

# THE BRASSES OF MIDDLESEX

## PART 16: HENDON, HESTON

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### HENDON

- I. John Downner and wife Joan (effigies lost) and their son John 1515, in civil dress: on a fragment of a stone standing against the north wall in the N.E. Chapel.

What remains of this brass is on a fragment of a stone, some 4–5 in. thick, about  $21\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide and 24 in. high, which is now propped up against the north wall on the north east corner of the church. Although it would appear at first sight to be the lower part of the original stone with the inscription and small figure of the son in their original positions it is evident on closer examination that a change has occurred at some time. The inscription is now at the top of the remaining stone and occupies almost its full width. It is on a rectangular plate 5 in. high and  $17\frac{1}{2}$  in. wide and is in six lines of blackletter, reading:

Pray for the sowlls of Johñ Downner and Johane hys wyfe yē  
whych Johñ departyd the      day of      the yere of oʳ  
lord mcccc & x      And of yowre charyte pray for the soule of  
Johñ downner the sonne of the forsayd Johñ and Johane hys wyf  
the whech departyd the xii day of August the yere of oʳ lord  
mcccc & xv on whose sowllys allmyghtry Jhū have mercy

A small civilian figure  $9\frac{3}{4}$  in. high is placed centrally below this inscription, the gap between them about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. He wears a simple cassock-like gown, fastened up to the neck and reaching almost to the ground. The sleeves are wide and reveal an under garment around the wrists.

Two earlier rubbings, one dated 1921, in the Society of Antiquaries Collection show the same disposition of pieces and a note confirms that they were on this stone fragment. Lysons recorded this brass, in his day, as on the floor near the vestry door. What has hitherto escaped notice is that there are still three lead plugs in the stone, one on either side of the base of the figure and one at the side of his head (on the dexter side). It is also possible to discern the outline of an indent in the stone. The two lower pins appear to have held a small rectangular plate such as would be used for a brief inscription. Less certain in outline is the indent above to which the third plug belongs. The lower part of John Downner's figure now covers part of the rectangular indent. Either his figure has been moved from its original position or the Downner brass was laid on a stone appropriated from some earlier monumental use.

Not much is to be deduced from what remains of this brass. The only date filled in—12th August, 1515,—was that of the son's death. It was laid presumably soon thereafter, either by one or both the parents in grief at losing their only child (no more are mentioned). It was evidently intended that the father's date of death should be recorded as gaps are left for this purpose, but these were never filled in. No such provision was made however for the mother.

In part 14 of this series a brass inscription to Thomas Downer in Harrow church was described.<sup>1</sup> He died in 1502. Among the beneficiaries of his will was a John Downer of Cornhill Hall, and the family were evidently farming extensively in the northern part of the county.

II. Richard Marsh, *ob.* 1615, inscription only. Mural on S. side of N. chancel wall.

On a rectangular plate 7 in. high and 26 in. wide is an English inscription in six lines of Roman capitals, reading as follows:

HERE LYETH BVRIED YE BODIE OF RICHARD MARSH  
YEOMAN LATE OF THIS PARYSH HEE MARYED ALCE  
THE DAUGHTER OF IOHN OXTON OF YE PARRYSH OF  
ELSTREY BY WHOME HEE HAD TWO CHILDREN IOHN  
& MARY HE DECEASED YE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF AVGVST A<sup>O</sup> 1615  
BEING OF THE AGES OF 37 YEARS.

The engraving is bold and clear. The last line is fitted in at the bottom of the plate in smaller letters.

Before an altar in the N.E. corner of the church lies a blue stone in which is an indent with ten dowels still in position. This corresponds exactly with this brass and its removal is confirmed by a note written by Mill Stephenson in 1921 on the rubbing in the Society of Antiquaries Collection. The brass is now highly polished, but I am happy to record that the new vicar has caused this practice to be discontinued.

Several yeomen of this name were in Hendon about this time and P.C.C. wills are extant to Randall Marshe, yeoman, of Gladwynstreate, Hendon, who died in 1608; to Isabell his widow, of Clarenstreet in Hendon, who died four years later; and to John Mershe, yeoman, of Hiwood Hill, Hendon, who died in 1609. The name of Marsh long persisted in Hendon; from 1461 to 1796.<sup>2</sup>

III. Robert Nuttinge, *ob.* 1618, inscription only; mural N. side of N. chancel arch.

On a rectangular plate 12 in. high and 20 in. wide is an inscription in ten plus eight lines of Roman capitals which reads:

HERE LYETH THE BODYE OF ROBERT NVTTINGE LATE OF HENDON IN THE COVNTIE  
OF MIDDLESEX ESQUIRE IN LIFE IVST HONEST AND FAITHFVLL IN DEATH  
PATIENT RELIGIOVS AND CONSTANT WHO HAD TO WIFE ELIZABETH NICHOLS  
DAVGHTER TO ROBERT NICHOLS OF HENDON AFFORSAIDE BY WHOME HE HAD NO ISSVE  
LIKEWISE HE HAD TO WIFE MARGERIE STAFFORTON DAUGHTER TO HVMIFREIE STAFFOR  
TON OF ESTOMSTED IN THE COVNTIE OF BARKE BY WHON HE HAD 4 SONNES AND ONE  
DAVGHTER THAT IS TO SAYE IOHN RICHARD ELIZABETH ROBERT AND RALPHE. ALSO  
HE HAD TO WYFE IANE ATTHOWE THE WIDDOWE OF IOHN ATTHOWE OF BRISLEY IN THE  
COVNTIE OF NORFFOLKE BY WHOME HE HAD 2 SONNES AND 3 DAUGHTERS THAT IS TO  
SAYE ROBERT FFRANCIS EDWARD IANE AND IANE HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE 22 OF  
APRIL 1618

