

Worcester Cathedral, Bushley And Payne's Place

mongst all the photographs Geoff Wheeler kindly lent me for the Chapter Meadows Fair was a picture of a house called Payne's Place in Bushley, near Tewkesbury. According to tradition, Margaret of Anjou, (together with newly-widowed Anne Neville), probably spent the night there after the Lancastrian defeat at the battle of Tewkesbury.

Bushley lies to the north-west of the battle ground and over the River Severn. A picture of Margaret crossing the Severn at Lower Lode can be found in Victorian glass in a window in the cloisters of Worcester Cathedral (right). Payne's Place wasn't very far from the site of the battle, and no doubt Margaret and her ladies moved on the next morning, probably to Little Malvern Priory, where they were caught three days after the battle.

The house is still there and privately owned but no longer called Payne's Place after its owners in 1471, Thomas and Ursula Payne, whose brass memorial can be seen in the church. Bushley is a pretty village, especially on a sunny afternoon in May, when Bill and I roamed around, looking for the house and taking photos of any likely candidate. (I foolishly hadn't taken Geoff's photo with me!)

The house is half-timbered and was built around 1450, with herringbone brick work in between the timbers.

Apparently the great hall of the house straddled a right of way from Tewkesbury to Bushley, so it was natural for Margaret of Anjou's escort of two monks to take her there. A room on the first floor which looks out towards the battlefield and Tewkesbury Abbey is still known as the Queen's Room.

Bushley had been owned by the Earl of Warwick and Thomas Payne had incorporated the earl's badge of the bear and ragged staff into the woodwork of the house, together with another Warwick emblem, the ox or dun-cow.

Margaret and her ladies left early next morning, heading towards Wales and her next stop at a "powre religious place" - Little Malvern Priory - where she was captured by Sir William Stanley and taken to King Edward's camp at Coventry.

The king received the news of her capture while on his way to Worcester, according to "The Arrivall", then moved on to Coventry to raise a fresh army to deal with further rebellions in the north.

Sources - many thanks to Geoffrey Wheeler who supplied the following:

F R Bradley-Birt, *Tewkesbury*

Rev. E R Dowdeswell, 'Sketch of the History of the Parish of Bushley', *Transactions of the Worcester Diocesan Architectural and Archaeological Society*, Old Series, 1897 - 98, volume XXIV

Allan Fea, *Rooms of Mystery and Romance*

P W Hammond, H G Shearing & G Wheeler, *Battle of Tewkesbury 1471: 500th Anniversary Booklet*

Also used: *The History of the Arrivall of King Edward IV in England and the Final Recoverie of his Kingdoms from Henry VI*