

Here lyeth interred the Corpses of Mear's litcott Annu-
 ter of John litcott & quere Penulomer into a wall gra-
 tuous Quere. Th' alrath & Wite into Richard Bar-
 ker third sonne of William Barker of Sun-
 ninge & quere end in her lease barke by the bide of
 whome the said m' builded & at her death leaueing a lease
 and a sauliter house. She died the xij day of Novem-
 ber whole soule alluredly resteth wth y^e lorde & her bodie
 whiche suddaine occasion buried y^e daye An Domini 1599
 In regni Regine Elizabethæ quadragesimo primo.

MARY BARKER, 1599, CHISWICK.

HERE VNDER LYETH BVRIED THE BODY
 OF ANNE BARKER WIDOW LATE WIFE OF WILLM
 BARKER OF SVNNING IN Y^E COVNTY OF BARKS
 ESQ: OF WHOM FVRTHER MENCION IS MADE
 IN THE MONVMENT BEFORE YOV.

ANNE BARKER, 1607, CHISWICK.



JOHN BELL, BISHOP OF WORCESTER, 1556, ST. JAMES, CLERKENWELL.

Warwicke or Coventrye.'²⁶ His mother also had property at Chiswick where she was buried. Mary Barker may well have been staying with her mother-in-law at the time of her fifth and fatal confinement.

Richard Barker also inherited a gold chain, valued at £70, which had belonged to his brother, John. John, a bachelor, is also described as of Chiswick in his will,²⁷ although he died, in 1595, aet. 34, at Godalming in Surrey, where he is commemorated by a brass.²⁸

II. Anne Barker, 1607; inscription only, mural, high up and behind organ on E. wall of N. chapel.

This brass, like the last, is skied upon the wall and cannot readily be seen. It is a rectangular plate $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. high and $17\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide on which is the following inscription of five lines in Roman capitals:—

HERE VNDER LYETH BVRIED THE BODY
OF ANNE BARKER WIDOW LATE WIFE OF WİLLM
BARKER OF SVNNING IN $\frac{E}{Y}$ COVNTY OF BARKS
ESQ: OF WHOM FVRTHERR MENCION IS MADE
IN THE MONVMENT BEFORE YOV.

The monument referred to is stated²⁹ to be a marble tablet with side pilasters, cornice and lozenge-of-arms also on the E. wall of the organ chamber. Such a monument is still upon the wall, even higher than the brasses, and very dirty. It is probable that the brass inscription was at one time on the floor before the monument and on a stone covering the burial place. Indeed the stone itself probably still exists, now banished to the churchyard to weather away. Outside the W. end of the N. aisle is a slab measuring 5 ft. $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 2 ft. 8 in. In this (starting at 2 ft. 1 in. from one end) is an indent for a rectangular plate, corresponding precisely with the inscription to Anne Barker. At $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the other end are indents for two shields or achievements. If the inscription is viewed as at the top of the slab, the indent of the dexter shield is rectangular, 6 in. high and $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide; that on the sinister side is a diamond shaped lozenge with a side of $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. and maximum height of $6\frac{1}{2}$ in. This corresponds with the lozenge of arms on the monument, Anne Barker being the daughter of Laurence Stoughton of Stoke by Guildford in Surrey and bearing *azure, a cross engrailed ermine.*

She was married first to Richard Maxey and then to William Barker of Sonning in Berkshire. William died in 1575 and was buried at Sonning. They were commemorated by a brass in that church and, although his effigy is now lost, those of Anne Barker and of their six sons and five daughters are still there, with two shields and an inscription plate with 12 lines of English verse.³⁰ Reference is made in this inscription to:—

“Ann spronge of Stowghtons stocke, an annciet progeny.
She wyth her chyldren wayle this chaunce and dolefull
destenye”

The lady's effigy is 18½ in. high and is dressed according to the fashion of the early Elizabethan period, with a French bonnet, small frills at neck and wrists, and sleeves puffed and slashed at the shoulders.

After William's death his widow lived at Chiswick, as evidenced by her will.²⁶ “I Anne Barker of Chiswicke in the Countie of Middlesex widdowe late wiffe of Willm Barker of Sunnynge in the Countie of Berks. . . .”

She also had property at Anstey in Warwickshire as described above.

INDENTS REMAINING.

