

## DRAYTON LODGE <sup>1</sup>

By H. D. Barnes, O.B.E., D.L., F.S.A.

LODGE. A house or cottage, occupied by a caretaker, keeper, gardener, etc., and placed at the entrance of a park or at some place in the grounds belonging to a Mansion.

*New English Dictionary.*

"You have beaten my men, killed my deer and broke open my lodge."

Shakespeare: *Merry Wives of Windsor*, I, i.

THE manors of Hellesdon and Drayton were acquired by Sir John Fastolf in 1432,<sup>2</sup> who built the manor house at Hellesdon and its lodge, and also the lodge at Drayton, as is shown by a document drawn up by William Worcester (Sir John's faithful secretary and herald), after John Paston's death in 1466 and now preserved in the muniment room at Magdalen College, Oxford. The entry is as follows:

Et edificacio manerii de Haylysdon cum clausura bosci et warrenne ac edificacione duarum domorum vocatarum *les logges* apud Haylysdon et Drayton.<sup>3</sup> v<sup>c</sup>xlviijl<sup>x</sup>iiij<sup>iiij</sup>d

The date when these buildings were erected is not known, but they were probably completed by 1437 as Sir John Fastolf directed that the accounts of Hellesdon and Drayton should be searched from that year.<sup>4</sup> Walter Rye in his *History of the Parish of Hellesdon*, states (p. 122) there is an account of building works at Hellesdon Hall in 1434-5 in Brit. Mus. Additional MSS. 17231, two years after Sir John Fastolf bought the manor. Owing to the war these building accounts and those of the same period relating to Caister Castle are not available for reference.

The Dukes of Suffolk were ever hostile to their neighbours across the Wensum. Soon after Sir John left France in 1440 he was "vexed and troubled" by William de la Pole, the first Duke, who seized four of his manors in Essex causing damage to the amount of six thousand marks.<sup>5</sup> Later, in keeping with those troubled times when might was right and lawlessness was rampant, the same Duke supported John Hauteyn in his claim to Oxnead against Agnes Paston, the

<sup>1</sup> From *Armour, Arms and Relics of the Pastons* (in preparation).

<sup>2</sup> From the catalogue of the sale of the collection of Autograph Letters and MSS. formed many years ago by Sir John Fenn, Knt. (Editor of the Paston Letters). Sold by Puttick and Simpson 16-18 July, 1866:

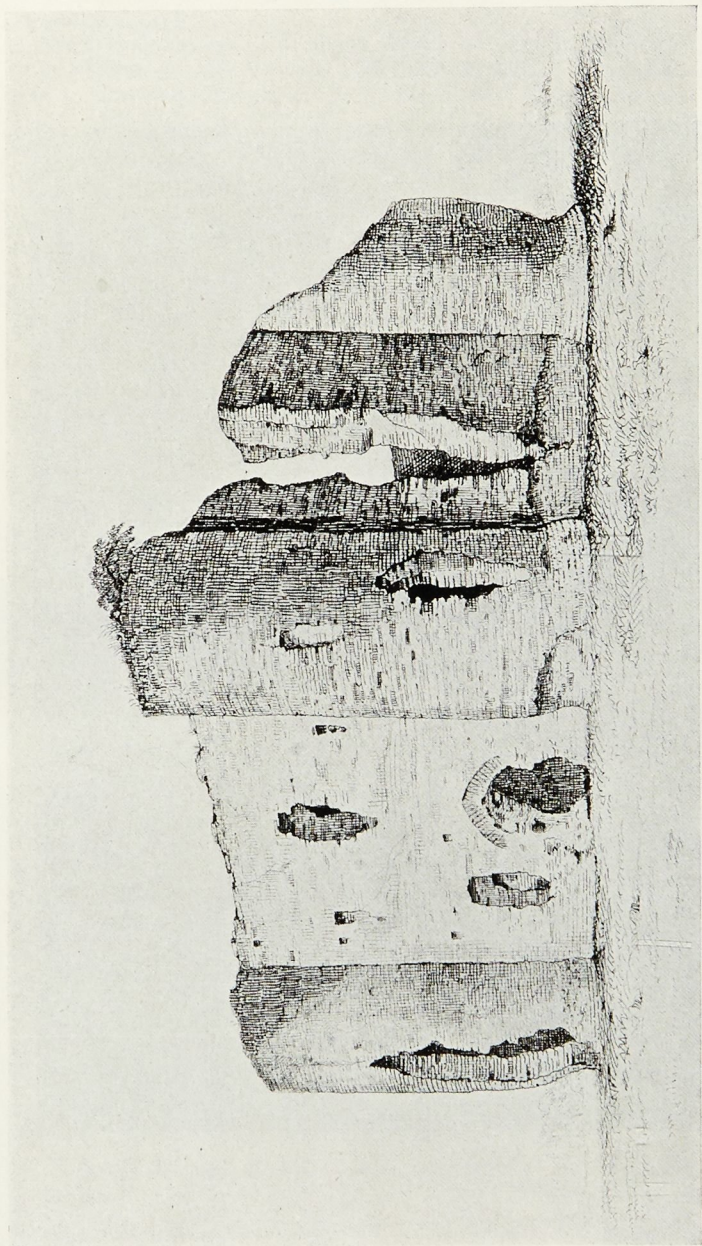
700. Norfolk. Grant of the Manors of Herlisdon and Draiton, with the appurtenances in the County of Norfolk, by Richard Sellyng to William (Alnewick) Bishop of Norwich, Sir John Fastolf, Sir Henry Inglose, John Welles, Alderman of London, John Kyrteylng, clerk, and Henry Sturme; two Deeds on vellum, three seals with armorial bearings, 12 June, 1432.

