THE BRASSES OF MIDDLESEX PART 15: HAYES

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I. Robert Lellee, half-effigy of a priest in mass vestments, *ca.* 1370, with inscription; on Chancel floor.

This brass is similar in style to a number of other effigies of priests of about this date and, by this evidence, makes it, with that of Edmund Flambard at Harrow described in the last part of this series, the earliest figure brass in date remaining in the county. It has been relaid in the Chancel; no record exists of the original design of this memorial.

The figure, showing tonsured head with curly hair and sunken cheeks, has a wide amice around the neck, chasuble and alb which shows at the cuffs. The half effigy was not uncommon at this period; metal sheet was in short supply. This example is 14 in high, and below is a rectangular plate $2\frac{3}{8}$ in by $16\frac{1}{2}$ in on which is engraved in blackletter:

Hic iacet Robtus Lellee quon dam Rector huius Ecclesie.

Apart from stating that he was Rector of this church there is no other information, not even the date of death. The list of Rectors shows him intermediate between William Durrant and John Cressingham—Durrant was rector as late as 1366, being already Master of Merton College, Oxon., and became a Canon of Hereford. He was rector of St. Michael's Queenshithe in 1372. He died in 1375, the same year that John Cressingham's tenure came to an end.

II. Robert Burgeys, Rector, ob. 1421; inscription only, relaid in Chancel.

This inscription, in blackletter, is on a rectangular plate $4\frac{1}{2}$ in high and $16\frac{3}{4}$ in wide, and reads:

Hic iacet Robert' Burgeys quond' Rector istius eccliē qui obiit xii° die Januarii A° dīī m°cccc° xxi° cui' aīe ppiciet' deu'.

He was rector from 1408 until his death.

III. Walter Grene Esq. in armour, *ob.* 1456, with four shields and mutilated marginal inscription; on table tomb against N. wall in N. aisle.

The brass is inlaid on a moulded marble slab lying on a stone chest tomb which stands against the N. wall of the church. The chest has upon its front face three traceried panels and there is at each end a panel; all enclosing (stone) shields with the arms of Grene and Grene impaling Warner. A photograph of the tomb appears on Plate 14 in the R.C.H.M. volume on Middlesex.

On the slab is the figure of a man in plate armour, 35 in long. He is bare-headed and with close-cropped hair; the head rests on a jousting helm and the feet on a griffin. The figure is similar in style to several others of the same date and probably derived from the same design and workshop (for example, at Isleworth in Middlesex, Little Waltham and Willingale Doe in Essex; Marston Morteyn, Beds.; Ulcombe, Kent; and Crowhurst, Surrey). The neck and shoulders are protected by a series of narrow plates and these are covered by two plain pauldrons. The elbow pieces are of moderate size and the gauntlets have overlapping plates with peaked cuffs. The skirt of lames is, in this style, long and divided not only hoopwise but each ring is divided on the front side into four escalloped plates.

At the four corners of the slab are shields of arms. The upper dexter and lower sinister bear Grene: *azure*, *a chevron argent between three bucks trippant or*. The other two shields bear Grene impaling sable a fess between three fleurs-de-lis ermine for Warner.

The edge of the slab is chamfered and carries on the three faces a strip inscription which was arranged for convenience to be read from the outside. Starting at the top (west) end the blackletter inscription reads:

Hic iacet Corpus Walteri Grene Armigeri/ qui obiit in ffesto Concepcoīs bē Marie Virginis videlt Octavo die Decembris Anno dī m°cccc°

At this point, about three-quarters along the major side, the inscription is broken and the remainder has long been lost.

