

THE NORTHERN REBELLIONS
IN THE LATER YEARS OF RICHARD II

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army. On their arrival they made a proclamation in the market place that they would permit no townsman to exact toll or custom from the tenants of the dukes of Lancaster and York or monopolize the pannage; they spoke, so they said, on behalf of the two dukes and of the king.¹ Almost simultaneously with the Hatfield outbreak came a rising in the villages of Cottingham, Buttercrambe and Hessle in the East Riding. On 31 January 1392 what was referred to as an immense confederation of male-factors led by the men from those villages descended on the town of Benningholme against their allegiance to the king and in the manner of an army of traitors. Their objective was the house of Robert Whithose, who appears to have been an unpopular official.² Later the same year there was more trouble on the manor of Cottingham where Simon Stevenson Malynson and others were indicted for their "sworn conspiracies, assemblies, taking of fines and ransoms, liveries of hood and uniform and assaults" on William Holme, a former escheator of Yorkshire.³

It is impossible to tell if any of William Beckwith's lieutenants perished at the same time as their captain. If they escaped death on that occasion their reprieve was only one of a matter of months, for on 8 February 1393 a pardon was granted at Gaunt's supplication to Sir Robert de Rokeley and thirteen of his followers for their part in the killing of seven of Beckwith's closest henchmen.⁴ Included was Robert Doufbygging, whose appointment had provoked all the bloodshed; Thomas Blande was given a separate pardon three months later. Despite the deaths of the leading trouble-makers there is some indication that the force of the insurrection was not yet totally spent. The Yorkshire Sheriff was under instruction to exact 250 insurgents from the West Riding to appear in the King's Bench in Easter term 1394.⁵

¹ P.R.O. Ancient Indictments (K.B.9), 144, m. 12.

² Ibid.

³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls, 1391-1396*, p. 249.

⁴ Ibid. p. 219.

⁵ Robert Doufbygging, who in 1374 had been responsible for the murder of the king's bailiff of Dent (see P.R.O. C47/86/89/753), apparently received and maintained felons on many occasions from 1377 onwards (see P.R.O. K.B. 27/534, Rex m. 6). His arrest and appearance before the Yorkshire assize court was commanded on 28 June 1397 (K.B./27/543, Rex m. 11) for further felonies following