<sup>3</sup> And the building of the manor of Hellesdon, with its wooded close and warren, including the building of two houses called "the lodges" at Hellesdon and Drayton. £548 13s. 4d. Fastolf Papers 87/4. I am indebted to Mr. N. Denholm Young, Librarian of Magdalen College for this reference and extract.

<sup>4</sup> Paston Letters I, 116. References throughout are to *The Paston Letters 1422-1509* edited by James Gairdner, 4 vols. London 1901; reprint Edinburgh 1910. The volume and page are given, not the number of the letter.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, I, 358; 367; 454.



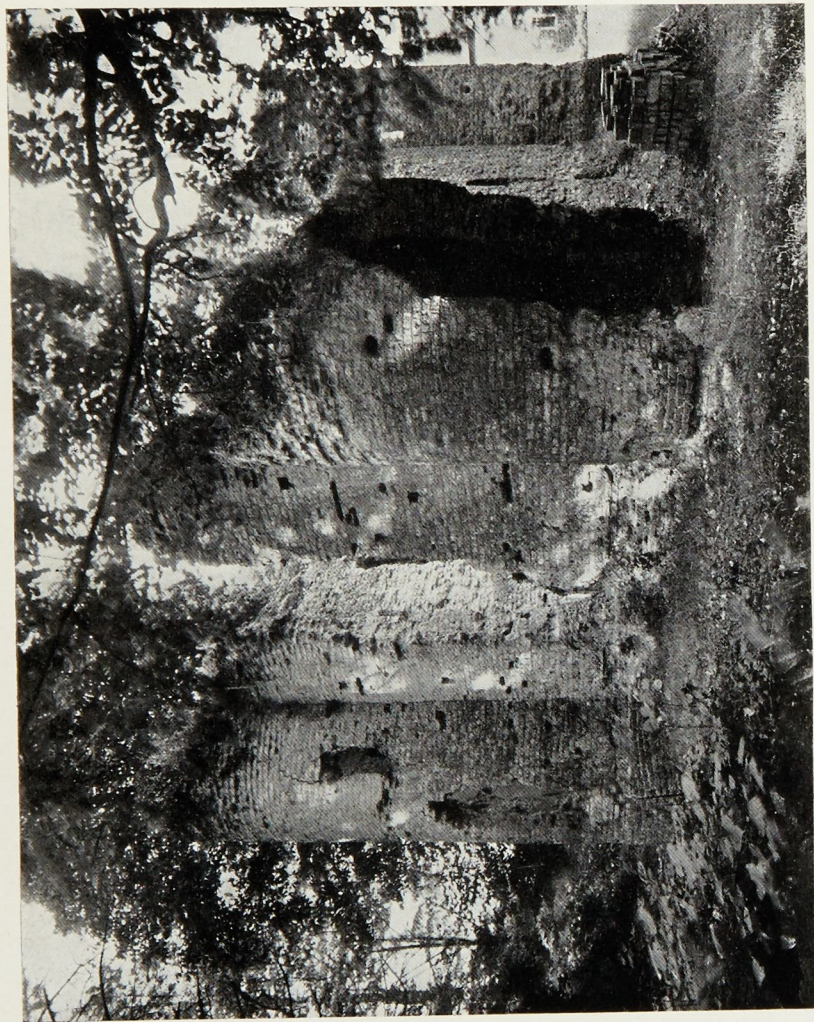


*H. Nisbet, del.*

DRAYTON LODGE, NORFOLK, IN 1848.

Showing the South-West (staircase) Tower, South Wall and Entrance, South-East Tower, East Wall and North-East Tower.





DRAYTON LODGE, 1937

Coe, Norwich

Exterior showing South-East Tower, East Wall with North-East Tower in foreground.  
Ninham's Illustration (*Plate I*).



widow of William Paston (the good judge) and mother of John Paston the first.<sup>1</sup>

After the murder of William, Duke of Suffolk, in 1450, peace reigned between the Pastons and their neighbour for fifteen years, due to the youthfulness of John, the second Duke, who was only eight years old when his father was murdered. In April 1465 the Duke of Suffolk claimed Drayton and bought up the alleged rights of one Brytyeff or Bryghtylhed to Hellesdon,<sup>2</sup> both of these manors John Paston had inherited under the disputed will of Sir John Fastolf. Paston himself was in London during the greater part of 1465, in all probability being detained there by reason of the legal proceedings instituted by Yelverton in connection with Fastolf's will, leaving the management of his Norfolk affairs in the hands of his wife, the courageous and indomitable Margaret Paston.