BY POWER DEATH HATH OF EVERY MORTAIL WIGHT  
HATH ROBERT NVTTINGE TO HEAVEN TOOKE HIS FLIGHT  
TREW FREIND TO PEACE AN EMIMY TO STRIFE  
LIVEINGE FIFTY AND SEVEN A HAPPIE LIFE  
WHER OF HIS MARRIAGE YEARES WERE THIRTIE SEAVEN  
HAD CHILDREN LIKE THE OLIVE PLANTS OF HEAVEN  
BLESSED THE DEAD THAT IN THE LORD DO ENDE  
THEY REST FROM LABOVRS AND THEIR WORKES ASSEND

The blue stone from which this brass was removed at a restoration still remains on the floor of the N.E. chapel. It measured  $78\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $33\frac{1}{2}$  in. and showed two rectangular indents. One, 12 in. by 20 in., matches the inscription plate exactly; the other immediately above measures 9 in. high and 8 in. across. This was for a heraldic achievement, already lost in 1921,

but fortunately an old dabbing exists in the Society of Antiquaries collection. By the dabbing is written: "The arms of Nutshall of Lancaster are *argent a squirrel sejant gules supporting a hazel branch vert fructed or*. The same as the above for Nuttinge, the crest as the arms". The arms shown on the dabbing correspond with this description, which also is given by Burke for Nutshall.

He made his will<sup>3</sup> on 20th April, 1618, two days before he died, and directs that his body should be buried at the discretion of his executor whom he names as his son Richard. His bequests are orderly and highly specific, detailed so that at law there should be no doubt which of his sons inherited what, and there is much repetition to ensure legal precision.

First he gives to the poor of Hendon five pounds to be distributed after his funeral (there was no doubt a good attendance).

Next he gives to the poor of Whitchurch in the county of Bucks. twenty shillings to be distributed to them within 30 days of his funeral.

He then remembers his old servant Thomas Wright, to whom he leaves "three pounds of lawfull money of England if he be living after my decease to be paid within three months by my executor".

To George Crosse his servant he leaves ten pounds if he is still serving him at his decease, to be paid within five months.

After these prime requests he leaves the rest of his estate to his family. First, to his well-beloved wife "fiftie pounds of lawfull money of England" to be paid within three months of his decease, and "the thirde part of my householde stuffe". He leaves her the house and orchard with the appurtenances which he lately purchased of John Wise for the space of three years. He requests his executor Richard Nuttinge or his assigns to pay her one hundred pounds (of lawful money of England) yearly, twenty five pounds each quarter, at the aforesaid dwelling house at Hendon "for and during her naturall life for her Joynture as it is specified in a paire of Indentures made betwixt us at our marriage in consideration of her dower and that she shall challenge noe other dower of my landes".

To his son Robert the elder and to his heires males of his body lawfully begotten (a phrase repeated every time a son's name is mentioned) he leaves the Parsonage and Rectory of Whitchurch with all the lands and all manner of tithes and profits with the appurtenances thereunto belonging which he had "lately" purchased of Sir Francis Fortescue Knt. If Robert died without male heir then it should go to his son Raphe and, failing heires male of his body lawfully begotten to Robert his youngest son etc, and failing there, to Richard Nutting etc. If that failed then to the right heires of me the Testator for ever.

And Robert the elder is to pay John Nuttinge (another son) forty pounds yearly in quarterly sums of ten pounds. Whoever inherits the Whitchurch property must continue to pay John the annual sum of forty pounds "during the naturall life of the said John Nuttinge".

Ralph is to receive one meadowe called Broad mead "by estimacon nyne acres" being "by Goldherstall upon the west and the lands nowe Thomas Tanner hinge on the southe and the lands of Allin Harrowe hinge on the northe" and our other feild called Highfeilde adjoining the said broad meade containing five acres "more or less" and four acres of woodland on the north of Highfield and ten acres of woodland to the south of Highfield. He is also to have one other wood called wildlanrowe or Redinge grove abutting on the lane called wildland on the north and the wilde on the south, and another twelve acres to the west.

If Ralph has no male heirs this property goes to Robert the younger, or Richard, or Robert senior, in that order.

Robert his youngest son is to receive "one tenement with orchard and garden and barnes, stables and other housinge. And also two meadowes or prells of land called Fosters tenement conteyning fourteen acres lying in Braynt Streat in the parish of Hendon". Failing heirs this passes to Ralph, Richard and Robert the elder in that order.

To his daughter Elizabeth Nuttinge, three hundred pounds of lawful English money to be paid within a year of his decease.

To his daughter Fraunces Nuttinge two hundred and fifty pounds (the fifty was added above the line!) to be paid within two years ("and it to be put forth to her best profit").

To his daughter Jane Nutting two hundred pounds to be paid within three years.

If any of these sisters die before marriage or reaching the age of 21 her portion to be divided among the others.

Within six months forty shillings is to be paid to John Athowe, Robert Athowe and Mary Athowe.

To his father-in-law Mr. Thomas Linford and what appears to be Mother in Mr. Linford twenty shillings apiece.

To everyone of his manservants he gives five shillings apiece and three shillings and fourpence each to the womenservants.

Lastly to his son Richard Nutting, whom he makes his sole executor, the lease and term of years yet to come of Hodford and Cowhouse<sup>4</sup> with all the lands meadows fordings pastures arables woods underwood and their appurtenances in the parish of Hendon as it is set down in the lease with the dean and chapter of St. Peter of Westminster.

All other possessions to go to Richard to help him pay the debts.

This will is given at some length as an interesting example of a landed gentleman of this period, leaving considerable property to his widow and four of his sons; mentioning by name farmlands and tenements in Hendon; seeing that his servants had some recompense, particularly the two chief manservants; a small bequest to members of his wife's family by a previous marriage and even to his father-in-law. It is evident that none of the daughters was either married or of age. There is no mention of Edward who may have died young as presumably, did the first Jane. John did not receive lands, but forty pounds a year for life; he was presumably not a farmer. He had already married as a reference in Colchester shows.<sup>5</sup>

John Nutting gent. of Hampstead, Mddx., bachelor, aged 23 or 24, son of Robert Nuttinge of Hendon, gent. to Susan James, age 25, with the consent of her father, Robert James, gent, of Hampstead; 23 March 1610/1 at Hampstead.

