

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to the County Archivist, Dr John Alban, for permission to publish this letter.

1. Norfolk Record Office, Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society Collection, C3/7.
2. Francis Blomefield, *History of Norfolk*, vol. vii (1807), 6–7.
3. Blomefield vii, 6–7; NRO, Norris's Pedigrees, Rye MS 4, 373.
4. Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Papers of British Antiquaries and Historians* (The Stationary Office, 2003), 92.
5. The Tattersett parish register which might show their ages is lacking for this period.

AN IMPORTANT INDENT FOR A LOST BRASS AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, EAST BARSHAM

by Ron Fiske

During a recent visit of the Society to East Barsham church our attention was directed to a large stone slab bearing the indent of a lost unidentified brass (Fig. 1).

The indents clearly show the outline of a man in armour complete with footrest, sword and mercy-sword while, beside him, below a separate section which might have accommodated a helm or crest (see later), is the outline of a much smaller figure, also in armour, with a single sword at his left hand side. Above the figures are the outlines of two shields, and at the sides of the larger figure are indents for what appears to be symbols of the Order of the Garter. The whole is framed in a typical crocketed canopy within a border, which probably accommodated an inscription with corner embellishments perhaps for figures of the four evangelists.¹ Authorities on monumental brasses have suggested the memorial dates to the late 14th century.²

The presence of the garters, almost certainly denoting a knight of that order, and of the two figures would seem to make identification easy, but despite this no real answer or suggestions have been forthcoming to date.³ However, after some investigation in collaboration with Charles Farrow, the conclusion has been reached that the indented slab once held a brass commemorating Sir Thomas Felton, K.G., and his son of the same name. It is further believed that the slab was removed, probably after the dissolution of the monasteries, from the nearby Priory at Little Walsingham where, by licence dated 9 May 1385, the territorial and financial arrangements were made for a chantry and mass light for 'Joan [daughter of Sir Richard Walkfare and wife of Sir Thomas, K.G.] for her soul after death and for the souls of the king's father, the said Thomas de Felton, Thomas his son, and others' in the 'chapel of St. Anne newly built by the said prior and convent'.⁴ The inclusion of 'the king's father' is, at first sight, unusual, but the king's father was in fact Edward Prince of Wales, Felton's illustrious patron and war lord who had died in 1376. Sir Thomas himself died without male heirs on 2 April 1381.⁵

There are two varying pedigrees of the Norfolk Feltons.⁶ One lists only the three daughters and coheirs of Sir Thomas Felton, K.G., and makes no mention of Thomas their brother. The other, compiled by T.C. Banks, does include him and this is confirmed in the aforementioned licence. His exclusion from some pedigrees, and the lack of information about him, suggests that he died young and, with the death of his father, brought the male line of the family to an end, which provides ample reason for his unusual inclusion on the brass.

If the above suggestion is correct then one would expect the two shields on the brass to represent the father and son. That to the dexter (left as viewed) would bear the Felton arms (*Gules, two lions passant Ermine crowned Or*) probably impaled with those of Walkfare for his wife



H. Claxton, c. 1400.
EAST BARSHAM, NORFOLK. Vol. II, Plate 31.

Fig. 1 Indent for a lost brass at East Barsham Church

Joan, who survived him (*Argent, a lion rampant Sable charged on the sinister shoulder with a mullet Or*).⁷ The sinister shield probably also bore the Felton arms, differenced with a label of three points, which Thomas junior would have used up to the time he predeceased his father. The outline of the 'helm or crest' previously referred to could have accommodated Sir Thomas's crest, which is usually blazoned as *Out of a ducal coronet Or a pair of wings erect Gules*.⁸ While the fixings for the brass support this,⁹ it would have been much more elongated than it appears on his surviving stall plate.¹⁰

As to Sir Thomas Felton himself, his career is well chronicled.¹¹ The award of the Order of the Garter is sufficient evidence of his importance, and his death, together with the loss of his son, which brought the male line to an end, is sufficient reason for their unusual depiction on the lost brass.