1. Outside the west end of the north aisle is a slab 5 ft. 1½ in. × 2 ft. 8 in. with indents for three plates, almost certainly belonging to Anne Barker, and described above.

2. Adjacent to this is another stone, 4 ft. 1 in. × 2 ft. 6 in., in which is an indent, probably for Mary Barker (Brass No. I). The outline of the indent is ¼ in. longer in each direction than the inscription and has a series of semi-circular excrescences at the four corners and equi-spaced along each side (2 on each shorter and 3 on each longer side). Whether these were for a decorated border strip or to provide some method of fixing is not clear.

3. Also exposed to weathering in the churchyard at the south-east corner is a larger slab in which there is evidence of rivet holes, 29 in number. The stone is too worn to show outline of any brass, nor does the distribution of these rivet holes help to reconstruct the original.

4. Against the church wall, on the south side, is another stone with some evidence of an indent on it.

BRASSES FORMERLY IN THE CHURCH.

The following inscriptions are quoted by Weever³¹:—

“Orate pro anima Mathildis Salveyne uxoris Richardi Salveyne Militis Thesaurar. Eccl. que ob. 1432.”

“Hic iacet Will. Boydale principalis vicarius huius Ecclesie, et fundator Campanilis eiusdem, qui ob. 15 Octob. 1435.”

The tower founded by William Boydale, or Bordall, is the only part of the old church now remaining and on its north wall is an alabaster tablet, put up in 1631 by Francis, Earl of Bedford, to commemorate this foundation. It gives the date of the vicar's death incorrectly as 1425.

A full page illustration of the brass to this William Bordall is given by Faulkner.³²

It represents a priest in *almuce and cope* (coloured in yellow) under a single canopy, but with no evidence of inscription. The composition is not unlike several of similar date which still exist in Sussex (Broadwater, Pulborough, Warbleton).

Faulkner quotes (or misquotes; he is not an accurate or reliable antiquary) Weever's inscription, printing it in gothic type after the following introductory paragraph:—“In the middle aisle on a very old brass plate, now in the hands of the churchwardens; the impression of which is visible upon an old stone, to which it belonged, is the following inscription.”

This may be taken to mean that the inscription was still existing in 1845 and the indent for it still visible on the nave floor. If the colour of the illustration has any meaning, however, it suggests that the figure was in the possession of the churchwardens and the canopy and inscription lost; this indeed is the suggestion of Mill Stephenson.³³

9. CLERKENWELL, ST. JAMES

I. John Bell, Bishop of Worcester, 1556, in episcopal vestments, with mitre and crosier; lower part of effigy and inscription lost; now mural in north aisle.

Of this brass there remains a plate 28½ in. high by 11¾ in. This shows the figure of a prelate in full episcopal robes, wearing jewelled gloves and rings upon the fingers and a low mitre. In his left hand he holds a crosier, to which the vexillum is attached. The lower part of the figure is missing; the bottom end of the plate corresponds with the lower fringe of the dalmatic and the front point of the chasuble. There is much

shading on the engraving common at this date, but detracting from the simplicity and beauty of the figure.

An engraving of the brass in its present condition was published in 1803 by Malcolm.³⁴

Stow³⁵ describes "a fair stone by the Communion Table" and gives the following inscription:—

"Contegit hoc marmor Doctorem nomine Bellum,
Qui bene tum rexit praesulis officium.
Moribus, ingenio, vitae pietate vigebat,
Laudatus cunctis, cultus et eloquio.
Anno Domini 1556 die August. II"

What remained of this brass was sold when the old church was demolished in 1788. It passed into the hands of Gough and from him to J. B. Nichols of Westminster. In 1884 the executors to Mr. Nichols returned the brasses from his collection to the churches to which they belonged, at the suggestion of the then Somerset Herald, Mr. Stephen Tucker. It was at this gentleman's cost that Bishop Bell's brass was replaced in St. James, Clerkenwell, as an inscription in the church now reminds us.

John Bell was a native of Worcestershire. He was educated at Balliol, Oxford, and thereafter at Cambridge, where he took a law degree. His clerical offices were mostly in or around Worcestershire, as the account of his life in the Dictionary of National Biography reveals.³⁶

On 11th August, 1539, he became Bishop of Worcester, but resigned four years later, retiring to Clerkenwell, then a fashionable suburb. In his will³⁷ he is described as "John Bell, priest in the parish of Clerkenwell" and requires "my bodye to be buried in the parishe church where I shall dye." He died on 2nd August, 1556, and was buried in the chancel of St. James.