The "war" as John Paston called it, started at first under cover of legal process. On Thursday, 2 May, 1465, the Duke's bailiff, Philip Lipgate, Parson of Salle, claiming a whole year's rent, seized "Dorlets hors uppon Drayton lond as they went to the plowe". Margaret reported this to her husband from Caister, and proceeded to Hellesdon to uphold his rights by collecting rents from the tenants there and at Drayton and expressed her willingness to hold a court at Drayton.<sup>3</sup>

On Wednesday, 8 May, four of the Paston followers came to Drayton and found the tenants willing to recognize the claims of their landlord, except one Pyrs Waryn "otherwyse callyd Pyrs at Sloth whych ys a flykeryng felowe" and one anxious to curry favour with Lipgate and the Duke's bailiff at Costessey, from whom in retaliation they took two mares and brought them to Hellesdon. The next morning, at the head of more than 160 men in armour, Lipgate and the bailiff came to Hellesdon and seized four plough horses belong to the parson and to Thomas Stermyn, and took them to Costessey, threatening much worse things to follow if the Pastons took any more distresses in Drayton.<sup>4</sup>

Richard Calle, the Paston's bailiff (and later, the husband of Margery Paston, "ungracious sister" of Sir John Paston)<sup>5</sup> urged the victims to institute legal proceedings against the Duke's agents. The parson refused, pleading that he was aged and sickly and did not wish to be troubled, saying that he would rather lose his cattle, for he knew well if he did so he should be indicted and so vexed by them that he should never have rest.

At first Stermyn was of the same mind as the parson, but Margaret saw the man and not only induced him to abide by any action John Paston should institute in his name, but, like the astute business woman that she was, got him to enter into a bond for "£10 single without condition" to ensure his doing so.

<sup>1</sup> *Paston Letters*, I, 81; III, 486.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 184.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 176; 187.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 178.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 347.



