



Hic iacet Anna Norbury uix de Henrico Norbure aplit  
Ac filia Willm Croysler quidam domini hui loci. Quae obiit xv die  
Octobri anno domini MCCCCLXVIII. Ex cuius anime p[re]c[er]it deus ame.



MONUMENTAL BRASS  
TO  
LADY ANNA, WIFE OF SIR HENRY NORBURY,  
1464.  
STOKE D'ABERNON CHURCH, SURREY.

# ON A BRASS IN STOKE D'ABERNON CHURCH.

BY MILL STEPHENSON, B.A., F.S.A.,

ONE OF THE HONORARY SECRETARIES.

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A FFIXED to the eastern end of the original tomb of Sir John Norbury is a small brass commemorating Lady Anne, daughter of William and Edith Croyser, and wife of Sir Henry Norbury, Knt.; this lady died on the 12th of October, 1464.

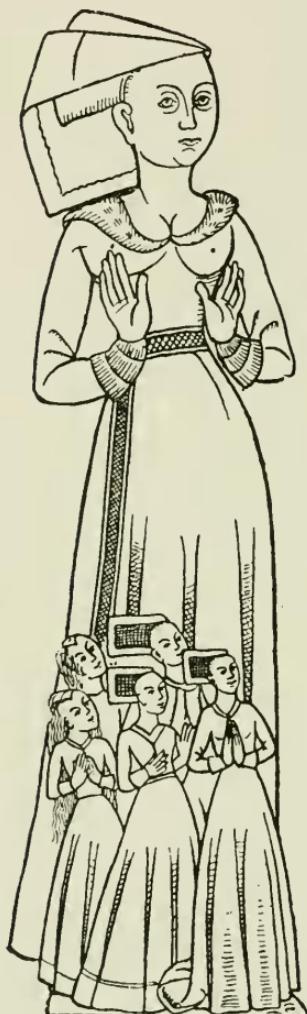
The brass was only placed in its present position a few years ago, and was no doubt formerly on the floor of the Church, but all trace of its original stone has gone. In Haines' *Manual of Brasses*, Vol. II, p. 204, it is given as "A widow lady, lower part of effigy and inscription lost"; and the upper half of the figure is engraved in Vol. I, p. ccix. It is probable that at this time the lower part of the brass was covered by a pew or some other article of church furniture. The figure is 18 inches in length, of good proportion, and well engraved. It represents the Lady Anne in the ordinary widow's dress of the period, viz., a veil head-dress, plaited barbe, kirtle, and fur-lined mantle. On the skirts of the kirtle are engraved the small figures of her four sons and her four daughters; the sons are in the usual civilian dress, and the daughters wear close-fitting kirtles and have their hair fastened up in nets. Of this peculiar arrangement of the children examples are very scarce; this is the only one in our own county.

At Trotton, in the adjoining county of Sussex, is an earlier instance on the brass to Lord and Lady Camoys, 1424, where their only son, Sir Richard, is represented standing at his mother's feet.<sup>1</sup> At Castle Donnington, Leicestershire, on the fine brass to Robert and Agnes Staunton, 1458, two of the daughters are engraved on their mother's dress.<sup>2</sup> In Norfolk there are three examples; (1) at Sall, on the brass to Thomas and Katherine Roose, 1441; (2) at Blickling, to Roger and Cecily

<sup>1</sup> Engraved in Boutell's *Mon. Brasses and Slabs*, p. 59.

<sup>2</sup> Engraved, Boutell's *Series of Mon. Brasses*.

Felthorpe, 1458;<sup>1</sup> (3) at Ditchingham, to Philip and Margery Bosard, 1490.<sup>2</sup>



DITCHINGHAM, NORFOLK.  
MARGERY BOSARD. 1490.

Below the effigy of Lady Norbury is the following inscription. (See below.\*)

From an Inquisition post mortem<sup>3</sup> taken at Guildford, 21st March, 4 Henry V, writ dated 20th January, 3 Henry V, it appears that William Croyser held jointly with Edith his wife, still surviving, the manors of Stoke d'Abernion, Aldbury, and Fetcham, together with the advowsons thereof, by the gift of various persons (evidently trustees), to hold to him and his wife and the heirs of their bodies, then to his right heirs. William Croyser died Monday, 9th December last. Anne, daughter of the said William and Edith, is his next heir, aged nine years and more.

