son Edward Pegge the younger as Adrian's co-executor, with right to half the personal estate, though he was, complained Adrian, "a mere stranger" and no relation to Francis. What Pegge had done with the contents of the box of valuables, certain sums of money he held in trust, and land called Somercotes was a further matter of contention.²⁰ It seems certain the Pegges made some gains out of the whole business,

¹⁵ *Pegge's rental* (MD. 2277 in SCL.), at end.

¹⁶ BM. 1001, letters dated 25 and 29 February 1659/60.

¹⁷ BM. 1001, letter dated 6 May 1661.

¹⁸ Minutes of Wirksworth classis, *D.A.J.*, II (1880), 150-222 (notes on the Buxtons, 151).

¹⁹ *Calamy revised*, 371 (for Ogden). *Derbyshire churches*, IV, 286.

²⁰ PRO. C9/19/70. Mundy's will proved PCC. 203, Pembroke (1650).

but it apparently did not permanently damage the friendship between the two families.

Pegge's master stroke of family advancement, the marriage of his son Edward to the heiress Gertrude Strelley, remains to be considered.

2. *The Strelleys of Beauchief Abbey*

Edward Pegge, junior, and Gertrude Strelley were married at Norton on 17 July 1648. The bridegroom's age is not known exactly as the Ashbourne registers are defective for the period, but he was about twenty-six years old and his bride sixteen. Edward had been educated at Ashbourne Grammar School and St. John's College, Cambridge; he is probably the Edward Pegge who was admitted to the Inner Temple from Clement's Inn in 1645.²¹ The bride, only daughter and heiress of William Strelley, had at the age of four inherited the Beauchief estate, which her great-great-grandfather Nicholas Strelley had purchased from the crown immediately after the dissolution of the monastery in 1537. No record has been found of the financial arrangements made by the Pegges with Gertrude's uncle and guardian Rowland Eyre of Bradway, prior to the marriage, but Edward Pegge senior must have been aware that the Beauchief estate was in poor shape. Two succeeding generations (Gertrude and her father) had been wards of the crown during a period totalling forty years, and her grandfather Gervase Strelley (died 1608) had previously embarked on the downward path of debt. Even before he had succeeded to the estates of his father Nicholas in 1602, Gervase had raised money on bond and statute staple from Anthony Blyth and Nicholas Browne, and as soon as he inherited the estate he prepared to mortgage or sell parts of it. By a deed of 4 March 1602/3 he conveyed to John Bullock of Darley and his son, also John of Norton, messuages in Beauchief, closes at Moscar and Moscar Lees, the Towncroft field, the Great Wheatfield (and other closes), parcels of woodland and Strawberry Lee Grange; the last was to be redeemable on repayment of £200 within a stated period.²² About the same time he mortgaged (by lease for 800 years) the Far Highfield and Bradway Flatt to Rowland Morewood, who subsequently assigned it to his son-in-law James Bullock of Greenhill, a relation of the two John Bullocks.²³ The money thus raised cannot have been applied to paying off Browne's statute staple for the estate was extended by the sheriff, Sir John Harpur (1606-7), for the recovery of the debt.²⁴

Gervase Strelley died on 22 April 1608, just five weeks and four days after his second wife had borne him a son and heir, William, who became a ward of the crown.²⁵ In 1614 three Londoners, Clement Cotton, gentleman, Gabriell Barber, jeweller, and George Rowse, tailor, stood bound

²¹ J. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*.

²² PR. 2/34, 35, 24. Some of the deeds recited in inquisition p.m. on Gervas Strelley, PR. 2/39.

²³ DD. CW/1b/15.

²⁴ PR. 2/36.

²⁵ PR. 2/39.

to make the following payments to the Court of Wards, viz. £18 at May-day 1615, £15 at Midsummer and £15 at All Hallows (a total fine of £48, which seems a small sum) for the purchase of the wardship.²⁶ They were probably already acting on behalf of James Bullock, the mortgagee of Highfield and Bradway Flatt, for the wardship and marriage of young Strelley was subsequently in his hands.²⁷ He paid a rent to the court of £63. 7s. od. for the farm of the estate.²⁸ The two Bullocks — John the son, of Darley and Norton (his father having died a few years previously), and James of Greenhill — were thus both much concerned in the Strelleys' affairs, and it is important to keep their separate interests distinct. The ward's mother, who had soon married a second husband, Charles North, was seized for life of the capital messuage called Beauchief grange and closes called Conny Green, Broomfield, Highwood close, Highwood meadow, etc., of yearly value £20. She and her husband proceeded to live at Beauchief and enjoy this part of the estate until she died in April 1619.²⁹

Nicholas Strelley, father of Gervase, had settled a rent charge of £20 payable out of the estates now held by John Bullock on his younger son Anthony, and £10 each on his two daughters. Wishing to be freed from this encumbrance John Bullock drew up the following particulars for the information of the Court of Wards and Liveries³⁰:

"The true estate of my lands in Beauchief purchased of Mr Jarvas Strilley & delivered to Sir James Ley, kt., his Majesty's attorney of the Court of Wards & Liveries.

Termino Trin. anno domini Jacobi ixno. 1613.

Thes now myne owne possession	ii messuages in tenure Thome Sowby et Jo. Goddard.	} within Mr Nic. Str. rent charge & Mr Jarvas Strelleys Statute to Mr Browne
	Great Moscarre meadowe	
	A parcel of ground taken out of Hudcliffe wood	similiter
	A springe wood, parcel of Hudcliffe	similiter
	Moscarr Leyes	similiter & Mr Ant. Blythe's leas [lease]
	Little Moscarr meadow	similiter
	Neylor field	} similiter & Mr Ant. Blythe's leas.
	Hudhole meadowe	
	Johnsett wood field & the lane	within Mr Ant. Blythe's leas.

²⁶ PRO. Wards 9/162 f.190v.

²⁷ DD. CW/1b/15. PRO. C6/158/66 says the guardians were "Clement Cotton, Gabriel Barber, James Bullock or one of them".

²⁸ PR. 2/40. *Quietus* for payment for 1624-5.

²⁹ Samuel Pegge, *Historical account of Beauchief Abbey*, 206. Date of Mrs. North's death C6/158/66.

³⁰ PR. 2/38.

4 Mar. 45 Eliz Of these I re-enfeffed Jarvas Strelley upon con- dition that hee & his heirs should pay to mee & my heirs at Mich. next £8 . . . & £8 at every Annunci- ation and Mich. from thenceforth for ever or within one month next after.	Milnerfield alias Milner leyes. Dunnell acre Hudhole leyes Neather Breakes Longe Breakes alias Horse breakes Meadow breakes alias over meadow Breakes Greenes croft	} } } } } }	within Mr Nich. Str rent charge & Mr Ant. Blythe's leas similiter within Mr Ant. Blythe's leas to Mr Nich Browne's statute similiter similiter
These were reduced by a proviso in the indenture of bargeyn & sale 4 Mar 45 Eliz. to save mee & the premisses harmeles.	Tomcrossefield Little Wheatfield & great wheatfield divided into ii closes."		

. . . [A note follows about Mr North's pretended title to the property and Bullock's own desire to be relieved of payment of the rent charge of £20 to Anthony, younger son of Nicholas Strelley & of £10 apiece to Nicholas' daughters Gertrude & Mary Eyre] . . .

"Incumbrances	My lands purchased & my rent charge lands are subject to 3 incumbrances for the most part but all to some one, viz.	} } }	Mr Nic Str. rent charge Mr Ant. Blythe's leas Mr Browne's statute
---------------	---	-------	---

"Mr North goeth about to undoe the heire by makinge forfeitures, bringinge incombrances upon his lands which hee might avoide. As denyinge to pay rent for non-payment whereof the lande out of which the same shold issue is forfeited by a condition.

Mr North's ill husbandry in cuttinge downe the ward's woods & buylding of lead mills which hee is bound to mainteyne with woodes. And no other woods wilbe had but the ward's which in a short tyme will make distruction of all the ward's woodes."

The reference to lead smelting is of interest as the only known mention of this at Beauchief between the smelting mill worked by William Humfrey in the 1570s and that of the Brights in the early 1640s.³¹

The years following Edward Pegge's marriage to Gertrude saw a good deal of litigation about the Beauchief estate, and several of the resulting documents throw light on the preceding period. One of these records that when William Strelley, James Bullock's ward, was about twenty years of age "the said James Bullock the guardian offering his daughter in marriage to W. his ward, he refused her, & by consent of his friends concluds to marye Gertrud the daughter of Adam Eyre of Bradway". To gain the liberty to marry the lady of his choice, William had to pay over to Bullock her dowry of £500 as a composition. An arrangement was made by the Court of Wards that Bullock should "for the consideration of £500 . . . release or assigne over unto such person as the said ward & his friends should appoint, not only all his right, interest etc. of or to the

³¹ SCL. *Local history leaflet 11, The watermills of Abbeydale.*

wardship & marriage of the said William Strelley & his lands . . . but also in like manner assigne & set over the aforesaid lease of Highfield & Bradway flatt & likewise a Stat[ute] acknowledged by the said Gervis & formerly assigned over unto him the said James Bullock. And in pursuance of this agreement the said Adam Eyre . . . did therefore . . . agree to undertake to perform & pay the sume of £500 unto the said James Bullock, . . . which said payment was to be the marriage portion which the said Adam was to pay with his said daughter . . .”³²

In spite of this arrangement it appears William Strelley had not sued out his livery when he died, perhaps because while he remained technically a ward his creditors were debarred from suing him except in the Court of Wards — this immunity of wards had come to be regarded as a valuable privilege.³³

The later Strelleys were a sickly stock. Two sons born to William and Gertrude died in infancy, and William himself died, aged twenty-seven, in 1635, leaving his infant daughter Gertrude (Edward Pegge’s future wife) his heiress. Another long wardship was inevitable, this time with the added complication that William’s widow came of a Roman Catholic family, the Eyres of Bradway. She subsequently appears in the recusant roll of 1638 as holding the farm of two parts of her jointure forfeited to the crown for her recusancy, viz. her life interest in half the manor of Beauchief, value £20.³⁴

In its latter years the policy of the Court of Wards tended to favour granting the wardship of infants to the mother or near relations; as recusants, however, Mrs. Strelley and her family were ineligible. A letter to the secretary of state, Sir John Coke, begged him to pity the “friendless innocent that she may enjoy her father’s religion and rights”.³⁵ The wardship was granted to Sir John Fitzherbert of Norbury who was almost certainly acting on behalf of the Eyres; he is subsequently spoken of as co-guardian with little Gertrude’s uncle, Rowland Eyre of Bradway, and the latter was in effect her guardian for the whole period of her wardship. The entry of payment made in the court records that the wardship of Gertrude Strelley was granted to Sir John Fitzherbert, kt., for a fine of £230. £130 was paid on 18 November 1636, and after some further payments “the said Sir John Fitzherbert of Norbury . . . Rowland Eyre of Bradway . . . and William Eyre of Hassop . . . stand bound in one obligation of £66 for payment of £33. 6. 8 on 27 Nov. 1637”.³⁶

Probably Rowland Eyre of Bradway conformed about this time for nothing further is heard of recusancy in his family; it seems clear that Gertrude was brought up in the established church.³⁷ Her family background was however a somewhat different one from that of her future husband.