Margaret Paston's next move was to appeal to the Bishop of Norwich and inform him, as chief justice of the peace, of the riotous and evil disposition of Master Philip Lipgate who, insomuch as he was a priest, was under his Lordship's jurisdiction, but the Bishop could only assure her of his good will and a good conclusion in her husband's matters, urging that John Paston should come home as his presence should do more among his friends and neighbours than a hundred of his men should do in his absence. Meanwhile an attack appeared imminent and Drayton Lodge was garrisoned. In her letter to her husband written on 10 May, 1465 Margaret Paston states: "On Thursday, all day there were kept in Drayton Lodge in to LX persons, and yet as it is told me there be within daily and nightly in to a XVI or XX persons."<sup>1</sup>

The attack did not come off, though the newly chosen mayor of Norwich, Thomas Elys, offered to supply the Duke with a hundred men if he needed them, and threatened that if any men of the town would go to the Pastons' aid he would lay them fast in prison.

On 18 May Margaret sent her servants to Drayton where they seized seventy-seven head of cattle and drove them to the Hellesdon pincfold, but after two days, the other side obtained a "replevin" from and under the seal of the sheriff, and Margaret was compelled to deliver up the cattle.<sup>2</sup>

All this time John Paston was in London, Sir John Paston the eldest son was keeping Caister, leaving Margaret Paston at Hellesdon to bear the brunt of it all, though with sickness and trouble she had been brought right low and weak.<sup>3</sup> She herself had been assaulted and her horse, saddle and harness taken from her.<sup>4</sup>

It was useless appealing to the law for protection. The under-sheriff being required to serve the replevin for the sheep and horse taken by the Duke's men, flatly refused saying plainly that he would not, nor durst not serve it not though Margaret gave him £20 to serve it.<sup>5</sup>

The summer of 1465 saw both sides preparing for the inevitable attack on Hellesdon and Drayton. Sir John Paston left Caister and took command at Hellesdon; John Paston the younger was to go to my Lady of Norfolk to solicit the Duke's aid, even "Lytyl John" was needed to act as messenger. It was reported that more than two hundred of the Duke of Suffolk's followers had assembled at Costessey and it was said, more than a thousand were following.<sup>6</sup>

Let an eye-witness relate what happened, taken from a letter written at the time by Richard Calle to his master, John Paston, "in haste":<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Paston Letters*, II, 186. This is the only reference in the Letters to the actual occupation of the lodge and has doubtless given rise to the belief that it had a military significance, and had been built as an outpost defence to the manor house at Hellesdon. Gairdner is in error in stating (Intro., ccl) that at the date of this letter (No. 502) the Duke had already occupied Drayton. All his followers had done at that time was to levy distress in Drayton, not to occupy it.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 190-2.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 201.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 207.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 203.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 202.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 204-6.



Pleaseth it your mastership to weet of the rule and disposition of the Master Philip [Lipgate] and the bailiff of Cossey, with others of my Lord of Suffolk's men. On Monday last past [8 July] at afternoon [they] were at Hellesdon with the number of three hundred men, for to have entered, notwithstanding they said they came not for to enter; but without doubt, and they had been strong enough for us they would have entered and that we understand now, but we knowing of their coming and purveyed so for them, that we were strong enough. We had sixty men within the place, and guns, and such ordnance,<sup>1</sup> so that if they had set upon us, they had been destroyed; and there my mistress was within, and my master Sir John and [he] hath gotten him as great worship for that day as any gentleman might do, and so is it reported of the party and in all Norwich.

The Bishop of Norwich, Walter Lyhart, sent two of his retinue to treat for peace and it was arranged that both sides should dismiss their men and send them home.

This was done but the fray continued. On the day Calle wrote to his master he was set upon before Swaine's door in Norwich by twelve of the Duke's men, eight of them in harness, and he would undoubtedly have been killed but for the sheriff's preventing them and they departed vowing that wherever Calle and his companions might be found they should die and that as many of them as could be taken should be indicted and hanged forthwith.