In another Inquisition<sup>4</sup> taken at Leatherhead, 1st June, 1418, after the death of Edith Croyser, the jurors say "that John Pegays and William atte Felde held of the said Edith the manor of Apse by knight service, &c.

<sup>1</sup> Engraved, Cotman's *Norfolk Brasses*, I, pl. 23.

<sup>2</sup> Engraved, Rev. E. Farrer's *List of Norfolk Brasses* (large paper ed., pl. vii). By permission of the author the female effigy is here reproduced.

<sup>3</sup> Inquis. post mort., 3 Hen. V, No. 37.

<sup>4</sup> Inquis. post mort., 6 Hen. V, No. 30.

\* *Hic jacet d'na Anna Norbury nup' ux' Henrici Norbury milit'*  
*Ac filia Will'i Croyser qu'dam d'ni huj' loci Quae obiit xij° dic*  
*Octobr' Anno d'ni MCCCClxviiiij. Cuj' ai'c p'picet' deu' amc.*

Anne, daughter of William Croyser and the said Edith, is the next heir, aged thirteen years and more. Long before Edith died the said Anne was married to Ingelram Bruyn, son of Sir Maurice Bruyn, Knight. Edith was seised in fee of the manor of Stoke d'Abernon with the advowson of the Church of Stoke aforesaid. Also of the manors and advowsons of Fetcham and Aldbury, &c. She died the 26th of April last.<sup>1</sup> Since her death Thomas, parson of Stifford, in Essex, has received the profits."

From this Inquisition it appears that Anne Croyser was twice married, her first husband being Ingelram Bruyn. Her second husband, Sir Henry Norbury, was the son of Sir John Norbury, Treasurer of England, by his wife Elizabeth, sister to Ralph Butler, Lord Sudeley. The family was an offshoot of the Bulkeley family of Norbury, in Cheshire, one of the younger sons having assumed the name of Norbury. Sir Henry was married to his wife Anne before 1436, for in that year a fine<sup>2</sup> was levied between Nicholas Dixon, clerk, and William Hatteclif, chaplain, plaintiffs, and Sir Henry Norbury, Knt., and his wife Anne, deforcants, touching the manors of Stoke d'Abernon, Fetcham, Aldbury, Wyldewood, and Estwyk, in Surrey, and of Rixsworth, in Cambridgeshire, viz.: grant by Henry and Anne to Nicholas and William, quit claim by Henry and Anne and heirs of Anne to Nicholas and William and heirs of Nicholas, and covenant by same to warrant same. Nicholas and William gave three hundred marks as a consideration. In 1439 there is a demise<sup>3</sup> of the manors of Stoke d'Abernon, &c. by Nicholas Dixson and William Hattclyff to Sir Henry Norbury, Knt., and Anne his wife.

Sir Henry Norbury was much employed in France during the wars at this period; he was doubtless about

<sup>1</sup> Another Inquisition relating to Cambridgeshire makes it the 27th of April.

<sup>2</sup> Feet of Fines (Divers Counties). Easter, 14 Hen. VI, No. 184. I am indebted to F. B. Lewis, Esq., for a copy of the same.

<sup>3</sup> Brit. Mus. Add. Charters, 5618.

to sail for France when, on the 13th of February, 1436, by a deed<sup>1</sup> dated at Portsmouth, he granted to Sir Ralph Boteller, Knt., and others, all his goods in England. On the 2nd of November, 1437, he was appointed<sup>2</sup> Lieutenant of the town and castle of Cherbourg by Henry (Beaufort), Cardinal of England. A counter-roll of the men-at-arms of the garrison at Cherbourg under his command as Lieutenant and keeper of the said place under the Cardinal of England, Captain of Cherbourg, is preserved in the British Museum;<sup>3</sup> it is dated 1438, and contains twenty-six English names. Between the years 1435—1451 there are sundry entries on the “French Rolls” at the Public Record Office, relating to his military services in France. On the 28th of September, 1451, Sir Henry grants<sup>4</sup> to Ralph Boteler, lord of Seudeley, and others, all his lands in Tottenham and Edelmeton, Middlesex.