³² DD. CW/1b/15.

³³ H. E. Bell, *Court of Wards and Liveries*, 113.

³⁴ PRO. E377/46, Derbyshire membrane.

³⁵ *Cal. S.P.D. Chas. I (Addenda) 1635-49*, 741.

³⁶ PRO. Wards 9/163 f.72v.

³⁷ There seems to be no evidence that the Strelleys were themselves recusants.

In subsequent litigation the Pegges claimed that as guardian Rowland Eyre was responsible for further damage to the Strelley estate and the best interests of his niece; for having "gott as well the writings as the lands and person of the said Gartrud into his hands", by a deed of 1 July 1643 he proceeded to grant away a moiety of her inheritance.³⁸ In fairness to Eyre it must be borne in mind that at this date it was only a matter of time before parliament abolished the Court of Wards. The subject had been mooted in April 1643 and the court ceased to exist in February 1645/6. Nothing seems to have been done to safeguard the interests of those who had previously purchased wardships³⁹ so that Eyre can hardly be blamed for trying to make sure of his money beforehand.

The deed in question does not now exist, but its contents can be pieced together. The ward's three Strelley aunts (her father's half-sisters, daughters of Gervase Strelley by his first wife), claimed that by a settlement of their grandfather's they were entitled to half the inheritance if their brother left no son. The claim was quite erroneous, but on the strength of it Rowland Eyre made over certain property to them, assigned them the rights to the disputed Bradway flatt for £100 and was also to receive £600 if and when they inherited the *whole* estate through the death of Gertrude "(being then a sickly infant)", without issue.⁴⁰

Eyre would naturally hope to obtain at least as much from Gertrude's marriage as he had bargained for in case of her death, so it may be supposed that Edward Pegge paid at least £600 for her hand, and probably more, though the difficulties of her guardians who were both royalists (Sir John Fitzherbert having commanded the garrison at Tutbury during a long siege by parliamentary troops), may have been a factor in the bargain.

At the time of the marriage Edward Pegge senior had himself only been discharged from sequestration about a year. The political difference between their families was not therefore so wide as afterwards appeared. Gertrude's future as a puritan wife would subsequently carry her a long stage from her catholic infancy.

3. *Edward Pegge of Beauchief and his family*

Portraits painted in the early years of their marriage show Edward at 29 as a delicate and rather plain young man in a sober black suit with white collar; and Gertrude at 21, also in black, with a sombre expression and holding a watch, symbolic of the flight of time. A memorial in Beauchief chapel, erected by their youngest daughter Frances, records that they had fourteen children; the youngest was born about 1664-5.⁴¹ Nothing further is known of their married life and the date of Gertrude's death is unrecorded.

³⁸ DD. CW/1b/15; C6/158/66.

³⁹ H. E. Bell, *Court of Wards and Liveries*, 158-60.

⁴⁰ DD. CW/1b/15.

⁴¹ Monumental inscriptions, S. Glover, *History and gazetteer of the county of Derby*, II, 108 (Ed. Pegge), 307 (Frances Webster née Pegge).

During the Commonwealth, Edward, like his father, became a justice of the peace⁴² and evidence from his later life shows him to have been a puritan and a presbyterian. If the minutes of the Chesterfield classis had survived, it is probable his name would have appeared as a lay elder.⁴³ He began during this period to enlarge his estate, with the purchase of the manor of Hathersage in 1657.

The return of the king did not greatly alter the trends of his life and fortunes. Leaders of the presbyterian party, especially such men as the earl of Manchester, Arthur Annesley (later earl of Anglesey) and William Prynne, were foremost among those who brought about the restoration of Charles II.⁴⁴ Though eventually the tide of anglicanism flowed too strongly for the acceptance of any comprehensive religious plan such as the presbyterians wanted, it was the puritan clergy who were the main sufferers under the Act of Uniformity; the presbyterian local gentry, their purchases of royalist land confirmed by the Restoration Parliament, contrived to continue much as before. They sat on the local committees for paying off the parliamentary army, accepted as much of the prayer book as was publicly necessary, took ejected ministers as their private chaplains, remained on the local bench and filled the office of sheriff. Local examples include Sir Ralph Knight of Firbeck, created a baronet in 1662, at whose house "though he was a justice of peace, Mr. Beebe [ejected from the living of Tideswell] used frequently to preach after the Restoration"; Sir William Middleton, sheriff of Northumberland in 1666, who had as his chaplain at Aldwark Hall, Rotherham, Nathaniel Baxter, ejected minister of St. Michael on Wyre; and Sir John Bright of Badsworth, also created a baronet, whose chaplain was at one time the well-known Matthew Sylvester, ejected minister of Gt. Gomersby.⁴⁵ None of these ministers had, of course, been episcopally ordained. Of the gentlemen, Bright and Knight had both distinguished themselves as parliamentary officers.

Edward Pegge of Beauchief was sheriff of Derbyshire in 1667, and it was probably about 1667-8 that Nathaniel Baxter, the young minister already mentioned at Aldwark, became the Pegges' chaplain at Beauchief chapel. Sir William Middleton, following the death of his first wife in September 1667, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Mundy of Markeaton and niece of Pegge's stepmother.⁴⁶ It was almost certainly in connection with this marriage that Pegge visited Aldwark Hall, where, as related by Calamy, Baxter "fell into the company of [Edward] Pegg, esq. of Beauchief Hall in Derbyshire, a very sober gentleman, who invited him to give them a sermon at an old abbey church . . . bearing the name of Beauchief Abbey. He complied with the motion and at the desire of

⁴² Cox, *Three centuries of Derbyshire annals*, I, 46.

⁴³ The Chesterfield classis was known to be active right through the Commonwealth, Cox, *Derbyshire annals*, I, 325 n.

⁴⁴ G. R. Abernathy, "The English Presbyterians and the Stuart Restoration", *Transactions of the American Philosophical Soc.*, N.S., 55, pt. 2 (1965), *passim*.

⁴⁵ Calamy revised, 44, 38, 473.

⁴⁶ *Derbyshire annals*, I, 60; Burke's *Complete baronetage*, III, 261 (Middleton of Belsay).

the same person preached there again the Lord's day following, when this gentleman invited him to continue there and offered him £16 p.a., for there was nothing belonging to the place but what he thought fit to allow". Though Beauchief was a private chapel and Baxter read part of the prayer book service as well as preaching, it was only "by the connivance of Archdeacon Brown", according to William Bagshawe, that he was suffered to officiate there.⁴⁷ The expiry of the Conventicles Act in 1667 (later renewed) may have been the particular cause of Pegge's engaging him. Despite the animosities of the times, Pegge contrived to remain friendly with people of both parties.

Some account of Pegge's estate affairs will now be given. In addition to Gertrude's inheritance he acquired the manor of Hathersage jointly with Rowland Morewood from William Fitzherbert, a recusant, who had succeeded to the estates of his cousin Sir John Fitzherbert of Norbury, formerly the co-guardian with Rowland Eyre of the heiress Gertrude. The Hathersage property was conveyed by William Fitzherbert and trustees on 3 May 1656 to two purchasers, Melton and Corronce, for £1,000, but some question of the title's being defective having arisen, on 27 June 1657, they and Fitzherbert conveyed the property to Morewood, Edward Pegge of Beauchief and Humfrey Pegge of Ashbourne — the latter perhaps advancing some of the money for he does not seem to have been directly involved in the purchase. The purchase price was £1,000 and the property is described as the manors and lordships of Hathersage, Over Padley and Nether Padley.⁴⁸ Morewood and Pegge held a manor court for Hathersage in 1659.⁴⁹ Certain parts of the property, however, were excepted in the purchase deed, having been previously bought by Robert Ashton for £1,308. His deed (dated 11 November 1654) named the manor of Padley or Nether Padley with Nether Padley Hall and probably included the larger portion of the corporeal hereditaments.⁵⁰ Ashton also acquired Over Padley from Pegge and Morewood, in moieties, in 1659 and 1671.⁵¹ In 1671 Morewood sold his moiety of Hathersage to Pegge, and the latter sold the manorial cornmill to Robert Ashton for £102.⁵²

The early 1660s saw Pegge engaged in the case about the Beauchief property already mentioned against his wife's aunts, in particular Mrs. Goodeth Edmunds, the second of the three sisters.⁵³ Two letters survive about this case and other matters, addressed to his father, in 1662.⁵⁴ In the first he explains that Mr. Eyre has delivered proposals for a compromise to Mrs. Edmunds, but four days later he writes as follows:

⁴⁷ *Calamy revised*, 38; W. H. G. Bagshawe, *The Bagshawes of Ford*, 32.

⁴⁸ Chatsworth MSS., Hardwick deeds, drawer 330/5.

⁴⁹ Wilson deeds 244, in SCL.

⁵⁰ Hardwick deeds, drawer 330/5; MD. 3121, in SCL.

⁵¹ Abstracts of Ashton's deeds, Spencer Stanhope muniments 60282A/16, in SCL.

