

23. Wrights, builders.
24. This probably refers to projects at East Raynham. Townshend undertook a substantial amount of building work there during the 1470s and 1480s, when he added a new tower to the manor house, had 'divers windows' glazed and put up various outbuildings: Moreton (1992), 145.
25. Mileham. 'Scuman' was probably John Skayman, but it is not clear if this was the servant who kept an early 16th-century journal of business on the Townshend estate, or his father and namesake: see 'Skayman's Book, 1516-1518', eds. Charles Moreton and Paul Rutledge, Norfolk Record Society, 61 (1997), 134, 143.
26. Summer fallow.
27. Barley was the pre-eminent crop in north-west Norfolk, where the soil was light and gravelly. Townshend grew much more of it than wheat, which was harder to grow in this region: Moreton (1992), 149.
28. William Brown was the bailiff responsible for Townshend's crops at East Raynham in 1485-6: Raynham Hall attic, box labelled 'Norfolk manorial — Raynham Haviles', account for East Raynham, 1485-6.
29. ?Sown.
30. Robert Bougeour became the Townshends' bailiff at Raynham at Michaelmas 1500 (N.R.O., Townshend 44 MS 1463 1 B2; 37 MS 1456 1 B1, m. 16.). John Breton, who was from Raynham and purchased wheat from Townshend on at least occasion in the mid 1470s (Raynham Hall library, drawer 58, account for East Raynham Haviles, 1475-6), was probably another employee.
31. Lease out.
32. Every part.
33. To sink down, to set.
34. ?Sown. See note 29.
35. Weeders.
36. Briers, thicket or broken branches.
37. Although the Townshends used enclosure as a means of improving their land, it was not as a practice widespread in their part of Norfolk, where the open fields were an essential feature of the foldcourse system.
38. Household.
39. Heed.

### **BARNABAS BARRETT, 1810–1883: NORWICH MONUMENTAL MASON**

*by G.N. Barrett*

Barnabas Barrett, a sculptor and stonemason, was a Londoner by birth and came to Norwich in 1855 to help build the Public Library in St Andrews Street. He found the City and county to his liking and stayed until his death in 1883. In this period of twenty-eight years he executed many prominent pieces of monumental sculpture in the City and numerous funerary monuments in the county.

He came from a family of stonemasons which originated in Yorkshire. The small village of Warmfield-cum-Heath had, in 1745, a stonemason named John Barrett, whose son Barnabas departed to Doncaster and then to London. Here he married and had a son, John, who also became a stonemason. John married in St Clement Danes in 1798. His son Barnabas was born at High Holborn Lying-in Hospital on September 16 1810. Barnabas was baptised at the

Church of St Sepulchre, Newgate, on December 2 1810.<sup>1</sup> In later years he came a sculptor in East London.

In December 1852 the Norwich Library and Museum Committee decided to erect a building for the purpose of a Free Library. The funding was to be raised by a levy on the rates of a third of a penny. This was to be the first Free Library to be erected anywhere in England after the passage of the 1850 Library Act.<sup>2</sup> The foundation stone of the library was laid in September 1854 by the Mayor, Sir Samuel Bignold. Addresses made at the ceremony included one by the Duke of Wellington.<sup>3</sup> Barnabas Barrett obtained a contract to do the stonework, which included carving a head of Homer above the corner doorway and the City Arms above. By this time he had married Elizabeth Stafford and had two children, Sarah Ann (1837) and Barnabas John (1850). They moved to Norwich in 1857. The Library was opened in 1857 without ceremony; its construction cost was £6500.<sup>4</sup>

The high Presbytery roof at the east end of Norwich Cathedral is supported by flying buttresses. On each of these in 1850 was a worn shaft, which in 1450 had been an apostle; there were twelve of them altogether. In 1857 the Chapter started to repair the delapidated buttresses, and at a meeting held on December 6 1859 they directed the architect to employ Barrett to carve new figures for £38 each.<sup>5</sup> Barnabas proceeded with the commission and the Apostles, which are 10–12 feet high, are an important addition to the fabric. They stand in a curve from south to north: St Jude; St Simon; St Thomas; St James the Great; St Matthias; St Matthew; St Bartholomew; St Philip; St James the Less; St John; St Andrew; and St Peter.<sup>6</sup>

Barrett's next prominent work was the large (14 foot by 10 foot) carving above the main door of the new Corn Hall in Exchange Street. The rear part of Jarrolds department store now stands on this site. The Corn Hall was opened in 1861.<sup>7</sup> When it was demolished in 1964 the carving, an imposing monument, was saved from destruction and rebuilt at The Priory, Hethersett, the home of Barnabas's great-grandson, Geoffrey Barrett. The Bridewell Museum has a stone capital from the interior of the Corn Hall with a classical female face on one side and a negro face on the other.