#### OTHER BRASSES IN THE CHURCH

On the S. wall of the church:

- a. War memorial plates.
- b. On the organ console; extra stops, given in 1927 by the Government of the Straits Settlements in memory of Sir Stamford Raffles.
- c. To commemorate the restoration of the church in 1915.

On the W. wall of the church:

- d. to Robert Elworthy, 28 March 1846–1 April 1925, an elaborate triple plate, the centre one with the inscription between low relief figures of St. Michael and St. George; in the outer two incised figures of a man sowing and a woman reaping.

- e. to Thomas Samuel Dangerfield, Vicar's warden 1919-1925, b. 1874, d. December 1931.
- f. to George Sneath, churchwarden 16 years. The ancient bells in this tower were restored and rehung by his sons and daughter in the year 1924.

On the N. side of the N. chancel arch, above brass No. III:

- g. A plate commemorating Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, F.R.S., LL.D. etc. 5 July 1781-5 July 1826, d. at Highwood, Middx. (a stone covers the burial place).

On the N. wall of the church:

- h. An interesting and well-engraved figure brass set in a round-headed recess in a stone with mouldings, the incisions filled with pigmented material. This is of a kneeling figure in clerical robes and commemorates the Rev. Newton Mant, vicar. Below is a rectangular plate,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $18\frac{1}{2}$  in. on which is engraved in black letter the following inscription:

To the glory of God and in affectionate remembrance of  
Newton Mant M.A. vicar of this Parish from MDCCCLxxxix  
to MDCCCvii He was afterwards Rector of Cossington  
Leicestershire where he died and was buried in May  
mdcccxi His many friends in Hendon have placed this  
memorial in this Church which he did much to beautify  
in grateful recollection of his xv years faithful and devoted  
ministry A man well beloved.

- j. to Margaret Mant wife of Rev. Newton Mant and fourth daughter of the Rt. Hon. Beresford Hope and Lady Mildred Hope, died in 1900; figure of St. Margaret above.
- k. to James Henry Richardson 1835-1900 with figure of St. Barnabas above inscription; similar style to j.
- l. to Ernest, son of William Lawrence Bevir of Cirencester, ob. 2 July 1914; also to Raymond his second son, killed in the battle of the Somme, 1916.
- m. to Leonard Harben, 1851-1927; also Charlotte Mary, his wife, 1853-1932.
- n. At the side of the new communion rails to the Lady Chapel a plate commemorating their installation in memory of Thomas William Hawes, churchwarden and governor of St. Mary's Schools from 1926 to 1954.

#### BRASSES FORMERLY IN THE CHURCH

Weever<sup>6</sup> gives the following abbreviated inscriptions:

"Hic iacet Johannes de Brent armiger . . . obiit . . .  
An. Dom. 1467.  
Hic iacet Thomas Jacob et Johanna uxor eius, qui  
quidem Tho. ob. 1441 et Johanna. . . 1400.  
Here lyeth John Downner and Joan his wyf. Whos  
souls Iesu pardon . . . 1515.  
Hic iacet Petrus Goldesbrough civis et Aurifaber  
London qui obiit 1422  
Sancti Petre Pastor pro me precor esto rogator"

Lysons<sup>7</sup> one hundred and fifty years or so later mentions:

'On the floor (nave?) are brass plates in memory of John atte Hevyn, 1416; Peter Goldesburgh, citizen and goldsmith, 1422; and John Birt, 1467.

No trace remains of any of these brasses, but an indent of an early fifteenth century brass survived until 1954, one of the loveliest of its kind and in good and clear condition. A civilian

and a lady kneel opposite one another at the foot of a stem carrying a canopied tabernacle in which was seated the Virgin and child (probably). The foot of the stem was stepped and below this and the two figures was a rectangular inscription plate.

Imprecatory scrolls rise from each of the two figures. The stone measured about 9 ft. by 4 ft. A scaled drawing from a rubbing I made in February 1943 appeared in the Portfolio of the Monumental Brass Society<sup>8</sup> which is fortunate. Indents of lost brasses, if less informative than the brasses they once contained, are nevertheless highly important historical records and it is necessary that they should be preserved with care. It is particularly sad that this indent, probably the best in the county and one of the most beautiful remaining in the country, was wantonly destroyed—in part and therefore almost entirely—in a commemorative act a mere twenty years ago (see n. above) when new communion rails were grouted into stone slabs cemented over this stone, covering the bottom two to three feet including the two main figures. Even if restoration were now done it is doubtful whether the cemented stone could be removed from this monument without great damage to it. Victorian ‘restorers’ are often blamed for destroying our heritage, but ill-conceived practices continue to this day!