⁵² Hardwick deeds, drawer 330/9; Spencer Stanhope 60282A/10.

⁵³ PRO. C6/158/66.

⁵⁴ BM. 1001.

“Sir

In regarde the messages of Peace per Uncle Eyre did no good . . . we have proceeded to deliver declarations in Ejectment, so I doubt I must resolve for London this terme & think to be with you Wensday or Thursday night. In the interim I would desire you to send over either Rich. Clark or rather Tho. Fone to see my oxen at Stanshop, to view & handle them both well, & to leeve word with you what case they are in & what he thinks they are worth so I may leave order what to do at the faire. If the Sheriffe would bye the greater I would kill the lesse myselfe. In regard my own man he is but a poore clark, I have thoughts of taking some better with me & have some thoughts of my Coz. I. Pegge & therefore wish you would sound him tomorrow, quere of his father whether he would willingly let him go with me if need be . . .” (20 January 1661/2).

The result of the case has not been found, but the aunts left no descendants and Pegge subsequently enjoyed the property.

On the death of his father about 1665-6 Edward inherited the Ashbourne property and the third part of the Castleton rectory and tithes. In his detailed rentals for the years 1668-72 the first item under Ashbourne is “my mansion house in Church Street . . . in my own hands”, rated in the town rental at £10 per annum. It seems probable that he lived there to some extent after the death of his father, perhaps particularly when Beauchief Hall was being built.

In 1671 he purchased the manor of Dore from Francis Burton.⁵⁵ The property had passed through several hands about the middle of the century and had been sold to Burton in 1658 for £1,100, by Francis Barker of Lees Hall and Thomas Woolhouse of Glapwell, but the deeds for Pegge’s purchase are now lacking.⁵⁶ He notes in his rental that Dore rents for Whitsun 1671 are due to him, “but Jo. Rotherham having promised to gather them this rent daye, I having no Rental”, he reckoned them at £100.

In 1669 he had made an estimate of the annual value of his other estates in some detail:

“1669	An estimate of the half yearely revenue or value of all my estate of Inheritance in the parish of Ashborn and of Ellishill, Swinscoe & Mathfield [<i>Mayfield</i>] in Staffordshire and also in Bigging in Hartington parish.	
Ashborn and Ellishill	First all my houses in Ashborn & lands in Ofcoat & Underwood held in my own hand or let for rent payable Lady day & Michaelmas by halfe yeare valued to be	£40.15.00
	Item Sturton & Mappleton halfrents at same days	40.14.00
	Note, Prince’s next yeare but one will come in to be better than the present rent, £16.00.00 so half	08.00.00
	Item Midsomer half the rents in Swinscoe, Ofcoate & Sturston	62.10.00
	Item Grounds under Ashley in own hand in whole year valuable £42 p.a., half yearly	21.00.00

⁵⁵ Fine levied, Michaelmas term, 23 Chas. II, Derbyshire.

⁵⁶ Hardwick deeds, drawer 332, were the deeds to this property but are not available; they are partly abstracted in Bagshawe’s Derbyshire notes in SCL.: Bag. C. 3343(2).

	Item Long doles 6½ acres at 13. 4d. per acre & in wet furlong & Clifton mill meadow in all valuable to 5.4.0., So a half yere rent	2.12.00
Bigging	Item note my lands in Bigging that are in lease after 2 old lives worth £30 p.a., half yere So the half years revenue or value of all the aforesaid Particulars I estimate to be when the two noted increases fall	15.00.00 ————— £190.11.00
Hathersedge	I esteeme Hathersedge Manor & Milstone valuable in toto anno 40.00.00 so the half yere	————— 20.00.00
Beauchiefe	Imprimis the old grange or hall & the adjacent grounds above the Abbie & tenements, and now in demeane Item the Highwood Item Park botham on the side the rundlet halfrate Item Two parts of Str[awberry] Lee in my hand halfrate Item the profitts of the wood being 178 Acres are valued to afford to cutt every yere 10 acres, which of 18 years groath are valued to raise £5 per acre, so £50 per an. half is So the whole half years value of Bech[ief] & Str. Lee is estimated	53.14.02 01.10.00 05.00.00 07.10.00 25.00.00 ————— 92.14.02
	Item the half years rent as I now receive from the Tenants at Beauchief & Str. Lee is So then the whole half yeares value of all Beach[ief] The Halfe of Ashbor. Bigging & Ellishill And the half of Hathersedge ut supra	84.11.07 177.05.09 190.11.00 20.00.00 —————
	being all added together make	387.16.09
	And consequently the whole revenue of all together	775.13.06''

In addition, Castleton tithe rents in 1668 amounted to £13. 17s. od., "the oare this year lett to Mr Tatton £20.00.00". In 1670, however, all his third part of Castleton tithe and glebe was let "to Mr Cave for coz. Tatton", for £60. os. od.

The following lands he held by lease are also noted. As the rents received appear to be less than those he paid, it must be presumed he partly occupied the land himself:

"Moldridge	The old grange ground and Aston Hill	19.00.00
Hore Low	W. Webster	05.11.03
Cardle Hay	10.10.00
Overharmans	close that Robert Hurd holds	16.10.00

"Note that upon these leases I pay as follows viz. for Moldridge, Horelow & Cardlehay £60 p.a. . . . to John Milward of Snitterton for some 18 years yet to come.

Also for over Harmans Close £32.10.00 p.a. to Mr Squire & Wade . . . for 22 years from Lady Day."

Shortly before 1670 he began to build a new hall (the present Beauchief Hall) to replace the old monastic grange which the Strelleys had occupied and which stood on or near the same site.⁵⁷ In 1668 the rental of Beauchief begins:

"In primis the site of the mansion house with all the outhousing, barnes, stables, orchards, gardens, foulds & green, being by estimation — acres [for the half year] £5.00.00"

The lands occupied with it are then listed separately, their total value being £48. 13s. 6d.

Next year, 1669, it appears as "the old grange or hall". The only reference in this rent book to the new hall occurs in connection with rebates of rent allowed in 1670-1 to a tenant Jonathan Cowley for carrying lime, stone and sand to the "new house". The lintel of the main door still bears the date 17 May 1671 and the words "Ebenezer

Haec domus ergo Deus stet honoris grata columna:
Nam domus et domini conditor ipse Deus."

The separate outbuildings to the west of the hall (now called Pegge's cottage), bear the date 1667 and the name Edward Pegge on the lintel, but they were very much altered in 1836. It is probable that the interior of the hall took several years to complete and may have been delayed by the death of the heir Gervase on whom his father had pinned his hopes.

Gervase was educated at home by his father and was probably always a delicate boy. In July 1670, at the age of 17, he was admitted a fellow-commoner of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. A long letter of advice has survived, written to him by his conscientious and over-anxious father who had just taken him up to the university. It is interesting to find him quoting at length from the works of Joachim Fortius Ringelbergius, an early 16th-century Dutch humanist, author of *Liber de ratione studii* and other educational works which enjoyed some fame abroad but appear to have been little used in England.⁵⁸

A year later (June 1671) Gervase was admitted to Gray's Inn. Beauchief Hall was approaching completion, a marriage was arranged between him and Adrian Mundy's daughter and heiress and the future of the house of Strelley-Pegge looked bright; but Gervase died in London in 1673, before completing his education.

Edward Pegge was genuinely interested in education, as a letter (undated, but probably late 1673) addressed to him by Thomas Calton bears witness.⁵⁹ Calton may have been living in the Pegge household about 1670, perhaps as tutor to the younger children, for his name is mentioned in the Beauchief accounts in 1671⁶⁰: "Paid Mr Tho.

⁵⁷ I know of no reference to the location of the Grange, but the fields held with it by Gervase Strelley's widow bear similar names to those adjoining the hall on Fairbank's map of 1761 (Bea. IL) — Conny Green Close, Highwood Close.

⁵⁸ BM. 1003.

⁵⁹ BM. 1003.

⁶⁰ BM. 1006 (accounts, 1671).

Calton . . . £01.10.00", and a note of Pegge's reads: "I do remember . . . he sent by T. Calton £10.00.00 which is put into the building account".

At the time of writing the letter he had just become schoolmaster at Brampton (apparently his first official post) and had arranged a performance by the schoolboys to take place about the time of the distribution of Shaw's charity money and the preaching of a sermon in the parish church, for which the same benefactor had left 10 shillings annually.⁶¹

Mr. Jackson mentioned in the postscript may have been Cornelius Jackson, Edward Pegge's cousin, son of John Jackson of Unstone:

"These to His Most Honoured & Respected Master Edward Pegge Esq. at his House at Beauchiefe, humbly present . . .

. . . If you be pleased Sir, you may remember that the last tyme I was with you, I told you of some little business my scholars were to have before Christmas, now my presumption is at this tyme to invite your Worship unto it, if that either it will consist with your present Concerns or with your health; yet not as if either I, or the business was worthy of such an Auditor as yourself; But as you were the Primum Mobile of my preferment so I assure myself you will be the Continuator of its motion; and therefore I send. Mr Clark of Norton hath given us a promise that he will come, if your Concerns or health will give you leave also. This is my first putting forth into the world, now the favour and Encouragement of Such Gentlemen as yourself will be the onely making and setting up of me. I would have written to, and invited Mr Barker, but having not spoken to him since my coming from hence, I durst not send, so that I humbly desire your Worship, if you see him betwixt this and the next tuesday, which is the day and time appointed, that you would do me the favour as invite him. You may be angry at me, Sir, that I gave you no timelier notice; but be pleased to pardon me; I had sent sooner, had I known sooner on what day Mr Shaw's is to be dealt; for there being a sermon that day, It would not consist with our Comaedy, and exercises. Pray Sr. be pleased to come if you can the time appointed. In the Interim and also for ever, I remain

Sir,

Your most Humble & obliged
servant Tho. Calton

Mr Jackson and the Mistress present their services both to yourself and all your daughters, and desire, if you can come, you would come on Munday that they might have some enjoyment of your good and longed for Company. I desire Sir you would be pleased to let some of your daughters come, and Mr Strelley and Cris. and it shall ingage me, if you desire it, that the boyes shall come over in Xmas and act the Comaedy at your own house."