The inscription is uninformative about Walter Grene and there is no evidence that he married or had children. For so elegant a tomb and well-engraved brass this is curious. He was, in fact, a man of considerable standing and importance—a member of Parliament for Middlesex no fewer than eight times between 1414 and 1446; a Justice of the Peace in the same county for two periods, one of 17 and the second of 16 years; he served on various Middlesex commissions, including oyer and terminer, between 1416 and 1455; and he was Controller of Tonnage and Poundage in the Port of London.¹

On the 10th August 1434 he bought from Isabel, widow of Thomas Brown, grocer, of London, the "Checker on the hoope" in "Walthamcrouch" and the "Belle on the hoope" also in Waltham Holy Cross.² In 1439–40 he was collector of the wool subsidy and customs at Ipswich. In 1445 he conveyed premises in Hendon to the Hospital of St. Bartholomew.

Walter Grene was the son of Walter Grene of Bridgnorth, co. Salop, and he was twice married. In the pedigree of Burbage of Parke Hall³ his first wife's name is doubtfully given as the daughter of . . . Ade, of St. Ivone. It is more confidently given by Mill Stephenson⁴ as the daughter of Adam St. Ive. By this wife he had "several" children. One was Joan who married Myles Windsor of Stanwell in Middlesex, the only son and heir of Richard Windsor. Myles went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and, dying on the way on 30th September 1451, was buried at Ferrara in the monastery of St. Bartholomew, before the choir door. He left as his son and heir Thomas who was only 11 at his father's death, who in turn had a son, Sir Andrew Windsor Knt. of Stanwell, who was created Lord Windsor in 1529. A second daughter of Walter Grene's first marriage was Catharine (given incorrectly as granddaughter in Holt & Wedgewood) who married first, as his second wife, John Gaynesford of Crowhurst in Surrey, by whom she had five recorded children. After his death in 1460 she married Sir Edmund Rede Knt. of Boarstall in Bucks., as his second wife.

Walter Grene's second wife was Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Warner, M.P., of Hayes, being seized of the manor of Cowley Peachey and other lands in Middlesex. The children of this marriage given in the pedigree already referred to⁵ were: Robert—later Sir Robert Green; John said of Essex, but elsewhere as Sheriff of Kent in 1476 and buried at Chislehurst; Alice, who married first John Arderne of Leigh in Surrey, and secondly John Holgrave, a Baron of the Exchequer, having at least three children by each husband;



dam Rector Sunus Emelie

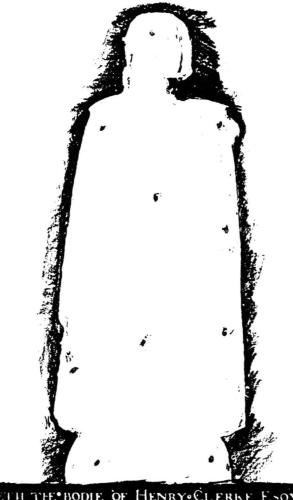
Robert Lellee, Rector, *ca.* 1370. HAYES I rubbed 13.ii.74 by L. E. James

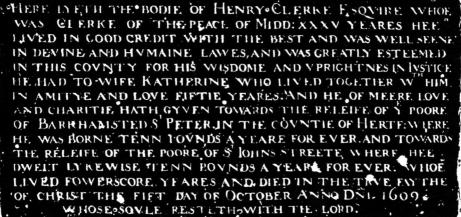


Walter Grene Esquier, ob. 1456. HAYES III rubbed 13.ii.74 by H. K. Cameron



Thomas and Elizabeth Higate and family. He died 1576. HAYES IV rubbed 13.ii.74 by Nicholas White





Henry Clerke Esquire, ob. 1609. HAYES VI rubbed 13.ii.74 by J. Weeks



Robert Burgcys, Rector, ob. 1421. HAYES II rubbed 13.ii.74 by L. E. James

HERE LIETH BVRIEDANNE THE DAVGHTER OF ALAN HENDRE AND ANNE MILLET, WHO DIED THE 31 DAY OF OCTOBER 1605.