## HESTON

I. Mardocheus (Mordecai) Bownell, *ob.* 1617, wife and family: brass engraved *c.* 1581.

What remains of this brass is of interesting and unusual design. In an excellent paper on Heston church<sup>9</sup> a drawing by Sprague facing p. 208 shows the composition of the original, the lost parts being outlined from the indents then remaining. This very fine church was at that time already threatened—the page following Heale’s article notes that “much alarm and excitement having been occasioned amongst archaeologists by the recent report of an intended destruction of Heston church . . . how much of interest will perish by these works”. Fortunately no more of this brass was lost, but it was relaid in a new stone so that we are dependent on Sprague’s drawing to comprehend the original.<sup>10</sup> One piece was mislaid with another brass on the wall. A tracing of Sprague’s drawing (Fig. 5) on which the shaded portions were then already missing shows this unusual composition. The kneeling figure of Mardocheus Bownell can be seen in outline on the bottom missing plate, with his hands before him joined in prayer. He is kneeling before a prie-dieu or desk. Heales says that before him is a group of five or six children, but this is not self-evident from the indent. Children are normally portrayed, when kneeling, behind the parent. There would appear to have been a rectangular inscription plate below, about 20 in. across according to Sprague’s scale. We rely upon Lysons<sup>11</sup> for the name of the person commemorated by this brass so that the inscription was presumably there in his day. The drawing shows that a scroll, also missing, issued from the mouth of the figure. It is fortunate that this has since been found and is now set in the new stone as shown in (Fig. 6) from a rubbing made on 15th August, 1974. It is engraved in two lines of blackletter with a quotation, in English, from the book of the Wisdom of Solomon, often referred to simply as the book of Wisdom, one of the books of the Apocrypha which it is surprising to see in use in English at this time. The quotation, the opening words of Chapter 3, reads:

The soules of ye righteous are  
in the handes of god wisd. iii.

Above this was a rectangular plate which would also have had an inscription on it and immediately above this inscription the interesting principal plate which now remains.

Rectangular, 9 in. high and 13 in. wide, this has upon it the reclining figure of Mrs. Bownell apparently fully dressed and lying in bed, her head on two pillows. The sheet is folded back and her arms are upon it with the hands joined in prayer. The bed cover is patterned with emphasis on a criss-cross band, much in the style of the chrysom robes of the child lying on top. The whole bed is shown in perspective with curtains wrapped spirally around each of the fluted columns of the four poster and carving on the head board and on the under side of the top. In the space under the cover and above the figures is engraved in blackletter the text:

My helpe commeth of the  
Lorde which hath made  
both heaven & yearth. ps. cxxi.

On the sinister side of this plate is a small piece just under 7 in. high on which is engraved the figure of an angel in a long gown drawn in at the waist, with bare feet and arms apart as if coming to the help of the lady, whose head she is approaching. Beneath this should be the small text plate now wrongly associated with brass no. 3 on the south wall of the church. This is 3 in. high and 7 in. wide and has upon it in blackletter:

The Angell of the Lorde  
taryeth rounde aboute  
them that feare hym and  
delyvereth them. ps. 34.

Above the main plate is a half figure of the Almighty in the Heavens, with conventional representation of clouds from which He leans forward blessing the figure below. Below this engraving is a further text in blackletter on a plate  $2\frac{7}{8}$  in. high and 10 in. wide:

Come to me all ye that travayle  
and are heavye laden, & I will  
refreshe you. Matth. xi.

Sprague's drawing indicates that there was another very small plate, then already missing, immediately above that on which the lady is shown. It appears to be centrally placed on the stone and with reference to the plate above it, but not to that immediately below. In earlier centuries one might have expected the rising soul, but in the Protestant time of this brass one can but speculate on its purpose. The portrayal in this manner of women who died in child-birth is not uncommon at this period, but the overall composition of this brass is unique and it is sad that we cannot see the whole. The brass is also unusual, but not unique, in the engraving of so many texts, chosen perhaps as appropriate to a woman in travail. The quotation from the Apocrypha is particularly interesting at this time.

Mordecai Bownell was a cleric and evidently well-versed. He matriculated a pensioner from Pembroke College in Michaelmas 1568<sup>12</sup> and took his B.A. in 1572-3. He was vicar of Heston from 1570, succeeding his father Thomas Bownell in that office, and he remained there until 1581. He was also Rector of Cranford (1575-97), of Hanwell with Brintford (1591-96) and became Rector of Linwood in Lincolnshire in 1597. His will was proved<sup>13</sup> in 1617.

The brass must have been placed in Heston church at the death of his wife Constance whose burial is recorded in the Register on 30th August, 1581. The daughter Elizabeth was baptised on 30th July, but the infant's death is not recorded.

Lysons<sup>14</sup> writes that "on the floor are brass plates for Thomas Bownell, vicar, 1581".

Heale wrote in 1864 of a slab to the immediate west of the one now described, bearing an indent of a male figure standing sideways with an inscription formerly below of which the initial letters of each line only remain:

H..... So.....I.....day.....

In the stone is cut the inscription:

'Thomas Bownell olim hic vicari' obiit 22<sup>o</sup> Julii 1570.  
'Struxit hoc saxum Mardoche' Bownell hui' fili' ',

The Society of Antiquaries collection has a rubbing showing this indent with the very beginning of the inscription plate, 4 in. high, and the inscription in stone as given above. An earlier rubbing of the indent shows also a residual piece of the figure—the very top of his head. This collection also has a rubbing of the sinister part of an inscription, the remaining piece being about 9 in. long and the full original height of 3½ in. What is left reads:

.....interred and buried here  
.....ch ded him love dread & feare  
.....er Corps and bodie yet deteane  
.....the heavens doth remaine

On the back of this rubbing is written:

Inscription in English verses c. 1560  
mutilated: Heston Mddx.  
N.C. May 22. 1862.

Mardocheus suffered a further bereavement in 1581. His brother Nicholas died and was buried at Cranford of which parish Mordecai was also rector. Nicholas was commemorated by an interesting brass, fully described in Part 5 of this series.<sup>15</sup> From the wording of the inscription Mordecai may well have caused the monument to be placed there as well as that to his father and himself at Heston. He evidently survived all these events, and his memorial, by a further 36 years. In August 1584 the church register records the burial of a son named after him.

Heale, quoting from Newcourt's Repertorium, describes how in 1580 one Richard North obtained presentation of the living of Heston from the Crown, it being suggested that the living was void by lapse, Bownell holding also the vicarage of Cranford without dispensation. Litigation ensued which went ultimately in favour of Bownell, but not until North had held the living for ten years. Bownell was reinstituted vicar in September 1591, but resigned in the following March. In his last years he moved away from the district to a living in Lincolnshire and it is in that diocese that his will was registered in 1617. The following extract is copied from "Lincolnshire Wills, 1600-1617" by the Rev. Canon A. R. Maddison (Vol. 2, p. 156; Lincoln 1888).