In this letter Calle stated that the Duke would be at Drayton on Lammas-day (1 August) and intended to keep a Court there. In spite of the fact that her people went in fear of their lives, Margaret Paston determined to forestall the Duke's agents and to hold a court at Drayton in her husband's name and to claim his title. Only two would volunteer for this dangerous service, Sir James Gloys, the confidential secretary and domestic chaplain of the Pastons and Thomas Bond, yeoman, their agent. No one else would accompany them, being afraid of the people who should be there of the Duke's party. On entering the manor yard they met their opponents, some sixty or more strong, a tatterdemalion crew armed with rusty pole-axes and bills, and told them they were coming to keep the court in John Paston's name. Without more ado, Harlesdon, the under-steward, arrested Bond notwithstanding Sir James courageously "did the errands to them and had the words", whereupon they bound Thomas's arms behind him like a thief and led him to Costessey intending to have brought him to the Duke but that Margaret Paston, early the next morning, having obtained an audience with the King's Judges before they left for the Shire House, informed them of the riots and assaults made upon her and her men and denounced Suffolk's agents to their faces. The Judges called the Bailiff of Costessey before them and administered "a passing great

<sup>1</sup> *P.L.*, III, 441. From a paper now in the muniment room at Magdalen College, Oxford, drawn up by William Worcester after John Paston's death in 1466 it is stated that the said John Paston removed from Caister Castle, after Sir John Fastolf's death culverins of various sizes with their chambers in ten carts loaded with breast and back plates, brigandines, jacks, sallets, bascinets, haubergeons, lances, steel cross-bows, long-bows, bows, arrows, gunpowder, gun-stones, etc. to the value of £150. Hence the Pastons were well supplied with military equipment.



rebuke" warning him of his behaviour in the future. The sheriff was commanded to see what people had gathered at Drayton and on his report the Judges ordered that Thomas Bond should be set free, which was done.

Within a week after the termination of the Assizes at Norwich and the departure of the King's Justices, the Bailiff of Costessey made great endeavours to indict certain of the Paston supporters at the Dereham and Walsingham Sessions, but Margaret Paston found means to prevent it<sup>1</sup> but she could not counter the armed terrorism and illegal arrests which set in against her friends and supporters.<sup>2</sup>

The third week in October 1465 saw the climax of the Duke of Suffolk's efforts to obtain possession of Drayton and Hellesdon. Margaret was alone in Norwich save for "Litill John", her husband was a prisoner in the Fleet, her eldest son was probably keeping guard at Caister, while John the youngest was with the household of the Duke of Norfolk in London.<sup>3</sup>

On Tuesday, 15 October, more of the Paston's friends were arrested and taken to Costessey; the Duke of Suffolk entered Norwich in state at the head of five hundred men and commanded the Mayor to arrest all the Paston adherents in the town; and even former friends like Sir John Heveningham and Sir John Wingfield and other worshipful men had become Suffolk's "doggeboldest".<sup>4</sup>

On 17 October Margaret wrote to her husband as follows:—

The lodge and the remenaunte [remainder] of your place was beaten down on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the Duke rode on Wednesday to Drayton and so for to Cossey while the lodge at Hellesdon was in the beating down.<sup>5</sup>

And on Sunday 27 October, she writes that she had visited Hellesdon and saw the place there

and in good faith there will no creature think how foul and horribly it is arrayed but if [unless] they see it. . . . And they made your tenants of Hellesdon and Drayton, with other, to help to break down the walls of the place and the lodge both—God knoweth full evil against their wills, but that they durst none otherwise do for fear; I have spoken with your tenants of Hellesdon and Drayton both, and put them in comfort as well as I can; the Duke's men ransacked the Church and bare away all the good that was left there, both of ours and of the tenants, and left not so much but that they stood upon the high Altar and ransacked the Images, and took away such as they might find and put away the parson out of the Church till they had done; and ransacked every man's house in the town five or six times.<sup>6</sup>

No explanation is given in the Letters of the absence of any

<sup>1</sup> *Paston Letters*, II, 225.

<sup>2</sup> H. S. Bennett: *The Pastons and their England*, Cambridge, 1922, p. 16. For those who are disinclined to peruse the four volumes of Gairdner but wish to examine in detail the life and activities of this Norfolk family, their friends and correspondents, they cannot do better than read Mr. Bennett's most interesting work, and the writer takes this opportunity of acknowledging with gratitude his indebtedness to him.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 247-8.