Anne Hendre, ob. 1605. HAYES V rubbed 13.ii.74 by L. E. James

Here Lyeth X Body of VEARE IEN YNS AGED 28 YEARS, who dyed 8. Octob. 1644. (Eldest davght. of S. Iames Palmer of Dornye in Y covnt. Byckingh. K. Gent. Vsher of Y Privie Chamber to King Charles. and Martha His wife, davght. of S. Will: Garrett of Dornye afores. K. who lyeth byried at Enfeild in Y covnt. Hartfd.) The tryely vertyoys & dearely beloved wife of Thomas Ienyns of Hayes in Covnt. Middles. Eso, being maried Eleven yeares & halfe by whom He had G somes & 4 davght. being Y second some to S. Ioh. Ienyns of Chyrchill in covnt. Somers. Kn. & Dorothe His wife sole heire to Thom. Bylbeck of Kingsto Seamer in covn. Somers. Eso, both W. Lyes byried in Savoy Lond.

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Elizabeth, who married Sir John Catesby Knt., Judge of the Common Pleas, a son of Edmund Catesby and a cousin of the notorious William Catesby; and lastly Joan, who was unmarried at her father's death in 1456, but for whom provision was made in his Will against her marriage. She married Sir Ralph Salesbury of Rythen in Wales.

However, there is evidence of two other children included in the version of the pedigree given in Cass.⁶ A brass inscription in Monken Hadley church commemorates Philip and Margaret Grene who, with Margaret Somercotes, all died on the one day, the 16th September 1442. This curious brass is described in an earlier paper in this series.⁷ Walter Grene died on the 8th December 1456, two days after making his Will.⁸ He makes bequests to his wife Elizabeth—300 marks in goods and chattels, and to his daughter Joan 100 marks for her marriage.

He was buried at Hayes whence his wife had come and to which she no doubt returned. As one of the executors of her husband's Will she would have been party to the instructions for preparing his monument which could account for his burial at Hayes. Although her arms are to be seen impaled with his, both on the brass and on the sides of the tomb in stone, there is no mention of her or any children on the inscription (the length of the missing strips seems insufficient) nor are they depicted in figure.

The other executors of Walter Grene's Will include Sir Robert Grene, his son, John Gaynesford, John Arderne and John Catesby, all his sons-in-law. John Gaynesford was also a Member of Parliament (for Surrey in 1453-54) as were his two brothers William and Nicholas, and their father John. He may well have been responsible for choosing the craftsmen for the tomb and the brass. His own father, John Gainsford, who died in 1450, is commemorated in the church at Crowhurst in Surrey by a brass so very closely like that of Walter Grene that it must have come from the same pattern and workshop. Even the size —it is $37\frac{1}{2}$ in. high—shows great similarity. The two noticeable differences are that Grene has the unusual griffin at his feet, whereas the Gaynesford figure has a lion. Although the Crowhurst brass is also on a table tomb the inscription is not on a chamfer border, but on a rectangular plate at the foot of the figure. There is no doubt, from an examination of the script, that they are from the same pattern. John Gaynesford the son, who was Walter Grene's executor, also has a brass at Crowhurst on a tomb. He is shown in armour, which is markedly different in style from that of his father or of Walter Grene, although he died only four years after the latter. The inscription is not only similar in script, but may be compared with Grene's in the manner of describing the day of his death as "in festo Tāslacois Sci Thome Martiris".

Another of Walter Grene's executors, also a son-in-law, is represented on a brass, but only as a child. This is John Arderne who is shown as one of six named children below the effigies of his parents, John (ob. 1449) and Elizabeth in Leigh church in Surrey. (This brass, too, is from the same workshop.) John was one of only two mentioned in their father's Will and therefore likely to be surviving his death. He married Alice Green, by whom he had three children. One of these, Richard, is also commemorated by a brass at Leigh.

The remaining executor was Sir John Catesby, a judge and husband of Elizabeth.

IV. Thomas Higate, *ob.* 1576, and his wife Elizabeth, with five sons and four daughters, inscription in six Latin and six English verses, a heraldic achievement and one shield; on a brick chest tomb against the outer wall in the S. aisle.