Master Strelley Pegge (mentioned in Calton's postscript) was sent to Sheffield Grammar School and then proceeded to Sidney Sussex (July 1677) and to Gray's Inn (June 1678). At about the same time the youngest son, Christopher, was apprenticed in London.

When Edward Pegge died, besides his two surviving sons, he had five daughters living. Anne, the eldest, occupied the position of mistress of the house. The next two daughters were married before their father's death — Mary to Thomas Tatton of Wythenshaw, Cheshire (whose first

⁶¹ *Charity Commissioners' Report, Derbyshire, 1827, Scarsdale, 128.*

wife was a daughter of Rowland Eyre of Bradway and Mrs. Gertrude Pegge's cousin), and Gertrude to Francis Stephenson of Unstone. Goodeth, the fourth surviving daughter, who became the wife of Robert Belt of Bossal in the North Riding, was probably still at home. The two youngest were in their 'teens; by their father's will the rents of Dore and Hathersage were to be set aside to provide portions of £500 apiece for them as well as £700 for Christopher.⁶² Portions for the elder girls may have been provided out of the Ashbourne estate, of which nothing further is heard in the family.

4. *Strelley and Christopher Pegge at Beauchief*

While Strelley and Christopher continued their education in London after their father's death, Anne, who was approaching thirty, remained for the time being mistress at Beauchief Hall. Two letters from her throw some light on family connections at this period. The first, addressed to Mrs. [Miss] Elizabeth Bretland, was about some new hoods and was written in 1680 while the Pegges were still in half mourning. Elizabeth (baptised at Sheffield 6 January 1648/9) was the daughter of Thomas Bretland, grocer, church burgess and town trustee of Sheffield, who was closely connected with the Sheffield mercer William Cooke, also a town trustee and agent for the Ecclesall estates of Sir John Bright of Badsworth. Cooke's wife, Elizabeth Lambert of Badsworth, was probably a relation of Col. John Lambert's and a connection by marriage of Sir John Bright's first wife. Cooke and Bretland are believed to have been nonconformist in sympathy.⁶³

Anne Pegge's letter⁶⁴ is as follows:

"Mrs Betty,

Pray be soe kinde as inquire who of your neighbours is for York & send this letter by them & allsoe returne the Box to Mrs Cooke & tell her it is a gray laced hudd that I would see & the lowist price. Sister Stephenson would have some allamode huds to look att of the sort without tabs nott cut out, of both sorts & price. Pray allsoe doe mee the favour to let mee knowe if any goe to York betwixt this & Saturday that I may write by them of some bisness. I hope to see yourselfe & sister at Beaucheffe, she promised & I hope will performe. Pray send per bearer a little bottle of sider to wash my eyes, you may see by my writing they are very much out of order. The could I got in my journey is fallen into them. Accept of thanks for all your kindness & service from your obliged freind to serve you,

An Pegge.

Pray my service to Mrs Cook . . ."

The second letter,⁶⁵ to her brother Strelley in London, was probably written later the same year (6 Nov.) and before Strelley's marriage:

⁶² Pegge's will quoted, Hardwick deeds, drawer 330. The probate of the will has not been found.

⁶³ P. J. Wallis, "Sheffield church burgesses, a biographical register", *Hunter Arch. Soc. Trans.*, VII, 57, 60.

⁶⁴ W. W. M. Bright, 185(b)1/86 verso.

⁶⁵ BM. 1004.

“I have Deare Brother according to my promise now sent you ‘Busye Fame’ & Mr Presson his humble service & the other song which hee says is new & good. This begges allsoe an account of your health & whether you be yett at Mr. Dans & what etc. you think good of Court or Domestick concerns. My Lady Beament hath a wiffe for you & is often talking of you — pray Lett mee have something to say to her from you. My sister Tatton writes mee word you wished you had stayed in Cheshire a while, the Towne beeing so sickly, but I hope to heare to the contrary now this brisk could wether & allsoe that my brother Chriss hath received some moneys from Brownell. Sister Kate I blesse god recovers, the rest of us in tollerable good health. I have a very poor account of Mr Wesby’s estate, that £1000 will not cleer his estate by £5 or £600 & then hee will not have above £200 per annum which will not doe our business, & allsoe hee will drink deep sometimes & quarell too, which I cann hardly beleive, yett think it not conveniente to perswaid my sister to proceed. (Tis Mr Baxter’s account.) Pray keep this to [your] selfe, that if hee should bee wronged by report wee do not [] soe prejudice him. Pray lett mee knowe what you think [of] this & your advise . . .”

None of the sisters married Mr. Westby, but Lady Beaumont’s⁶⁶ candidate for Strelley’s hand may well have been the bride he soon afterwards married, for no other connecting link with her family is known. She was Elizabeth Annesley, daughter of John Annesley of Ballysonan Castle in Kildare and niece of Arthur Annesley, earl of Anglesey, one-time presbyterian and now Charles II’s Lord Privy Seal; Lord Anglesey was one of the trustees of the marriage settlement. The bride’s dowry was probably £2,500-£3,000.⁶⁷

From the Beauchief rental it would appear to have been about 1683 before the young couple settled at Beauchief Hall. The pleasant south-facing house to which Strelley brought his bride has not changed greatly in outward appearance. The feature which impressed the early 18th-century antiquary Brailsford, as it does the modern visitor, is the sweep of stone steps in front of the entrance. These recently required resetting and were found to be built up on loose rubble. Broughton Benjamin Pegge Burnell, whose initials, with the date 1836, can now be seen on a small pediment he added above the main door, carried out alterations particularly at the east end, but except for the east entrance and the reglazing of the windows, these are not very conspicuous from without. The original small panes can still be seen in one of the windows at the west end. The inventory made on Strelley Pegge’s death in 1691 named the rooms with their furniture, without unfortunately distinguishing the different floors. The first or entrance floor contained the hall, with the fine chimney-piece said to be the gift of Adrian Mundy, the dining-room, ante-hall, parlour and several closets, in one of which was the library valued at £20. The main bedrooms or chambers are described as the red chamber, purple chamber, yellow chamber, Mistress Anne Pegge’s chamber, which contained the best furniture, and the parlour chamber.

⁶⁶ George Westby of Gilthwaite, born 1652, married Ann Turnell 1681 (*F.M.G.*, 530), Lady Beaumont has not been identified.

⁶⁷ Calculated from the rent-charge she received in lieu of jointure.

The latter being the only one of the main chambers with sheets on the bed was apparently occupied by Strelley Pegge. Some of the furniture in this room may have been Madam Pegge's own, which would account for the rather sparse furnishing given in the inventory.⁶⁸ Strelley had clearly kept the rooms much as they were left by his father and even left particular directions in his will for the recovery of the purple screen made with the same cloth as the purple bed, both of which had been removed by his sister Anne when she married Mr. Sowtheby.

When Strelley and his wife settled in Derbyshire the measures against nonconformity were being strongly enforced, but under James II indulgence was allowed both to catholic and protestant dissenters. The resultant changes regarding Nathaniel Baxter's ministry at Beauchief chapel are thus recorded by Calamy:

"Having preached at this abbey 17 years, the young heir, Strelley Pegg, Esq; (his father being dead) desired him to desist, not out of disrespect to him, but out of fear, because of the severities that were then used with the Nonconformists. When K. James granted his indulgence some time after, the same gentleman desired Mr. Baxter to return to his preaching in the abbey, offering him 30 l. per ann. for his pains; but he refused, saying, he could now exercise his ministry without doing what he did before, viz. reading the Common-Prayer. The young gentleman offered him a reader, but Mr. Baxter declined it, nor did he ever settle with any congregation afterwards, but preached abroad, either at some neighbouring meeting or at some gentleman's house."⁶⁹

On one of the fly-leaves of the Beauchief rental, Strelley drew up for himself the *pros.* and *cons.* of Mr. Baxter's case about the chapel in tiny handwriting, of which both the script and the meaning are at times elusive. The references to Mr. Leech, from 1689 anglican minister at Ecclesall chapel, show that the document post-dates the accession of William and Mary and the Toleration Act of 1689. This fact suggests either that Calamy was wrong in thinking the question of Baxter's return as chaplain arose in James II's reign, or else that it was reconsidered later, when there may have been some thought of registering Beauchief chapel as a dissenters' meeting-house. From the document it is clear there were already meeting-houses at Sheffield and at Mr. Gill's (the Oakes in Norton).

Strelley endorsed the musings he addressed to himself: "the more prudent choice". He begins by rebutting the charge of changing his views about episcopacy and concludes that extremes are to be avoided, but that moderate episcopacy and moderate presbyterianism are both equally good. He seems to have in mind another younger minister in place of Baxter, perhaps episcopally ordained.

The notes (in part) read as follows:

"In respect of the reproach of mutability as to a form [episcopacy] which in most ages hath been used, even in the primitive church; in respect of the publick, sudden mutations which are most dangerous both in church & state: Tenants & neighbourhood

⁶⁸ Inventory, *D.A.J.*, III (1881), 57.

⁶⁹ E. Calamy, *Ministers ejected*, ed. S. Palmer, II, 100.

generally have been used to it [Common Prayer] and many without the prayers might not be willing to come to the church. Then your wife [i.e. Mrs Pegge] & her many relations & also your own sisters & acquaintance with servants might scruple [to come etc.]

Again, you have both a forme of Prayer & all the other that the nonconformists have besides . . . Frequent personal Examinations & Instructions & exhortations as much as sermons and catachisings. (Opinion Mr Baxter.) . . . How many if prayers were left off would rather goe to Ecclesall to hear Mr Leech & good reason toe? . . .

Consider & believe the sober, practicall, moderate part of *Churchmen* are to be countenanced & encouraged as well as the *other* sober party, for both parties being guilty of Extravagancies & uncharitable extreames, the sober, practical, moderate party of Xians to be maintained & cherished on one side as well as the other.

As I find this way as profitable to me and mine, soe I leve unto those of another method, [places] hard by on every side whither they may resort: to Mr Leech, Mr Gill, Sheffield, etc.

It may be more for the Glory of God and the good of souls that Mr B. should preach in some other place and maybe soe ordered by Providence . . . Againe it may be a providence to fitt the young man for another better place, to be more moderate and quickening[?]

