



Saint John Boste

Born *circa*1544: Dufton, Westmoreland. Queen's College Oxford MA, Fellow.

After his election to Fellow at Queen's College in 1572; John Boste became headmaster at Appleby Grammar School. He converted to the Catholic faith in 1576 and although he was re-elected as Fellow in 1578, he resigned or was expelled on religious grounds.

John left England for Rheims, where he studied for the priesthood at the English College. He was ordained on 4th March, 1581.

When he returned for his vocation in England; John worked in Norfolk initially, then removed to the north where he continued for the rest of his mission, assisted by John Speed and William Claxton.

A zealous priest, John Boste became known to the authorities, who determined to capture him. At this time, he was described – in hunting terminology - as 'The greatest stag of the North' by Lord Huntingdon.

In 1593, John was betrayed by Francis Eglesfield/Ecclesfield, and was arrested at the home of William Claxton in Waterhouse, near Durham.

John was taken to the Tower of London, where he was so severely tortured upon the rack, that he was crippled. He was returned to Durham for his trial on 24th July 1594. He was executed that day with George Swalwell, to whom he offered encouragement as they were hanged, drawn and quartered at Dryburn near Durham.