August 2004

1. The indent is illustrated in *The Portfolio of the Monumental Brass Society*, Vol. II, part 6, December 1902, plate 31.
2. Roger Greenwood and Malcolm Norris. *The Brasses of Norfolk Churches*, 1976, 40. Sally Badham suggests it is of

- the early 1380s from the London workshop 'Series C'.
3. The current church guide, *All Saints Church East Barsham*, suggests 'Sir Peter Tye, who is mentioned in connection with the side chapel' at East Barsham, but there is no evidence for this and he was not a Garter Knight.
 4. *Calendar of Patent Rolls 1381–1385*, 8th Richard II, Part II, 557. See also Francis Blomefield, *An Essay towards a History of Norfolk*, 11 volumes, 1805–10, Vol. IX, 276.
 5. *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Vol. XV, 1–7 Richard II, 139.
 6. The two pedigrees are brought together by G.A. Carthew, *The Hundred of Launditch and Deanery of Brisley in the County of Norfolk*. Norwich 1877, Vol. I, 157.
 7. The Felton arms are taken from his garter stall plate. The Walkfare arms are taken from the Parliamentary Roll c. 1312.
 8. Joan Corder, *A Dictionary of Suffolk Crests*, Suffolk Records Society, vol. XL, Woodbridge 1998, Col. 203.
 9. There are three fixings: the upper two are 'spot' fixings suggesting an openwork pattern, the lower one has a lead 'run' suggesting a more solid section.
 10. W.H. St. John Hope, *The Stall Plates of the Knights of the Order of the Garter 1348–1485*, London 1901, plate XII. Also depicted in *The Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History*. Vol. IV, 1774 [1874!] opposite p.26, and on the dust jacket of *A Dictionary of Suffolk Crests* (note 8 above).
 11. Accounts of Sir Thomas Felton, K.G., will be found in George Frederick Beltz, *Memorials of the Most Noble Order of the Garter*: London 1841, 274–9, in *The Dictionary of National Biography*, and in *Froissarts Cronycles* (see index in the Shakespeare Head 1928 Edition of Sir John Bouchier Lord Berners' translation).

ST. PETER'S CHAPEL, STOW BARDOLPH: BRISTOL TERRACOTTA IN SOUTH-WEST NORFOLK

by J.R.L. Allen

SUMMARY

St. Peter's Chapel was erected in 1908 for the Revd J. Percy de Putron as a 'New Mission Church' in the sprawling western part of Stow Bardolph parish, probably to serve a greatly increased agricultural population. The design, by E. Douglas Hoyland of London, is on the traditional plan and looks broadly toward the later Gothic, although with other stylistic features. Omitted from The Buildings of England, the church is exceptional among ecclesiastical structures in west and north Norfolk in being constructed of partly bespoke pale yellow terracotta. This material came by rail from the relatively obscure Bristol Fire Clay Company Limited, with works 250km away in the St. George district of that city. The roof tiles also came from south-west England, and were supplied by Messrs Colthurst & Symonds of Bridgwater, Somerset. No firm explanation for these choices can at present be offered.

Introduction

(Fig. 1)

From at least medieval times (eg. Barton 1963; Jackson *et al.* 1982), and especially from the 17th century to the middle of the 19th (Pountney 1920; Jackson *et al.* 1982; Henrywood 1992), favourable geological conditions and trading connections ensured that a great variety of ceramics were manufactured in the Bristol area for use in industry, national and overseas trade, building construction and the home. Only very exceptionally, however, did high-mass, low-value brick and tile for construction travel beyond the local market. Hence it is of some interest to discover, in the Norfolk parish of Stow Bardolph, some 250km away on the opposite seaboard, a small Edwardian church for the Anglicans, built of ceramic materials manufactured in Bristol and Somerset (Fig. 1A). This understanding owes itself primarily to the survival in the parish chest, under the care of the Churchwardens, of the architect's detailed and illustrated 'Specification of