Mr B. may expect, & likely in a little time might leave us for, a better place and a greater Congregation in publicke.

Those that are not for prayers may now goe to Norton or Sheffield & those of own tenants & neighbours that object have Mr Leech to goe to.

Is there not severall of your notable sententious preachers that are ill & sad men even of both parties? Soe might conclude that moderate episcopacy & moderate Presbytry are the creame of both, and most to be chosen & most to be admired & equally to be encouraged. Be not too scrupulous, too curious in things which appeare both good &, *consideratis considerandis*, equally good."

Strelley's will, dated 18 December 1688 at the time of James II's flight, left several legacies to ministers both nonconformist and Anglican, viz.

The "worthy and famous" Mr John Howe of London (a well known nonconformist minister), £10.

Mr John Wood of Norton (nonconformist minister) and "honest Mr Leighton" (the curate of Norton?) each £10.

Mr Matthew Sylvester of London (nonconformist minister at Coleman St.), £15.

Mr John Lobley, parson of Chesterfield (and previously vicar of Sheffield), £5.5.

Mr Nathaniel Baxter who "did freely bestow his pious labours in preaching for several years together faithfully amongst my tenants at Beauchief", £50.⁷⁰

It may fairly be deduced it was the political crisis that led Strelley Pegge to make his will in December 1688. Some notes of his jotted down on the fly-leaf of his rental give us his thoughts on the subject of the Revolution. It struck him as remarkable and providential:

1. That the French should not come in.
2. That the Army should turne peple contrary.
3. That the Ld(s?) should prove soe instrumentall.
4. That the Lds. should not be secured before, & the P[rince] by that & other means prevented.

⁷⁰ Will proved PCC. 1692 f. 43.

5. That the High Tories should make noe opposition.
6. Soe little blod shed . . ."

Lower down on the same page are lists of names which suggest he was putting his household and neighbours in readiness in case of strife. One list names local men of standing including "Brother Stephenson", Mr. Bright of Ecclesall and Mr. Britland. Strelley's intentions were good, but it is likely the cause was practically won before he took these defensive measures.

When Strelley died in 1691 without children, Beauchief Hall and lordship passed into the possession of his wife as her jointure, together with the household goods as long as she lived there. They were soon exchanged for an annual payment of £280, a heavy charge on the estate of Christopher Pegge who succeeded his brother and married Anna Catherine Eyre (dowry £1,000), eldest daughter of William Eyre of Highlow, early in 1693.⁷¹

The Highlow Eyres, presbyterian under the Commonwealth and conformist after the Restoration, followed a course parallel to the Pegges; in this connection a letter written by Mrs. Eyre (Anna Catherine's mother) to her eldest son many years later is instructive, as expressing the religious views of the older generation. Endorsed by the recipient, "my mother's angrye letter" and dated August 1718, it was written to chide him for his resentment against another sister (Elizabeth), who had married the nonconformist minister Ferdinando Shaw of Derby.⁷² It reads (in Mrs. Eyre's peculiar spelling):

"I'me sory your poor Sister here that never deserv'd ill of yu nor ever gave yu ill word in her life . . . shoud have your causles frowns, all I believe thro' her mariage to one whose perswasion u like not, for I kno no other thing yu can think blameworthy, for he's a worthy good man, esteemed by other gentlemen of good understanding & sober, tho' not of our way, & only despised by his wive's relations. He's a person of very good sens, good temper & a very kind husband; which quality's wanting in the husbands of the other 3 — tho' they had some estate 'twas in appearance only for 'twas quickly gone — if it be that you think his birth to low, I think a son & granson of a Minister is venerable, yourself would think soe of the Church sort & I doubt not but at the great day he be as much ownd as a minister of Christ as the Arch Bishop himself — & am sory that yu should not folow your father[']s example in that moderation yu were brought up in, that was not High Church, but all our ministers were welcome to him & esteemed by him, he liked both their conversation & their prayers & believe his family fared the beter for 'em."⁷³

Mrs. Eyre gives no very flattering account of her other three sons-in-law, one of whom was Christopher Pegge. Anna Catherine had died leaving an only daughter, and Christopher had married a distant cousin, Lettice Pegge, about 1703. Shortly afterwards he found it necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament to enable him to sell his manors of Dore and Hather-

⁷¹ Bill in parliament re Pegge estate (Bag. C. 779/17). Anna Catherine's settlement. Hardwick deeds, drawer 330/12.

⁷² *Calamy revised*, 435.

⁷³ Bag. C. 313, Eyre of Highlow letters.

sage and mortgage or sell part of Beauchief and Strawberry Lee, on account of his embarrassed affairs. The preamble states that £1,000 and £1,200 had been borrowed on the security of Dore manor, that he was committed to setting aside £1,200 as a portion for Anne, his daughter by his first wife, and £1,100 for the sole use of Lettice and her children, in addition to the £280 p.a. for Strelley's widow, which it was intended to pay off by handing over £2,904 to her trustee. Without a speedy sale, he states, the encumbrances will soon exceed the value and eat up the whole estate. Dore and Hathersage were sold to the duke of Newcastle shortly afterwards. The purchase of Whiteley Wood about this time was probably to invest the £1,100 secured to Mrs. Pegge.⁷⁴

Christopher had originally intended his daughter Anne's dowry to be £2,000. He soon had reason to be glad he had not made it so, for when she was scarcely fifteen she made an imprudent — probably runaway — match and became the wife of a young attorney of Uttoxeter, Philip Foster Smith, whose father had a small estate at Beamhurst in that neighbourhood. The letters of Mrs. Eyre, her grandmother, make various references to Anne ("your niece Smith", as she calls her when writing to her son), but the correspondence does not begin until some little time after the marriage. Mr. Smith is first mentioned in a letter to William Jessop, one of Anne's trustees, dated 27 May 1710; Mrs. Eyre reports that young Smith "hoped the tender love he had for his wife & the great care he took in his business, would manifest he did not marry her to make a prey of her, as some of his unkind friends sayd, that his not wayting of u last year was not thro' disrespect, but that it beter to stay till the heat of the displeasure might be over."⁷⁵

On 9 September 1710 an entry in the Checkley (Staffs.) parish register reads: "Phillip Foster Smith, the son of Phillip Foster Smith and Anne his wife, was baptised." This son died, but the following August another son was born and christened Eyre at Checkley on 18 August 1711. "Your sister C[arter] has been to Bemhuss [Beamhurst]," writes Mrs. Eyre, "& your neece lyes in of a son & makes a fine nurs & they are mighty kind to her & she makes a very wise & good houswife;" Mr. Smith is always praising her. (1 September 1711.)

Anne's fortune became hers when she attained the age of 18 on 26 January 1712/3. As Philip had nothing to settle on her, a very peculiar settlement was drawn up dated 2 March 1713/14. Philip and Anne agreed to accept a bond in £3,000 from the trustees for the sum of £1,500 (to which the fortune then amounted). The money was to be laid out in land to be held by the trustees, settled on the young couple and entailed on their eldest son Eyre Foster Smith. After his father's death Philip was to settle lands valued at £80 p.a. as Anne's jointure and for raising £800 for the younger sons and daughters.⁷⁶ Her father Christopher

⁷⁴ Bag. C. 779/17; Sale deed 1705. Hardwick deeds, drawer 330/16; *Hallamshire*, ed. Gatty, 361.

⁷⁵ Bag. C. 313.

⁷⁶ Derby PL., deed 1652.

Pegge seems to have had no part in this. He left her in his will "a gold ring of a guinea price" in lieu of any claim on his estate.

Christopher had three sons by his second marriage of whom two survived to carry on the family, as well as several daughters, whose portions must (had they lived) have been small. Only one of them, Lettice, married, her husband being Jonathan Lee of Chesterfield.

Christopher's will is full of family piety: he wishes to be buried by his late dear wife Ann Catherina Pegge at Beauchief Abbey, and directs his "dear and loving wife Lettice" to put up a gravestone "to my good and honoured father and another over my late dear Brother Strelley Pegge".⁷⁷ He died 28 March 1729, aged 69.

5. *The Pegges in the 18th century*

During Christopher Pegge's lifetime his family had settled down in the rank of minor gentry — conforming, whiggish, ordinary people, farming the home farm and living on their rents, and holding occasional office. The sons followed the law or entered the church in a gentlemanly way.

The family was unfortunate in the number of deaths, in infancy and early prime, during two successive generations; as a result the male line died out early in the 19th century. On the other hand, by the chances of inheritance the family estates were twice augmented during the 18th century. The first addition was comparatively small: in 1702 Henry Jackson of Stanshope left his cousin Christopher Pegge one of his co-executors and residuary legatee.⁷⁸ His real estate is not mentioned in his will, but at a later date Christopher's sons had property in Alstonfield parish which had undoubtedly come from this source. It was sold by Strelley Pegge about 1766, probably to Sir Henry Harpur, for £8,000.⁷⁹ The inheritance of Winkburn, Notts., in the 1780s was altogether more important and will be referred to later. There is little economic data available during this period, and the short account which follows is mainly based on letters of a personal nature.

Christopher's two surviving sons were both under age when he died, and their mother's brother, the Rev. Nathaniel Pegge, vicar of Pakington, Leicestershire, became a major influence in the family. The two boys both went to their uncle's college, St. Catherine's, Cambridge, in 1726 and 1733 respectively. Strelley (the elder) matriculated; Christopher (the younger) took his degrees and was ordained in the diocese of Lincoln as assistant minister in his uncle's parish (deacon 5 June 1737, priest 28 May 1738).⁸⁰

On 22 May 1735 Strelley Pegge married Frances, the orphan daughter and heiress of Robert Revell the younger of Carnfield, and his wife Frances

⁷⁷ Proved PCC. 137 Auber.

⁷⁸ Will dated 1 July 1702, proved at Lichfield, 1702.

⁷⁹ Letter from a Mr. Groves of Hope (in Alstonfield parish) on subject of sale 28 October 1766, BM. 107/24; draft reply of S. Pegge, BM. 1005.