<sup>4</sup> A servile follower or one bound to wait the commands of another. *Ibid.*, II, 249.n (2).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 249-50.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 250-1. A list of the goods looted at Hellesdon will be found at III, 434-7.





*Coe, Norwich.*

DRAYTON LODGE, 1937

West Wall interior, showing remains of fireplace on ground floor and modern brickwork, original entrance through arch in left foreground and interior of South-West (staircase) Tower.



attempt to defend the place; possibly this may be accounted for, first, by the absence of any member of the family to lead the defenders; secondly, by the absence of armaments (the only mention of armour being the town armour taken from the church, and from the chambers of Richard Calle and Will. Bedford,<sup>1</sup> which is all the more surprising in view of the guns and such like in the place when the attempt was made on 8 July); and lastly, and this perhaps is the real reason, by the overwhelming strength of Suffolk's followers.

Four years later, in June 1469, Edward IV rode from Norwich through Hellesdon Warren to Walsingham, and it was arranged that he should be shown the lodge that was broken down and told of the breaking down of the place. When he had ridden forth by the lodge in Hellesdon Warren, the King "with his own mouth" told William Paston that he supposed as well that it might fall down by itself as be plucked down. If the latter, the Pastons had their legal remedy and he flatly refused to intervene in the dispute with the Duke of Suffolk.<sup>2</sup> Seeing that the Duke was one of the men on whom he depended in East Anglia, this is not surprising; and so Drayton was irretrievably lost.

So ends the history of Drayton Lodge as disclosed by the Paston Letters. Now let us deal with the Lodge itself.

Attention was first drawn to this ruin by Henry Harrod, then the honorary secretary of this Society, in 1849, in his letter on the "Ruined Lodge at Drayton" to Dawson Turner which appeared in the second volume of *Norfolk Archæology*, pp. 363-8.<sup>3</sup> He stated his curiosity was considerably stimulated by the very different, irreconcilable, conclusions arrived at by those who had seen it; some claiming for it a venerable antiquity, whilst others stoutly maintained that it was a thing of yesterday—a modern antique. This irreconcilable difference of opinion persists to this day.

Harrod was a keen antiquary especially where his own county was concerned, but lived before the age of scientific analysis of evidence in these matters. That Harrod's conclusions were correct this article sets out to prove, and to show that this ruin, far from being a modern antique or "folly", is a genuine ruin of an undoubted fifteenth century building, erected by Sir John Fastolf in the second quarter of that century and on his death in 1459 passing to the Norfolk family of the Pastons.

This ruin stands a short distance to the left of the Norwich-Fakenham-Walsingham road, near the top of the long hill leading to the village of Drayton, about three and a half miles from the city, in the grounds of the Hellesdon nurses' hostel. Shortly before Harrod's time the country surrounding the Lodge was open heath; and so, placed on the brow of the hill commanding the valley of the Wensum, the Lodge overlooked Costessey, a mansion of the de la Poles, Dukes of Suffolk.

<sup>1</sup> *Paston Letters*, III, 436.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, II, 357.    <sup>3</sup> See also *Norfolk Arch.*, XXII, p. lxxiii *et seq.*



The Paston's "place" or mansion-house at Hellesdon (which had its own lodge) according to Gairdner and Rye, stood where Hellesdon North Hall now stands, about four hundred yards from the church, on lower ground near the Wensum and invisible from the Fakenham road. No one has hazarded a guess where the Hellesdon lodge stood.

Drayton did not belong to the manor of Hellesdon<sup>1</sup> and the Pastons had no "place" there, only the lodge at the northern end of the Fastolf estate, and easily seen from the Fakenham road. Hence the accuracy of the youngest John's statement (see *ante*) that they would *show* the King the lodge that was broken down, and would *tell* him of the breaking down of the "place".