"No. 152 Memorandum. That on Saturday the seconde day of Auguste AD1617 Mardocheas Bownell Clerke Person of Linwood in the Countye of Lincoln being of perfecte minde and memorie did make and declare his last will nuncupative in maner or to effecte followinge, viz., He did will that William Hanserde of Biskarthorpe esquire should administer of all his goodes and pay his debtes and dispose of the Remainder (yf any were) to the use of his wife and his children by her, and for his children by his former wife he had provided soe for them, that he meante they should not deale any further in his goodes. In the presence of William Underwood, gent., Mrs Anne Deane, doctor Ogle, goodwife Hardwicke, Edward Hardwicke, and others."

Probate was granted on 22nd November, 1617.

Though not of proven connection one Richard Bownell is recorded in Colchester's London Marriage Licenses as marrying Dorcas Baylye daughter of — Baylye of co. Lincoln, husbandman at her parish church of St. Andrew Holborn on 21 September, 1583.



- II. Richard Amondesham, M.A., Rector of Cranford, *ob.* 1612; inscription and heraldic shield only, mural, S. wall of chancel.

On a rectangular plate, 8 in. high and 20 in. wide is the following inscription in eleven lines of Roman capitals:

HERE LYETH RICHARD AMONDESHAM OTHERWISE AWNSHAM THE  
YOUNGEST SONNE OF WILLIAM AMONDESHAM ESQ: BORNE AT HEASTON  
BROUGHT VP AT EATON & THE KINGS COLLEDGE IN CAMBRIDGE, PARSON  
THE SPACE OF · 9 · YEARES OF CRAYNFORD, WHO DIED YE FIRST OF MAY. 1612  
QVOD ES, FVI VT SVM, ERIS  
HODIE MIHI, CRAS TIBI

I AM SVRE MY REDEMER LIVETH AND HE SHALL STAND YE LAST ONE YE  
EARTH AND THOUGH AFTER MY SKIN WORMES DESTROY THIS BODIE  
YET SHALL I SEE GOD IN MY FLESH WHOM I MY SELFE SHALL SEE & MY  
EYES SHALL BEHOULD AND NONE OTHER FOR ME · JOB : 19 25 26 27.  
THEREFORE FARE WELL TILL I SEE YOV AGAYNE

On a separate plate 6½ in. high and 5½ in. wide, fixed immediately beneath the inscription plate, at the middle and contiguous with it is a shield of arms bearing *ermine on a canton a fleur de lys*. The outline of the shield of usual shape is engraved on this rectangular plate.

This memorial does not appear to have suffered movement at the mid-nineteenth century alterations that so changed the church. It remains on the S. chancel wall where it was when Lysons wrote his accounts of the church.

The first unusual feature of this inscription is that, at a time when names were variously and sometimes carelessly spelt, there are two specific and alternative spellings given. What is even more striking is the similarity with an inscription more than a hundred years earlier to another member of his family whose brass is at Ealing (and was described in Part 6 of this series.<sup>16</sup> This was to Richard Amondesham "otherwise called Awnsham", a mercer and merchant of the staple of Calais. Other spellings of the name appear in the heralds' visitations and in the records of Cambridge alumni. The pedigree of this branch of the family is most inadequately described in visitations of 1572 and 1593 as recorded by Richard Mundy,<sup>17</sup> although the arms of Agmondisham are confined as *Ermine, on a canton sable a fleur-de-lys or*.

The family of Agmondisham was perhaps better known or established in Surrey, from the reign of Henry III.<sup>18</sup> They held property near Leatherhead and East Horsley and monuments including brasses are to be found in East Horsley and Effingham churches. The arms borne by this branch were quite different from those displayed at Heston.

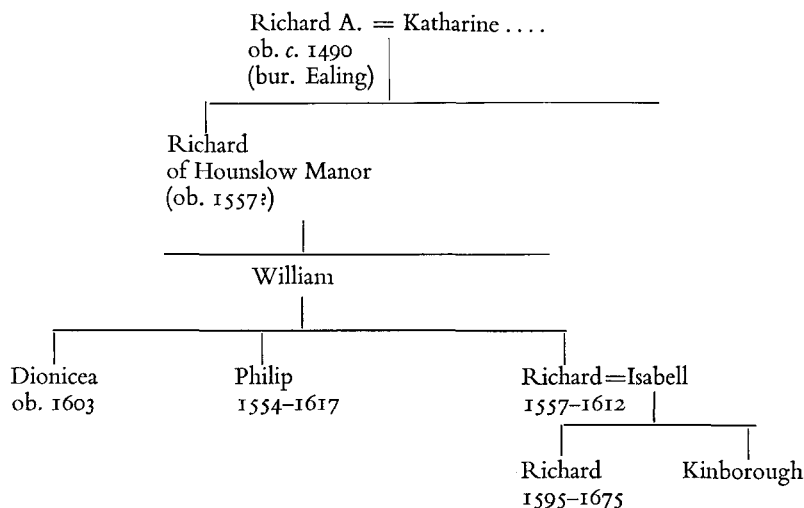
The inscription tells us that Richard was born at Heston, the youngest son of William Amondesham, and that he was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge. He was admitted to King's from Eton on the 28th August, 1577, at the age of 20.<sup>19</sup>

He received his B.A. in 1581–82 and M.A. in 1585. He was a Fellow of King's from 1580 to 1588 when he left Cambridge to become vicar of Buntingford. Fifteen years later, in 1603, he moved back to Middlesex as Rector of Cranford. There, after the space of nine years, as the inscription tells us, he died on the 1st of May, 1612, and was buried where he was born, in Heston.