This brass, though somewhat mutilated, is a good example of Elizabethan engraving. Thomas Higate is shown in armour, an ungainly figure of which the upper part, including the head, is disproportionately smaller than the lower part. The head is bearded and uncovered and rests upon a much too small helmet. Lace ruffs show at the neck and at the wrists. The chest and arms are covered by elaborate plates and a skirt of lames hangs over trunk hose, or large breeches, puffed out and slashed. The legs and feet are completely covered with plate, and spurs are worn. A long sword hangs at his left side and a dagger at his right. He stands upon a mound with flowering plants. The whole space between the legs and between the sword and dagger and the legs is part of the brass and is strongly hatched, producing a rather heavy effect.

On his left side is the figure of his wife, the two facing slightly towards one another. The male figure is $37\frac{1}{2}$ in. high, the female 2 in shorter. The bottom 8 in of each figure is engraved on a separate plate, although this piece of the woman is now missing. She wears a "Queen Mary" bonnet, ruffs at neck and wrists, full puffed sleeves, with a narrow waist and full but plain skirt. From her simple waist belt (with a bow in front) hangs an ornament on a long cord. This figure also is of bad proportion, being too long for the size of head and torso, but this is to some extent relieved in its present condition because the lower part is missing.

Below the two figures is a rectangular inscription plate $6\frac{1}{4}$ in. high and originally $30\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide. Some $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. of the sinister end of this plate is now missing. The inscription is divided into two parts by a narrow cross-hatched dividing border, which also surrounds the sinister half of the inscription under the lady's figure, which is in English. A plain narrow border surrounds the Latin inscription beneath his figure. Both inscriptions are in black-letter and read:

In tumulo hoc positus Thomas Higattus in armis Armiger egregius relligione pius. In thalamos coniux venit Elizabetha fidelis Addidit hisce deus pignora chara novem. Dum vixit Thomas res cunctas ordine gessit, aequi defensor, mortuus astra tenet.

obiit anno salutis humanae. 1576. mense Augusti

This rather fulsome piece may be rendered thus:

Thomas Higate in his armour is placed in this tomb, an outstanding Esquire, pious in his religion. Elizabeth was his faithful wife in marriage. God added to these two nine dear pledges of love (=children) While he lived Thomas conducted his affairs in an orderly manner. A defender of justice, dead he grasps immortality. He died in the year of human salvation 1576 in the month of August.

The other part of the inscription, beneath the lady, has been broken and part is now missing. What remains carries on in the same vain, in English:

Thomas Higate Esquier lies buryed A faithful Christian beloved fa A furtherar of Justice to ponnish Whoe by Elizabeth his wife childr His soule no doubt remains in faithfu Amongest ye faithfull flock, who sine

Below the inscription plate are two groups of children; beneath the man, five sons all bare-

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headed and in civilian dress, facing, like their father, somewhat to the left; beneath the wife, four daughters face the other way, the first now being without head.

These plates are each 10 in high, the sons 10 in across and the daughters $8\frac{1}{2}$ in across and are made up of three separate pieces.

Above the head of Thomas Higate is a rectangular plate $6\frac{1}{2}$ in wide and 8 in high, on which is his shield of arms, bearing gules two bars argent, on a bend or, a torteau between as many leopards' faces azure, surmounted by a helm and mantling and a crest, being a wolf's head erased gules. Above the wife is a shield $5\frac{3}{4}$ in x 6 in bearing Higate impaling a coat of arms that appears to belong to Stonerd of Loughton, co. Essex, per fess sable and or a pale engrailed counterchanged, three eagles displayed of the second.

In the Middlesex Visitations⁹ the descent of Thomas Higate of Hayes is shown but not the name of his wife. The Higate family were, however, established in Essex and Suffolk.¹⁰ Thomas Higatte of Fearinge in Essex had a second son, Thomas, of whom nothing further is recorded. It therefore seems quite likely that the Thomas who moved to Hayes took with him a wife from Essex. The advowson of the Rectory of Hayes was held by a son Thomas Higate in 1589 and 1591 under a grant to his father Thomas from the Earl of Pembroke.