⁸⁰ *Alumni Cantab.*; *Lincoln Episcopal Act Book* 1723-60 (Register XXXVIII). *Alumni Cantab.* wrongly states he was vicar of Stanshope.

Harpur;⁸¹ she was living at the time in the house of her guardian, Godfrey Watkinson of Brampton. The progress of their acquaintance can be traced in surviving letters, from its early days until her sad death two and a half years later.⁸² Her first letter dated from Brampton Moor, 4 February 1733/4, when she was only sixteen, reads:

“Sir,

The little knowledge I have in answering a letter of the nature of yours may I hope be a sufficient excuse for the reluctancy with which I doe it, & which would have been still prevalent had you not been soe very sollicitous. I am much oblig'd to you for the good opinion you are pleas'd [to] have of me which is much above my merit [and] as to the Chief Subject of your letter I can say noe more to it then what I did the last time I saw you, which was I shall never doe anything in such an important affair but what is truly agreeable to the Duty I owe to my Guardian who has been soe kind a friend to me, upon which account you may be asured my Inclinations must ever be guided by his, which if they be in favour of the perposeals you have made him mine will not be contrary, which is all at present from, Sir,

Your most obliged humble servant

Frances Revell”

On 27 March she writes:

“... I have had, since I saw you last, some talk with Mr Watkinson concerning you and I don't find he has any Objection to the perposealls you have made him, only he said he was unwilling to doe anything in such an Affair till he had acquainted my relations about it, in answer to which I told him I should never studdy anyone's consent but his, which when he once asures you of it — mine shall never be wanting . . .”

Strelley's letters addressed to his “Dearest Charmer” are less coherent. Before long they are exchanging books and plays — Wycherley's *The Plain Dealer* and *Mr. Cleveland* (perhaps the Poems of Mr. John Cleveland) are mentioned — and having minor misunderstandings.

In March 1735 Mr. Watkinson and one Mr. Haynes are drawing up the marriage settlement: “I find they must yet doe what the world calls drive the Bargain tho' never so much offered on the other side”, Strelley writes impatiently, and on 4 May the bride asks about ordering the bride cakes. It was not (curiously) until 17 May that she invited the groom's mother to the wedding: “. . . there is nothing would be a greater addition to the happyness I am to enjoy on Thursday next of being your daughter then the honour of having yours & miss Pegge's company at my Wedding . . .”

A year later the married pair went to Nottingham. A letter to Strelley from his mother while they were there (11 July 1736) tells of the “surprise & uneasiness” the account of young Mrs. Pegge's “being in the small pox gave me . . . till the turn [*crisis*] be over I shall have very great fears upon me”. Her next letter (undated) reads:

⁸¹ Pedigree of Revell, F.M.G., 398. Frances baptized at South Normanton 12 May 1717.

⁸² BM. 107, letters 1, 7, 8, 12 (Frances Revell); letters 4, 15 (Strelley Pegge).

“Sir,

I am hertaly sorry for Mrs Pegge’s death & I pray God to give us all grace to submit to what he thinks proper to lay upon us . . . I’m afraid your making a great funeral is rong but now too late to be prevented — for this distemper most chuse a privat one . . . I know you’r overwhelm’d with greive.”

The £3,000 dowry which was due to her husband, possibly a year after the wedding day, was paid over by her uncle Francis Revell, who writes (8 August 1736) “. . . According to your desire the three Thousand shall be paid on the First of September next ensuing”.⁸³ The Carnfield estate was subsequently held by this Francis Revell and then by his cousin Edward Revell, who died in 1770. At a comparatively early age (he was only 29) Strelley Pegge became sheriff of the county in 1739. He was subsequently a magistrate.

Strelley’s younger brother, the Rev. Christopher Pegge, married Mary, daughter of the Rev. George Alsop, one-time vicar of Church Langton, and seems to have combined his clerical duties at Packington with residence at Stanshope. He died within a year of his marriage in March 1741/2, aged 28. A posthumous daughter, Maria Christiana, was born in the following July.⁸⁴ Lettice Pegge (Mrs. Lee) had an only son Jonathan born about this time. These two were so far the only children of the younger generation when Strelley married a second wife about 1742.

She was Mary Broughton, daughter of Peter Broughton, esq. of Lowdham. Her portrait as a girl in a bright red dress was preserved at Beauchief, and her surviving letters show her as an animated woman and kind mother. Of her family of five sons and five daughters (born between November 1743 and May 1757) four died young. Three sons and three daughters were living when the eldest, Strelley, aged 17, became an articulated clerk to Thomas Pares, the Leicester attorney, in 1762. The main events of Strelley’s life during the next few years are thus chronicled in his memorandum book:

“Went clerk to Mr Pares of Leicester, 28 June 1762.

May 1762, the Duke of Devonshire presented me with the Place of one of the Grooms of his Majesty’s privy chamber.

25 June 1767. My hair cut off [*preparatory to wearing a wig*].

Trinity Term 1768. Called to the Barr.

June 1768. Attended myself at St James’ for the first time.”⁸⁵

His mother’s letters to him⁸⁶ while he was with Mr. Pares give further details, beginning with her reminders concerning his toilet, his prayers

⁸³ BM. 1005. Since going to press I find that the Stanshope estates were settled as Frances Revell’s jointure (marriage settlement 18/4/1735, in William Salt Library D(W)1747/2); and that there was some dispute after her death about the payment of her dowry (Catalogue of Revell records, D.R.O., especially E37). In the same collection (D/E34) are Watkinson’s accounts for expenses incurred for Miss Revell while she lived at his house before her marriage. These items were brought to my notice by Mr. C. J. Williams.

⁸⁴ Nichols, *Leicestershire*, II, 694; administration granted at Lichfield to his widow, her sister Catherine Alsop and brother-in-law Philip Bliss, 27 April 1742; buried at Beauchief 13 March 1741/2.

⁸⁵ BM. 47. Pares of Hopwell, Burke’s *Landed gentry*, 1952.

⁸⁶ DD. CW/7/1: 12 letters, 1762-68.

and his music practice (he played the spinet and the organ); and also urging him to write to his [great] uncle Pegge — the vicar of Packington — “and write a pritty genteel obligin letter . . . [and] take a little more pains in writting then you did in mine or he will have a mean opinion of your writting” (25 July 1762). Civic events in Leicester are mentioned, particularly the assizes (22 August 1762): “So your assizes is over and I was wondering why you did not go to the Assembly; but your sister Polly said she fancied Attorneys’ Clerks & Apprentices were not admitted”; and Mayor’s day: “You have made a mighty Grand affair truly of the Mayor’s shew and after all your Mayor is but a Publican” (26 November 1762). There are visits home, particularly to coincide with Chesterfield races; compliments to Mrs. Pares, “that sweet woman”; and thoughts for Strelley studying in his cold bedroom, but “Mr. and Mrs. Pares are such good people, I think they will not let you want anything necessary”.

At the end of his term as Mr. Pares’ clerk Strelley visited London, presumably in connection with the formalities of being called to the bar, when he intended to perform his duties as groom of the privy chamber for the first time in person, his distant cousin Samuel Pegge, the Derbyshire antiquary, having previously acted as his deputy. The death of Princess Louisa Anne (the king’s sister) however, plunged the court in mourning; his cousin suggested it would be unnecessary for Strelley to spend money on mourning court dress, but that he would deputise again — or so it appears from Mrs. Pegge’s letter (22 May 1768):

“. . . I don’t think they will make much mourning in the Country for this Princess. I think you did not judge right in not waiting for yourself at Court this quarter; for as to the mourning, it would have been an easy thing to have hired a handsome suit of mourning for the time and then bought your other Cloaths after it was over; but I rather think S. Pegge had some selfish ends in perswading you otherways.”

According to Strelley’s notebook he attended the court in June. A cash book⁸⁷ survives in which, during the next two years, he jotted down his expenses during his quarterly visits to town to wait at court; they included the usual visits to “the play”, Vauxhall, an oratorio, as well as frequent purchases of nuts and the use of a spinet. On the return journeys he called at Leicester, where his mother had written in July 1767, “I know there’s a great *Lodestone at Mr. Pares*”. His marginal comment is, “*I hope not*”. Mrs. Pegge’s letters portray him as a shy young man with a long and solemn face.

She also has much to say on local social events. On 7 October 1764 she writes: “We have had a grand Cuttlers Feast [at Sheffield] and we was all there, your sisters danced 2 nights there which made them very happy; your Aunt Broughton and myself went to dine with all the *Mrs. Cuttlerises* and very droll it was to see them all stuck up in their best bibs & tuckers”.

Of a ball at Norton “of Miss Offley’s making” in November 1762, she

⁸⁷ BM. 95.

writes: "Don't you wonder at Will Bagshaw's dancing so much and being so very Gay & Young? But I can give you a reason for it . . . why, it is said he is to have Miss Offley and I do verily believe it will so be, by what I saw myself; it is the fashion to marry old men I find in this age."⁸⁸

On 21 May 1765 died Lady John Murray, born Mary Dalton, heiress of the Brights of Banner Cross and Chesterfield.⁸⁹ She was buried at Sheffield. Mr. and Mrs. Pegge attended the funeral, the latter, as she wrote to Strelley, "as a Bearer & Mrs Shore; there was ten, the rest all Sheffield Ladys, as Battys, Dosseys, Mrs Nodder, etc, too tedious here to mention . . . The coffin was covered with Black Velvet and ornamented with Corronets, Plates, etc — What vanity to have all this Pompe and Parrade . . .!" (31 May 1765).

Strelley's three surviving sisters Polly, Fanny and Melly (Millicent), all in their 'teens, are frequently mentioned; and also their cousin Jonathan Lee (called "Cousin Than") who had returned from London a fully fledged young lawyer, but a remarkably shy one who "put up his Handkerchief to his face and turned his head to the wall as usual, till I joked him and told him . . . I had seen him before and then he brightened . . ." It was clear he was paying his addresses to Melly: ". . . And so (18 May 1766) your Cousin Than hath at last plucked up his spirits to speak to your father upon a certain occasion . . . how it will end I cannot tell, but she says she cannot like him, and if so nobody will offer to perswade her." She was only sixteen, but about a year later Mr. Thomas Steade, the Sheffield lawyer, who was nearly forty, asked for her hand; "he is an Honest worthy good man, a good fortune and one that everyone speaks well of. I hope your sister will have sense enough not to refuse a good offer in proper time". They were married at Beauchief on 30 August 1768. Fanny later married a distant cousin, Robert Belt; Polly (Mary Letitia) appears to have died before Millicent's marriage but letters relating to the event are lacking.