Richard's elder brother, Philip, preceded him at Cambridge, being admitted to King's from Eton on 1st September, 1572 at the age of 18. He graduated in 1576–67, became M.A. in 1580 and was a Fellow from 1575 until 1593. He became Rector of Haddiscoe in 1592 and

died in the summer of 1617. Venn also records that Richard's son Richard graduated in 1615-16 and took his M.A. in 1619, becoming like his father before him Rector of Cranford. He moved to Hopesay, Co. Salop., in 1623 where, after an intermission in his holding from 1646 to 1660, he died in 1675.

Lysons<sup>20</sup> in his account of the Manor of Hounslow and the site of the Priory writes that after it had been annexed by Henry VIII to the honour of Hampton Court, it was leased in 1539 to Richard Awnsham Esq. for 21 years, and that in 1557 the reversion of the said premises was sold to William, Lord Windsor. This Richard could hardly have been the mercer of London whose brass at Ealing has been described; its date on stylistic evidence must be *c.* 1490. It might however be one of his sons who was able from his inheritance to become a landed proprietor. We then learn from this Heston inscription that this Richard was the youngest son of William. From the dates available we can postulate something like the following:



This bears little resemblance to the meagre details given in the Middlesex pedigrees already quoted.

Richard Amondesham's will was proved in the Consistory Court of London on 9th May, 1612<sup>21</sup> by his widow and executrix Isabell. He left his manor at Ealing to his wife during widowhood, with remainder to his son Richard, but charged with an annuity of £10 p.a. to his daughter Kinborrough Awnsham for her life. He appointed as overseer of his will his "most loving brother Sr Gedion Awnsham, Knight".

The record of London Marriage Licenses shows that one "Richard Awnsham of Yeling, Middlesex clerk, bachelor, 26, son of Richard Awnsham of Cranford Middlesex clerk, deceased" married "Anne Procter of Shepperton Middlesex, spinster, 18 with consent of her father Samuel Proctor parson of Shepperton at Trinity church, Trinity Lane on 14 December, 1621".

The parish register records the burial in 1639 of Gedion Awnsham;<sup>22</sup> also in 1603 of Dionicea Ansham virgo generosa, daughter of William Ansham; in 1627 of Robert Ansham gent and later that year of Margaret his wife.

There remains in the floor of the chancel an incised stone memorial, with inscription and shield of arms, to Nicholas Amondesham who died 1674.

pray for the soule of John Downner and Johane his wyfe v  
 which John departed the            day of            the yere of o  
 lord m cccc lxx            And of noble Charle pray for the soule of  
 John Downner the sonne of the forland John & Johane his wyf  
 the which departed the xx day of August the yere of o lord  
 m cccc lxxv            whos soules allmighty god haue mercy



John and Joan Downner and son John, 1515

HENDON

HERE LYETH BVRIED Y<sup>E</sup> BODIE OF RICHARD MARSH<sup>OV</sup>  
 YEOMAN LATE OF THIS PARYSH HEE MARYED ALCE  
 THE DAUGHTER OF IOHN OXTON OF Y<sup>E</sup> PARRYSH OF  
 ELSTREY BY WHOME HEE HAD TWO CHILDREN IOHN  
 & MARY HE DECEASED Y<sup>E</sup> 25<sup>TH</sup> OF AVGVST A<sup>O</sup> 1615<sup>0</sup>  
 BEING OF THE<sup>E</sup> AGES OF 37 YEARS<sup>0</sup>

Richard Marsh, 1615

HENDON

HERE LYETH THE BODIE OF ROBERT NUTTINGE LATE OF HENDON IN THE COVNTIE  
 OF MIDDLESEX ES QVIRE IN LIFE IVST HONEST AND FAITHFVL IN DEATH  
 PATIENT RELIGIOVS AND CONSTANT WHO HAD TO WIFE ELIZABETH NICHOLS  
 DAUGHTER TO ROBERT NICHOLS OF HENDON AFORESAID BY WHOME HE HAD NO ISSVE  
 LIKEWISE HE HAD TO WIFE MARGERIE STAFFORTON DAUGHTER TO HUMFREIE STAFFOR  
 TON OF ESTONSTIED IN THE COVNTIE OF BARKE BY WHON HE HAD 4 SONNES AND ONE  
 DAUGHTER THAT IS TO SAYE IOHN RICHARD ELIZABETH ROBERT AND RALPH ALSO  
 HE HAD TO WIFE IANE ATTHOWE THE WIDDOWE OF IOHN ATTHOWE OF BRISSELY IN THE  
 COVNTIE OF NORFOLKE BY WHOME HE HAD 2 SONNES AND 3 DAUGHTERS THAT IS TO  
 SAYE ROBERT FRANCIS EDWARD IANE AND LAE HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 22 OF  
 APRIL 1618  
  
 BY POWER DEATH HATH OF EVERY MORTAIL WIGHT  
 HATH ROBERT NUTTINGE TO HEAVEN TOOK HIS FLIGHT  
 TREW FREIND TO PEACE AN ENEMY TO STRIFE  
 LIVEINGE FIFTY AND SEVEN A HAPPIE LIFE  
 WIER OF HIS MARRIAGE YEARES WERE THIRTIE SEVEN  
 HAD CHILDREN LIKE THE OLIVE BRANTS OF HEAVEN  
 BLESSED THE DEAD THAT IN THE LORD DO ENDE  
 THEY REST FROM LABOVS AND THEIR WORKES ASSEND