V. Anne, the daughter of Alan Hendre, ob. 1605. Inscription only, on floor of nave.

A small rectangular plate, 4 in x 13 in wide has upon it in Roman capitals the following inscription:

HERE LIETH BVRIED ANNE THE DAUGHTER OF ALAN HENDRE AND ANNE MILLET WHO DIED THE 31th DAY OF OCTOBER 1605

The inscription suggests a young, unmarried girl and this is reinforced by the belief that she died before her parents. Her father died in 1611, being described in his Will¹¹ as of St. Andrews parish in Holborn. He left his lands in Surrey and Berkshire to his son Allan; if he died without heirs then to his daughter (presumably d. in law) and if she should not have heir then to his wife. This implies that his wife was already well provided for and, as a Millet, she was of a family of considerable consequence locally in the county¹² of Middlesex. He left \pounds_{10} p.a. to his kinsman Edward Horde and his heirs, \pounds_{3} p.a. to the poor of Egham and \pounds_{3} p.a. for the repair of the highways there; and \pounds_{20} for Roger Hendre. He caused 40 gold rings to be made at 10 shillings each, with Death's heads and the motto "Memento Mori Allan Hendre" for his wife and friends.

VI. Henry Clerke, ob. 1609, effigy lost, inscription remains, on floor of Chancel.

It is unfortunate that the interesting figure of Henry Clerke has been lost. It would appear from the indent that he may well have been in legal costume, with coif on his head. The figure was $25\frac{1}{2}$ in high, and immediately below it is a rectangular plate, $12\frac{1}{4}$ in x $24\frac{1}{2}$ in on which, in Roman capitals, is an English inscription in 15 lines. This reads:

> HERE LYETH THE BODIE OF HENRY CLERKE ESQUIRE WHOE WAS CLERKE OF THE PEACE OF MIDD: XXXV YEARES HEE LIVED IN GOOD CREDIT WITH THE BEST AND WAS WELL SEENE IN DEVINE AND HUMAINE LAWES, AND WAS GREATLY ESTEEMED IN THIS COUNTY FOR HIS WISDOME AND VPRIGHTNES IN IVSTICE HE HAD TO WIFE KATHERINE WHO LIVED TOGETHER WTHHIM IN AMITYE AND LOVE FIFTIE YEARES. AND HE OF MEERE LOVE

AND CHARITIE HATH GYVEN TOWARDS THE RELEIFE OF Y^E POORE OF BARKHAMSTED S^T PETER IN THE COVNTIE OF HERTF: WHERE HE WAS BORNE TENN POVNDS A YEAR FOR EVER. AND TOWARDS THE RELEIFE OF THE POORE OF S^T IOHNS STREETE WHERE HEE DWELT LYKEWISE TENN POVNDS A YEARE FOR EVER WHOE LIVED FOWERSCORE YEARS AND DIED IN THE TRVE FAYTHE OF CHRIST THE FIFT DAY OF OCTOBER ANNO DŃI 1609 WHOSE SOVLE RESTETH WITH THE LORD.

He was Clerke of the Peace for Middlesex from 1559 until 1593.

The inscription mentions his wife Katherine who lived with him for 50 years. She survived him, dying on 26th December 1613, and elected to be buried at Harrow where she was born. A brass in her memory is in Harrow church and was described (No. XIII) in the last part of this series. She was described as the wife of Henry Clerke of "Rislipe" who was "buried at Heyes where his monument is crected" and with whom she lived 52 years.

His brass indicates benefactions to his birthplace, Berkhamsted, as well as to St. John Street, London, where he lived and worked. It was no doubt in this house that his widow "dyed at hir house in London" in 1613. In his Will¹³ he asks to be buried where it pleases God—and to be buried without prayer or vainglory. He gives "a dole" for the poor at the funeral; 40 shillings to the poor of St. John Street "which be honest and most needy" and the same amount to the poor of Berkhamstead St. Peter; and bequests to his cousins and brothers.