Strelley Pegge, junior, succeeded to the estate in 1770. He died 12 July 1774, aged 29, and within two months his mother and his youngest brother Christopher, aged 21, were also dead, leaving Peter Pegge, aged 23, alone at the Hall. It was probably the result of his sudden loss that he sought the company of a local girl, Martha Dalton of Totley. In the Dore register is recorded the baptism of her two illegitimate children, Strelley Pegge Dalton (baptised 10 March, buried 16 May 1776) and Elizabeth Dalton (baptised 1 August 1777).⁹⁰

When, some years later, his cousin Jonathan Lee died, Peter Pegge married his widow, Mary Milnes of Aldecar Park. They had no children

⁸⁸ William Bagshawe of the Oakes in Norton (younger brother and heir of Richard Bagshawe) b. 1713, d. unmarried 1785. Miss Offley was Hannah Maria, younger sister and co-heir of Edmund Offley of Norton Hall, born 1740, married Francis Edmunds of Worsborough 1767. Her elder sister was Mrs. Samuel Shore.

⁸⁹ Mary Dalton, b. 1732, married (in 1758) Lord John Murray, b. 1711, a younger son of John, 1st duke of Atholl.

⁹⁰ Dronfield register, Dore and Totley township. Martha Dalton was buried at Beauchief 21 August 1826 (1824 on gravestone).

and Miss Dalton was later installed in the family as the beloved adopted daughter. When she married Pegge's nephew (and prospective heir) Broughton-Benjamin Steade, he settled on her a dowry of £5,000.⁹¹

Before his marriage to Mrs. Lee, Peter Pegge had inherited a moiety of an estate at Winkburn, Notts., as one of the heirs-at-law of Darcy Burnell, who died in 1774 without children. Out of the Winkburn rents, which amounted to nearly £2,000 p.a., an annuity of £1,200 was left to Burnell's widow for life and there were some other similar outpayments.⁹² A trial was subsequently held at Nottingham in August 1781, "to prove the heirs-at-law of the late Darcy Burnell who . . . devised a large estate to trustees for the benefit of such heirs when they could be found". The court found in favour of Peter Pegge and Catherine Wombwell, who were descended from two daughters of William Burnell who lived in the reign of Elizabeth I.⁹³

Pegge had apparently moved into the mansion house, park and farm at Winkburn after Mrs. Burnell's death in 1784. Subsequent events are exceedingly difficult to unravel, for in 1785 he made an agreement with Richard Bristow of Beesthorpe to allow him to keep possession and pay half the rents and profits to Bristow, and also to pay half what he had received since Mrs. Burnell's death, the amount to be settled by arbitrators. No mention of Catherine Wombwell is made. According to Throsby's revision of Thoroton's *Nottinghamshire*, he bought Bristow's share of the house and park a little before the latter's death in 1789. He certainly held the estate and took the name of Burnell, yet there is an agreement of sale of 1811 between Peter Pegge-Burnell and one John Kinderley, whereby the former agreed to purchase the interest of the latter in the estates at Winkburn they held jointly, for £27,500.⁹⁴

It also appears that early in 1784 Mr. Pegge found a will of Mrs. Burnell's, presumably greatly to his advantage, for a letter from T. Walker of Doctors Commons (2 April 1784) concerning probate of this speaks of the finding of the papers, the particular circumstances, and the need to avoid anything disagreeable being said against Mr. Pegge hereafter in "so nice a matter".⁹⁵

From 1776 he was on the Derbyshire bench and in 1788 sheriff of Derbyshire, but from this time he lived almost entirely at Winkburn. In 1790, arrangements were in hand for letting the home farm at Beauchief and (apparently) the Hall.⁹⁶ His interests as far as can be gathered were his stables, fishponds, game and farms — though nothing indicates that his farming was anything out of the common run. He was also active in the Nottinghamshire volunteers.

⁹¹ Copy of marriage settlement DD. CW/1a/10.

⁹² Rental, DD. CW/2d/1.

⁹³ *Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, Thursday, 9 August 1781 (DD. CW/2c/6). Pedigree of Wombwell, J. Hunter, *South Yorkshire*, II, 125.

⁹⁴ DD. CW/1a/8; Throsby, III, 128; DD. CW/1a/11.

⁹⁵ BM. 107/47.

⁹⁶ BM. 33/2: "acres in hand to let with the House".

Though Frances, the elder of his two married sisters, had a large family, Millicent's two elder boys, Thomas and Broughton-Benjamin Steade, became the focus of family interest; after the death of their father Thomas Steade, Pegge-Burnell became one of the two trustees of the estate. The second son, Broughton-Benjamin, had in 1791 at the age of 17, been placed by his father with a Mr. Hibblethwaite, merchant, of Leeds.⁹⁷ The eldest, Thomas, inherited the Steade estate and being urged to "fix his attention to some employment in life", decided upon the army. James Wheat the Sheffield attorney reported to Pegge-Burnell (21 April 1794):

"Yesterday he [Thomas Steade] called upon me to say he had purchased an Ensigny in a marching regiment for £250, that he was soon to have a Lieutenancy therein which would cost £200 more, this establishment would qualify him to take a Captain-Lieutenancy in Col. Beaumont's Light Horse for which it seems he has contracted for £1200, and this Rank would qualify him to take the first Troop which should become vacant if he paid about £1000 more; so that an expenditure of about £2600 should give him the claim to a majority on the first vacancy — now all these Ideas of increasing Rank are very flattering to a young & aspiring spirit. I understand nothing stands in the way but *money*."

The trustees, however, were wiling to raise it; he became in a short time first Captain of the 21st Regt. of Light Dragoons commanded by Col. Beaumont, was posted to the West Indies and died at St. Domingo in 1796.⁹⁸

Broughton-Benjamin's marriage to Miss Dalton (in fact she was his first cousin) in December 1802 gave complete satisfaction in the family. The young couple began their married life in Park Place, Leeds, and soon took a house at Thorp Arch until they could move to Beauchief. The tenant there was ready to quit more quickly than anticipated, and after some worry on account of the farm being left untilled and the house unheated over the winter the move took place in 1804. Several children were born. Mr. Steade farmed the home farm himself and embarked on a careful farm diary in 1805.⁹⁹

Peter Pegge-Burnell lived until 1836. Thereafter Steade succeeded to the estates, assumed the name of Pegge-Burnell, carried out renovations at the Hall, became a magistrate and sheriff, and his family remained at Beauchief till about the end of the century. Despite the industrial growth of Sheffield, Beauchief itself remained a quiet and rural place. Strelleys, Pegges and then Steades had replaced the Premonstratensian canons and much of the stone of the abbey had been used to build the hall; but the general changes had not been so revolutionary as might have been supposed. The conservative ways of an 18th-century squire and a 15th-century abbot had much in common.

⁹⁷ Autobiographical notes and journal, DD. CW/8c/1.

⁹⁸ BM. 107/49 *et seq.*; DD. CW/8c/1.

⁹⁹ BM. 107 (nos. from 58 onwards relate to period after marriage). Farm diary, BM. 97.

The Pegge arms

At the Herald's Visitation of Derbyshire in 1662-3 Edward Pegge recorded a family pedigree and claimed to bear the arms: *Argent, a chevron between three piles sable*. However, the officiating herald, William Dugdale, entered: "no arms proved", and Pegge was respited for further proof (Visitation returns printed in 1879, p. 4).

This was a fairly common occurrence at visitations but it is not often that the "further proof" is now forthcoming. The proofs Pegge proposed to submit have survived in a document he drew up to be presented to the Earl Marshal.

The outcome is not known, but the Pegge arms were displayed conspicuously in the hall he built at Beauchief.

"A short account of my grounds & reasons for to be allowed to bere the Armes as hereafter expressed, to be presented in such a manner as Mr Brown shall direct me to my Lord the Earle Marshall.

1. That there was & still remains to be seen in Sawley Church scituat in Derbyshire an antient Eschocheon or Coat of Armes, viz. argent a chevron betwixt 3 Peggs sable. That it was antiently known accounted & spoken of by persons of good quality & knowing in such matters (& one of them interested in part of the estate since), that the said bearing did belong to the name of Pegge & particularly to one Sir Christopher Pegge who had an estate there. But having no issue left his estate to his wife whose name was Booth.

2. Though we can produce no pedegree of lineall descent from him, we have alwayes kept a tradition of collaterall relation to him; and in respect hereof have so kept his name in use, that there never wanted a Christopher Pegge of our kindred in all the memory of men alive.

3. There's no other that ever we knew make pretence or relation to the said Coate of Armes there but ourselves. And though I have no old writeings of the antient estate (being come of the yonest [*youngest*] child of the yongest brother), yet I can evidence that my name & kindred of the first have alwayes reputed themselves related to the said Pegge of Sawley aforesaid and produce severall writings sealed with the same impression of the said coat of armes above 40^{ty} or 50^{ty} yeares since and that the same has been ranked in the pedigree of the very antient family of the Knivetons, & I presume of Eyres also, wherewith etc. they have formerly matched."

Endorsed: "To Sir Aston Cokain of our Coat of Armes to be communicated to coz. Tho. Pegge of Yeldersley."¹⁰⁰

Notes on the portraits

None of these now have names on them and only two (those of Gertrude Strelley and Edward Pegge) have any tradition of identification. In several cases however it has been possible to compare them with miniatures in the possession of Col. R. A. Craven-Smith-Milnes; these are now at Hockerton Manor and came from Winkburn.

The first mention of any family pictures occurs in the Beauchief inventory of 1691. In "the neere closett", which contained the library, are mentioned "Three pictures, ten shillings". These were undoubtedly the first three listed below.

? William Strelley of Beauchief (plate 1a) born 1608, died 1635, aged 27. The portrait shows a man in his early twenties, clad in black armour (with copper headed rivets), a collar of silver lace and a deep red cloak. Eyes dark blue, hair and moustache brown. (It is believed that the name *Strelley* was at one time visible on the painting).