Robert Nuttinge, 1618

HENDON



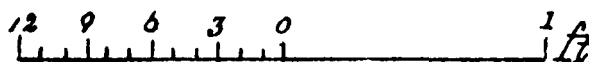
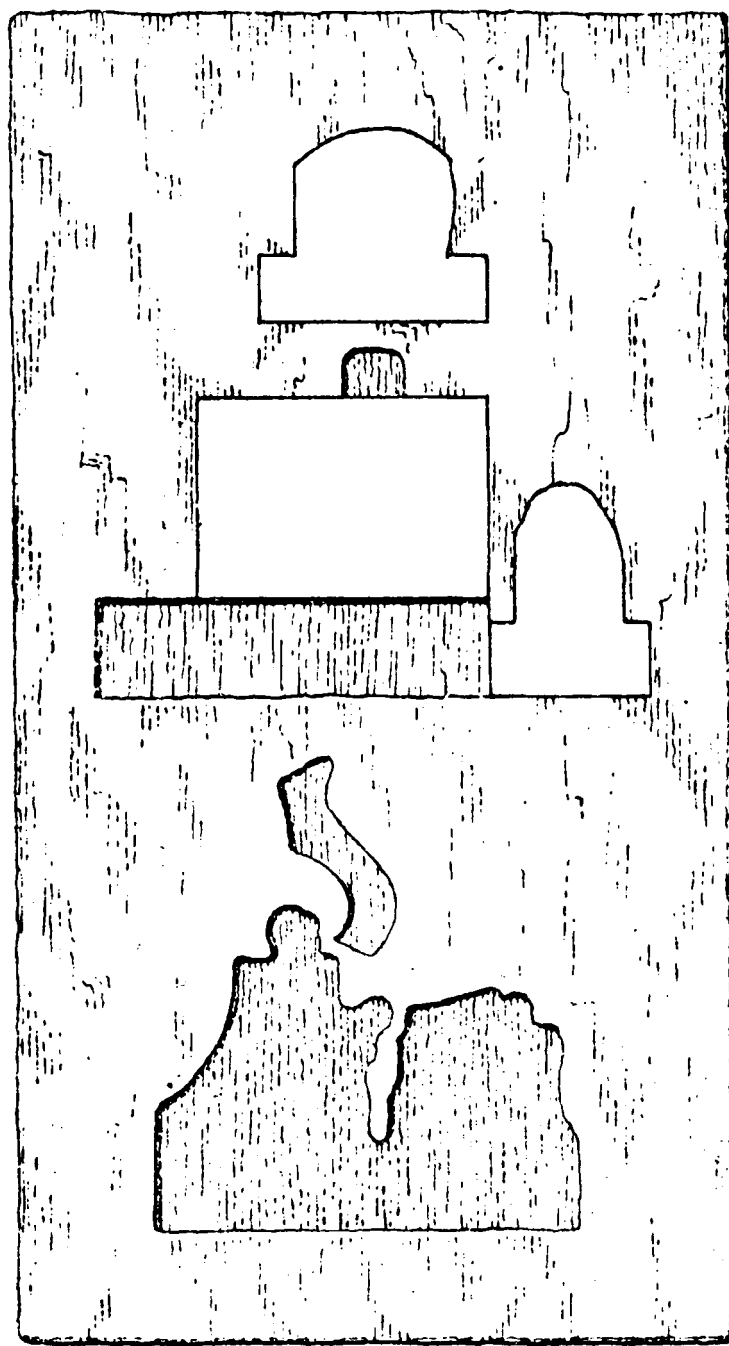
To the glory of God and in affectionate remembrance of  
 Newton Mant A Vicar of this Parish from mdcclxxxix  
 to mdcclvii He was afterwards Rector of Tossington  
 Leicestershire where he died and was buried in May  
 mdcclxi His many friends in Hendon have placed this  
 memorial in this Church which he did much to beautify  
 in grateful recollection of his 26 years faithful and devoted  
 ministry A Man well beloved

Rev. Newton Mant, c. 1911

HENDON



Constance Bownell 1581  
HESTON



Mordecai and Constance Bownell, 1581

HESTON

from a drawing by Sprague in c. 1860

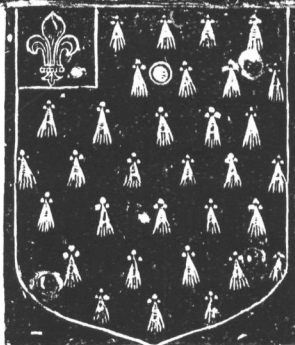
HERE LYETH RICHARD AMONDESHAM OTHERWISE AUNSHAM THE  
YOUNGEST SONNE OF WILLIAM AMONDESHAM ESQ. BORNE AT HEASTON  
BROUGHT VP AT EATON & THE KINGS COLLEDGE IN CAMBRIDGE, PARSON  
THE SPACE OF 9 YEARES OF CRAYNFORD, WHO DIED Y FIRST OF MAY 1612.

QVOD ES, FVI VT SVM, ERIS

HODIE MIHI, CRAS TIBI

I AM SVRE MY REDEMER LIVETH AND HE SHALL STAND Y LAST ONE Y  
EARTH AND THOUGH AFTER MY SKIN WORMES DESTROY THIS BODIE  
YET SHALL I SEE GOD IN MY FLESH WHOM I MY SELFE SHALL SEE & MY  
EYES SHALL BEHOVD AND NONE OTHER FOR ME. JOB. 19 25 26 27.

THEREFORE FARE WELL TILL I SEE YOV AGAYNE



Richard Amondesham, 1612

HESTON

HEER LYES INTERED Y BODYES OF Y LADIE ANN <sup>85</sup>  
SVSAN FEILDING DAUGHTERS OF Y RIGHT HON <sup>BLE</sup>  
GEORGE EARL OF DESMOND K<sup>E</sup> OF Y BATH TEIRE  
MOTHER BRIGET DAVGTER, HEIRE TO S<sup>R</sup> MIHILL  
STANHOP GRANDCHILD & HEIR TO S<sup>R</sup> WIL. READE  
ONE DIED IN MAY 1647 ATATIS SVÆ DVO FERE ANN  
Y OTHER IN NOVEMBER 1647 ATIS SVÆ IO DIE  
Sic Mortis est inveniit abile celum

The Angell of the Parde  
forgeth rounde aboute  
them that feare hym and  
delivereyth them. ps. 34.