St Andrew's Hall received a major facelift in 1863<sup>8</sup> and Barnabas was engaged for the stonework. In February 1936 Mr Robert Flood lectured to the Historical Society on his fifty years' experience as a stonemason. He concluded with an amusing story of Barnabas Barrett who ridiculed Bacon, the unpopular Clerk of the Works, on the corbels of the doorway arches on the south side of the Hall. A pig plays an organ and blows a trumpet on one side and devils leap with joy on the other. These small details may still be seen on the central doorway.<sup>9</sup>

In Kelly's Norwich Directory of 1865 the entry for Barnabas Barrett was: 'Ecclesiastical sculptor, modeller, decorator and designer of all kinds of monumental work. Showroom, 5 Redwell Street — works Bank Plain [site of the Royal Hotel]'.

In 1865 the Crown Bank was built at the City end of Prince of Wales Road. This building, with four massive columns in front, became in later years the Norwich General Post Office and is now the headquarters of Anglia Television. Barnabas Barrett's skill is still in full view at the top of the façade. In the centre is a large crown beneath a magnificent festoon of flowers. The entire pediment is covered with national emblems: roses, thistles and shamrocks. The words 'Post Office' were cut below at a later date.<sup>10</sup>

St Peter Mancroft saw major restoration in 1880. Barnabas Barrett made the so-called 'peppercots' on the four corners of the tower. The result was to change the tower from one of



Plate 1 Barnabas Barrett, 1810–1883

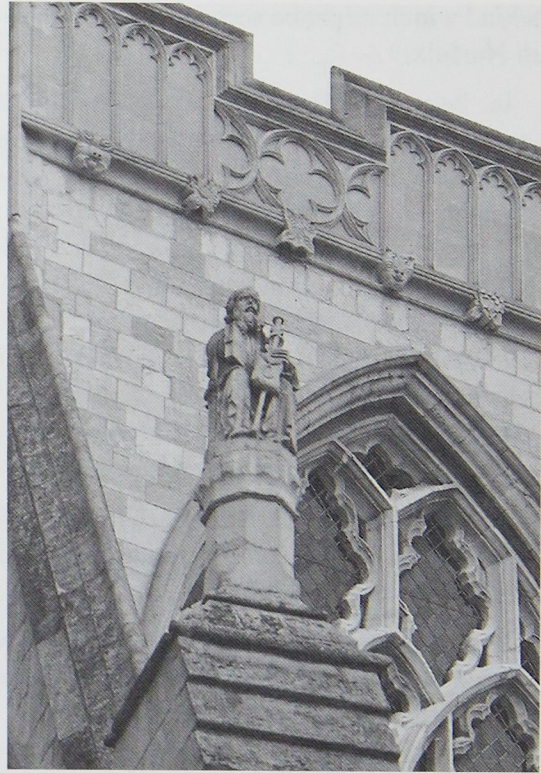


Plate 2 Norwich Cathedral presbytery:  
St James the Great by Barnabas Barrett



Plate 3 Shirehall Plain, Norwich: Crown Bank pediment by Barnabas Barrett

a kind which might be seen in many villages into a striking imaginative display unlike any other in Norfolk.<sup>11</sup>

In between his major works on Norwich buildings Barnabas carried out the usual stonemason's works on country halls and, of course, on gravestones. Two of these, of unusual design, are at Happisburgh and Ingham. The Happisburgh stone commemorates six sailors lost at sea in 1876 when the 'Young England' sank. It is in the form of a cross but wrapped around it is a massive anchor-and-chain, carved from a single stone. The Ingham stone, at the east end of the graveyard, commemorating Reginald Wilson, was carved in 1883 and was the last piece that he made.<sup>12</sup> A correspondent at Stalham said that Barnabas died after carving the Cross and the Crown of Thorns on behalf of a Stalham stonemason. This work show the delicate skill with which he composed a ring of thorns around the top of the cross, carved from a single block. The correspondent also said that Barnabas Barrett was widely respected and that his opinion had been sought — and invariably acted upon — by eminent London architects.

The *Directory of British Sculptors* records (p41), under 'B. Barrett of London', a carved monument designed by L.N. Cottingham erected to the memory of Lady Boothby in 1838 at St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Barnabas Barrett died in Norwich in November 1883 and was buried in the Norwich Cemetery. His son Barnabas John, also a mason, emigrated to America and was killed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

#### July 1998

1. Debretts Ancestry Research
2. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 1 December 1852
3. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 13 September 1854
4. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 16 March 1857
5. Dean Pellew's Chapter Proceedings (NRO, DCN 120/1/6)
6. Julian Eve (Horsham St Faiths)
7. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 9 November 1861
8. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 12 August 1863
9. *Eastern Daily Press*, 26 February 1936
10. *Norfolk Chronicle*, 7 January 1865
11. *Eastern Daily Press*, 4 October 1881
12. *Eastern Daily Press*, 16 November 1883