

ERRATA. Part I, Vol. X.

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Page 137, line 9, *for* £43 : 8s., *read* 43s. 8d.

MINTERNE Pedigree, line 1, *for* Wotley, *read* Wolley.

NOTES  
ON  
THE BRASS OF WILLIAM HERON, ESQ.,  
AND WIFE ALICE,  
LATELY REPLACED IN CROYDON CHURCH.

By MILL STEPHENSON, B.A., F.S.A.,  
ONE OF THE HONORARY SECRETARIES.

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IN the early part of last year there was replaced in Croydon Church a small but interesting brass. It consists of a figure of a man in armour, the upper part of a lady, and an inscription, being the memorial of William Heron, Esq., "justice of the peaxs," and Alice his wife.

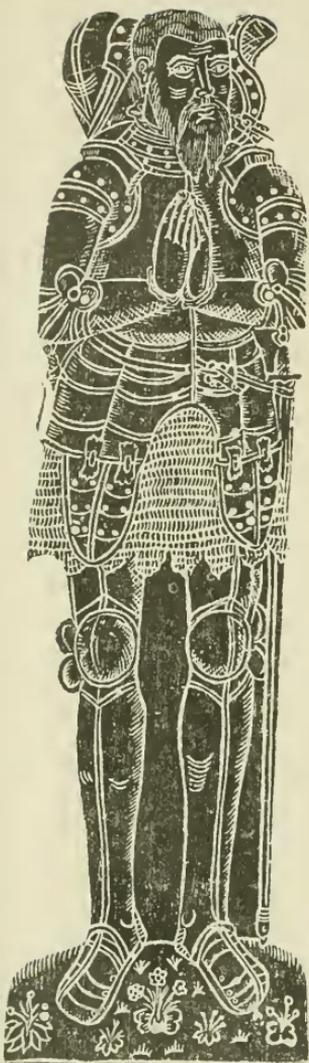
This brass had been missing from the Church for nearly one hundred years. The first notice of it is in Nicholas Charles' *Notes on Croydon Church*.<sup>1</sup> Aubrey also mentions it, "at the entrance of the altar rails, on a brass plate, is a man in armour, and a woman, both praying; over him are these arms—a chevron with three cinquefoils between three herons."<sup>2</sup> He also gives the inscription.

Ducarel, and all later writers on Croydon Church, simply quote Aubrey. Most probably it disappeared during that dark period the eighteenth century. It re-appeared some thirty or forty years ago in the possession of a Mr. T. G. Waller, solicitor, of the Inner Temple and of Cuckfield, Sussex; he is believed to have obtained it

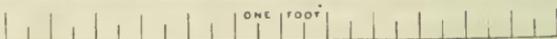
<sup>1</sup> British Museum, Lansd. MS. 874, f. 64.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Surrey*, II, 15.





Here lieth William heron squire and Julias of the  
pears and alle his wyfe, which William deccased the  
iiii daie of January in y<sup>e</sup> year of our lord 1562  
62 whose soule god take to his evern mercy



MONUMENTAL BRASS  
TO  
WILLIAM HERON, ESQ., J.P. AND WIFE ALICE,  
1562.  
LATELY REPLACED IN CROYDON CHURCH.

from a client. It then passed into the possession of Mr. W. C. Jourdain, and at his death was purchased by Mr. L. A. B. Waller. The last-named gentleman lent it to the Rev. C. F. Creeny, F.S.A., of Norwich, on the condition that it should be replaced if satisfactorily identified.

A rubbing of this brass, when in the possession of Mr. Creeny, having been sent to me, and knowing the connection of the Heron family with Croydon, a search in Aubrey soon furnished sufficient evidence to convince both Mr. Waller and Mr. Creeny that Croydon Church was its original home. On the vicar and churchwardens guaranteeing to fix the brass securely in the church, Mr. Creeny, with the consent of Mr. Waller, kindly forwarded it to me, and eventually it was fixed on a pillar on the north side of the chancel.

The figure of William Heron is 23 inches in length, slightly inclined to the left, and represents him in armour, the head and hands bare, the former resting on a small tilting helm. The hair is cropped short on the head, but the beard and moustaches are long and full. His armour consists of a gorget of plate, a breastplate with a tapul or projecting ridge, pauldrons with straight upright guards,<sup>1</sup> brassarts, small coutes, and vambraces. The taces are short, being worn over a very long skirt of mail; to the lowermost of these taces are attached the rounded tuilles, the fastenings of which are very clearly shown. Cuisses, genouillières or knee-pieces, and jamps protect the thighs and shins, whilst the feet are encased in broad, round-toed sabbatons. A long sword, with small pommel and quillons, hangs on his left side from a plain, narrow belt, and on the right is fastened a short dagger. Small frills encircle the neck and wrists.