Letters Patent<sup>5</sup> of safe conduct for a year, dated at Westminster, 19th September, 1456, recite “that Sir Henry Norbury, Knt., ‘now deceased,’ was lately taken by the King’s adversaries and put to a great and excessive ‘finance’ or ransom, for which he long remained in the custody of the King’s adversaries; and lately he obtained pledges or hostages, viz., John Norbury, son and heir of the said Henry, and others of his blood and affinity, remaining for him in the hands of the King’s adversaries aforesaid, and came into the King’s realm of England to seek and obtain that ‘finance,’ where, as it is aforesaid, he has deceased. At the request of the said John, the King takes into his protection certain French merchants with a ship called ‘Le Marie de Saine,’ of the burden of 160 tons or less, laden with merchandise to be disposed of, and to lade other merchandise in England for payment of the ransom of the said Sir Henry, &c.”

<sup>1</sup> Add. Charters, 5831.

<sup>2</sup> Add. Charters, 5832.

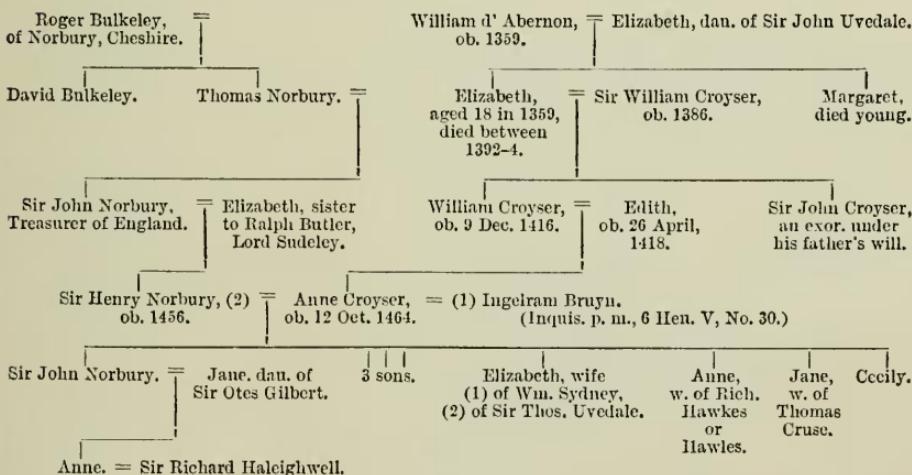
<sup>3</sup> Add. Charters, 140.

<sup>4</sup> Close Roll, 30 Hen. VI, m. 19.

<sup>5</sup> French Roll, 35 Hen. VI. Inaccurately calendared under Sir John Norbury.

In the same year there is a grant<sup>1</sup> by Dame Anne Norbury of the right to cut wood in the parish of Fetcham for money payable to her, "her heirs and assigns." Although she does not call herself a widow, the mention of "her heirs and assigns" without reference to her husband appears to show that he was dead.

Eight children are shown on the brass; the eldest son, Sir John, succeeded to the Stoke d'Abernon, &c. estates, and married Jane, daughter of Sir Otes Gilbert,<sup>2</sup> by whom he had an only daughter Anne, who eventually carried the estates into the Haleighwell family; the other three sons probably died young, as there does not seem to be any record of them. Of the daughters, (1) Elizabeth first married William Sydney, of Baynards, Surrey, and secondly became the fourth wife of Sir Thomas Uvedale,<sup>3</sup> Sheriff of Surrey and Sussex in 1436 and 1464, died 20th February, 1474; the lady died 19th June, 1488, and was buried in the Grey Friars, London; (2) Anne, married to Richard Hawkes or Hawles; (3) Jane, wife to Thomas Cruse; (4) Cecily, died unmarried. The following outline pedigree may be of interest:—



<sup>1</sup> Add. Charters, 5620.

<sup>2</sup> *Visitation of Cheshire*, 1580 (Harl. Soc. XVIII, 56); Pedigree of Bulklegh.

<sup>3</sup> *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, III, 92, 163.