¹⁰⁰ BM. 1002.

No other suitable person was living in the Strelley or Pegge of Ashbourne family. The facial resemblance between this young man and Gertrude could well be that of father and daughter. Date probably early 1630s.

Oils, painted in a partial oval. 30 in. x 25 in.

Gertrude Pegge, née Strelley (plate Ib), born 1632, married Edward Pegge 1648, died probably late 1660s. Painted in the 21st year of her age, 1653 (according to the inscription), which agrees with her date of birth. Samuel Pegge in his *History of Beauchief Abbey* mentions the "inscription on her picture at Beauchief" (205 n.). In a black dress with white collar and cuffs, pearl necklace, pearls (or perhaps brilliants) in her hair and a silver watch in her hand. Eyes blue, hair brown, complexion rosy and rather coarse.

Oils. 30 in. x 25 in.

Edward Pegge of Beauchief (plate IIa), born c. 1622-3, died 1679. Painted in the 29th year of his age, 1653 (according to the inscription) which agrees nearly with other information as to his age. Suit and cloak black, white collar, tassels and stars silver. Eyes brown, complexion pale.

Oils, painted in a partial oval. 30 in. x 25 in.

Mary Broughton, afterwards Pegge (plate III), daughter of Peter Broughton of Lowdham Hall. Born about 1722, married Strelley Pegge (2nd wife) about 1742, died 1774, aged 52. Clearly the same person as "Mary Broughton" in a miniature at Hockerton. Bright red dress, white lace cuffs, black hat, fair hair worn long. (Costume probably c. 1740 or slightly earlier). She holds a crook surmounted by a curious horn. Some poplars can be faintly seen in the background. She wears no wedding ring and is clearly quite young. Date c. 1740.

Oils. 49 in. x 40 in.

? Peter Pegge, afterwards Pegge-Burnell (plate IIb), esquire, of Beauchief and Winkburn. Born 1751 (fourth son and eventual heir of Strelley Pegge), died 1836. Brownish-red coat, white stock, yellow or white waistcoat, trimmed with purple (colours faded). Grey wig, eyes blue, complexion ruddy. Holds a document in his hand and there appears to be a library of books discernible in the dark background.

The dress suggests a date in the 1780s. The wig makes it difficult to guess the age of the sitter, but the document in his hand is likely to be significant and may well be his appointment as sheriff of Derbyshire (Peter Pegge was sheriff in 1788). If so he would be about 37 — though the portrait could well be of an older man.

There is a miniature of Peter Pegge at Hockerton as a lad with cropped hair, with similar blue eyes and complexion; there is not much other resemblance but in our view it could well be the same individual.

(Another possibility is that it represents Thomas Steade, who would have been in his late fifties at the time. There is nothing to support this suggestion except that the document and books are suitable to his position as an attorney).

Oils. 30 in. x 25 in.

Elizabeth Steade, afterwards Pegge-Burnell, née Dalton (plate IVa). Born 1777, married Broughton-Benjamin Steade, afterwards Pegge-Burnell, in 1802, died 1844. White dress and fichu. Eyes blue, hair light brown, complexion pale. There is a miniature at Hockerton of the same woman, known to be Elizabeth Dalton. Early 19th century, but dress difficult to date exactly.

Oils. 26 in. x 23 in.

Broughton-Benjamin Steade, afterwards Pegge-Burnell (plate IVb). Born 1774, died 1850. Dark green coat with (probably) brass buttons, but appear copper-coloured, stock white (now discoloured). Brown eyes, dark brown hair (cut short), sallow complexion. There is a portrait at Hockerton of B. B. Pegge-Burnell as a much older man; the features and colouring are very similar, though the facial expression in the picture shown here is much more lively. Dress probably *c.* 1804.

Oils. 30 in. x 25 in.

Acknowledgements

For permission to quote from manuscripts cited above I wish to thank Mr. A. F. B. Crawshaw, Col. R. A. Craven Smith Milnes, the vicar of Norton, the trustees of the Chatsworth Collection, the librarians of Sheffield City Libraries and Derby Public Library and the county archivist of Nottinghamshire.

The portraits are reproduced by permission of Mr. A. F. B. Crawshaw and Dr. Philip Atkin.

I am especially grateful to the trustees of the Paul Mellon Foundation for British Art for a generous grant to cover the cost of the plates.



a. William Strelley.

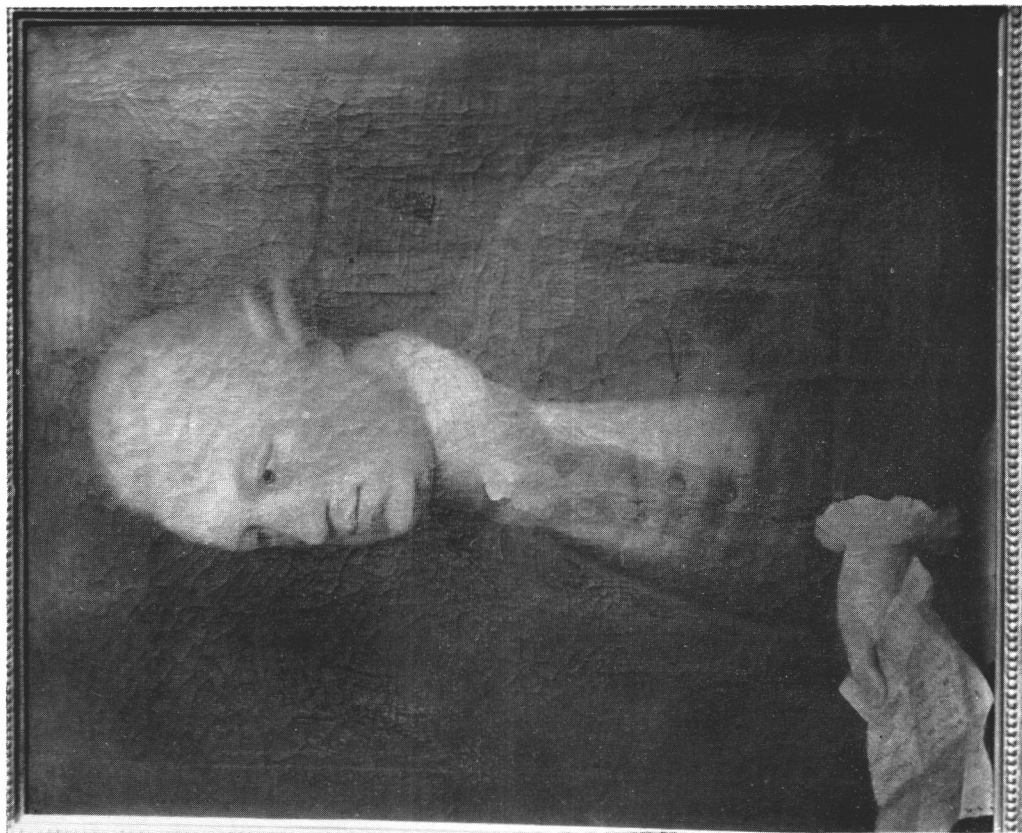


b. Gertrude Strelley.

BEAUCHIEF ABBEY AND THE PEGGES.



a. Edward Pegge.



b. Peter Pegge Burrell.

BEAUCHIEF ABBEY AND THE PEGGES.

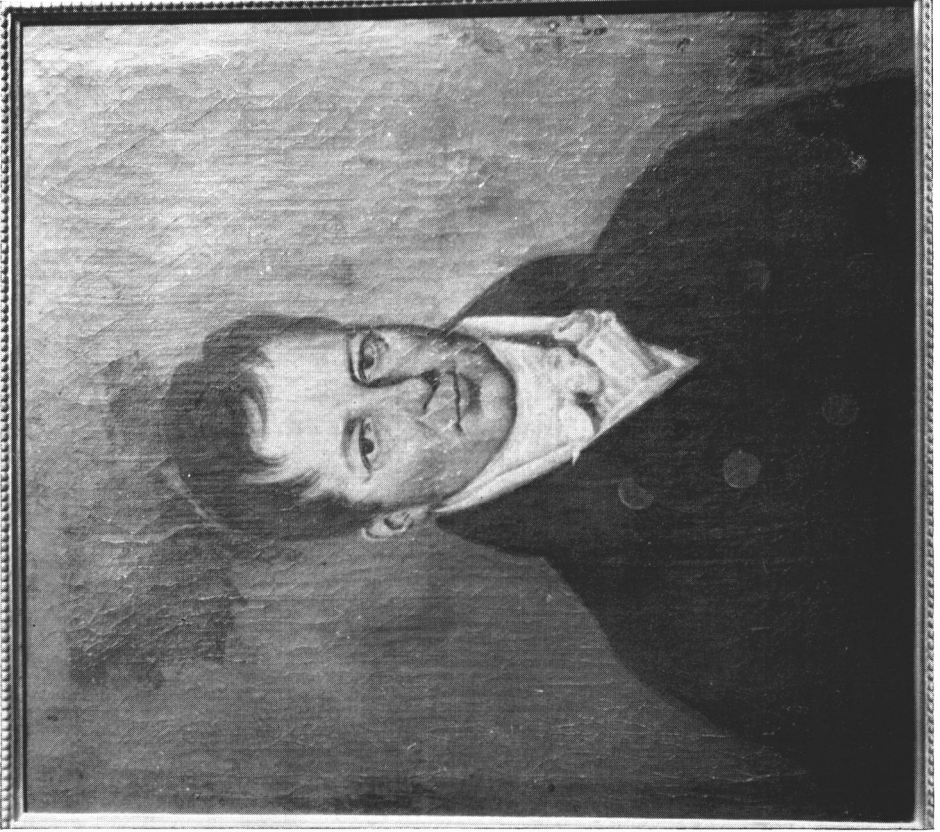


Mary Broughton.

BEAUCHIEF ABBEY AND THE PEGGES.



a. Mrs. B.B. Pegge Burnell.



b. B.B. Pegge Burnell.

BEAUCHIEF ABBEY AND THE PEGGES.