Of his wife Alice only the upper part remains. It is 7½ inches in height, and represents her wearing a "Paris

<sup>1</sup> Erroneously termed "passe-guards." See a paper on "The Pas-guard, &c," by the Hon. Harold Dillon, F.S.A., in the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. XLVI, pp. 129, 433.

head" or Mary Queen of Scots cap, a small ruff, and a close-fitting gown with turned-down collar. The sleeves are puffed and slashed at the shoulders, and fit close to the fore-arms, and are here striped longitudinally. Small frills are worn at the wrists. The lower part of the figure probably showed the gown thrown open in front to display the richly-embroidered petticoat.<sup>1</sup>

The inscription reads thus:—

Here lyeth Wyllm̄ Heron Esquier and Justys of the  
Peaxs and Aisc his wyfe which Wyllm̄ deceassed the  
iiij daye of January in y<sup>e</sup> ycare of our Lord M<sup>c</sup>CC<sup>c</sup>CC<sup>c</sup>  
62 whose soule god take to hys Mercy amen.

The concluding sentence is curious and very uncommon, if not unique; the writer has been unable to find any other example, nor is there known any other example of a "Justice of the Peaxs" of this period represented in armour.

William Heron was the eldest son and heir of Thomas Heron, Esq., of Adgecombe, ob. 1544, by his wife Elizabeth, one of the daughters and a co-heiress of Wm. Bond, Esq., Clerk of the Green Cloth; she died in 1558.<sup>2</sup> William himself died, as the inscription tells us, on the 4th day of January, 1562.<sup>3</sup> His burial is entered in the Croydon Register, under the date 1563, "M<sup>r</sup> William Heron justice was buried the X day of January." On his death without issue, the estates passed to his younger brother Nicholas, who was afterwards knighted, and, dying in 1568, was buried in Croydon Church.

The maiden name of his wife Alice is unknown, and all attempts to trace it have so far failed. She did not long remain a widow, for on the 3rd of August,

<sup>1</sup> Examples of this costume are to be found at Great Chart, 1565; Goodnestone, 1558; and St. Nicholas, Thanet, 1574; all in the neighbouring county of Kent.

<sup>2</sup> Croydon Register:—"1558, sepulta fuit Mag<sup>re</sup> Elizabeth Heron, vidua, 1<sup>o</sup> die Augusti."

<sup>3</sup> According to our reckoning, 1563.



In omnibus xpi fidelibus ad quos hoc presens scriptum pervenit

Elizabeth

Heron de parochia de Croydon in Com Suter vidua nupta uxore Thome heron nupte de Croydon patris ad  
 Exougeri de heron et Willielmus heron generosus filius et heres deo Thome heron saluatum in Domino  
 scripturam **Conuentionis** nos prefatos Elizabeth et Willielm heron pro summa quadraginta terrarum solidorum  
 et octo denariorum pater langorum nobis ceterum Elizabeth et Willielm per Johannem Moore de Croydon patrem locum  
 bene et facte pater in omnibus solut pater fatemur nos pater fatemur fore solut contentat et satisfact datum per Johannem  
 More heron contentat et demandat suos inde est acquiescat et condonat impend per pater butte **Thomas**  
 Et lapasse et viduo de et pro subre et hereditibus nris impend quibet clausse eidem Johanni More et Johanni Isoper  
 eius in eorum plena et pacifica possessione et seisinia ceterum heron et designd eorum ad opus et ad unum eorum in  
 possessionem interesse et demandat que unquam habuimus habemus seu quomodo habeat poterimus aut alter  
 nostre habere poterit seu heredes nri vel alius noster habeat poterit nisi de et in toto illo cotagio sine  
 demerito situat et rati in villa de Croydon patris videlicet inter terram patris Johne More ex parte australi  
 et orienti et tunc domus Regis nupte Nicholai Carones ex parte occidentali et regiam viam ducatum de Croydon  
 utasne Myrham ex parte boreali **Quos quidem** cotagium sine tenenturimus nos patris Johanne More et  
 Johanna uxore eius nupte conuentionem habuimus nobis hereditibus et designd nris impend ex bono contentat et Caris  
 confirmacione patris Thome heron prout per quatuor Cartam inde nobis per eundem Thomam in dicta sua confirmacione  
 geron dat apud Croydon dicto nouo die Junii Anno regni Domini Regis nri Henrici sexti tertio secundo primo  
 deparat. **Ita videlicet quod** ut nos prefati Elizabeth et Willielm heron ut aliquis noster vel heredes nri  
 seu alius noster nec aliquis alius sine aliquo alij pro nos pro nobis seu nris nro seu alius noster aliquod nro  
 fatum titulum claimum possessionem interesse vel demandat de aut in predicto Cotagio sine tenito ut in aliqua  
 inde parcella de cetero contentat clausse seu vendicare poterimus nec debemus quomodo nisi de et in aliqua  
 latuere fuerit fatum tituli claimi possessionem interesse et demandat inde petend totatis summis exsolui et quiet  
 nri sit exsolui impend per presentes. **Et nos vero** prefati Elizabeth heron et Willielm heron et  
 designd eorum impend ad opus et ad unum patris Johanne More et Johanne More uxore eius hereditibus et  
 presentibus **In cuius rei** testimonium hinc presens scripto nro Engilla nra decessimus dat de nro  
 Com de Marston Anno regni Dei Domini Henrici octavi de gratia Anglie firmum et habite Regis fieri debet  
 et in terra Cantuar Anglicane et habite Engrocom Capitis dicto secundo regno