VII. Veare Jenyns, ob. 1644; inscription only, on floor of S. aisle.

An inscription plate of trapezoidal shape lies on the floor near the Higate tomb. The height of the plate is $10\frac{1}{4}$ in and it is $19\frac{1}{2}$ in wide at the top and 18 in wide at the bottom. On this plate is engraved, in Roman capitals, an English inscription in 13 lines. This reads as follows:

HERE LYETH Y^E BODY OF VEARE IENYNS AGED 28 YEARS WHO DYED 8. OCTOB. 1644. (ELDEST DAVGHT. ^R OF S^R IAMES PALMER OF DORNYE IN Y^E COUNT^Y. BVCKINGĤ. K^T. GENT. VSHER OF Y^E PRIVIE CHAMBER TO KING CHARLES. AND MARTHA HIS WIFE. DAVGHT^R. OF S^R WILL : GARRETT OF DORNYE AFORES^D. K^T. WHO LYETH BVRIED AT ENFEILD. IN Y^E COUNT. HARTF^RD.) THE TRVELY VERTVOVS & DEARELY BELOVED WIFE OF THOMA^S IENYNS OF HAYES IN y^e COVNT. MIDDLES^X. ESQ BEING MARIED ELEVEN YEARES & HALFE BY WHOM HE HAD 6 SONNES & 4 DAVGHT^{R,S} BEING Y^E SECOND SONNE TO S^R. IOĤ IENYNS OF CHVRCHILL IN COVNT. SOMERS^T. KN^T. & DOROTHE HIS WIFE SOLE HEIRE TO THOM^S BVLBECK OF KINGSTŌ SEAMER IN COVN. SOMERS^T. ESQ BOTH W^{CH} LYES BVRIED IN SAVOY LOND

The Jenyns family were, as their inscription indicates, widely connected. There was a William Jenyns, Lancaster Herald, early in the reign of Henry VIII, at Ipseley, Warwicks.,¹⁴ and many of the name in Shropshire,¹⁵ some moving to Dunmow in Essex. They were Lords of the Manor of Hayes in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and Veare's memorial is one of eight to members of the family in this church.

Veare's father was close to Charles I as the gentleman usher of the Privy Chamber. He was also Chancellor of the Order of the Garter. Poor "vertuous and dearely beloved" Veare died young, after delivering ten children in her $11\frac{1}{2}$ years of married life.

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VIII. Edward Chinn Walker, 1810, inscription S. aisle.

On the floor near to No. VII, is a small rectangular place 7 in high x $15\frac{1}{4}$ in wide on which is the following inscription:

> BENEATH are DEPOSITED the REMAINS of EDWARD CHINN WALKER an Hopeful endearing and much lamented Son of WILLIAM and ELIZABETH WALKER who was born on the 15th Sepr. 1807

and died of the Hooping Cough the 3rd June 1810.

NOTES

BRASSES OF MIDDLESEX

¹ A. D. Holt and J. C. Wedgwood. A History of Parliament 1439-1509; Vol. I. Biographies, p. 393.

- ² Cal. Cl. Rolls; 2 Henry VI, p. 323.
- ³ Harleian Soc., LXV, p. 79.
- ⁴ Surrey Arch. Collections XXVII, p. 34.
- ⁵ Cowley Peachey had passed by 1431 to Robert Warner, who died in 1439. He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, who married Walter Green. She was in possession in 1461 and died as a widow in 1473 leaving as heir her son, Rober Green (Will of Eliz. Green, P.C.C. 12 Wattys).
- ⁶ Monken Hadley, by F. C. Cass (Rector), 1880, p. 128. ⁷ Trans. L.M.A.S. 20 (1961), p. 6.
- 8 P.C.C. 15 Stokton.
- ⁹ Harleian Society, LXV, p. 87.
- ¹⁰ Harleian Society, XIII, p. 61.
- ¹¹ P.A.B. London; 86 Wood.
- ¹² See, for example, an earlier paper in this series; Vol. 20 (1960), p. 71.
- 13 P.C.C. 99 Dorset.
- ¹⁴ Harl. Soc. XII, p. 241.
 ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, XIII, p. 428; XXVIII, p. 275.

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