

The ancestors of this dignitary, as observed by an English historian, were "of ancient continuance" in the county of Essex, "although of no great eminence for worldly greatness; his father and grandfather not exceeding the style of yeomen."

William Bedell was educated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he obtained a fellowship at the age of twenty-three. In 1604 he became chaplain to Sir Henry Wotton, and accompanied him on his embassy to the republic of Venice. In 1627 he was elected provost of Trinity College, Dublin, and two years later was presented the bishoprics of Kilmore and Ardigh, of which, although two of the poorest in Ireland, he would only accept one, that of Kilmore.

"His episcopal character was exemplary; and by his firm yet conciliating endeavors, he effected a considerable reformation in the conduct of the inhabitants of his diocese, which had been previously considered one of the most turbulent and licentious in the country. When the rebellion broke out, in 1642, the bishop at first did not feel the violence of its effects; for the very rebels had conceived a great veneration for him, and they declared he should be the last Englishman they would drive out of Ireland. His was the only house in the county of Cavan that was not violated, and it was filled with people who fled to him for protection. About the middle of December, however, pursuant to orders received from their council of state at Kilkenny, they required him to dismiss the people that were with him, which he refused to do, declaring he would share the same fate as the rest. Upon this, they seized him, two of his sons, and Mr. Clogy, who had married his daughter-in-law, and carried them prisoners to the castle of Cloughboughter, surrounded by a deep water, where they put them all, except the bishop, in irons. After some time, however, this part of the severity was abated. After a confinement of about three weeks, the bishop, his two sons, and Mr. Clogy, were exchanged for some of the principal rebels, but the worthy bishop died soon after, on the ninth of February, 1643, his death being chiefly occasioned by his imprisonment. The Irish did him unusual honor at his burial, for the chief of the rebels gathered their forces together and with them accompanied his body to the church-yard."

The coat-of-arms of the Bedell family¹ displays three Saint Andrew crosses, an escalop, or valve of a shell of the genus *Pecten*, representing a drinking cup, and two mullets, or rowels of a horseman's spurs, which evidently attest the fact that a third son had, under the protection of Saint Andrew, taken part in one of the crusades for the recovery of Palestine from the Turks and Saracens, either in the twelfth or thirteenth century.

¹ Sable, three saltiers, argent; on a fess argent, an escalop between two mullets, azure. Crest, on a torse, argent and sable, a buck's head, gules, attired or; between the horns a bough of a tree, leafed proper.