Ann and Susan Feilding, 1647

HESTON



Other features of the inscription worthy of mention are, first, the reminder that, as we are so was he, and as he is so shall we be. This expression appears frequently on monuments and many examples on brass exist. The article by Heales gives in full a number of similar inscriptions. A second feature is the credo or passage from the book of Job. The authorised English version of the Bible appeared at about the time of Richard Amondesham's death and it is interesting to compare the wording of this inscription with that in the published Bible.

III. Inscr. The Ladies Ann and Susan Feilding, *ob.* 1647; mural, South Chancel.

On a rectangular plate  $5\frac{1}{8}$  in. high and 14 in. wide is the following inscription in seven lines of Roman capitals followed by one line in small letters:

HEER LYES INTERED YE BODYES OF YE LADIE ANN &  
SVSAN FEILDING DAUGHTERS OF YE RIGHT HONBLE  
GEORGE EARL OF DESMOND KT OF YE BATH THEIRE  
MOTHER BRIGET DAVGTER & HEIRE TO SR MIHILL  
STANHOP GRANDCHILD & HEIR TO SR WIL: READE.  
ONE DIED IN MAY 1647 AETATIS SVAE DVO FERE ANN  
YE OTHER IN NOVEMBER 1647 AETIS SVAE 10 - DIE  
Sic Mortis est inevitabile celum.

Immediately beneath this plate is at present affixed another plate with text from the 34th Psalm. This has been wrongly associated with the Feilding brass as would be evident from examination of the engraving. The text is in black letter and this plate belongs to No. I. described above.

The parish registers show that Ann was baptized on the 22nd March, 1645 and was buried on 22nd November 1647. Susan was baptized on 16th May 1647 and was buried on the following day. Several other children of the Earl of Desmond are registered; Elizabeth, baptized 12th December 1639; as daughter of George and Bridget Feilding, Earl and Countess of Denbigh (she was later to marry Sir Edward Gage). William born 29th December 1640; George, 12th January 1641-42; Charles baptized January 1643-44; Basil, 23 August 1644; John, 12th March 1649; Bridget, 19th February 1651-52.

George Feilding was the second son of William, first Earl of Denbigh. He was created Earl of Desmond in 1622. His son William, born in 1640 succeeded him as Earl of Desmond and his Uncle as Earl of Denbigh.

The association of this family with the manor of Heston and with Osterley including a lively story of how "young Desmond" carried off his wife after his return from service overseas is given by Lysons.<sup>23</sup>

#### OTHER BRASSES IN THE CHURCH

On the N. wall.

- a. 12 in. by 18 in. to Mary Anne Westbrook, b. 12th November 1819, d. 6th May 1888.
- b. 12 in. by 18 in. to Lydia Green. d. 26th January 1908 at Buenos Ayres.

On the W. wall.

- c. 7 in. by 11 in. to Richard Packman d. 1913, 29 years sexton of this parish.

On the S. wall.

- d. 12 in. by 27 in. to Ernest William Gourlay 1st Lt. the Suffolk Regiment, d. 30th November 1920, aet. 25.

As a footnote one must add that one source of information of Elizabethan date on Middlesex monuments is John Norden, a resident during his later life at Hendon. In the first (and only) part of his *Speculum Britanniae* published in 1593, and on page 25 his reference to Heston reads:

"a most fertile place of wheate yet not so much to be commended for the quantitie, as for the qualitie, for the wheat is most pure, accompted the purest in manie shires. And therefore Queene Elizabeth hath the most part of her provision from that place for manchet for her Highness owne diet, as is reported".

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. L.M.A.S.* 24 (1973) p. 169.

<sup>2</sup> M. Robbins, *Middlesex* (1953) p. 288.

<sup>3</sup> P.C.C. 51 Meade.

<sup>4</sup> "The Highway called Cowhous Lane in Hendon leading from Hampsted to London" (see Brett-James, *Middlesex* (1951), p. 260).

<sup>5</sup> Colchester, London Marriage Licences, arr. Foster (1887).

<sup>6</sup> Weever, *Ancient Funeral Monuments* (1631), p. 532.

<sup>7</sup> Lysons, *Environs of London*, 3 (1795), p. 11.

<sup>8</sup> M.B.S. Portfolio 5, Plate 37.

<sup>9</sup> Alfred Heales, F.S.A. "*Heston Church*", *Trans. L.M.A.S.* Vol. 2. (1864), pp. 204-222.

<sup>10</sup> A rubbing in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries made in 1862 shows the indent as Sprague's drawing.

<sup>11</sup> Lysons, *op. cit.* p. 30.

<sup>12</sup> J. & J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*, p. 178.

<sup>13</sup> C. C. Lincoln, (1617), ii, p. 258.

<sup>14</sup> Lysons, *op. cit.* p. 30.

<sup>15</sup> *Trans. L.M.A.S.* 18, p. 28.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 19, p. 18.

<sup>17</sup> *Harl. Soc.* LXV (1914) "Middlesex Pedigrees", pp. 135, 136, 184.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* XLIII (1899) "Visitations of Surrey", p. 53.

<sup>19</sup> J. & J. A. Venn, *op. cit.* 1. p. 9.

<sup>20</sup> Lysons, *op. cit.* p. 23.

<sup>21</sup> P.C.C. London, 1609-21, fol. 167.

<sup>22</sup> His wife predeceased him. Her will is to be found with sentence in P.C.C. 39 Cope in the year 1615: "Awnsham als Barrowedale, Dame Anne, wife of Sir Gedeon Awnsham, Knt., st. benett Fincke, London; Istleworth, Mddx."

<sup>23</sup> Lysons, *loc. cit.* pp. 25-27.