Willelmus noster heron

E. WEGRAVD.  
 Jacob Goltz

Jesabree heron

1563, the register records her marriage with Oliver St. John, Esq.<sup>1</sup>

Through the kindness of Dr. Howard, F.S.A., I am enabled to give a facsimile of an old deed, dated 19th March, 1544-45, signed by William Heron, and also by his mother Elizabeth. It is a release granted by them to one John Moore, a "bocher," and Joan, his wife, of a cottage or tenement situated in Croydon, for a consideration of £43 : 8s. sterling.

Omnibus xpi fidelibus ad quos hoc presens scriptum pervenit. Elizabeth Heron de parochia de Croydon in Coñi Surī vidua nuper uxor Thome Heron nuper de Croydon pred̄ca armigeri defuncti et Wiñmus Heron generosus filius et heres d̄ci Thome Heron salutem in domino sempiternam. Noveritis nos prefatos Elizabeth et Wiñmū Heron pro sumā quadraginta trium solidorum et octo denariorum sterlingorum nobis eisdem Elizabeth et Wiñmo per Johannem Moore de Croydon pred̄ca bocher bene et fidelit̄ pre manibus solut' unde fatemur nos plenarie fore solut' contentat' et satisfact' dictumq; Joh̄em More hered' executor' et adm̄istrator' suos inde esse acquietat et exon'at imp̄m per presentes. Remisisse relaxasse et om̄ino de et pro nobis et heredibus n̄ris imp̄m quiet' clamasse eidem Johanni More et Johanne uxori' ejus in eorum plena et pacifica possessione et seisma existen' hered' et assignū eorū ad opus et usum eorundem Joh̄is More et Johanne uxoris sue ac heredum et assignū eorum imp̄m totum jus nostrum statum titulum clameumq; possessionem interesse et demand' que unq̄m habuimus habemus seu quovismodo habere poterimus aut alter nost̄r habere poterit seu heredes n̄ri vel alienjus nost̄r habere poterint infutur' de et in toto illo cotagio sive tenemento seituat' et iacenti in villa de Croydon pred̄ca videlicet inter ter̄ pred̄ci Joh̄is More ex pte australi et orient' et ter̄ domini Regis nuper Nicholai Carowe ex parte occidenti et regiam viam ducentem de Croydon versus Mycham ex parte boriali. Quod quidem cotagium sive tenementum nos pred̄ci Johannis More et Johanna uxor ejus nuper conjunctum habuimus nobis heredibus et assignū n̄ris imp̄m ex dono concessione et carte confirmatione pred̄ci Thome Heron prout per quandam cartam inde nobis per eundem Thomani in vita sua confectam gereñ Dať apud Croydon vicesimo nono die Junii anno regni domini regis nunc Henrici octavi tricesimo secundo plenius apparet Ita videlicet qđ nec nos prefati Elizabeth et Wiñms Heron nec aliquis nost̄r nec heredes n̄ri seu alienjus nost̄r neq; aliquis alius sive aliqui alii per nos pro nobis seu noīe n̄ro seu alienjus nost̄r aliquod jus statum titulum clameum possessionem interesst vel demand' de aut in predicto cotagio sive teñto nec in aliqua inde parcella decetero exigere clamare seu vindicare poterimus nec debemus quovismodo infutur' sed