Although written nearly one hundred years ago, Harrod's description of the Lodge remains true to this day, and cannot be improved upon. He writes:

It is built entirely of a yellowish brick of a rather large size (10 in. by 5 in. and 2 in. thick) in the Old English mode of a course of "headers" and a course of "stretchers". Its form is oblong, 22 ft. 6 in. by 16 ft. 3 in. with a large round tower of 22 ft. in circumference, at each corner [Plate I]. The entrance is by a large depressed arch in the South front, to the left of which a small narrow aperture seems to have afforded all the light to be had in the lower room, when the door was closed: the south-western tower appears to have had a staircase. Holes remain in the internal walls, in which the beams of an upper floor were inserted. A capacious flue in the west wall shows the position of the fireplace in the lower apartment; whilst the east wall has a similar convenience for the upper room.

Almost all architectural details are destroyed and not a fragment of stone or timber is to be found, [Plate II]. The arch of entrance is so mutilated as to be made out with difficulty; and on a first glance you would be led to believe the brickwork was of so tender a description that it must have crumbled to pieces. The contrary, however, is the case; the bricks I examined were extremely hard and the mortar good.

Adding in a footnote that he had been informed, since his visit, that the external brickwork had been a good deal acted upon by frost and explaining that the bricks he examined were probably from the interior, he proceeds:

Such care has been exercised in strengthening it in various parts, that the idea of its having been erected for show or pastime will, on a careful examination of it, be at once dispelled. What then is it?—what its history?

Harrod concludes his description by stating that the yellowish tone of the bricks, the springing of arches in the staircase tower, a massive arch strengthening the north-eastern tower, and a loop in the western wall, reminded him strongly of portions of Caister Castle—indubitably erected by Sir John Fastolf. To-day the similarity of these architectural details is not so apparent. Save that Drayton Lodge and Caister Castle are both early examples of English brickwork and built by the same owner, there are no points of resemblance between them either in material, form or purpose.

<sup>1</sup> *Paston Letters*, Intro., 99.



The bricks generally used in the building of the Lodge are of gault and here the first question arises: where did this clay come from, for it is not local, and is not to be found anywhere near Drayton? It is true there is, or was, a pit to the north of the nurses' hostel, from whence brick earth was obtained which has been used for the bricks in modern cottages nearby, but I do not think that in the fifteenth century it provided the thin red bricks to be found here and there in this ruin, contrasting with the thicker gault bricks used generally throughout the work.

The walls are 2 ft. 8 in. thick, but the walls of the towers vary from 1 ft. 3 in. to 1 ft. 8 in. in thickness. It is impossible to estimate the original height of the Lodge which, as Harrod states, comprised two floors and in all probability had a flat roof.

Before proceeding further, let us consider the main grounds on which the supporters of the "folly" theory rely. They state that the Norwich district can show several examples of such ruins complete with broken walls, arches and windows made to look as if they were fragments of ancient buildings. There is one in Bracondale Woods, built about 1805, and several of rather later date in the grounds of the Corporation Maternity Home in Heigham Grove.<sup>1</sup>

They contend that the Lodge is such a poor specimen of military architecture that it is unworthy to be associated with the name of Sir John Fastolf; that the badly kilned bricks favour the view that no person with a knowledge of military requirements could have put up such a structure; that the large window (not a loophole), the small door on the ground floor, and the large fireplace constructed in the thickness of the wall on the western face, would leave easy openings for military attack and the last named could be easily broken in by a battering ram. For these reasons they conclude that the "Lodge" was built for amusement and domestic occupation probably by a shepherd rather than for military use, but admit that the ruin is of some age, for Booth's *History of Norfolk* (1781) says of it "the Lodge, now ruinous, is a conspicuous object" on the Norwich side of Drayton. In Ogilby's *Book of Roads* it is shown as "Drayton Lodge" and on Bryant's Map of 1826 as then being "Shepherd's Castle in ruins".

I can make no claim to any special knowledge of architecture, civil or military, but I have been fortunate enough to interest two eminent gentlemen, specialists in their respective spheres, who have considered all the facts placed before them relating to this lodge, gathered from the Paston Letters and other sources, together with photographs taken at numerous angles, who permit me to embody their opinions in this article, for which grateful acknowledgment is cordially made.