BRASSES FORMERLY IN THE CHURCH.

1. *Sir William Weston, Prior of St. John of Jerusalem, 1540.*

Part of this monument still remains against the north wall of the north aisle; a shrouded and emaciated figure lying on a rush mattress. Even this is mutilated. Malcolm³⁴ illustrates the monument from a drawing by Schnebbelie dated 1787, showing an altar tomb over the recumbent figure and a canopy over this, with indents on the back wall for several brass plates, of a kneeling man and achievements.

Weever³⁸ writing in 1631, says: "In the North wall of the Chancell is a faire marble tombe, with the portraiture of a dead man lying upon his shroud: the most artificially cut in stone that ever man beheld; all the plates of brasse are stolne away, onely some few peeces remaining, containing these words:

. . . Hospitalitate inclytus, genere praeclarus . . .
 Hanc Vrnam Officij causa. . . .
 Ecce quem cernis tuo nomini semper devotum
 Suscipe in sinum Virgo Maria tuum.
 Spes me non fallat quam in te semper habebam
 Virgo de facilem votis natum et.

This monument was erected to the memory of Sir William Weston Knight, Lord Prior of Saint Johns, Jerusalem, at the time of the dissolution of the said Priory, to whom Henry the eighth for his maintenance had allowed one thousand pound of yearely pension during his life. Of which summe he received never a penny: for so it fortunied, that upon the seventh day of May, 1540, being Ascension day, and the same day of the dissolution of the house, he was dissolved by death, which strooke him to the heart, at the first time when he heard of the dissolution of his order."

2. *Isabel Sackville, 1570.*

Isabel Sackvile, the twenty-fourth and last Prioress of the Community of black nuns at Clerkenwell, was interred in the Priory church. Weever (p. 429) says: "She lieth buried under a marble stone in the church of the nunnery neare unto the high altar, whereupon this inscription, or epitaph, is engraven in brasse.

Hic iacet Isabella Sackvile, quae fuit Priorissa nuper Prioratus de Clerkenwel, tempore dissolutionis eiusdem Prioratus, quae obiit 21 Octobris, Ann. Dom. Millesimo quingentesimo septuagesimo: et Ann. Reg. Regin. Elisabeth. Dei gra. etc. duodecimo."

In 1785 Matthew Skinner wrote to the Gentleman's Magazine³⁹ a description of this lady and her brass, accompanied by an engraving. Though small and not skilfully executed this illustration shows, above, a lozenge bearing the arms of Sackville, *quarterly or and gules a bend (vair?)*, and below this the upper part of a figure of a woman dressed apparently in nun's habit, despite the date of her death. Hatching on the illustration indicates that the lower part of the figure and the rectangular inscription plate beneath were already missing at that date.

What remained of the brass was presumably lost or sold three years later when the church was demolished.

Stow also records "fair plated stones" in this church in memory of Anne Blunt, 1504; Francis White, 1566; Elizabeth Ascough, 1570; William Dallison, 1585; Francis Butler, 1615; and Thomas Bedingfield, 1613, "one of the honourable band of gentlemen pensioners unto the late famous Queen Elizabeth, and master of the tents and pavillions unto the most mighty King James."

NOTES

25. Harleian Society, Vol. 57. Berkshire, 1908, p. 174.
26. Will of Anne Barker, P.C.C. 66 Huddleston.
27. P.C.C. 56 Scott.
28. Surrey Arch. Collections, XXVIII, 83.
29. Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, Middlesex, 1937, p. 8.
30. Morley, Monumental Brasses of Berkshire, 1924, p. 187.
31. Weever, Ancient Funerall Monuments, 1631, p. 526.
32. Faulkner, History of Chiswick, 1845, p. 320.
33. M. Stephenson, List of Monumental Brasses, 1926, p. 317.
34. J. P. Malcolm, Londinium Redivivum, Vol. III, p. 212 (1803).
35. Stow, Survey of London, Strype's edition, 1720, Vol. II, p. 64.
36. D.N.B. II, p. 165.
37. P.C.C., 18 Ketchyn.
38. Weever, Ancient Funerall Monuments, 1631, p. 430.
39. Gentleman's Magazine, 1785, 55, pt. 2, p. 935.