<sup>1</sup> Croydon Register:—"1563. Mast<sup>r</sup> Olyver Sent John, Squyer, and Maystrys Alice Heron, wydo, ware maryed the iij day of August."

ab omni actione juris status tituli clamei possessionis interesst et demand inde petend totatꝫ sumus exclusi et quitit nꝛm sit exclusus impꝑm per presentes Et nos vero prefati Elizabeth Heron et Witꝛms Heron et hered nꝛi predꝑm cotagium sive teñtũ p'fatos Johanni More et Johanne More uxori' ejus heredibus et assign' eorum impꝑno ad opus et usum predꝑm contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus et impꝑm defendemus p presentes. In ejus rei testimoniũ huic presenti scripto nꝛo sigilla nꝛa apposuimus Dañ decimo nono die Marcii anno regni dñi Henrici octavi dei gr̃a Anglie francie et hibñie regis fidei defens et in terra ecclie Anglicane et hibñie supꝑmi capitis tricesimo sexto.

Garard.

Per me Witꝛm Heron.

E. Westayt.  
Jamys Hyll.

Elisabethe Heron.

Endorsed 19 Martii. 36. II. 8.<sup>1</sup>

It is curious to note that in this deed William Heron is styled "generosus" or gentleman, whilst on the brass he appears as "esquire."

It may be as well to put on record the present condition of the brasses in Croydon Church.

The Rev. Herbert Haines<sup>2</sup> gives the following list:—

- I. "Silvester Gabriel," 1512, in cope, 6 eleg. verses. C.
- II. Thos. Heron, Esq., 1544, and w. Elizth., dau. and co-heir of Wm. Bond, clerk of the Green Cloth, with 4 sons and 7 daus., inser. lost, lately covd. C.
- III. Elizth., dau. of John and Clemence Kynge, and w. of Samuel Fynch, by whom she had 3 sons and 2 daus., 1589, æt. 21. N.
- IV. A civilian, c. 1600, inser. lost. N. Perhaps John Packington, late of the parsonage, 1607.
- V. A civilian and wife, c. 1630, inser. lost, sm., N. A. Perhaps Robert Jackson, 1629, and wife Elizabeth.
- INSCR. VI. Giles Seymor, 1390; eff. and cross lost. N.
- VII. Elye Davy, mercer of London, 1455, lately restored.

<sup>1</sup> The original deed in the possession of J. J. Howard, Esq., L.L.D., F.S.A.

<sup>2</sup> *Manual of Brasses*, London, 8vo, 1861, Vol. II, p. 200.

Nos. I, VI, VII, and fragments of II alone remain. Of the latter, the effigies disappeared at the restoration in 1859. The seven daughters and the two shields are still in the church, the former on the wall of the south aisle, the latter on that of the north. The matrix lies in the gutter on the south side of the church.

Nos. III, IV and V are totally lost, some during the restoration above mentioned, the rest at the fire in 1867. All are engraved in Mr. Corbet Anderson's history of the church.

The brass lately replaced, and an inscription overlooked by Mr. Haines, make the following a complete list:—

- I. Gabriel Silvester, rector of Wyberton, Linc., Folkington, Sussex, and a prebendary of Chichester,<sup>1</sup> 1512, in cope, 6 eleg. verses. Now mural, in Chancel.
- II. Wm. Heron, Esq., J.P., 1562, in arm., and w. Alice (lower part of eff. lost), mural. C.

#### FRAGS. AND INSCRS.:

- III. Seven daughters and 2 shields from brass to Thos. Heron, 1544, and w. Elizth., mural. N. and S. A.
- IV. Giles Seymor, 1390, mural. S. A.
- V. Elye Davy, 1455, restored, mural. N. A.
- VI. Thos. Parkinson, 1605, and w. Elizth., 1594, mural. S. A.

Several slabs bearing indents of brasses lie scattered about the churchyard, or, like the Heron one, form part of the gutter round the church.

It is to be hoped that a time will come when the authorities of this church will awaken to the fact that in the churchyard, exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather, lie many valuable ledger-stones, &c., which might, at a small outlay, be re-set in their proper place, viz. the church, and from which they ought never to have been removed.

<sup>1</sup> See his Will in *Surrey Arch. Colls.*, VII, p. 272.