Mr. A. B. Whittingham, M.A., A.R.I.B.A., Surveyor for Norwich

<sup>1</sup> *Eastern Daily Press*, 11 March, 1940.



diocese, who, in addition to his other achievements, has made a special study of brickwork. He writes as follows:

I have had a look at the ruins at Drayton Lodge, and have no doubt in my own mind that they are of pre-Reformation date. The plinth, where not destroyed is faced externally with thin red bricks characteristic of the period, contrasting with the thicker gault bricks used generally throughout the work. One portion of the plinth has these red bricks and squared flints chequerwise, as in late mediæval work. An occasional red brick is also built into the core of the gault brick wall embedded in original mortar showing that the plinth is contemporary with the rest. The neat brick vaults both in the south-west turret and forming four central arches over openings elsewhere are unlikely to have been built in the eighteenth century but are quite in keeping with fifteenth century workmanship. Whether the building dates from 1430 or 1530 I should not like to decide without further research; and even then the remaining details may not be complete enough to prove the point. So much for the details of the structure.

There is, however, evidence of a different nature. The ground floor fireplace in the north-west wall (Plate III) has been so ruined that a brick pier has been built some time during the last century in modern red bricks to strengthen the jamb, so that the original work is obviously of earlier date. I think it unlikely that such a repair would have been needed to an eighteenth century folly. Again, deterioration of the brickwork and openings is natural, and not an artificial construction of broken walling purposely made to give the appearance of a ruin. Nor can I conceive that an eighteenth century builder would have constructed a building quite on that plan, so complete in itself without artificial broken walls attached to it. The arrangement of windows and especially the fireplaces is so complete as to indicate a gradual ruin by natural process. Anyone building fake fireplaces would not have made them so fragmentary that their purpose is only obvious to the archaeologist. There are small portions of original plaster remaining, which equally suggest the fragmentary remains of a completely finished building rather than of an artificial construction.

I am informed that there is a pit on the north of the nurses' quarters with brick earth that has been used for the bricks in modern cottages adjoining. I should rather doubt, however, whether that could have been the source of the gault bricks.

You are at liberty to make use of these opinions as you like in your book on the Pastons. I hope you will be successful in your endeavours to prove the date of the building.

I now give the opinion of one of the leading authorities of to-day on mediæval military architecture: my friend, Dr. W. Douglas Simpson, M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A., says:

As to Drayton Lodge. As I always do in such cases, I examined the photographs and the plan most carefully before reading anything about it, so as to preserve an open mind. I had no doubt whatever in deciding that the building is ancient. It is utterly impossible to conceive that it was erected as an eighteenth-century "folly". The size of the bricks, the use of Old English bond, the thick beds of mortar between the joints, are all characteristic of mediæval or Tudor brickwork, and completely unlike anything that could have been erected in the "folly" period. Moreover, the advanced state of weathering in itself precludes so late a date. What survives of the openings, and in particular the original entrance, is equally decisive of an ancient date. So is the cavernous fireplace—does it show any trace of use?

This was my opinion reached purely from an inspection of the photographs.



As to the possibility of more narrowly defining the date, if you compare it with the brick garden towers at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, *circa* 1500, you will I think agree that it is more ancient than they. It is here that the documentary evidence comes in and I can only say that I have no doubt in my own mind that it is the "lodge" built by Sir John Fastolf and mishandled by Suffolk in 1465. The argument about its non-military character is beside the point: it was not intended as a fortification but strictly as a "lodge". Even so, it is quite a stout building.

Its relation to the "Place" at Hellesdon is precisely paralleled by the "Tower on the Moor" adjoining Lord Cromwell's Castle at Tattershall. Like the "Tower on the Moor", it is another example of the brick tower-houses for which Tattershall probably set the fashion.

I am very glad indeed to have had the opportunity of examining the data, and hope some day to have the pleasure of seeing the place itself under your guidance. Meantime I think you may, with absolute confidence, dismiss all thought of the "folly" idea.

Lastly, this ruin has been scheduled by H.M. Office of Works as an ancient monument, which is conclusive proof of the contention herein set forth, that it was the lodge erected by Sir John Fastolf, not for military purposes, but fulfilling the definition at the head of this article, and so, to quote Sir John Paston "farweell Drayton, the Devyll do ytt them".<sup>1</sup>

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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<sup>1</sup> *Paston Letters*, III, 92.